

# KEY\_Lesson11\_Pandas-Reading

August 28, 2019

## 1 Reading Data with Pandas

In the last lesson, we learned how `pandas` stores data as rows and columns in `DataFrames`. We previously used a small dataset that was hard-coded right in the notebook. But in the real world, we want to be able to use large datasets that can't be easily hard-coded or typed out by hand. We store large datasets as files in the CSV format, which allows different programs like Excel, Google Sheets, or our Python programs to share data easily.

We have some data stored in Google Drive, so first we need to access it:

```
[0]: # mount Google Drive
from google.colab import drive
drive.mount('/content/gdrive')
path = '/content/gdrive/My Drive/SummerExperience-master/'
```

Drive already mounted at /content/gdrive; to attempt to forcibly remount, call `drive.mount("/content/gdrive", force_remount=True)`.

When you run the above cell, it will prompt you to follow a link. Click it, then copy the code it gives you into the prompt and press the **enter** key.

Once you do that, Google 'mounts' the Google Drive folder to this notebook so we can access the files in it directly from Python.

Now we need to import `pandas`. Let's use the `pd` nickname like before:

```
[0]: # import the pandas package
import pandas as pd
```

Now we're ready to read our dataset into Python with `pandas`! We'll use a function called `read_csv`. Our dataset is in Google Drive and we need to tell `read_csv` exactly where to find it. `read_csv` will create a `DataFrame` for us. Let's call it `tips`:

```
[0]: # load the tips csv
tips = pd.read_csv(path + 'SampleData/tips.csv')
```

Since we saved the data to a variable, `pandas` didn't show us what it looks like. How would you view the beginning of the `tips DataFrame` without seeing every row? Try it below:

```
[0]: # View just the beginning of the tips DataFrame
tips.head()
```

```
[0]:   total_bill   tip     sex smoker  day    time  size
0      16.99   1.01  Female     No  Sun  Dinner     2
1      10.34   1.66   Male     No  Sun  Dinner     3
2      21.01   3.50   Male     No  Sun  Dinner     3
3      23.68   3.31   Male     No  Sun  Dinner     2
4      24.59   3.61  Female     No  Sun  Dinner     4
```

Look at the column names of the `tips` `DataFrame`. We have `total_bill`, `tip`, `sex`, `smoker`, `day`, `time`, and `size`. Based on the column names and some of the values in the `DataFrame`, what do you think the rows each represent?

**The rows represent:** waiters and waitresses in a restaurant

Now let's take a look at the end of the `DataFrame`:

```
[0]: # View the end of the tips DataFrame
tips.tail()
```

```
[0]:   total_bill   tip     sex smoker  day    time  size
239      29.03   5.92   Male     No  Sat  Dinner     3
240      27.18   2.00  Female    Yes  Sat  Dinner     2
241      22.67   2.00   Male    Yes  Sat  Dinner     2
242      17.82   1.75   Male     No  Sat  Dinner     2
243      18.78   3.00  Female     No  Thur Dinner     2
```

Notice the numbers on the far left side of the `DataFrame`. `pandas` assigned a number to every row. What number did `pandas` assign to the very first row of the `DataFrame`? (Scroll up if you need to.) So how many rows do we have in this `DataFrame`?

**Number of rows:** 244

The column of numbers that label the rows is called the `index` of the `DataFrame`. The `index` is an `attribute`, a special variable which belongs to variables of the `DataFrame` type. An example of an `attribute` would be if you had a variable `dog` with an `attribute` `dog.owner` to store the name of the person who owns the dog.

We can view the `DataFrame`'s `index` like this:

```
[0]: tips.index
```

```
[0]: RangeIndex(start=0, stop=244, step=1)
```

So our `index` starts at 0, ends at 244, and increases by 1 for each row. Another way to count the number of rows is to take the length of the `index` using the `len` function:

```
[0]: len(tips.index)
```

```
[0]: 244
```

Like the `index` labels the rows of the `DataFrame`, there is an attribute called `columns` that refers to the columns of the `DataFrame`. Let's take a look:

```
[0]: tips.columns
```

```
[0]: Index(['total_bill', 'tip', 'sex', 'smoker', 'day', 'time', 'size'],
      dtype='object')
```

We could count the number of columns -- there aren't too many -- but what's the fun in that? Let's write a line of code to tell us the number of columns:

```
[0]: # length of the DataFrame's columns
      len(tips.columns)
```

```
[0]: 7
```

Conveniently, we can also call `len` on the `DataFrame` itself. Try it here! Is the result equal to the number of rows or the number of columns?

```
[0]: # use len on tips
      len(tips)
```

```
[0]: 244
```

Based on the number of rows and columns, how many data points are in the `tips DataFrame`?

```
[0]: # calculate the number of data points in tips
      7 * 244
```

```
[0]: 1708
```

That's a lot more data than we've handled before. But that's nothing for `pandas` -- it can handle `DataFrames` with *millions* of rows! Data scientists use `pandas` to handle very large datasets from the real world.

Instead of typing the number of rows and columns in the `DataFrame`, we could put both commands with `len` on the same line. Try it here:

```
[0]: # Multiply the length of rows & columns without typing numbers
      len(tips) * len(tips.columns)
```

```
[0]: 1708
```

This way, if the `tips` data changes, we can simply re-run the above cell to find the number of values in it, without having to manually type out the number of rows and columns.

You just learned:

- How to read datasets into `pandas DataFrame`s.
- The `index` and `columns` attributes of `DataFrames`.
- How to find the number of rows, columns, and number of data points in a `DataFrame`.