

Practical 6: Numeric Data

Easing into EDA with Pandas

Table of contents

1 The Importance of EDA	2
2 Preamble	2
3 Reading and Writing Data	3
4 Managing Your Data	9
5 Exploring Your Data	13
6 Using Indexes	20
7 Fixing Data Types	22
8 Selection using Criteria	31
9 Enhancing our Understanding	36
10 Credits!	46

This session is a tour-de-pandas; since this is Python's equivalent of the tidyverse meets data.tables it is fundamental to the data science ecosystem and is probably one of the most-widely used libraries in the language as a whole. I get [more than 286,000 questions](#) tagged with pandas on StackOverflow.

This week we are also going to start looking at the [InsideAirbnb](#) data which forms the core of the work that we do over the rest of the term. The focus of *this* notebook is simple numeric data: no mapping or text data... yet... and direct manipulation of data types, derivation of summary statistics, and simple plotting.

We hope that you will be able to draw on the past few practical sessions to develop a more intuitive understanding of how to interact with pandas since it supports both a 'dictionary-of-lists' style of interaction *and* a methods-based style of interaction with the 'Data Frame'.

 **Important**

Conceptually, this practical links together *all* of the preceding ones; you will find data structures, classes and methods, reading CSV files from a remote location, numpy, and more than you ever wanted to know about data types in Python.

Making these connections will make the remainder of term much, much easier, so it might be worth **revising this practical** over Reading Week so make sure it all makes sense!

1 The Importance of EDA

After a few weeks getting to grips with Python, we're now going to start working with some real data. One of the first things that we do when working with any new data set is to familiarise ourselves with it. There are a *huge* number of ways to do this, but there are no shortcuts to:

1. Reading about the data (how it was collected, what the sample size was, etc.)
2. Reviewing any accompanying metadata (data about the data, column specs, etc.)
3. Looking at the data itself at the row- and column-levels
4. Producing descriptive statistics
5. Visualising the data using plots

You should use *all* of these together to really understand where the data came from, how it was handled, and whether there are gaps or other problems. If you're wondering which comes first, the concept of *start with a chart* is always good... though we've obviously not *quite* gotten there yet! This week we want you to get a handle on pandas itself, so although we will do some plotting of charts, we'll focus on 3-4 with a tiny bit of 5. There will be much more on plotting charts next week, and you should be looking into 1 and 2 yourself based on what's been written both on the [Inside Airbnb web site](#) and in the [suggested readings](#).

So although they don't need to be done now, you probably want to add both those links to your reading list!

2 Preamble

i [?] Connections

This is why we spent time talking about [Packages](#), [Methods](#) [Classes](#) in the lectures... because now we're going to be making *intensive* use of them.

It's always sensible to import packages these at the top of the notebook:

1. Because it lets everyone know what they need to have installed to run your code.
2. It's easy to run this and then skip further down the notebook if you have already done *some* of the work and saved an intermediate output.

```
import os  
import numpy as np  
import pandas as pd
```

Beyond what we provide below there are [numerous](#) useful introductions; [one of our favourites](#) is from Greg Reda, and there are some [good videos](#) on [our YouTube channel](#). And of course, there's [TONS of stuff](#) on StackOverflow. If you want an actual physical book, you might try [McKinney \(2017\)](#).

However, one thing you will really want to bookmark is [the official documentation](#) since you will undoubtedly need to refer to it fairly regularly. Note: this link is to the most recent release. Over time there will be updates published and you *may* find that you no longer have the most up-to-date version. If you find that you are now using an older version of pandas and the methods have changed then you'll need to track down the *specific* version of the documentation that you need from the [home page](#).

You can always check what version you have installed like this:

```
print(pd.__version__)
```

2.2.3

💡 Tip

The `<package_name>.__version__` approach isn't guaranteed to work with every package, but it will work with most of them. Remember that variables and methods starting and ending with '__' are **private** and any interaction with them should be approached very, very carefully.

3 Reading and Writing Data

ℹ️ Connections

You will *really* need to get to grips with Pandas through the lectures on [Data](#) and [Pandas](#).

Pandas can do a *lot*, and you might be feeling a little intimidated by this, but here's the thing: we were already writing something like pandas from scratch! That's because pandas takes a **column-view of data** in the same way that our **Dictionary-of-Lists** did, it's just that it's got a lot more features than our 'simple' tool did. That's why the documentation is so much more forbidding and why pandas is so much more powerful.

But at its heart, a pandas `Data Frame` (`df` for short) is a collection of `Data Series` objects (i.e. columns) with an index. Each Series is like one of our column-lists from the last notebook. And the `df` is like the dictionary that held the data together. So you've seen this before and you already *know* what's going on... or at least you now have an *analogy* that you can use to make sense of pandas:

```
myDataFrame = {
    '<column_name_1>': <Series_1>,
    '<column_name_2>': <Series_2>,
```

```
'<column_name_3>': <Series_3>
}
```

And pandas gives us two ways to access that data:

1. Using a method syntax: `myDataFrame.column_name_1`
2. Using a dictionary syntax: `myDataFrame['column_name_1']`

Depending on which syntax you prefer, you can use these interchangeably. The only times you *have* to choose one over the other are:

- Assignment (e.g. `myDataFrame['column_name_1'] = ...;`)
- Columns with spaces in their names (e.g. `myDataFrame['Column Name 1']`).

3.1 Reading Remote Data

 Difficulty: Low (this time around).

You will need to do several things here to read the remote, compressed CSV file specified by `url` into a data frame called `df`. Setting `low_memory=False` ensures that pandas will try to load the entire data set *before* guessing the data format! Obviously, with very large files this is probably a bad idea and it's possible to force a particular column type while reading in the data as well. For larger data sets there are platforms like [Dask](#) (see, eg, [this](#)), and beyond that are [other options](#).

```
# Set download URL
ymd = '20240614'
city = 'London'
host = 'https://orca.casa.ucl.ac.uk'
url = f'{host}/~jreades/data/{ymd}-{city}-listings.csv.gz'
```

Answer

This is a bit of a fuller answer than the question, but hopefully you'll see why we take this approach as a 'better' one than the skeleton set out in the Question. Note that you can also find reviews and calendar at the same location as the listings file (i.e. `20250615-{city}-calendar.csv.gz`)

```
# Notice that we import a specific error here
# but other types of errors (e.g. NameError)
# are always available because they're so basic.
from urllib.error import URLError

if not os.path.exists('tmp.csv.gz'):
    print("Didn't find tmp.csv.gz locally")
    try:
        df = pd.read_csv(url, compression='gzip', low_memory=False)
        df.to_csv('tmp.csv.gz', compression='gzip', index=False)
```

```

        except URLError as e:
            print(f"Unable to access: {url}")
            print(e)
    else:
        print("Found tmp.csv.gz locally")
        df = pd.read_csv('tmp.csv.gz', compression='gzip', low_memory=False)

    try:
        print(f"Data frame is {df.shape[0]}:{}, {} x {}".format(df.shape[1]))
    except NameError as e:
        print("Unable to load the data")

```

Found tmp.csv.gz locally
 Data frame is 93,486 x 75

You should get a data frame containing 75 columns and 93,486 rows of data.

3.2 Inspecting the Data Frame

 Difficulty: Low.

Let's get a general sense of the data by printing out information *about* the data frame. There are several ways to do this (and we'll see another further on):

- df.describe(percentiles=None, include=None, exclude=None, datetime_is_numeric=False)
 – descriptive stats for all **numeric** columns
- df.info(verbose=None, buf=None, max_cols=None, memory_usage=None, show_counts=None)
 – summarises all columns, but without distribution information
- df.memory_usage(index=True, deep=True)
 – memory usage details about each column (can be quite slow as it's doing a lot of digging)

Answer

The median!

3.2.1 Describing

Describing a data frame provides general information about *numeric* columns, such as the median, IQR, or number of discrete values.

So to show the 5th and 95th percentiles you need to pass an argument to `describe` to override the default report from pandas:

Answer

```
df.describe(percentiles=[.05,.95]) # 0.5 is always shown
```

	id	host_id	host_total_listings_count	neighbourhood_group_cleansed
count	9.348100e+04	9.348600e+04	93475.000000	5.000000
mean	4.928322e+17	1.789909e+08	46.440011	2.600000
std	4.848127e+17	1.872947e+08	312.359440	1.516575
min	1.391300e+04	1.000000e+00	1.000000	1.000000
5%	6.622730e+06	2.598026e+06	1.000000	1.200000
50%	6.231232e+17	9.218963e+07	3.000000	2.000000
95%	1.148521e+18	5.398830e+08	132.000000	4.600000
max	1.178199e+18	5.831673e+08	6297.000000	5.000000

	id	host_id	host_total_listings_count	neighbourhood_group_cleansed
count	9.348100e+04	9.348600e+04	93475.000000	5.000000
mean	4.928322e+17	1.789909e+08	46.440011	2.600000
std	4.848127e+17	1.872947e+08	312.359440	1.516575
min	1.391300e+04	1.000000e+00	1.000000	1.000000
5%	6.622730e+06	2.598026e+06	1.000000	1.200000
50%	6.231232e+17	9.218963e+07	3.000000	2.000000
95%	1.148521e+18	5.398830e+08	132.000000	4.600000
max	1.178199e+18	5.831673e+08	6297.000000	5.000000

3.2.2 Info

The `info` method provides a more system-oriented view of the data frame, helping you to understand what each column is composed of, how many NAs there might be, and some high-level (but often incomplete) data on performance.

```
df.info(verbose=True)
```

```
<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
RangeIndex: 93486 entries, 0 to 93485
Data columns (total 75 columns):
 #   Column          Non-Null Count  Dtype  
 ---  --  
 0   id              93481 non-null   float64 
 1   listing_url     93485 non-null   object  
 2   scrape_id       93485 non-null   object  
 3   last_scraped    93485 non-null   object  
 4   source          93486 non-null   object  
 5   name            93486 non-null   object  
 6   description     90297 non-null   object  
 7   neighborhood_overview  46673 non-null   object  
 8   picture_url    93477 non-null   object  
 9   host_id         93486 non-null   float64 
 10  host_url        93486 non-null   object 
```

