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## how do I insert a column at a specific column index in pandas?

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Can I insert a column at a specific column index in pandas?

```
import pandas as pd
df = pd.DataFrame({'l':['a','b','c','d'], 'v':[1,2,1,2]})
df['n'] = 0
```

This will put column `n` as the last column of `df`, but isn't there a way to tell `df` to put `n` at the beginning?

python indexing pandas

asked Sep 7 '13 at 13:59

HappyPy  
640 1 8 20

### 2 Answers

see docs: <http://pandas.pydata.org/pandas-docs/dev/dsintro.html#column-selection-addition-deletion>

using `idx = 0` will insert at the beginning

```
df.insert(idx, col_name, value)
```

answered Sep 7 '13 at 15:32

Jeff  
41.3k 4 53 65

1 That's exactly what I was looking for. Many thanks! – HappyPy Sep 7 '13 at 22:29

Work on work you love. From home.



You could try to extract columns as list, massage this as you want, and reindex your dataframe:

```
>>> cols = df.columns.tolist()
>>> cols = [cols[-1]]+cols[:-1] # or whatever change you need
>>> df.reindex(columns=cols)
```

```
   n  l  v
0  0  a  1
1  0  b  2
2  0  c  1
3  0  d  2
```

EDIT: this can be done in one line ; however, this looks a bit ugly. Maybe some cleaner proposal may come...

```
>>> df.reindex(columns=['n']+df.columns[:-1].tolist())
```

```
   n  l  v
0  0  a  1
1  0  b  2
2  0  c  1
3  0  d  2
```

[edited Sep 7 '13 at 14:42](#)

[answered Sep 7 '13 at 14:24](#)



Nic

480 5 14