

**Swaraj Koley**

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(In each of the interviews, I told my preference is group theory, ring theory and Field theory )

I have been selected at IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Kharagpur and IISER Bhopal among the below institutes.

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## HRI Allahabad

- Definition of group action and proof of Caley's theorem.
- Prove that  $\mathbf{C}$  is algebraically closed using complex analysis.
- Is any finite extension of  $\mathbf{Q}$  galois ?
- Is  $\mathbf{C}$  is algebraic closure of  $\mathbf{Q}$  ?
- Define normal extension and give an example.
- State primitive element theorem.
- Let  $E/F$  is galois and  $E = \text{split } f(x)$  where  $f(x) \in F[x]$  is irreducible. Prove that if  $\text{Gal}(E/F)$  is abelian then  $E = F(t)$  where  $t$  is a root of  $f(x)$ .
- Difference between continuity and uniform continuity.
- Is every continuous and bounded function on  $\mathbf{R}$  uniformly continuous?
- Prove that  $f : \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  by  $f(x) = e^{-x^2}$  is uniformly continuous on  $\mathbf{R}$ .
- Prove that if  $f : \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  is cont and  $\lim f(x)$  exists when  $|x| \rightarrow \infty$  then  $f$  is uniformly continuous on  $\mathbf{R}$ .
- Prove that if a function's derivative is bounded then the function is uniformly continuous on the domain.
- Define equicontinuity of sequence of functions and state Arzela Ascoli theorem.
- State the Hiene Borel theorem.
- Is every closed and bounded subset of a complete metric space compact?
- If  $f_n : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  is a collection of continuous functions pointwise convergent to  $f$  and if  $f$  is continuous then convergence is uniform (**True/False**)

## IISER Bhopal

- Define field extension with example.
- If  $K/F$  is a field extension and  $R$  is a ring between  $K$  and  $F$  what can you say about that ring  $R$  ?
- Let  $p(x)$  be a polynomial in  $F[x]$  and take the extension  $F(x)/F(p(x))$ ,  $F(p(x))/F$  and  $F(x)/F$ . Which are the algebraic extensions, finite extensions? And are they separable extensions?
- Let  $G$  be a group and  $H$  be a normal subgroup of  $G$  such that the set difference i.e.  $G - H$  is finite. What can you say about the cardinality of  $G$ ? To prove your claim is normality of the subgroup needed or not?
- Let  $S$  be a subset of  $\mathbf{R}$  such that every real valued continuous function from  $S$  is bounded. What can you say about  $S$  ?
- If  $f : (0, 1) \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  is a continuous map and

$$\int_0^1 f(x)g(x) dx = 0$$

for all  $g \in C(0, 1)$  having compact support in  $(0, 1)$ . What can you say about  $f$ ?

## IIT Kharagpur

- Is 5 is a prime element in  $\mathbf{Z}[i]$  ?
- Find a maximal ideal containing 5 in  $\mathbf{Z}[i]$  ( I said  $\langle 1 + 2i \rangle$  then they told me to prove why it is a maximal ideal in  $\mathbf{Z}[i]$  )
- What more you can say about  $\mathbf{Z}[i]$  besides being a PID ? (I said it is an ED, then they asked me why it is an ED ?)
- Which prime numbers of  $\mathbf{Z}$  are primes of  $\mathbf{Z}[i]$  too ? ( I said prime numbers in  $\mathbf{Z}$  of the form  $4k + 3$  are prime elements of  $\mathbf{Z}[i]$  too, then they told me to give justification about my claim )
- Can you prove that prime numbers in  $\mathbf{Z}$  of the form  $4k + 3$  can not be written as the sum of two squares using congruence modulo 4 ?

## IIT Bombay

- Let  $K$  be a field and  $H$  be a finite subgroup of  $(K^\times, \cdot)$  then what can you say about  $H$  ?
- What are the finitely generated subgroups of  $(\mathbf{Q}, +)$  ?
- Is  $(\mathbf{Q}^*, \cdot)$  is finitely generated ?
- How many homomorphisms are there from  $\mathbf{Q}$  to  $\mathbf{Z}$  ?
- Is  $(\mathbf{Q}^*, \cdot)$  is isomorphic to  $(\mathbf{Q}, +)$  ?
- Is  $(\mathbf{Q}^+, \cdot)$  is isomorphic to  $(\mathbf{Q}, +)$  ?
- Is every finitely generated proper subgroup of  $(\mathbf{Q}^*, \cdot)$  is cyclic ?
- If  $f : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  is a continuous function such that

$$\int_0^1 x^n f(x) dx = 0$$

for all  $n \in \mathbf{N} \cup \{0\}$ . What can you tell about  $f$  ?

