

Paul Anzel
Senior Data Scientist
H-E-B
SciPy 2019

Hi, I'm your technical
interviewer:
Advice for breaking into
industry



www.phdcomics.com

About me

- Grad school in Applied Physics 2009-2016.
- Left ABD for industry.
 - Was the right thing for me!
- 4 years apparently makes you “senior” in this business ;)

Hi, I'm your technical interviewer!

Submit
resume

Initial resume
screening

Phone
interview with
recruiter

On-site
technical
interview

Take-home
assignment(?)

Offer
(hopefully)

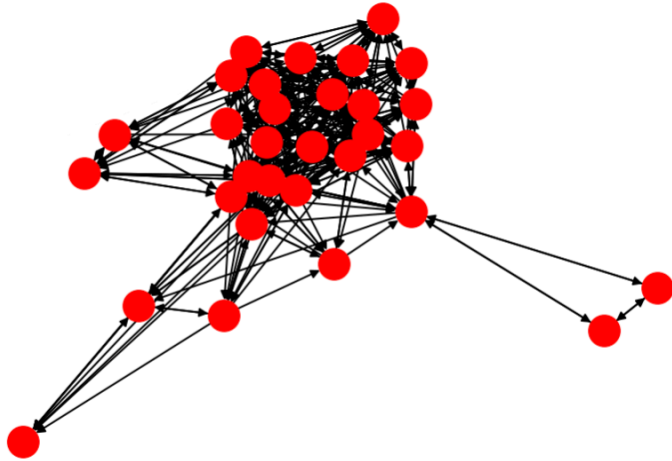


Hi!

Please, don't make these
mistakes

(I have made some of these mistakes)

1. Not networking



Good job making it here, now meet people!

~80% of jobs don't get posted.

I hate glad-handing. Finding hobbies, excuses to be social, and just getting out works.

Thanks, network analysis tutorial!

2. Not using referrals

Referrals can help you skip the first few steps in the process.

Sometimes referrers get a bonus for hires.

IMPORTANT: Once you know which positions you want, have your referrer submit your resume.





Original source unknown ☹️

3. Not using exact job description language

Automated systems aren't very smart.

Sometimes technical recruiters aren't either.

Copy exact wording from job descriptions.

4. Not covering your bases

You're probably in good shape,
here at SciPy.

Make sure you understand SQL
and version control.

Software Carpentry (+ extended
lessons) is a good Minimum
Viable Knowledge test.



Vicki Boykis

@vboykis



From HN: "Is there some kind of small and easy JS and/or PHP program allowing some easy work on a database?" Yeah, bro. It's called SQL.

♡ 15 1:02 PM - Nov 25, 2013



[See Vicki Boykis's other Tweets](#)



software carpentry

Teaching basic lab skills
for research computing

[Twitter link](#)

<https://software-carpentry.org/>

5. Worrying about every job line item

**Nick Heitzman**  
@NickDoesData 

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Automate horrible business practices
- Write ad hoc SQL as needed

REQUIRED EXPERIENCE:

- 15 years exp deep learning in Python
- PhD thesis on Bayesian modeling
- NLP experience in 7 languages
- 10 years of creating Hadoop clusters from scratch

♡ 2,245 10:18 PM - Feb 11, 2019 

 575 people are talking about this 

A few items are truly required, many (even “required”) ones are flexible.

A hit rate of 66-75% or so is good.

[Twitter link](#)

6. Not having a portfolio or blog

Paul Anzel's portfolio



A few of my projects.

[View My GitHub Profile](#)

Hosted on GitHub Pages — Theme by [orderedlist](#)

Introduction

Hello there, my name is Paul Anzel! I'm a Data Scientist currently employed with [H-E-B](#), building product recommendation systems and handling general data-science dev-ops work. Before that, I worked at [Metromile](#), where I use telematics data to detect vehicle crashes and evaluate potential insurance fraud, and [Wiser](#), doing price-demand estimation.

I did doctoral research (left ABD) in Applied Physics at Caltech with [Chiara Daraio](#) where I worked on developing a new type of acoustic imaging system for non-destructive evaluation. During my graduate research I received a NASA Space Technology Research Fellowship and a M.S. in Applied Physics. I have a B.S. and B.A. in Chemical Physics and Mathematics (respectively) from Rice University.

Outside of work I spend much of my time advocating for building housing. I now volunteer with [San Antonio Neighbors For Everyone](#), and before that helped out with [East Bay For Everyone](#). I am an instructor with [Software Carpentry](#). I managed Caltech's [bicycle repair cooperative](#) for three years, play accordion and piano, and have started getting into ham radio.

I live with my lovely wife Rose, young son Isaac, and fussy cat Coltrane.

Some projects

Statistics Study Group Notes

During my time at Wiser, I started a journal club to go over some techniques I wanted to learn more about, and to teach some of the other analysts some basic techniques (e.g. what a Fourier transform is). Upon moving to Metromile, I was pleased to see that they had an active study group there. Here is a collection of iPython notebooks where I go through implementing various algorithms myself and demonstrate their use.

Some ones I'm particularly proud of:

Please, give me something substantial to talk about!

Can you code? Communicate?

Fill in README's. GitHub, BitBucket, and GitLab let you use Jekyll to create nice looking pages.

anzelpwj.github.io

Final bits



<https://cheezburger.com/8029803520>

- I'll be in room 210 tomorrow 10-11 AM if anyone would like to get more advice.
- <https://cheekyscientist.com/blog/>
- <https://www.nextscientist.com/>
- Linear Digressions podcast: [Advice for those trying to get a first job in data science](#)
- <http://anzelpwj.github.io/>