

Practical Excel automation with pandas and xlwings

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Excel makes the world go round

Accessible delivery method. Sometimes simple is good. Rapid prototyping.

 **Vicki Boykis**
@vboykis

Junior Developer: We need containers, microservices, agile, kanban, machine learning, the Joel test, and observability to be the best developers we can be.

Senior developer: Pretty sure my multi-billion dollar company runs on Excel sheets, so who even knows?

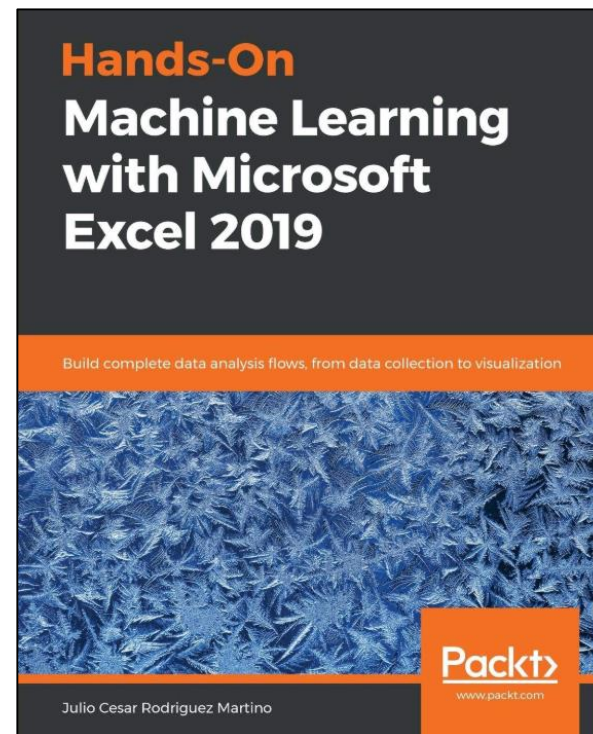
 **Nick Heitzman**
@NickDoesData

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



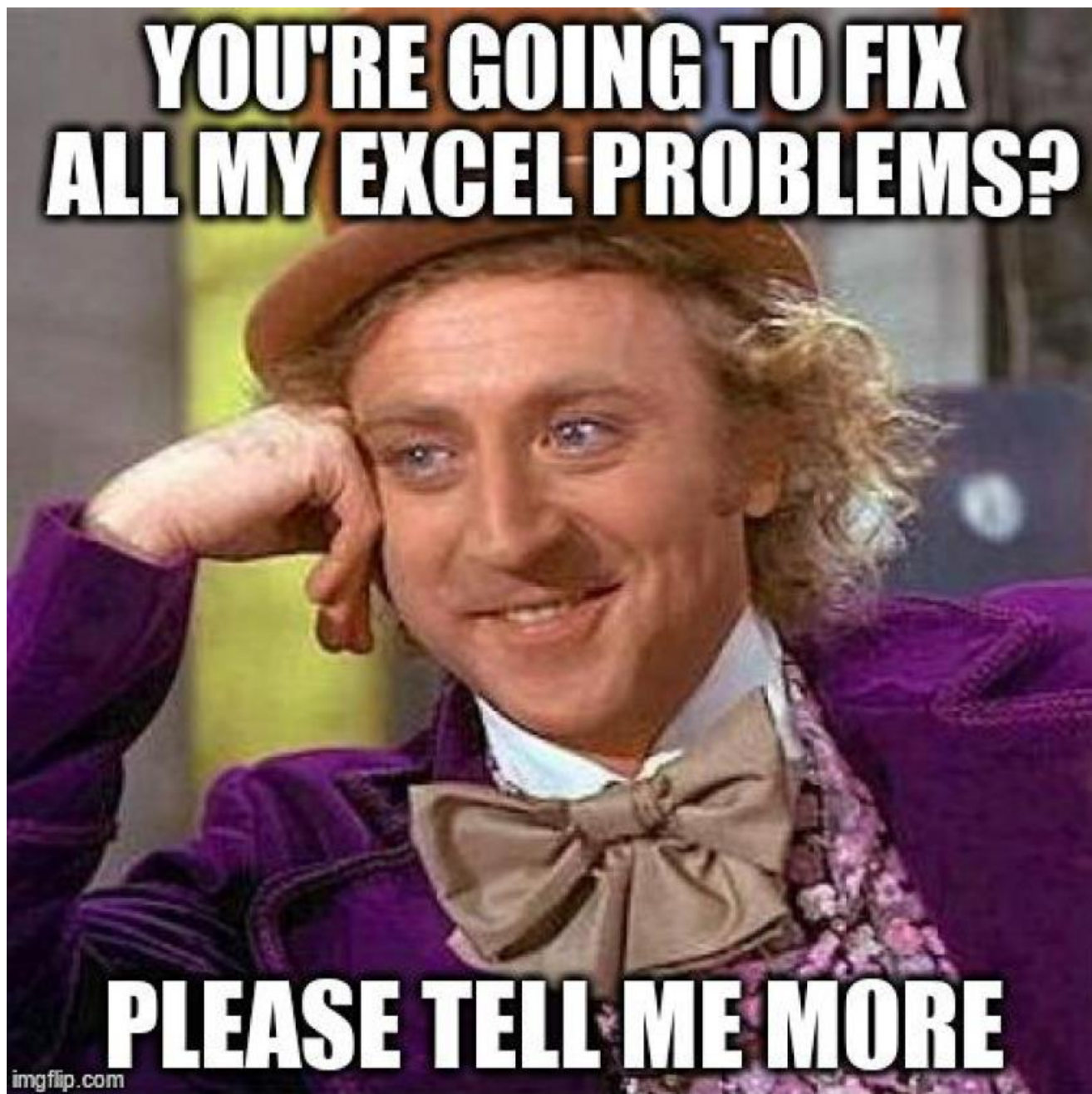
 **Vicki Boykis**
@vboykis

You, an amateur: I used Excel for my chart.

Me, a senior data scientist: *10 years later* I managed to get the axes right in matplotlib!

 **Vicki Boykis**
@vboykis

My hot take is that this is a great way to introduce ML to people already familiar with Excel who see ML as something impenetrable and foreboding. John Foreman did a great job of this in his book "Data Smart."



Meme Citation

<https://github.com/chris1610/pbpython/blob/master/presentations/Escaping-Excel-Hell-with-Python-and-Pandas.pdf>

General use cases

- Bulk merging from many sheets or workbooks
- Bulk splitting to many sheets or workbooks
- Bulk editing and styling to replace VBA tasks
- Static dashboards
- And more...

Health data examples

- Medical record review audits – sample member encounters by provider and evaluate chart elements with pass/fail metric
- Static dashboards and prototypes for quality measures/HEDIS
- Splitting up static provider reports
- Processing Excel source files from CMS or other third parties
 - E.g., for MSSP/NextGen, CMS sends out formatted enrollment data with columns that must be carefully parsed

Example: Medical Record Review Audit

Reviewers/nurses inspect electronic medical record to check for consistency with claims and confirm quality measures that may not be reflected in claims (ex: BMI assessments)

[illegible]

Example: Medical Record Review Audit, continued

Providers are scored by chart element. Low-scorers get re-audited.

Dr Strange LLC
Practitioner Performance Evaluation

CY2020/MY2019

	Group ID:	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX
	Group Name:	Doctor Strange LLC
	Address:	400 S State St, Chicago, IL 60605
	Type of medical record:	Paper Electronic (name of system)
	Chart Elements	
100.00%	1. Significant illness and medical conditions are indicated on the problem list.	
100.00%	2. History and Physical exam for presenting complaints containing relevant psychological and social conditions affecting the patient's medical/behavioral health, including mental health, and substance abuse status are documented.	
100.00%	3. Medication allergies and adverse reactions are prominently noted in the medical record or notation of NKA or NKDA.	
100.00%	4. Past medical history is easily identified and includes serious accidents, operations, and illnesses. For children and adolescents (18 years and younger), past medical history relates to prenatal care, birth, operations, and childhood illnesses.	
100.00%	5. Working diagnoses are consistent with clinical findings.	
100.00%	6. Treatment plans are consistent with diagnoses.	
100.00%	7. Encounter forms or notes have a notation, when indicated, regarding follow-up care calls or visits. Time of return is noted in weeks, months, or as needed.	
100.00%	8. Unresolved problems from previous office visits, referrals, diagnostic testing, and status of preventive screenings are addressed in subsequent visits.	
	9. Consent forms are maintained in the medical record.	
100.00%	10. If a consultation is requested, there is a note from the consultant in the record.	
100.00%	11. Consults, labs, and imaging reports are reviewed and initiated by the ordering physician. Consultation and abnormal laboratory and imaging study results have an explicit notation in the record of follow up plans.	
100.00%	12. Name and telephone numbers of emergency contact are documented.	
37.50%	13. An immunization record for children AGES 18 AND YOUNGER is up to date or an appropriate history has been made in the medical record (for adults).	
100.00%	14. Documentation of discharge summaries.	
100.00%	15. Evidence of member/patient identification information, on each page of the medical record.	
100.00%	16. One-time identification of personal/biographical data, including date of birth, age, gender, marital status, home and work telephone number, home and work address, mailing address (if different from home), and school/employer.	

Should this be in a “BI” tool or web app?

Ain't nobody got time for that



Split data pseudocode

from national aviation¹ stats to state-specific tabs

- 1) Read data set into dataframe
- 2) For each GroupBy variable (state)
 - 3) Subset by group variable (state)
 - 4) Create new sheet for group variable
 - 5) Transfer subset to associate sheet

[1] Unfortunately, it's hard to give a public talk on health data with actual health data due to privacy regulations

[2] To simulate de-identified health data, see [CMS Medicare Claims Synthetic Public Use Files \(SynPUFs\)](#)

Other tools

- xlwings
- openpyxl
- xlsxwriter
- pandas (pd.to_excel, pd.from_excel)
- gspread for Google Sheets
- VBA
 - I think it's encouraging for folks to know that if they invest in learning Python, they can replace or enhance much of their VBA workflows

Parting thoughts

- G Sheets are awesome but Excel prevalence > G Sheets
 - Don't put any PHI on un-protected cloud anyway
- xlwings requires Excel to be installed
- openpyxl works directly with the file and the XML data in the Excel file, so openpyxl may be preferred if deploying on a light server (ex: processing data files)
- xlwings opens an application instance. Manage resources carefully (setup/teardown). Not super fast – but better than humans copy/pasting.
- xlwings vs openpyxl: with xlwings, I like that you can avoid the “for row in rows, for col in cols” double nested loop pattern when all you want to do is copy a data set. It's a more natural copy/paste-like syntax with dataframes.

```
for row in sheet['A1':'C3']:  
    for cell in row:
```



```
        print(cell.coordinate, cell.value)
```

```
sht.range('A1').value = df
```