## IIT Madras

- How many elements are there in  $S_4$  which do not fix any element i.e. What is the cardinality of the set  $\{f \in S_4 : f(x) \neq x \text{ for all } x \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}\}$ . (They asked me to use group action to find the number of such elements).
- Define separable extension and give an example.
- Is every extension over  $\mathbf{Q}$  separable ?
- Prove every algebraic field extension over an infinite field of char 0 separable.
- Give an example of an inseparable extension. ( I said  $\text{split}_{\mathbf{Z}_p(\mathbf{t})}(x^p - t)$  over  $\mathbf{Z}_p(\mathbf{t})$  where  $t$  is an indeterminate, then they asked the reason why the extension is inseparable ?)
- Prove that any finite field extension over a finite field is a Galois extension.
- Tell NASC for  $F_{p^m}$  to be a subfield of  $F_{p^n}$  and prove it.
- What is the degree of the extension  $F_{p^n}$  over  $F_{p^m}$ .
- Let  $G$  be a finite group and  $H$  be a subgroup of  $G$  such that  $[G : H]$  is the smallest prime divisor of the order of  $G$ . What can you say about  $H$  and prove your claim.

# IIT Delhi

- 1st Stage**
- Let  $T : \mathbf{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^2$  be a linear transformation such that  $T(v) = v$  for all points on any two chosen lines passing through  $(0,0)$ . What can you say about  $T$  ?
  - Let  $T : \mathbf{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^2$  be a linear transformation. If  $L_1$  is a collection of all points on a line passing through the origin and  $L_2$  is a collection of all points on a different line passing through the origin. And if  $T(L_1) \subseteq L_1$  and  $T(L_2) \subseteq L_2$ . What can you say about eigen values and eigen vectors of  $T$  ?
  - Give an example of such above linear transformation other than the identity linear transformation ?
  - Define differentiability on  $\mathbf{R}$
  - If  $f$  is differentiable on  $\mathbf{R}$  and  $f$  is periodic then using definition of differentiation prove that  $f'$  is also periodic.
  - Is there any differentiable function  $f$  on  $\mathbf{R}$  such that  $f'(0) = 0$  and  $f'(x) \geq 1$  for all non zero real  $x$  ?  
(I said it is not possible by using the Darboux theorem and then they asked me can you prove using the Mean value theorem ?)

- 2nd Stage**
- What can you say about group of order  $p^2$  where  $p$  is prime ?
  - Prove that  $G/Z(G)$  is cyclic if and only if  $G$  is abelian.
  - Prove group of order  $p^n$  has non trivial center.
  - If  $G$  is a group of order  $p^3$  and  $|Z(G)| > p$  then what can you say about  $G$  ?
  - Is every group of order  $p^3$  abelian ? If not give an example.
  - Define field extension, give an example of field extension and define degree of field extension.
  - Is every finite extension algebraic ? If yes prove this.
  - Is every algebraic extension a finite extension? Give a Counter example.  
( I gave  $\mathbf{Q}(\{2^{1/n} : n \in \mathbf{N}\})$  over  $\mathbf{Q}$ . Then they asked me to show why it is not a finite extension )
  - Give an example of an infinite-dimensional field extension. I said  $\mathbf{R}$  over  $\mathbf{Q}$ . Then they asked me to prove this.
  - What is the degree extension of  $\mathbf{Q}(x)$  over  $\mathbf{Q}$  if  $x$  is indeterminate?
  - Define quotient ring and prove the well-definedness of  $+$  and  $\cdot$  operation.
  - Is  $\{0\}$  a prime ideal of any ring? An example of such a ring where zero ideal is not prime ideal.
  - Give an example of an infinite ring where every prime ideal is maximal.  
( I said any infinite field. Then they told me to give an example of an infinite ring having such properties which is not a field, I told  $\mathbf{R}[x]/(x^2)$  then they asked me why )
  - What do you mean by a finitely generated  $R$ -algebra where  $R$  is a ring?