

[Home](#) | [Buy on No Starch Press](#) | [Buy on Amazon](#) | [@AlSweigart](#) |[Donate](#)

## CHAPTER 12 – WORKING WITH EXCEL SPREADSHEETS



Support the Author: Buy the book on [Amazon](#) or  
the book/ebook bundle directly from [No Starch Press](#).



Read the author's other free Python books:



## WORKING WITH EXCEL SPREADSHEETS

Excel is a popular and powerful spreadsheet application for Windows. The `openpyxl` module allows your Python programs to read and modify Excel spreadsheet files. For example, you might have the boring task of copying certain data from one spreadsheet and pasting it into another one. Or you might have to go through thousands of rows and pick out just a handful of them to make small edits based on some criteria. Or you might have to look through hundreds of spreadsheets of department budgets, searching for any that are in the red. These are exactly the sort of boring, mindless spreadsheet tasks that Python can do for you.

Although Excel is proprietary software from Microsoft, there are free alternatives that run on Windows, OS X, and Linux. Both LibreOffice Calc and OpenOffice Calc work with Excel's *.xlsx* file format for spreadsheets, which means the `openpyxl` module can work on spreadsheets from these applications as well. You can download the software from <https://www.libreoffice.org/> and <http://www.openoffice.org/>, respectively. Even if you already have Excel installed on your computer, you may find these programs easier to use. The screenshots in this chapter, however, are all from Excel 2010 on Windows 7.

## EXCEL DOCUMENTS

First, let's go over some basic definitions: An Excel spreadsheet document is called a *workbook*. A single workbook is saved in a file with the *.xlsx* extension. Each workbook can contain multiple *sheets* (also called *worksheets*). The sheet the user is currently viewing (or last viewed before closing Excel) is called the *active sheet*.

Each sheet has *columns* (addressed by letters starting at *A*) and *rows* (addressed by numbers starting at *1*). A box at a particular column and row is called a *cell*. Each cell can contain a number or text value. The grid of cells with data makes up a sheet.

## INSTALLING THE OPENPYXL MODULE

Python does not come with OpenPyXL, so you'll have to install it. Follow the instructions for installing third-party modules in Appendix A; the name of the module is `openpyxl`. To test whether it is installed correctly, enter the following into the interactive shell:

```
>>> import openpyxl
```

If the module was correctly installed, this should produce no error messages. Remember to import the `openpyxl` module before running the interactive shell examples in this chapter, or you'll get a `NameError: name 'openpyxl' is not defined` error.

This book covers version 2.3.3 of OpenPyXL, but new versions are regularly released by the OpenPyXL team. Don't worry, though: New versions should stay backward compatible with the instructions in this book for quite some time. If you

have a newer version and want to see what additional features may be available to you, you can check out the full documentation for OpenPyXL at <http://openpyxl.readthedocs.org/>.

## READING EXCEL DOCUMENTS

The examples in this chapter will use a spreadsheet named *example.xlsx* stored in the root folder. You can either create the spreadsheet yourself or download it from <http://nostarch.com/automatestuff/>. Figure 12-1 shows the tabs for the three default sheets named *Sheet1*, *Sheet2*, and *Sheet3* that Excel automatically provides for new workbooks. (The number of default sheets created may vary between operating systems and spreadsheet programs.)

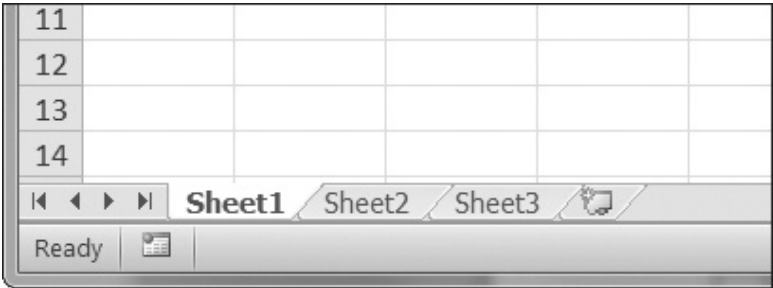


Figure 12-1. The tabs for a workbook’s sheets are in the lower-left corner of Excel.

Sheet 1 in the example file should look like Table 12-1. (If you didn’t download *example.xlsx* from the website, you should enter this data into the sheet yourself.)

Table 12-1. The *example.xlsx* Spreadsheet

	A	B	C
1	4/5/2015 1:34:02 PM	Apples	73
2	4/5/2015 3:41:23 AM	Cherries	85
3	4/6/2015 12:46:51 PM	Pears	14

	A	B	C
4	4/8/2015 8:59:43 AM	Oranges	52
5	4/10/2015 2:07:00 AM	Apples	152
6	4/10/2015 6:10:37 PM	Bananas	23
7	4/10/2015 2:40:46 AM	Strawberries	98

Now that we have our example spreadsheet, let's see how we can manipulate it with the `openpyxl` module.

## OPENING EXCEL DOCUMENTS WITH OPENPYXL

Once you've imported the `openpyxl` module, you'll be able to use the `openpyxl.load_workbook()` function. Enter the following into the interactive shell:

```
>>> import openpyxl
>>> wb = openpyxl.load_workbook('example.xlsx')
>>> type(wb)
<class 'openpyxl.workbook.workbook.Workbook'>
```

The `openpyxl.load_workbook()` function takes in the filename and returns a value of the `workbook` data type. This `Workbook` object represents the Excel file, a bit like how a `File` object represents an opened text file.

Remember that *example.xlsx* needs to be in the current working directory in order for you to work with it. You can find out what the current working directory is by importing `os` and using `os.getcwd()`, and you can change the current working directory using `os.chdir()`.

## GETTING SHEETS FROM THE WORKBOOK

You can get a list of all the sheet names in the workbook by calling the `get_sheet_names()` method. Enter the following into the interactive shell:

```
>>> import openpyxl
>>> wb = openpyxl.load_workbook('example.xlsx')
>>> wb.get_sheet_names()
['Sheet1', 'Sheet2', 'Sheet3']
>>> sheet = wb.get_sheet_by_name('Sheet3')
>>> sheet
<Worksheet "Sheet3">
>>> type(sheet) <class 'openpyxl.worksheet.worksheet.Worksheet'>
>>> sheet.title
'Sheet3'
>>> anotherSheet = wb.active
>>> anotherSheet
<Worksheet "Sheet1">
```

Each sheet is represented by a `Worksheet` object, which you can obtain by passing the sheet name string to the `get_sheet_by_name()` workbook method. Finally, you can read the `active` member variable of a `Workbook` object to get the workbook's active sheet. The active sheet is the sheet that's on top when the workbook is opened in Excel. Once you have the `Worksheet` object, you can get its name from the `title` attribute.

## GETTING CELLS FROM THE SHEETS

Once you have a `Worksheet` object, you can access a `cell` object by its name. Enter the following into the interactive shell:

```
>>> import openpyxl
>>> wb = openpyxl.load_workbook('example.xlsx')
>>> sheet = wb.get_sheet_by_name('Sheet1')
>>> sheet['A1']
<Cell Sheet1.A1>
>>> sheet['A1'].value
datetime.datetime(2015, 4, 5, 13, 34, 2)
>>> c = sheet['B1']
```

```
>>> c.value
'Apples'
>>> 'Row ' + str(c.row) + ', Column ' + c.column + ' is ' + c.value
'Row 1, Column B is Apples'
>>> 'Cell ' + c.coordinate + ' is ' + c.value
'Cell B1 is Apples'
>>> sheet['C1'].value
73
```

The `cell` object has a `value` attribute that contains, unsurprisingly, the value stored in that cell. `cell` objects also have `row`, `column`, and `coordinate` attributes that provide location information for the cell.

