

Detailed Interview Experience



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Candidate: **Niranjan Bagade**

Company: **Salesforce**

Role: **Senior member of Technical Staff**

salesforce

Question 1

<https://leetcode.com/problems/search-a-2d-matrix-ii/description/>

(BossCoder assignment problem under 1D & 2D Arrays - exact question)

Although I have solved this question in the past, I struggled for 30 minutes to come up with a approach. The interviewer gave 1-2 hints.

Once the approach was clear I coded the solution within 5-7 minutes. The interviewer was happy with the solution, TC and SC.

Question 2

Follow-up question

<https://leetcode.com/problems/kth-smallest-element-in-a-sorted-matrix/description/>

(Exact concept taught in Sorting1)

I suggested a brute force approach using a min-heap ($O(n \log n)$ time, $O(n)$ space) and a more efficient max-heap approach ($O(n \log n)$ time, $O(k)$ space) to the interviewer. They mentioned a potential corner case issue without specifics, and the meeting ended prematurely. I was later rejected, even though my approach passed all LeetCode test cases.

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Important lessons

1. **The content covered in BCA lectures (IL and Homework) is more important.**
2. Time management is very important.
3. Picking up on hints is very important.
4. The interviewer may have different opinion, and you may get rejected even if the proposed approach is correct. I wish I had more time to prove the interviewer that my approach passes in all of the test cases.
5. Focus more on solving frequently asked questions rather than focusing on solving different questions every day.