

Problem 4

Best post cache update: 60 minutes

Showing posts 1 to 25 out of 25

5/5 Kudos remaining



Mon, 23 May 2005, 21:26

Begoner

Python


[Quote](#) [Report](#) 564

You can also do this with pen and paper. You have a number:

$$(100a + 10b + c)(100d + 10e + f)$$

Which is a palindrone. This factors out to:

$$\begin{aligned} &100cd + 10ce + cf + \\ &100bd + 10be + 10bf + \\ &1000ad + 100ae + 10af \end{aligned}$$

Assuming the first digit is 9, then cf must be equal to nine. Also, both a and d must then be equal to nine. The only ways to make the last digit of the product of two integers 9 would be if those integers were either of:

1 and 9
3 and 3
7 and 7

So, both numbers must start with 9, end with either 1, 3, 7, or 9, and one of them must be divisible by 11. The only numbers divisible by 11 from 900 - 1000 are:

902
913
924
935
946
957
968
979
990

You can discard all of those that do not end in either 1, 3, 7, or 9, and you are left with:

913
957
979

So now the presumed answer is either:

$$(900 + 10 + 3)(900 + 10x + 3)$$

$$(900 + 50 + 7)(900 + 10x + 7)$$

$$(900 + 70 + 9)(900 + 10x + 1)$$

Factoring all those out, you get:

$$810000 + 9000x + 2700 + 9000 + 100x + 30 + 2700 + 30x + 9$$

$$824439 + 9130x$$

Now, for the first digit $824439 + 9130x$ to be 9, x must be 9 (if x were 8, then $824439 + 9130x = 897479$, and the first digit is 8). And so you have $913 * 993$, which is the answer. You can factor the others out to see if they produce a bigger answer, which they don't.



Mon, 23
May 2005,
00:15

Begoner
Python



[Quote](#) [Report](#) 329

The palindrome can be written as:

abccba

Which then simplifies to:

$$100000a + 10000b + 1000c + 100c + 10b + a$$

And then:

$$100001a + 10010b + 1100c$$

Factoring out 11, you get:

$$11(9091a + 910b + 100c)$$

So the palindrome must be divisible by 11. Seeing as 11 is prime, at least one of the numbers must be divisible by 11. So brute force in Python, only with less numbers to be checked:

Python

Hide Code

```
def c():
    max = maxI = maxJ = 0
    i = 999
    j = 990
    while (i > 100):
        j = 990
        while (j > 100):
            product = i * j
            if (product > max):
                productString = str(product)
                if (productString == productString[::-1]):
                    max = product
                    maxI = i
                    maxJ = j
```

```

        j -= 11
    i -= 1
    return max, maxI, maxJ

```

Returns an answer in 0.016 secs.



Sun, 22 Aug 2004,
04:48

etatsui
C#



[Quote](#) [Report](#) 159

The palindrome can be written as
 $11(9091a + 910b + 100c) = mn$;
 a,b & c being 1 digit integers and m & n being 3 digit
 intergers.

Let $11 * 10 < m < 11 * 90$;

```

for(int a=9; a>=1; a--)
  for(int b=9; b>=0; b--)
    for(int c=9; c>=0; c--){
      num = 9091 * a + 910 * b + 100 * c;
      for(int divider=90; divider>=10; divider--){
        //look for divider that can divide
        //and also doesn't make n > 999
        if((num % divider) == 0){
          if((num / divider) > 999)
            break;
          else
            result = num * 11; //Found it!
        } else { break; }
      }
    }

```



Tue, 17 Jan 2006,
13:54

iang
Python



[Quote](#) [Report](#) 80

Python one-liner

Python

[Hide Code](#)

```

max([x*y for x in range(900,1000) for y in range(900,1000) if str(x*y) ==
str(x*y)[::-1]])

