Technical Interview Tips

Valley Consulting Group

Interview Timeline

Initial Phone Screen

Coding Challenge

Phone Interview(s)

Onsite Interview

Offer

Sample Leetcode Outline

D.S. - Arrays	#31 Next Perm., #40 Rotate Image, #189 Rotate Array
D.S. - Trees	#101 Symmetric Tree, #114 Flatten BT, #235 LCA
D.S. - Stacks/Queues	#20 Valid Parentheses, #102 Level Order, #232 Implement
D.S. - Disjoint Sets	#547 Friend Circles, (HR) Components in a graph
Algo - Strings	#14 Common Prefix, #49 Group Anagram, #125 Palindrome
Algo - Recursion	#66 Plus One, #98 Validate BST, #257 Binary Tree Paths
Algo - Search	#240 Search 2D Matrix, #695 Island Max Area
Algo - Backtracking	#22 Parentheses, #39 Combination Sum, #46 Permutations
Algo - Dynamic	#62 Unique Paths, #64 Minimum Path Sum

Additional Resources

LeetCode

Hackerrank

CareerCup

InterviewCake

Cracking the Coding Interview

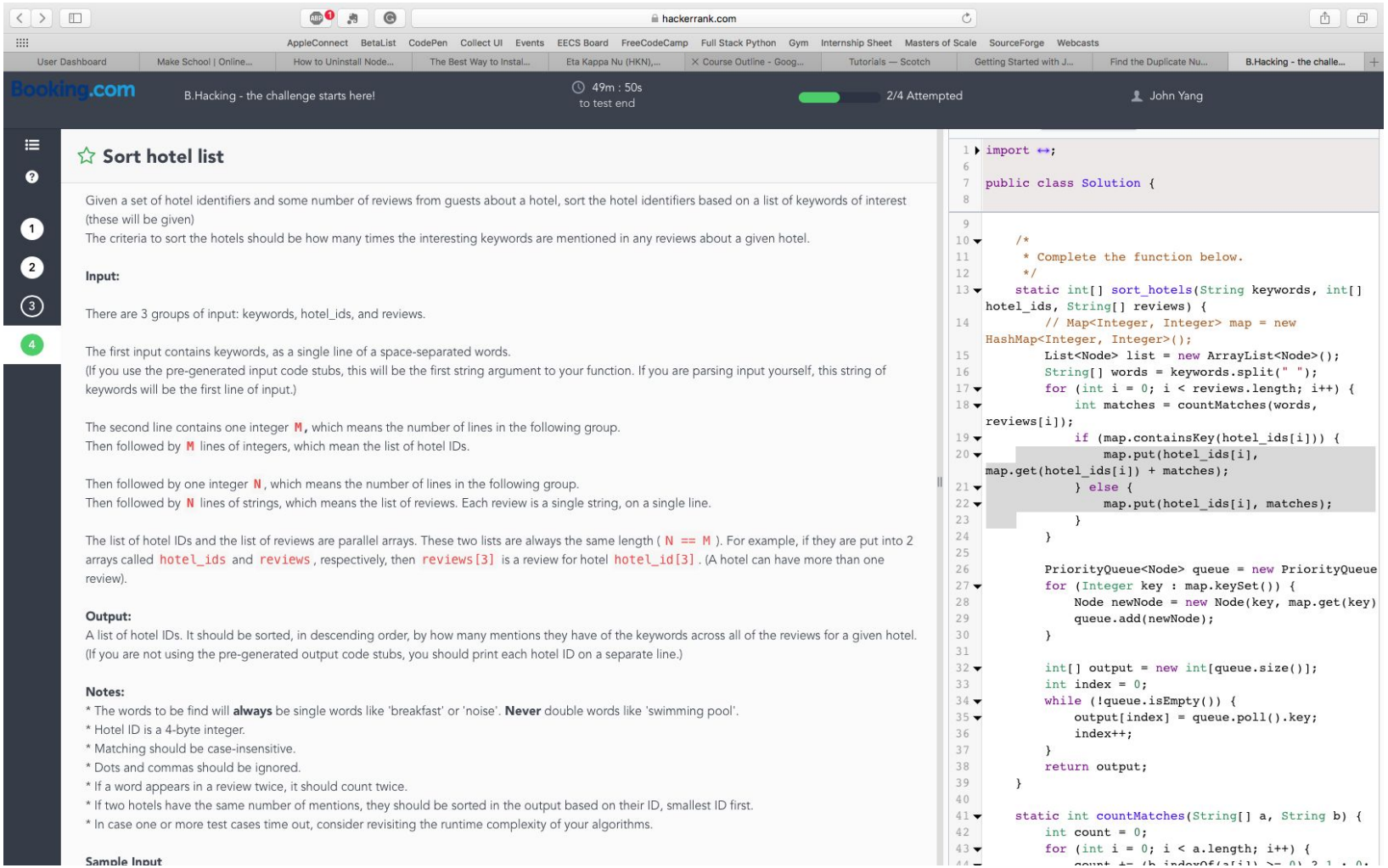
VCG!

