Intro

I first heard about these coding bootcamps about two years ago. And quite frankly, I didn’t think much of them as they sounded “too good to be true”. The idea that in a matter of weeks, this program can turn virtually anybody, regardless of background and knowledge, into a solid developer making $100k+ sounded like a scam that is marketed all too well. I was in doubt and, on top of that, I was satisfied with what I was doing over at Facebook on the Search Team (special shoutout to all my day1 homies at mpk14) so I brushed it off and carried on.

But as time went on, I started hearing much more about these bootcamps and the “real-world success stories” by students, especially in the San Francisco Bay Area. It had become such a fad to the point where it seemed like new bootcamps were being formed on a monthly basis. What really struck me was finding out that a great buddy of mine, Raymond Zhang, had completed a bootcamp called App Academy and was in the process of job hunting for software engineering positions (s/o to RayZ).

And so I became curious. Very curious. And started doing research on the many programs that the Bay Area had to offer. App Academy, HackReactor, General Assembly, even UC Berkeley began offering a coding bootcamp! What were the pros and cons of each, tuition costs, tech stack offered, student reviews, program duration, acceptance rate, job placement rate…just so many factors to consider. But the biggest question I had was still: is it worth it?