11	host_name	93480	non-null	object
12	host_since	93480	non-null	object
13	host_location	72291	non-null	object
14	host_about	47802	non-null	object
15	host_response_time	62226	non-null	object
16	host_response_rate	62231	non-null	object
17	host_acceptance_rate	67455	non-null	object
18	host_is_superhost	93022	non-null	object
19	host_thumbnail_url	93475	non-null	object
20	host_picture_url	93475	non-null	object
21	host_neighbourhood	46906	non-null	object
22	host_listings_count	93475	non-null	object
23	host_total_listings_count	93475	non-null	float64
24	host_verifications	93474	non-null	object
25	host_has_profile_pic	93475	non-null	object
26	host_identity_verified	93474	non-null	object
27	neighbourhood	46675	non-null	object
28	neighbourhood_cleansed	93481	non-null	object
29	neighbourhood_group_cleansed	5	non-null	float64
30	latitude	93481	non-null	float64
31	longitude	93481	non-null	float64
32	property_type	93481	non-null	object
33	room_type	93481	non-null	object
34	accommodates	93481	non-null	float64
35	bathrooms	61355	non-null	float64
36	bathrooms_text	93331	non-null	object
37	bedrooms	81800	non-null	float64
38	beds	61289	non-null	float64
39	amenities	93481	non-null	object
40	price	61423	non-null	object
41	minimum_nights	93481	non-null	object
42	maximum_nights	93481	non-null	float64
43	minimum_minimum_nights	93480	non-null	float64
44	maximum_minimum_nights	93480	non-null	float64
45	minimum_maximum_nights	93479	non-null	object
46	maximum_maximum_nights	93479	non-null	object
47	minimum_nights_avg_ntm	93479	non-null	float64
48	maximum_nights_avg_ntm	93479	non-null	float64
49	calendar_updated	4	non-null	float64
50	has_availability	89394	non-null	object
51	availability_30	93480	non-null	float64
52	availability_60	93480	non-null	float64
53	availability_90	93480	non-null	float64
54	availability_365	93476	non-null	float64
55	calendar_last_scraped	93481	non-null	object
56	number_of_reviews	93481	non-null	float64
57	number_of_reviews_ltm	93481	non-null	float64
58	number_of_reviews_l30d	93481	non-null	float64
59	first_review	68740	non-null	object
60	last_review	68739	non-null	object
61	review_scores_rating	68735	non-null	float64
62	review_scores_accuracy	68657	non-null	float64

```

63 review_scores_cleanliness           68664 non-null float64
64 review_scores_checkin              68627 non-null float64
65 review_scores_communication        68652 non-null float64
66 review_scores_location             68626 non-null float64
67 review_scores_value                68627 non-null float64
68 license                           0 non-null   float64
69 instant_bookable                  93476 non-null object
70 calculated_host_listings_count     93476 non-null float64
71 calculated_host_listings_count_entire_homes 93476 non-null float64
72 calculated_host_listings_count_private_rooms 93476 non-null float64
73 calculated_host_listings_count_shared_rooms 93476 non-null float64
74 reviews_per_month                 68735 non-null float64
dtypes: float64(36), object(39)
memory usage: 53.5+ MB

```

You should get that the data frame has a mix of `float64`, `int`, and `object` (`text`) columns and that some columns contain many nulls. You will also get an *estimate* of memory usage that may differ substantially from the more complete picture provided below, which suggests a ‘true’ value of 398MB.

3.2.3 Memory Usage

If you really need to get into the ‘weeds’ and profile your data frame because you are crashing Python and seeing messages about ‘core dumped’, or seeing appallingly poor performance, then `memory_usage` is the way to go:

```
df.memory_usage(index=True, deep=True)
```

Index	132
id	747888
listing_url	9290686
scrape_id	6637426
last_scraped	6263498
	...
calculated_host_listings_count	747888
calculated_host_listings_count_entire_homes	747888
calculated_host_listings_count_private_rooms	747888
calculated_host_listings_count_shared_rooms	747888
reviews_per_month	747888

Length: 76, dtype: int64

You should see that the data frame uses 417,473,797 bytes of memory, but the *really* important thing to note here is the difference between `string` and other types of data: keeping data as raw strings (instead of converting to categories, for instance) uses up a *lot* more memory and this can have a huge impact on the performance of your code.

3.2.4 Printing the Columns

Finally, I find it very useful to be able to quickly print out a list of the **columns** without all of the details shown above. You just need to *print* the *columns* as a *list*:

```
print(df.columns.to_list())
```

```
['id', 'listing_url', 'scrape_id', 'last_scraped', 'source', 'name', 'description', 'neig...
```

You should get a list showing every single column. If you get `Index(['id', 'listing_url', ...], dtype='object')` then you have printed the column *index* object and you need to tell the object to convert its output **to a list** (*hint: Google*).

3.3 Saving the File Locally

 Difficulty: Low

Now save the file somewhere local so that you don't have to keep downloading 40MB of compressed data every time you want to start the practical. We'll be using this data for the rest of term, so you might as well save yourself some time and bandwidth! We'll talk more about data processing pipelines over the course of the term, but I'd suggest putting this data set into a `data/raw` folder because then you can have directories like `data/clean` and `data/analytical` as you move through the process of cleaning and prepping your data for analysis.

```
path = os.path.join('data', 'raw') # A default location to save raw data
fn   = url.split('/')[-1]          # What does this do?
print(f"Writing to: {fn}")
```

```
Writing to: 20240614-London-listings.csv.gz
```

```
if not os.path.exists(path):      # And what does *this* do?
    print(f"Creating {path} under {os.getcwd()}")
    os.makedirs(path)

if not os.path.exists(os.path.join(path, fn)):
    df.to_csv(os.path.join(path, fn), index=False)
    print("Done.")
```

4 Managing Your Data

When starting out it's common to think in terms of there being one input (the raw data) and one output (the results) to an analysis. In practice, you will have many intermediate outputs used as 'milestones' in the overall analysis:

- You might have a ‘canonical’ data file that has dealt with formatting issues and converted the columns to appropriate data types.
- You might have a ‘clean’ data file that has dealt with observations that seem to be incomplete or otherwise improperly formatted.
- You might generate subsets by region or area.
- You might produce an ‘analytical’ or ‘final’ data set appropriate to a specific analysis.

Most importantly, if you are going to run the same analysis multiple times using data from different time periods (e.g. Land Registry’s Price Paid Data is updated every month) then you will *multiple* versions of each of each of the above.

But, *in addition*, you might also be working with such a large data set that processing the *entire* thing every time you want to do some development work is impractical: do you want to load 1 billion rows only to find out that you needed 1,000 of them or that one of your columns is incorrectly formatted?

So although you *could* do the next few steps as part of loading the *raw* data, I always prefer to keep the original data set handy since I almost always discover that there are fields I didn’t realise I needed when I started my work.

So my approach to coding is usually:

1. Download the raw file and save it locally in a `data/raw` directory.
2. Load the first `nrows` of data so that I can quickly:
 - Check that the specification matches the data and select columns/rows accordingly.
 - Identify obviously invalid rows/columns and investigate further.
 - Check the code to fix data types and (where relevant) values works.
 - Write this new, smaller file ($m' << m$ and $n' << n$) out to a `data/clean` or `data/canonical` directory (depending on whether formatting the columns is so complex or takes so long on a large data set that it needs to be separated out from actual cleaning).
 - Test out some initial ideas for further analysis.
3. Re-run the code (remove the `nrows` limit) using the full data set.



Difficulty: Moderate

Although the code here is simple, the logic is not.

4.1 File Names

You should always be looking for ways to *avoid* hard-coding values that might change over time, especially those linked to the date of the data file.

In this case you might try to work out how to make it easy to update the code to download the latest file. For instance, if the file looks like `2022-09-10-listings.csv.gz` then I might well specify the `url` as `{date}-listings.csv.gz` or `{year}-{month}-{day}-listings.csv.gz` and set up the variables that I need beforehand or in a separate file.

Using parameters makes it easier to write robust code that doesn’t have unwanted side-effects. Here’s a common one: you write code to download and process a file

named `20221111-data.csv.gz`. After doing all the steps in Tasks 2 and 3 below you save it to `clean-data.csv.gz`.

Answer

You are going to lose every single output from the 2022-11-11 data that depends on `clean-data.csv.gz` because they are *all* going to now be generated from the 2022-12-11 data set instead. Worse, you will almost certainly have *no* way of knowing which output came from which data set (because you probably stopped tracking dates very early in your application).

4.2 File Loading

Now let's write something that will allow us to more quickly write our code and validate the results in exploratory phase. For simplicity I've called this 'testing', but you could also think of it as 'dev' mode. What we want is to be able to easily swap between testing and operational contexts using a 'switch' (typically, a Boolean value) and limit the data load in testing mode.

To achieve this you could set pandas to:

- Load only the first 10,000 rows using `nrows` if we are testing
- Use the columns specified in `cols`
- Allow pandas to load the entire data set before deciding on the column type by setting `low_memory` appropriately.

4.2.1 Row Subsetting

Let's tackle the *rows* problem first:

Answer

```
testing = True

if testing:
    df = pd.read_csv(os.path.join(path, fn),
                     low_memory=False, nrows=10000)
else:
    df = pd.read_csv(os.path.join(path, fn),
                     low_memory=False)

print(f"Data frame is {df.shape[0]} : , {df.shape[1]}")
```

Data frame is 10,000 x 75

So notice how this code deliberately works the same for either testing or operational execution – we just flip between the option by changing the `testing` variable from `True` to `False`!

To make this more robust and useful we could use this `testing` variable *throughout* our code if we wanted to change other behaviours based on development/deployment context. The state of the switch could then be set globally using an external configuration file (usually just called a ‘conf file’). The easiest way to do this is to have a `conf.py` which contains your global parameters and then every script or notebook file reads in the configuration and sets these variables.

Something like:

```
testing = False
```

And:

```
from conf import *
```

4.2.2 Column Subsetting

Now let’s tackle the column problem... In order to avoid having to load lots of data that we aren’t sure we need yet, we can restrict the columns that we load. We got `cols` below by copying the output of (`df.columns.to_list()`) and then removing the fields that we thought we *weren’t* interested in.

```
cols = ['id', 'listing_url', 'last_scraped', 'name', 'description', 'host_id',
        'host_name', 'host_since', 'host_location', 'host_about', 'host_is_superhost',
        'host_listings_count', 'host_total_listings_count', 'host_verifications',
        'latitude', 'longitude', 'property_type', 'room_type', 'accommodates',
        'bathrooms', 'bathrooms_text', 'bedrooms', 'beds', 'amenities', 'price',
        'minimum_nights', 'maximum_nights', 'availability_365', 'number_of_reviews',
        'first_review', 'last_review', 'review_scores_rating', 'license',
        'reviews_per_month']
print(f"Cols contains {len(cols)} columns.")
```

Cols contains 34 columns.

So let’s extend our previous answer

Answer

```
testing = True

if testing:
    df = pd.read_csv(os.path.join(path,fn),
                     low_memory=False, nrows=10000, usecols=cols)
else:
    df = pd.read_csv(os.path.join(path,fn),
```

```
    low_memory=False, usecols=cols)

print(f"Data frame is {df.shape[0]} : , {df.shape[1]}")
```

Data frame is 10,000 x 34

4.3 Releasing Memory

A particular risk when working with Jupyter notebooks is that you either: a) have run code in an order *other* than the order shown in the notebook; or b) have made edits to code but *not* re-run the changed code. So you're still working from code that is no longer visible!

When that happens you can get *very* confusing issues because what you *see* doesn't square with what the computer has *executed*. To resolve this without having to re-run the entire notebook (though that can *also* be a good choice!) you might want to 'delete' the current object and re-load or re-run the relevant data or code.

```
del(df)
```

So we use `del(df)` to ensure that we aren't accidentally using the 'old' data frame. But another good reason to delete data you're no longer using is to free up memory.

