

# Data Extraction from Unstructured PDFs

[BEGINNER](#)[LIBRARIES](#)[PANDAS](#)[PYTHON](#)[UNSTRUCTURED DATA](#)

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## Introduction:

Data Extraction is the process of extracting data from various sources such as CSV files, web, PDF, etc. Although in some files, data can be extracted easily as in CSV, while in files like unstructured PDFs we have to perform additional tasks to extract data.

There are a couple of Python libraries using which you can extract data from PDFs. For example, you can use the [PyPDF2](#) library for extracting text from PDFs where text is in a sequential or formatted manner i.e. in lines or forms. You can also extract tables in PDFs through the [Camelot](#) library. In all these cases data is in structured form i.e. sequential, forms or tables.

However, in the real world, most of the data is not present in any of the forms & there is no order of data. It is present in unstructured form. In this case, it is not feasible to use the above python libraries since they will give ambiguous results. To analyze unstructured data, we need to convert it to a structured form.

As such, there is no specific technique or procedure for extracting data from unstructured PDFs since data is stored randomly & it depends on what type of data you want to extract from PDF.

Here, I will show you a most successful technique & a python library through which you can extract data from *bounding boxes* in unstructured PDFs and then performing data cleaning operation on extracted data and converting it to a structured form.

## PyMuPDF:

I have used the [PyMuPDF](#) library for this purpose. This library provided many applications such as extracting images from PDF, extracting texts from different shapes, making annotations, draw a bounded box around the texts along with the features of libraries like [PyPDF2](#).

Now, I will show you how I extracted data from the bounding boxes in a PDF with several pages.

Here are the PDF and the red bounding boxes from which we need to extract data.

