Working with Text Data

Series and Index are equipped with a set of string processing methods that make it easy to operate on each element of the array. Perhaps most importantly, these methods exclude missing/NA values automatically. These are accessed via the str attribute and generally have names matching the equivalent (scalar) built-in string methods:

```
In [1]: s = pd.Series(['A', 'B', 'C', 'Aaba', 'Baca', np.nan, 'CABA', 'dog', 'cat'])
In [2]: s.str.lower()
Out[2]:
1
        b
2
        С
3
     aaba
4
     baca
5
      NaN
6
     caba
7
      dog
      cat
dtype: object
In [3]: s.str.upper()
Out[3]:
0
        Α
1
        В
2
        C
3
     AABA
4
     BACA
5
      NaN
6
     CABA
7
      DOG
      CAT
dtype: object
In [4]: s.str.len()
Out[4]:
     1.0
     1.0
2
     1.0
3
     4.0
4
     4.0
5
     NaN
6
     4.0
7
     3.0
     3.0
dtype: float64
```

```
In [5]: idx = pd.Index([' jack', 'jill ', ' jesse ', 'frank'])
In [6]: idx.str.strip()
Out[6]: Index(['jack', 'jill', 'jesse', 'frank'], dtype='object')
In [7]: idx.str.lstrip()
Out[7]: Index(['jack', 'jill ', 'jesse ', 'frank'], dtype='object')
```

```
In [8]: idx.str.rstrip()
Out[8]: Index([' jack', 'jill', ' jesse', 'frank'], dtype='object')
```

The string methods on Index are especially useful for cleaning up or transforming DataFrame columns. For instance, you may have columns with leading or trailing whitespace:

Since df.columns is an Index object, we can use the .str accessor

```
In [11]: df.columns.str.strip()
Out[11]: Index(['Column A', 'Column B'], dtype='object')
In [12]: df.columns.str.lower()
Out[12]: Index([' column a ', ' column b '], dtype='object')
```

These string methods can then be used to clean up the columns as needed. Here we are removing leading and trailing whitespaces, lowercasing all names, and replacing any remaining whitespaces with underscores:

```
In [13]: df.columns = df.columns.str.strip().str.lower().str.replace(' ', '_')
In [14]: df
Out[14]:
    column_a    column_b
0 -1.425575 -1.336299
1    0.740933    1.032121
2 -1.585660    0.913812
```

Note: If you have a series where lots of elements are repeated (i.e. the number of unique elements in the series is a lot smaller than the length of the series), it can be faster to convert the original series to one of type category and then use .str.<method> or .dt.cproperty> on that. The performance difference comes from the fact that, for series of type category, the string operations are done on the .categories and not on each element of the series.

Please note that a series of type category with string .categories has some limitations in comparison of series of type string (e.g. you can't add strings to each other: s + " " + s won't work if s is a series of type category). Also, .str methods which operate on elements of type list are not available on such a series.

Splitting and Replacing Strings

Methods like split return a Series of lists:

```
In [15]: s2 = pd.Series(['a_b_c', 'c_d_e', np.nan, 'f_g_h'])
In [16]: s2.str.split('_')
Out[16]:
0    [a, b, c]
1    [c, d, e]
2         NaN
3    [f, g, h]
dtype: object
```

Elements in the split lists can be accessed using get or [] notation:

```
In [17]: s2.str.split('_').str.get(1)
Out[17]:
0
       b
1
       d
2
     NaN
3
dtype: object
In [18]: s2.str.split('_').str[1]
Out[18]:
0
       b
1
       d
2
     NaN
3
dtype: object
```

It is easy to expand this to return a DataFrame using expand.

```
In [19]: s2.str.split('_', expand=True)
Out[19]:
          1
0
     а
          b
               С
1
     С
          d
               е
2
  NaN NaN NaN
3
     f
          g
```

It is also possible to limit the number of splits:

rsplit is similar to split except it works in the reverse direction, i.e., from the end of the string to the beginning of the string:

replace by default replaces regular expressions:

```
In [22]: s3 = pd.Series(['A', 'B', 'C', 'Aaba', 'Baca',
                          '', np.nan, 'CABA', 'dog', 'cat'])
   . . . . :
In [23]: s3
Out[23]:
0
        Α
1
        В
2
        C
3
     Aaba
4
     Baca
5
6
     NaN
7
     CABA
8
      dog
9
      cat
dtype: object
In [24]: s3.str.replace('^.a|dog', 'XX-XX', case=False)
Out[24]:
            Α
0
             В
1
2
             С
3
    XX-XX ba
     XX-XX ca
4
5
6
          NaN
7
     XX-XX BA
8
       XX-XX
9
      XX-XX t
dtype: object
```

