



Above & Beyond CS (ABCS) Coding Interview Workshop Series

Workshop 3
How to Work the Clock



Recap: The Goal of a Coding Interview

...is to get signal on things that we do at Facebook every day.

- How you think about and **tackle hard problems** and how you **communicate** about code.
 - Evaluate your problem-solving skills to see if you can translate thought into reasonably correct, well-structured code
- How you consider **engineering tradeoffs** (memory vs. time)
- **Limits** of what you know

ABCS Tips and Tricks



Before coding
...the first 5'

1. Communicate Proactively ✓
2. Design Your Algorithm ✓
3. Work the Clock



During coding
...the next 10'

4. Writing code at the whiteboard
5. Talk through your code / solution
6. Handling mistakes



“After” coding
...the last 2-3'

7. Test your code
8. Ask questions!

Before you start coding...

1. Communicate proactively
2. Design your algorithm
3. Work the clock



How to Work the Clock

Let's Break it Down...



How to Work the Clock

Let's Break it Down...



How to Work the Clock



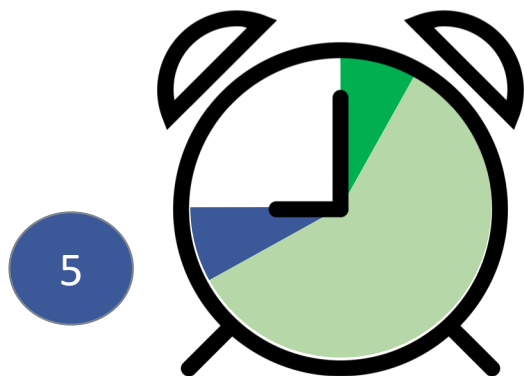
Let's Break it Down...

... give yourself 5min for introductions

How to Work the Clock

Let's Break it Down...

... give yourself 5min for introductions



... and leave 5min for questions

How to Work the Clock

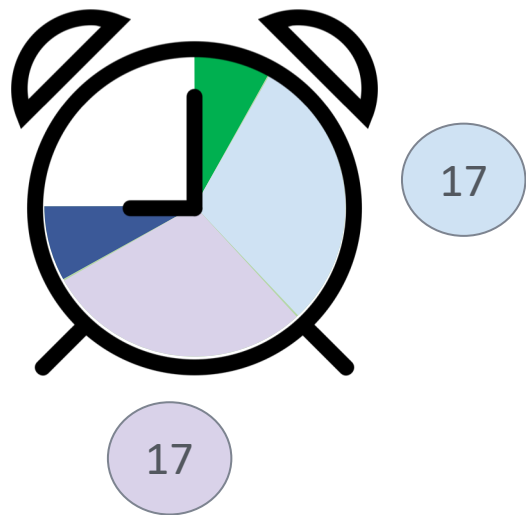
Let's Break it Down...

... give yourself 5min for introductions

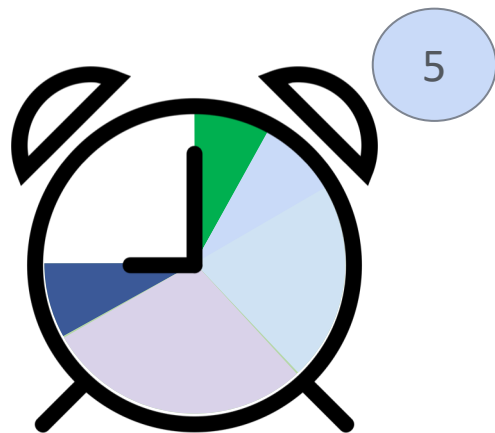
... you have 35min leftover, or 17min each

...

... and leave 5min for questions



How to Work the Clock



Let's Break it Down...

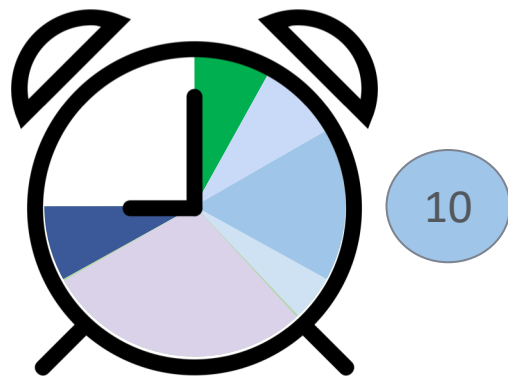
... give yourself 5min for introductions

... you have 35min leftover, or 17min each

... spend 5min before you start coding

... and leave 5min for questions

How to Work the Clock



Let's Break it Down...

... give yourself 5min for introductions

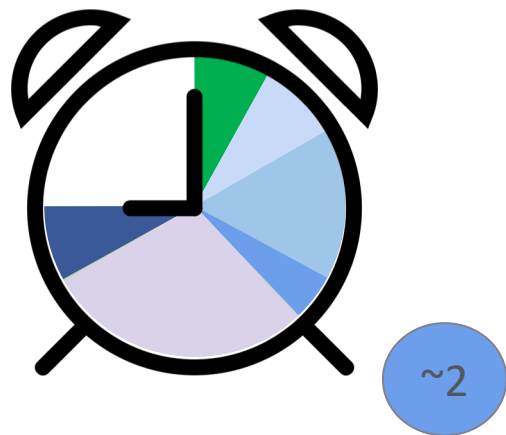
... you have 35min leftover, or 17min each

... spend 5min before you start coding

... spend ~10 min coding

... and leave 5min for questions

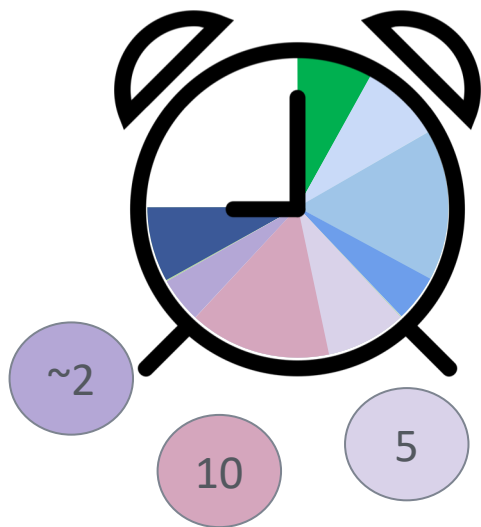
How to Work the Clock



Let's Break it Down...

- ... give yourself 5min for introductions
- ... you have 35min leftover, or 17min each
- ... spend 5min before you start coding
- ... spend ~10 min coding
- ... and don't forget 2-3min for testing
- ... and leave 5min for questions

How to Work the Clock



Let's Break it Down...

- ... give yourself 5min for introductions
- ... you have 35min leftover, or 17min each
- ... spend 5min before you start coding
- ... spend ~10 min coding
- ... and don't forget 2-3min for testing
- repeat
- ... and leave 5min for questions

How to Work the Clock

A few notes on rationale.

- Ideally you will solve 2 problems in a 45min interview
 - This gives more signal to how you tackle hard problems, consider engineering tradeoffs, communicate, and better calibrate where your limits are
- But it's okay if you don't
 - Even if you don't get through 2 problems, it doesn't mean it went poorly
 - A good interviewer will stretch your mind to see where your limits are
 - You might even be asked to complete a follow-up activity



Thank you!



Workshop 4

[INSERT REGION DATE/TIME]

Complete Pre-Work

- ✓ Review screencast
- ✓ Solve HackerRank problems
- ✓ Be prepared to walkthrough your submitted code