

# Online Contests Solutions

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# Chapter 1

## LeetCode

### 1.1 Medium

#### 1.1.1 Longest Substring Without Repeating Characters

Find the length of the longest substring without repeating characters. For example in "abcabcbb" the answer is "abc".

We can use mathematical induction. Assume  $s[i..j-1]$  is a valid substring (it doesn't have any repetitive characters). Now we want to add  $s[j]$  to it. If  $s[j]$  is not in  $s[i..j-1]$ , then we can easily add  $s[j]$  to the list and claim  $s[i..j]$  is also valid. Otherwise there is exactly one  $i \leq k \leq j-1$  that  $s[k] = s[j]$ .

Because of  $s[j]$ , we cannot extend  $s[i..j-1]$  anymore, but we may be able to extend  $s[k+1..j]$ . The running time of the following implementation is  $O(n)$ :

```
int lengthOfLongestSubstring(string s) {
    int res = 0;
    unordered_map<char, int> mp;
    for (int i = 0, j = 0; i < s.length() && j < s.length(); ++j)
    {
        auto iter = mp.find(s[j]);
        if (iter != mp.end())
        {
            //Note that after mp.erase, iter will be invalid!
            //So we store the index in k
            int k = iter->second;
            for (; i <= k; ++i)
                mp.erase(s[i]);
        }
        mp[s[j]] = j;
        res = max(res, j - i + 1);
    }
    return res;
}
```

### 1.1.2 Longest Palindromic Substring

Given a string  $s$ , return the longest palindromic substring in  $s$ . For another variation of this problem refer to 3.1.1.

Assume  $S[i..j] = s_i s_{i+1} \dots s_j$ . We define  $S'[i'..j'] = s_{i'} s_{i'+1} \dots s_{j'}$  in such a way  $(s_j = s_{i'}) \wedge (s_{j-1} = s_{i'+1}) \wedge \dots \wedge (s_i = s_{j'})$ . Let's Assume string  $P$  is a palindromic string and  $c$  is an arbitrary character. We can break  $P$  into:

$$P[i..j] = \begin{cases} S[i..m]S'[m+1..j] & (j-i+1) \text{ is even} \\ S[i..m-1]cS'[m+1..j] & (j-i+1) \text{ is odd} \end{cases}$$

It's obvious that  $m = \lfloor \frac{i+j}{2} \rfloor$ . To solve this problem we need to find the place of  $m$  that can be  $0 \leq m < n$ .  $n$  is the length of the string. The running time of this algorithm is  $O(n^2)$ :

```
string longestPalindrome(string s) {
    int len = 0;
    int index = -1;

    const auto findLongest = [&](int l, int r)
    {
        for (; l >= 0 && r < s.length() && s[l] == s[r]; --l, ++r)
        {
            if ((r - l + 1) > len)
            {
                len = r - l + 1;
                index = l;
            }
        }
    };

    for (int m = 0; m < s.length(); ++m)
    {
        //Check for S S_r (length is even)
        findLongest(m, m + 1);
        //Check for S c S_r (length is odd)
        findLongest(m, m);
    }
    if (index == -1)
        return "";
    return s.substr(index, len);
}
```

### 1.1.3 Container With Most Water

You are given an integer array *height* of length  $n$ . There are  $n$  vertical lines drawn such that the two endpoints of  $i^{th}$  line are  $(i, 0)$  and  $(i, height[i])$ . Find two lines that together with the x-axis form a container, such that the container contains the most water. You may not slant the container.

We use mathematical induction. Suppose we know the answer for the number of lines less than  $n$ . Now we consider  $n$  lines. We consider the first and  $n^{th}$  lines and call them  $l_1$  and  $l_n$ :

1.  $height[1] < height[n]$ : We find the best solution for  $l_1$ . Because for  $2 \leq k \leq n-1$ , the container  $l_1$  and  $l_k$  cannot have more water than  $l_1$  and  $l_n$ . We can safely remove  $l_1$  and use mathematical induction to find the optimal solution. Then we need to compare that solution with  $l_1$  and  $l_n$  and choose the maximum
2.  $height[1] > height[n]$ : We find the best solution for  $l_n$ , like above we can safely remove  $l_n$  and find the best solution and compare it with  $l_1$  and  $l_n$
3.  $height[1] = height[n]$  We find the best solution for both  $l_1$  and  $l_n$ . We can safely remove both of them and find the optimal solution and compare it with  $l_1$  and  $l_n$ .

The running time of this algorithm is  $O(n)$ .

```
int maxArea(vector<int>& height) {
    int left = 0, right = height.size() - 1;
    int res = 0;
    while (left < right)
    {
        if (height[left] < height[right])
        {
            res = max(res, (right - left) * height[left]);
            ++left;
        }
        else if (height[left] > height[right])
        {
            res = max(res, (right - left) * height[right]);
            --right;
        }
        else
        {
            res = max (res, (right - left) * height[right]);
            ++left;
            --right;
        }
    }
    return res;
}
```

#### 1.1.4 Two Sum II - Input Array Is Sorted

Given a sorted array, return two indices  $i, j$  such that  $numbers[i] + numbers[j] = target \wedge i < j$ . The indices start from 1.

For similar questions, refer to 1.1.5. For a general solution refer to 1.1.6

We use mathematical induction. We assume we know the solution for all sorted arrays with length less than  $n$ . Now consider a sorted array with length  $n$ :

1.  $numbers[0] + numbers[n-1] < target$ : Since the array is sorted,  $numbers[n-1]$  is the maximum and  $numbers[0]$  is the minimum. So  $numbers[0]$  cannot be in the solution. We use mathematical induction to get the answer from  $numbers[1..n-1]$

2.  $numbers[0] + numbers[n - 1] > target$ : With a similar argument we can say  $numbers[n - 1]$  cannot be in the solution. So we use the induction to solve  $numbers[0..n - 2]$
3.  $number[0] + numbers[n - 1] == target$ : We have the solution.

```
vector<int> twoSum(vector<int>& numbers, int target) {
    int left = 0, right = numbers.size() - 1;
    while (left < right)
    {
        const auto sum = numbers[left] + numbers[right];
        if (sum < target)
            ++left;
        else if (sum > target)
            --right;
        else
            return {left + 1, right + 1};
    }
    throw 1;
}
```

### 1.1.5 3Sum

Given an integer array `nums`, return all triplets  $[nums[i], nums[j], nums[k]]$  such that  $i \neq j \wedge i \neq k \wedge j \neq k$ . Notice that the solution set must not contain **duplicate triplets**.

This is the extension of 1.1.4. For general solution refer to 1.1.6

The tricky part here is how to avoid duplicates. We assume `nums` is sorted, then we use mathematical induction. We assume we know how to solve it for less than  $n$  sorted numbers. Now we want to solve  $n$  sorted numbers. We consider the first element `nums[0]`. Now consider `nums[j]` such that  $j = k + 1$ . We define  $k$  as  $\{nums[0], nums[1], \dots, nums[k]\}$  such that  $nums[m] = nums[m + 1]$  for  $0 \leq m \leq k - 1$ . We use mathematical induction to find the answers for  $nums[j..n - 1]$ .

Note that we cannot use induction for subproblems  $nums[m..n - 1]$  for  $1 \leq m \leq k$  because it's possible they have triplets that start with `nums[0]`. As mentioned in problem statement, duplicates are not allowed.

Then we need to find the answers that contain `nums[0]`. For doing that we should find set  $S$ :

$$S = \{\{p, q\} : 1 \leq p < q \leq n - 1 \wedge nums[p] + nums[q] = -nums[0]\}$$

Note that  $S$  shouldn't have any duplicates. Also it's important that we should find the pairs in  $nums[1..n - 1]$  (not in  $nums[j..n - 1]$ . For example  $[0, 0, 0]$  is a valid triplet). This is **two sum II problem** (refer to 1.1.4), but we should handle duplicates. There are two solutions to implement two sum:

```
vector<vector<int>>> threeSum(vector<int>& nums) {
    vector<vector<int>>> res;
```



```

sort(nums.begin(), nums.end()); //O(nlogn)
unordered_set<int> visited;
for (int i = 0; i < nums.size() && nums[i] <= 0; ++i)
{
    // To find subproblem nums[j..n - 1]
    //note that i points to the first repetitive character
    if (i > 0 && nums[i] == nums[i - 1])
        continue;
    visited.clear();
    for (int j = i + 1; j < nums.size(); ++j)
    {
        //make sure j points to the last repetitive character:
        if (j + 1 < nums.size() && nums[j] == nums[j + 1])
        {
            // to handle cases like [0, 0, 0]
            visited.insert(nums[j]);
            continue;
        }
        auto target = -nums[i] - nums[j];
        if (visited.count(target) > 0)
            res.push_back({nums[i], target, nums[j]});
        visited.insert(nums[j]);
    }
}
return res;
}

```

The second solution:

```

vector<vector<int>> threeSum(vector<int>& nums) {
    vector<vector<int>> res;

    sort(nums.begin(), nums.end()); //O(nlogn)
    for (int i = 0; i + 1 < nums.size() && nums[i] <= 0; ++i)
    {
        // To find subproblem nums[j..n - 1]:
        if (i > 0 && nums[i] == nums[i - 1])
            continue;
        int target = -nums[i];
        int left = i + 1, right = nums.size() - 1;
        while (left < right)
        {
            auto sum = nums[left] + nums[right];
            if (sum < target)
                ++left;
            else if (sum > target)
                --right;
            else
            {
                res.push_back({nums[i], nums[left], nums[right]});
                ++left;
                while (left < right && nums[left] == nums[left - 1])
                    ++left;
                --right;
            }
        }
    }
}

```

```

    return res;
}

```

### 1.1.6 4sum

Given an array *nums* of *n* integers, return an array of all the **unique** quadruplets  $[nums[a], nums[b], nums[c], nums[d]]$  such that  $a < b < c < d$  and  $nums[a] + nums[b] + nums[c] + nums[d] = target$ .