```



Fri, 31 Dec 2004, 17:03

REBoss
APL/J/K



[Quote](#) [Report](#) 64

In J:

```

>([:[: ]#~ (=|. &.>)) <@": "0 /:~(0:-.~[:,>:/**/ )~(i.100)-.~i.1000

```



Sun, 25 Sep 2011,

10:35

Lucy_Hedgehog



Python



Quote Report 41

I have a few more solutions for different sizes:

```
# n=2  9009 = 91 * 99
# n=3  906609 = 913 * 993
# n=4  99000099 = 9901 * 9999
# n=5  9966006699 = 99681 * 99979
# n=6  999000000999 = 999001 * 999999
# n=7  99956644665999 = 9997647 * 9998017
# n=8  9999000000009999 = 99990001 * 99999999
# n=9  999900665566009999 = 999980347 * 999920317
# n=10 99999834000043899999 = 9999996699 * 9999986701
# n=11 9999994020000204999999 = 99999996349 * 99999943851
# n=12 99999900000000000009999999 = 999999999999 * 9999990000001
# n=13 999999633420000243369999999 = 9999999993349 * 9999996340851
# n=14 9999999000000000000009999999 = 9999999999999 *
999999900000001
# n=15 999999974180040040081479999999 = 99999998341069 *
999999975838971
# n=16 99999999000000000000000099999999 = 99999999999999 *
9999999900000001
# n=18 99999999947055264004625507499999999 = 99999999889625119
* 999999999580927521
# n=19 9999999998883705720027507388899999999 =
9999999999632783059 * 999999999250922661
# n=20 999999999969444823200232844496999999999 =
99999999998547088359 * 99999999998397393961
```

The following code find the largest palindrom for all $n \leq 16$ in less than 1 minute.

Python

Hide Code

```
# Using python 3.0

def ispalindrome(x):
    s = str(x)
    return s == s[::-1]

def inverse(x,mod):
    """Compute the modular inverse of x modulo a power of 10.
    Return None if the inverse does not exist.
    This function uses Hensel lifting."""
    a = [None, 1, None, 7, None, None, None, 3, None, 9][x%10]
    if a == None: return a
    while True:
        ax = a*x % mod
        if ax == 1: return a
        a = (a * (2 - ax)) % mod

def pal2(n):
    assert n > 2

    # Get a lower bound:
```

```

# If n is even then we can construct a first palindrome.
# If n is odd we simply guess
k = n//2
while True:
    maxf = 10**n - 1
    maxf11 = (maxf - 11) // 22 * 22 + 11
    minf = 10**n - 10**(n-k) + 1
    if 2*k == n:
        best = maxf * minf
        factors = (maxf, minf)
        assert ispalindrome(best)
    else:
        best = minf * minf
        factors = None
    # This palindrome starts with k 9's.
    # Hence the largest palindrom must also start with k 9's and
    # therefore end with k 9's.
    # Thus, if p = x * y is the solution then
    # x * y + 1 is divisible by mod.
    mod = 10**k
    for x in range(maxf11, 1, -22):
        if x * maxf < best:
            break
        ry = inverse(x, mod)
        if ry == None:
            continue
        maxy = maxf + 1 - ry
        for p in range(maxy * x, best, -x * mod):
            if ispalindrome(p):
                if p > best:
                    best = p
                    y = p//x
                    factors = (x, y)
    if factors:
        return best, factors
    else: k-=1

```



Wed, 5 Jan 2005, 08:26

bitRAKE
Assembly

Quote Report 40

I brute force of course:

Assembly	Show Code
<pre> ; maximum palidrome xor ebx, ebx ; two three digit numbers mov esi, 999 mov edi, 999 _0: ; multiplied together mov ecx, esi imul ecx, edi ; Is palindrome? push ecx push ecx push ecx fild DWORD PTR [esp] fstp TBYTE PTR [esp] ; five or six digits </pre>	

```

mov edx, DWORD PTR [esp]
mov eax, edx
and edx, 0F0F0Fh
and eax, 0F0F0F0h
cmp DWORD PTR [esp], 100000h
jc five
; six digits
; 00 AB CD EF
shl edx, 4+8
shl eax, 4
or eax, edx
bswap eax
; 00 FE DC BA
jmp check

five: ; 00 0A BC DE
shl edx, 8
shl eax, 16
or eax, edx
bswap eax
; 00 0E DC BA
check: cmp DWORD PTR [esp], eax
lea esp, [esp + 12]
jne @F
cmp ebx, eax
cmovc ebx, eax
@@: dec edi
cmp edi, 99
jne _1
dec esi
cmp esi, 99
jne _0

```



Sat, 17 Sep 2005, 04:14

Olathe
Haskell
[Quote](#) [Report](#) 35

In Ruby :

Haskell**Show Code**

```

max = 0
100.upto(999) { |a|
  a.upto(999) { |b|
    prod = a * b
    max = [max, prod].max if prod.to_s == prod.to_s.reverse
  }
}
puts "Maximum palindrome is #{ max }."

