Interview Details – Submitted resume online. Sailed through a 1-hour technical phone interview. The question involved bayesian analysis of drug testing (determining false positive rate, etc). It's a classic and it hit my sweet spot. Easy.

Interview Questions

- The on-site interviews were not so easy. One thing to note: I have 20 years of experience and a strong track record of getting results. The interviewers had zero interest in what I've done before. Instead it was white boarding all the way. Felt more like an old-school math class -- go to the board and solve this problem -- than a job interview. Toughest question? Honestly, this was 4 years ago and I don't recall precisely. I think it was how to determine mean standard deviation of two blended datasets for which you know their means and standard deviations (and maybe Ns) but for which you've lost the original data. Turns out it's a classic you'll probably encounter in first year statistics, but I hadn't thought about it in about 25 years and so stumbled.   View Answer
- An ice cream shop wants to determine the probability of any random customer buying one of their three flavors, based on their historical data set.   View Answer

Google it. Seriously, expect to write equations on the board. I'm not going to write those here, but you'll want to look up all this basic stuff if it's not something that will flow out your fingertips in the high pressure situation of a job interview.

Multinomial regression

Interview Details – I got contacted by recruiter three months after submitting a resume and arranged a phone interview. The interviewer was nice and led me to answers. Most questions are about basic statistical concepts, especially the OLS assumptions and remedies for violation, hypothesis testing. He didn't ask anything about coding. The second interview was about open questions, for which she described a scenario and asked me about solutions. The part was hard for me. I had no idea what she was looking for, for some of the questions.

Interview Question – If each of the two coefficient estimates in a regression model is statistically significant, do you expect the test of both together is still significant?   Answer Question

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Interview Details – The hiring process was pretty smooth.

Hiring manager resume screen then 4 onsite interviews. Technical questions related to my field were OK but I did not give correct answer for practical marketing questions.

Interview Question – Choose one of products of Google, then explain your strategy to improve the product.   Answer Question

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Interview Details – After a referral from a current employee, it was a long process (3 months). Long enough, in fact, that the job listing itself changed several times over the course of the process. An initial call from a recruiter, two (1hr.) technical phone interviews covering some basic data analysis, technologies, and relevant items from the resume. Invited to fly out for a on-site in Mountain View, involving 4 interviews with analysts from different business segments. Took a few weeks to get an answer after that.

Interview Question – There was one with 'what-if' questions involving how to analyze certain aspects of their business, including finding trends in ad bidding behavior and detecting contextual advertisers who were gaming the system. Open-ended enough that it wasn't clear if a right answer existed, but they may have had one in mind. Answer Question

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Interview Details – Google works with experienced and friendly recruiters. I'm glad that the interview process didn't really take so long and the recruiters tried to help from the beginning to the end of this process.

First of all, the recruiter found my resume on their database as a good match with the position and contacted with me over the phone. In this conversation, she asked me a couple of questions about my background and tried to understand if i am really a good fit for this position. As this interview was successful, she arranged a phone interview with the hiring manager. The hiring manager's questions were a mix of technical and practical knowledge. After the technical SQL question, he asked me a practical case question about using statistical modeling for decision making, and we brainstormed different scenarios based on my responses.

Finally, they invited me to have a face-to-face interview in their headquarters. The travel company they work with was rude to me when i tried to reserve the flight ticket and the hotel. Hotel was a local hotel around that area, but I would expect from Google to provide the interviewers a better hotel to stay, because i could only sleep only for about 2 hours at this hotel before the interview and I felt very tired throughout the interview day. Before the interview, I left the hotel earlier than I should, but thanks to the traffic I arrived 5-10 minutes late, even though I used a GPS. I would recommend the other interviewers to request a limo, or leave the hotel at least 30 minutes earlier than they should.

I met with the recruiter in the beginning, and she gave me some preliminary information about the overall interview and she tried to give me some tips. She told me that i should keep my questions to the manager in the last meeting.

Afterwards, I had three meetings with two managers and one senior engineer. First interview was a behavioral interview, and the manager asked a few questions about how i would handle situations by giving examples from my prior experiences. He asked me if i have any questions to him, but because of the little miscommunication between me and the recruiter, I told him that i don't have any questions. By the way, the behavioral meeting seemed to be the most important meeting in the whole process.

The second meeting was a technical meeting with the engineer, and he asked me questions to learn more about my database and programming skills. This meeting was the easiest and probably the least important one. The last interview was a business interview and the manager asked questions to learn more about my problem solving skills by asking how would i solve problems based on different scenarios. This was my favorite meeting overall and it was really fun.

After these meetings, I had a lunch with the recruiter and she showed me the Google campus and the facilities. Most importantly, i really liked to see Google workers were very happy and proud to work for Google. It was an exciting experience for me. After leaving the Google campus, I drove around the city to get a better sense of the location, and went to the airport. I had a very long sleep after this tiring experience. I woke up with the call from the recruiter and she told me that the result was negative.

Interview Question – Would you prefer to have new products through innovation or focus on your current main products? Please provide me some examples from your prior experiences to answer this question.   View Answer

I am aware that innovation is key to success for Google, and I have always been on the innovation side to explore the opportunities and being creative to come up with new products and solutions. However, I thought that this question might also be a tricky one, and therefore, I tried to emphasize the benefits of focusing on the current products in some situations as well. The answer is subjective and it also depends on the industry that you are involved in. In the end, I felt that the manager wasn't really satisfied with my answer.

Interview Details – Interviewed with recruiter online first, then group member, then on-site interview. Associates in the group were very friendly and the recruiter did an excellent job of keeping me updated on the process.