5 Exploring Your Data

Let's start over from the saved data:

```
df = pd.read_csv(os.path.join(path, fn),
                 low_memory=False, usecols=cols)
```

5.1 Selecting Rows

Connections

You will want to refer to the [Randomness](#) lecture to understand how we can select the *same* random sample each time and to the session on [Logic](#) lecture to cover `NaNs` and `NAs`.

Difficulty: Low

I often like to start my EDA by simply printing out randomly-selected rows to get a feel for what's in the data. Does what I see square with what I read in the documentation? What does the `name` look like? What do I see in `last_scraped` and is it a sensible? What's the `id` field for?

```
df.sample(3)
```

	id	listing_url	last_scraped	name
51440	6.078721e+17	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/607872141507158895	2023-09-07	Home in Greater London
33432	3.544545e+07	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/35445447	2023-09-07	Home in Greater London
82666	9.433964e+17	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/943396433763575512	2023-09-06	Rental unit in London

See if you can work out from the documentation (Google search time!) how to get the same ‘random’ sample every time you re-run this code block:

Answer

```
df.sample(3, random_state=42)
```

	id	listing_url	last_scraped	name
25609	25934130.0	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/25934130	2023-09-06	Home in Greater London
31738	33270886.0	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/33270886	2023-09-06	Rental unit in Greater London
5346	7005528.0	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/7005528	2023-09-06	Rental unit in London

	id	listing_url	last_scraped	name
25609	25934130.0	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/25934130	2023-09-06	Home in Greater London
31738	33270886.0	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/33270886	2023-09-06	Rental unit in Greater London
5346	7005528.0	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/7005528	2023-09-06	Rental unit in London

5.2 Selecting Columns

If you look very closely, you’ll see that pandas isn’t showing you the *full* range of columns since there are 34! If you’d like to only look at specific columns then you can specify them after the sample method call using what looks like a nested list: `[[<column names as strings>]]`.

I’d like you to sample 3 random rows, selecting the ‘latitude’, ‘longitude’, ‘license’, ‘property_type’, ‘room_type’ and ‘price’ columns only.

Answer

Notice that we can make things a little easier to read using the whitespace:

```
df.sample(3)[  
    ['latitude', 'longitude', 'license', 'property_type', 'room_type', 'price']  
]
```

	latitude	longitude	license	property_type	room_type	price
84053	51.50854	-0.30787	NaN	Entire rental unit	Entire home/apt	\$220.00
33006	51.42305	-0.16176	NaN	Entire condo	Entire home/apt	\$300.00
16970	51.56815	-0.29718	NaN	Entire rental unit	Entire home/apt	\$65.00

	latitude	longitude	license	property_type	room_type	price
84053	51.50854	-0.30787	NaN	Entire rental unit	Entire home/apt	\$220.00
33006	51.42305	-0.16176	NaN	Entire condo	Entire home/apt	\$300.00
16970	51.56815	-0.29718	NaN	Entire rental unit	Entire home/apt	\$65.00

5.3 Dealing with NaNs and Nulls

🔥 Difficulty: Hard.

There is a *lot* going on here and you should be paying close attention.

If you really dig into the data you will see that a number of data types that aren't 'appropriate' for their contents: the id columns are floats; the dates aren't dates; there's a boolean that's not a boolean... It would be nice to fix these!

```
# Add some columns here...
```

Note

I had intended to ask you to fix these by combining code from previous weeks with information provided in the lecture, but it turns out that the InsideAirbnb data set is *dirty*. There are a lot of `NaN` values and some of these are *deeply* problematic for some of the column types in pandas. There are also a number of challenges with other columns so, instead, I've opted to show you how I would clean this data as a *first pass* to get it into a format where it's tractable for further cleaning.

5.3.1 Identifying Problem Rows

The reason I'm not asking you to do this part yourselves is that it took me nearly an hour just to work out why I couldn't convert some of the columns to the right data types; then I started finding rows like these:

```
df[df.price.isna()]
```

	id	listing_url	last_scraped	name
8668	1.012818e+07	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/10128178	2023-09-06	Lo...
11814	1.359431e+07	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/13594306	2023-09-06	Re...
21912	2.206322e+07	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/22063217	2023-09-07	Re...

	<code>id</code>	<code>listing_url</code>	<code>last_scraped</code>	na
48138	5.342282e+07	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/53422816	2023-09-06	Co
48765	5.389986e+07	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/53899858	2023-09-06	Lo
68884	8.446589e+17	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/844658929307006668	2023-09-06	Re
74896	8.971145e+17	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/897114471991989638	2023-09-06	Re

```
df[df.room_type.isna()]
```

	<code>id</code>	<code>listing_url</code>	<code>last_scraped</code>	na
8668	1.012818e+07	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/10128178	2023-09-06	Lo
11814	1.359431e+07	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/13594306	2023-09-06	Re
21912	2.206322e+07	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/22063217	2023-09-07	Re
48138	5.342282e+07	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/53422816	2023-09-06	Co
48765	5.389986e+07	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/53899858	2023-09-06	Lo
68884	8.446589e+17	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/844658929307006668	2023-09-06	Re
74896	8.971145e+17	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/897114471991989638	2023-09-06	Re

```
df[~(df.price.str.startswith('$', na=False))]
```

	<code>id</code>	<code>listing_url</code>	<code>last_scraped</code>	na
8668	1.012818e+07	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/10128178	2023-09-06	Lo
8669	NaN	within an hour	71%	htt
11814	1.359431e+07	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/13594306	2023-09-06	Re
11815	NaN	NaN	NaN	htt
21912	2.206322e+07	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/22063217	2023-09-07	Re
21913	NaN	NaN	NaN	htt
48138	5.342282e+07	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/53422816	2023-09-06	Co
48139	NaN	NaN	83%	htt
48765	5.389986e+07	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/53899858	2023-09-06	Lo
48766	NaN	within an hour	71%	htt
68884	8.446589e+17	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/844658929307006668	2023-09-06	Re
68885	NaN	a few days or more	6%	htt
74896	8.971145e+17	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/897114471991989638	2023-09-06	Re
74897	NaN	within an hour	80%	htt

If I had to guess, I'd say that it's some kind of partial extract/write process because there *are* elements in some of the problem row(s) that look right but they are in the wrong columns. So we can *probably* drop some of these rows, but one thing to do is look at the frequency of NaNs across the data frame *first*. So we need to look for NaNs and Nulls, but it's quite obvious that a `NaN` in the listing id is a basic problem and we should `drop these`.

```
df[df.id.isna()][['id','listing_url','name','description','host_id','host_name','pri
```

	<code>id</code>	<code>listing_url</code>	<code>name</code>	<code>descrip</code>
8669	NaN	within an hour	https://a0.muscache.com/im/pictures/user/652bf...	https://a0.muscache.com/im/pictures/user/652bf...
11815	NaN	NaN	https://a0.muscache.com/im/pictures/user/User-...	https://a0.muscache.com/im/pictures/user/User-...
21913	NaN	NaN	https://a0.muscache.com/defaults/user_pic-50x5...	https://a0.muscache.com/defaults/user_pic-50x5...
48139	NaN	NaN	https://a0.muscache.com/im/pictures/user/3a51c...	https://a0.muscache.com/im/pictures/user/3a51c...
48766	NaN	within an hour	https://a0.muscache.com/im/pictures/user/652bf...	https://a0.muscache.com/im/pictures/user/652bf...
68885	NaN	a few days or more	https://a0.muscache.com/im/pictures/user/7d57d...	https://a0.muscache.com/im/pictures/user/7d57d...
74897	NaN	within an hour	https://a0.muscache.com/im/users/11520835/prof...	https://a0.muscache.com/im/users/11520835/prof...

As always, if you don't know that's going on, break it down:

- You have seen how column works (`[[<column names>]]`), so that's just selecting the columns that we want to show;
- You know how row selection works (`df[<selection criteria>]`), so that isn't anything really new either;
- So the only really new part is `df.id.isna()`: `df.id` is the `id` column (we could have written this `df['id']` if we wanted) and `isna()` is a test for whether or not a value is `NaN`.

So this shows that only one row in the 10,000 row sub-sample has a `NaN` for its `id`.

If you're not sure what the next line does, try breaking it down by running the inner bits before you run the `drop` command; and also try looking online for examples of how to use `df.drop` (e.g. just up above):

```
df.drop(df[df.id.isna()].index.array, axis=0, inplace=True)
```

With that really troublesome data out of the way, you can now turn to [counting NaNs or Nulls](#) in the remaining data with a view to identifying other rows that can probably be dropped.

5.3.2 Counting Nulls by Column

As a starting point I would look to drop the columns that contain only `NANs`. Remember that we've dropped a row from the data frame so our maximum is now $n - 1$! Notice how this next command works:

```
# returns a data frame with all values set to True/False according to Null status
df.isnull()
# counts these values by column (we'll see another option in a moment)
df.isnull.sum(axis=0)
# Sort results in descending order
df.isnull.sum(axis=0).sort_values(ascending=False)

df.isnull().sum(axis=0).sort_values(ascending=False)[:12]
```

bathrooms	87946
license	87945
host_about	42040

```
bedrooms           32781
first_review       22164
reviews_per_month 22164
last_review        22164
review_scores_rating 22164
host_location      18778
description         1267
beds                 1141
host_is_superhost   939
dtype: int64
```

The most obvious ones here are: bathrooms, license, and host_about.

```
df.drop(columns=['bathrooms','license','host_about'], inplace=True)
```

Because we have dropped everything `inplace` the code simply runs and doesn't return anything.

5.3.3 Counting Nulls by Row

We now know that there *are* still quite a few problems, but we do still need a way to identify the rows that are causing most of the problems.

Notice here that the change from `axis=0` to `axis=1` changes the 'direction' of the `sum` from columns to rows. And we are getting back a data series because the summing operation reduces it to just one column.

```
df.isnull().sum(axis=1).sort_values(ascending=False).head(20)
```

```
48765    22
8668     22
21912    22
68884    22
48138    22
11814    22
74896    22
7003     11
6042     11
5353     11
4274     11
6694     11
2412      9
39141     8
39082     8
40686     8
27778     8
39023     8
1134      8
611       8
dtype: int64
```

So that is Series showing how many NaN values there are by index value. You should see two columns of numbers: the first is the row id, the second is the number of Nulls in that row.

