

COMP2003 AI Use

Vibe Coding Evidence

By Daniel Dawdry

Dataset Cleaning

Prompt 1:

I am working on a university group project focused on AI in finance. I am responsible for the data preprocessing stage. Please generate a python function using pandas that loads a CSV file, removes rows with missing values, attempts basic numeric type conversion column by column, resets the index, and saves the cleaned data to a new CSV file. The code should be clearly commented.

```
import pandas as pd Copy code

def clean_financial_data(input_file, output_file):
    """
    Loads a CSV file, removes rows with missing values,
    attempts to convert columns to numeric where possible,
    resets the index, and saves the cleaned data to a new CSV file.
    """

    # Load the raw CSV data
    df = pd.read_csv(input_file)

    # Print original shape for reference
    print("Original data shape:", df.shape)

    # Remove any rows that contain missing values
    df = df.dropna()

    # Attempt to convert each column to numeric, one by one
    for column in df.columns:
        try:
            df[column] = pd.to_numeric(df[column])
        except Exception:
            # If conversion fails, leave the column unchanged
            pass

    # Reset index after cleaning
    df = df.reset_index(drop=True)

    # Print cleaned shape for reference
    print("Cleaned data shape:", df.shape)

    # Save the cleaned data to a new CSV file
    df.to_csv(output_file, index=False)

    print("Cleaned data saved to:", output_file)
```

What I've noticed is that this drops any row with a missing value which can remove lots of data. Another issue was it tries to convert every column which is slow. Other than these it seems to work. So only one more prompt is needed to sort this. Asking it to only drop rows where key columns are missing, and checking the column data type first and only changing it if it needs changing.

Prompt 2:

Improve this function by making the handling of missing data more efficient and using smarter column type conversion. The function should only try number conversion on appropriate columns and handle missing values in a controlled way while keeping it simple and readable. The code should be commented and suitable as an improved version of the earlier code

```
python Copy code

import pandas as pd

def clean_financial_data(input_file, output_file):
    """
    Improved version of the data cleaning function.
    This version handles missing data more carefully
    and only attempts numeric conversion on suitable columns.
    """

    # Load the raw CSV data
    df = pd.read_csv(input_file)

    # Print original shape for reference
    print("Original data shape:", df.shape)

    # Make a copy of the data to avoid modifying the original directly
    cleaned_df = df.copy()

    # Drop rows only if important numeric values are missing
    # (example: price and volume are critical for analysis)
    important_columns = ["price", "volume"]
    existing_columns = [col for col in important_columns if col in cleaned_df.columns]

    if existing_columns:
        cleaned_df = cleaned_df.dropna(subset=existing_columns)

    # Convert only object (string) columns to numeric where possible
    for column in cleaned_df.select_dtypes(include=["object"]).columns:
        cleaned_df[column] = pd.to_numeric(cleaned_df[column], errors="ignore")

    # Reset index after cleaning
    cleaned_df = cleaned_df.reset_index(drop=True)

    # Print cleaned shape for reference
    print("Cleaned data shape:", cleaned_df.shape)

    # Save the cleaned data to a new CSV file
    cleaned_df.to_csv(output_file, index=False)

    print("Cleaned data saved to:", output_file)
```

Data Validation

Prompt 1:

Generate a simple and readable Python function that validates a pandas dataframe by checking if a list of required columns exists. The function should report any missing columns and be suitable for use as an early-stage data validation step in a data preprocessing pipeline.

```
python Copy code

def validate_dataset(df, required_columns):
    """
    Checks whether required columns exist in the dataset.
    Returns True if valid, False otherwise.
    """

    missing_columns = []

    for col in required_columns:
        if col not in df.columns:
            missing_columns.append(col)

    if missing_columns:
        print("Missing required columns:", missing_columns)
        return False

    print("Dataset validation passed")
    return True
```

Checks if needed columns exist before the pipeline runs. This will help prevent crashes later. The code it provided me does need a bit more commenting.

Prompt 2:

Can you generate comments onto this code in an easy to understand format to describe what's been done

```
python Copy code

def validate_dataset(df, required_columns):
    """
    This function checks whether a dataset contains all the columns
    that are required for the project to work correctly.
    """

    # Create an empty list to keep track of any missing columns
    missing_columns = []

    # Loop through each column name that we expect to be in the dataset
    for col in required_columns:
        # Check if the required column does NOT exist in the DataFrame
        if col not in df.columns:
            # If the column is missing, add it to the missing_columns list
            missing_columns.append(col)

    # After checking all required columns, see if any are missing
    if missing_columns:
        # Print the missing columns so the issue is clear
        print("Missing required columns:", missing_columns)

        # Return False to stop the pipeline from continuing
        # This prevents errors later in the project
        return False

    # If no columns are missing, print a success message
    print("Dataset validation passed")

    # Return True to confirm the dataset is valid and safe to use
    return True
```

Backend Helper

Prompt 1:

Generate a simple Python backend helper function that combines data_cleaning.py and dataset_validation.py. Meaning it loads a CSV file, validates required columns, applies the data cleaning function and saves the cleaned output. The function should be suitable as part of a basic data preprocessing pipeline.

```
python Copy code

def load_and_clean_data(input_file, output_file):
    """
    Loads raw data, validates it, cleans it, and saves it.
    """

    df = pd.read_csv(input_file)

    if not validate_dataset(df, ["price", "volume"]):
        return None

    df = clean_financial_data(input_file, output_file)
    return df
```

This initial set of code again doesn't have comments. Asking to use detailed comments will give me a better understanding of what it's showing me and if it's suitable rather than blindly testing it.