Here, accessing the `value` attribute of our `cell` object for cell B1 gives us the string 'Apples'. The `row` attribute gives us the integer 1, the `column` attribute gives us 'B', and the `coordinate` attribute gives us 'B1'.

OpenPyXL will automatically interpret the dates in column A and return them as `datetime` values rather than strings. The `datetime` data type is explained further in [Chapter 16](#).

Specifying a column by letter can be tricky to program, especially because after column Z, the columns start by using two letters: AA, AB, AC, and so on. As an alternative, you can also get a cell using the sheet's `cell()` method and passing integers for its `row` and `column` keyword arguments. The first row or column integer is 1, not 0. Continue the interactive shell example by entering the following:

```
>>> sheet.cell(row=1, column=2)
<Cell Sheet1.B1>
>>> sheet.cell(row=1, column=2).value
'Apples'
>>> for i in range(1, 8, 2):
    print(i, sheet.cell(row=i, column=2).value)

1 Apples
3 Pears
```

5 Apples

7 Strawberries

As you can see, using the sheet's `cell()` method and passing it `row=1` and `column=2` gets you a `cell` object for cell B1, just like specifying `sheet['B1']` did. Then, using the `cell()` method and its keyword arguments, you can write a `for` loop to print the values of a series of cells.

Say you want to go down column B and print the value in every cell with an odd row number. By passing 2 for the `range()` function's "step" parameter, you can get cells from every second row (in this case, all the odd-numbered rows). The `for` loop's `i` variable is passed for the `row` keyword argument to the `cell()` method, while 2 is always passed for the `column` keyword argument. Note that the integer 2, not the string 'B', is passed.

You can determine the size of the sheet with the `Worksheet` object's `max_row` and `max_column` member variables. Enter the following into the interactive shell:

```
>>> import openpyxl
>>> wb = openpyxl.load_workbook('example.xlsx')
>>> sheet = wb.get_sheet_by_name('Sheet1')
>>> sheet.max_row
7
>>> sheet.max_column
3
```

Note that the `max_column` method returns an integer rather than the letter that appears in Excel.

## CONVERTING BETWEEN COLUMN LETTERS AND NUMBERS

To convert from letters to numbers, call the `openpyxl.cell.column_index_from_string()` function. To convert from numbers to letters, call the `openpyxl.cell.get_column_letter()` function. Enter the following into the interactive shell:

```
>>> import openpyxl
>>> from openpyxl.cell import get_column_letter, column_index_from_string
>>> get_column_letter(1)
'A'
>>> get_column_letter(2)
'B'
>>> get_column_letter(27)
'AA'
>>> get_column_letter(900)
'AHP'
>>> wb = openpyxl.load_workbook('example.xlsx')
>>> sheet = wb.get_sheet_by_name('Sheet1')
>>> get_column_letter(sheet.max_column)
'C'
>>> column_index_from_string('A')
1
>>> column_index_from_string('AA')
27
```

After you import these two functions from the `openpyxl.cell` module, you can call `get_column_letter()` and pass it an integer like 27 to figure out what the letter name of the 27th column is. The function `column_index_string()` does the reverse: You pass it the letter name of a column, and it tells you what number that column is. You don't need to have a workbook loaded to use these functions. If you want, you can load a workbook, get a `Worksheet` object, and call a `Worksheet` object method like `max_column` to get an integer. Then, you can pass that integer to `get_column_letter()`.

## GETTING ROWS AND COLUMNS FROM THE SHEETS

You can slice `Worksheet` objects to get all the `Cell` objects in a row, column, or rectangular area of the spreadsheet. Then you can loop over all the cells in the slice. Enter the following into the interactive shell:

```
>>> import openpyxl
>>> wb = openpyxl.load_workbook('example.xlsx')
>>> sheet = wb.get_sheet_by_name('Sheet1')
>>> tuple(sheet['A1':'C3'])
```

```
((<Cell Sheet1.A1>, <Cell Sheet1.B1>, <Cell Sheet1.C1>), (<Cell Sheet1.A2>,
<Cell Sheet1.B2>, <Cell Sheet1.C2>), (<Cell Sheet1.A3>, <Cell Sheet1.B3>,
<Cell Sheet1.C3>))
```

```
❶ >>> for rowOfCellObjects in sheet['A1':'C3']:
❷     for cellObj in rowOfCellObjects:
        print(cellObj.coordinate, cellObj.value)
        print('--- END OF ROW ---')
A1 2015-04-05 13:34:02
B1 Apples
C1 73
--- END OF ROW ---
A2 2015-04-05 03:41:23
B2 Cherries
C2 85
--- END OF ROW ---
A3 2015-04-06 12:46:51
B3 Pears
C3 14
--- END OF ROW ---
```

Here, we specify that we want the `cell` objects in the rectangular area from A1 to C3, and we get a `Generator` object containing the `cell` objects in that area. To help us visualize this `Generator` object, we can use `tuple()` on it to display its `cell` objects in a tuple.

This tuple contains three tuples: one for each row, from the top of the desired area to the bottom. Each of these three inner tuples contains the `cell` objects in one row of our desired area, from the leftmost cell to the right. So overall, our slice of the sheet contains all the `cell` objects in the area from A1 to C3, starting from the top-left cell and ending with the bottom-right cell.

To print the values of each cell in the area, we use two `for` loops. The outer `for` loop goes over each row in the slice ❶. Then, for each row, the nested `for` loop goes through each cell in that row ❷.

To access the values of cells in a particular row or column, you can also use a `Worksheet` object's `rows` and `columns` attribute. Enter the following into the

interactive shell:

```
>>> import openpyxl
>>> wb = openpyxl.load_workbook('example.xlsx')
>>> sheet = wb.active
>>> sheet.columns[1]
(<Cell Sheet1.B1>, <Cell Sheet1.B2>, <Cell Sheet1.B3>, <Cell Sheet1.B4>,
<Cell Sheet1.B5>, <Cell Sheet1.B6>, <Cell Sheet1.B7>)
>>> for cellObj in sheet.columns[1]:
    print(cellObj.value)
```

```
Apples
Cherries
Pears
Oranges
Apples
Bananas
Strawberries
```

Using the `rows` attribute on a `Worksheet` object will give you a tuple of tuples. Each of these inner tuples represents a row, and contains the `cell` objects in that row. The `columns` attribute also gives you a tuple of tuples, with each of the inner tuples containing the `cell` objects in a particular column. For *example.xlsx*, since there are 7 rows and 3 columns, `rows` gives us a tuple of 7 tuples (each containing 3 `cell` objects), and `columns` gives us a tuple of 3 tuples (each containing 7 `cell` objects).

To access one particular tuple, you can refer to it by its index in the larger tuple. For example, to get the tuple that represents column B, you use `sheet.columns[1]`. To get the tuple containing the `cell` objects in column A, you'd use `sheet.columns[0]`. Once you have a tuple representing one row or column, you can loop through its `cell` objects and print their values.

