

Session Outline

- **01.** Introduction to Strings, HashMaps
- **02.** Problem Sets
- 03. Debrief & Q/A



Strings

Corner cases:

- Empty string
- String with 1 or 2 characters
- String with repeated characters
- Strings with only distinct characters

Techniques:

- Counting characters
- Anagram
- Palindrome



PART 02

Problem Sets

Steps to approach the question:

Understand the problem

Code your solution

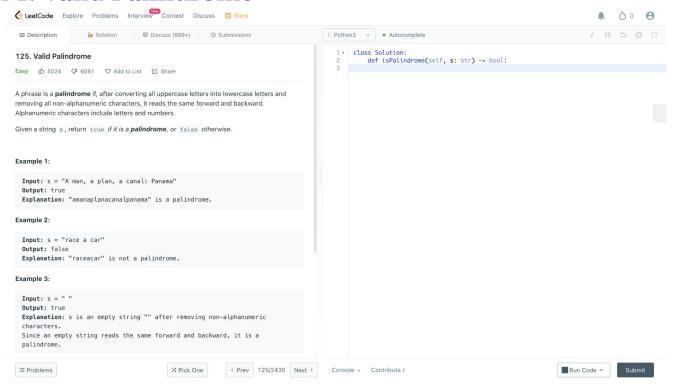
Manage your time

Take time to carefully read through the problem from start to finish is critical in finding the correct and complete solution to the problem in hand.

Map out your solution before you write any code. Avoid too much time trying to find the perfect solution. Validate your solution early and often. Don't forget, you have multiple questions to complete within a said time. Make sure you allocate enough time to carefully consider all problems.



Problem 1: Valid Palindrome





Palindrome

A palindrome is a word, phrase, or sequence that reads the same backwards as forwards.

Compare with reverse

Filter out non-alphanumeric characters.

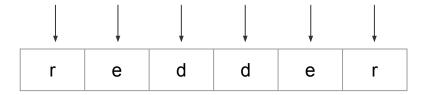
Convert the remaining characters to lower-case.

Compare the original and the reversed strings.

Two pointers

Since the input string contains characters that we need to ignore in our palindromic check, it becomes tedious to figure out the real middle point of our palindromic input.

Instead of going outwards from the middle, we could just go inwards towards the middle!





Approach: Two Pointers

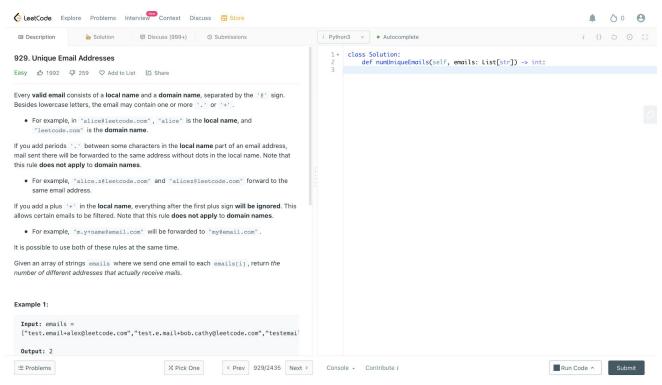
```
def isPalindrome(self, s: str) -> bool:
  # Define the two pointers on each end
  i, j = 0, len(s) - 1
  while i < j:
   # Increase the left-end pointer if current character is non-alphanumeric
    while i < j and not s[i].isalnum():
      i += 1
    # Decrease the right-end pointer if current character is non-alphanumeric
    while i < j and not s[j].isalnum():
     j -= ]
    # Compare both pointers should point to equivalent character or else break early
    if s[i].lower() != s[j].lower():
      return False
    #Increase the pointers
    i += 1
    i -= 1
  return True
```

Time complexity: O(n), in length n of the string. We traverse over each character at-most once, until the two pointers meet in the middle, or when we break and return early.

Space complexity: O(1), no extra space required, at all.



Problem 2: Unique email addresses





Unique email check:

#Rules to clean email

- If there are periods "in local name ignore them.
- If there is a plus '+' in local name skip all local name characters till '@'.
- There is only one '@' symbol and the substring after it is our domain name; we will keep the domain name as it is.

Use built-in functions

- Split the string into two parts separated by '@', local name, and domain name.
- Split the local name into parts separated by '+'.
- Since we do not need the part after '+', let the first part be the local name.
- Remove all '.' from the local name and append the domain name to it.
- After cleaning the email, insert it into the hash set.
- Return the size of the hash set.



