FINANCE INTERVIEW PREP

a workshop

Emily Zhao, Managing Director
Coverage

- Trading firms
  - Proprietary (prop shop)
  - High frequency

- Bank
  - Investment banking

- Hedge fund
  - Quantitative

- Financial software
- Consulting
Trading/Quant
First round
Tips

- Remember your interviewer’s name
- Be enthusiastic
- Ask lots of questions especially if you are unfamiliar with finance
- Be transparent about your skills and experience
Arithmetic
Arithmetic

- 789 + 69
Arithmetic

- 789 + 69
- 858
Arithmetic

- 789 + 69
- 858
- 26 x 33
Arithmetic

- $789 + 69$
- $858$
- $26 \times 33$
- $858$
Arithmetic

- $789 + 69$
- $858$
- $26 \times 33$
- $858$

Students pick 3 classes in different majors. There are 36 HASS classes, 15 math classes, and 5 cooking classes. How many schedules are possible total?
Arithmetic

- 789 + 69
- 858
- 26 x 33
- 858

Students pick 3 classes in different majors. There are 36 HASS classes, 15 math classes, and 5 cooking classes. How many schedules are possible total?

- $36 \times 15 \times 5 = 9 \times 4 \times 75 = 9 \times 300 = 2700$
Simple Brainteasers
Simple Brainteasers

1. Monty Hall
Simple Brainteasers

1. Monty Hall
2. Cereal Box
Trading/Quant

Phone interview
Tips

- Have paper and pencil ready
- Write down interviewer’s name
- Be happy and energetic.
  - It shows in your voice.
Sword-Fight
Pumpkins
Now for some real
Finance Questions
90% Confidence Intervals
Metric please
90% Confidence Intervals
Metric please

- Driving distance from Wichita, KS to Tulsa, OK
90% Confidence Intervals

Metric please

- Driving distance from Wichita, KS to Tulsa, OK
- Population of Chicago
90% Confidence Intervals

Metric please

- Driving distance from Wichita, KS to Tulsa, OK
- Population of Chicago
- Career RBI (runs batted in) by Babe Ruth
90% Confidence Intervals

Metric please

- Driving distance from Wichita, KS to Tulsa, OK
- Population of Chicago
- Career RBI (runs batted in) by Babe Ruth
- US births in 1995
90% Confidence Intervals

- Driving distance from Wichita, KS to Tulsa, OK
- Population of Chicago
- Career RBI (runs batted in) by Babe Ruth
- US births in 1995
- # of mammal species present day

Metric please
Making Markets

- Bid price
- Ask price
- Simple: \(<\text{bid}>\) at \(<\text{ask}>\)
- \(<\text{bid}>\) bid for \(<\text{bid}\) quantity>\)
- \(<\text{ask\) quantity}>\) at \(<\text{ask}>\)
Markets

Markets

- Commodity Futures (April)

Markets

- Commodity Futures (April)
- Gold

Markets

- Commodity Futures (April)
  - Gold
    - 1101.2 (+11.2)

Markets

- Commodity Futures (April)
  - Gold
    - 1101.2 (+11.2)
  - Crude Oil

Markets

- Commodity Futures (April)
  - Gold
    - 1101.2 (+11.2)
  - Crude Oil
    - 74.00 (-0.13)

Markets

- Commodity Futures (April)
  - Gold
    - 1101.2 (+11.2)
  - Crude Oil
    - 74.00 (-0.13)
  - S & P 500

Markets

- Commodity Futures (April)
  - Gold
    - 1101.2 (+11.2)
  - Crude Oil
    - 74.00 (-0.13)
  - S & P 500
    - 1075.00 (-4.10)

Deals

- WSJ
- NYTimes
What firm? Why?

Five adjectives to describe yourself

Talk about a project on your resume

Talk about a position of leadership
Superday
Superday

- GSachs
  - 7 interviews, 12 interviewers
  - Different groups mostly assessing fit
Superday

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- JS
  - Similar number of interviews, one group interview
  - Brainteasers. 100 poker chips to start.
Superday

- **GSachs**
  - 7 interviews, 12 interviewers
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- **JS**
  - Similar number of interviews, one group interview
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- **DEShaw**
  - Ask Ashu
Ask Questions

- Prepare questions in advance
  - Finish the interview strong

- Be specific
  - Firm specific

- Recent events

- On the spot
  - Connect to your interviewer