

# How can I sort the results of the value\_counts() function in Pandas?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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The value\_counts() function in Pandas is used to count the frequency of unique values in a column of a DataFrame. To sort the results of this function, the sort\_values() method can be used. This method allows the user to specify the column to be sorted and the order (ascending or descending) in which the values should be sorted. By default, the values are sorted in descending order. This allows for the easy organization and analysis of data in a Pandas DataFrame.

## **Pandas: Sort Results of value\_counts()**

**You can use the value\_counts() function in pandas to count the occurrences of values in a given column of a DataFrame.**

**You can use one of the following methods to sort the results of the value\_counts() function:**

### **Method 1: Sort Counts in Descending Order (Default)**

```
df.my_column.value_counts()
```

### **Method 2: Sort Counts in Ascending Order**

```
df.my_column.value_counts().sort_values()
```

### **Method 3: Sort Counts in Order They Appear in DataFrame**

```
df.my_column.value_counts()
```

The following examples show how to use each method in practice with the following pandas DataFrame:

```
import pandas as pd
```

```
#create DataFrame
```

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

```
#view DataFrame
```

```
print(df)
```

```
team points
```

```
0 A 15
```

```
1 A 12
```

```
2 B 18
```

```
3 B 20
```

```
4 B 22
```

```
5 B 28
```

```
6 B 35
```

```
7 C 40
```

**Example 1: Sort Counts in Descending Order**

The following code shows how to count the occurrences of each unique value in the team column

and sort the counts in descending order:

#count occurrences of each value in team column and  
sort in descending order

```
df.team.value_counts()
```

B 5

A 2

C 1

Name: team, dtype: int64

Notice that the counts are sorted in descending order  
by default.

Example 2: Sort Counts in Ascending Order

The following code shows how to count the  
occurrences of each unique value in the team column  
and sort the counts in ascending order:

#count occurrences of each value in team column and  
sort in ascending order

```
df.team.value_counts().sort_values()
```

C 1

A 2

**B 5**

**Name: team, dtype: int64**

### Example 3: Sort Counts in Order they Appear in DataFrame

The following code shows how to count the occurrences of each unique value in the team column and sort the counts in order in which the unique values appear in the DataFrame:

```
#count occurrences of each value in team column and  
sort in order they appear  
df.team.value_counts()
```

**A 2**

**B 5**

**C 1**

**Name: team, dtype: int64**

Notice that the counts are now sorted based on the order in which the unique values appear in the DataFrame.

For example, the value 'A' occurs first in the team column, then 'B' occurs, then 'C' occurs.

**Thus, this is the order in which the counts appear in the output.**

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

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