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In [1]: import pandas as pd
        import numpy as np
In [2]: def f1(a1, a2):
            n = 0
            for i in al:
                if i in a2:
                     n += 1
             for i in a2:
                if i in a1:
                    n += 1
            return n
In [3]: def f3(a1, a2):
            n = 0
            n = map(lambda x, y: f1(x, y), a1, a2)
            return list(n)
In [4]: |N = 5
        data = pd.DataFrame(np.random.uniform(1,9,(N,2)), columns=['A', 'B'], dtype=str)
        %timeit data1 = data['A'].combine(data['B'], f1)
        %timeit data1 = data.apply(lambda x: f1(x['A'], x['B']), axis=1)
        %timeit data1 = f3(data['A'], data['B'])
        %timeit data1 = [f1(x, y) for x, y in zip(data['A'], data['B'])]
        %timeit data1 = f3(data['A'].values, data['B'].values)
        218 \mus ± 4.19 \mus per loop (mean ± std. dev. of 7 runs, 1000 loops each)
        698 \mus ± 1.07 \mus per loop (mean ± std. dev. of 7 runs, 1000 loops each)
        37 \mus ± 20.5 ns per loop (mean ± std. dev. of 7 runs, 10000 loops each)
        36.5 \mus ± 26.5 ns per loop (mean ± std. dev. of 7 runs, 10000 loops each)
        16.9 \mus ± 15.3 ns per loop (mean ± std. dev. of 7 runs, 100000 loops each)
In [5]: N = 500
        data = pd.DataFrame(np.random.uniform(1,9,(N,2)), columns=['A', 'B'], dtype=str)
        %timeit data1 = data['A'].combine(data['B'], f1)
        %timeit data1 = data.apply(lambda x: f1(x['A'], x['B']), axis=1)
        %timeit data1 = f3(data['A'], data['B'])
        %timeit data1 = [f1(x, y) for x, y in zip(data['A'], data['B'])]
        %timeit data1 = f3(data['A'].values, data['B'].values)
        13 ms \pm 11.7 \mus per loop (mean \pm std. dev. of 7 runs, 100 loops each)
        11.2 ms \pm 18.8 \mus per loop (mean \pm std. dev. of 7 runs, 100 loops each)
        1.02 ms \pm 1.47 \mus per loop (mean \pm std. dev. of 7 runs, 1000 loops each)
        982 \mus ± 733 ns per loop (mean ± std. dev. of 7 runs, 1000 loops each)
        1.01 ms \pm 1 \mus per loop (mean \pm std. dev. of 7 runs, 1000 loops each)
In [ ]: N = 50000
        data = pd.DataFrame(np.random.uniform(1,9,(N,2)), columns=['A', 'B'], dtype=str)
        %timeit data1 = data['A'].combine(data['B'], f1)
        %timeit data1 = data.apply(lambda x: f1(x['A'], x['B']), axis=1)
        %timeit data1 = f3(data['A'], data['B'])
        %timeit data1 = [f1(x, y) for x, y in zip(data['A'], data['B'])]
        %timeit data1 = f3(data['A'].values, data['B'].values)
        1.29 s ± 3.74 ms per loop (mean ± std. dev. of 7 runs, 1 loop each)
        1.04 s ± 2.83 ms per loop (mean ± std. dev. of 7 runs, 1 loop each)
        99.6 ms ± 58.6 \mus per loop (mean ± std. dev. of 7 runs, 10 loops each)
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96.7 ms \pm 121 μ s per loop (mean \pm std. dev. of 7 runs, 10 loops each)