Practice, Practice, Practice!

Coding Challenge Tips

- You will only pass this round if your code passes every available test case AND you complete all problems.
- Typically issued through **Hackerrank**.
- Lasts anywhere between **1** to **3** hours.
- Usually, you can choose your preferred language of choice i.e. Java or Python
- Use **Google!!!** This is not a homework or project. Know how to figure out which search terms get you the right result
- Leetcode Easy to Medium

Coding Challenge Tips



Phone Interview Tips

- Setting:
  - **Clear** Phone Connection
  - Relatively **quiet** space (home, reserved room)
  - Reliable Internet Connection
- Platforms: Codepair, Google Doc, Hackerrank
- Tips on Interacting with Interviewer
  - **Ask questions**, but don't expect them to be answered and don't get thrown off.
  - Take command, you drive the direction of the interview, not the interviewer.
  - DO NOT code right off the bat, outline your approach first, then start typing.

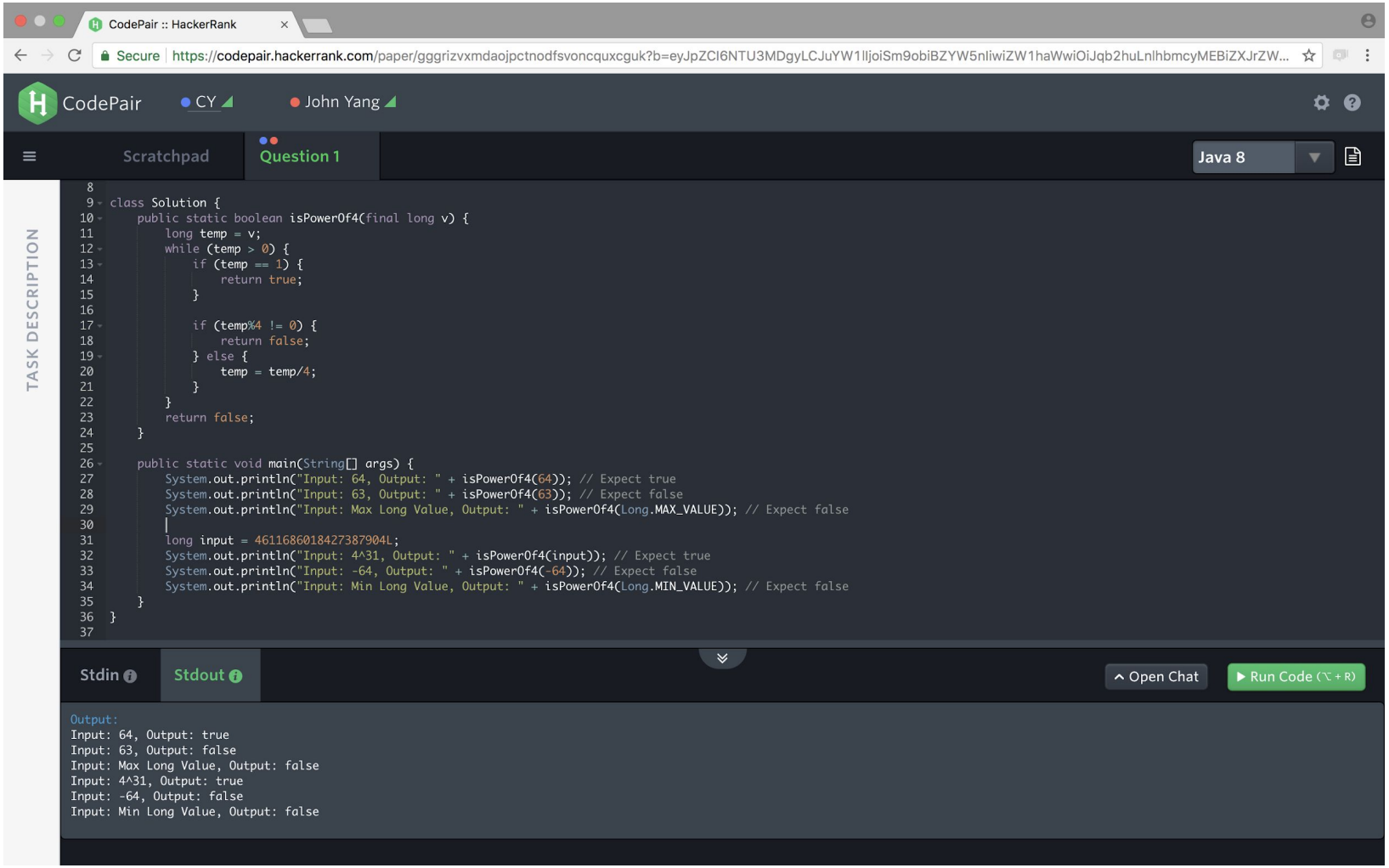
Phone Interview Tips

- Outline of Dialogue:
  1. Interviewer introduces themselves + role at the company (2-3 minutes)
  2. Introduce yourself (2-3 minutes, school + experience + behavioral question)
  3. Technical Portion (30-45 minutes)
  4. Questions for the interviewer (never a bad idea to be interested in them!) (3-5 minutes)
- Success in phone interviews varies more than coding challenges, but usually you have to arrive at the **correct** solution + answer any **optimization**, **testing**, or other technical questions correctly.

Phone Interview Tips

- Outline of Coding Challenge
  1. “Okay, give me a minute to read and understand the problem” (2-3 minutes)
