Welcome to Leetcode Study Group!

Before we begin...

- Session materials:
  https://github.com/WomenWhoCode/WWCodePython

- Set your chat to "All panelists and attendees" and share your thoughts there

- Ask any questions using the Q&A button
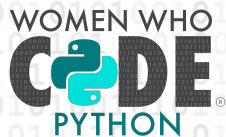
- Have fun and make some coding friends!
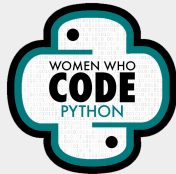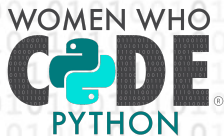
WELCOME

WOMEN WHO
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Our Mission

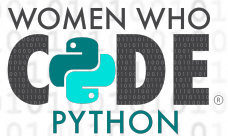Inspiring women to excel in technology careers.

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Our Vision

A world where diverse women are better represented as engineers and tech leaders

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Our Values

+ Focus on the mission
+ Live Leadership
+ Punch above your weight
+ Inclusion at the core

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Our Target

Engineers with two or more years of experience looking for support and resources to strengthen their influence and levelup in their careers.
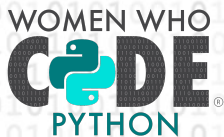
290,000

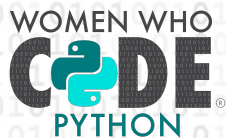## Members

70 networks in 20 countries

122+ countries

14K+ events

$1025 daily Conference tickets

$2M Scholarships
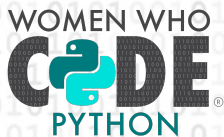
Access to jobs + resources

Infinite connections

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OUR MOVEMENT

As the world changes, we can be a connecting force that creates a sense of belonging while the world is being asked to isolate.

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Code of Conduct

WWCode is an inclusive community, dedicated to providing an empowering experience for everyone who participates in or supports our community, regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, ability, physical appearance, body size, race, ethnicity, age, religion, socioeconomic status, caste, creed, political affiliation, or preferred programming language(s).

Our events are intended to inspire women to excel in technology careers, and anyone who is there for this purpose is welcome. We do not tolerate harassment of members in any form. Our Code of Conduct applies to all WWCode events and online communities.

Read the full version and access our incident report form at
womenwhocode.com/codeofconduct

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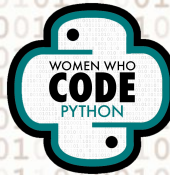PYTHON

LeetCode Study Group

Meet Your Team!

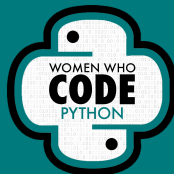**Chethana**
Lead / Associate Software Engineer
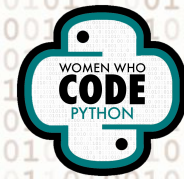
Karen
Lead / Programmer

Today's Agenda

1. Thoughts & some FAQs from when I started
2. Resources for patterns
3. Q&A

FAQs when I started

Where do I start in problem solving?

Make a list and plan before problem solving 🙈

- List all data structures and algorithms ([try something like this](#))

- What kind of learner are you? Do you learn on the go? Do you like gaining skills in one area first and then continuing with next topic?

- Really assess how you want your initial journey to begin

- It may change down the road and that's okay

- We all start somewhere so don't feel like you *have* to know everything
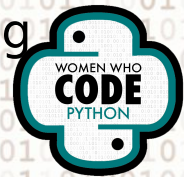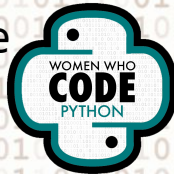
Where do I start in problem solving?

Also keep in mind 🚨

You could either start planning to solve in Leetcode, Hackerrank, other competitive programming sites

OR

Implement the data structures or algorithms (traditional ones) from scratch (for example, for a stack => push, pop, top etc)

(Just suggestions, eventually it's your study plan and what you're comfortable with)

Where do I start in problem solving?

One more suggestion 🚨

- Practice solving problems by keeping in mind the **Time and Space complexity**
- For example, one pass over the input or in the worst case you would have to pass over the input once => O(N) time
- For trees, you mostly have to traverse all nodes for "something", so O(N)
- The best resource when I started was the "Big O Notation" section in Cracking the Coding Interview by Gayle Laakmann
- Look at Leetcode discussions for this and other kinds of solutions to a problem
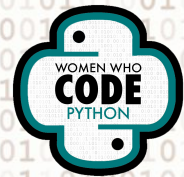
How I stop feeling nervous at interviews?

- What is the cause for your nervousness?
- Is it because you weren't too familiar with the type of question asked? Is it because you knew but somehow froze during time of interview?
- For #1, maybe it's because you hadn't practiced that type of problem too much?
- For #2, maybe putting yourself out there doing mock interviews more will help?

(Thread on something similar, Online Assessments, in our slack workspace)
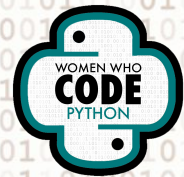
Multiple ways to solve a problem

- May be 10+ ways to solve a problem
- Begin with brute force
- See if you can make any cuts
- What kind of tradeoffs are okay with the interviewer?
- While practicing, think of every possible way...
- Even if it takes you a day for a problem
- Check Leetcode solution tab or Discussions for that problem 💜

- Whatever you choose, if you learn one way of solving, you can solve 10 more problems with the same pattern
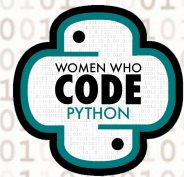
Leetcode Grind?

