Maharaja Surajmal Institute of Technology
New Delhi-110058
Department of Computer Science and Engineering
Workshop Report

Date: 4/11/2024 **Venue:** Room No. 406

Report on "Crack The Code" Workshop by Anoushka Gupta

Introduction

The "Crack The Code" workshop, hosted by Ms. Anoushka Gupta, a 3rd year Computer Science Engineering student at MSIT and an upcoming SWE intern at Google, provided an insightful session on building a strong foundation for achieving career goals in tech, especially aimed at roles in prominent companies like MAANG (Meta, Amazon, Apple, Netflix, and Google). This workshop covered key areas like resume building, data structures and algorithms (DSA), interview techniques, and off-campus job opportunities, offering practical guidance for students and aspiring software engineers.

1. Resume Building

Ms. Anoushka emphasized that a well-crafted resume is essential, as it often forms the basis for initial screening in recruitment processes. She shared the following key points to make a "perfect resume":

- **Contact Information**: Include up-to-date contact details such as LinkedIn, GitHub, and email.

- **Education:** Display CGPA prominently, as it plays a significant role in creating a strong impression.

- **Skills:** Highlight technical skills, including programming languages and development tools.

-**Certifications:** List certifications that are relevant to the roles applied for.

- **Experience:** Any internships or relevant work experience should be concisely outlined.

- **Achievements and Projects:** Showcase projects, detailing the tech stack used and any notable accomplishments.

She recommended using Overleaf's LaTex templates for resume creation, which improves formatting and readability, and advised against using word processors due to formatting limitations. Anoushka stressed the importance of readability, use of action words, and checking the Applicant Tracking System (ATS) score to ensure the resume aligns with the role requirements.

2. Data Structures and Algorithms (DSA) – A Core Skillset

The workshop's section on DSA was notably comprehensive, highlighting the importance of DSA knowledge for online assessments (OA) and interviews. Anoushka's advice included:

- **Prioritization of DSA over other skills**: As DSA forms the backbone of most coding interviews, it should be mastered before moving to development skills.

- **Key DSA Topics:** Arrays, HashMaps, Sliding Window, String Manipulation, Graphs, and Dynamic Programming (DP).

- **Resources:** She recommended using popular DSA resources like Strivers A2Z DSA sheet, Love Babbar DSA Playlist, and Arsh Goyal's SDE Sheet, which offer structured study paths and cover all fundamental DSA concepts.

- **Practice Platforms:** Leetcode, CodeChef, and other platforms were suggested for consistent DSA practice, with a focus on gradually increasing difficulty levels to ensure solid problem-solving skills.

Anoushka's advice was clear: DSA knowledge opens doors to both online assessments and technical interviews, making it indispensable for aspiring software engineers.

3. Interview Preparation

Ms. Anoushka shared several techniques to approach interviews effectively:
-**Clear Communication:** Maintain clarity in responses and avoid fumbling.

- **Story-Based Questions:** Prepare to narrate problem-solving experiences as stories, as this demonstrates thought processes.

-**Approach to Problem Solving:**Understand the question and clarify any doubts with the interviewer.
- Begin with a brute-force solution and then optimize it, even if the optimal solution is

known.
- Conduct dry runs to identify edge cases.

These techniques are designed to help candidates remain composed during interviews and exhibit a structured approach to solving complex problems. According to Anoushka, practicing these methods helps candidates make a lasting impression on interviewers.

4. Off-Campus Opportunities and Job Resources

Ms. Anoushka also focused on securing job opportunities outside traditional campus placements, which is especially relevant for students targeting MAANG companies or similar roles. Her advice included:

- **Awareness and Application:** Staying updated on job openings and applying broadly without underestimating personal potential.

- **Referrals:** Although beneficial, she mentioned that referrals are not essential for success. Instead, a well-crafted profile and proactive applications can also lead to opportunities.

-**Resources:** LinkedIn and Telegram channels for networking and job alerts.

- Participating in hackathons and coding challenges hosted by companies such as Flipkart, Amazon, and Goldman Sachs.

- **Handling Rejections:** Rejections are part of the process; she encouraged resilience and consistent upskilling to maintain motivation.

Anoushka concluded that patience and self-belief are essential, encouraging participants to view every application and interview as an opportunity to learn and grow.

Conclusion

The “Crack The Code” workshop led by Ms. Anoushka Gupta provided attendees with a clear roadmap to excel in tech careers, especially for competitive roles in major tech companies. Anoushka’s guidance on resume crafting, mastering DSA, interview techniques, and tapping into off-campus opportunities created a well-rounded perspective on how to achieve these goals.

Her dedication to the tech community and her own accomplishments as a Google WE Scholar make Anoushka an inspiring figure for aspiring software engineers, embodying resilience, preparation, and excellence. This workshop equipped participants with the necessary

insights and practical steps to succeed in the tech industry and exemplified how focused effort can help “crack the code” to their career aspirations.