

We use
"DataFrame.value_counts"
to count the frequency of
each unique row in the
DataFrame.

df:

| Manager | Product |
|---------|----------|
| Debra | CPU |
| Debra | CPU |
| Fred | Monitor |
| John | Software |
| Fred | Monitor |



Output:

| Manager | Product | |
|---------|----------|---|
| Debra | CPU | 2 |
| Fred | Monitor | 2 |
| John | Software | 1 |



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What Makes This Ebook Unique

"The aim of this ebook is to give you the 'aha' moment right away at the start of learning a new concept."

- Practical Step By Step Guide With Simple Examples
- Visual Illustrations and Interactive
- Simple Datasets
- Comprehensive Coverage (pandas Documentation used as reference)

Tips for Effective Use of This Ebook

- Use Examples First: If you don't understand the text, go straight to the examples—they're self-explanatory.
- After reviewing them, return to the text to grasp the practical concepts.
- Practice with Datasets: Copy the datasets provided and practice using them to reinforce your understanding.

- Click on the blue links to go directly to the section you want to learn about.

Introduction

We use
"DataFrame.value_counts"
to count the frequency of
each unique row in the
DataFrame.

df:

| Manager | Product |
|---------|----------|
| Debra | CPU |
| Debra | CPU |
| Fred | Monitor |
| John | Software |
| Fred | Monitor |



Output:

| Manager | Product | |
|---------|----------|---|
| Debra | CPU | 2 |
| Fred | Monitor | 2 |
| John | Software | 1 |

Code Snippet

```
data = {  
    'Manager': ['Debra', 'Debra', 'Fred', 'John', 'Fred'],  
    'Product': ['CPU', 'CPU', 'Monitor', 'Software', 'Monitor']  
}  
df = pd.DataFrame(data)
```



df:

| Manager | Product |
|---------|----------|
| Debra | CPU |
| Debra | CPU |
| Fred | Monitor |
| John | Software |
| Fred | Monitor |

subset

Accepts a **label** or a **list of labels**.

It specifies the columns to consider when counting unique combinations.

How many times does each product appear in the DataFrame, regardless of the manager?

The `subset` parameter with a single column like `'Product'` returns the count of each product, regardless of manager.

df:

| | Manager | Product |
|---|---------|----------|
| 0 | Debra | CPU |
| 1 | Debra | CPU |
| 2 | John | Monitor |
| 3 | John | Software |
| 4 | Fred | Monitor |



Output:

```
Product
CPU      2
Monitor  2
Software  1
Name: count, dtype: int64
```

Code:

```
df.value_counts(
    subset=['Product']
)
```

Code Snippet

```
data = {
    'Manager': ['Debra', 'Debra', 'John', 'John', 'Fred'],
    'Product': ['CPU', 'CPU', 'Monitor', 'Software', 'Monitor']
}
```

df:

| | Manager | Product |
|---|---------|---------|
| 0 | Debra | CPU |

```
}
df = pd.DataFrame(data)
```



| | Manager | Product |
|---|---------|----------|
| 1 | Debra | CPU |
| 2 | John | Monitor |
| 3 | John | Software |

How many times does each unique combination of product and price appear in the DataFrame, disregarding the manager?

When `subset` accepts a list of column labels (like `['Product', 'Price']`), it returns counts of unique combinations of those columns, regardless of manager.

df:

| | Manager | Product | Price |
|---|---------|---------|-------|
| 0 | Debra | Monitor | 300 |
| 1 | Debra | CPU | 600 |
| 2 | Fred | Monitor | 300 |
| 3 | John | Monitor | 480 |
| 4 | Fred | Monitor | 300 |



Output:

| | Product | Price |
|---------------------------|---------|-------|
| Monitor | 300 | 3 |
| CPU | 600 | 1 |
| Monitor | 480 | 1 |
| Name: count, dtype: int64 | | |

Code:

```
df.value_counts(
    ['Product', 'Price']
)
```

Code Snippet

```
data = {
    'Manager': ['Debra', 'Debra', 'Fred', 'John', 'Fred'],
    'Product': ['Monitor', 'CPU', 'Monitor', 'Monitor', 'Monitor'],
    'Price': [300, 600, 300, 480, 300]
}
df = pd.DataFrame(data)
```



df:

| | Manager | Product | Price |
|---|---------|---------|-------|
| 0 | Debra | Monitor | 300 |
| 1 | Debra | CPU | 600 |
| 2 | Fred | Monitor | 300 |

| | Manager | Product | Price |
|---|---------|---------|-------|
| 3 | John | Monitor | 480 |

How many times does each combination of 'Manager' and 'Product' occur in the DataFrame?