Some caution must be taken to keep regular expressions in mind! For example, the following code will cause trouble because of the regular expression meaning of \$:

```
# But this doesn't:
In [27]: dollars.str.replace('-$', '-')
Out[27]:
          12
1
        -$10
     $10,000
2
dtype: object
# We need to escape the special character (for >1 len patterns)
In [28]: dollars.str.replace(r'-\', '-')
Out[28]:
0
          12
         -10
1
2
     $10,000
dtype: object
```

New in version 0.23.0.

If you do want literal replacement of a string (equivalent to **str.replace()**), you can set the optional regex parameter to False, rather than escaping each character. In this case both pat and repl must be strings:

```
# These lines are equivalent
In [29]: dollars.str.replace(r'-\', '-')
Out[29]:
0
          12
1
         -10
     $10,000
2.
dtype: object
In [30]: dollars.str.replace('-$', '-', regex=False)
Out[30]:
0
          12
1
         -10
     $10,000
dtype: object
```

New in version 0.20.0.

The replace method can also take a callable as replacement. It is called on every pat using re.sub(). The callable should expect one positional argument (a regex object) and return a string.

```
In [36]: pd.Series(['Foo Bar Baz', np.nan]).str.replace(pat, repl)
Out[36]:
0     bAR
1     NaN
dtype: object
```

New in version 0.20.0.

The replace method also accepts a compiled regular expression object from re.compile() as a pattern. All flags should be included in the compiled regular expression object.

```
In [37]: import re
In [38]: regex_pat = re.compile(r'^.a|dog', flags=re.IGNORECASE)
In [39]: s3.str.replace(regex pat, 'XX-XX')
Out[39]:
            Α
1
            В
2
3
  XX-XX ba
4
  XX-XX ca
5
6
         NaN
7
  XX-XX BA
8
      XX-XX
     XX-XX t
dtype: object
```

Including a flags argument when calling replace with a compiled regular expression object will raise a ValueError.

```
In [40]: s3.str.replace(regex_pat, 'XX-XX', flags=re.IGNORECASE)

ValueError: case and flags cannot be set when pat is a compiled regex
```

Concatenation

There are several ways to concatenate a series or Index, either with itself or others, all based on cat(), resp. Index.str.cat.

Concatenating a single Series into a string

The content of a series (or Index) can be concatenated:

```
In [41]: s = pd.Series(['a', 'b', 'c', 'd'])
In [42]: s.str.cat(sep=',')
Out[42]: 'a,b,c,d'
```

If not specified, the keyword sep for the separator defaults to the empty string, sep='':

```
In [43]: s.str.cat()
Out[43]: 'abcd'
```

By default, missing values are ignored. Using na_rep, they can be given a representation:

```
In [44]: t = pd.Series(['a', 'b', np.nan, 'd'])
In [45]: t.str.cat(sep=',')
Out[45]: 'a,b,d'
In [46]: t.str.cat(sep=',', na_rep='-')
Out[46]: 'a,b,-,d'
```

Concatenating a Series and something list-like into a Series

The first argument to cat() can be a list-like object, provided that it matches the length of the calling series (or Index).

```
In [47]: s.str.cat(['A', 'B', 'C', 'D'])
Out[47]:
0     aA
1     bB
2     cC
3     dD
dtype: object
```

Missing values on either side will result in missing values in the result as well, unless na rep is specified:

```
In [48]: s.str.cat(t)
Out[48]:
      aa
1
      bb
2
     NaN
3
      dd
dtype: object
In [49]: s.str.cat(t, na rep='-')
Out[49]:
0
     aa
1
     bb
2
     dd
dtype: object
```

Concatenating a Series and something array-like into a Series

New in version 0.23.0.

The parameter others can also be two-dimensional. In this case, the number or rows must match the lengths of the calling series (or Index).

```
In [50]: d = pd.concat([t, s], axis=1)
In [51]: s
Out[51]:
     а
1
     b
2
     С
3
    d
dtype: object
In [52]: d
Out[52]:
     0 1
0
     a a
1
    b b
2 NaN c
    d d
In [53]: s.str.cat(d, na_rep='-')
Out[53]:
0
     aaa
1
    bbb
2
     C-C
    ddd
dtype: object
```

Concatenating a Series and an indexed object into a Series, with alignment

New in version 0.23.0.