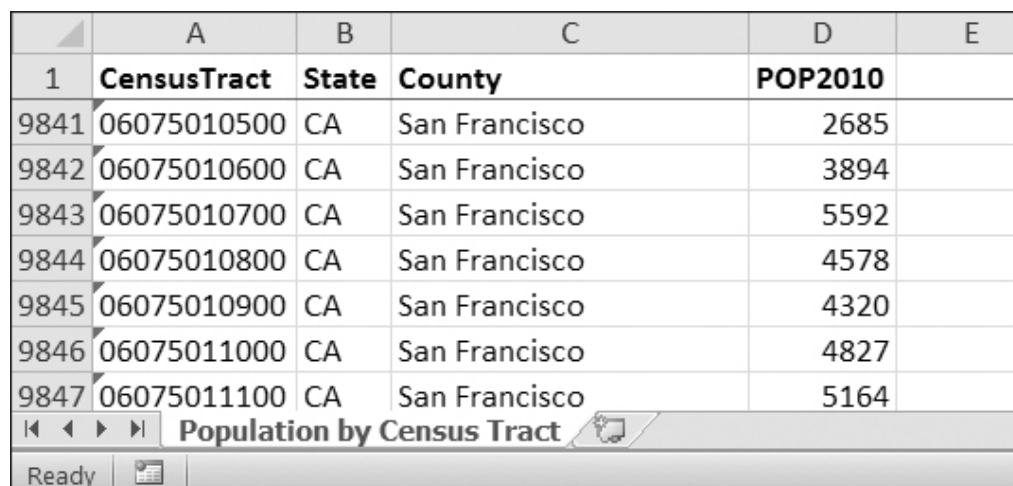
## WORKBOOKS, SHEETS, CELLS

As a quick review, here's a rundown of all the functions, methods, and data types involved in reading a cell out of a spreadsheet file:

1. Import the `openpyxl` module.
2. Call the `openpyxl.load_workbook()` function.
3. Get a `Workbook` object.
4. Read the active member variable or call the `get_sheet_by_name()` workbook method.
5. Get a `Worksheet` object.
6. Use indexing or the `cell()` sheet method with `row` and `column` keyword arguments.
7. Get a `Cell` object.
8. Read the `Cell` object's `value` attribute.

## PROJECT: READING DATA FROM A SPREADSHEET

Say you have a spreadsheet of data from the 2010 US Census and you have the boring task of going through its thousands of rows to count both the total population and the number of census tracts for each county. (A census tract is simply a geographic area defined for the purposes of the census.) Each row represents a single census tract. We'll name the spreadsheet file *censuspopdata.xlsx*, and you can download it from <http://nostarch.com/automatestuff/>. Its contents look like Figure 12-2.



	A	B	C	D	E
1	CensusTract	State	County	POP2010	
9841	06075010500	CA	San Francisco	2685	
9842	06075010600	CA	San Francisco	3894	
9843	06075010700	CA	San Francisco	5592	
9844	06075010800	CA	San Francisco	4578	
9845	06075010900	CA	San Francisco	4320	
9846	06075011000	CA	San Francisco	4827	
9847	06075011100	CA	San Francisco	5164	

Population by Census Tract

Ready

Figure 12-2. The *censuspopdata.xlsx* spreadsheet

Even though Excel can calculate the sum of multiple selected cells, you'd still have to select the cells for each of the 3,000-plus counties. Even if it takes just a few seconds to calculate a county's population by hand, this would take hours to do for the whole spreadsheet.

In this project, you'll write a script that can read from the census spreadsheet file and calculate statistics for each county in a matter of seconds.

This is what your program does:

- Reads the data from the Excel spreadsheet.
- Counts the number of census tracts in each county.
- Counts the total population of each county.
- Prints the results.

This means your code will need to do the following:

- Open and read the cells of an Excel document with the `openpyxl` module.
- Calculate all the tract and population data and store it in a data structure.
- Write the data structure to a text file with the `.py` extension using the `pprint` module.

## STEP 1: READ THE SPREADSHEET DATA

There is just one sheet in the *censuspopdata.xlsx* spreadsheet, named 'Population by Census Tract', and each row holds the data for a single census tract. The columns are the tract number (A), the state abbreviation (B), the county name (C), and the population of the tract (D).

Open a new file editor window and enter the following code. Save the file as *readCensusExcel.py*.

```
#!/ python3
# readCensusExcel.py - Tabulates population and number of census tracts for
# each county.
```

```

❶ import openpyxl, pprint
    print('Opening workbook...')

❷ wb = openpyxl.load_workbook('censuspopdata.xlsx')
❸ sheet = wb.get_sheet_by_name('Population by Census Tract')
    countyData = {}

    # TODO: Fill in countyData with each county's population and tracts.
    print('Reading rows...')

❹ for row in range(2, sheet.max_row + 1):
    # Each row in the spreadsheet has data for one census tract.
    state = sheet['B' + str(row)].value
    county = sheet['C' + str(row)].value
    pop = sheet['D' + str(row)].value

    # TODO: Open a new text file and write the contents of countyData to it.

```

This code imports the `openpyxl` module, as well as the `pprint` module that you'll use to print the final county data ❶. Then it opens the *censuspopdata.xlsx* file ❷, gets the sheet with the census data ❸, and begins iterating over its rows ❹.

Note that you've also created a variable named `countyData`, which will contain the populations and number of tracts you calculate for each county. Before you can store anything in it, though, you should determine exactly how you'll structure the data inside it.

## STEP 2: POPULATE THE DATA STRUCTURE

The data structure stored in `countyData` will be a dictionary with state abbreviations as its keys. Each state abbreviation will map to another dictionary, whose keys are strings of the county names in that state. Each county name will in turn map to a dictionary with just two keys, `'tracts'` and `'pop'`. These keys map to the number of census tracts and population for the county. For example, the dictionary will look similar to this:

```

{'AK': {'Aleutians East': {'pop': 3141, 'tracts': 1},
        'Aleutians West': {'pop': 5561, 'tracts': 2},

```

```
'Anchorage': {'pop': 291826, 'tracts': 55},
'Bethel': {'pop': 17013, 'tracts': 3},
'Bristol Bay': {'pop': 997, 'tracts': 1},
--snip--
```

If the previous dictionary were stored in `countyData`, the following expressions would evaluate like this:

```
>>> countyData['AK']['Anchorage']['pop']
291826
>>> countyData['AK']['Anchorage']['tracts']
55
```

More generally, the `countyData` dictionary's keys will look like this:

```
countyData[state abbrev][county]['tracts']
countyData[state abbrev][county]['pop']
```

Now that you know how `countyData` will be structured, you can write the code that will fill it with the county data. Add the following code to the bottom of your program:

```
#!/ python 3
# readCensusExcel.py - Tabulates population and number of census tracts for
# each county.

--snip--
for row in range(2, sheet.max_row + 1):
    # Each row in the spreadsheet has data for one census tract.
    state = sheet['B' + str(row)].value
    county = sheet['C' + str(row)].value
    pop = sheet['D' + str(row)].value

    # Make sure the key for this state exists.
    ❶ countyData.setdefault(state, {})
    # Make sure the key for this county in this state exists.
    ❷ countyData[state].setdefault(county, {'tracts': 0, 'pop': 0})
```

```
# Each row represents one census tract, so increment by one.
❸ countyData[state][county]['tracts'] += 1
    # Increase the county pop by the pop in this census tract.
❹ countyData[state][county]['pop'] += int(pop)

# TODO: Open a new text file and write the contents of countyData to it.
```

The last two lines of code perform the actual calculation work, incrementing the value for `tracts` ❸ and increasing the value for `pop` ❹ for the current county on each iteration of the `for` loop.

The other code is there because you cannot add a county dictionary as the value for a state abbreviation key until the key itself exists in `countyData`. (That is, `countyData['AK']['Anchorage']['tracts'] += 1` will cause an error if the `'AK'` key doesn't exist yet.) To make sure the state abbreviation key exists in your data structure, you need to call the `setdefault()` method to set a value if one does not already exist for `state` ❶.

Just as the `countyData` dictionary needs a dictionary as the value for each state abbreviation key, each of *those* dictionaries will need its own dictionary as the value for each county key ❷. And each of *those* dictionaries in turn will need keys `'tracts'` and `'pop'` that start with the integer value `0`. (If you ever lose track of the dictionary structure, look back at the example dictionary at the start of this section.)

Since `setdefault()` will do nothing if the key already exists, you can call it on every iteration of the `for` loop without a problem.