Without specifying a subset,

`value_counts()` counts

unique combinations of all
columns in the DataFrame.

df:

| | Manager | Product |
|---|---------|----------|
| 0 | Debra | CPU |
| 1 | Debra | CPU |
| 2 | Fred | Monitor |
| 3 | John | Software |
| 4 | Fred | Monitor |



Output:

| | Manager | Product | |
|---------------------------|----------|---------|---|
| Debra | CPU | | 2 |
| Fred | Monitor | | 2 |
| John | Software | | 1 |
| Name: count, dtype: int64 | | | |

Code:

```
df.value_counts()
```

Code Snippet

```
data = {
    'Manager': ['Debra', 'Debra', 'Fred', 'John', 'Fred'],
    'Product': ['CPU', 'CPU', 'Monitor', 'Software', 'Monitor']
}
df = pd.DataFrame(data)
```



df:

| | Manager | Product |
|---|---------|----------|
| 0 | Debra | CPU |
| 1 | Debra | CPU |
| 2 | Fred | Monitor |
| 3 | John | Software |
| 4 | Fred | Monitor |

normalize

The "**normalize**" parameter returns proportions rather than frequencies.

It accepts a **Boolean** value and defaults to **False**.

Count and Proportion of Unique Combinations of Manager and Product

(normalize=False):

Shows how often each unique row appears.

df:

| | Manager | Product |
|---|---------|----------|
| 0 | Debra | CPU |
| 1 | Debra | CPU |
| 2 | Fred | Monitor |
| 3 | John | Software |
| 4 | Fred | Monitor |

Output (normalize=False):

| | Manager | Product |
|-------|----------|---------|
| Debra | CPU | 2 |
| Fred | Monitor | 2 |
| John | Software | 1 |

Name: count, dtype: int64

Code (normalize=False):

```
df.value_counts(  
    normalize=False  
)
```

(normalize=True):

Shows the proportion (percentage) of each unique row.

df::

| | Manager | Product |
|---|---------|----------|
| 0 | Debra | CPU |
| 1 | Debra | CPU |
| 2 | Fred | Monitor |
| 3 | John | Software |

Output (normalize=True):

| | Manager | Product |
|-------|----------|---------|
| Debra | CPU | 0.4 |
| Fred | Monitor | 0.4 |
| John | Software | 0.2 |

Name: proportion, dtype:

Code (normalize=True):

```
df.value_counts(  
    normalize=True  
)
```

Code Snippet

```
data = {  
    'Manager': ['Debra', 'Debra', 'Fred', 'John', 'Fred'],  
    'Product': ['CPU', 'CPU', 'Monitor', 'Software', 'Monitor']  
}  
df = pd.DataFrame(data)
```



df:

| | Manager | Product |
|---|---------|----------|
| 0 | Debra | CPU |
| 1 | Debra | CPU |
| 2 | Fred | Monitor |
| 3 | John | Software |
| 4 | Fred | Monitor |

sort

The **"sort"** parameter accepts a **Boolean** value and defaults to **True**.

It sorts by frequencies when **True**.

It sorts by DataFrame column values when **False**.

value_counts(sort=True vs False) Behavior

When sort=True

(default):

It sorts by frequencies
(most frequent first).

df:

fruits

| | |
|---|--------|
| 0 | apple |
| 1 | banana |
| 2 | apple |
| 3 | orange |
| 4 | banana |
| 5 | banana |

Output (sort=True):

| | fruits |
|--------|--------|
| banana | 3 |
| apple | 2 |
| orange | 1 |

Name: count, dtype: int64

Code (sort=True):

```
df.value_counts(  
    sort=True  
)  
# or simply:  
df.value_counts()
```

When sort=False:

Sorts by DataFrame
column values.