# TRAFFIC CRASH REPORT

\*DENOTES MANDATORY FIELD FOR SUPPLEMENT REPORT

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PHOTOS TAKEN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OH-2 <input type="checkbox"/> OH-3 <input type="checkbox"/> SECONDARY CRASH <input type="checkbox"/> OH-1P <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE PROPERTY		LOCAL INFORMATION <b>3F</b> REPORTING AGENCY NAME * <b>MANSFIELD POLICE</b> <b>07001</b> NCIC *		LOCAL REPORT NUMBER * <b>21009048</b>	
COUNTY * <b>710</b> LOCALITY * <b>1</b> 1. CITY 2. VILLAGE 3. TOWNSHIP		LOCATION: CITY, VILLAGE, TOWNSHIP * <b>MANSFIELD</b>		HIT/SKIP 1 - SOLVED    2 - UNSOLVED <b>01</b> <b>918</b> UNIT IN ERROR 98 - ANIMAL 99 - UNKNOWN	
ROUTE TYPE <b>1</b> ROUTE NUMBER <b>1150</b> PREFIX 1 - NORTH 2 - SOUTH 3 - EAST 4 - WEST		LOCATION ROAD NAME <b>MAIN</b> REFERENCE ROAD NAME (ROAD, MILEPOST, HOUSE #) <b>1150</b>		CRASH DATE/TIME * <b>042520210528</b> CRASH SEVERITY 1 - FATAL 2 - SUSPECTED 3 - MINOR INJURY 4 - INJURY POSSIBLE 5 - PROPERTY DAMAGE ONLY <b>5</b>	
ROUTE TYPE <b>1</b> ROUTE NUMBER <b>1150</b> PREFIX 1 - NORTH 2 - SOUTH 3 - EAST 4 - WEST		ROUTE TYPE <b>1</b> ROUTE NUMBER <b>1150</b> PREFIX 1 - NORTH 2 - SOUTH 3 - EAST 4 - WEST		LONGITUDE <b>782151132110</b>	
REFERENCE POINT 1 - INTERSECTION 2 - MILE POST 3 - HOUSE # <b>3</b>		ROUTE TYPE IR - INTERSTATE ROUTE (TP) US - FEDERAL US ROUTE SR - STATE ROUTE CR - NUMBERED COUNTY ROUTE TR - NUMBERED TOWNSHIP ROUTE		ROAD TYPE AL - ALLEY    HW - HIGHWAY    RD - ROAD AV - AVENUE    LA - LANE    SQ - SQUARE BL - BOULEVARD    MP - MILEPOST    ST - STREET CR - CIRCLE    OV - OVAL    TE - TERRACE CT - COURT    PK - PARKWAY    TL - TRAIL DR - DRIVE    PL - PLACE    WA - WAY	
DISTANCE FROM REFERENCE <b>1</b>		MANNER OF CRASH COLLISION/IMPACT 1 - NOT COLLISION BETWEEN TWO MOTOR VEHICLES IN TRANSPORT 2 - REAR-END 3 - HEAD-ON <b>1</b>		INTERSECTION RELATED <input type="checkbox"/> WITHIN INTERSECTION OR ON APPROACH <input type="checkbox"/> WITHIN INTERCHANGE AREA ROADWAY <input type="checkbox"/> ROADWAY DIVIDED	
LOCATION OF FIRST HARMFUL EVENT 1 - ON ROADWAY 2 - ON SHOULDER 3 - IN MEDIAN 4 - ON ROADSIDE 5 - ON GORE 6 - OUTSIDE TRAFFIC WAY 7 - ON RAMP 8 - OFF RAMP <b>1</b>		MANNER OF CRASH COLLISION/IMPACT 1 - NOT COLLISION BETWEEN TWO MOTOR VEHICLES IN TRANSPORT 2 - REAR-END 3 - HEAD-ON <b>1</b>		DIRECTION OF TRAVEL 1 - NORTH 2 - SOUTH 3 - EAST 4 - WEST <b>1</b>	
WORK ZONE RELATED <input type="checkbox"/> WORKERS PRESENT <input type="checkbox"/> LAW ENFORCEMENT PRESENT <input type="checkbox"/> ACTIVE SCHOOL ZONE		WORK ZONE TYPE 1 - LANE CLOSURE 2 - LANE SHIFT/CROSSOVER 3 - WORK ON SHOULDER 4 - INTERMITTENT or MOVING WORK 5 - OTHER <b>1</b>		LOCATION OF CRASH IN WORK ZONE 1 - BEFORE THE 1st WORK ZONE WARNING SIGN 2 - ADVANCE WARNING AREA 3 - TRANSITION AREA 4 - ACTIVITY AREA 5 - TERMINATION AREA <b>1</b>	
LIGHT CONDITIONS 1 - DAYLIGHT 2 - DAWN/DUSK 3 - DARK - LIGHTED ROADWAY 4 - DARK - ROADWAY NOT LIGHTED 5 - DARK - UNKNOWN ROADWAY LIGHTING 9 - OTHER / UNKNOWN <b>3</b>		WEATHER 1 - CLEAR 2 - CLOUDY 3 - FOG, SMOG, SMOKE 4 - RAIN 5 - SLEET, HAIL 6 - SNOW 7 - SEVERE CROSSWINDS 8 - BLOWING SAND, SOIL, DIRT, SNOW 9 - FREEZING RAIN OR FREEZING DRIZZLE 99 - OTHER/UNKNOWN <b>2</b>		CONTOUR 1 - STRAIGHT LEVEL 2 - STRAIGHT GRADE 3 - CURVE LEVEL 4 - CURVE GRADE 9 - OTHER/UNKNOWN <b>1</b>	
CONDITIONS 1 - DRY 2 - WET 3 - SNOW 4 - ICE 5 - SAND, MUD, DIRT, OIL, GRAVEL 6 - WATER (STANDING, MOVING) 7 - SLUSH 9 - OTHER/UNKNOWN <b>1</b>		SURFACE 1 - CONCRETE 2 - BLACKTOP, BITUMINOUS, ASPHALT 3 - BRICK/BLOCK 4 - SLAG, GRAVEL, STONE 5 - DIRT 9 - OTHER/UNKNOWN <b>2</b>		NARRATIVE <p>U#1 was Northbound on N Main St at 1150. A deer crossed the road Eastbound and U#1 struck it causing damage.</p>	
CRASH REPORTED DATE/TIME <b>042520210528</b>		DISPATCH DATE/TIME <b>042520210532</b>		ARRIVAL TIME <b>042520210536</b>	
SCENE CLEARED DATE/TIME <b>042520210547</b>		REPORT TAKEN BY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLICE AGENCY <input type="checkbox"/> MOTORIST <input type="checkbox"/> SUPPLEMENT (CORRECTION OR ADDITION TO AN EXISTING REPORT SENT TO OFFICE)		TOTAL TIME ROADWAY CLOSED <b>15</b>	
OTHER INVESTIGATION TIME <b>15</b>		OFFICER'S NAME* <b>CAROLYN YOUNG</b>		CHECKED BY OFFICER'S NAME* <b>P. WILLIAMS</b>	
OFFICER'S BADGE NUMBER* <b>1754</b>		CHECKED BY OFFICER'S BADGE NUMBER* <b>1051</b>		TOTAL MINUTES <b>15</b>	

