

Job Interviews

Airbnb Data Science Onsite -- Algorithms

A

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Jun 14

I'm looking for information about onsite interviews for Data Science (Algorithms/ML) at Airbnb.

Airbnb

Data Science

Machine Learning

Algorithm

San Francisco

Questions

1. What is the range of ML implementation topics covered in coding/whiteboard session? (e.g., Ins-and-outs of specific algorithms, optimization, statistical assumptions, probability teasers, etc.)?

50 words minimum.

2. In the coding/whiteboard, is it more focused on implementing ML algorithms from scratch or is use of open source packages (e.g., pandas, scikit-learn) expected?

50 words minimum.

3. What are some products in Airbnb's marketplace that are likely to be discussed in depth in the interview?

50 words minimum.

1 Answer

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Jun 21

+ Ask

1. What is the range of ML implementation topics covered in coding/whiteboard session? (e.g., Ins-and-outs of specific algorithms, optimization, statistical assumptions, probability teasers, etc.)?

Basic ML algorithm knowledge is sufficient: Concentrate on TRADE OFFS like when you use which algorithm and why? large data sets and small datasets etc. Basic mathematical understanding should be good.

Revise ML implementation of K-means, KNN, and other small algos.

Understand the loopholes of each algorithm and when NOT to use it.

I was not asked any probability problems but it is good to know some basics .I suggest problems on:

1. cards
- 2.coins
3. converting problems to binomial etc distributions and solving them.
4. remember basic formulas for ML algos and also for important distributions

2. In the coding/whiteboard, is it more focused on implementing ML algorithms from scratch or is use of open source packages (e.g., pandas, scikit-learn) expected?

I was given the challenge to solve in within 3 hours. Mainly test insights from data and build a simple predictive model with reasoning for why you chose the model.

Finally, I had 5 - 1:1 interview (2 were technical and 2 product, 1 behavioural) and gave a short presentation on past work and the data challenge.

2 tech :

Leetcode medium or easy, and basic ML case study or ML design and included the presentation of my findings from dataset to DS team.

I strongly suggest you look and read every ML part of their blog!! and understand how they solve the problems and their product well.

Have your own thoughts on how to solve them and better ways if possible. This helps in behavioural too as it mainly focuses on product and culture fit.

3. What are some products in Airbnb's marketplace that are likely to be discussed in depth in the interview?

Not sure about the product that would be discussed as it depends on many factors, team, the interviewer, etc. As I suggested reading their blog and their competitors blogs should good you very good sense of it.

The central idea is basically that they are very concerned about culture, company .

core values, look into ted talk of founder to talk about company culture, their recent advertisements etc for behavioral and product.

p.s: I gave the interview in Aug 2017 so some of it could have been changed.

Resources:

their blog

Stack exchange ML questions and concepts

<https://datamasked.com/>(optional very little use reach out to me if you want the PDF)

offer details:

L3 with 3-year exp: ~ 280k

L5- 450k

It's basically the same as SDE as it is DS- ALGO. All the best and negotiate well.

A Anonymous ★★★★★

good details

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