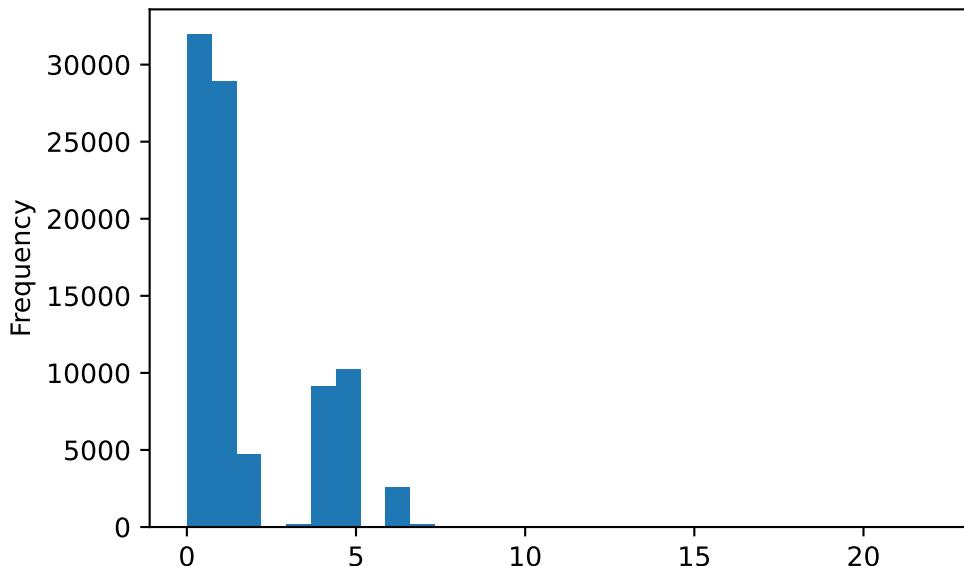
If we save the results to a variable called `probs` (i.e. problems) then we can decide what to do next.

⚠️ Warning

There's a chance that Python will complain why you try to run the third line of code. This is particularly likely if you are using Anaconda Python directly (i.e. not Docker). In that case you need to add the code listed at the start of Task 5.

```
probs = df.isnull().sum(axis=1)
print(type(probs))      # Note that this has returned a series!
probs.plot.hist(bins=30) # Ooooooh, check out what we can do with a series!
```

```
<class 'pandas.core.series.Series'>
```



Looking at this histogram, these look like two groups in the data so I would start there. I would take values greater than 3–5 as being ones that are most likely be problematic. We can use the index from `probs` to select out the rows we want to inspect from the main data frame.

Here's another bit of code that bears unpacking:

```
cutoff = 5
df.drop(probs[probs > cutoff].index, inplace=True)
```

1. `probs > 5`: this selects only those rows in the 'probs' series whose value is greater than 5
2. `probs[...].index` returns the index values from the Series, which we will then pass to the `drop` command.

3. `df.drop(..., inplace=True)` will then drop the rows selected by `probs[probs>5].index`.

```
print(f"Have reduced data frame to: {df.shape[0]}:{}, {} rows and {df.shape[1]}:{}, {} columns")
```

Have reduced data frame to: 85,127 rows and 31 columns

6 Using Indexes

To recap, when we use the `[[...]]` syntax we're taking a short-cut through the data by column (keeping all rows). The full syntax is `df[<row_selection>,<col_selection>]`. Only when we don't specify both does it then default to `df[<col_selection>]`.

To make the most of pandas you will need to get to grips with the logic than underpins this syntax. This is embedded in the idea of there being row and column indexes. These are *like* the columns `A..ZZ` and the rows `1..n` in Excel. As you'll have seen in the video, these aren't considered *data*, they are ways to *access the data*. Unlike Excel, while every data frame must *have* an index, in pandas you can 'promote' or 'demote' any column to be used as an index.

The default row index is just the row number — this will be created for you if you don't specify something else when you create the data frame. The default column index is created from a file's column names (works for many types of data) but you can change these at any time.

6.1 Label and Numeric Indexing

Perhaps this will (eventually) help to make it more clear:

```
df.loc[
    [4552, 4554, 4556, 4557],
    ['latitude','longitude','property_type','room_type','price']
]
```

	latitude	longitude	property_type	room_type	price
4552	51.531070	-0.186060	Private room in rental unit	Private room	\$95.00
4554	51.476640	-0.215200	Entire rental unit	Entire home/apt	\$250.00
4556	51.400162	-0.076788	Private room in home	Private room	\$56.00
4557	51.408920	-0.180910	Entire rental unit	Entire home/apt	\$150.00

And compare *that* with:

```
df.iloc[
    4552:4557,
    14:19
]
```

	longitude	property_type	room_type	accommodates	bathrooms	...
4655	-0.15610	Private room in home	Private room	1.0	1 shared bath	
4656	-0.11470	Private room in rental unit	Private room	1.0	1 bath	
4657	-0.06745	Private room in rental unit	Private room	1.0	1 shared bath	
4658	-0.24050	Entire rental unit	Entire home/apt	4.0	1 bath	
4659	-0.18325	Private room in home	Private room	2.0	1 bath	

This code seems similar, but what are `iloc` and `loc`? The way I remember it is that `iloc` means *integer location* (as you would with *list indexing*), while `loc` means *label location* (as you would with *dictionary keys* or labels). I guess that should therefore be `lloc`, but you get the idea).

6.2 Numeric Indexes

In this case, the **index** (the numbers down the left-hand side in bold) is numeric, so we can treat it as a *label* (which allows us to use `df.loc`) or a list-type index (which allows us to use `df.iloc`). So with `loc` we refer to the columns by *label*, whereas with `iloc` we refer to them by *location*; as well, `loc` allows us to access rows and columns non-sequentially/randomly by label, while `iloc` allows us to access them as a numeric range.

6.3 Non-numeric Indexes

Notice how this works differently if we specify a **non-numeric index**:

```
df.set_index('listing_url')[  
    ['latitude','longitude','property_type','room_type','price']  
].sample(3)
```

listing_url	latitude	longitude	property_type
https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/881706246135523364	51.480602	-0.148501	Entire condo
https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/15768207	51.438430	0.066290	Private room in ho...
https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/33586766	51.637340	-0.172310	Private room in ho...

Notice change in indexing because ‘listing_url’ is no longer a column, it’s the index now!

```
df.set_index('listing_url').iloc[0:3,13:18]
```

listing_url	longitude	property_type	room_type
https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/92644	-0.18739	Private room in rental unit	Private room
https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/93015	-0.21707	Entire rental unit	Entire home/apt
https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/13913	-0.11270	Private room in rental unit	Private room

listing_url	longitude	property_type	room_type
https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/12345	-75.123456	Entire home/apt	Entire home/apt

🔥 Caution

It's vital that you understand how this code works. By which I mean *why* it does something at all, not exactly how to use `loc` and `iloc` (though that is also useful).

`df.set_index(...)` changes the index from the default row number to another field in the data frame. This operation *returns* a new data frame with `listing_url` as its index. Because `set_index` returned a data frame, we can simply add *another* method call (`iloc` or `loc`) on to the end of that line and *it* returns a new data frame in turn!

The fact that each operation returns a new data frame (or data series) is why you can even do this:

```
df.set_index('listing_url').iloc[0:3].latitude.mean()
```

```
np.float64(51.50351666666666)
```

7 Fixing Data Types

If you want to challenge yourself, then I'd suggest trying to work out how to adapt what we saw in previous weeks using the data type dictionary to map column names to column types; however, a more straightforward way to do this is to create different for loops for each:

7.1 Profiling (Optional)

💡 Difficulty: Low.

The Pandas Profiling tool (rebranded a year or so back as [ydata-profiling](#)) offers an alternative way of understanding what's going on in your data. The output [looks rather nice](#) and you might be tempted to ask why we didn't use this straight away on the full data set – well, if you really want to know, see what happens when you profile all 70,000-odd rows and 70-odd columns in the raw data frame... in effect: while it's 'nice to have', the likelihood of crashing your computer increases significantly and it's a bit of a tangent, so that's why it's no longer included in the Docker image.

If you *do* want to explore this then you'll need to install the library, and **this is a good chance to look at a quite sophisticated way to install software on another machine:**

```
from ydata_profiling import ProfileReport
```

7.1.1 Specify the Profiling Columns

Looking back over earlier code see if you can work out how to profile `latitude`, `longitude`, and `review_scores_rating` together.

Answer

```
profile = ProfileReport(df[['latitude','longitude','review_scores_rating']], title="")
```

7.1.2 Profiling Targets

You can write the profile either directly into the Jupyter notebook (this file) or into a separate HTML (i.e. Web) page.

```
profile.to_notebook_iframe()  
# You can also write this profile to a web page:  
# profile.to_file("your_report.html")
```

7.2 Managing Memory

 Difficulty: Low.

As to *why* you'd want to fix your data types, there are two reasons: 1) to ensure that you can make the *most* of your data; 2) to ensure that it takes up as little space as possible in memory. Some simple examples:

- A column containing only '`True`' (4 bytes) and '`False`' (5 bytes) will take up much more space than a column containing only `True` and `False` (1 bit each).
- A column containing only '`Red`', '`Green`', and '`Blue`' (3, 5, and 4 bytes respectively) will take up much more space than a column where we use the numbers `1`, `2`, `3` to represent these values and have a map that tells us `1==Red`, `2==Blue`, and `3==Green`.

Let's test this idea out:

```
rtm = df.room_type.memory_usage(deep=True) # Room Type Memory  
ctm = df.room_type.astype('category').memory_usage(deep=True) # Categorical Type Memory  
  
print(f"The raw memory usage of `room_type` is {rtm/1024:.0f} Kb.")  
print(f"The categorical memory usage of `room_type` is {ctm/1024:.0f} Kb.")  
print(f"That's {(ctm/rtm)*100:.0f}% of the original!")
```

The raw memory usage of `room_type` is 8,623 Kb.

The categorical memory usage of `room_type` is 2,813 Kb.

That's 33% of the original!

```

shm = df.host_is_superhost.memory_usage(deep=True) # Super Host Memory
bhm = df.host_is_superhost.replace({'f':False, 't':True}).astype('bool').memory_usag

print(f"The raw memory usage of `host_is_superhost` is {shm/1024:.0f} Kb.")
print(f"The boolean memory usage of `host_is_superhost` is {bhm/1024:.0f} Kb.")
print(f"That's {(bhm/shm)*100:.0f}% of the original!")

```

The raw memory usage of `host_is_superhost` is 7,528 Kb.
The boolean memory usage of `host_is_superhost` is 2,812 Kb.
That's 37% of the original!

7.3 Boolean Values

 Difficulty: Moderate.

Let's start with columns that are likely to be boolean:

```

bools = ['host_is_superhost']
df.sample(5, random_state=43)[bools]

```

	host_is_superhost
55197	f
24505	f
44546	f
16312	t
66564	f

Here we have to map 't' to True and 'f' to False *before* converting the column to a boolean type. If you simply tried to replace them with the strings 'True' and 'False', then the conversion would run into the same problem as Week 3: any string that is not None will convert a True boolean.

```

# This approach requires us to map 't'
# and 'f' to True and False
for b in bools:
    print(f"Converting {b}")
    df[b] = df[b].replace({'f':False, 't':True}).astype('bool')

```

Converting host_is_superhost

```

df.sample(5, random_state=43)[bools]

```

host_is_superhost	
55197	False
24505	False
44546	False
16312	True
66564	False

7.4 Dates

🔥 Difficulty: Hard.