# MOTORIST / Non-Motorist

LOCAL REPORT NUMBER *					2   1   0   0   9   0   4   8						
UNIT # NAME: LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE					DATE OF BIRTH		AGE		GENDER		
1   STANTO, QUINN NICOLE					0   4   1   3   1   9   8   0		4   1		F		
ADDRESS: CITY, STATE, ZIP					CONTACT PHONE - INCLUDE AREA CODE						
1754 BROWNSTONE BLVD - H, TOLEDO, OH 43601											
INJURIES		INJURED TAKEN BY		EMS AGENCY (NAME)		INJURED TAKEN TO: MEDICAL FACILITY (NAME, CITY)		SAFETY EQUIPMENT USED			
5								4			
OL STATE		OPERATOR LICENSE NUMBER		OFFENSE CHARGED		LOCAL CODE		OFFENSE DESCRIPTION		CITATION NUMBER	
OH		TK825051									
OL CLASS		ENDORSEMENT SELECT UP TO 2		RESTRICTION SELECT UP TO 3		DRIVER DISTRACTED BY		ALCOHOL/DRUG SUSPECTED		CONDITION	
4						1		<input type="checkbox"/> ALCOHOL <input type="checkbox"/> MARIJUANA <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER DRUG		1	
ALCOHOL TEST		STATUS		TYPE		VALUE		STATUS		TYPE	
		1						1			
DRUG TEST(S)		RESULTS SELECT UP TO 4									

  

UNIT # NAME: LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE					DATE OF BIRTH		AGE		GENDER		
ADDRESS: CITY, STATE, ZIP					CONTACT PHONE - INCLUDE AREA CODE						
INJURIES		INJURED TAKEN BY		EMS AGENCY (NAME)		INJURED TAKEN TO: MEDICAL FACILITY (NAME, CITY)		SAFETY EQUIPMENT USED			
OL STATE		OPERATOR LICENSE NUMBER		OFFENSE CHARGED		LOCAL CODE		OFFENSE DESCRIPTION		CITATION NUMBER	
OL CLASS		ENDORSEMENT SELECT UP TO 2		RESTRICTION SELECT UP TO 3		DRIVER DISTRACTED BY		ALCOHOL/DRUG SUSPECTED		CONDITION	
								<input type="checkbox"/> ALCOHOL <input type="checkbox"/> MARIJUANA <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER DRUG			
ALCOHOL TEST		STATUS		TYPE		VALUE		STATUS		TYPE	
DRUG TEST(S)		RESULTS SELECT UP TO 4									

  

UNIT # NAME: LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE					DATE OF BIRTH		AGE		GENDER		
ADDRESS: CITY, STATE, ZIP					CONTACT PHONE - INCLUDE AREA CODE						
INJURIES		INJURED TAKEN BY		EMS AGENCY (NAME)		INJURED TAKEN TO: MEDICAL FACILITY (NAME, CITY)		SAFETY EQUIPMENT USED			
OL STATE		OPERATOR LICENSE NUMBER		OFFENSE CHARGED		LOCAL CODE		OFFENSE DESCRIPTION		CITATION NUMBER	
OL CLASS		ENDORSEMENT SELECT UP TO 2		RESTRICTION SELECT UP TO 3		DRIVER DISTRACTED BY		ALCOHOL/DRUG SUSPECTED		CONDITION	
								<input type="checkbox"/> ALCOHOL <input type="checkbox"/> MARIJUANA <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER DRUG			
ALCOHOL TEST		STATUS		TYPE		VALUE		STATUS		TYPE	
DRUG TEST(S)		RESULTS SELECT UP TO 4									

