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Summary

It is impossible to avoid difficult problems during interviews. Figures, examples, and the divide-and-conquer approach are three strategies to analyze and solve complicated coding problems.

Figures are helpful tools to visualize difficult problems, especially when the problems are related to data structures such as lists, binary trees, and 2D arrays.

Examples are quite useful to solve problems about abstract algorithms. It is much easier to uncover hidden rules if candidates analyze the step-by-step process with some sample inputs.

The divide-and-conquer approach is an effective strategy to solve complex problems. It divides them into subproblems, solves subproblems recursively, and combines solutions of subproblems into a solution of the original problem.