## STEP 3: WRITE THE RESULTS TO A FILE

After the `for` loop has finished, the `countyData` dictionary will contain all of the population and tract information keyed by county and state. At this point, you could program more code to write this to a text file or another Excel spreadsheet. For now, let's just use the `pprint.pformat()` function to write the `countyData` dictionary value as a massive string to a file named *census2010.py*. Add the following code to the bottom of your program (making sure to keep it unindented so that it stays outside the `for` loop):

```

#! python 3
# readCensusExcel.py - Tabulates population and number of census tracts for
# each county.get_active_sheet
--snip--

for row in range(2, sheet.max_row + 1):
--snip--

# Open a new text file and write the contents of countyData to it.
print('Writing results...')
resultFile = open('census2010.py', 'w')
resultFile.write('allData = ' + pprint.pformat(countyData))
resultFile.close()
print('Done.')

```

The `pprint.pformat()` function produces a string that itself is formatted as valid Python code. By outputting it to a text file named *census2010.py*, you've generated a Python program from your Python program! This may seem complicated, but the advantage is that you can now import *census2010.py* just like any other Python module. In the interactive shell, change the current working directory to the folder with your newly created *census2010.py* file (on my laptop, this is *C:\Python34*), and then import it:

```

>>> import os
>>> os.chdir('C:\\Python34')
>>> import census2010
>>> census2010.allData['AK']['Anchorage']
{'pop': 291826, 'tracts': 55}
>>> anchoragePop = census2010.allData['AK']['Anchorage']['pop']
>>> print('The 2010 population of Anchorage was ' + str(anchoragePop))
The 2010 population of Anchorage was 291826

```

The *readCensusExcel.py* program was throwaway code: Once you have its results saved to *census2010.py*, you won't need to run the program again. Whenever you need the county data, you can just run `import census2010`.

Calculating this data by hand would have taken hours; this program did it in a few seconds. Using OpenPyXL, you will have no trouble extracting information that is

saved to an Excel spreadsheet and performing calculations on it. You can download the complete program from <http://nostarch.com/automatestuff/>.

## IDEAS FOR SIMILAR PROGRAMS

Many businesses and offices use Excel to store various types of data, and it's not uncommon for spreadsheets to become large and unwieldy. Any program that parses an Excel spreadsheet has a similar structure: It loads the spreadsheet file, preps some variables or data structures, and then loops through each of the rows in the spreadsheet. Such a program could do the following:

- Compare data across multiple rows in a spreadsheet.
- Open multiple Excel files and compare data between spreadsheets.
- Check whether a spreadsheet has blank rows or invalid data in any cells and alert the user if it does.
- Read data from a spreadsheet and use it as the input for your Python programs.

## WRITING EXCEL DOCUMENTS

OpenPyXL also provides ways of writing data, meaning that your programs can create and edit spreadsheet files. With Python, it's simple to create spreadsheets with thousands of rows of data.

## CREATING AND SAVING EXCEL DOCUMENTS

Call the `openpyxl.Workbook()` function to create a new, blank workbook object. Enter the following into the interactive shell:

```
>>> import openpyxl
>>> wb = openpyxl.Workbook()
>>> wb.get_sheet_names()
['Sheet']
>>> sheet = wb.active
>>> sheet.title
'Sheet'
```

```
>>> sheet.title = 'Spam Bacon Eggs Sheet'
>>> wb.get_sheet_names()
['Spam Bacon Eggs Sheet']
```

The workbook will start off with a single sheet named *Sheet*. You can change the name of the sheet by storing a new string in its `title` attribute.

Any time you modify the `Workbook` object or its sheets and cells, the spreadsheet file will not be saved until you call the `save()` workbook method. Enter the following into the interactive shell (with *example.xlsx* in the current working directory):

```
>>> import openpyxl
>>> wb = openpyxl.load_workbook('example.xlsx')
>>> sheet = wb.active
>>> sheet.title = 'Spam Spam Spam'
>>> wb.save('example_copy.xlsx')
```

Here, we change the name of our sheet. To save our changes, we pass a filename as a string to the `save()` method. Passing a different filename than the original, such as `'example_copy.xlsx'`, saves the changes to a copy of the spreadsheet.

Whenever you edit a spreadsheet you've loaded from a file, you should always save the new, edited spreadsheet to a different filename than the original. That way, you'll still have the original spreadsheet file to work with in case a bug in your code caused the new, saved file to have incorrect or corrupt data.

## CREATING AND REMOVING SHEETS

Sheets can be added to and removed from a workbook with the `create_sheet()` and `remove_sheet()` methods. Enter the following into the interactive shell:

```
>>> import openpyxl
>>> wb = openpyxl.Workbook()
>>> wb.get_sheet_names()
['Sheet']
>>> wb.create_sheet()
<Worksheet "Sheet1">
>>> wb.get_sheet_names()
```

```
['Sheet', 'Sheet1']
>>> wb.create_sheet(index=0, title='First Sheet')
<Worksheet "First Sheet">
>>> wb.get_sheet_names()
['First Sheet', 'Sheet', 'Sheet1']
>>> wb.create_sheet(index=2, title='Middle Sheet')
<Worksheet "Middle Sheet">
>>> wb.get_sheet_names()
['First Sheet', 'Sheet', 'Middle Sheet', 'Sheet1']
```

The `create_sheet()` method returns a new `Worksheet` object named `sheetx`, which by default is set to be the last sheet in the workbook. Optionally, the index and name of the new sheet can be specified with the `index` and `title` keyword arguments.

Continue the previous example by entering the following:

```
>>> wb.get_sheet_names()
['First Sheet', 'Sheet', 'Middle Sheet', 'Sheet1']
>>> wb.remove_sheet(wb.get_sheet_by_name('Middle Sheet'))
>>> wb.remove_sheet(wb.get_sheet_by_name('Sheet1'))
>>> wb.get_sheet_names()
['First Sheet', 'Sheet']
```

The `remove_sheet()` method takes a `Worksheet` object, not a string of the sheet name, as its argument. If you know only the name of a sheet you want to remove, call `get_sheet_by_name()` and pass its return value into `remove_sheet()`.

Remember to call the `save()` method to save the changes after adding sheets to or removing sheets from the workbook.

## WRITING VALUES TO CELLS

Writing values to cells is much like writing values to keys in a dictionary. Enter this into the interactive shell:

```
>>> import openpyxl
>>> wb = openpyxl.Workbook()
>>> sheet = wb.get_sheet_by_name('Sheet')
```

```
>>> sheet['A1'] = 'Hello world!'
>>> sheet['A1'].value
'Hello world!'
```

If you have the cell's coordinate as a string, you can use it just like a dictionary key on the `Worksheet` object to specify which cell to write to.

## PROJECT: UPDATING A SPREADSHEET

In this project, you'll write a program to update cells in a spreadsheet of produce sales. Your program will look through the spreadsheet, find specific kinds of produce, and update their prices. Download this spreadsheet from <http://nostarch.com/automatestuff/>. Figure 12-3 shows what the spreadsheet looks like.



	A	B	C	D	E
1	PRODUCE	COST PER POUND	POUNDS SOLD	TOTAL	
2	Potatoes	0.86	21.6	18.58	
3	Okra	2.26	38.6	87.24	
4	Fava beans	2.69	32.8	88.23	
5	Watermelon	0.66	27.3	18.02	
6	Garlic	1.19	4.9	5.83	
7	Parsnips	2.27	1.1	2.5	
8	Asparagus	2.49	37.9	94.37	
9	Avocados	3.23	9.2	29.72	
10	Celery	3.07	28.9	88.72	
11	Okra	2.26	40	90.4	

Figure 12-3. A spreadsheet of produce sales

Each row represents an individual sale. The columns are the type of produce sold (A), the cost per pound of that produce (B), the number of pounds sold (C), and the total revenue from the sale (D). The TOTAL column is set to the Excel formula `=ROUND(B3*C3, 2)`, which multiplies the cost per pound by the number of pounds sold and rounds the result to the nearest cent. With this formula, the cells in the TOTAL column will automatically update themselves if there is a change in column B or C.

