

NaN Equivalence Comparison Misused

Context

NaN equivalence comparison behaves differently from None equivalence comparison.

Problem

While `None == None` evaluates to `True`, `np.nan == np.nan` evaluates to `False` in NumPy. As Pandas treats `None` like `np.nan` for simplicity and performance reasons, a comparison of `DataFrame` elements with `np.nan` always returns `False`. Therefore, given a python conditional statement (e.g., `==`, `!=`, `is`), if one of the two extremes of the condition is `np.nan`, this condition can lead to unintentional bugs in the code.

Solution

Developers should avoid to compare objects with `np.nan` and use `df.isna()`.

Existing Stage

Data Cleaning

Effect

Error-prone

Example

Python

```
### Pandas & NumPy
```

```
import pandas as pd
```

```
- import numpy as np
```

```
df = pd.DataFrame([1, None, 3])
```

```
- df_eq_nan = df == np.nan
```

```
- df_is_nan = df is np.nan
```

```
+ df_eq_nan = df.isna()
```

```
+ df_is_nan = df.isna()
```