

MACHINE LEARNING AND DATA SCIENCE

INTERVIEW CHEAT SHEET

**PREPARING FOR CODING
INTERVIEWS PART-11**

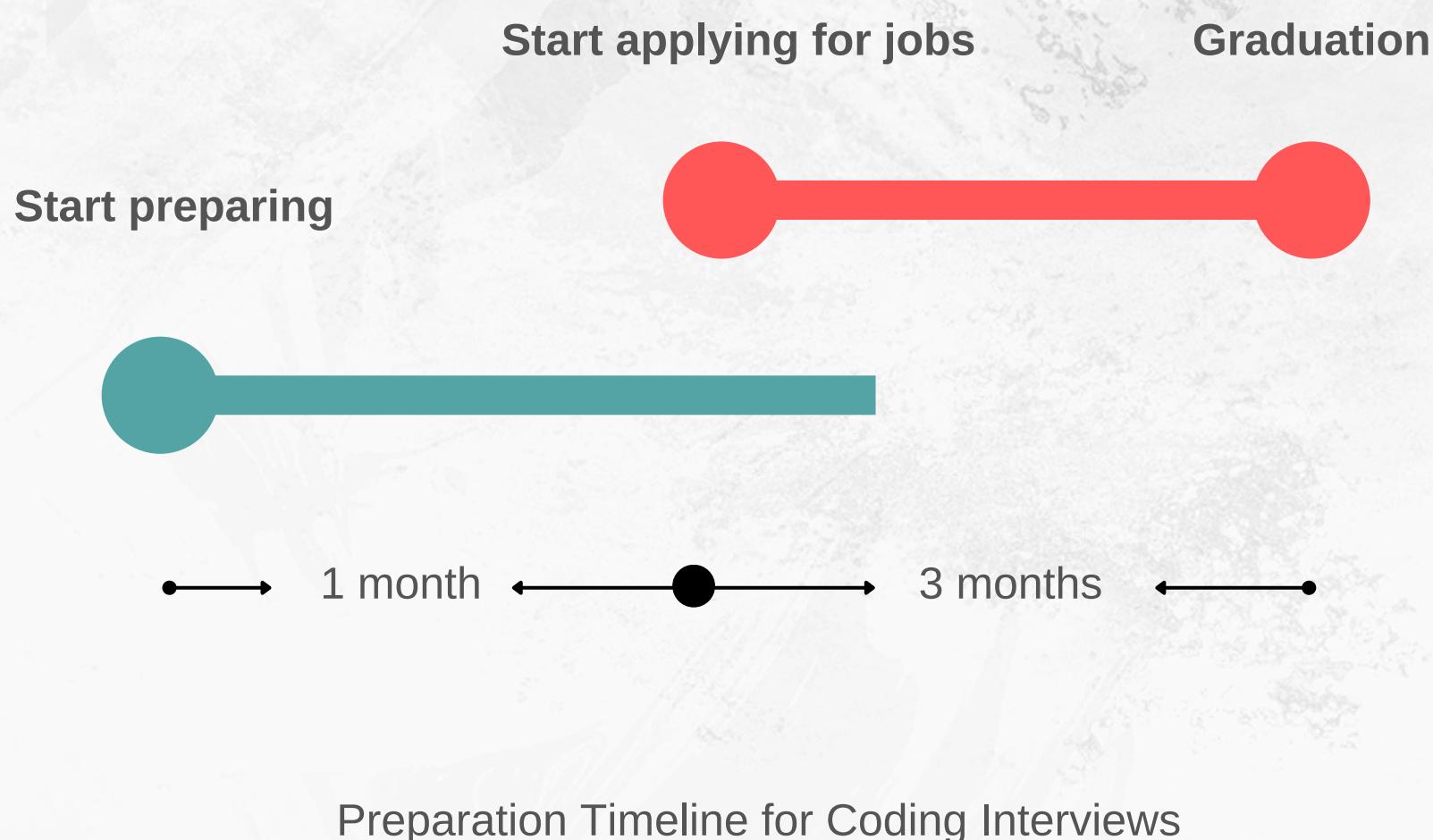


How to prepare for coding interviews?

The timeline:

Linked List does not have their order defined by their physical placement in the memory.

Contiguous elements of the linked list are not placed adjacent to each other in the memory.



Review Data structures and Complexities:

The following 7 data structures are necessary for the interview, and their time/space complexity

- List/Arrays, Linked List, Hash Table/dictionary, Tree, Graph, Heap, Queue

Practice coding questions:

- Multiple online resources such as LeetCode.com, InterviewBit.com, HackerRank.com etc.
- Pick one online resource and aim for easy and medium coding questions (approx. 100-150).
- Beginners start preparing 2-3 months before the interview, and intermediates about 1 month.

Note:

- From my personal experience, paid subscription of LeetCode.com was worth it.
- Facebook, Uber, Google and Microsoft tagged question of LeetCode covered almost 90% of the questions asked

How to answer a coding question?

Listen to the question

The interviewer will explain the question with an example. Note down the important points.

Talk about your understanding of the question

Repeat the question and confirm your understanding. Ask clarifying questions such as

1. Input/Output data type limitations
2. Input size/length limitations
3. Special/Corner cases

Discuss your approach

Walk through how would you approach the problem and ask the interviewer if he agrees with it.

Talk about the data structure you prefer and why. Discuss the solution with the bigger picture.

Start coding

Ask the interviewer if you could start coding. Define useful functions and explain as you write.

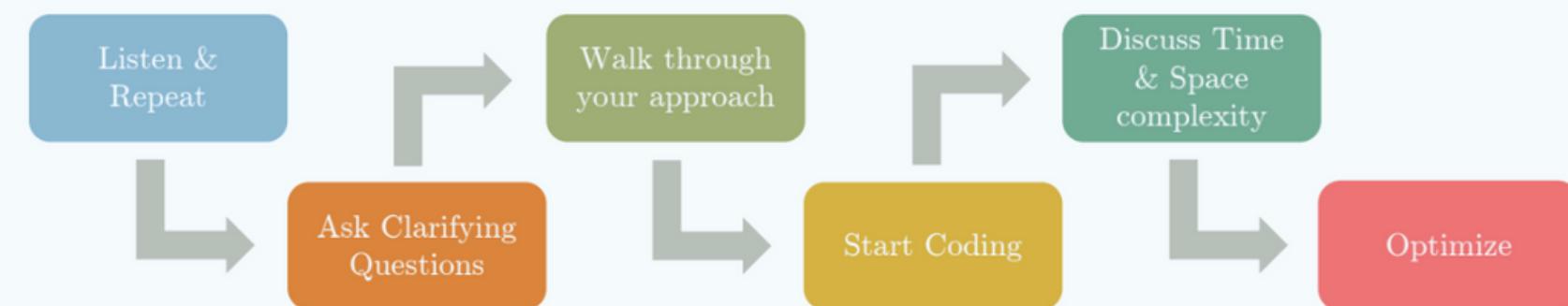
Think out loud so the interviewer can evaluate your thought process.

Discuss the time and space complexity

Discuss the time and space complexity in terms of Big O for your coded approach.

Optimize the approach

If your approach is not the most optimized one, the interviewer will hint you a few improvements. Pay attention to hints and try to optimize your code.



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