I've found dates to be particularly challenging, though pandas has *tried* to make this process less painful than it was a few years ago. What can be particularly frustrating is if *one* row has a non-sensical date value (e.g. a `t`, as happened in 2019/20) then the entire type conversion will fail. When that happens, pandas is not great about communicating where the problem occurred and I had to work it out by trying to convert *parts* of each series (using `.iloc`) to the datetime type until I had a block that failed. I then knew that I could narrow this down further using integer location indexing.

```
dates = ['last_scraped', 'host_since', 'first_review', 'last_review']

print(f"Currently {dates[1]} is of type '{df[dates[1]].dtype}'", "\n")
df.sample(5, random_state=43)[dates]
```

Currently host_since is of type 'object'

	last_scraped	host_since	first_review	last_review
55197	2023-09-07	2015-02-11	NaN	NaN
24505	2023-09-06	2012-12-18	2019-01-05	2020-01-05
44546	2023-09-06	2016-05-26	2021-08-15	2023-01-10
16312	2023-09-07	2017-04-02	2017-04-04	2023-08-26
66564	2023-09-06	2017-05-07	NaN	NaN

```
for d in dates:
    print("Converting " + d)
    df[d] = pd.to_datetime(df[d])
```

Converting last_scraped
 Converting host_since
 Converting first_review
 Converting last_review

```
df.sample(5, random_state=43) [dates]
```

	last_scraped	host_since	first_review	last_review
55197	2023-09-07	2015-02-11	NaT	NaT
24505	2023-09-06	2012-12-18	2019-01-05	2020-01-05
44546	2023-09-06	2016-05-26	2021-08-15	2023-01-10
16312	2023-09-07	2017-04-02	2017-04-04	2023-08-26
66564	2023-09-06	2017-05-07	NaT	NaT

Of course, it's not actually clear there what has changed! But if you dig a little more deeply:

```
print(f"Now {dates[1]} is of type '{df[dates[1]].dtype}'", "\n")
df.sample(5, random_state=45)[dates[1]].dt.strftime('%A %B %d, %Y')
# Try some other formats!
```

Now host_since is of type 'datetime64[ns]'

```
45006    Sunday December 15, 2013
11882     Monday April 13, 2015
74675     Wednesday July 16, 2014
80039      Friday May 06, 2022
84399      Friday April 22, 2022
Name: host_since, dtype: object
```

In that line of code we:

- Took a random sample (setting the state to 45),
- Took the second column from the dates list (`dates[1]`),
- Used the date ‘accessor method’ (`.dt`),
- And called string format time with the format `%A %B %d, %Y` (Full Day of Week, Month Name, Date, 4-digit Year)

7.5 Categories



Difficulty: Moderate.

We know that these are likely to be categories because there'd be no other way to allow users to effectively search Airbnb.

```
cats = ['property_type', 'room_type']

print(f"Currently {cats[1]} is of type '{df[cats[1]].dtype}'", "\n")
df.sample(5, random_state=42)[cats]
```

Currently room_type is of type 'object'

	property_type	room_type
18050	Private room in home	Private room
86868	Private room in home	Private room
54798	Private room in bed and breakfast	Private room
74233	Entire rental unit	Entire home/apt
87242	Entire rental unit	Entire home/apt

This next piece of code is quite useful for grouping and counting operations: we are counting the occurrences of each unique value in part particular column or combination of columns:

```
df[cats[0]].value_counts()
```

```
property_type
Entire rental unit            33450
Private room in rental unit   13278
Private room in home          9795
Entire condo                  8656
Entire home                   7530
...
Yurt                          1
Private room in island        1
Shared room in villa          1
Shared room in serviced apartment 1
Treehouse                      1
Name: count, Length: 99, dtype: int64
```

```
df[cats[1]].value_counts()
```

```
room_type
Entire home/apt      54203
Private room          30366
Shared room           340
Hotel room            218
Name: count, dtype: int64
```

💡 Tip

One column has *many* different values (including Campers/RVs and Yurts!), the other has just four. If I were looking to conduct research I'd probably start with the room_type column since I may not care about hotels and therefore never even need to decide whether I care about boutique ones!

```
for c in cats:  
    print(f"Converting {c}")  
    df[c] = df[c].astype('category')
```

Converting property_type

Converting room_type

```
print(f"Now {cats[1]} is of type '{df[cats[1]].dtype}'", "\n")  
print(df[cats[1]].cat.categories.values)
```

Now room_type is of type 'category'

```
['Entire home/apt' 'Hotel room' 'Private room' 'Shared room']
```

```
df.sample(5, random_state=42)[cats]
```

	property_type	room_type
18050	Private room in home	Private room
86868	Private room in home	Private room
54798	Private room in bed and breakfast	Private room
74233	Entire rental unit	Entire home/apt
87242	Entire rental unit	Entire home/apt

7.6 Dealing with Strings

🔥 Difficulty: Hard.

We'll have to put some more work into deal with the description and other more free-from text fields later in the term, but for now let's just deal with a straightforward one: price!

```
money = ['price']  
df.sample(5, random_state=42)[money]
```

	price
18050	\$51.00
86868	\$56.00
54798	\$45.00
74233	\$104.00
87242	\$126.00

You will get an error when you run the next code block, that's because I want you to do a little thinking about how to extend the code to fix the data. You've already

got the code you need to fix it, you just need to do a bit of thinking about ‘method chaining’!

```
for m in money:  
    print(f"Converting {m}")  
    try:  
        df[m] = df[m].str.replace('$', '', regex=False).astype('float')  
    except ValueError as e:  
        print(f"xxxx Unable to convert {m} to float xxxx")  
        print(e)
```

Converting price
xxxx Unable to convert price to float xxxx
could not convert string to float: '1,000.00'

Look closely at the error and then think about what you need to add to the code below:

i Note

For now don’t worry about what `regex=False` means. It will all make sense when we get to *dealing with text*.

Answer

```
for m in money:  
    print(f"Converting {m}")  
    df[m] = df[m].str.replace('$', '', regex=False).str.replace(',', '').astype('float')
```

Converting price

```
df.sample(5, random_state=42)[money]
```

price	
18050	51.0
86868	56.0
54798	45.0
74233	104.0
87242	126.0

```
df.sort_values(by='price', ascending=False).head(3)[['id', 'name', 'price', 'minimum_ni
```

id	name	price	minimum_ni
36168	3.845268e+07 Guesthouse in Dagenham · 5.0 · 1 bedroom · 1 ...	80100.0	2

			price	minimum_nights
id		name		
11249	1.325477e+07	Rental unit in London · 4.85 · 1 bedroom · 1 ...	53588.0	3
53708	6.454631e+17	Serviced apartment in Greater London · 4 bedro...	36000.0	28

7.7 Dealing with Integers

🔥 Difficulty: Hard.

This is the issue that made me abandon the idea of making you clean the data yourselves. Although *floats* have no issues with `np.nan` in the Series, by default there are no numpy integer arrays that can cope with NaNs. This was such a major issue for Pandas that they've actually created their own data type that does support NaN values in integer columns. There are a lot of integer columns, but only one of them seems to be a problem.

```
ints = ['id', 'host_id', 'host_listings_count', 'host_total_listings_count', 'accommodates',
        'beds', 'minimum_nights', 'maximum_nights', 'availability_365']
for i in ints:
    print(f"Converting {i}")
    try:
        df[i] = df[i].astype('float').astype('int')
    except ValueError as e:
        print(" - !!!Converting to unsigned 16-bit integer!!!")
        df[i] = df[i].astype('float').astype(pd.UInt16Dtype())
```

```
Converting id
Converting host_id
Converting host_listings_count
Converting host_total_listings_count
Converting accommodates
Converting beds
    - !!!Converting to unsigned 16-bit integer!!!
Converting minimum_nights
Converting maximum_nights
Converting availability_365
```

So we convert the column but using a `try / except` approach that allows to trap `ValueError` exceptions triggered by the presence of NaNs in the column. The following code tells us that there are just eight of these in the 10k sample, but they're enough to cause the code to fail if you don't trap them. The alternatives would be to: a) drop those rows; or b) leave the data as floats. For some reason the latter offends my sense of order, and the former feels like avoiding the problem rather than dealing with it.

```
df.beds.isna().value_counts()
```

```
beds
False    84326
True     801
Name: count, dtype: int64
```

7.8 Validation

 Difficulty: Low.

Ordinarily, at this point I would then output information to confirm that all of the operations I *think* I've undertaken were correctly applied.

```
df.info()
```

7.9 Saving

Also at this point I would save a copy of the cleaned data, though I would only consider this data *partially* cleaned since we've not made it any further than just ensuring that each column is in an appropriate format and that some particularly problematic rows have been dropped!

```
path = os.path.join('data', 'clean')

if not os.path.exists(path):
    print(f"Creating {path} under {os.getcwd()}")
    os.makedirs(path)

df.to_csv(os.path.join(path, fn), index=False)
print("Done.")
```

Done.

Feather is an alternative format (gradually being replaced by parquet, which is more widely supported) for data interchange between R and Python: it's fast, it preserves data types, it's compressed, and it will avoid the kinds of the problems that come up when you move to/from CSV as a default.

8 Selection using Criteria

So far we've been taking primarily a row and column view of the data, now we want to think about selecting ranges from within the data set...

8.1 Selecting using Data Types

💡 Difficulty: Low.

If we wanted to filter in/out certain columns pandas can do that! Let's try for floats and ints (*hint*: these are 64-bit data types).

Answer

```
df.select_dtypes(include=['float64','int64'])
```

	id	host_id	host_listings_count	host_total_listings_count	latitude
0	92644	498201	1	1	51.44
1	93015	499704	1	2	51.49
2	13913	54730	3	4	51.56
3	15400	60302	1	12	51.48
4	93734	497514	1	1	51.47
...
87947	973779750539727232	518599414	4	4	51.41
87948	973781286754517248	498408783	2	2	51.51
87949	973801695874775168	36645347	1	1	51.45
87951	973882998775928064	439074505	2538	5217	51.45
87952	973895808066047616	475112423	37	47	51.51

	id	host_id	host_listings_count	host_total_listings_count	latitude
0	92644	498201	1	1	51.44
1	93015	499704	1	2	51.49
2	13913	54730	3	4	51.56
3	15400	60302	1	12	51.48
4	93734	497514	1	1	51.47
...
87947	973779750539727232	518599414	4	4	51.41
87948	973781286754517248	498408783	2	2	51.51
87949	973801695874775168	36645347	1	1	51.45
87951	973882998775928064	439074505	2538	5217	51.45
87952	973895808066047616	475112423	37	47	51.51

8.2 Selecting using Conditions

🔥 Difficulty: Hard.

What if we wanted to find whole homes listings for more than \$100/night?