Approach: String Split method

```
def numUniqueEmails(self, emails: List[str]) -> int:
  # Hashset to store all the unique emails.
  uniqueEmails = set()

for email in emails:
  # Split into two parts: local and domain.
  name, domain = email.split('@')

  # Split local by '+' and replace all '.' with ''.
  local = name.split('+')[0].replace('.', '')

  # Concatenate local, '@', and domain.
  uniqueEmails.add(local + '@' + domain)

return len(uniqueEmails)
```

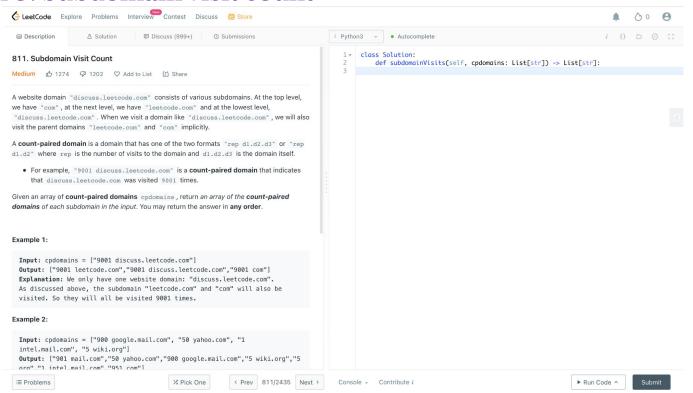
Let N be the number of the emails and M be the average length of an email.

Time complexity: O(N·M), The split method must iterate over all of the characters in each email and the replace method must iterate over all of the characters in each local name.

Space complexity: $O(N \cdot M)$ In the worst case, when all emails are unique, we will store every email address given to us in the hash set.



Problem 3: Subdomain visit count





Subdomain counter:

#Rules to count subdomain

- For an address like a.b.c, we will count a.b.c, b.c, and c.
- For an address like x.y, we will count x.y and y.
- To count these strings, we will use a hash map.
- To split the strings into the required pieces, we will use library split functions.

Use collections.counter

- Counter is a dict subclass for counting hashable objects. (supports multiset, unordered, faster access)
- Elements are stored as dictionary keys and their counts are stored as dictionary values.
- Counts are allowed to be any integer value including zero or negative counts.



Approach: Hash Map

```
def subdomainVisits(self, cpdomains):
    ans = collections.Counter()

for domain in cpdomains:
    count, domain = domain.split() # Separate the domain and its count
    count = int(count) # Converts count from String to Int
    fragments = domain.split(!') # Separates the subdomain fragments

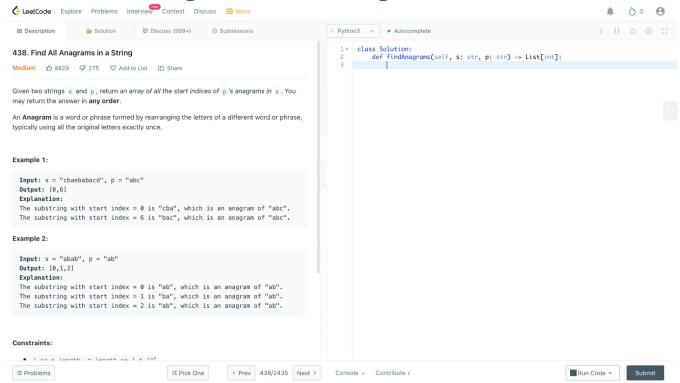
# Combines the count of subdomains
    for i in range(len(fragments)):
        ans[".".join(fragments[i:])] += count

return ["{} {}".format(ct, dom) for dom, ct in ans.items()]
```

Time complexity: O(N), where N is the length of cpdomains, and assuming the length of cpdomains[i] is fixed. **Space complexity:** O(N), the space used in our count.



Problem 4: Find all Anagrams in a String





Sliding Window

- Reduces the use of nested loops.
- Slide over the data in chunks.
- Window moves across the input array from one end to the other.
- The input data structure does support random access.
- Data is processed via segmentation.



Anagrams

a b c

Using 26-elements array instead of hashmap:

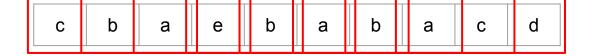
- Element number 0 contains count of letter a.
- Element number 1 contains count of letter b.

...

- Element number 25 contains count of letter z. Algorithm

Steps

- Build reference array pCount for string p.
- Move sliding window along the string s.
- Recompute sliding window array sCount at each step by adding one letter on the right and removing one letter on the left.
- If sCount == pCount, update the output list.
- Return output list.





Approach: Sliding window with Hashmap

```
def findAnagrams(self, s: str, p: str) -> List[int]:
   ns, np = len(s), len(p)
   if ns < np:
     return []
   p_count = Counter(p)
   s_count = Counter()
   output = []
   # sliding window on the string s
   for i in range(ns):
      # add one more letter on the right side of the window
      s_count[s[i]] += 1
      # remove one letter from the left side of the window
      if i \ge np:
        if s_{\text{count}}[s[i - np]] == 1:
          del s_count[s[i - np]]
        else:
          s_count[s[i - np]] -= 1
      # compare array in the sliding window with the reference array
      if p_count == s_count:
        output.append(i - np + 1)
   return output
```



PART 06

Q/A

Problem Assignments

- **01.** Longest Palindrome (Easy)
- **02.** Valid Parentheses (Easy)
- **03.** Isomorphic Strings (Easy)
- **04.** Zigzag Conversion (Medium)
- **05.** Longest Palindromic Substring (Medium)
- **0 6.** Longest Substring without repeating characters (Medium)
- **07.** Minimum window substring (Hard)