- You have to absolutely make sure that you're looking at a problem intuitively
- Not just solving 5+ problems everyday
- No fixed count - may be 50 for some, 200+ for others
- Depends on "how" you learn and how deep your core concept knowledge is

💯 don't recommend pressurizing yourself with this over some Medium posts, LinkedIn posts and Reddit comments
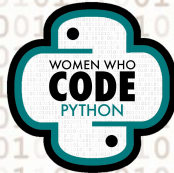
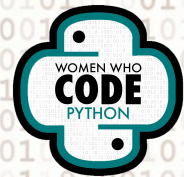# Need to look up every solution in Leetcode?

It's totally okay to look at solutions!

Gain the tools needed to solve a problem
And then try to do it on your own (if you can't begin to solve it, set a threshold and then look up solution, it's okay 💜)

Try solving on your own as you go further in your prep

Mock interviews also help keep that urge to look at solutions at bay

How to get good at solving tree problems?

- Used to 🤷🏼‍♀️ tree problems
- They became the easiest after that
- Did iterative traversals + recursive iterations
- 🔒 so many problems in my mind
- Practiced for more a week (like ~4-5 easy, medium problems everyday)
- Initially only 1 per day 🙈

Again, Practice, practice, you'll get there!! 💫
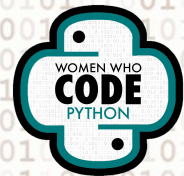
Dynamic Programming 😢

- Practice Recursion and Backtracking **as much as possible**
- Understand the true essence of why we need this algorithm
- Types of Dynamic Programming?
- Start with Leetcode easy problems tagged with Dynamic Programming (personal favorite - Climbing Stairs)
- Medium - 💫Coin Change
- Multiple resources with templates to solve Dynamic Programming problems - I'd say, Solving a lot of them will gradually help you "see" the pattern

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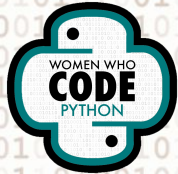
Feeling demotivated :(

- Very important to track your progress - sometimes we miss those wins and focus on negatives - keep a spreadsheet
- Celebrate wins 🎉
- Know that you only need that YES to get it
- Keep sticky notes to record if you solved a problem that day - leave comments on a Leetcode that you solve on your own or even got very close to!!
- Start taking help from the community, form study groups or ask in our #leetcode-study-grp channel or anywhere!
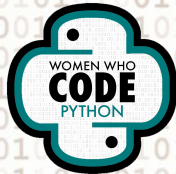
Resources for patterns other than Leetcode

- [This post](#) in [r/cscareerquestions](#)

- **REDDIT** (r/csmajors, r/cscareerquestions)
- YouTube (everyday coding problem, competition problems)
- [Leetcode explore cards](#)
- Cracking the Coding Interview
- Medium (just looking up "Problem solving, or interview prep medium" and subscribing to recommendations maybe 🙂)
- Look up "tech interview prep github repo" on google and more resources!
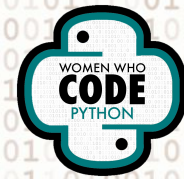- Lists on Leetcode - Top Interview questions and
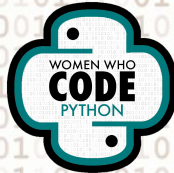
Also one last thing..
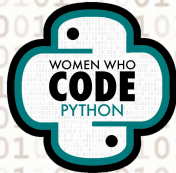
Do the everyday Leetcode problem, definitely will help with confidence! 💫
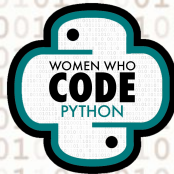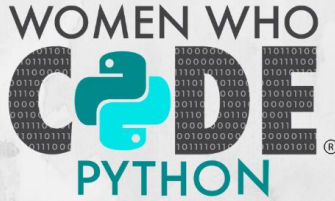
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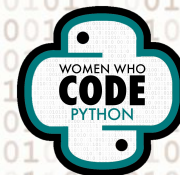
Q&A

Useful Links

- [Leetcode Study group repo](#)

- [Repl link](#)

- [Youtube Playlist for previous sessions](#)

- Mock interview - [Pramp](#)

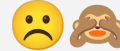- [Leetcode contests](#) - Weekly contest and biweekly

Stay Connected!

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WOMENWHOCODE.COM/PYTHON

Next Session in series?

➔ ☹️🙈

Upcoming Events

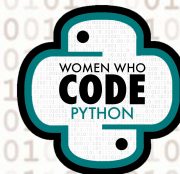|		
SAT **19** FEB	**Bytes n' Brew I – Build Your Community Presence** *Featured* 📍 Online | Data Science | 2:00 AM – 3:00 AM CST (UTC–0600) Organized By: WWCode Blockchain | WWCode Data Science | WWCode Python	Register
SAT **19** FEB	**Bytes n' Brew II – Build Your Community Presence** *Featured* 📍 Online | Data Science | 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM CST (UTC–0600) Organized By: WWCode Blockchain | WWCode Data Science | WWCode Python	Register
TUE **22** FEB	**✨ Introduction to Qt: How to Create Your First Interface ✨** *Featured, Recurring* 📍 Online | Python | 8:00 PM – 9:30 PM CST (UTC–0600) Organized By: WWCode Python	Register
WED **23** FEB	**Machine Learning Study Group Webinar Series** *Featured, Recurring* 📍 Online | Data Science | 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM CST (UTC–0600) Organized By: WWCode Data Science | WWCode Python	Register

Register at: https://www.womenwhocode.com/python/events

Thank You for Joining! 💫