For concatenation with a series or DataFrame, it is possible to align the indexes before concatenation by setting the join-keyword.

```
In [54]: u = pd.Series(['b', 'd', 'a', 'c'], index=[1, 3, 0, 2])
In [55]: s
Out[55]:
1
     b
2
     С
3
     d
dtype: object
In [56]: u
Out[56]:
1
     b
     d
3
0
     а
     С
dtype: object
In [57]: s.str.cat(u)
Out[57]:
     ab
0
```

```
2
     ca
3
     dc
dtype: object
In [58]: s.str.cat(u, join='left')
Out[58]:
0
     aa
     bb
1
2
     CC
3
     dd
dtype: object
```

Warning: If the join keyword is not passed, the method **cat()** will currently fall back to the behavior before version 0.23.0 (i.e. no alignment), but a FutureWarning will be raised if any of the involved indexes differ, since this default will change to join='left' in a future version.

The usual options are available for join (one of 'left', 'outer', 'inner', 'right'). In particular, alignment also means that the different lengths do not need to coincide anymore.

```
In [59]: v = pd.Series(['z', 'a', 'b', 'd', 'e'], index=[-1, 0, 1, 3, 4])
In [60]: s
Out[60]:
1
     b
2
     С
3
     d
dtype: object
In [61]: v
Out[61]:
-1
      z
 0
      а
      b
1
3
      d
      е
dtype: object
In [62]: s.str.cat(v, join='left', na rep='-')
Out[62]:
0
     aa
     bb
1
2
     C-
3
     dd
dtype: object
In [63]: s.str.cat(v, join='outer', na rep='-')
Out[63]:
-1
      -z
0
      aa
1
      bb
 2
      C-
 3
      dd
      -e
dtype: object
```

The same alignment can be used when others is a DataFrame:

```
In [64]: f = d.loc[[3, 2, 1, 0], :]
In [65]: s
Out[65]:
     а
1
     b
2
     С
     d
dtype: object
In [66]: f
Out[66]:
     0
       1
3
     d d
2 NaN
1
     b
       b
0
     a a
In [67]: s.str.cat(f, join='left', na_rep='-')
Out[67]:
0
     aaa
1
     bbb
2
     C-C
3
     ddd
dtype: object
```

Concatenating a Series and many objects into a Series

All one-dimensional list-likes can be arbitrarily combined in a list-like container (including iterators, dictviews, etc.):

```
In [68]: s
Out[68]:
1
     b
2
     С
     d
dtype: object
In [69]: u
Out[69]:
1
     b
3
     d
0
     а
2
     С
dtype: object
In [70]: s.str.cat([u, pd.Index(u.values), ['A', 'B', 'C', 'D'], map(str, u.index)], na
Out[70]:
     abbA1
1
     bddB3
     caaC0
2
     dccD2
dtype: object
```

All elements must match in length to the calling series (or Index), except those having an index if join is not None:

```
In [71]: v
Out[71]:
-1
0
1
      b
3
      d
 4
      е
dtype: object
In [72]: s.str.cat([u, v, ['A', 'B', 'C', 'D']], join='outer', na_rep='-')
Out[72]:
-1
      --z-
0
      aaaA
     bbbB
1
 2
      cc-C
     dddD
     --e-
 4
dtype: object
```

If using <code>join='right'</code> on a list of <code>others</code> that contains different indexes, the union of these indexes will be used as the basis for the final concatenation:

```
In [73]: u.loc[[3]]
Out[73]:
3 d
dtype: object
In [74]: v.loc[[-1, 0]]
Out[74]:
-1
   Z
0
     а
dtype: object
In [75]: s.str.cat([u.loc[[3]], v.loc[[-1, 0]]], join='right', na rep='-')
Out[75]:
-1
0
     a-a
     dd-
3
dtype: object
```

Indexing with .str

You can use [] notation to directly index by position locations. If you index past the end of the string, the result will be a NaN.

```
5
     NaN
6
       C
7
       d
8
dtype: object
In [78]: s.str[1]
Out[78]:
     NaN
     NaN
1
2
     NaN
3
4
        а
5
     NaN
6
       Α
7
dtype: object
```

Extracting Substrings

Extract first match in each subject (extract)

Warning: In version 0.18.0, extract gained the expand argument. When expand=False it returns a series, Index, or DataFrame, depending on the subject and regular expression pattern (same behavior as pre-0.18.0). When expand=True it always returns a DataFrame, which is more consistent and less confusing from the perspective of a user. expand=True is the default since version 0.23.0.