The base case for this solution is 2sum. For more information refer to 1.1.4. It's a good idea to look at 3sum in 1.1.5

We can solve it similar to 3sum (for more information refer to 1.1.5). We suppose the array is sorted. We use mathematical induction, so we know how to solve it for less than *n* sorted numbers. Now we consider *n* sorted numbers. We choose the first two numbers *nums*[0] and *nums*[1]. We choose subproblem *nums*[*j*..*n* - 1] such that  $nums[m] = nums[0] \vee nums[m] = nums[1]$  for  $2 \leq m \leq j - 1$ . As explained in section 1.1.5, this is required to avoid duplication. We use mathematical induction to find quadruplets in *nums*[*j*..*n* - 1]. Then for finding quadruplets that contain *nums*[0] and *nums*[1], we use 2sum (refer to section 1.1.4) algorithm on *nums*[2..*n* - 1] (not *nums*[*j*..*n* - 1]). For example [0, 0, 0, 0] is a valid quadruplet if *target* = 0).

```

vector<vector<int>>> fourSum(vector<int>& nums, int target) {
    vector<vector<int>>> res;
    const auto size = nums.size();
    sort(nums.begin(), nums.end());
    for (int i = 0; (i + 3) < size; ++i)
    {
        if (i > 0 && nums[i] == nums[i - 1])
            continue;
        for (int j = i + 1; (j + 2) < size; ++j)
        {
            if (j > i + 1 && nums[j] == nums[j - 1])
                continue;
            int t = target - nums[i] - nums[j];
            int left = j + 1;
            int right = size - 1;
            while (left < right)
            {
                int sum = nums[left] + nums[right];
                if (sum < t)
                    ++left;
                else if (sum > t)
                    --right;
                else
                {
                    res.push_back({nums[i], nums[j], nums[left], nums[right]});
                    ++left;
                    while (nums[left] == nums[left - 1] && left < right)
                        ++left;
                    --right;
                }
            }
        }
    }
}

```

```

    }
  }
}
return res;
}

```

To solve *ksum* problem, we need  $k-2$  for loops to find  $[nums[0], nums[1], \dots, nums[k-3]]$  and we use 2sum algorithm to find  $nums[k-2]$  and  $nums[k-1]$ . We can use a recursive function to solve the problem dynamically during the runtime.

```

vector<vector<int>> twosum(vector<int>& nums, int left, int target)
{
    int right = nums.size() - 1;
    vector<vector<int>> res;
    while (left < right)
    {
        auto sum = nums[left] + nums[right];
        if (sum < target)
            ++left;
        else if (sum > target)
            --right;
        else
        {
            res.push_back({nums[left], nums[right]});
            ++left;
            while (nums[left] == nums[left - 1] && left < right)
                ++left;
            --right;
        }
    }
    return res;
}

vector<vector<int>> ksum(vector<int>& nums, int start, int k, int target)
{
    vector<vector<int>> res;
    if (start == nums.size())
        return res;
    int average = target / k;
    //nums[start] * k > target
    if (nums[start] > average)
        return res;
    //nums.back() * k < target
    if (nums.back() < average)
        return res;
    if (k == 2)
        return twosum(nums, start, target);

    for (int i = start; i < nums.size(); ++i)
    {
        if (i > start && nums[i] == nums[i - 1])
            continue;
        auto partial = ksum(nums, i + 1, k - 1, target - nums[i]);
        for (auto& val : partial)
        {
            val.insert(val.begin(), nums[i]);
            res.push_back(val);
        }
    }
}

```

```

    }
}
return res;
}

vector<vector<int>> fourSum(vector<int>& nums, int target) {
    sort(nums.begin(), nums.end());
    return ksum(nums, 0, 4, target);
}

```

### 1.1.7 Generate Parentheses

Given  $n$  pairs of parentheses, write a function to generate all combinations of well-formed parentheses.

We use mathematical induction. Let's say  $S_n$  is the set of all valid  $n$  pairs. We assume we know how to generate  $S_k$  for  $k < n$ . It's obvious that  $S_1 = \{ "()" \}$  and  $S_0 = \{ "" \}$ . Now we consider  $S_n$ . let's assume  $p \in S_i$  and  $q \in S_{n-1-i}$  for  $0 \leq i \leq n-1$ . It's obvious that  $"(p)q"$  is a valid parentheses with  $n$  pairs ( $i + n - 1 - i + 1 = n$ ). We define

$$(S_i) = \{ (p) : p \in S_i \}$$

Also we define **Cartesian product** as follow ( $pq$  means the concatenation of strings  $p$  and  $q$ ):

$$S_i \times S_j = \{ pq : p \in S_i \wedge q \in S_j \}$$

So we can use the induction to generate  $S_n$  as follow:

$$S_n = \bigcup_{i=0}^{n-1} (S_i) \times S_{n-1-i}$$

```

vector<string> generateParenthesis(int n) {
    vector<string> res;
    if (n == 0)
        return {" "};
    for (int i = 0; i < n; ++i)
    {
        auto set_left = generateParenthesis(i);
        auto set_right = generateParenthesis(n - i - 1);
        for (const auto& p : set_left)
        {
            string left_str = "(" + p + ")";
            for (const auto& q : set_right)
                res.push_back(left_str + q);
        }
    }
    return res;
}

```

### 1.1.8 Divide Two Integers

Divide two integers **without** using multiplication, division, and mod operator. We can only use **32-bit signed integers**.

We know that the range of a 32-bit signed integer is  $[-2^{31}, 2^{31} - 1]$ . We should convert negative numbers to positive ones. The tricky part is how to handle  $-2^{31}$ . Because we cannot fit it inside a positive 32-bit integer and we are not allowed to use *unsigned* variables.

#### Method 1

We use mathematical induction. Suppose  $a = bq + r$ . We define  $div(a, b) = q$  and  $mod(a, b) = r$ . Suppose we know how to calculate  $div$  and  $mod$  for less than  $a$ . Now we want to calculate for  $a$ :

$$div(a, b) = \begin{cases} 2 \times div(k, b) + div(2 \times mod(k, b), b) & a = 2k \\ 2 \times div(k, b) + div(2 \times mod(k, b) + 1, b) & a = 2k + 1 \\ 0 & a < b \\ 1 & a = b \\ a & b = 1 \\ base_{div}(a, b) & k \leq b \end{cases}$$

$$mod(a, b) = \begin{cases} mod(2 \times mod(k, b), b) & a = 2k \\ mod(2 \times mod(k, b) + 1, b) & a = 2k + 1 \\ a & a < b \\ 0 & a = b \vee b = 1 \\ base_{mod}(a, b) & k \leq b \end{cases}$$

For calculating  $base$  we use a straightforward approach. Since we cannot use multiplication and division, we can use  $2 \times a = a + a$  and we use shift operator to do division by 2 ( $a \gg 1$ ).