  

INJURIES	SEATING POSITION	AIR BAG	OL CLASS	OL RESTRICTION(S)	DRIVER DISTRACTION	TEST STATUS
1- FATAL 2- SUSPECTED SERIOUS INJURY 3- SUSPECTED MINOR INJURY 4- POSSIBLE INJURY 5- NO APPARENT INJURY	1- FRONT - LEFT SIDE (MOTORCYCLE DRIVER) 2- FRONT - MIDDLE 3- FRONT - RIGHT SIDE 4- SECOND - LEFT SIDE (MOTORCYCLE PASSENGER) 5- SECOND - MIDDLE 6- SECOND - RIGHT SIDE 7- THIRD - LEFT SIDE (MOTORCYCLE SIDE CAR) 8- THIRD - MIDDLE 9- THIRD - RIGHT SIDE 10- SLEEPER SECTION OF TRUCK CAB 11- PASSENGER IN OTHER ENCLOSED CARGO AREA (NON-TRAILING UNIT, BUS, PICKUP WITH CAP) 12- PASSENGER IN UNENCLOSED CARGO AREA 13- TRAILING UNIT 14- RIDING ON VEHICLE EXTERIOR (NON-TRAILING UNIT) 15- NON-MOTORIST 99- OTHER / UNKNOWN	1- NOT DEPLOYED 2- DEPLOYED FRONT 3- DEPLOYED SIDE 4- DEPLOYED BOTH FRONT / SIDE 5- NOT APPLICABLE 9- DEPLOYMENT UNKNOWN	1- CLASS A 2- CLASS B 3- CLASS C 4- REGULAR CLASS (DRIVER'S D) 5- MVD MOVED ONLY 6- NO VALID DL	1- ALCOHOL INTERLOCK DEVICE 2- CDL INTRASTATE ONLY 3- CORRECTIVE LENSES 4- FARM WAIVER 5- EXCEPT CLASS A BUS 6- EXCEPT CLASS A & CLASS B BUS 7- EXCEPT TRACTOR TRAILER 8- INTERMEDIATE LICENSE RESTRICTIONS 9- LEARNER'S PERMIT RESTRICTIONS 10- LIMITED TO DAYLIGHT ONLY 11- LIMITED TO EMPLOYMENT 12- LIMITED - OTHER 13- MECHANICAL DEVICES (SPECIAL BRAKES, HAND CONTROLS, OR OTHER ADAPTIVE DEVICES) 14- MILITARY VEHICLES ONLY 15- MOTOR VEHICLES WITHOUT AIR BRAKES 16- OUTSIDE MIRROR 17- PROSTHETIC AID 18- OTHER	1- NOT DISTRACTED 2- MANUALLY OPERATING AN ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICE (TEXTING, TYPING, DIALING) 3- TALKING ON HANDS-FREE COMMUNICATION DEVICE 4- TALKING ON HAND-HELD COMMUNICATION DEVICE 5- OTHER ACTIVITY WITH AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE 6- PASSENGER 7- OTHER DISTRACTION (INSIDE THE VEHICLE) 8- OTHER DISTRACTION OUTSIDE THE VEHICLE 9- OTHER / UNKNOWN	1- NONE GIVEN 2- TEST REFUSED 3- TEST GIVEN, CONTAMINATED SAMPLE / UNSAMPLE 4- TEST GIVEN, RESULTS KNOWN 5- TEST GIVEN, RESULTS UNKNOWN
INJURED TAKEN BY		EJECTION	OL ENDORSEMENT			ALCOHOL TEST TYPE
1- NOT TRANSPORTED / TREATED AT SCENE 2- EMS 3- POLICE 9- OTHER / UNKNOWN		1- NOT EJECTED 2- PARTIALLY EJECTED 3- TOTALLY EJECTED 4- NOT APPLICABLE	H- HAZMAT M- MOTORCYCLE P- PASSENGER N- TANKER Q- MOTOR SCOOTER R- THREE-WHEEL MOTORCYCLE S- SCHOOL BUS T- DOUBLE & TRIPLE TRAILERS X- TANKER / HAZMAT			1- NONE 2- BLOOD 3- URINE 4- BREATH 5- OTHER
SAFETY EQUIPMENT		TRAPPED	GENDER		CONDITION	DRUG TEST TYPE
1- NONE USED 2- SHOULDER BELT ONLY USED 3- LAP BELT ONLY USED 4- SHOULDER & LAP BELT USED 5- CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEM - FORWARD FACING 6- CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEM - REAR FACING 7- BOOSTER SEAT 8- HELMET USED 9- PROTECTIVE PADS USED (ELBOW, KNEE, ETC.) 10- REFLECTIVE CLOTHING 11- LIGHTING - INDICATES AN / BICYCLE ONLY 99- OTHER / UNKNOWN		1- NOT TRAPPED 2- EXTRICATED BY MECHANICAL MEANS 3- FREED BY NON-MECHANICAL MEANS	F- FEMALE M- MALE U- OTHER/UNKNOWN		1- APPARENTLY NORMAL 2- PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT 3- EMOTIONAL (E.G., DEPRESSED, ANGRY, DISTURBED) 4- ILLNESS 5- FELL, AGILE, FAINTED, FATIGUED, ETC. 6- UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF MEDICATIONS / DRUGS / ALCOHOL 9- OTHER / UNKNOWN	1- NONE 2- BLOOD 3- URINE 4- OTHER
						DRUG TEST RESULT(S)
						1- AMPHETAMINES 2- BARBITURATES 3- BENZODIAZEPINES 4- CANNABINOIDS 5- COCAINE 6- OPATES / OPIODS 7- OTHER 8- NEGATIVE RESULTS

