# **Reference guide: Python functions for the discovery of a dataset**

## Python reference guide for EDA: Discovering

Use the following Python Pandas functions to help you learn about a dataset when you encounter it for the first time.

### **DataFrame.head(X)**

* + The head() function will display the number of dataset rows you input in the argument field.
  + For the “X” in the argument field, input the number of rows you want displayed in a Python notebook. The default is 5 rows.
  + Once executed, the head() function looks like this:

df.head(10)

| n/a | Date | number of strikes | center point geom |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 0 | 2018-01-03 | 194 | POINT(-75 27) |
| 1 | 2018-01-03 | 41 | POINT(-78.4 29) |
| 2 | 2018-01-03 | 33 | POINT(-73.9 27) |
| 3 | 2018-01-03 | 38 | POINT(-73.8 27) |
| 4 | 2018-01-03 | 92 | POINT(-79 28) |
| 5 | 2018-01-03 | 119 | POINT(-78 28) |
| 6 | 2018-01-03 | 35 | POINT(-79.3 28) |
| 7 | 2018-01-03 | 60 | POINT(-79.1 28) |
| 8 | 2018-01-03 | 41 | POINT(-78.7 28) |
| 9 | 2018-01-03 | 119 | POINT(-78.6 28) |

**Note**: In a Python notebook, the results of head() will not include a table with visible grid lines.

### **DataFrame.info(X)**

* + The info() function will display a summary of the dataset, including the range index, dtypes, column headers, and memory usage.
  + Leaving the argument field blank will return a full summary. As an option, in the argument field you can type in “show\_counts=True,” which will not return any null fields.
  + Once executed, the info() function looks like this:

df.info()

<class ‘pandas.core.frame.DataFrame’>

RangeIndex:3401012 entries, 0 to 3401011

Data columns (total 3 columns):

# Column Dtype

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0 date object

1 number\_of\_strikes int64

2 center\_point\_geom object

Dtypes: int64(1), object(2)

Memory usage 77.8+ MB

### **Dataframe.describe(X)**

* + The describe() function will return descriptive statistics of the entire dataset, including total count, mean, minimum, maximum, dispersion, and distribution.
  + Leaving the argument field blank will default to returning a summary of the data frame’s statistics. As an option, you can use “include=[X]” and “exclude=[X]” which will limit the results to specific data types, depending on what you input in the brackets.
  + Once executed, the describe() function looks like this:

df\_joined.describe()

| N/A | longitude | latitude | number\_of\_strikes\_x | number\_of\_strikes\_y |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| count | 717530.00 | 717530.00 | 717530.00 | 323700.00000 |
| mean | -90.875445 | 33.328572 | 21.637081 | 25.410587 |
| std | 13.648429 | 7.938831 | 48.02952 | 57.421824 |
| min | -133.9000 | 16.600000 | 1.00000 | 1.000000 |
| 25% | -102.80000 | 26.900000 | 3.00000 | 3.000000 |
| 50% | -90.300000 | 33.200000 | 6.00000 | 8.000000 |
| 75% | -80.900000 | 39.400000 | 21.00000 | 24.000000 |
| max | -43.800000 | 51.700000 | 2211.00000 | 2211.000000 |

***Note****: In a Python notebook, the results of describe() will not include a table with visible grid lines.*

### **DataFrame.shape**

* + ‘Shape’ returns a tuple representing the dimensions of the dataset by number of rows and columns. The code will look something like this:

Df.shape

(3401012, 3)

## Key takeaways

**Head()**,**info()**,**describe()**, and **shape** are all Python functions that data scientists can use to understand a dataset at a high level. The information learned from running these functions will serve to inform the remainder of your EDA work when you use Python to analyze data throughout your career.

## Resources for more information

For more information on the EDA discovering functions above and others like it, you can use the online Pandas reference guide:

* [A list of Pandas dataframe functions](https://pandas.pydata.org/docs/reference/frame.html)