Let's consider  $a = -2^{31}$ . Let's assume  $q = div(2^{31}, |b|)$  and  $r = mod(2^{31}, |b|)$ :

$$|div(-2^{31}, |b|)| = \begin{cases} q & r + 1 < |b| \\ q + 1 & r + 1 \geq |b| \end{cases}$$

#### Method2

This is easier to implement. We assume  $a = bq + r$ . We define  $div(a, b) = q$ . Like previous method, suppose we know how to calculate  $div$  for less than  $a$ . Now we want to calculate for  $a$ . Suppose  $b \times 2^k \leq a < b \times 2^{k+1}$ . So we can say  $a = b \times 2^k + r$ . If  $r < b$  we find the answer; otherwise we use the induction to find  $r = bq' + r'$ . So the answer is:

$$\begin{aligned} a &= b \times 2^k + r \\ &= b \times 2^k + bq' + r' \\ &= b \times (2^k + q') + r' \end{aligned}$$

We can summarize it as:

$$\text{div}(a, b) = \begin{cases} 2^k + \text{div}(a - b \times 2^k, b) & a \geq b \\ 0 & a < b \end{cases}$$

Let's consider  $a = -2^{31}$ . We cannot store it as positive in a 32-bit signed integer. Let's assume  $a = bq + r$ :

$$\begin{aligned} & b(q-1) + r \\ &= bq + r - b \\ &= a - b \\ \implies & a - b = b(q-1) + r \end{aligned}$$

So  $\text{div}(|2^{31}|, |b|) = \text{div}(|2^{31}| - |b|, |b|) + 1$ :

```
int div(int a, int b)
{
    if (a < b)
        return 0;
    const int half_of_a = a >> 1;
    int q = 1, bq = b;
    for (; bq <= half_of_a; bq <= 1, q <= 1);
    return q + div(a - bq, b);
}

int divide(int a, int b) {
    static const int min_int = numeric_limits<int>::min();
    static const int max_int = numeric_limits<int>::max();
    int sign = 1;
    int res = 0;

    if (b == min_int)
        return a == min_int ? 1 : 0;
    if (b == 1)
        return a;
    if (b == -1)
        return a == min_int ? max_int : -a;

    if (b < 0)
        sign = -sign, b = -b;
    if (a == min_int)
        a += b, res = 1;
    if (a < 0)
        sign = -sign, a = -a;

    res += div(a, b);

    return res * sign;
}
```

### 1.1.9 Next Permutation

Implement `std::next_permutation` for  $nums[0..n-1]$ ! For example if  $nums = [1, 3, 2]$ , the answer is  $[2, 1, 3]$

Suppose  $p$  and  $q$  are two permutations of  $nums[0..n-1]$ . If  $p < q$ , then we have a  $0 \leq i < n$  such that  $p[k] = q[k]$  for  $0 \leq k < i$  and  $p[i] < q[i]$ . For solving this question we should find the smallest  $q$  that is greater than  $p$ .

Assume  $i$  is the maximum index such that  $nums[i] < nums[i+1]$  for  $0 \leq i \leq n-2$ . If such  $i$  does not exist it means we have the last permutation. So we should return the first one. Since  $i$  is the maximum index, it implies  $nums[k] \geq nums[k+1]$  for all  $i+1 \leq k \leq n-2$ . In other words,  $nums[i+1..n-1]$  is in non-ascending order.

Let's assume  $j \geq i+1$  is the maximum index such that  $nums[i] < nums[j]$ . Since  $nums[i+1..n-1]$  is in non-ascending order, that means  $nums[j]$  is the smallest element that is bigger than  $nums[i]$  in that range. We should swap  $nums[i]$  and  $nums[j]$  and reverse  $nums[i+1..n-1]$  to make it in non-descending order. This is the smallest permutation greater than  $nums$ .

To summarize we break  $nums[0..n-1]$  into  $A = nums[0..i]$  and  $B = nums[i+1..n-1]$ . The former is in non-descending and the latter in non-ascending order. We define  $B' = \{nums[j] \in B : nums[j] > nums[i]\}$ . We find the smallest element in  $B'$  and swap it with  $nums[i]$ . Then we should sort  $B$  in non-descending order.

The implementation is based on [possible implementation](#) of `next_permutation`. To understand how `reverse_iterator::base` (`i.base()`) works, refer to [A.5](#).

```
void nextPermutation(vector<int>& nums) {
    auto i = is_sorted_until(nums.rbegin(), nums.rend());
    if (i != nums.rend())
    {
        auto j = upper_bound(nums.rbegin(), i, *i);
        iter_swap(i, j);
    }
    //https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/iterator/reverse_iterator/base
    reverse(i.base(), nums.end());
}
```

### 1.1.10 Search in Rotated Sorted Array

There is an integer array  $nums$  sorted in ascending order (with distinct values). For example let's assume we have  $[0, 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7]$ . We might rotate at pivot index 3 so it becomes  $[4, 5, 6, 7, 0, 1, 2]$ . Write an  $O(\log n)$  algorithm to find the index of *target*.

In the non-rotated versions, the minimum number starts at index 0. We use the following algorithm to find the minimum index in the rotated one. We assume  $middle = \lfloor \frac{left+right}{2} \rfloor$

$$f(left, right) = \begin{cases} f(middle + 1, right) & nums[middle] > nums[right] \\ f(left, middle) & nums[middle] < nums[right] \\ left & left = right \end{cases}$$

Let's say  $k = f(0, n-1)$ . Then we have two ascending lists  $A = nums[0..k-1]$

and  $B = \text{nums}[k..n-1]$ . Based on *target* value we choose  $A$  or  $B$  to do a binary search to see whether *target* is in the list.

```
int search(vector<int>& nums, int target) {
    int left = 0;
    const int n = nums.size();
    int right = n - 1;
    int k;
    while (left <= right)
    {
        if (left == right)
        {
            k = left;
            break;
        }
        int middle = (left + right) / 2;
        if (nums[middle] > target)
            left = middle + 1;
        else
            right = middle;
    }
    if (target >= nums[k] && target <= nums[n - 1])
        left = k, right = n - 1;
    else
        left = 0, right = k - 1;
    while (left <= right)
    {
        if (left == right)
            return nums[left] == target ? left : -1;
        int middle = (left + right) / 2;
        if (nums[middle] < target)
            left = middle + 1;
        else
            right = middle;
    }
    return -1;
}
```

### 1.1.11 Find First and Last Position of Element in Sorted Array

Given an array of integers *nums* sorted in non-decreasing order, find the starting and ending position of a given *target* value.

We define  $f(i, j)$  that has the index of left-most *target* in  $\text{nums}[i..j]$ . On the other hand we define  $g(i, j)$  that keeps the index of the right-most *target* in  $\text{nums}[i..j]$ .

Let's assume *mid* is index of the middle element. Both  $f$  and  $g$  acts similarly when  $\text{nums}[\text{mid}] < \text{target}$  or  $\text{nums}[\text{mid}] > \text{target}$ . Let's assume  $\text{nums}[\text{mid}] = \text{target}$ . Since  $f$  should choose the left-most target, it tries to find the answer in  $\text{nums}[0..\text{mid}]$ . There is a possibility that other elements with value *target* exists in  $\text{nums}[0..\text{mid}]$ . On the other hand,  $g$  should find the rightmost *target*. So it chooses  $\text{nums}[\text{mid}..n-1]$ .



We assume  $mid_f = \lfloor \frac{left+right}{2} \rfloor$ :

$$f(left, right) = \begin{cases} f(mid_f + 1, right) & \text{nums}[mid_f] < target \\ f(left, mid_f) & \text{nums}[mid_f] \geq target \\ left & left = right \wedge \text{nums}[left] = target \\ -1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

We define  $mid_c = \lceil \frac{left+right}{2} \rceil$ :

$$g(left, right) = \begin{cases} g(mid_c, right) & \text{nums}[mid_c] \leq target \\ g(left, mid_c - 1) & \text{nums}[mid_c] > target \\ left & left = right \wedge \text{nums}[left] = target \\ -1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Finding  $mid$  becomes tricky when the size of sub-problem is 2. Let's say we are at  $\text{nums}[i..i+1]$ . We know  $mid_f = \lfloor \frac{i+i+1}{2} \rfloor = i$  and  $mid_c = \lceil \frac{i+i+1}{2} \rceil = i+1$ . For  $f$  choosing  $mid_c$  leads to an infinite loop and for  $g$  it's  $mid_f$ :

$$f(i, i+1) = \begin{cases} f(mid_f + 1, i+1) = f(i+1, i+1) & \text{nums}[mid_f] < target \\ f(i, mid_f) = f(i, i) & \text{nums}[mid_f] \geq target \end{cases}$$

$$f(i, i+1) = \begin{cases} f(mid_c + 1, i+1) = f(i+2, i+1) & \text{nums}[mid_c] < target \\ f(i, mid_c) = f(i, i+1) & \text{nums}[mid_c] \geq target \end{cases}$$

Also we can think that  $f$  wants to find the leftmost  $target$ , so it makes sense to choose  $mid_f$ , but  $g$  wants to find the rightmost  $target$  so it should choose  $mid_c$ . Now we can use  $f(0, n-1)$  and  $g(0, n-1)$  to find the solution:

```
vector<int> searchRange(vector<int>& nums, int target) {
    int n = nums.size();
    int left = 0, right = n - 1;

    while (left < right)
    {
        int mid = (left + right) / 2;
        if (nums[mid] < target)
            left = mid + 1;
        else
            right = mid;
    }
    if (left > right || nums[left] != target)
        return {-1, -1};
    vector<int> res(1, left);
    right = n - 1;
    while (left < right)
    {
        int mid = (left + right + 1) / 2;
        if (nums[mid] <= target)
            left = mid;
        else
            right = mid - 1;
    }
    res.push_back(left);
    return res;
}
```

```

        right = mid - 1;
    }
    res.push_back(left);
    return res;
}

```

### 1.1.12 Valid Sudoku

```

bool isValidSudoku(vector<vector<char>>& board) {
    array<array<bool, 10>, 9> row_seen{}, col_seen{};
    array<array<array<bool, 10>, 3>, 3> box_seen{};

    for (int r = 0; r < 9; ++r)
    {
        for (int c = 0; c < 9; ++c)
        {
            if (board[r][c] == '.')
                continue;
            int d = board[r][c] - '0';
            int box_row = r / 3;
            int box_col = c / 3;
            auto& rs = row_seen[r][d];
            auto& cs = col_seen[c][d];
            auto& bs = box_seen[box_row][box_col][d];
            if (rs || cs || bs)
                return false;
            rs = cs = bs = true;
        }
    }
    return true;
}

```

### 1.1.13 Multiply Strings

Given two non-negative integers *num1* and *num2* represented as strings, return the product of *num1* and *num2*, also represented as a string.

