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In [1]: import pandas as pd
        import numpy as np
In [2]: names = ['acquisitions', 'investments']
        dfs = [pd.read_csv(name + '.csv') for name in names]
In [3]: for n, df in enumerate(dfs):
            #Drop NaNs in company category column and redo the index
            df = df[df['company category list'].notnull()]
            df.index = range(len(df))
            #Assign each unique, single tag a column number
            unique = df['company_category_list'].astype(str).unique()
            singles = []
            for tag in unique:
                singles.extend(tag.split('|'))
            singles = pd.unique(singles)
            tagInds = pd.Series(data=range(len(singles)), index=singles)
            #Make a dataframe where each row has a 1 for each of its tags, 0 otherwise
            lists = df['company_category_list'].astype(str).map(lambda x: x.split('|'))
            arr = np.zeros((len(lists), len(tagInds)))
            for i, l in enumerate(lists):
                for tag in 1:
                    arr[i][tagInds[tag]] = 1
            dummies = pd.DataFrame(arr, columns=singles)
            #Isolate the top 50 tags and reassign tag numbers
            top50 = dummies.sum().sort_values(ascending=False).head(50)
            tagInds = pd.Series(range(50), index=top50.index)
            #Make another dataframe but with an 'Other' column for tags not in the top 50
            arr = np.zeros((len(lists), 51))
            for i, l in enumerate(lists):
                for tag in 1:
                    if tag in tagInds:
                        arr[i][tagInds[tag]] = 1
                    else:
                        arr[i][50] = 1
            dummies = pd.DataFrame(arr, columns=list(tagInds.index) + ['Other'])
            #Add the dummy columns to the data
            dfs[n] = df.join(dummies)
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In [5]: #Dummy dataframe can be retrieved by fetching the last 51 columns
        investment dummies = dfs[1].iloc[:, -51:]
        investment_dummies.sum()
Out[5]: Software
                                   24641.0
        Mobile
                                   18065.0
        Biotechnology
                                   13954.0
        E-Commerce
                                   12354.0
        Enterprise Software
                                   11766.0
        Curated Web
                                    8999.0
        Advertising
                                    8528.0
        Health Care
                                    7639.0
        Social Media
                                    7587.0
        Analytics
                                    7548.0
        SaaS
                                    7288.0
        Finance
                                    6010.0
        Internet
                                    5410.0
        Technology
                                    5200.0
        Games
                                    5167.0
        Education
                                    4871.0
        Apps
                                    4772.0
        Hardware + Software
                                    4724.0
        Clean Technology
                                    4412.0
        Health and Wellness
                                    4345.0
        Security
                                    4049.0
        Big Data
                                    3779.0
        Marketplaces
                                    3726.0
        Cloud Computing
                                    3644.0
        Semiconductors
                                    3579.0
        Video
                                    3477.0
        FinTech
                                    3037.0
        Services
                                    2920.0
        Fashion
                                    2913.0
        Search
                                    2574.0
        Manufacturing
                                    2536.0
        Web Hosting
                                    2523.0
        Travel
                                    2439.0
        Sales and Marketing
                                    2267.0
        Medical
                                    2258.0
        Messaging
                                    2223.0
        Networking
                                    2187.0
        Retail
                                    2160.0
        Startups
                                    2127.0
        Media
                                    2122.0
        Digital Media
                                    2084.0
        News
                                    2027.0
        Music
                                    2024.0
        Financial Services
                                    2019.0
        Android
                                    1998.0
        Information Technology
                                    1906.0
        Social Network Media
                                    1903.0
        iPhone
                                    1833.0
        Hospitality
                                    1800.0
        Entertainment
                                    1761.0
        Other
                                   92949.0
        dtype: float64
In [6]: for df, name in zip(dfs, names):
            #Save to file
            df.to_csv(name + '_with_dummies.csv')
In [ ]:
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