I have tried many python libraries like PyPDF2, PDFMiner, pikepdf, Camelot, and tabulat. However, none of them worked except PyMuPDF.

Before going into the code it's important to understand the meaning of 2 important terms which would help in understanding the code.

Word: Sequence of characters without space. Ex – ash, 23, 2, 3.

Annots: An annotation associates an object such as a note, image, or bounding box with a location on a page of a PDF document, or provides a way to interact with the user using the mouse and keyboard. The objects are called annots.

First, we will extract text from one of the bounding boxes. Then we will use the same procedure to extract data from all the bounding boxes of pdf.

## Code:

```
import fitz import pandas as pd doc = fitz.open('Mansfield--70-21009048 - ConvertToExcel.pdf') page1 = doc[0]
words = page1.get_text("words")
```

Firstly, we import the fitz module of the PyMuPDF library and pandas library. Then the object of the PDF file is created and stored in doc and 1st page of pdf is stored on page1. page.get\_text() extracts all the words of page 1. Each word consists of a tuple with 8 elements.

In words variable, the First 4 elements represent the coordinates of the word, 5th element is the word itself, 6th,7th, 8th elements are block, line, word numbers respectively.

## OUTPUT

### Extract the coordinates of the first object :

```
first_annots=[] rec=page1.first_annot.rect rec #Information of words in first object is stored in mywords
mywords = [w for w in words if fitz.Rect(w[:4]) in rec] ann= make_text(mywords) first_annots.append(ann)
```

### This function selects the words contained in the box, sort the words and return in form of a string :

```
def make_text(words): line_dict = {} words.sort(key=lambda w: w[0]) for w in words: y1 = round(w[3], 1) word
= w[4] line = line_dict.get(y1, []) line.append(word) line_dict[y1] = line lines = list(line_dict.items())
lines.sort() return "\n".join([" ".join(line[1]) for line in lines])
```

## OUTPUT

`page.first_annot()` gives the first annot i.e. bounding box of the page.

`.rect` gives coordinates of a rectangle.

Now, we got the coordinates of the rectangle and all the words on the page. We then filter the words which are present in our bounding box and store them in *mywords* variable.