```



Thu, 3 Mar 2005, 18:09

[Quote](#) [Report](#) 29

In Java..

```

int max=0;
for(int i=100;i<=999;i++)
    for(int j=100;j<=999;j++)
        if (palin(j*i))

```

```

        if(j*i>max)
            max=j*i;

```

```

System.out.println(max);

```

Note: I've created 2 utility methods for Palindrome and Reverse

```

public static long rev(long n)
{ // This method simply returns a reversed number

    String s="" + n;
    StringBuffer sb=new StringBuffer(s);
    sb=sb.reverse();
    s="" + sb;

    return Long.parseLong(s);
}

public static boolean palin(int n)
{ //This method checks if a number is palin or no

    String s1="" + n;
    String s2="" + rev(n);
    if(s1.equals(s2))
        return true;

    return false;
}

```



Thu, 10 Nov 2005,
20:10

quangntenemy
Java



Haskell

[Quote](#) [Report](#) 28

Haskell

Show Code

```

[m | a <- [9], b <- [0..9], c <- [0..9], m <- [100001* a + 10010 * b + 1100 *
c], [x | x <- [100..999], m `mod` x == 0 && m `div` x < 1000] /= []

```



Wed, 24 Aug
2005, 16:30

ebgreen
PowerShell



My brute force Python solution. I am using these Math Challenges to learn Python, so my solutions are rarely the best. :)

[Quote](#) [Report](#) 18

Hide Code

```

def IsPalindrome(n):

```

```

myStr = str(n)
if myStr == myStr[::-1]:
    return 1
else:
    return 0

import time

tStart = time.time()
nResult = 0
for i in range(100,1000):
    for j in range(100,1000):
        if IsPalindrome(i*j) == 1 and (i*j) > nResult:
            nResult = (i*j)
print "Winner = " + str(nResult)
print "run time = " + str((time.time() - tStart))

```



Wed, 2 Feb
2005, 16:01

alereborn



brute force in python...

Quote Report 15

Hide Code

```

def ispalindrome(string):
    decide=1
    i=0
    while i<=int(len(string)/2) and decide==1:
        if string[i]!=string[-(i+1)]:
            decide=0
        i+=1
    return decide

if __name__=='__main__':
    aux=0
    for k in range(101,1000):
        for j in range(101,1000):
            if ispalindrome(str(j*k)) and j*k>aux:
                aux=j*k
    print aux

```

I would really appreciate if VRAbi and R.E.Boss could tell me what language are they using... and why is it so cryptic...



Sat, 17
Mar 2007,
00:10

yeus
C/C++



my highly optimized C++ -version which takes only 373 nanoseconds
(=3.73*10⁻⁷s on a 1.8GHz, optimized build, using microsofts C++
compiler (2005 version) :):

Quote Report 12

C/C++

Show Code


```
static inline unsigned int FindLargestPalindromicNumber()
{
    for(int x=9;x>=0;--x){ int a=x*100001;
    for(int y=9;y>=0;--y){ int b=a+y*10010;
    for(int z=9;z>=0;--z){ int n=b+z*1100;
        for(int i=990;i>99;i-=11){
            if(n%i==0){
                int t=n/i;
                if(t<1000)return n;
            }
        }
    }
    }
    return 0;
}
```



Sun, 18 Sep 2005, 04:57

gel

C/C++



Quote Report 10

C - brute force

C/C++

Show Code

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>

int main(void)
{
    int x;
    int y;
    int z;
    int max = 0;
    char a[7];
    char b[7];

    for(x = 999 ; x > 99 ; x--)
    {
        for(y = 999 ; y > 99 ; y--)
        {
            z = x * y;
            sprintf(a, "%d", z);
            strcpy(b, a);
            _strrev(b);
            if(strcmp(a, b) == 0)
            {
                if(z > max)
                {
                    max = z;
                }
            }
        }
    }
    printf("Answer = %d\n", max);
    return 0;
}
```

Very similar to Neitsa's.



Tue, 9
May 2006,
21:44
andylaw
Perl



Quote Report 9

A slightly refined version in Ruby with a bit of applied thought. If we start from 999 and work DOWN (rather than the way that everyone uses by default of starting at 100 and working up) then we can home in on the solution quicker.

Also, by breaking out of the inner loop when we find a palindrome (because we aren't going to find a bigger value in this loop if we're decrementing the inner loop) we can save further time.

Finally, by stopping the search when the outer loop is less than the sqrt of the highest palindrome found thus far we can save ourselves even more time.

This cuts down the search space by more than 92% by my reckoning.

