

How can I drop an unnamed column from a Pandas DataFrame?

Authored by
stats writer

June 28, 2024

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I drop an unnamed column from a Pandas DataFrame?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=156435>

To drop an unnamed column from a Pandas DataFrame, the "drop" function can be used. This function takes in the name of the column that needs to be dropped as a parameter. If the column does not have a name, it can be referenced using its index number in the DataFrame. The function will then remove the column from the DataFrame and update the structure. This allows for easy removal of unknown or temporary columns from a DataFrame.

Drop Unnamed Column in Pandas DataFrame

You can use the following two methods to drop a column in a pandas DataFrame that contains "Unnamed" in the column name:

Method 1: Drop Unnamed Column When Importing Data

```
df = pd.read_csv('my_data.csv', index_col=0)
```

Method 2: Drop Unnamed Column After Importing Data

```
df = df.loc
```

The following examples show how to use each method in practice.

Example 1: Drop Unnamed Column When Importing Data

Suppose we create a simple pandas DataFrame and export it to a CSV file:

```
import pandas as pd#create DataFrame
df1 = pd.DataFrame({'team': ,
'points': ,
'rebounds': })

#view DataFrame
print(df1)
```

```
team points rebounds
0 A 4 12
1 B 4 7
2 C 6 8
3 D 8 8
4 E 9 5
5 F 5 11
```

```
#export DataFrame to CSV file
df1.to_csv('my_data.csv')
```

Now when we attempt to read the file into a pandas DataFrame, the first column has a name of Unnamed: 0

```
#import CSV file
df2 = pd.read_csv('my_data.csv')
```

```
#view DataFrame
```

```
print(df2)
```

```
Unnamed: 0 team points rebounds
```

```
0 0 A 4 12
```

```
1 1 B 4 7
```

```
2 2 C 6 8
```

```
3 3 D 8 8
```

```
4 4 E 9 5
```

```
5 5 F 5 11
```

To avoid this, we can specify `index_col=0` to tell pandas that the first column is actually the index column:

```
#import CSV file
```

```
df2 = pd.read_csv('my_data.csv', index_col=0)
```

```
#view DataFrame
```

```
print(df2)
```

```
team points rebounds
```

```
0 A 4 12
```

```
1 B 4 7
```

```
2 C 6 8
```

```
3 D 8 8
```

4 E 9 5

5 F 5 11

Example 2: Drop Unnamed Column After Importing Data

Suppose we create a simple pandas DataFrame and export it to a CSV file:

```
import pandas as pd#create DataFrame
df1 = pd.DataFrame({'team': ,
'points': ,
'rebounds': })
```

```
#export DataFrame to CSV file
df1.to_csv('my_data.csv')
```

Now suppose we import this file into a pandas DataFrame:

```
#import CSV file
df2 = pd.read_csv('my_data.csv')
```

```
#view DataFrame
print(df2)
```

Unnamed: 0 team points rebounds

```
0 0 A 4 12
1 1 B 4 7
2 2 C 6 8
3 3 D 8 8
4 4 E 9 5
5 5 F 5 11
```

To drop the column that contains "Unnamed" in the name, we can use the following syntax:

```
#drop any column that contains "Unnamed" in column name
```

```
df2 = df2.loc
```

```
#view updated DataFrame
```

```
print(df2)
```

```
team points rebounds
```

```
0 A 4 12
1 B 4 7
2 C 6 8
3 D 8 8
4 E 9 5
5 F 5 11
```

Notice that the "Unnamed: 0" column has been dropped from the DataFrame.

Additional Resources

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks in pandas:

ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM