Road map to Data Engineer

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# File Handling & Data Formats

## Objectives:

- Understand and work with CSV, Excel, JSON, XML, and Parquet

- Handle encodings, delimiters, nested data

## Key Libraries:

- `pandas`, `openpyxl`, `xlrd`, `json`, `xml.etree.ElementTree`, `lxml`, `pyarrow`

## Practice Tasks:

- Parse nested JSON and flatten it

- Fix malformed CSV with unknown encoding

- Convert Excel sheets to CSV

# Data Cleaning & Formatting

## Objectives:

- Deal with missing, duplicate, and inconsistent data

- Standardize formats: dates, categories, text casing

- Perform outlier detection and basic validations

## Key Functions:

- `dropna`, `fillna`, `duplicated`, `replace`, `apply`

- `str.replace`, `re.sub`, `pd.to\_datetime`, `fuzzywuzzy`

## Sample Tasks:

- Clean scraped product listings

- Normalize addresses with fuzzy matching

- Format date columns consistently

# Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA)

## Objectives:

- Visualize distributions and relationships

- Identify trends, anomalies, and correlations

## Tools:

- `pandas`, `matplotlib`, `seaborn`, `plotly`

## Example Projects:

- Analyze irrigation data by region

- Create heatmaps and box plots

- Compare schemes across districts interactively

# Data Aggregation & Transformation

## Concepts:

- `groupby`, `pivot\_table`, `melt`, `merge`, `concat`

- Time-based operations: `.resample()`, `.rolling()`, `.expanding()`

## Tasks:

- Aggregate census data by state

- Find top-performing irrigation schemes by village

- Generate rolling averages for groundwater levels

# Mini Projects for Confidence

- Village Census Analyzer – Clean and visualize irrigation statistics

- Government Scheme Breakdown – Transform and compare scheme coverage

- Universal Dataset Formatter – Accept any messy input, return clean and structured output

# Stretch Goals

- Use `pydantic` or `jsonschema` for schema validation

- Save data with compression (gzip, Parquet)

- Build parameterized ETL scripts with config files (`argparse`, `.yaml`, `.env`)

# Logging & Monitoring

## Objectives:

Implement structured logs for traceability and debugging

Track pipeline behavior and capture failures gracefully

## Key Libraries:

logging, logging.config, python-json-logger, loguru

## Practice Tasks:

Integrate structured logging in a data cleaning script

Tag each step in an ETL pipeline with info/warning/error levels

Log bad records to a separate file with clear error reasons

# Orchestration & Scheduling

## Objectives:

Automate multi-step pipelines with dependencies and retries

Schedule jobs, monitor workflows, and manage tasks dynamically

## Tools:

Apache Airflow, Prefect, Dagster

## Sample Tasks:

Set up a DAG to fetch, clean, and store daily rainfall data

Add retry logic on API pull with exponential backoff

Use task parameters to make a dynamic irrigation scheme ETL pipeline

# Cloud Storage Integration

## Objectives:

Read/write data from cloud buckets to enable scalable workflows

Store artifacts in compressed formats for faster data flow

## Tools:

boto3 (AWS S3), gcsfs (GCP), s3fs, smart\_open

File formats: .gz, .snappy, .parquet

## Sample Tasks:

Upload transformed village census data to S3 as Parquet

Build a function that reads any CSV from GCS and logs metadata

Compare read speeds: local CSV vs gzipped Parquet in cloud

# Databases & SQL Connectivity

## Objectives:

Store structured data in relational databases

Query large datasets directly from your scripts

## Key Libraries:

sqlalchemy, psycopg2, sqlite3, pandas.read\_sql()

## Practice Tasks:

Create PostgreSQL tables for irrigation records

Load scheme metadata into SQLite and perform joins via pandas

Write a function that writes cleaned records to a local DB

# Week 1: File Formats & Fundamentals (Jul 4–10)

| **Day** | **Focus Area** | **Tasks / Goals** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | CSV/TSV Basics | Load, clean, handle encoding & delimiters |
| 2 | Excel Sheets | Read multiple sheets, clean data types |
| 3 | JSON Files | Flatten nested JSON, extract specific keys |
| 4 | XML Handling | Parse and navigate XML trees |
| 5 | Parquet & Compressed Data | Write/read .parquet, gzip, and .zip files |
| 6 | Format Conversion | Convert across formats: JSON ⇄ CSV, Excel ⇄ CSV |
| 7 | Mini Challenge | Clean and combine mixed-format data into a standard CSV |

# Week 2: Data Cleaning & Formatting (Jul 11–17)

| **Day** | **Focus Area** | **Tasks / Goals** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 8 | Missing/Duplicates | Use dropna, fillna, duplicated, null logic |
| 9 | Text Cleaning | Regex, str.lower, remove special characters |
| 10 | Date/Time Standardization | Convert formats, timezone handling |
| 11 | Column Normalization | Rename, reorder, infer types |
| 12 | Outlier Detection | Boxplot, Z-score, IQR method |
| 13 | Validation Rules | Build checks for valid input ranges, schema design |
| 14 | Challenge Day | Clean a real dataset: irrigation census or similar |

# Week 3: EDA + Transformations (Jul 18–24)

| **Day** | **Focus Area** | **Tasks / Goals** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 15 | Descriptive Stats | describe(), distributions, quantiles |
| 16 | Grouping & Aggregation | groupby, pivot\_table, basic analysis |
| 17 | Joins/Merges | Combine tables with merge, concat |
| 18 | Categorical Analysis | Frequency counts, scheme codes |
| 19 | Time-Series | Resampling, rolling averages |
| 20 | Visualization | Line plots, histograms, heatmaps (matplotlib/seaborn) |
| 21 | EDA Project | Full exploratory report with visuals + summary |

# Week 4: Feature Engineering + Mini Pipelines (Jul 25–31)

| **Day** | **Focus Area** | **Tasks / Goals** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 22 | Feature Creation | Derived columns, ratios, flags |
| 23 | Encoding Techniques | One-hot, label encoding, mapping schemes |
| 24 | Configurable ETL Script | Use argparse or config files to parameterize ETL runs |
| 25 | Schema Validation | Use pydantic or manual schema rules |
| 26 | Compression & Saving | Write to compressed formats: .zip, .gzip, .parquet |
| 27 | Logging & Error Handling | Add logging, graceful failure points |
| 28 | Final Project | A complete ETL app that ingests, cleans, analyzes, and outputs |

# Week 5: GCP-Ready Production Pipelines (Aug 1–7)

| **📅 Day** | **Focus Area** | **Goals & Practice** | **Key GCP Tools / Concepts** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **29** | 🪣 Cloud Storage & File Operations | Use gcsfs with Pandas to read/write from GCS buckets. Practice file conversion (CSV ↔ Parquet), versioning, folder structuring. | Cloud Storage, gcsfs, fsspec, IAM roles |
| **30** | 🧠 Cloud-Based Data Cleaning | Ingest raw files from GCS, clean and format in Prefect/Colab/Vertex notebooks, and save cleaned files back. | Cloud Storage, Prefect, Vertex Workbench, pandas, Cloud Functions (optional trigger) |
| **31** | 🔍 BigQuery Connectivity | Load transformed data into BigQuery via pandas\_gbq. Perform joins with other tables. Learn partitioning + clustering. | BigQuery, pandas\_gbq, google-cloud-bigquery, SQLAlchemy (optional) |
| **32** | 🔔 Pipeline Monitoring & Alerts | Add structured logging via python-json-logger. Save failed records to GCS or log table in BigQuery. Simulate alert via Pub/Sub or email. | Logging, Pub/Sub, Cloud Monitoring, BigQuery audit table |
| **33** | 🛠️ Orchestration & Scheduling | Build and deploy a Prefect Flow: GCS → clean → transform → log → BigQuery. Schedule runs via Prefect Cloud or GCP Scheduler. | Prefect, GCS, BigQuery, Cloud Scheduler, Cloud Run (optional) |
| **34** | 🧪 Refactor Final Project | Repackage your ETL project to use GCP components. Add config files, CLI args, secrets. Make it modular, parameterized, and cloud-ready. | Prefect, GCS, BigQuery, .env, YAML/config loader |
| **35** | 📦 Show & Tell Day | Publish your project: clean repo with README + sample data + screenshots. Bonus: deploy as a scheduled app via Prefect Cloud or Cloud Run. | GitHub, GCS, BigQuery, Prefect Cloud UI |

## Optional Extras (Pick 1–2 to Level Up)

* Add **Cloud Function trigger** to auto-launch ETL when new file lands
* Use **Terraform** to provision buckets, datasets, IAM roles
* Embed a **Streamlit dashboard** that reads GCS/BigQuery data
* Track metadata with a **BigQuery audit log table**: timestamp, row counts, errors

I don’t have access to your full chat history across sessions, but I can help reconstruct the roadmap we likely discussed based on your interests and past themes. Here's a modular, goal-oriented roadmap to Data Engineering that aligns with your strategic mindset:

### 🧭 Roadmap to Data Engineering Mastery

#### 1. ****Foundations of Data Engineering****

* **Languages**: Python (core), SQL (essential), Bash (for scripting)
* **Data Structures & Algorithms**: Focus on efficiency and scalability
* **Linux & Shell Scripting**: For automation and server-side tasks

#### 2. ****Databases & Storage Systems****

* **Relational Databases**: PostgreSQL, MySQL
* **NoSQL**: MongoDB, Cassandra, Redis
* **Data Warehousing**: Snowflake, BigQuery, Redshift

#### 3. ****ETL & Data Pipelines****

* **Tools**: Apache Airflow, Luigi, Prefect
* **Concepts**: Batch vs. Stream processing, Data ingestion, Transformation
* **Best Practices**: Modular pipelines, error handling, logging

#### 4. ****Big Data Ecosystem****

* **Frameworks**: Apache Spark, Hadoop, Hive
* **Languages**: PySpark, Scala (optional but powerful)
* **Storage**: HDFS, S3, Delta Lake

#### 5. ****Cloud Platforms****

* **AWS**: S3, Glue, EMR, Redshift, Lambda
* **Azure**: Data Factory, Synapse, Blob Storage
* **GCP**: BigQuery, Dataflow, Cloud Storage

#### 6. ****Streaming & Real-Time Data****

* **Tools**: Kafka, Flink, Spark Streaming
* **Use Cases**: Real-time dashboards, fraud detection, IoT

#### 7. ****Data Modeling & Governance****

* **Concepts**: Star/Snowflake schema, normalization, partitioning
* **Tools**: dbt, Great Expectations, Apache Atlas
* **Governance**: Metadata management, data lineage, quality checks

#### 8. ****DevOps & CI/CD for Data****

* **Version Control**: Git, DVC
* **Containerization**: Docker, Kubernetes
* **CI/CD**: Jenkins, GitHub Actions for data workflows

#### 9. ****Visualization & Collaboration****

* **Tools**: Tableau, Power BI, Looker
* **Notebooks**: Jupyter, Zeppelin
* **Documentation**: Confluence, Markdown, Data Catalogs

#### 10. ****Capstone Projects & Portfolio****

* **Ideas**: Build a mini data lake, real-time analytics dashboard, end-to-end ETL pipeline
* **GitHub Portfolio**: Document architecture, decisions, and trade-offs
* **Blog/LinkedIn**: Share learnings and insights to attract collaborators or recruiters

Would you like me to remember this roadmap as your working plan for Data Engineering? I can also tailor it to your current skill level or goals—whether you're pivoting from analytics, aiming for cloud certifications, or building a portfolio for interviews.

### Week 6: Advanced Systems & Career Packaging (Aug 8–14)

#### Day 36: Big Data with Spark

* **Focus**: PySpark basics, DataFrames, transformations
* **Tasks**:
  + Load irrigation census into Spark
  + Perform groupby and aggregations
  + Compare Spark vs Pandas performance

#### Day 37: Real-Time Streaming

* **Focus**: Kafka + Python consumers
* **Tasks**:
  + Simulate rainfall alerts via Kafka topics
  + Write consumer to log and store alerts
  + Add retry logic and timestamp tagging

#### Day 38: Containerization with Docker

* **Focus**: Dockerize your ETL pipeline
* **Tasks**:
  + Create Dockerfile for Final Project
  + Add environment variables and config
  + Test portability across machines

#### Day 39: CI/CD for Data

* **Focus**: GitHub Actions or Jenkins
* **Tasks**:
  + Automate pipeline run on push
  + Add test cases for schema validation
  + Notify on failure via email or Slack

#### Day 40: Data Modeling & Governance

* **Focus**: dbt, dimensional modeling
* **Tasks**:
  + Refactor irrigation data into star schema
  + Use dbt for transformations and documentation
  + Add data quality tests

#### Day 41: Portfolio Polish

* **Focus**: GitHub, README, blog
* **Tasks**:
  + Write README with architecture diagram
  + Add sample data and usage instructions
  + Draft a blog post: “From Messy CSVs to Cloud-Ready Pipelines”

#### Day 42: Interview Simulation & Review

* **Focus**: Mock interview, peer review
* **Tasks**:
  + Prepare answers for DE scenarios (e.g., “How would you handle schema drift?”)
  + Share repo with a peer or mentor
  + Reflect on learnings and next steps

Would you like me to help you build a GitHub structure or draft your blog post next? Or we could simulate an interview round based on your irrigation ETL pipeline. Your call.