df::

fruits

| | |
|---|--------|
| 0 | apple |
| 1 | banana |
| 2 | apple |
| 3 | orange |
| 4 | banana |
| 5 | banana |

Output (sort=False):

| | fruits |
|--------|--------|
| apple | 2 |
| banana | 3 |
| orange | 1 |

Name: count, dtype: int64

Code (sort=False):

```
df.value_counts(  
    sort=False  
)
```

Code Snippet

```
df = pd.DataFrame({  
    'fruits': ['apple', 'banana', 'apple', 'orange', 'banana', 'banana']  
})
```

df:

| | fruits |
|---|--------|
| 0 | apple |
| 1 | banana |
| 2 | apple |



| fruits | |
|--------|--------|
| 3 | orange |
| 4 | banana |
| 5 | banana |

ascending

The **"ascending"** parameter accepts a **Boolean** value and defaults to **False**.
It controls the order in which these counts are sorted.

value_counts(ascending=False vs True) Behavior

When
ascending=False
(default):

It sorts from
largest to smallest.

df:

fruits

| | |
|---|--------|
| 0 | apple |
| 1 | banana |
| 2 | apple |
| 3 | orange |
| 4 | banana |
| 5 | banana |

Output
(ascending=False):

| fruits | |
|--------|---|
| banana | 3 |
| apple | 2 |
| orange | 1 |

Name: count, dtype: int64

Code (ascending=False):

```
df.value_counts(  
    ascending=False  
)  
# or simply:  
df.value_counts()
```

When
ascending=True:

It sorts from
smallest to largest.

df::

Code (ascending=True):

| fruits | |
|--------|--------|
| 0 | apple |
| 1 | banana |
| 2 | apple |
| 3 | orange |
| 4 | banana |
| 5 | banana |

Output
(ascending=True):

| fruits | |
|--------|---|
| orange | 1 |
| apple | 2 |
| banana | 3 |

Name: count, dtype: int64

```
df.value_counts(  
    ascending=True  
)
```

Code Snippet

```
df = pd.DataFrame({  
    'fruits': ['apple', 'banana', 'apple', 'orange', 'banana', 'banana']  
})
```



df:

| fruits | |
|--------|--------|
| 0 | apple |
| 1 | banana |
| 2 | apple |
| 3 | orange |
| 4 | banana |
| 5 | banana |

dropna

The **"dropna"** parameter accepts a **Boolean** value and defaults to **True**.

It doesn't count rows that have missing values.

value_counts(dropna=True vs False) Behavior

When dropna=True (Default Behavior):

Rows that contain NA values are not counted.

df:

| | A |
|---|-----|
| 0 | 1.0 |
| 1 | 2.0 |
| 2 | NaN |
| 3 | 2.0 |
| 4 | 3.0 |
| 5 | NaN |
| 6 | 3.0 |

Output (dropna=True):

```
      A
2.0    2
3.0    2
1.0    1
Name: count, dtype:
int64
```

Code (dropna=True):

```
df.value_counts(
    dropna=True
)
# or simply:
df.value_counts()
```

When dropna=False:

Rows that contain NA values are included in the counts.

df::

| | A |
|---|-----|
| 0 | 1.0 |
| 1 | 2.0 |
| 2 | NaN |
| 3 | 2.0 |
| 4 | 3.0 |
| 5 | NaN |
| 6 | 3.0 |

Output (dropna=False):

```
      A
2.0    2
3.0    2
NaN    2
1.0    1
Name: count, dtype:
int64
```


Code (dropna=False):

```
df.value_counts(
    dropna=False
)
```

Code Snippet

```
data = {'A': [1, 2, np.nan, 2, 3, np.nan, 3]}  
df = pd.DataFrame(data)  
df
```

df:



| | A |
|---|-----|
| 0 | 1.0 |
| 1 | 2.0 |
| 2 | NaN |
| 3 | 2.0 |
| 4 | 3.0 |
| 5 | NaN |
| 6 | 3.0 |

Sources & References

[pandas.DataFrame.value_counts](https://pandas.pydata.org/docs/reference/api/pandas.DataFrame.value_counts.html) Documentation (

https://pandas.pydata.org/docs/reference/api/pandas.DataFrame.value_counts.html)

Contacts and Social Media

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Thank You!

Thank you for reading this e-book!

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