My first two phone interviews went very well, and I let my recruiter know of a couple of days and times that would be convenient for me to interview on-site. She jumped at the opportunity and I had my on-site interview, which also went very well. Several of my interviewers said as much, and my recruiter told me that they liked me "a lot." However, I learned after the interview that the team was not sure if they were actually going to fill the position and that the position had been put "on hold." She very kindly kept in touch with me in the ensuing weeks until, ultimately, the department decided not to fill the position at all.

I felt dismayed that Google took me in for an on-site interview for a position that had not yet been approved. Since I am already employed, I was taking a day off from work (and thus a day away from my bank for interviews- I waited two weeks to interview with another company that could have met with me on that day in order to put Google on my schedule). I felt that this was very inconsiderate. Perhaps if I had been a more inspiring candidate the story would have been different, but since this was a relatively entry level position and I am sure there were many very qualified applicants, I take what they said about deciding to leave the spot empty at face value.

Interview Details – I had 3 phone interviews and an Excel exercise. Overall, I thought the whole interview process was cold, awkward, and misleading. The first phone interview with the recruiter was fairly routine. Go through my resume, talk about my background, why I want to work at Google, current salary, etc. The second and third phone interviews were technical screens. The second phone interview consisted of technical questions including SQL joins and talking about some research I did for school. Before the third phone interview, I was instructed to do an Excel exercise that would be discussed in my third phone interview. The third phone interview consisted of more technical questions and brain teasers, but no mention or discussion of the Excel exercise. Thus, I felt mislead as I prepared for this instead of going over brain teasers. The recruiter also said to go over Googles products, business model, and proxy statement which were never discussed in either of the technical phone interviews.

Interview Questions

- What is the yearly standard deviation of a stock given the monthly standard deviation? View Answer
- How many resumes does Google receive each year for software engineering? Answer Question
- Anywhere in the world, where would you open up a new Google office and how would you figure out compensation for all the employees at this new office? Answer Question
- What is the probability of breaking a stick into 3 pieces and forming a triangle? View Answers (6)

yearly std dev = monthly std dev * sqrt(12)

Its 1/4.

Here is the key idea for my analysis of the problem:

  If we consider the original stick to be of unit length, then

  we can form a triangle whenever the longest stick is less than

  a half unit long.

- Sathish on Aug 26, 2009 Flag Response

Suppose x is the length of the first piece and y is the length of the second piece (both must be nonnegative). Then y will be <= 1-x, and to be able to form a triangle, y must be <= .5 - x with x <= .5. The probability of being able to form a triangle is the area of the second set of (x,y) pairs divided by the area of the first set of (x,y) pairs, which is .125/.5 = .25.

- 123 on Dec 10, 2009 Flag Response

The probability is 0 given that it is a question about the probability of 2 breaking points falling on 1st thirdth and 2nd thirdth point. For any continuous variable, the probability of the variable equal to countable points (including indefinite countable numbers) equal to 0

- William on Jun 15, 2011 Flag Response

For one time evet, the probability is 0

- Jenny on Dec 3, 2011 Flag Response

I think, the probability is 1/2:

Breaking a stick into three pieces corresponds to selecting three real positive numbers with a+b+c=1, and, w.l.o.g., a>=b>=c. The triangle inequation, that any two sides are longer than the third one (i.e., a<=b+c, b<=a+c, c<= a+b) is fulfilled if and only if a < 0.5:

- If a >= 0.5, then b+c <= 0.5 <= a and hence not b+c>a, so we cannot form a triangle.

- If a < 0.5, then b+c > 0.5 > a. The other two inequations a+b>c and a+c>b also hold because a>=b>=c: b is positive and so from a>=c we have a+b>c, similarly, as c>0, a+c>b holds.

Hence, we can form a triangle iff a<0.5. Ultimately, selecting a number 0<a<0.5 from the interval (0..1) has the probability 1/2.

- Dave on Aug 25, 2012 Flag Response

nothing in the question said it had to be equilateral triangle so the probability is 100%

- not dumb person like you all on Sep 17, 2013 Flag Response

Interview Details – First a discussion with the interviewer about my phD research, 35mins, he asked a lot of questions about the research top and the methodology; next, some questions related to basic econometrics, but requires deriving formula (e.g. to derive the variance of an OLS estimator from the OLS estimate itself); the next question is "how you evaluate the effectiveness of google mail with respect to persuading people using google more frequently than our competitors, say, yahoo, you can imagine you can get what ever data you could, - tell me what

data you would like to collect and how you want to use them, and what potential insights would you expect to get out of them?"

Interview Questions

- derive the formula for the variance of OLS from scratch   View Answers (3)
- how you evaluate the effectiveness of google mail with respect to persuading people using google more frequently than our competitors, say, yahoo, you can imagine you can get what ever data you could, - tell me what data you would like to collect and how you want to use them, and what potential insights would you expect to get out of them?   Answer Question

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Interview Details – Google goes through a really long interview process. First was the standard HR interview to double check your resume. Then a memeber of the team interviews you as to why you want the job. Then another one calls via G-Chat to ask you skills questions. Finally you get a mini-exam testing your relevant skills. Once you pass that exam you can come up to Google for an Interview with 3 people. One from the team, one from HR, and one from someone working with the team.

The one from the team is obvious. The HR person is checking to see if you are "Googlie" enough, and finally either the team member or an associate asks you the notorious questions like "How many dinosaurs does it take to build a school bus for Google?"

To be frank, the cultural fit part is really really hit or miss. If you connect well with your interviewer you'll do fine. If you make it to the final round and are presentable in public, the cultural fit is the most important.

Interview Questions

- How many people apply to Google per year?   Answer Question
- How do your values mesh with Google's?   Answer Question