Now imagine that the prices of garlic, celery, and lemons were entered incorrectly, leaving you with the boring task of going through thousands of rows in this spreadsheet to update the cost per pound for any garlic, celery, and lemon rows. You can't do a simple find-and-replace for the price because there might be other items with the same price that you don't want to mistakenly "correct." For thousands of rows, this would take hours to do by hand. But you can write a program that can accomplish this in seconds.

Your program does the following:

- Loops over all the rows.
- If the row is for garlic, celery, or lemons, changes the price.

This means your code will need to do the following:

- Open the spreadsheet file.
- For each row, check whether the value in column A is Celery, Garlic, OR Lemon.
- If it is, update the price in column B.
- Save the spreadsheet to a new file (so that you don't lose the old spreadsheet, just in case).

## STEP 1: SET UP A DATA STRUCTURE WITH THE UPDATE INFORMATION

The prices that you need to update are as follows:

Celery 1.19

Garlic 3.07

Lemon 1.27

You could write code like this:

```
if produceName == 'Celery':  
    cellObj = 1.19  
if produceName == 'Garlic':  
    cellObj = 3.07  
if produceName == 'Lemon':  
    cellObj = 1.27
```

Having the produce and updated price data hardcoded like this is a bit inelegant. If you needed to update the spreadsheet again with different prices or different produce, you would have to change a lot of the code. Every time you change code, you risk introducing bugs.

A more flexible solution is to store the corrected price information in a dictionary and write your code to use this data structure. In a new file editor window, enter the following code:

```
#!/ python3  
# updateProduce.py - Corrects costs in produce sales spreadsheet.  
  
import openpyxl  
  
wb = openpyxl.load_workbook('produceSales.xlsx')  
sheet = wb.get_sheet_by_name('Sheet')  
  
# The produce types and their updated prices  
PRICE_UPDATES = {'Garlic': 3.07,  
                  'Celery': 1.19,  
                  'Lemon': 1.27}  
  
# TODO: Loop through the rows and update the prices.
```

Save this as *updateProduce.py*. If you need to update the spreadsheet again, you'll need to update only the PRICE\_UPDATES dictionary, not any other code.

## STEP 2: CHECK ALL ROWS AND UPDATE INCORRECT PRICES

The next part of the program will loop through all the rows in the spreadsheet. Add the following code to the bottom of *updateProduce.py*:

```
#!/ python3
# updateProduce.py - Corrects costs in produce sales spreadsheet.

--snip--

# Loop through the rows and update the prices.
❶ for rowNum in range(2, sheet.max_row): # skip the first row
❷     produceName = sheet.cell(row=rowNum, column=1).value
❸     if produceName in PRICE_UPDATES:
        sheet.cell(row=rowNum, column=2).value = PRICE_UPDATES[produceName]

❹ wb.save('updatedProduceSales.xlsx')
```

We loop through the rows starting at row 2, since row 1 is just the header ❶. The cell in column 1 (that is, column A) will be stored in the variable *produceName* ❷. If *produceName* exists as a key in the *PRICE\_UPDATES* dictionary ❸, then you know this is a row that must have its price corrected. The correct price will be in *PRICE\_UPDATES[produceName]*.

Notice how clean using *PRICE\_UPDATES* makes the code. Only one *if* statement, rather than code like *if produceName == 'Garlic':*, is necessary for every type of produce to update. And since the code uses the *PRICE\_UPDATES* dictionary instead of hardcoding the produce names and updated costs into the *for* loop, you modify only the *PRICE\_UPDATES* dictionary and not the code if the produce sales spreadsheet needs additional changes.

After going through the entire spreadsheet and making changes, the code saves the *Workbook* object to *updatedProduceSales.xlsx* ❹. It doesn't overwrite the old spreadsheet just in case there's a bug in your program and the updated spreadsheet is wrong. After checking that the updated spreadsheet looks right, you can delete the old spreadsheet.

You can download the complete source code for this program from <http://nostarch.com/automatestuff/>.

## IDEAS FOR SIMILAR PROGRAMS

Since many office workers use Excel spreadsheets all the time, a program that can automatically edit and write Excel files could be really useful. Such a program could do the following:

- Read data from one spreadsheet and write it to parts of other spreadsheets.
- Read data from websites, text files, or the clipboard and write it to a spreadsheet.
- Automatically “clean up” data in spreadsheets. For example, it could use regular expressions to read multiple formats of phone numbers and edit them to a single, standard format.

## SETTING THE FONT STYLE OF CELLS

Styling certain cells, rows, or columns can help you emphasize important areas in your spreadsheet. In the produce spreadsheet, for example, your program could apply bold text to the potato, garlic, and parsnip rows. Or perhaps you want to italicize every row with a cost per pound greater than \$5. Styling parts of a large spreadsheet by hand would be tedious, but your programs can do it instantly.

To customize font styles in cells, important, import the `Font()` function from the `openpyxl.styles` module.

```
from openpyxl.styles import Font
```

This allows you to type `Font()` instead of `openpyxl.styles.Font()`. (See [Importing Modules](#) to review this style of import statement.)

Here’s an example that creates a new workbook and sets cell A1 to have a 24-point, italicized font. Enter the following into the interactive shell:

```
>>> import openpyxl
>>> from openpyxl.styles import Font
>>> wb = openpyxl.Workbook()
>>> sheet = wb.get_sheet_by_name('Sheet')
❶ >>> italic24Font = Font(size=24, italic=True)
```

```
❷ >>> sheet['A1'].font = italic24Font
>>> sheet['A1'] = 'Hello World!'
>>> wb.save('styled.xlsx')
```

Keyword argument	Data type	Description
------------------	-----------	-------------

A cell’s style can be set by assigning the `Font` object to the `style` attribute.

In this example, `Font(size=24, italic=True)` returns a `Font` object, which is stored in `italic24Font` ❶. The keyword arguments to `Font()`, `size` and `italic`, configure the `Font` object. And when `fontObj` is assigned to the cell’s `font` attribute ❷, all that font styling information gets applied to cell A1.

## FONT OBJECTS

To set font style attributes, you pass keyword arguments to `Font()`. [Table 12-2](#) shows the possible keyword arguments for the `Font()` function.

Table 12-2. Keyword Arguments for Font style Attributes

Keyword argument	Data type	Description
name	String	The font name, such as 'Calibri' or 'Times New Roman'
size	Integer	The point size
bold	Boolean	True, for bold font
italic	Boolean	True, for italic font

You can call `Font()` to create a `Font` object and store that `Font` object in a variable. You then pass that to `style()`, store the resulting `style` object in a variable, and assign that variable to a `Cell` object’s `style` attribute. For example, this code creates various font styles:

```

>>> import openpyxl
>>> from openpyxl.styles import Font
>>> wb = openpyxl.Workbook()
>>> sheet = wb.get_sheet_by_name('Sheet')

>>> fontObj1 = Font(name='Times New Roman', bold=True)
>>> sheet['A1'].font = fontObj1
>>> sheet['A1'] = 'Bold Times New Roman'

>>> fontObj2 = Font(size=24, italic=True)
>>> sheet['B3'].font = fontObj2
>>> sheet['B3'] = '24 pt Italic'

>>> wb.save('styles.xlsx')

```

Here, we store a `Font` object in `fontObj1` and then set the A1 cell object's `font` attribute to `fontObj1`. We repeat the process with another `Font` object to set the style of a second cell. After you run this code, the styles of the A1 and B3 cells in the spreadsheet will be set to custom font styles, as shown in [Figure 12-4](#).