  2. “I will talk through my approach, maybe we can discuss it, and if it sounds good, I can start coding?” (3-5 minutes)
  3. Implementation Time + Debugging and Refactoring (15-20 minutes)
  4. Either A. Interviewer gives you another problem, or B. asks you complexity and space analysis + test cases
- Leetcode Easy to Medium to Hard (Final Round)

Phone Interview Tips



Phone Interview Examples

- Optimization
  - Is there an approach that can solve this in faster runtime? (Improve time complexity)
  - Can you cut down on the amount of memory or operations you're using? (reduce space)
  - I've changed the problem slightly, what about your solution changes?
- Test Cases
  - Passes with regular input - Test whether your algorithm actually works.
  - Passes with errant input - Test whether code handles exceptions and edge cases properly

Onsite Tips

- Setting:
  1. At company headquarters!
  2. Interact with multiple employees + engineers
  3. Learn more about the company
  4. Filled with perks! This stage is fun + intense :D
- Typical Schedule
  - 4-6 Total Interviews:
    - 2-4 Technical Interviews
    - 2-3 Behavioral Interviews
  - Formats: Whiteboard, Collaborative Coding, OOP Design, Conversation about previous internships + experience

Onsite Tips

- What you can do
  1. Not business formal, but don't dress sloppy either! Jeans / Khakis + T-Shirt / Polo + Hoodie / Sweater should be fine.
  2. Bring a backpack with copies of your resume, laptop, and pen + paper.
  3. Remember contact information! Super helpful for picking a team + staying in touch.
- Other notes
  - Hardest Interview Questions (Medium to Hard)
  - If it doesn't work out this time, email your recruiter for re-interview next year!

Good luck!

https://github.com/valleyconsultinggroup