

Chapter 2 Brain Teasers

In this chapter, we cover problems that only require common sense, logic, reasoning, and basic—no more than high school level—math knowledge to solve. In a sense, they are real brain teasers as opposed to mathematical problems in disguise. Although these brain teasers do not require specific math knowledge, they are no less difficult than other quantitative interview problems. Some of these problems test your analytical and general problem-solving skills; some require you to think out of the box; while others ask you to solve the problems using fundamental math techniques in a creative way. In this chapter, we review some interview problems to explain the general themes of brain teasers that you are likely to encounter in quantitative interviews.

2.1 Problem Simplification

If the original problem is so complex that you cannot come up with an immediate solution, try to identify a simplified version of the problem and start with it. Usually you can start with the simplest sub-problem and gradually increase the complexity. You do not need to have a defined plan at the beginning. Just try to solve the simplest cases and analyze your reasoning. More often than not, you will find a pattern that will guide you through the whole problem.

Screwy pirates

Five pirates looted a chest full of 100 gold coins. Being a bunch of democratic pirates, they agree on the following method to divide the loot:

The most senior pirate will propose a distribution of the coins. All pirates, including the most senior pirate, will then vote. If at least 50% of the pirates (5 pirates in this case) accept the proposal, the gold is divided as proposed. If not, the most senior pirate will be fed to shark and the process starts over with the next most senior pirate... The process is repeated until a plan is approved. You can assume that all pirates are perfectly rational: they want to stay alive first and to get as much gold as possible second. Finally, being blood-thirsty pirates, they want to have fewer pirates on the boat if given a choice between otherwise equal outcomes.

How will the gold coins be divided in the end?

Solution: If you have not studied game theory or dynamic programming, this strategy problem may appear to be daunting. If the problem with 5 pirates seems complex, we can always start with a simplified version of the problem by reducing the number of pirates. Since the solution to 1-pirate case is trivial, let's start with 2 pirates. The senior

Chapter 2 Brain Teasers Quantitative Finance Interviews

Patrick Vollmar



Chapter 2 Brain Teasers Quantitative Finance Interviews:

A Practical Guide To Quantitative Finance Interviews Xinfeng Zhou,2020-05-05 This book will prepare you for quantitative finance interviews by helping you zero in on the key concepts that are frequently tested in such interviews In this book we analyze solutions to more than 200 real interview problems and provide valuable insights into how to ace quantitative interviews The book covers a variety of topics that you are likely to encounter in quantitative interviews brain teasers calculus linear algebra probability stochastic processes and stochastic calculus finance and programming [The Art of Quantitative Finance Interviews](#) Brahim AIT HADDOU,2018-07-29 Over 300 Questions to prepare you for quantitative finance interviews by giving you a sample of practical questions seen before in banking covering different fields Mathematics Quantitative Models Derivatives Pricing XVA Brain Teasers and IT questions Algorithms C SQL Python **Practical Guide to Quantitative Finance Interviews** Xinfeng Zhou,2008 This book will prepare you for quantitative finance interviews by helping you zero in on the key concepts that are frequently tested in such interviews In this book we analyze solutions to more than 200 real interview problems and provide valuable insights into how to ace quantitative interviews The book covers a variety of topics that you are likely to encounter in quantitative interviews brain teasers calculus linear algebra probability stochastic processes and stochastic calculus finance and programming **The Quantitative Finance Interview Bible** Jean Peyre,2020-07-13 Although quantitative interviews are technically challenging the hardest part can be to guess what you will be expected to know on the interview day The scope of the requirements can also differ a lot between these roles within the banking sector Author Jean Peyre has built a strong experience of quant interviews both as an interviewee and an interviewer Designed to be exhaustive but concise this book covers all the parts you need to know before attending an interview Content The book compiles 51 real quant interview questions asked in the banking industry 1 Brainteasers 2 Stochastic Calculus Brownian motion Martingale Stopping time 3 Finance Option pricing Exchange Option Forward starting Option Straddles Compound Option Barrier Option 4 Programming Sorting algorithms Python C 5 Classic derivations Ornstein Uhlenbeck Local Volatility Fokker Planck Hybrid Vasicek Model 6 Math handbook The definitions and theorems you need to know [Cracking the Finance Quant Interview](#) Jean Peyre,2020-09-20 New edition of Cracking the Finance Quant Interview with a slightly larger print for a better reading experience Author Jean Peyre has built a strong experience of quant interviews both as an interviewee and an interviewer Designed to be exhaustive but concise this book covers all the parts you need to know before attending an interview Content The book compiles 75 real quant interview questions asked in the banking industry 1 Brainteasers 2 Stochastic Calculus Brownian motion Martingale Stopping time 3 Finance Option pricing Exchange Option Forward starting Option Straddles Compound Option Barrier Option 4 Programming Sorting algorithms Python C 5 Classic derivations Ornstein Uhlenbeck Local Volatility Fokker Planck Hybrid Vasicek Model 6 Math handbook The definitions and theorems you need to know [Frequently Asked Questions in Quantitative Finance](#) Paul Wilmott,2010-07-29

Getting agreement between finance theory and finance practice is important like never before In the last decade the derivatives business has grown to a staggering size such that the outstanding notional of all contracts is now many multiples of the underlying world economy No longer are derivatives for helping people control and manage their financial risks from other business and industries no it seems that the people are toiling away in the fields to keep the derivatives market afloat Apologies for the mixed metaphor If you work in derivatives risk development trading etc you d better know what you are doing there s now a big responsibility on your shoulders In this second edition of *Frequently Asked Questions in Quantitative Finance* I continue in my mission to pull quant finance up from the dumbed down depths and to drag it back down to earth from the super sophisticated stratosphere Readers of my work and blogs will know that I think both extremes are dangerous Quant finance should inhabit the middle ground the mathematics sweet spot where the models are robust and understandable and easy to mend And that s what this book is about This book contains important FAQs and answers that cover both theory and practice There are sections on how to derive Black Scholes a dozen different ways the popular models equations formulae and probability distributions critical essays brainteasers and the commonest quant mistakes The quant mistakes section alone is worth trillions of dollars I hope you enjoy this book and that it shows you how interesting this important subject can be And I hope you ll join me and others in this industry on the discussion forum on wilmott com See you there FAQQF2 including key models important formulae popular contracts essays and opinions a history of quantitative finance sundry lists the commonest mistakes in quant finance brainteasers plenty of straight talking the Modellers Manifesto and lots more

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