Let's assume the size of *num1* is *n1* and the size of *num2* is *n2*. The result has at most *n1* + *n2* digits. We use mathematical induction. We assume we know how to solve the problem for every *num1* of any size and *num2* for sizes less than *n2*. Now we want to calculate the result when *num2* has size *n2*. We use mathematical induction to calculate *num1*[0..*n1* - 1] and *num2*[1..*n2* - 1]. Let's assume the answer is in *res*[1..*n1* + *n2* - 1]. We assume *res*[0] = 0. Now we use the induction to calculate the result of *num1*[0..*n1* - 1] and *num2*[0..*n2* - 1]. For  $0 \leq i \leq n1 - 1$  we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
 res[i + 1] &= (res[i + 1] + num1[i] \times num2[0]) \bmod 10 \\
 res[i] &= res[i] + \lfloor \frac{res[i + 1] + num1[i] \times num2[0]}{10} \rfloor
 \end{aligned}$$

Note that *res*[*i*] keeps the carry. It's possible it goes above 9 but after the algorithm finishes, it has the correct digit.

```

string multiply(string num1, string num2) {
    string res(num1.length() + num2.length(), '0');
    for (int i = num1.length() - 1; i >= 0; --i)
    {
        for (int j = num2.length() - 1; j >= 0; --j)
        {
            int t = (num1[i] - '0') * (num2[j] - '0') +
                    res[i + j + 1] - '0';
            res[i + j + 1] = t % 10 + '0';
            res[i + j] += t / 10;
        }
    }
    int i = 0;
    for (; i < res.length() - 1 && res[i] == '0'; ++i);
    res = res.substr(i);
    return res;
}

```

### 1.1.14 Jump Game

You are given an integer array `nums`. You are initially positioned at the array's first index, and each element in the array represents your maximum jump length at that position. Return true if you can reach the last index, or false otherwise.

For explanation refer to [1.1.15](#).

```

bool canJump(vector<int>& nums) {
    int u;
    int upper_index = nums[0];
    for (u = 1; u <= upper_index && u < nums.size(); ++u)
        upper_index = max(upper_index, u + nums[u]);
    return upper_index >= nums.size() - 1;
}

```

### 1.1.15 Jump Game II

Given an array of non-negative integers `nums`, you are initially positioned at the first index of the array. Each element in the array represents your maximum jump length at that position. Your goal is to reach the last index in the minimum number of jumps. You can assume that you can always reach the last index.

This is one application of **BFS**. The graph is created in a special way that it's easy to implement it in  $O(V)$  instead of  $O(V + E)$ .

If we run a BFS on this graph, we will have a BFS tree. The level of the root (index 0) is 0. The level of the children of the root are 1 and so on. The answer is to find the level of the last element in a BFS tree.

We define `upper_index[i]` as the rightmost index of level  $i$ :

- level 0 starts at `upper_index[0]` and ends at `upper_index[0]` (`upper_index[0] = 0`)
- level 1 starts at `upper_index[0] + 1` and ends at `upper_index[1]`

- level  $i > 0$  starts at  $upper\_index[i - 1] + 1$  and ends at  $upper\_index[i]$

We know  $upper\_index[0] = 0$ . For  $i \geq 1$  we assume  $upper\_index[i - 1] + 1 \leq j \leq upper\_index[i]$ , then we have:

$$upper\_index[i + 1] = \max(nums[j])$$

Since  $upper\_index$  increases for next levels, we can assume  $0 \leq j \leq upper\_index[i]$ . So for calculating  $upper\_index[i + 1]$  we just need to know  $upper\_index[i]$ . That means we can avoid an array and store them in two variables  $upper\_index$  and  $next\_upper\_index$ :

```
int jump(vector<int>& nums) {
    int upper_index = 0, next_upper_index = 0;
    int d = 0;
    for (int u = 0; u < nums.size(); ++u)
    {
        if (u > upper_index)
        {
            ++d;
            upper_index = next_upper_index;
        }
        next_upper_index = max(next_upper_index, u + nums[u]);
    }
    return d;
}
```

### 1.1.16 Rotate Image

You are given an  $n \times n$  2D *matrix* representing an image, rotate the image **in-place** by 90 degrees (clockwise)

Let's consider a  $3 \times 3$  image and rotate it 90 degrees:

$$\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} a_{00} & a_{01} & a_{02} & a_{20} & a_{10} & a_{00} \\ a_{10} & a_{11} & a_{12} & \implies & a_{21} & a_{11} & a_{01} \\ a_{20} & a_{21} & a_{22} & & a_{22} & a_{12} & a_{02} \end{array}$$

Let's assume the image is  $m$  and the rotated image is  $r$ , then we have:

$$m[i][j] = r[n - 1 - j][i]$$

For solving this problem first we do a **transpose** and then a reflect:

$$m[i][j] = m'[j][i] = r[n - 1 - j][i]$$

```
void rotate(vector<vector<int>>& matrix) {
    const auto n = matrix.size();
    for (int i = 0; i < n; ++i)
        for (int j = i; j < n; ++j)
            swap(matrix[i][j], matrix[j][i]);
    const int half = n / 2;
    for (int i = 0; i < n; ++i)
        for (int j = 0; j < half; ++j)
            swap(matrix[i][j], matrix[i][n - 1 - j]);
}
```

### 1.1.17 Maximum Subarray

Given an integer array `nums`, find the contiguous subarray (containing at least one number) which has the largest sum and return its sum.

We define  $sums[i]$  as the contiguous subarray that ends to  $nums[i]$  such that the sum of its elements are maximum:

$$sums[i] = \begin{cases} \max(sum[i-1] + nums[i], nums[i]) & i > 0 \\ nums[0] & i = 0 \end{cases}$$

So the answer is  $\max_{i=0}^{n-1}(sums[i])$ :

```
int maxSubArray(vector<int>& nums) {
    const int n = nums.size();
    auto sum = vector<int>(n);
    sum[0] = nums[0];
    for (int i = 1; i < n; ++i)
        sum[i] = max(sum[i-1] + nums[i], nums[i]);
    int res = -10000;
    for (int i = 0; i < n; ++i)
        res = max(res, sum[i]);
    return res;
}
```

### 1.1.18 Spiral Matrix

Given an  $m \times n$  matrix, return all elements of the matrix in spiral order.

This is an implementation question. For another variant look at [Spiral Matrix II](#)

```
// right, down, left, up:
// dir[i][0]: delta for row
// dir[i][1]: delta for col
int dir[4][2] = {{0, 1}, {1, 0}, {0, -1}, {-1, 0}};
// dir[i][0] = top, dir[i][1] = left,
// dir[i][2] = bottom and dir[i][3] = right
int box[4][4] = {{1, 0, 0, 0}, {0, 0, 0, -1}, {0, 0, -1, 0}, {0, 1, 0, 0}};

vector<int> spiralOrder(vector<vector<int>>& matrix) {
    int rows = matrix.size();
    int cols = matrix[0].size();
    const int cells = rows * cols;
    int top = 0, bottom = rows - 1, left = 0, right = cols - 1;
    int cur_cell = 0;
    int r = 0, c = -1;
    vector<int> res;
    while (cur_cell < cells)
    {
        for (int i = 0; i < 4; ++i)
        {
            int nr = r + dir[i][0];
            int nc = c + dir[i][1];
            while (nr <= bottom && nr >= top && nc <= right && nc >= left)
```

```

    {
        ++cur_cell;
        r = nr, c = nc;
        res.push_back(matrix[r][c]);
        nr += dir[i][0];
        nc += dir[i][1];
    }
    top += box[i][0];
    left += box[i][1];
    bottom += box[i][2];
    right += box[i][3];
}
}
return res;
}

```

### 1.1.19 Insert Interval

You are given an array of non-overlapping intervals that is sorted in ascending order by start points. You are given a new interval. Insert it into intervals such that they remain sorted and without overlaps.

