REACTO

Whiteboard problem solving technique

LOGISTICS

(every morning 9:30-10:20am)

- Random weekly pairs of 'interviewer' and 'candidate'
- Interviewers study problem night before
- Fellow presents problem to interviewers 10 min
- "Interview" time
- Optional review

WHITEBOARD

- Technical interviews often involve a whiteboard
- Why?

PROBLEM SOLVING

- Identify the problem
- Brainstorm solutions
- Implement one
- Evaluate it

Repeat

Examples

Approach

Notice how far down this is

Code

Test

Optimize

REPEAT

- Restate in your own words (diagram if useful)
- Or ask questions
- Keep going until you understand the problem
- Leads very naturally into...

EXAMPLES

- Representative input and output
- Consider edge cases
- Consider errors
- Write them down

APPROACH

- Don't code!
- Show you can communicate
- Use this time to plan (crucial)

CODE

- Start at top left
- Write small
- Minimal indenting
- Minimal line spacing
- Breadth first

TEST

- Use Examples
- Be the machine
- Leads into...

OPTIMIZE

- How is it now?
- Count the steps (maybe during Tests)
- Count the "space"
- Convert to big O
- How could it be more optimal?

FINAL THOUGHTS

- Think of the interviewer as a collaborator
- Enjoy it!