Coding Competition | Anudeep Nekkanti | Competitive Coding in India | Online Judges | Sphere Online Judge (SPOJ) | Specific Quora Users | Competitive Programming | Computer Programmers | Computer Programming

What was Anudeep Nekkanti's Competitive Programming strategy to become 35th in Global ranking, in just 6-7 months?

He said in this How did Anudeep Nekkanti become so good at competitive programming? , he got to know about online judge in Jan and by August, he was 35th in Global ranking. I want to know what was his preparation strategy?

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1 Answer

Anudeep Nekkanti, ";" key hates me the most..

Updated 147w ago · Upvoted by Bhavik Dhandhalya, Hacker, Problem Setter on SPOJ & HackerEarth, ACM ICPC 2016 Participant

What I did ?

- Solved about 300 problems on SPOJ in this order - Sphere Online Judge (SPOJ)

Result ?

Related Questions

I just started learning programming a few months ago. How can I become a top programmer?

Was Anudeep Nekkanti a 9 pointer of ANITS or the topper of his batch?

What projects did Anudeep Nekkanti work on during his college days except the internship at Directi?

How did Anudeep Nekkanti manage his semesters while he was busy solving SPOJ problems?

Did Anudeep Nekkanti had a mentor in his college?

Did Anudeep Nekkanti used to practice div-1 1000s?

What IDE/Editor did Anudeep Nekkanti use while doing competitive programming?

What is Pradeep George Mathias's and Anudeep Nekkanti's advice to a 25 year old working guy who wants to become a topcoder in a year?

Did Anudeep Nekkanti join any coaching institutes before doing competitive programming?

What are the ways to become good coder in about 6 months for a newbie?

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- Became very good with C++ and STL
- Got introduced to most Competitive programming KEYWORDS (like DP, maxflow, sets, hashing, etc)
- Learned Standard Problems and Algorithms
- Indenting code
- Fast typing :P

How ?
Before starting programming, I searched about how and where to start, many said "Learn an Algorithm, implement it, solve problems related to it". I did **not** do it that way, If you know what algorithm to use you generally think in that direction and leave about correctness. I did them problem by problem, easy to hard, I spent 1 - 4 hours on a problem.
I get the idea, I code it, Get it Accepted. (I used to test a lot, I always wanted to get AC on first go)

I do not get the idea, I save that problem and try it after a month again. If I still do not get them, then search for hints. If it clearly needed some algorithm which I never used then I first smile (? I could not only because I did not knew the algorithm :P) and then start reading about that algorithm. TopCoder had tutorials of almost all common algorithms. This is where I did a **BIG MISTAKE**. I never cared about correctness or run-time analysis proof, I always learned how to solve the problem using that algorithm, I hardly learned about how the algorithm works. I feel bad about it now, but that is how I solved those problems then. I solved max-flow, convex hull, etc., problems using described algorithms but I did not UNDERSTAND those algorithms then.

Mistake: Once I started taking part in contests, I completely stopped practice.

35th in Global Ranking
- CodeChef long contests are comparatively easy (Which is good, You can learn a lot), you get a lot of time to think about a problem, search for resources. You only need KEYWORDS to search for similar problems.

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- I gave a lot of time for each contest. I used to solve 4 easy problems in 2-3 days, then take 5-6 days for other 3 problems.
- CodeChef rating system is not good. It is highly Volatile.

If I am to start programming now, I would do it this way

1. Solve 200 most solved problems on SPOJ, Problem by problem. In 2 months.
   (This will teach all standard problems, algorithms and implementation skills)
2. Solve problems from CodeChef and CodeForces for 2 months.
   (This will teach variations, we can read others solutions and learn better ways. Skip easy problems)
3. Solve problems from TopCoder for 2 months.
   (This will teach Dynamic Programming. Div 1 500p)
4. Check past ACM ICPC Regional's Problems
   (Great quality problems)

If I am to learn a new Algorithm now, I would do it this way

1. Read it from at least 3-4 different sources.
2. Understand correctness proof and run-time analysis.
   (This is very very important, you will know it only when you deal with non standard and hard problems)
3. Question yourself on every step for correctness. Try to tweak the implementation.
4. Check other implementations.

Final Note

Thought I became good in solving problems and had good rank. I later(Feb 13) realized that I learned it the wrong way. I then started learning again. I learned all the algorithms again this time gave importance to the algorithm itself, correctness proof and mathematical analysis. It is worth the time.

Lucy and the Flowers - Problem from December long contest, Try to solve it with suffix

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arrays. You can only if you understand suffix arrays and LCP completely.

I was able to solve a not-so-obvious medium level Max-Flow problem at ACM KGP Onsite only because I completely understood how the algorithm works. It was at 4 hour 25 minutes I got 5th problem accepted, then I read this problem and got it accepted 4 minutes before end. Learning the algorithm helped. Dot.

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What are some achievements of Anudeep Nekkanti apart from competitive programming?

I just started programming a couple of months ago. I can just write basic programs. What should I know before I could start competitive progra...

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I am 20 years old just and I have started with Competitive programming is it too late to come at par with Anudeep nekkanti and Petr?

What it is like to code with Anudeep Nekkanti?

If I solve only one question daily on SPOJ, can I beat Anudeep Nekkanti in one year?

Why can't I add Anudeep Nekkanti on Facebook?

Why did Anudeep Nekkanti switch to Java for competitive programming?

How did Anudeep Nekkanti tackle the math problems in competitive programming?

I am 17. I have just started to learn programming. Is it possible to become one of the best competitive programmers in 12 years ?

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