For another variant of this problem refer to [4.1](#). The tricky part of this question is to find out when two intervals  $i_1$  and  $i_2$  have overlap. To find the answer it's easier to find out when they don't overlap:

$$\neg \text{overlap}(i_1, i_2) = \text{right}(i_1) < \text{left}(i_2) \vee \text{left}(i_1) > \text{right}(i_2)$$

So we can calculate  $\text{overlap}(i_1, i_2)$  as:

$$\text{overlap}(i_1, i_2) = \text{right}(i_1) \geq \text{left}(i_2) \wedge \text{left}(i_1) \leq \text{right}(i_2)$$

For another similar problem look at [Merge Intervals](#). The implementation:

```

vector<vector<int>>> insert(vector<vector<int>>& intervals, vector<
    int>& newInterval) {
    int i;
    vector<vector<int>>> res;
    for (i = 0; i < intervals.size() && intervals[i][1] < newInterval
        [0]; ++i)
        res.push_back(intervals[i]);
    auto left = newInterval[0];
    auto right = newInterval[1];
    //intervals[i][1] >= newInterval[0]
    for (; i < intervals.size() &&
        intervals[i][0] <= right; ++i)
    {
        left = min(left, intervals[i][0]);
        right = max(right, intervals[i][1]);
    }
    res.push_back({left, right});
    for (; i < intervals.size(); ++i)

```

```

        res.push_back(intervals[i]);
    return res;
}

```

### 1.1.20 Rotate List

Given the head of a linked list, rotate the list to the right by  $k$  places.

This is an implementation problem. We can easily find out the  $k^{th}$  element from the end of the list will become the first element after the rotation ( $k = 1$  means last element). So we just need to find the last element and the parent of new head and modify them.

```

tuple<int, ListNode*> find_size_and_last_node(ListNode* node)
{
    int len = 0;
    ListNode* parent = nullptr;
    for (; node != nullptr; ++len, node = node->next)
        parent = node;
    return make_tuple(len, parent);
}

ListNode* find_from_last(ListNode* node, int size, int k)
{
    for (int i = 0; node != nullptr; ++i, node = node->next)
        if (size - i == k)
            return node;
    return nullptr;
}

ListNode* rotateRight(ListNode* head, int k) {
    if (head == nullptr)
        return head;
    int size;
    ListNode* last_node;
    tie(size, last_node) = find_size_and_last_node(head);
    k = k % size;
    if (k == 0)
        return head;
    auto new_head_parent = find_from_last(head, size, k + 1);
    auto new_head = new_head_parent->next;
    new_head_parent->next = nullptr;
    last_node->next = head;
    return new_head;
}

```

### 1.1.21 Unique Paths

There is a robot on an  $m \times n$  grid. The robot is initially located at the top-left corner (i.e., `grid[0][0]`). The robot tries to move to the bottom-right corner (i.e., `grid[m - 1][n - 1]`). The robot can only move either down or right at any point in time. Given the two integers  $m$  and  $n$ , return the number of possible unique paths that the robot can take to reach the bottom-right corner.

There are two solutions:

### Dynamic programming

Let's say  $\text{cnt}[r][c]$  is the number of ways to reach from  $(0, 0)$  to  $(r, c)$ . We have:

$$\text{cnt}[r, c] = \begin{cases} \text{cnt}[r-1, c] + \text{cnt}[r, c-1] & r > 0 \wedge c > 0 \\ 1 & r = 0 \vee c = 0 \end{cases}$$

So the implementation is:

```
int uniquePaths(int m, int n) {
    auto cnt = vector<vector<int>>(m, vector<int>(n, 1));
    for (int r = 1; r < m; ++r)
        for (int c = 1; c < n; ++c)
        {
            cnt[r][c] = cnt[r-1][c] + cnt[r][c-1];
        }
    return cnt[m-1][n-1];
}
```

It's trivial to optimize memory and convert  $\text{cnt}$  to a 1-dimensional array:

```
int uniquePaths(int m, int n) {
    auto cnt = vector<int>(n, 1);
    cnt[0] = 1;
    for (int r = 1; r < m; ++r)
        for (int c = 1; c < n; ++c)
        {
            cnt[c] += cnt[c-1];
        }
    return cnt[n-1];
}
```

### Permutations with repetition

We can simply calculate to find the answer. Let's assume  $m \geq n$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ans} &= \binom{m+n-2}{m-1, n-1} \\ &= \frac{(m+n-2)!}{(m-1)! \times (n-1)!} \\ &= \frac{(m+n-2) \times \dots \times (m-2)}{(n-1)!} \end{aligned}$$

To avoid overflow, we should do more. For simplicity consider the following permutation (again  $m \geq n$ ):

$$\begin{aligned} &\binom{m+n}{m, n} \\ &= \frac{(m+n) \times (m+1) \times \dots \times m!}{m! \times n!} \\ &= \frac{(m+1) \times (m+2) \times \dots \times (m+n)}{1 \times \dots \times n} \end{aligned}$$



Since  $m + 1$  to  $m + n$  are  $n$  consecutive numbers, there is at least one number among them that is divisible by  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . For  $1 \leq i \leq n$  we have:

$$\binom{m+i}{m,i} = \frac{(m+1) \times \dots \times (m+i)}{1 \times \dots \times i}$$

To avoid overflow we can start from  $i = 1$  and increment  $i$  until we reach  $n$ . The division shouldn't have any remainder:

```
int uniquePaths(int M, int N) {
    auto m = max(M, N) - 1;
    auto n = min(M, N) - 1;
    const auto mn = m * n;

    // for values like m = 51 and n = 9 we cannot use 32-bit integer:
    int64_t res = 1;
    for (int i = 1; i <= n; ++i)
    {
        res *= m + i;
        res /= i;
    }
    return static_cast<int>(res);
}
```

## Unique Paths II

You are given an  $m \times n$  integer array grid. There is a robot initially located at the top-left corner (i.e.,  $\text{grid}[0][0]$ ). The robot tries to move to the bottom-right corner (i.e.,  $\text{grid}[m-1][n-1]$ ). The robot can only move either down or right at any point in time. An obstacle and space are marked as 1 or 0 respectively in grid. A path that the robot takes cannot include any square that is an obstacle. Return the number of possible unique paths that the robot can take to reach the bottom-right corner.

We use dynamic programming. We assume  $a[0..m-1, 0..n-1]$  is obstacle-Grid. We define  $dp[0..m, 0..n]$  as:

$$dp[i, j] = \begin{cases} dp[i-1, j] + dp[i, j-1] & a[i, j] \neq 1 \\ 0 & a[i, j] = 1 \\ 1 & i = 1 \wedge j = 1 \wedge a[1, 1] \neq 1 \\ 0 & i = 0 \vee j = 0 \end{cases}$$

So the answer for  $a[i, j]$  is  $dp[i+1, j+1]$ . Since the destination is cell  $m-1, n-1$ , the final answer is  $dp[m, n]$ :

```
int uniquePathsWithObstacles(vector<vector<int>>& obstacleGrid) {
    const int m = obstacleGrid.size();
    const int n = obstacleGrid[0].size();
    auto dp = vector<vector<int>>(m + 1, vector<int>(n + 1, 0));
    //dp[1][1] should be 1, unless there is an obstacle
    dp[0][1] = 1;
    for (int i = 0; i < m; ++i)
```

```

    for (int j = 0; j < n; ++j)
    {
        if (obstacleGrid[i][j] == 1)
            dp[i + 1][j + 1] = 0;
        else
            dp[i + 1][j + 1] = dp[i][j + 1] + dp[i + 1][j];
    }
    return dp[m][n];
}

```

As before we can save memory:

```

int uniquePathsWithObstacles(vector<vector<int>>& obstacleGrid) {
    const int m = obstacleGrid.size();
    const int n = obstacleGrid[0].size();
    auto dp = vector<int>(n + 1, 0);
    dp[1] = 1;
    for (int i = 0; i < m; ++i)
        for (int j = 0; j < n; ++j)
        {
            if (obstacleGrid[i][j] == 1)
                dp[j + 1] = 0;
            else
                dp[j + 1] += dp[j];
        }
    return dp[n];
}

```

### Minimum Path Sum

Given a  $m \times n$  grid filled with non-negative numbers, find a path from top left to bottom right, which minimizes the sum of all numbers along its path. You can only move either down or right at any point in time.

Instead of Dijkstra shortest path algorithm, we can use a simple dynamic programming approach. Suppose we have  $grid[0..m-1, 0..n-1]$ . We define  $d[0..m, 0..n]$  as:

$$d[i, j] = \begin{cases} \min(d[i-1, j], d[i, j-1]) + grid[i-1, j-1] & i > 0 \wedge j > 0 \\ \infty & i = 0 \vee j = 0 \\ grid[0, 0] & i = 1 \wedge j = 1 \end{cases}$$

The implementation:

```

int minPathSum(vector<vector<int>>& grid) {
    const int m = grid.size();
    const int n = grid[0].size();
    const int inf = m * n * 100 + 1;
    auto d = vector<vector<int>>(m + 1, vector<int>(n + 1, inf));
    // To make sure d[1][1] = grid[0][0]:
    d[0][1] = d[1][0] = 0;
    for (int i = 0; i < m; ++i)
        for (int j = 0; j < n; ++j)
            d[i + 1][j + 1] = min(d[i][j + 1], d[i + 1][j]) + grid[i][j];
}

```

```
    return d[m][n];  
}
```

To save memory:

```
int minPathSum(vector<vector<int>>& grid) {  
    const int m = grid.size();  
    const int n = grid[0].size();  
    const int inf = m * n * 100 + 1;  
    auto d = vector<int>(n + 1, inf);  
    // To make sure d[1][1] = grid[0][0]:  
    d[1] = 0;  
    for (int i = 0; i < m; ++i)  
        for (int j = 0; j < n; ++j)  
            d[j + 1] = min(d[j + 1], d[j]) + grid[i][j];  
    return d[n];  
}
```



## Chapter 2

# HackerRank

### 2.1 New Year Chaos

We define  $index_i$  as the current index for person  $i$ . For example if we have 1, 2, 3, 4 and 4 bribes 3, the queue looks like 1, 2, 4, 3. So  $index_4 = 3$ . Since no body can bribe more than 2 times,  $index_i \geq i - 2$  for  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . Consider person  $n$ . No body can bribe that person. So  $n - 2 \leq index_n \leq n$ . After we retruned that person to his actual place we can consider  $n - 1$ . So we have  $n - 3 \leq index_{n-1} \leq n - 1$  (note that at this moment  $index_n = n$ ).

```
void minimumBribes(vector<int> q) {  
  
    const auto& n = q.size();  
    int res = 0;  
    for (int num = n; num > 0; --num)  
    {  
        for (int i = max(0, num - 3); i < num - 1; ++i)  
        {  
            if (q[i] == num)  
            {  
                ++res;  
                swap(q[i], q[i + 1]);  
            }  
        }  
        if (q[num - 1] != num)  
        {  
            cout << "Too chaotic" << endl;  
            return;  
        }  
    }  
    cout << res << endl;  
}
```

## 2.2 Minimum Swaps 2

Note that this solution is based on **Selection Sort** in which the number of swaps are minimum. According to Wikipedia: "One thing which distinguishes selection sort from other sorting algorithms is that it makes the minimum possible number of swaps,  $n - 1$  in the worst case.". Although Selection sort has minimum number of swaps among all sorts algorithms, it has  $O(n^2)$  comparisons. Since the final result is  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ , it's like we have the set in sorted order so we can bypass comparisons and use Selection Sort advantage which is the minimum number of swaps.

We define  $index_i$  as the current index of number  $i$ . Suppose we have  $n$  numbers, so  $1 \leq index_i \leq n$ . The goal is to have  $index_i = i$ . Without losing generality suppose  $i < j \wedge index_i = j$ . There are two cases to consider:

1. If  $index_j = i$ , then by swapping  $arr_i$  and  $arr_j$ , we put both  $i$  and  $j$  in their corresponding positions.
2. If  $index_j = k \wedge k \neq i \wedge k \neq j$ . In this case by swapping  $arr_i$  and  $arr_j$  we only put  $i$  in its corresponding position. So we need to do an extra swap to put  $j$  in its correct position.

We can start from  $i = 1$  to  $i = n$  and make sure  $i$  is in correct position; otherwise we perform a swap. In each iteration we fix the position of one or two numbers. A good example is  $\{4, 3, 2, 1\}$ .

```
int minimumSwaps(vector<int> arr) {
    const auto& n = arr.size();
    vector<int> index(n + 1);

    for (int i = 0; i < n; ++i)
        index[arr[i]] = i;
    int cnt = 0;
    for (int num = 1; num <= n; ++num)
    {
        if (index[num] != num - 1)
        {
            ++cnt;
            index[arr[num - 1]] = index[num];
            swap(arr[index[num]], arr[num - 1]);
            index[num] = num - 1;
        }
    }
    return cnt;
}
```

## 2.3 Count Triplets

We use dynamic programming to solve it. For mathematical induction we define  $cnt[num][n]$  like this:

$$cnt[a_{i_1}][0] = |\{a_{i_0} \in arr \mid a_{i_1} = a_{i_0} \times r \wedge i_1 < i_2\}|$$

$$cnt[a_{i_2}][1] = |\{(a_{i_0}, a_{i_1}) \in arr \times arr \mid a_{i_k} = a_{i_{k-1}} \times r \wedge i_{k-1} < i_k \text{ for } 1 \leq k \leq 2\}|$$

So the final answer is:

$$\sum_{n \in arr} cnt[n][1]$$

Then for each number  $n$  we have

$$cnt[n \times r][0] = cnt[n \times r][0] + 1$$

$$cnt[n \times r][1] = cnt[n \times r][1] + cnt[n][0]$$

Since  $r = 1$ , the order of assignments are very important.

```

long countTriplets(vector<long> arr, long r) {
    const auto n = arr.size();
    unordered_map<long, array<long, 2>> cnt;
    //cnt[a[j]][0] = |\{a[i]\}| in which i < j and
    //                a[j] = a[i] * r
    //cnt[a[k]][1] = |\{a[i], a[j]\}| in which
    //                i < j < k and
    //a[k] = a[j] * r and a[j] = a[i] * r

    long res = 0;
    for (const auto& num : arr)
    {
        res += cnt[num][1];
        const auto next = num * r;
        cnt[next][1] += cnt[num][0];
        ++cnt[next][0];
    }
    return res;
}

```

## 2.4 Fraudulent Activity Notifications

Basically we want a  $O(n \log n)$  algorithm to find median of a sequence, when we removed the first element and add another one. So we need two binary search trees. In the first one the maximum element is the median itself and in the second one the minimum element is the second median in case of  $d = 2k$  or a value greater than median when  $d = 2k + 1$ . So if  $d = 2k$  both of these binary search trees always have  $k$  element. When  $d = 2k + 1$ , the first one always has  $k + 1$  elements and the second one has  $k$  elements. Let's call them *lessEqual* and *greaterEqual*.

If both removing element and new element belong to the same tree, nothing extra is required. So we only need to remove one element and add the new one. If the removing element is from *lessEqual*, we must remove the minimum

element from *greaterEqual* and add it to *lessEqual*. If the removing element is from *greaterEqual*, we must remove the maximum element from *lessEqual* and add it to *greaterEqual*. By doing that the maximum element is *lessEqual* is median. In case of  $d = 2k$ , the minimum element in *greaterEqual* is the second median. The running time of this algorithm is  $O(n \log n)$ .

```
int activityNotifications(vector<int> expenditure, int d)
{
    multiset<int, greater<int>> lessEqual;
    multiset<int> greaterEqual;

    vector<int> init(d);
    copy(expenditure.begin(), expenditure.begin() + d,
        init.begin());
    sort(init.begin(), init.end());

    const bool isEven = (d & 1) == 0;

    int medianIndex = (d - 1) / 2;
    int i;
    for (i = 0; i <= medianIndex; ++i)
        lessEqual.insert(init[i]);
    for (; i < d; ++i)
        greaterEqual.insert(init[i]);

    int res = 0;
    for (int i = d; i < expenditure.size(); ++i)
    {
        const int median1 = *lessEqual.begin();
        if (isEven)
        {
            const int median2 = *greaterEqual.begin();
            if (expenditure[i] >= (median1 + median2))
                ++res;
        }
        else
        {
            if (expenditure[i] >= 2 * median1)
                ++res;
        }

        const auto removed = expenditure[i - d];

        if (removed <= median1 &&
            expenditure[i] <= median1)
        {
            lessEqual.erase(lessEqual.find(removed));
            lessEqual.insert(expenditure[i]);
        }
        else if (removed > median1 &&
            expenditure[i] > median1)
        {
            greaterEqual.erase(greaterEqual.find(removed));
            greaterEqual.insert(expenditure[i]);
        }
        else if (removed <= median1)
        {

```



```

        //For handling d=1, it should first:
        greaterEqual.insert(expenditure[i]);
        lessEqual.erase(lessEqual.find(removed));
        lessEqual.insert(*greaterEqual.begin());
        greaterEqual.erase(greaterEqual.begin());
    }
    else
    {
        //For handling d=1, it should be first:
        lessEqual.insert(expenditure[i]);
        greaterEqual.erase(greaterEqual.find(removed));
        greaterEqual.insert(*lessEqual.begin());
        lessEqual.erase(lessEqual.begin());
    }
}
return res;
}

```

## 2.5 Merge Sort: Counting Inversions

### Problem Statement

We can solve it using merge sort. Suppose we have  $arr[left..right]$ . We break it into two subproblem  $arr[left..mid]$  and  $arr[mid + 1..right]$ . Both of them are sorted. According to merge sort algorithm  $left \leq i \leq mid$  and  $mid + 1 \leq j \leq right$ . In other words we already put  $arr[left..i - 1]$  and  $arr[mid + 1..j - 1]$  into their correct positions. So when  $arr[j] < arr[i]$ , it means  $arr[j] < arr[i] \leq arr[x]$  in which  $i + 1 \leq x \leq mid$ . So we need to have  $mid - i + 1$  swaps.

```

long mergeSort(vector<int>& arr, int leftIndex,
               int rightIndex)
{
    if (leftIndex == rightIndex)
        return 0;

    long res = 0;
    int midIndex = (leftIndex + rightIndex) / 2;
    res = mergeSort(arr, leftIndex, midIndex);
    res += mergeSort(arr, midIndex + 1, rightIndex);

    vector<int> sorted(rightIndex - leftIndex + 1);
    int i, j, k;
    for (i = leftIndex, j = midIndex + 1, k = 0;
         i <= midIndex && j <= rightIndex;)
    {
        if (arr[i] <= arr[j])
            sorted[k++] = arr[i++];
        else
        {
            res += midIndex - i + 1;
            sorted[k++] = arr[j++];
        }
    }
}