The extract method accepts a regular expression with at least one capture group.

Extracting a regular expression with more than one group returns a DataFrame with one column per group.

Elements that do not match return a row filled with $_{NaN}$. Thus, a Series of messy strings can be "converted" into a like-indexed Series or DataFrame of cleaned-up or more useful strings, without necessitating $_{get()}$ to access tuples or $_{re.match}$ objects. The dtype of the result is always object, even if no match is found and the result only contains $_{NaN}$.

Named groups like

```
In [80]: pd.Series(['a1', 'b2', 'c3']).str.extract('(?P<letter>[ab])(?P<digit>\d)', exp
Out[80]:
  letter digit
0    a    1
```

```
1 b 2
2 NaN NaN
```

and optional groups like

can also be used. Note that any capture group names in the regular expression will be used for column names; otherwise capture group numbers will be used.

Extracting a regular expression with one group returns a DataFrame with one column if expand=True.

It returns a Series if expand=False.

```
In [83]: pd.Series(['a1', 'b2', 'c3']).str.extract('[ab](\d)', expand=False)
Out[83]:
0     1
1     2
2     NaN
dtype: object
```

Calling on an Index with a regex with exactly one capture group returns a DataFrame with one column if expand=True.

```
In [84]: s = pd.Series(["a1", "b2", "c3"], ["A11", "B22", "C33"])
In [85]: s
Out[85]:
A11
       a1
B22
       b2
C33
       c3
dtype: object
In [86]: s.index.str.extract("(?P<letter>[a-zA-Z])", expand=True)
Out[86]:
  letter
0
       Α
1
       В
2
       C
```

It returns an Index if expand=False.

```
In [87]: s.index.str.extract("(?P<letter>[a-zA-Z])", expand=False)
Out[87]: Index(['A', 'B', 'C'], dtype='object', name='letter')
```

Calling on an Index with a regex with more than one capture group returns a DataFrame if expand=True.

```
In [88]: s.index.str.extract("(?P<letter>[a-zA-Z])([0-9]+)", expand=True)
Out[88]:
  letter   1
0         A   11
1         B   22
2         C   33
```

It raises ValueError if expand=False.

```
>>> s.index.str.extract("(?P<letter>[a-zA-Z])([0-9]+)", expand=False)
ValueError: only one regex group is supported with Index
```

The table below summarizes the behavior of extract(expand=False) (input subject in first column, number of groups in regex in first row)

	1 group	>1 group
Index	Index	ValueError
Series	Series	DataFrame

Extract all matches in each subject (extractall)

New in version 0.18.0.

Unlike extract (which returns only the first match),

```
In [89]: s = pd.Series(["a1a2", "b1", "c1"], index=["A", "B", "C"])
In [90]: s
Out[90]:
     ala2
       b1
В
       c1
C
dtype: object
In [91]: two groups = '(?P<letter>[a-z])(?P<digit>[0-9])'
In [92]: s.str.extract(two groups, expand=True)
Out[92]:
  letter digit
Α
             1
       a
             1
В
       b
С
             1
       С
```

the extractall method returns every match. The result of extractall is always a DataFrame with a MultiIndex on its rows. The last level of the MultiIndex is named match and indicates the order in the subject.

When each subject string in the Series has exactly one match,

```
In [94]: s = pd.Series(['a3', 'b3', 'c2'])
In [95]: s
Out[95]:
0     a3
1     b3
2     c2
dtype: object
```

then extractall(pat).xs(0, level='match') gives the same result as extract(pat).

```
In [96]: extract result = s.str.extract(two groups, expand=True)
In [97]: extract result
Out[97]:
  letter digit
0
       а
             3
1
       b
             2
2
       С
In [98]: extractall result = s.str.extractall(two groups)
In [99]: extractall result
Out[99]:
        letter digit
  match
0 0
                   3
             а
1 0
             b
                   3
2 0
             С
                   2
In [100]: extractall result.xs(0, level="match")
Out[100]:
  letter digit
0
             3
       a
1
       b
             3
2
             2
       С
```

Index also supports .str.extractall. It returns a DataFrame which has the same result as a Series.str.extractall with a default index (starts from 0).