```
<div style='padding:.5em;border:1px solid black;background:#ffc;'
class='info'>
```

```
[tt=]
```

```
#!/usr/bin/ruby
```

```
# Euler problem 004
```

```
# Variables for recording the highest value seen
```

```
max = 0
```

```
# Iterate DOWN - because we'll find the highest value
```

```
# quicker that way
```

```
999.downto(100) do |n|
```

```
# If we already found something bigger than the square of our
```

```
# outer (higher) loop number then we can stop
```

```
    if (n*n < max) then
```

```
        break
```

```
    end
```

```
# Again, iterate DOWN
```

```
n.downto(100) do |m|
```

```
# calculate the product and check if it is a palindrome
```

```
# If it is, and it's bigger than the best one we've seen to now
```

```
# then record it as the biggest and break out of the inner loop
```

```
# because we aren't going to find a bigger value for this value
```

```
# in the outer loop
```

```
    i = (n * m)
```

```
    s = i.to_s
```

```
    if (s == s.reverse) then
```

```
        if (i > max) then
```

```
            max = i
```

```

                                end
                                break
                        end
                end
        end

# Once we're done, report the highest value seen
puts max
[/tt]</div>

```



Thu, 5 Jan
2006, 10:18

paulj
Python



[Quote](#) [Report](#) 7

Python:

```

maxp = 0
for i in xrange(100,1000):
    for j in xrange(i, 1000):
        p = i * j
        if str(p) == str(p)[::-1] and p > maxp:
            maxp = p

print maxp

```

range for i was chosen to be 'all 3-digit numbers'. range for j is such that we don't end up with duplicates.



Sun, 18 Sep 2005,
14:57

spuno
C#



[Quote](#) [Report](#) 7

C# solution

```

int sum;
int Largest = -1;
string res;
bool Palindrome = true;

for(int x=999;x>=1;x--)
{
    for(int y=999;y>=1;y--)
    {
        sum = x*y;
        res = sum.ToString();
        Palindrome = true;
        for(int t = 0;t<res.Length / 2;t++)
        {
            if(res[t] != res[res.Length-t-1])
                Palindrome = false;
        }
        if(Palindrome) if(sum > Largest) Largest = sum;
    }
}

```

```

    }
}
Console.WriteLine(Largest);
Console.ReadLine();

```



Mon, 24 Jul 2006,
16:12

thattommyhall
Clojure



[Quote](#) [Report](#) 6

paulj said

Python:

```

maxp = 0
for i in xrange(100,1000):
    for j in xrange(i, 1000):
        p = i * j
        if str(p) == str(p)[::-1] and p > maxp:
            maxp = p

```

print maxp

range for i was chosen to be 'all 3-digit numbers'. range for j is such that we don't end up with duplicates.

Like mine, just a shade more thoughtfull, beautiful.



Mon, 26 Dec 2005, 19:07

VrAbi
APL/J/K



[Quote](#) [Report](#) 6

In K(kx.com):

[Show Code](#)

Refactored, to match olegyk's J solution

[Show Code](#)



Sun, 16 Oct 2005,
16:36

elt
Haskell



[Quote](#) [Report](#) 6

Haskell solution

```

palindrome = maximum (filter (isPalindrome) [a*b | a <-
[100..999], b <- [a..999]])
    where
        isPalindrome a = a == merge (makeList a)
                                where

```

```
-> x*10) xs)
```

```
++ [(mod a 10)]
```

```
merge [] = 0
```

```
merge (x:xs) = x + merge (map (\x
```

```
makeList 0 = []
```

```
makeList a = (makeList (div a 10))
```



Mon, 17
Oct 2005,
00:34
Silverfish
Python

Quote Report 6

My method is sort of brute force.

I started by creating a procedure (this is all in Maple), called palintest, that tests whether a given 6 digit number is palindrome:

Python

Hide Code

