Gmail rishav ghosh <rishavghosh605@gmail.com>

Here's what happens when you don't wait...

1 message

Sam Gavis-Hughson <sam@byte-by-byte.com> Tue, May 28, 2019 at 9:32 PM
Reply-To: reply-bytebybyte.activehosted.46.183.13780@s4.asa1.acemsd3.com
To: Rishav Ghosh <rishavghosh605@gmail.com>

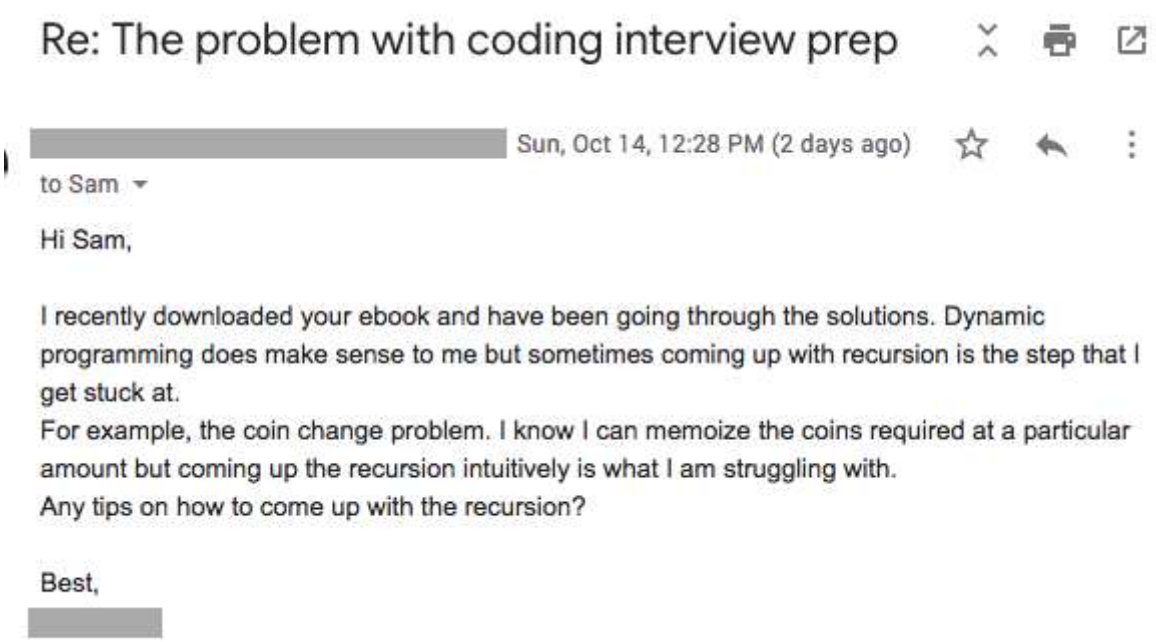
Hey Rishav -

Yesterday I shared something that I'm really excited about with you. *CIM: Recursion* is open!

See, this wasn't just a little side project for me. I didn't build it because I thought it would be easy and I have so much free time. I built it because I truly believe that people need this information.

In fact, just in one week, I've received 12 different emails from 12 different people specifically asking for my help with recursion, like this one:

(If you don't see images below, click "Display images")


Re: The problem with coding interview prep

[redacted] Sun, Oct 14, 12:28 PM (2 days ago)

to Sam

Hi Sam,

I recently downloaded your ebook and have been going through the solutions. Dynamic programming does make sense to me but sometimes coming up with recursion is the step that I get stuck at.
For example, the coin change problem. I know I can memoize the coins required at a particular amount but coming up the recursion intuitively is what I am struggling with.
Any tips on how to come up with the recursion?

Best,
[redacted]

Not only that, but I can remember my own experiences. My own experiences not understanding recursion. My own experiences interviewing and feeling like everyone around me is so much smarter than me…

It's not a particularly good feeling.

So I wanted to create a course that would really help people.

Not some collection of random recursive problems for you to memorize.

Not some mathy crap that you have to learn.

Not some vague directives about finding the base case or breaking the problem into subproblems.

No...

I wanted to develop a truly bulletproof system that anyone could follow to approach any recursive problem.

So I studied. I dug deep in hopes of finding the answers.

I read books and blog posts. Wikipedia articles and study guides. I dug and dug and you know what I found?

Nothing. No one had figured this out.

However, as I continued to search, patterns started to emerge. Over the course of my study, I've combed through literally dozens of recursive problems, looking for something.

This course uncovers the secrets I found. Because, as it turns out, there is a secret.

But when I discovered this, I couldn't help but wonder, "will this work for anyone else or just me?"

Part of the reason why there is so much bad information out there is the sheer number of people who got a couple job offers and decided to write a blog post about what they did. Not that there's anything wrong with that - I think it's great that the tech community shares so openly - but it's not always the best advice.

So I decided to do what I always do: Test my hypothesis.

Does this technique work just for me or other people as well?

Let me tell you…

…I was blown away by the results!

Students had their understanding of recursion double overnight. They learned to systematize their thinking about recursion. They learned how to understand problems that had never made sense to them before.

And that's just the start. Today, I want to share with you a couple stories of the results that people had going through the course.

Ashish had so little confidence in his ability to solve recursive problems, he could maybe solve 1 out of 10. Here's what he had to say:

> *When this course started, I can say I was 20-25% confident. Not confident. I was not at ease with recursion. I can solve maybe 1 problem partially out of 10 problems. But as soon as the course kept on progressing, this confidence level raised to approximately 30-35%. Now... I can attempt all the questions, and I can solve at least 60% of them.*
>
> *And the examples you have gave, the homework exercises, were really helpful. Because each example exercise covered some form of pattern, which you can apply to certain problems. So I found that very helpful.*

Julian came into the course more experienced than most, but still found many new things to learn:

> *I didn't realize that it's possible to be so systematic about recursion. Now, here's the thing, you throw a recursion problem at me, I'm going to figure it out. I had done it enough that I have a feel but it never really occurred to me to think about it in a systematic way.*
>
> *…*
>
> *I [also] ended up being exposed to considerations of complexity of recursion so many times that I got surprisingly comfortable ballparking what the complexity is. And that's something I'd avoided. I have overall in terms of problems, I have a moderately good sense of how to compute complexity, but it's something that I've been kind of pushing off to focus on at a later point. But I'm really glad that I was able to figure that out with regards to the recursion because that's one of the more, I guess tricky places where you need to compute that.*

Mothi discovered how knowing the specific patterns to use when you get stuck in your interview can make it much easier to get back on track:

> *The patterns made it so even if today I forget, if I go and see the class and the set of problems, then I automatically learn, "Okay. if these kinds of problems and I can relate with selection." It was very specific. That was really helpful. Online there might be some 10 sets of questions or recursion problems, but the categorization was missing. But this was somewhat more narrowed down, that I felt it's helpful.*

And these are just a few of the successes that students had going through the beta course.

With successes like these, I'm so excited to finally be able to make this course available to everyone.

Imagine if one of these was you. Imagine if you had started this course 8 weeks ago where you could be right now!

Well in 8 weeks this could be you, but you have to get started!

Join *Coding Interview Mastery: Recursion* now!

Best,
Sam

p.s. The course closes **Friday at 11:59pm ET**, so don't miss it.

p.p.s. Hit reply if you have any questions and I'll do my best to answer them ASAP!