```

```
    if (i <= midIndex)
        copy(arr.begin() + i,
            arr.begin() + midIndex + 1,
            sorted.begin() + k);
    else
        copy(arr.begin() + j ,
            arr.begin() + rightIndex + 1,
            sorted.begin() + k);
    copy(sorted.begin(), sorted.end(),
        arr.begin() + leftIndex);
    return res;
}
// Complete the countInversions function below.
long countInversions(vector<int> arr) {
    return mergeSort(arr, 0, arr.size() - 1);
}
```

## Chapter 3

# TopCoder

### 3.1 SRM 428

#### 3.1.1 ThePalindrome

For another variation refer to [1.1.2](#). We want to add the minimum number of characters to the end of string to make it a palindrome. The straightforward approach is to try add the first  $i$  characters in reverse for all  $0 \leq i \leq n - 1$  in which  $n$  is the length of string. So we start from  $i = 0$  and check whether the string is palindrome. If it's not we check for  $i = 1$  and so on. The running time of this algorithm is  $O(n^2)$ .

```
bool isPalindrome(const string& str)
{
    int left = 0, right = str.length() - 1;
    for (; left < right && str[left] == str[right];
        ++left, --right);
    return left >= right;
}

int find(string s)
{
    for (int i = 0; i < s.length(); ++i)
    {
        string tmp = s + string(s.rend() - i, s.rend());
        if (isPalindrome(tmp))
            return tmp.length();
    }
    throw 1;
}
```

Since  $n \leq 50$ , this algorithm is fast. We can make it  $O(n \log_2 n)$  if we use binary search tree to find the minimum  $i$ .

There is another approach. Let's assume we have string  $S = s_1 s_2 \dots s_n$ . We define  $S' = s_n \dots s_2 s_1$ . Suppose we can write string  $S$  as  $QP$ . In other words,  $S$  is the concatenation of two strings  $Q$  and  $P$ . We assume  $P$  is palindrome but

$Q$  is not. We can make  $S$  palindrome if we convert  $QP$  to  $QPQ'$  we call this new String  $Z$ .  $Z$  is palindrome because if we reverse it we have:

$$\begin{aligned} Z &: QPQ' \\ Z' &: QP'Q' \end{aligned}$$

Since we want the length of  $Q$  be minimum, we must find the maximal  $P$ :

```
bool isPalindrome(const string& str, int start)
{
    int left = start, right = str.length() - 1;
    for (; left < right && str[left] == str[right];
        ++left, --right);
    return left >= right;
}

int find(string s)
{
    for (int i = 0; i < s.length(); ++i)
    {
        if (isPalindrome(s, i))
            return s.length() + i;
    }
    throw 1;
}
```

As the previous implementation the running time is  $O(n^2)$  but it's easy to convert it to  $O(n \log_2 n)$  using binary search.

This implementation has a unique feature. We can convert it to an  $O(n)$  algorithm using **KMP algorithm**. Suppose  $S = QP$  where  $P$  is a palindrome. We want to find palidnrome postfix  $P$  which its length is maximum among all palindrome post-fixes. We need to run KMP pre-compute calculation on  $S' = P'Q'$ . Then we run KMP algorithm as if we want to find whether  $S'$  is a substring of  $S$ . Suppose we use  $i$  as an index for  $S$  and  $j$  as an index for  $S'$ . The algorithm start with  $i = 0$  and ends when  $i = \text{len}(S)$  in which  $S'[0..j - 1]$  is  $P'$  or  $P$  (since it's palindrome).

```
vector<int> calculateNext(const string& B)
{
    vector<int> next(B.length());
    next[0] = -2;
    next[1] = -1;
    int i, j;
    for (i = 2; i < B.length(); ++i)
    {
        j = next[i - 1] + 1;
        for (; j >= 0 && B[j] != B[i - 1]; j = next[j] + 1);
        next[i] = j;
    }
    return next;
}

int find(string A)
{
    const string B = string(A.rbegin(), A.rend());
```

```
const auto next = calculateNext(B);
int i, j;
for (i = 0, j = 0; i < A.length() && j < B.length(); )
{
    if (A[i] == B[j])
        ++i, ++j;
    else if ((j = next[j] + 1) < 0)
    {
        //Since B.front() == A.back(), it's impossible
        //i == A.length() here:
        ++i, j = 0;
    }
}
int palindromeLen = j;
return A.length() + A.length() - palindromeLen;
}
```



## Chapter 4

# Miscellaneous

### 4.1 Painting a pole

Suppose we have a pole of length 10. Each time we select an interval of length 1 and paint the entire interval. The goal is to paint the entire pole. For example we select interval  $[1.5, 2.5]$  and paint it and so on. We have a stream of paint operation. Each paint operation choose an interval and paint it. So we should have at least tow functions *voidpaint(doublepaint<sub>p</sub>oint)* and *boolis<sub>p</sub>ainted()*. The former select an interval and paint it. The latter examine whether the entire pole is painted.

This is a special case of interval merging problem. For more information refer to [1.1.19](#). We can call *paint* many times. The trivial solution is each time this function is called, we try to add the interval and merge with others if possible. It's easier this set of intervals is sorted based on the start point of intervals. Since we can add new interval using *paint* function, keep the list sorted can be challenging.

Since the length of pole is 10 and each interval has the length of 1, we can create 10 segments (buckets) ( $\frac{10}{1} = 10$ . If the interval length is 2, then we create 5 segments:  $\frac{10}{2} = 5$ ).

Since the length of both intervals and segments are 1, each segment has at most two intervals. For  $i^{th}$  segment we define the following variables:

- $left_i$ : means  $[left_i, i + 1]$  is painted
- $right_i$ : means  $[i, right_i]$  is painted

Before painting starts, the  $i^{th}$  segment has values  $left_i = i + 1$  and  $right_i = i$ . We can examine it's entirely painted if  $left_i \leq right_i$ .

```
struct Segment
{
    //From left to the end of segment:
    int left;
    //From the beginning to the right of segment
```

```
    int right;
};

vector<Segment> segments(10);

void init()
{
    for (int i = 0; i < segments.size(); ++i)
    {
        segments[i].left = i + 1;
        segments[i].right = i;
    }
}

void paint(double paint_point)
{
    if (paint_point < 0 || paint_point > 10)
        return;
    int segment_index = floor(paint_point);
    int next_segment_index = floor(paint_point + 1);
    auto& left = segments[segment_index].left;
    if (paint_point < left)
        left = paint_point;
    if (next_segment_index >= 10)
        return;
    auto& right = segments[next_segment_index].right;
    if ((paint_point + 1) > right)
        right = paint_point + 1;
}

bool is_painted()
{
    for (const auto& segment : segments)
        if (segment.left > segment.right)
            return false;
    return true;
}
```



# Appendix A

## C++ refresher

### A.1 `std::tuple`

#### A.1.1 `std::tie`

Creates a tuple of lvalue references to its arguments or instances of `std::ignore`

### A.2 Associative containers

#### A.2.1 `std::set`

```
#include <iostream>
#include <algorithm>
#include <cassert>
#include <set>
#include <tuple>
#include <array>

int main()
{
    std::set<int> s({1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7});
    assert(s.count(7) == 1);
    assert(s.count(8) == 0);
    bool result;
    std::set<int>::iterator iter;
    std::tie(iter, result) = s.insert(8);
    assert(result == true && *iter == 8 && s.count(8) == 1);
    std::tie(std::ignore, result) = s.insert(9);
    assert(result == true && s.count(9) == 1);

    std::array<int, 6> a = {10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15};
    s.insert(a.begin(), a.end());
    assert(s.count(10) == 1);

    iter = s.find(13);
    assert(iter != s.end());
}
```

```

    iter = s.lower_bound(4);
    assert(*iter == 4);
    iter = s.upper_bound(4);
    assert(*iter == 5);

    s = {1, 2, 4, 5};
    iter = s.lower_bound(3);
    assert(*iter == 4);
    iter = s.upper_bound(3);
    assert(*iter == 4);
}

```

### A.3 Inserting into a container

The following code uses most insert operations:

```

#include <iostream>
#include <vector>
#include <deque>
#include <iterator>
#include <algorithm>

template<typename Container>
void print(const Container& c)
{
    static int id = 1;
    std::cout << id++ << ": ";
    std::for_each(c.begin(), c.end(), [](const auto& val) {
        std::cout << val << " ";
    });
    std::cout << std::endl;
}

int main()
{
    std::vector<int> base{0, 1, 2, 3, 4};
    auto v(base);
    std::vector<int> v2{100, 200, 300};

    auto i = std::next(v.begin()); // v.begin() + 1
    i = v.insert(i, v2[0]);
    i = v.insert(i, v2[1]);
    i = v.insert(i, v2[2]);
    print(v); // 1: 0 300 200 100 1 2 3 4
    // Note that after
    // v.insert(i, v[0]);
    // i becomes invalid. So this is undefined behavior:
    // v.insert(i, v[1]);
    v = base;
    i = std::next(v.begin()); // v.begin() + 1
    i = v.insert(i, v2.begin(), v2.end());
    print(v); // 2: 0 100 200 300 1 2 3 4

    v = base;
}