To do this we use a combination of the selection approaches above in combination with conditionals, but first we need to see what sort of properties there are in the data set! `groupby` is a really useful function that we'll come back to later in the term, but for now notice that it helps us to group the analysis by `room_type` so that subsequently asking for the `property_type` value counts allows the same `property_type` to appear in more than once place if it's associated with more than one `room_type`.

```
df.groupby('room_type', observed=True)['property_type'].value_counts()
```

room_type	property_type	
Entire home/apt	Entire rental unit	33450
	Entire condo	8656
	Entire home	7530
	Entire serviced apartment	2021
	Entire townhouse	1153
	...	
Shared room	Tent	0
	Tiny home	0
	Tower	0
	Treehouse	0
	Yurt	0

Name: count, Length: 396, dtype: int64

Now try to select only the `Entire home/apt` room type:

Answer

```
df[df.room_type=='Entire home/apt']['property_type'].value_counts().head(10)
```

property_type	
Entire rental unit	33450
Entire condo	8656
Entire home	7530
Entire serviced apartment	2021
Entire townhouse	1153
Entire loft	389
Entire guesthouse	205
Entire guest suite	178
Entire vacation home	102
Boat	68

Name: count, dtype: int64

8.3 Arbitrary Selection Criteria

⚠️ Difficulty: Moderate, if the previous section made sense to you.

OK, now let's look for the `Entire home/apt` listings that are more expensive than average... to do that let's get a sense of where the mean and median value fall:

Answer

```
print(f"The mean price is ${df.price.mean():0.2f}")
print(f"The median price is ${df.price.median():0.2f}")
```

The mean price is \$183.63
The median price is \$112.00

You should see that the mean is higher than the median price but both are *very* roughly plausible values. Given your understanding of distributions from, say, Quantitative Methods, what can you say about the pricing distribution of Airbnb units?

You might want to have a [look at the documentation](#): it's rather a long list, but most of your descriptive stats are on that page in the [Cumulative / Descriptive Stats](#) section, and there's also lots of information about methods for [strings](#) and [categorical data](#).

8.3.1 Filtering: it's 'logical'

So we want to take `Entire home/apt` and filter the data set *together with* the price per night from the `price` column. For that, let's use the mean price/night of \$183.63 (*note:* this is totally arbitrary)?

Answer

So here we want to filter on two values in the data set using `&`:

```
pricey = df[(df.room_type=='Entire home/apt') & (df.price>df.price.mean())]
print(f"Selected {pricey.shape[0]} rows")
```

Selected 21,491 rows

In the code above we see two things:

1. The use of the bitwise `&` (it's *not* the same as `and`).
2. The fact that you need parentheses around the selection in order to make the `&` work.

8.4 Selection with an Aggregate

 Difficulty: Low.

Let's find the cheapest and most expensive listings using `min` and `max` methods:

Answer

Least expensive:

```
df[df.price==df.price.min()][['price','listing_url','room_type','description']]
```

	price	listing_url	room_type	description
36926	0.0	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/39366016	Private room	Panoramic 9
37059	0.0	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/39546721	Private room	Panoramic 9
70224	0.0	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/857748607244683463	Private room	Room in a t

	price	listing_url	room_type	description
36926	0.0	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/39366016	Private room	Panoramic 9
37059	0.0	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/39546721	Private room	Panoramic 9
70224	0.0	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/857748607244683463	Private room	Room in a t

Most expensive:

```
df[df.price==df.price.max()][['price','listing_url','room_type','description']]
```

	price	listing_url	room_type	description
36168	80100.0	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/38452677	Entire home/apt	Bouquet design

	price	listing_url	room_type	description
36168	80100.0	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/38452677	Entire home/apt	Bouquet design

You should see one or more units priced at exceedingly high levels... and here's a way to see a few more of these budget-busting options.

```
df.sort_values(by='price', ascending=False).head(3)[  
    ['price','listing_url','room_type','description']]  
]
```

	price	listing_url	room_type	descri
36168	80100.0	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/38452677	Entire home/apt	Bouqu
11249	53588.0	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/13254774	Private room	PLEASE
53708	36000.0	https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/645463113262447532	Entire home/apt	Enjoy



Stop: Ask yourself if the result is *plausible*.

Answer

Try following some of the `listing_urls`. My best guess is that some people are having trouble *un-listing* their properties or are somehow trying to pause bookings by pricing their property at an unrealistical level.

8.5 Selection with a Range

 Difficulty: Moderate

Perhaps we aren't just looking for extremes... how about all of the properties falling within the middle of the distribution? We can ask for any arbitrary quantile we like, so let's go with the 25th and 75th percentile to get the middle 50% of the data. Google how to get percentiles from pandas.

Answer

```
dfr = df[  
    (df.price > df.price.quantile(0.25)) &  
    (df.price < df.price.quantile(0.75)) ]  
  
print(f"Lower Quartile: {df.price.quantile(0.25):>6.2f}")  
print(f"Upper Quartile: {df.price.quantile(0.75):>6.2f}")  
print()  
print(f"Range selected contains {dfr.shape[0]}:,{} rows.")  
print(f"Minimum price: {dfr.price.min():>6.2f}")  
print(f"Maximum price: {dfr.price.max():>6.2f}")
```

Lower Quartile: 65.00
Upper Quartile: 196.00

Range selected contains 41,575 rows.
Minimum price: 66.00
Maximum price: 195.00

That example contains a few things to which you need to pay attention:

1. *Again* you can see that, with multiple selections, we had to put parentheses around each one – this forces Python to...
2. Process the `&` (bit-wise AND) that asks pandas to “Find all the rows where condition 1 *and* condition 2 are both True”. So it calculates the True/False for the left side and the True/False for the right side of the `&`, and then combines them.

9 Enhancing our Understanding

9.1 Deriving a New Variable

 Difficulty: ?

Let's try calculating several derived measures of distribution for the price... these deliberately demonstrate different ways of handling this process (and notice also the little call to `apply` that can perform additional tasks).

9.1.1 The z-Score

The z-score is given by $z = (x - \bar{x})/\sigma$.

Answer

```
df['z'] = (df.price - df.price.mean()) / df.price.std()  
df.z.describe().apply(lambda x: f'{x:.5f}')
```

```
count    85127.00000  
mean     -0.00000  
std      1.00000  
min     -0.37452  
25%     -0.24195  
50%     -0.14609  
75%      0.02524  
max      162.99418  
Name: z, dtype: object
```

9.1.2 Inter-Quartile Standardisation

The IQR-standardised score is given by $i = (x - Q_1)/(Q_3 - Q_1)$

Answer

```
df['iqs'] = (df.price - df.price.quantile(0.25))/(df.price.quantile(0.75)-df.price.q  
df.iqs.describe().apply(lambda x: f'{x:.5f}')
```

```
count    85127.00000  
mean      0.90554  
std       3.74276  
min     -0.49618  
25%      0.00000  
50%      0.35878  
75%      1.00000  
max      610.95420  
Name: iqs, dtype: object
```

9.1.3 Log-Normalisation

The natural log of the price is given by $\ln(x)$

Answer

Note the issue with divide by zero here: you would need to resolve this by either dropping properties priced at 0, or adding 1 to the price (i.e. np.log(df.price+1)). There are arguments for and against both approaches.

```
df['lnprice'] = np.log(df.price)
df.lnprice.describe().apply(lambda x: f'{x:.5f}')
```

```
/opt/conda/lib/python3.11/site-packages/pandas/core/arraylike.py:399: RuntimeWarning:
divide by zero encountered in log

/opt/conda/lib/python3.11/site-packages/pandas/core/nanops.py:1016: RuntimeWarning:
invalid value encountered in subtract

count    85127.00000
mean      -inf
std       nan
min      -inf
25%     4.17439
50%     4.71850
75%     5.27811
max     11.29103
Name: lnprice, dtype: object
```

9.2 Quick (and Dirty) Plotting

One of the first things we should do when exploring a new dataset is plot (aka graph) the data. We've left plotting until a little later in this practical so that we could see some other basic attributes of how pandas stores data. We'll look at plotting and exploratory data analyses in much more detail next week, including using packages other than pandas.

For now, let's look at the basic plotting functionality pandas provides - in conjunctions with the online documentation for both [DataFrames](#) and [Series](#). There are also examples of all [the different types of plots pandas can produce](#).

⚠️ MacOS plotting without Docker

MacOS users who are *not* using Docker will need to do certain things in a specific order at the start of any notebook in order to show maps or graphs. Please make a copy of the following code for any notebook that you create and make it the *first* code that you run in the notebook...

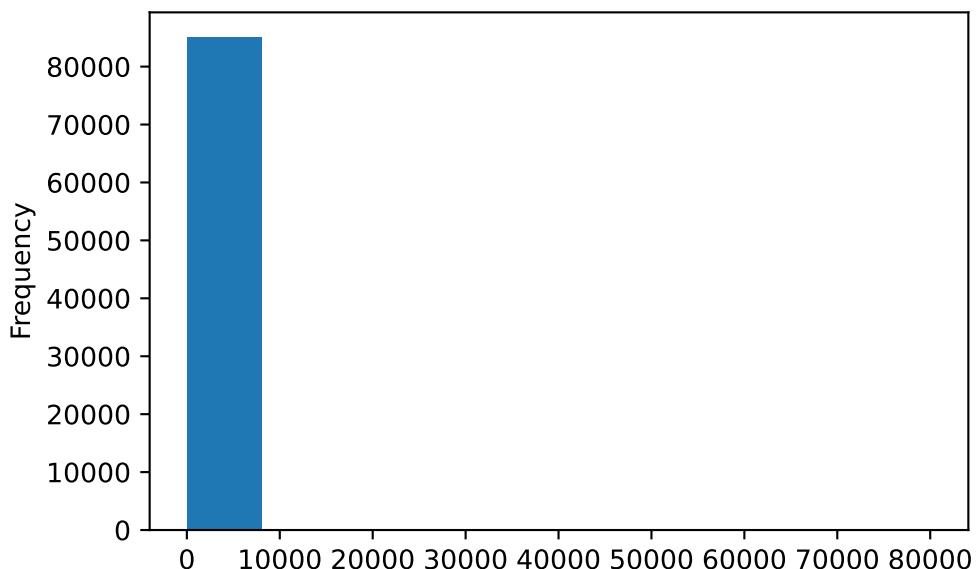
```
# Needed on a Mac
import matplotlib as mpl
mpl.use('TkAgg')
%matplotlib inline
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
```

9.2.1 Histograms

 Difficulty: Low

First, let's see some of the ways we could visualise the distribution of the `Series` in the dataset:

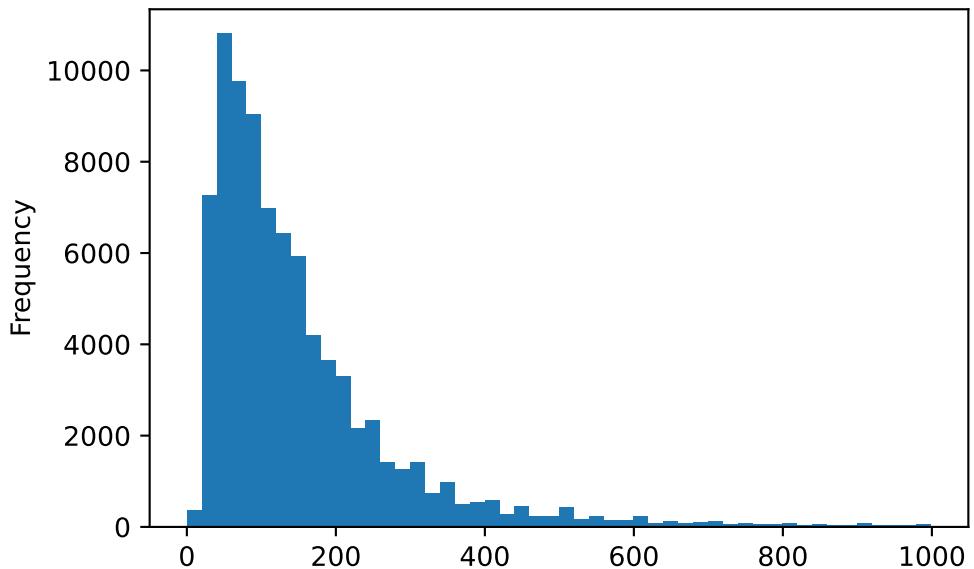
```
df.price.plot.hist() # histogram
```



If the code worked properly you should have just created a standard [histogram](#) plot (if you can't see one, ask for help). However, a basic problem here may be the range of the data: if your maximum price is much more than £5,000 then you'll find the majority of your data plotted in one bar, which isn't very helpful.