New in version 0.19.0.

```
In [101]: pd.Index(["ala2", "b1", "c1"]).str.extractall(two_groups)
Out[101]:
        letter digit
 match
0 0
                    1
             а
                    2
  1
1 0
             b
                    1
2 0
             С
In [102]: pd.Series(["ala2", "b1", "c1"]).str.extractall(two_groups)
Out[102]:
        letter digit
  match
0 0
                    1
             а
                    2
  1
             а
1 0
             b
                    1
2 0
                    1
             С
```

Testing for Strings that Match or Contain a Pattern

You can check whether elements contain a pattern:

```
In [103]: pattern = r'[0-9][a-z]'
In [104]: pd.Series(['1', '2', '3a', '3b', '03c']).str.contains(pattern)
Out[104]:
0    False
1    False
2    True
3    True
4    True
dtype: bool
```

Or whether elements match a pattern:

```
In [105]: pd.Series(['1', '2', '3a', '3b', '03c']).str.match(pattern)
Out[105]:
0    False
1    False
2    True
3    True
4    False
dtype: bool
```

The distinction between match and contains is strictness: match relies on strict re.match, while contains relies on re.search.

Methods like match, contains, startswith, and endswith take an extra na argument so missing values can be considered True or False:

```
In [106]: s4 = pd.Series(['A', 'B', 'C', 'Aaba', 'Baca', np.nan, 'CABA', 'dog', 'cat'])
In [107]: s4.str.contains('A', na=False)
Out[107]:
      True
     False
1
2
     False
3
      True
4
     False
5
     False
6
      True
7
     False
     False
dtype: bool
```

Creating Indicator Variables

You can extract dummy variables from string columns. For example if they are separated by a '|':

```
In [108]: s = pd.Series(['a', 'a|b', np.nan, 'a|c'])
In [109]: s.str.get_dummies(sep='|')
Out[109]:
    a b c
0 1 0 0
1 1 1 0
2 0 0 0
3 1 0 1
```

String Index also supports get dummies which returns a MultiIndex.

New in version 0.18.1.

See also get dummies().

Method Summary

Method	Description
cat()	Concatenate strings
split()	Split strings on delimiter
rsplit()	Split strings on delimiter working from the end of the string
get()	Index into each element (retrieve i-th element)
join()	Join strings in each element of the Series with passed separator

Method	Description	
get_dummies()	Split strings on the delimiter returning DataFrame of dummy variables	
contains()	Return boolean array if each string contains pattern/regex	
replace()	Replace occurrences of pattern/regex/string with some other string or the return value of a callable given the occurrence	
repeat()	Duplicate values (s.str.repeat(3) equivalent to x * 3)	
pad()	Add whitespace to left, right, or both sides of strings	
center()	Equivalent to str.center	
ljust()	Equivalent to str.1just	
rjust()	Equivalent to str.rjust	
zfill()	Equivalent to str.zfill	
wrap()	Split long strings into lines with length less than a given width	
slice()	Slice each string in the Series	
slice_replace()	Replace slice in each string with passed value	
count()	Count occurrences of pattern	
startswith()	Equivalent to str.startswith(pat) for each element	
endswith()	Equivalent to str.endswith(pat) for each element	
findall()	Compute list of all occurrences of pattern/regex for each string	
match()	Call re.match on each element, returning matched groups as list	
	Call re.search on each element, returning DataFrame with one row for each	
extract()	element and one column for each regex capture group	
extractall()	Call re.findall on each element, returning DataFrame with one row for each match and one column for each regex capture group	
len()	Compute string lengths	
strip()	Equivalent to str.strip	
rstrip()	Equivalent to str.rstrip	
lstrip()	Equivalent to str.lstrip	
partition()	Equivalent to str.partition	
rpartition()	Equivalent to str.rpartition	
lower()	Equivalent to str.lower	
upper()	Equivalent to str.upper	
find()	Equivalent to str.find	
rfind()	Equivalent to str.rfind	
index()	Equivalent to str.index	
rindex()	Equivalent to str.rindex	
capitalize()	Equivalent to str.capitalize	
swapcase()	Equivalent to str.swapcase	
normalize()	Return Unicode normal form. Equivalent to unicodedata.normalize	
translate()	Equivalent to str.translate	
isalnum()	Equivalent to str.isalnum	
isalpha()	Equivalent to str.isalpha	
isdigit()	Equivalent to str.isdigit	
isspace()	Equivalent to str.isspace	
islower()	Equivalent to str.islower	
isupper()	Equivalent to str.isupper	
istitle()	Equivalent to str.istitle	
isnumeric()	Equivalent to str.isnumeric	
isdecimal()	Equivalent to str.isdecimal	