	A	B	C	D
1	<b>Bold Times New Roman</b>			
2				
3		<i>24 pt Italic</i>		
4				
5				

Figure 12-4. A spreadsheet with custom font styles

For cell A1, we set the font name to 'Times New Roman' and set `bold` to `true`, so our text appears in bold Times New Roman. We didn't specify a size, so the `openpyxl` default, 11, is used. In cell B3, our text is italic, with a size of 24; we didn't specify a font name, so the `openpyxl` default, Calibri, is used.

## FORMULAS

Formulas, which begin with an equal sign, can configure cells to contain values calculated from other cells. In this section, you'll use the `openpyxl` module to

programmatically add formulas to cells, just like any normal value. For example:

```
>>> sheet['B9'] = '=SUM(B1:B8)'
```

This will store `=SUM(B1:B8)` as the value in cell B9. This sets the B9 cell to a formula that calculates the sum of values in cells B1 to B8. You can see this in action in [Figure 12-5](#).

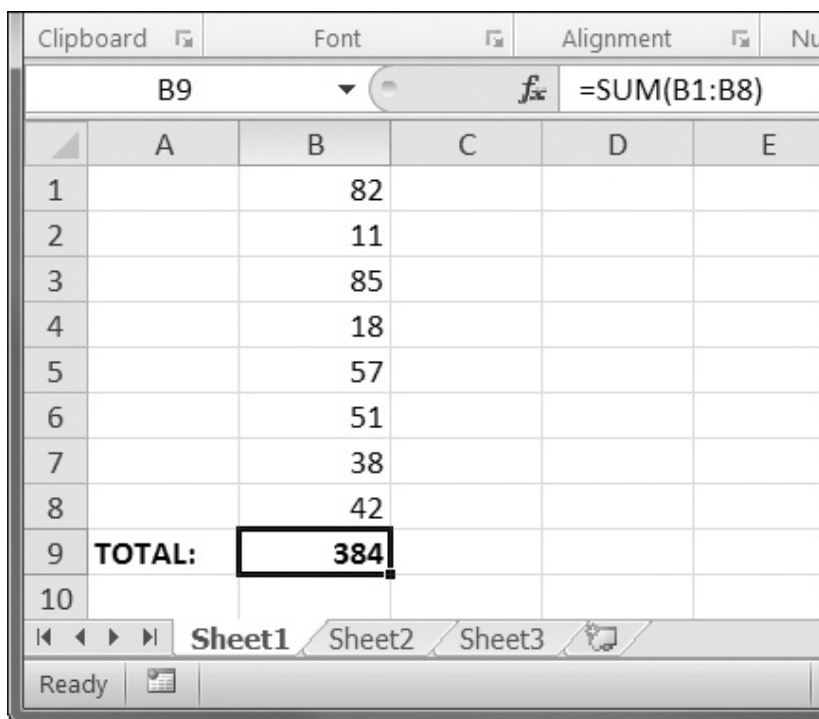


Figure 12-5. Cell B9 contains the formula `=SUM(B1:B8)`, which adds the cells B1 to B8.

A formula is set just like any other text value in a cell. Enter the following into the interactive shell:

```
>>> import openpyxl
>>> wb = openpyxl.Workbook()
>>> sheet = wb.active
>>> sheet['A1'] = 200
>>> sheet['A2'] = 300
>>> sheet['A3'] = '=SUM(A1:A2)'
>>> wb.save('writeFormula.xlsx')
```

The cells in A1 and A2 are set to 200 and 300, respectively. The value in cell A3 is set to a formula that sums the values in A1 and A2. When the spreadsheet is

opened in Excel, A3 will display its value as 500.

Excel formulas offer a level of programmability for spreadsheets but can quickly become unmanageable for complicated tasks. For example, even if you're deeply familiar with Excel formulas, it's a headache to try to decipher what

`=IFERROR(TRIM(IF(LEN(VLOOKUP(F7, Sheet2!$A$1:$B$10000, 2, FALSE))>0, SUBSTITUTE(VLOOKUP(F7, Sheet2!$A$1:$B$10000, 2, FALSE), " ", "")), ""))`, "")) actually does. Python code is much more readable.

## ADJUSTING ROWS AND COLUMNS

In Excel, adjusting the sizes of rows and columns is as easy as clicking and dragging the edges of a row or column header. But if you need to set a row or column's size based on its cells' contents or if you want to set sizes in a large number of spreadsheet files, it will be much quicker to write a Python program to do it.

Rows and columns can also be hidden entirely from view. Or they can be “frozen” in place so that they are always visible on the screen and appear on every page when the spreadsheet is printed (which is handy for headers).

## SETTING ROW HEIGHT AND COLUMN WIDTH

Worksheet objects have `row_dimensions` and `column_dimensions` attributes that control row heights and column widths. Enter this into the interactive shell:

```
>>> import openpyxl
>>> wb = openpyxl.Workbook()
>>> sheet = wb.active
>>> sheet['A1'] = 'Tall row'
>>> sheet['B2'] = 'Wide column'
>>> sheet.row_dimensions[1].height = 70
>>> sheet.column_dimensions['B'].width = 20
>>> wb.save('dimensions.xlsx')
```

A sheet's `row_dimensions` and `column_dimensions` are dictionary-like values; `row_dimensions` contains `RowDimension` objects and `column_dimensions` contains `ColumnDimension` objects. In `row_dimensions`, you can access one of the objects using

the number of the row (in this case, 1 or 2). In `column_dimensions`, you can access one of the objects using the letter of the column (in this case, A or B).

The *dimensions.xlsx* spreadsheet looks like [Figure 12-6](#).

	A	B	
1	Tall row		
2		Wide column	
3			

Figure 12-6. Row 1 and column B set to larger heights and widths

Once you have the `RowDimension` object, you can set its height. Once you have the `ColumnDimension` object, you can set its width. The row height can be set to an integer or float value between 0 and 409. This value represents the height measured in *points*, where one point equals 1/72 of an inch. The default row height is 12.75. The column width can be set to an integer or float value between 0 and 255. This value represents the number of characters at the default font size (11 point) that can be displayed in the cell. The default column width is 8.43 characters. Columns with widths of 0 or rows with heights of 0 are hidden from the user.

## MERGING AND UNMERGING CELLS

A rectangular area of cells can be merged into a single cell with the `merge_cells()` sheet method. Enter the following into the interactive shell:

```
>>> import openpyxl
>>> wb = openpyxl.Workbook()
>>> sheet = wb.active
>>> sheet.merge_cells('A1:D3')
>>> sheet['A1'] = 'Twelve cells merged together.'
>>> sheet.merge_cells('C5:D5')
>>> sheet['C5'] = 'Two merged cells.'
>>> wb.save('merged.xlsx')
```

The argument to `merge_cells()` is a single string of the top-left and bottom-right cells of the rectangular area to be merged: `'A1:D3'` merges 12 cells into a single cell. To set the value of these merged cells, simply set the value of the top-left cell of the merged group.

When you run this code, *merged.xlsx* will look like [Figure 12-7](#).

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Twelve cells merged together.				
2					
3					
4					
5			Two merged cells.		
6					
7					

Figure 12-7. Merged cells in a spreadsheet

To unmerge cells, call the `unmerge_cells()` sheet method. Enter this into the interactive shell.

```
>>> import openpyxl
>>> wb = openpyxl.load_workbook('merged.xlsx')
>>> sheet = wb.active
>>> sheet.unmerge_cells('A1:D3')
>>> sheet.unmerge_cells('C5:D5')
>>> wb.save('merged.xlsx')
```

If you save your changes and then take a look at the spreadsheet, you'll see that the merged cells have gone back to being individual cells.

## FREEZE PANES

For spreadsheets too large to be displayed all at once, it's helpful to “freeze” a few of the top rows or leftmost columns onscreen. Frozen column or row headers, for example, are always visible to the user even as they scroll through the spreadsheet. These are known as *freeze panes*. In OpenPyXL, each `Worksheet` object has a `freeze_panes` attribute that can be set to a `cell` object or a string of a cell's coordinates. Note that all rows above and all columns to the left of this cell will be frozen, but the row and column of the cell itself will not be frozen.