You can filter the data *and* pass in some simple options to improve the plotting:

```
# Notice the ';' here to suppress `<AxesSubplot...>`
# That information doesn't *always* appear, but whenever
# you have unwanted textual output above your plot just
# add a ';' on the end of the line of code!
df[df.price < 1000].price.plot.hist(bins=50);
```



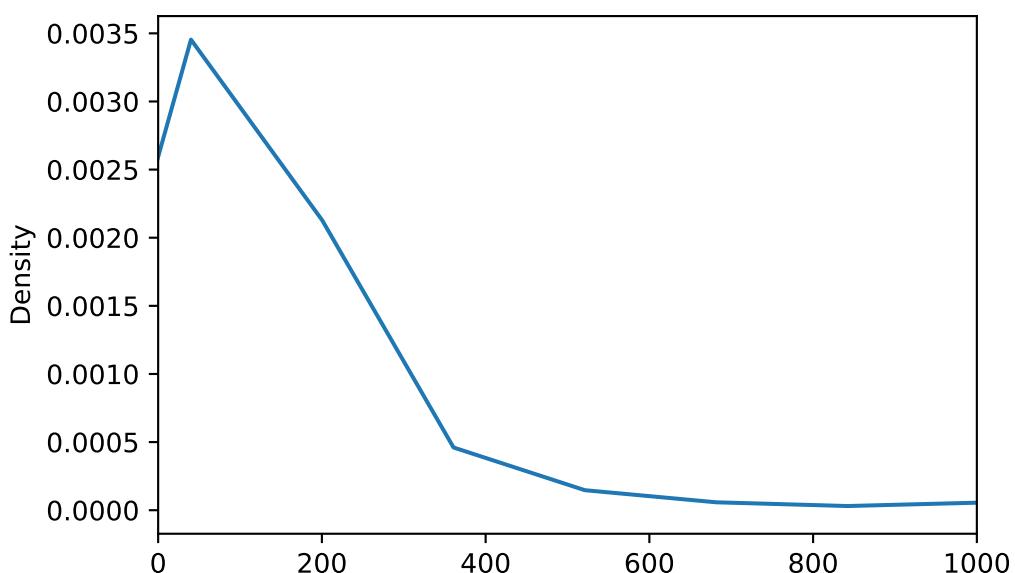
9.2.2 KDE Plots

💡 Difficulty: Low

Similarly, we can produce a [Kernel Density Estimate plot](#). This time, instead of dropping data just before calling `plot` we're going to modify the *limits* of the x-axis using `xlim`:

Answer

```
df.price.plot.kde(xlim=(0,1000)); #kernel density estimate plot
```



Kind of handy, no? These aren't the *best* looking plots, but they are all being generated *on-the-fly* for you by pandas with no more than a cheery `DataFrame.Series.plot.<plot type>`! Since those plots are all just method calls, many of them take optional parameters to change the colour, the notation (scientific or not), and other options. For example, many of the documentation pages linked to above are rather brief, but include a link to [the general options that can be applied to all `Series.plot` calls](#).

This is why we like pandas: it allows us to be *constructively lazy*. We don't need to know *how* to draw a KDE plot (though it always helps if you don't see what you expected), we just need to know that pandas provides a method that will do it for you. And *that* is why it's always worth having a [look at the documentation](#).

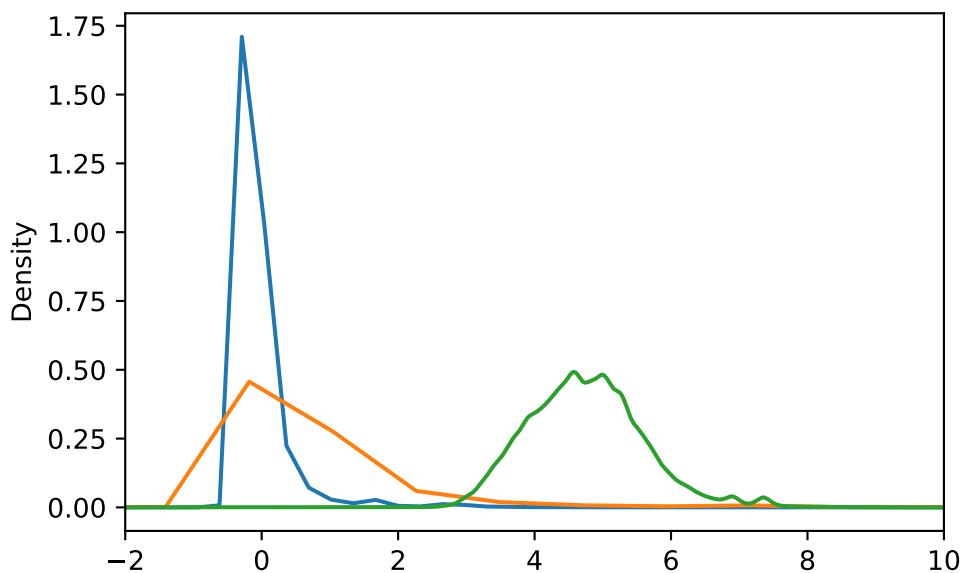
9.2.3 A Slight Case of Over-Plotting

Generally, Jupyter is clever enough to overlay plots one on top of the other if you call them all in the same cell. We'll see ways to gain more control later, but this is still a good start! Note that here we also need to get rid of the `-inf` values from rows that had a price of £0.

⚠ Bug Alert ⚡

The more we use pandas to sort and filter data the more you will start to see a `SettingWithCopyWarning`. This happens because of an interaction between how Pandas works and how Python works: when you are working with a very large data set you don't want to make a 'deep copy' of the data structure every time you make a change to the data. Instead, you get a 'view' into the data using a reference, which is a just a lightweight shortcut. So what happens when you try to modify that lightweight copy? Well, if you want to drop rows or columns then you either want to make a `copy()` at that point, or you will have to accept the warning *and* the computational risks that go with it.

```
# Calling copy() ensures the index is updated
# and note that all subsequent plots will have
# these £0 rows removed!
df = df[df.price > 0].copy()
df.z.plot.kde(xlim=[-2, 10])
df.iqs.plot.kde(xlim=[-2, 10])
df.lnprice.plot.kde();
```