We have got all the words in the rectangle with their coordinates. However, these words are in random order. Since we need the text sequentially and that only makes sense, we used a function `make_text()` which first sorts the words from left to right and then from top to bottom. It returns the text in string format.

Hurrah! We have extracted data from one annot. Our next task is to extract data from all annots of the PDF which would be done in the same approach.

### **Extracting each page of the document and all the annots/rectangles :**

```
for pageno in range(0,len(doc)-1): page = doc[pageno] words = page.get_text("words") for annot in page.annots(): if annot!=None: rec=annot.rect mywords = [w for w in words if fitz.Rect(w[:4]) in rec] ann=make_text(mywords) all_annots.append(ann)
```

*all\_annots*, a list is initialized to store the text of all annots in the pdf.

The function of the outer loop in the above code is to go through each page of PDF, while that of the inner loop is to go through all annots of the page and performing the task of adding texts to `all_annots` list as discussed earlier.

Printing `all_annots` provides us the text of all annots of the pdf which you can see below.

### **OUTPUT**

Finally, we have extracted the texts from all the annots/ bounding boxes.

Its time to clean the data and bring it in an understandable form.

## **Data Cleaning and Data Processing**

### **Splitting to form column name and its values :**

```
cont=[] for i in range(0,len(all_annots)): cont.append(all_annots[i].split('\n',1))
```

## Removing unnecessary symbols \*,#,: :

```
liss=[] for i in range(0,len(cont)): lis=[] for j in cont[i]: j=j.replace('*', '') j=j.replace('#', '')
j=j.replace(':', '') j=j.strip() #print(j) lis.append(j) liss.append(lis)
```

## Splitting into keys and values and removing spaces in the values which only contain digits :

```
keys=[] values=[] for i in liss: keys.append(i[0]) values.append(i[1]) for i in range(0, len(values)): for j
in range(0,len(values[i])): if values[i][j]>='A' and values[i][j]<='Z': break if j==len(values[i])-1:
values[i]=values[i].replace(' ','')
```

We split each string based on a new line (n) character to separate the column name from its values. By further cleaning unnecessary symbols like (\*, #, ) are removed. Spaces between digits are removed.

With the key-value pairs, we create a dictionary which is shown below:

## Converting to dictionary :

```
report=dict(zip(keys,values))
```

```
report['VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION']=report['VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION'].replace(' ','')
```

```
dic=[report['LOCALITY'],report['MANNER OF CRASH COLLISION/IMPACT'],report['CRASH SEVERITY']] l=0 val_after=[]
for local in dic: li=[] lii=[] k='' extract='' l=0 for i in range(0,len(local)-1): if local[i+1]>='0' and
local[i+1]<='9': li.append(local[l:i+1]) l=i+1 li.append(local[l:]) print(li) for i in li: if i[0] in lii:
k=i[0] break lii.append(i[0]) for i in li: if i[0]==k:
```

```
extract=i
```

```
val_after.append(extract) break report['LOCALITY']=val_after[0] report['MANNER OF CRASH
COLLISION/IMPACT']=val_after[1] report['CRASH SEVERITY']=val_after[2]
```

## OUTPUT

Lastly, dictionary is converted to dataframe with the help of pandas.

### **Converting to DataFrame and exporting to CSV:**

```
data=pd.DataFrame.from_dict(report)
```

```
data.to_csv('final.csv',index=False)
```

### **OUTPUT**

Now, we can perform analysis on our structured data or export it to excel.

I hope that you have enjoyed reading this blog and it has given you an intuition of dealing with unstructured data.

### **References:**

Source of the featured image: Real Python <https://realpython.com/python-data-engineer/>

PyMuPDF documentation : <https://pymupdf.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>

### **About the Author:**



Hi! I am Ashish Choudhary. I am pursuing B.Tech from the JC Bose University of Science & Technology. Data Science is my passion and feels proud to write interesting blogs related to it. Feel free to contact me on LinkedIn [linkedin.com/in/ashish-choudhary-7b6029166](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ashish-choudhary-7b6029166).

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