To unfreeze all panes, set `freeze_panes` to `None` or `'A1'`. **Table 12-3** shows which rows and columns will be frozen for some example settings of `freeze_panes`.

Table 12-3. Frozen Pane Examples

<b>freeze_panes setting</b>	<b>Rows and columns frozen</b>
<code>sheet.freeze_panes = 'A2'</code>	Row 1
<code>sheet.freeze_panes = 'B1'</code>	Column A
<code>sheet.freeze_panes = 'C1'</code>	Columns A and B
<code>sheet.freeze_panes = 'C2'</code>	Row 1 and columns A and B
<code>sheet.freeze_panes = 'A1'</code> OR <code>sheet.freeze_panes = None</code>	No frozen panes

Make sure you have the produce sales spreadsheet from <http://nostarch.com/automatestuff/>. Then enter the following into the interactive shell:

```
>>> import openpyxl
>>> wb = openpyxl.load_workbook('produceSales.xlsx')
>>> sheet = wb.active
>>> sheet.freeze_panes = 'A2'
>>> wb.save('freezeExample.xlsx')
```

If you set the `freeze_panes` attribute to `'A2'`, row 1 will always be viewable, no matter where the user scrolls in the spreadsheet. You can see this in **Figure 12-8**.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	FRUIT	COST PER POUND	POUNDS SOLD	TOTAL		
1591	Fava beans	2.69	0.7	1.88		
1592	Grapefruit	0.76	28.5	21.66		
1593	Green peppers	1.89	37	69.93		
1594	Watermelon	0.66	30.4	20.06		
1595	Celery	3.07	36.6	112.36		
1596	Strawberries	4.4	5.5	24.2		
1597	Green beans	2.52	40	100.8		

Figure 12-8. With `freeze_panes` set to 'A2', row 1 is always visible even as the user scrolls down.

## CHARTS

OpenPyXL supports creating bar, line, scatter, and pie charts using the data in a sheet's cells. To make a chart, you need to do the following:

1. Create a `Reference` object from a rectangular selection of cells.
2. Create a `Series` object by passing in the `Reference` object.
3. Create a `Chart` object.
4. Append the `Series` object to the `Chart` object.
5. Add the `Chart` object to the `Worksheet` object, optionally specifying which cell the top left corner of the chart should be positioned..

The `Reference` object requires some explaining. `Reference` objects are created by calling the `openpyxl.chart.Reference()` function and passing three arguments:

1. The `Worksheet` object containing your chart data.
2. A tuple of two integers, representing the top-left cell of the rectangular selection of cells containing your chart data: The first integer in the tuple is the row, and the second is the column. Note that 1 is the first row, not 0.
3. A tuple of two integers, representing the bottom-right cell of the rectangular selection of cells containing your chart data: The first integer in the tuple is

the row, and the second is the column.

Figure 12-9 shows some sample coordinate arguments.

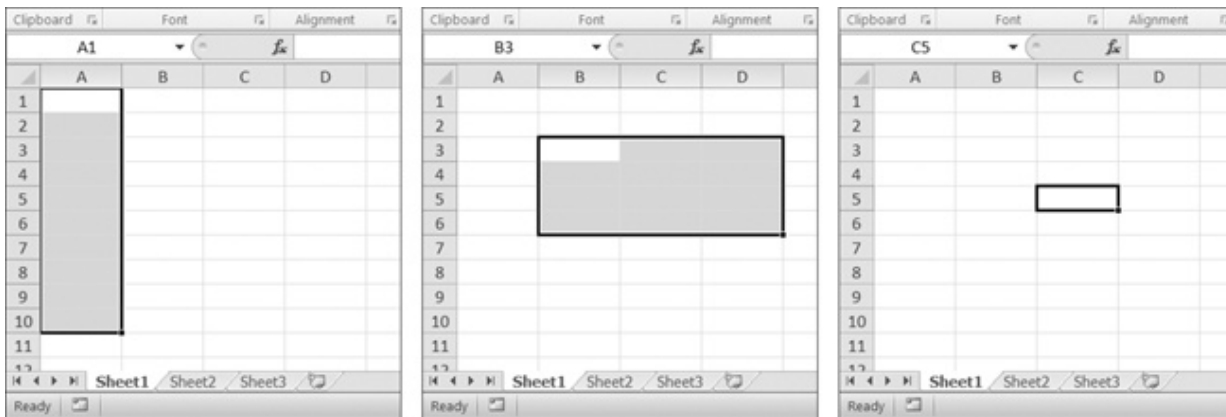


Figure 12-9. From left to right: (1, 1), (10, 1); (3, 2), (6, 4); (5, 3), (5, 3)

Enter this interactive shell example to create a bar chart and add it to the spreadsheet:

```
>>> import openpyxl
>>> wb = openpyxl.Workbook()
>>> sheet = wb.active
>>> for i in range(1, 11):          # create some data in column A
    sheet['A' + str(i)] = i

>>> refObj = openpyxl.chart.Reference(sheet, min_col=1, min_row=1, max_col=1, max_row=1)

>>> seriesObj = openpyxl.chart.Series(refObj, title='First series')

>>> chartObj = openpyxl.chart.BarChart()
>>> chartObj.title = 'My Chart'
>>> chartObj.append(seriesObj)
>>> sheet.add_chart(chartObj, 'C5')
>>> wb.save('sampleChart.xlsx')
```

This produces a spreadsheet that looks like Figure 12-10.

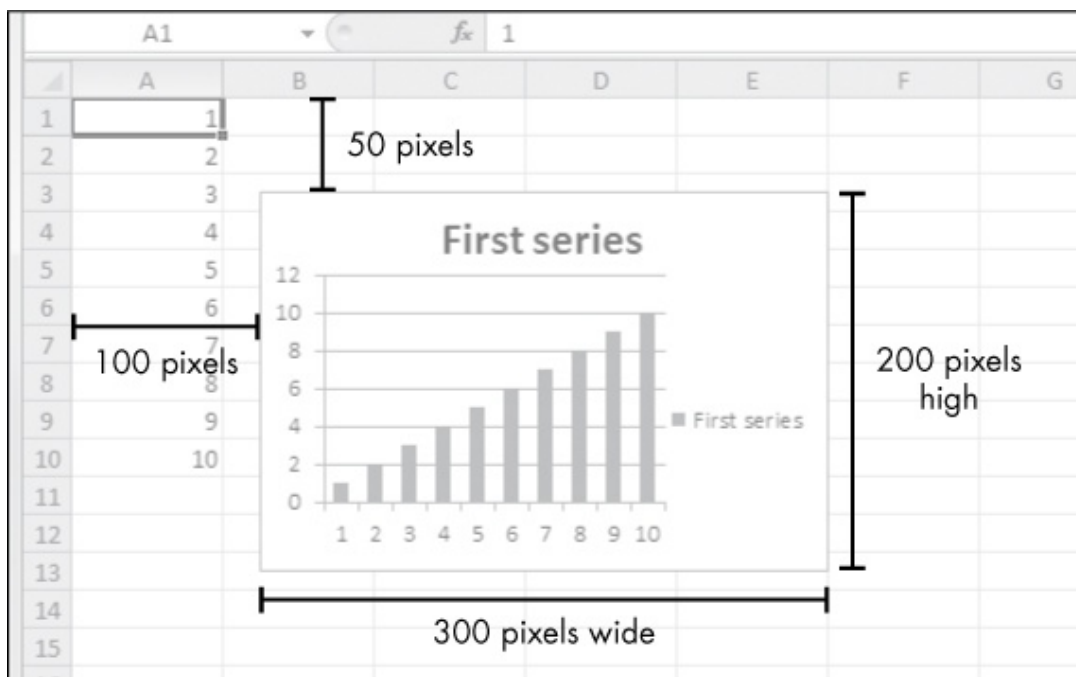


Figure 12-10. A spreadsheet with a chart added

We've created a bar chart by calling `openpyxl.chart.BarChart()`. You can also create line charts, scatter charts, and pie charts by calling `openpyxl.chart.LineChart()`, `openpyxl.chart.ScatterChart()`, and `openpyxl.chart.PieChart()`.

