

How can I query a column name with a space in Pandas?

Authored by
stats writer

June 26, 2024

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I query a column name with a space in Pandas?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=153951>

To query a column name with a space in Pandas, the user can enclose the column name in square brackets or use the `.loc` method with the column name in quotes. This allows Pandas to recognize the column name as a single entity and retrieve the desired data from the column.

Pandas: Query Column Name with Space

You can use the following syntax to perform a pandas query using a column name with a space:

```
df.query('`this column` == 20')
```

Note that you must use backticks (```) in the query instead of quotation marks.

The following example shows how to use this syntax in practice.

Example: Query Column in Pandas DataFrame with Space

Suppose we have the following pandas DataFrame that contains information about various basketball players:

```
import pandas as pd

#create DataFrame
df = pd.DataFrame({'team' : ,
'points scored' : })
```

```
#view DataFrame
```

```
print(df)
```

```
team points scored
```

```
0 A 12
```

```
1 B 20
```

```
2 C 40
```

```
3 D 20
```

```
4 E 24
```

```
5 F 10
```

```
6 G 31
```

Now suppose that we would like to query for the rows where the points scored column is equal to 20.

If we use the `query()` function with quotation marks, we'll receive an error:

```
#attempt to get rows where points scored column is  
equal to 20
```

```
df.query('"points scored" == 20')
```

TypeError: argument of type 'int' is not iterable

Instead, we must use the `query()` function with

backticks:

```
#get rows where points scored column is equal to 20  
df.query(`points scored` == 20)
```

team points scored

1 B 20

3 D 20

The query returns the two rows in the DataFrame where the points scored column is equal to 20.

Notice that we don't receive any error either because we used backticks instead of quotation marks within the query() function.

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