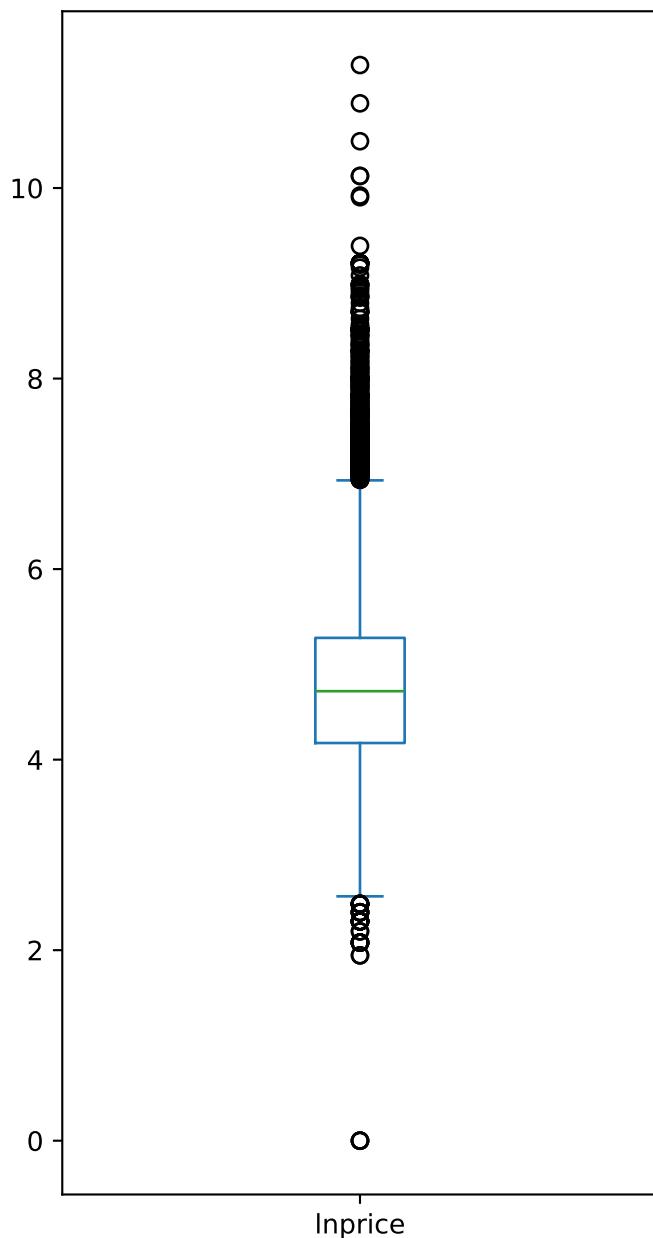


9.2.4 Boxplots

💡 Difficulty: Low

A standard [boxplot](#):

```
df.lnprice.plot.box(figsize=(4, 8));
```

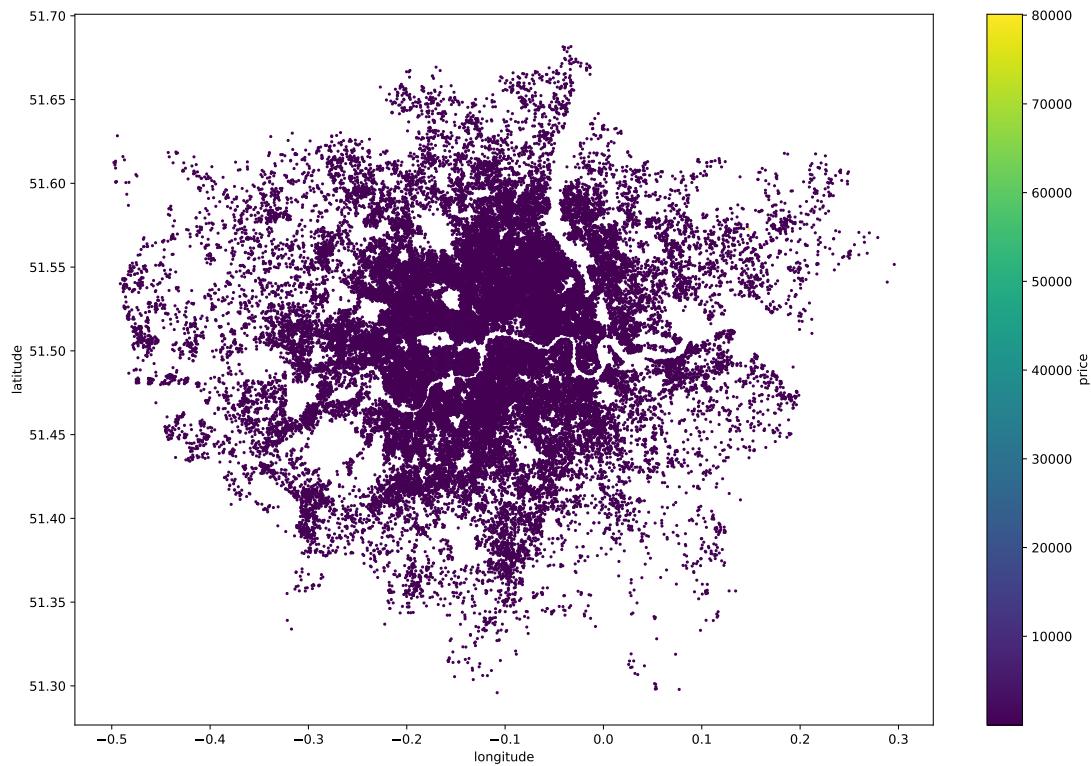


9.2.5 Scatterplots

💡 Difficulty: Low

We can also plot two variables in a [scatter plot](#) by applying a plot method to the DataFrame (not an individual Series):

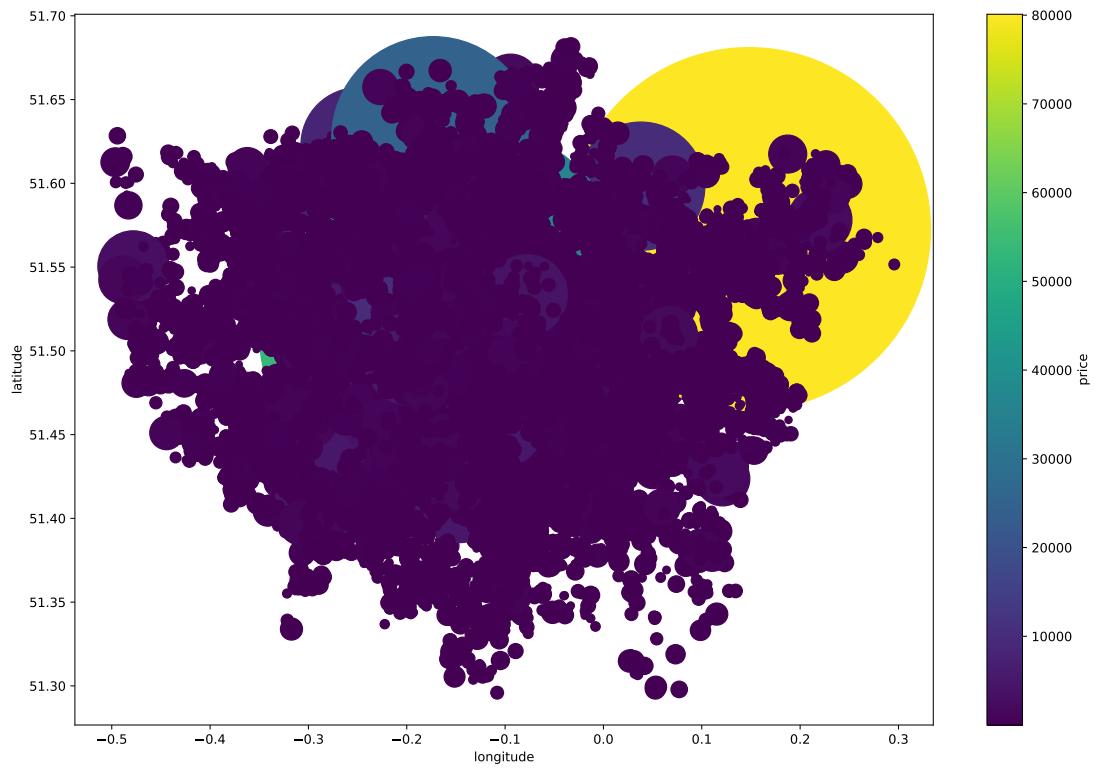
```
df.plot.scatter(x='longitude', y='latitude', c='price', s=2, cmap='viridis', figsize=)
```



Note how the code above has the form `DataFrame.plot.<plot type>`, not `DataFrame.Series.plot.<plot type>` as in the prior plots. Think about why this then means we need the `x` and `y` arguments.

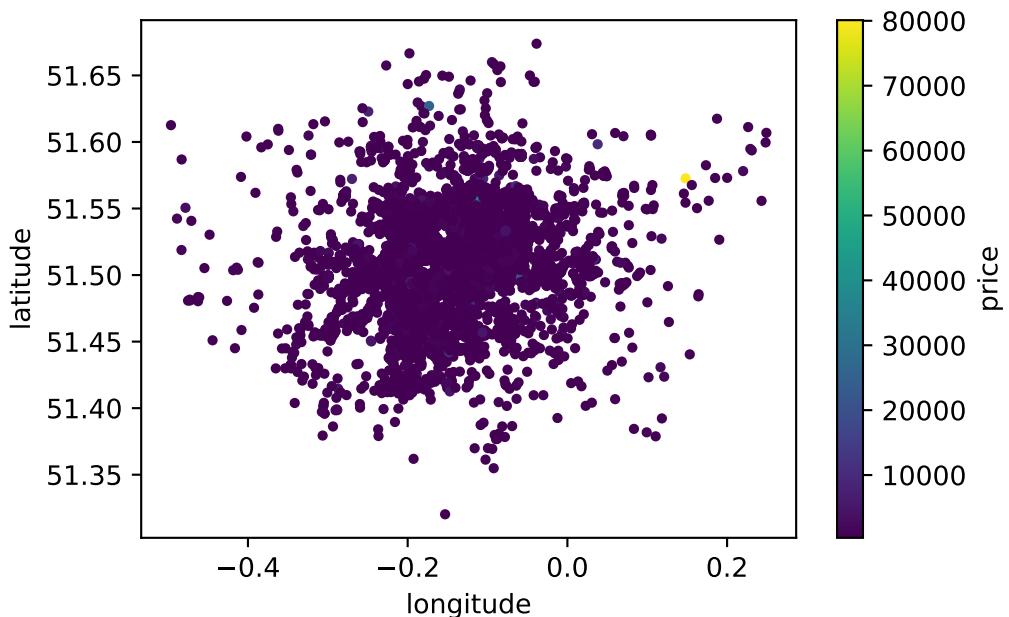
Looking at the plot produced, it's hard to see where the high values are, so we might want to think about ways that we could make it easier to spot the big numbers... We could, for instance, also vary the size of the point in a plot by some variable, but why does the following not really work?

```
df.plot.scatter(x='longitude', y='latitude', c='price', s=(df.price/df.price.min()),
```



And we can plot subsets of our data without creating a new object. See if you can work out what the following code is doing that is different from the last plot:

```
df[df.price > df.price.quantile(0.90)].plot.scatter(x='longitude', y='latitude', c='
```

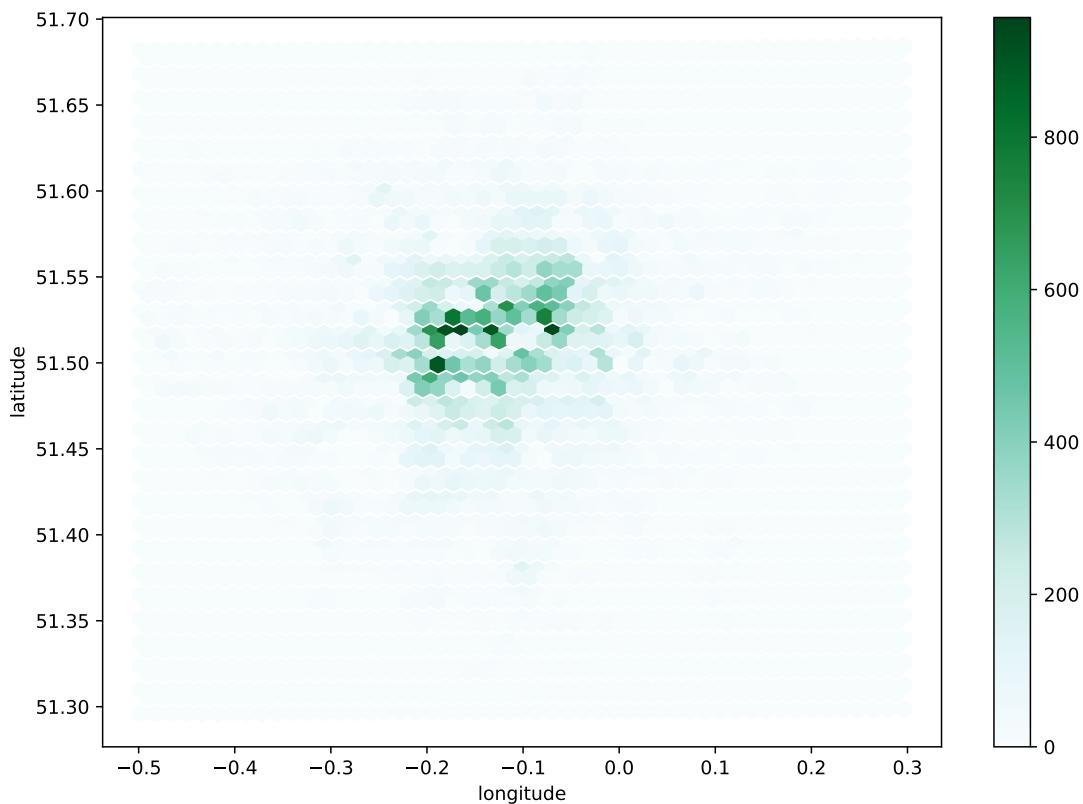


9.2.6 Hex Bin Plots

 Difficulty: Low

And pandas allows us to create ‘less standard’ plots, like a [hex bin plot](#):

```
df.plot.hexbin(x='longitude', y='latitude', gridsize=50, figsize=(10,7))
```



That’s just a taste of what the basic plotting functionality of pandas can do. Feel free to explore more yourself and we’ll also see [the seaborn package](#) later.

10 Credits!

License

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Potential Dependencies:

This notebook may depend on the following libraries: pandas, matplotlib