Unfortunately, in the current version of OpenPyXL (2.3.3), the `load_workbook()` function does not load charts in Excel files. Even if the Excel file has charts, the loaded `Workbook` object will not include them. If you load a `Workbook` object and immediately save it to the same `.xlsx` filename, you will effectively remove the charts from it.

## SUMMARY

Often the hard part of processing information isn't the processing itself but simply getting the data in the right format for your program. But once you have your spreadsheet loaded into Python, you can extract and manipulate its data much faster than you could by hand.

You can also generate spreadsheets as output from your programs. So if colleagues need your text file or PDF of thousands of sales contacts transferred to a spreadsheet file, you won't have to tediously copy and paste it all into Excel.

Equipped with the `openpyxl` module and some programming knowledge, you'll find processing even the biggest spreadsheets a piece of cake.

## PRACTICE QUESTIONS

For the following questions, imagine you have a `Workbook` object in the variable `wb`, a `Worksheet` object in `sheet`, a `Cell` object in `cell`, a `Comment` object in `comm`, and an `Image` object in `img`.

Q: 1. What does the `openpyxl.load_workbook()` function return?

Q: 2. What does the `get_sheet_names()` workbook method return?

Q: 3. How would you retrieve the `Worksheet` object for a sheet named 'Sheet1'?

Q: 4. How would you retrieve the `Worksheet` object for the workbook's active sheet?

Q: 5. How would you retrieve the value in the cell C5?

Q: 6. How would you set the value in the cell C5 to "Hello"?

Q: 7. How would you retrieve the cell's row and column as integers?

Q: 8. What do the `max_column` and `max_row` sheet methods return, and what is the data type of these return values?

Q: 9. If you needed to get the integer index for column 'M', what function would you need to call?

Q: 10. If you needed to get the string name for column 14, what function would you need to call?

Q: 11. How can you retrieve a tuple of all the `cell` objects from A1 to F1?

Q: 12. How would you save the workbook to the filename *example.xlsx*?

Q: 13. How do you set a formula in a cell?

Q: 15. How would you set the height of row 5 to 100?

Q: 16. How would you hide column C?

Q: 17. Name a few features that OpenPyXL 2.3.3 does not load from a spreadsheet file.

Q: 18. What is a freeze pane?

Q: 19. What five functions and methods do you have to call to create a bar chart?

## PRACTICE PROJECTS

For practice, write programs that perform the following tasks.

### MULTIPLICATION TABLE MAKER

Create a program *multiplicationTable.py* that takes a number *N* from the command line and creates an  $N \times N$  multiplication table in an Excel spreadsheet. For example, when the program is run like this:

```
py multiplicationTable.py 6
```

... it should create a spreadsheet that looks like [Figure 12-11](#).

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1		1	2	3	4	5	6	
2	1	1	2	3	4	5	6	
3	2	2	4	6	8	10	12	
4	3	3	6	9	12	15	18	
5	4	4	8	12	16	20	24	
6	5	5	10	15	20	25	30	
7	6	6	12	18	24	30	36	
8								
9								

Figure 12-11. A multiplication table generated in a spreadsheet

Row 1 and column A should be used for labels and should be in bold.

## BLANK ROW INSERTER

Create a program *blankRowInserter.py* that takes two integers and a filename string as command line arguments. Let's call the first integer *N* and the second integer *M*. Starting at row *N*, the program should insert *M* blank rows into the spreadsheet. For example, when the program is run like this:

```
python blankRowInserter.py 3 2 myProduce.xlsx
```

... the “before” and “after” spreadsheets should look like [Figure 12-12](#).

A1	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Potatoes	Celery	Ginger	Yellow per	Green bea	Fava be
2	Okra	Okra	Corn	Garlic	Tomatoes	Yellow
3	Fava bean: Spinach	Grapefruit	Grapes	Apricots	Papaya	
4	Watermelon	Cucumber	Ginger	Watermelon	Red onion	Butter
5	Garlic	Apricots	Eggplant	Cherries	Strawberry	Apricot
6	Parsnips	Okra	Cucumber	Apples	Grapes	Avocad
7	Asparagus	Fava bean: Green cabl	Grapefruit	Ginger	Butter	
8	Avocados	Watermelon	Eggplant	Grapes	Strawberry	Celery

A1	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Potatoes	Celery	Ginger	Yellow per	Green bea	Fava be
2	Okra	Okra	Corn	Garlic	Tomatoes	Yellow
3						
4						
5	Fava bean: Spinach	Grapefruit	Grapes	Apricots	Papaya	
6	Watermelon	Cucumber	Ginger	Watermelon	Red onion	Butter
7	Garlic	Apricots	Eggplant	Cherries	Strawberry	Apricot
8	Parsnips	Okra	Cucumber	Apples	Grapes	Avocad

Figure 12-12. Before (left) and after (right) the two blank rows are inserted at row 3

You can write this program by reading in the contents of the spreadsheet. Then, when writing out the new spreadsheet, use a `for` loop to copy the first *N* lines. For the remaining lines, add *M* to the row number in the output spreadsheet.

## SPREADSHEET CELL INVERTER

Write a program to invert the row and column of the cells in the spreadsheet. For example, the value at row 5, column 3 will be at row 3, column 5 (and vice versa). This should be done for all cells in the spreadsheet. For example, the “before” and “after” spreadsheets would look something like [Figure 12-13](#).

The figure shows two screenshots of a spreadsheet application. The top screenshot, labeled 'before', shows a spreadsheet with columns A through J and rows 1 through 10. The data is as follows:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	ITEM	SOLD								
2	Eggplant	334								
3	Cucumber	252								
4	Green cabl	238								
5	Eggplant	516								
6	Garlic	98								
7	Parsnips	16								
8	Asparagus	335								
9	Avocados	84								
10										

The bottom screenshot, labeled 'after', shows the same spreadsheet after inversion. The data is now transposed:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	ITEM	Eggplant	Cucumber	Green cabl	Eggplant	Garlic	Parsnips	Asparagus	Avocados	
2	SOLD	334	252	238	516	98	16	335	84	
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

Figure 12-13. The spreadsheet before (top) and after (bottom) inversion

You can write this program by using nested `for` loops to read in the spreadsheet’s data into a list of lists data structure. This data structure could have `sheetData[x][y]` for the cell at column `x` and row `y`. Then, when writing out the new spreadsheet, use `sheetData[y][x]` for the cell at column `x` and row `y`.

## TEXT FILES TO SPREADSHEET

Write a program to read in the contents of several text files (you can make the text files yourself) and insert those contents into a spreadsheet, with one line of text per row. The lines of the first text file will be in the cells of column A, the lines of the second text file will be in the cells of column B, and so on.

Use the `readlines()` File object method to return a list of strings, one string per line in the file. For the first file, output the first line to column 1, row 1. The second line should be written to column 1, row 2, and so on. The next file that is read with `readlines()` will be written to column 2, the next file to column 3, and so on.

## SPREADSHEET TO TEXT FILES

Write a program that performs the tasks of the previous program in reverse order: The program should open a spreadsheet and write the cells of column A into one text file, the cells of column B into another text file, and so on.



Support the author by purchasing the print & ebook bundle from [No Starch Press](#) or separately on [Amazon](#).



Read the author's other Creative Commons licensed Python books.