```
palintest := proc(r) local a,b,c,tests;
b := []; c:= r;
for a from 1 to 6 do
b := [op(b),c mod 10]; c := floor(c/10);
end do;
for a from 1 to 3 do if b[a] <> b[7-a] then return (false); end if; end do;
return(true);
end proc;
```

Then, I set up a program to run through all reasonable pairs of 3 digit numbers, multiply them, and check if the product is a palindrome:

Python

Hide Code

```
palinfind := proc() local a,b, x,y; x := [];
for a from 999 to 101 by -1 do print(a);
for b from min(floor(999999/a),999) to
max(ceil(100001/a),101) by -1 do
if palintest(a*b) then x := {a,b}; return(x); end if;
end do; end do;
return(x);
end proc;
```

By reasonable, I mean that the numbers must be 3 digit, so between 100 and 999, not including 100, as a number with 100 as a factor would end in 0, and so if it was a palindrome it would start with 0, which is impossible. Also, the product must be 6 digit, so between 100001 and 999999, the lowest and highest 6 digit palindromes.

This produces $583 \times 995 = 580085$. Given I started with the high numbers first, any higher palindromes would have one number less than 995 (as those higher have been covered, and those not covered for 995 would be

those with the other number less than 583), and also both numbers must be at least 583, as if one is less, then the other would need to be greater than 995 (which is impossible). So we can alter the program a bit to find another palindrome, with this program:

Python**Hide Code**

```
palinfind2 := proc() local a,b, x,y; x := [];
for a from 999 to 583 by -1 do print(a);
for b from min(floor(999999/a),999) to
max(ceil(580086/a),583) by -1 do
if palintest(a*b) then x := {a,b}; return(x); end if;
end do; end do;
return(x);
end proc;
```

This gives $913 \times 993 = 906609$, and by a similar process we can look for any higher palindromes, which do not exist.



Sun, 25 Jul 2004, 18:49

rayfil
 Assembly

[Quote](#) [Report](#) 6
Assembly**Show Code**

```
.data
XXX      dd    100
YYY      dd    100
palinmax  dd    0
txtbuf    db    16 dup(0)

.code

start:
    mov     eax,XXX
    mul     YYY
    mov     ebx,eax
    lea     edi,txtbuf
    mov     esi,edi    ;esi=points to first digit
    call    dw2a
    sub     edi,2       ;edi=back pointing to last digit

;this works the same for either 5 or 6 digits
    lodsb
    cmp     al,[edi]
    jnz     nextone
    dec     edi
    lodsb
    cmp     al,[edi]
    jnz     nextone
    dec     edi
    lodsb
    cmp     al,[edi]
    jnz     nextone
    cmp     ebx,palinmax
    jb      nextone
    mov     palinmax,ebx
```

```

nextone:
    inc    YYY
    cmp    YYY,1000
    jb     start
    inc    XXX
    cmp    XXX,999
    ja     endcalc
    push   XXX
    pop    YYY      ;values less than XXX already checked
    jmp    start

dw2a:
    mov    ecx,10
    pushd  0        ;for later use as terminating 0
@@:
    xor    edx,edx  ;clear for division
    div    ecx
    add    dl,"0"   ;convert to ascii
    push   edx      ;save each digit on stack
    .if    eax != 0
        jmp @B      ;continue conversion
    .endif
@@:
    pop    eax      ;retrieve each ascii character
    stosb
    or     al,al
    jnz    @B      ;continue until terminating 0
    ret
endcalc:

```



Tue, 17 Jan 2006, 19:32

gauchopuro
Haskell

[Quote](#) [Report](#) 5

Another Haskell solution, with GHCi:

```

> let palindrome x = let digits = show x in
                        digits == reverse digits
> maximum [x * y | x <- [100..999], y <- [100..999],
              palindrome (x * y)]
906609

```



Sun, 25 Mar 2007, 02:10

Vaste
Haskell

[Quote](#) [Report](#) 5

Fun to see how similar all the Haskell solutions are.

Haskell
[Show Code](#)

```

let isPal x = x == reverse x
maximum $ filter (isPal.show) $ [x*y|x<-[1..999],y<-[1..999]]

```



Sun, 14 Jan 2007, 07:16

Mr.Wizard
Mathematica

[Quote](#) [Report](#) 5

A solution with Mathematica:



```
pQ=Boole[#==Reverse@#]&@IntegerDigits@#&  
Array[pQ[1##]##&,{100,100},900,Max]
```

[Post Reply](#)