

In [349]: df

Out[349]:

	person	letter1	letter2	letter3	letter4
0	John	2	8	14	7
1	Mike	6	12	10	4
2	Ellen	6	11	14	13
3	Lucy	3	15	8	9

In [350]: df['new_colum'] =df['letter4'] - df['letter1']

In [351]: df

Out[351]:

	person	letter1	letter2	letter3	letter4	new_colum
0	John	2	8	14	7	5
1	Mike	6	12	10	4	-2
2	Ellen	6	11	14	13	7
3	Lucy	3	15	8	9	6

In []: