

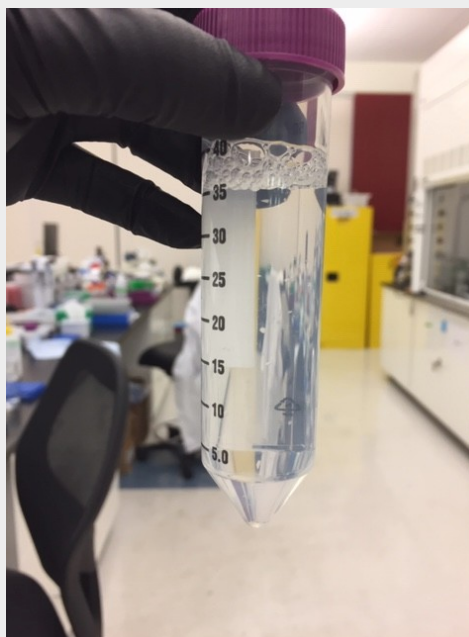


From Chemist to
Software Engineer in 5
months

Kelly Lin
28 Mar 2019

Where I Came From

- Bachelor's in Chemistry
- Worked in Pharma for 4 years
- Analytical and Formulation Chemistry
- Lab work



The Catalyst

ID#	1																											
Name	[REDACTED]																											
Ratio	Data Filename	Sample Name	Sample ID	Sample Type	Level#	Ret. Time	Area	Heig	Conc.	Std. Conc.	Deviation	%Dev	Accuracy[%]	QC Check Results	Mark	Peak												
(JP)	NTP(DAB)	NTP(EMG)	NTP(EMG(50%))	NTP(Area/Height)	NTP(USP2)	NTP	NTP	NTP	HETP(JP2)	HETP(EP)	HETP(BP)	HETP(DAB)	HETP(EMG)	HETP(EMG(50%))	HETP	HETP												
HETP(User Defined)	T.Plates/meter(USP)		T.Plates/meter(JP)		T.Plates/meter(JP2)		T.Plates/met		T.Plates/meter(EMG(50%))		T.Plates/meter(Area/Height)		T.Plates/meter(USP2)		T.Plates/met													
(EMG)	Tailing F.		Tailing F(10%)		Resolution(USP)		Resolution(JP)		Resolution(JP2)		Resolution(USP2)		Resolution		Reso													
meter(User Defined)	Resolution(Area/Height)		Resolution(USP2)		Resolution		Resolution		Resolution		Resolution		Resolution		Reso													
)	Separation	Peak Valley Ratio	Area%	Height%	USP Width	Width(5%)	Width(10%)	Width	Noise	Quant. Limit(QL)	Detect. Limit(DL)	RF	Mean RF	RF SD	RF %RSD	Calib.Point	Mean Are											
Calib.Point Height SD	Calib.Point Height	%RSD	Dev.Ratio	Date Acquired	Custom	Calc.Result 1	Cust	Calc.Result 5	Statistic	DRE Wavelength	DRE Factor	DRE	Time															
1	Main STD 1.lcd	Main STD 1	Main STD 1	Standard(Calc.Point)	1	12.249	10074200	0.983772	-----	-----	-----	V	11.920	12.888	12339	12659	12682	12659	1265									
0	0	12.157	11.849	11.828	11.849	11.849	11.849	11.849	15.285	15.285	12.043	11.849	0.000	0.00	84395	65422	65422	83037	84395	0	0	0	0	1.298	1.300	0.87		
0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.561	1.056	1.392	91.731	90.689	0.441	0.542	0.47	1.024038e+007	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	0.0000	3/16/2018	6:
2	Main STD 2.lcd	Main STD 2	Main STD 2	Standard(Calc.Point)	1	12.228	10084475	0.983772	-----	-----	-----	V	11.904	12.864	12212	12534	12557	12534	1253									
0	0	12.283	11.967	11.946	11.967	11.967	11.967	15.426	15.426	12.149	11.967	0.000	0.00	83561	64825	64825	82311	83561	0	0	0	0	1.299	1.300	0.87			
0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.571	1.056	1.397	91.745	90.705	0.443	0.543	0.47	1.025083e+007	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	0.0000	3/16/2018	7:
3	Main STD 3.lcd	Main STD 3	Main STD 3	Standard(Calc.Point)	1	12.291	10088380	0.983772	-----	-----	-----	V	11.960	12.936	12323	12639	12662	12639	1263									
0	0	12.172	11.868	11.846	11.868	11.868	11.868	15.333	15.333	12.064	11.868	0.000	0.00	84262	65220	65220	82892	84262	0	0	0	0	1.301	1.302	0.86			
0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.556	1.056	1.395	91.665	90.623	0.443	0.544	0.47	1.025480e+007	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	0.0000	3/16/2018	7:
4	Main STD 4.lcd	Main STD 4	Main STD 4	Standard(Calc.Point)	1	12.228	10065983	0.983772	-----	-----	-----	V	11.904	12.864	12231	12574	12596	12574	1257									

Initial Steps

- Learned some Python to automate some of my work in June 2018
- Along the way, took free courses online
 - Harvard CS50
 - MIT 6.001x, MIT 6.002x
- Made some crappy personal projects and really enjoyed it.

Serendipity

- Laid off in Oct 2018
- Seemed like a sign!
- Enrolled at a remote coding academy (Lambda School) in Nov 2018
- Continued self-teaching outside of it

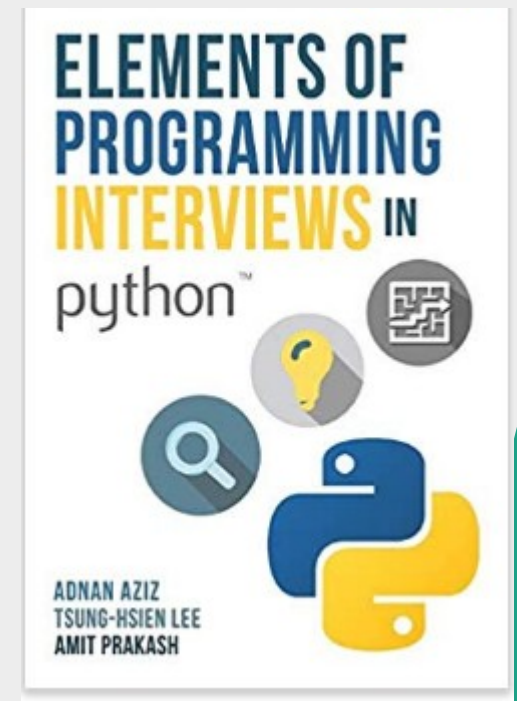
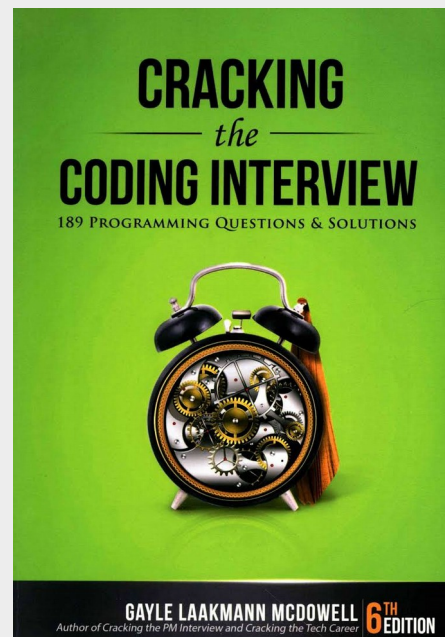


Interview Prep Cycle

- Not getting responses? Improve resume, network, coffee chats.
- Not hearing back after phone screen? Practice phone interviews with friend.
- Not hearing back after coding challenges? Algorithms/DS practice.
- Not hearing back from onsites? Behavioral or whiteboarding practice.

Resources I Used

- Elements of Programming Interviews
- LeetCode
- Cracking the Coding Interview
- HackerRank/CodeWars



Interview Stats

- Applied to 21 places
- Positive responses from 5
- 0% success rate with cold applications
- February 2019, received two offers!

Source	Heard Back with Positive Response	Phone Interview	Coding Challenge or Take Home	Onsite(s)	Offer
Meetup	[Orange bar]				
Meetup	[Green bar]				
Career Fair	[Orange bar]				
Career Fair	[Orange bar]				
Friend	[Green bar]				

Thanks

- San Diego Python User Group for the awesome Saturday meetups
- Lambda School for the structure and classmate emotional support
- Chris Bui, Samira Kiani, David Osuna, Jeff Szielenski from the CTCL meetup for whiteboard coding practice with me