```

```

std::copy(v2.begin(), v2.end(),
          std::inserter(v, std::next(v.begin(), 1)));
print(v); // 3: 0 100 200 300 1 2 3 4

v = base;
std::copy(v2.begin(), v2.end(), std::back_inserter(v));
print(v); // 4: 0 1 2 3 4 100 200 300

//std::vector doesn't have push_front:
std::deque<int> d(base.begin(), base.end());
std::copy(v2.begin(), v2.end(), std::front_inserter(d));
print(d); // 1: 300 200 100 0 1 2 3 4
}

```

## A.4 `std::vector` iterators

It uses [LegacyRandomAccessIterator](#). For more information refer to [Iterator library](#).

```

#include <iostream>
#include <algorithm>
#include <iterator>
#include <vector>

template<typename Container>
void print(const Container& c)
{
    const auto m_print = [](const auto& val)
    {
        std::cout << val << ' ';
    };
    std::for_each(c.begin(), c.end(), m_print);
    std::cout << std::endl;
}

//my implementation of std::reverse
template<typename Container>
void my_reverse(Container& c)
{
    auto left = c.begin();
    auto right = std::prev(c.end());
    for (; left < right; ++left, --right)
        std::iter_swap(left, right);
}

template<typename Container>
void my_reverse2(Container& c)
{
    auto left = 0;
    auto right = std::distance(c.begin(), std::prev(c.end()));
    for (; left < right; ++left, --right)
        std::swap(c[left], c[right]);
}

int main()

```

```
{
    std::vector<int> v{0, 1, 2, 3, 4};
    my_reverse(v);
    print(v); // 4 3 2 1 0
    my_reverse2(v);
    print(v); // 0 1 2 3 4
}
```

## A.5 `std::reverse_iterator`

To understand how `reverse_iterator::base` works, see the following snippet. For more information refer to `std::reverse_iterator`.

```
int main()
{
    using iter = std::vector<int>::iterator;
    using r_iter = std::vector<int>::reverse_iterator;

    std::vector<int> v {0, 1, 2, 3, 4};
    r_iter res = std::find(v.rbegin(), v.rend(), 2);
    iter base = res.base();
    assert(*res == 2 && *base == 3);
}
```

## A.6 `std::mismatch`

```
#include <iostream>
#include <algorithm>
#include <string>
#include <cassert>
#include <vector>
#include <iterator>

bool is_palindrome(const std::string& str)
{
    auto res = std::mismatch(str.begin(), str.end(),
                             str.rbegin(), str.rend());
    return res.first == str.end();
}

int main()
{
    assert(is_palindrome("aba"));
    assert(is_palindrome("abba"));
    assert(!is_palindrome("abcd"));

    std::vector<int> v1{1, 2, 3, 4};
    std::vector<int> v2{1, 2};
    auto res = std::mismatch(v1.begin(), v1.end(),
                             v2.begin(), v2.end());

    //C++14 and above:
    assert(res.first == std::next(v1.begin(), v2.size()) &&
```

```

        res.second == v2.end());
    }

```

## A.7 Boyer–Moore string-search algorithm

Note that unlike [KMP](#), the worst case is still  $O(mn)$ . It's implemented since [C++17](#). Another variation is [Boyer–Moore–Horspool algorithm](#).

```

#include <iostream>
#include <algorithm>
#include <functional> //std::boyer_moore_searcher
#include <string>
#include <cassert>
#include <iterator>

int main()
{
    std::string s1 = "This is a test string";
    std::string s2 = "test";
    std::string before = "This is a ";
    auto res = std::search(s1.begin(), s1.end(),
                          std::boyer_moore_searcher(s2.begin(), s2.end()));
    assert(res == std::next(s1.begin(), before.length()));
}

```

## A.8 std::array

Note that if you don't use `, both std::array and c-style array are not initialized when you are using primitive type. So they can have arbitrary values.`

```

#include <iostream>
#include <array>
#include <algorithm>
#include <cassert>
#include <cstring>

int main()
{
    // a1 members are not initialized:
    // std::array<int, 7> a;
    // c_a members are not initialized:
    // int c_a[7];
    // a2 members are initialized to default:
    std::array<int, 7> a1{};
    // c_a1 members are initialized to default:
    int c_a1[7] {};
    for (auto i = 0; i < a1.size(); ++i)
        assert(a1[i] == 0 && c_a1[i] == 0);

    a1.fill(7);
    std::fill(c_a1, c_a1 + 7, 7);
    for (auto i = 0; i < a1.size(); ++i)

```

```

    assert(a1[i] == 7 && c_a1[i] == 7);

    std::array<std::array<int, 2>, 3> a2{};
    int c_a2[3][2] = {{1, 2}, {3, 4}};

    std::memcpy(a2.data(), c_a2, sizeof(c_a2));
    for (auto i = 0; i < a2.size(); ++i)
        for (auto j = 0; j < a2[0].size(); ++j)
            assert(a2[i][j] == c_a2[i][j]);

    assert(a2.size() == 3);
    assert(a2[0].size() == 2);

    a2.fill({4, 5});
    for (const auto& val : a2)
        assert(val[0] == 4 && val[1] == 5);
    std::array<int, 3> a3 {1, 2};
    assert(a3[0] == 1 && a3[1] == 2 && a3[2] == 0);
}

```

## A.9 Initializing arrays with `std::fill`, `memcpy` and `memset`

Note that `memset` fills every byte in the buffer. If it's an array of elements bigger than 1-byte (e.g. array of integers), it does make sense to use it just for 0 or  $-1$  (in a 32-bit signed integer  $-1 = 0xffffffff$ ).

Unless it's an array of elements of 1-byte (e.g. `char`), it's wrong to use `sizeof` for `std::fill`. Note that the first two parameters of `std::fill` are two pointers. One points to the first element and the other to one after the last. On the other hand we should use `sizeof` for `memcpy` and `memset`.

```

#include <iostream>
#include <array>
#include <algorithm>
#include <cassert>
#include <cstring>
#include <iterator>

int main()
{
    std::array<int, 3> a1{};
    assert(sizeof(a1) == sizeof(int) * 3);
    std::fill(a1.begin(), a1.end(), -20);
    for (const auto& val : a1)
        assert(val == -20);

    std::array<std::array<int, 2>, 3> a2{};
    int c_a2[3][2] = {{1, 2}, {3, 4}};

    std::fill(&a2[0][0], &a2[1][0], 7);
    std::fill(&a2[1][0], &a2[2][0], 8);
    std::fill_n(&a2[2][0], 2, 9);
    for (int i = 0; i < a2.size(); ++i)

```

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```

    if (i == 0)
        assert(a2[i][0] == 7 && a2[i][1] == 7);
    else if (i == 1)
        assert(a2[i][0] == 8 && a2[i][1] == 8);
    else
        assert(a2[i][0] == 9 && a2[i][1] == 9);

std::fill(a2.begin()->begin(),
          std::next(a2.begin())->begin(),
          10);
std::fill(std::next(a2.begin())->begin(),
          std::next(a2.begin(), 2)->begin(),
          11);
std::fill(std::next(a2.begin(), 2)->begin(),
          std::prev(a2.end())->end(),
          12);
for (int i = 0; i < a2.size(); ++i)
    if (i == 0)
        assert(a2[i][0] == 10 && a2[i][1] == 10);
    else if (i == 1)
        assert(a2[i][0] == 11 && a2[i][1] == 11);
    else
        assert(a2[i][0] == 12 && a2[i][1] == 12);

assert(sizeof(a2) == sizeof(int) * 2 * 3);
// Note that &a2[0] is a pointer to std::array<int, 2>
std::fill(&a2[0][0], &a2[0][0] + 2 * 3, 15);
for (const auto& val : a2)
    assert(val[0] == 15 && val[1] == 15);

std::memcpy(a2.data(), c_a2, sizeof(c_a2));
for (auto i = 0; i < a2.size(); ++i)
    for (auto j = 0; j < a2[0].size(); ++j)
        assert(a2[i][j] == c_a2[i][j]);

std::fill_n(a2.begin()->begin(), 2 * 3, 16);
for (const auto& val : a2)
    assert(val[0] == 16 && val[1] == 16);

std::copy_n(&c_a2[0][0], 2 * 3, a2.begin()->begin());
for (auto i = 0; i < a2.size(); ++i)
    for (auto j = 0; j < a2[0].size(); ++j)
        assert(a2[i][j] == c_a2[i][j]);

std::memset(a2.data(), -1, sizeof(a2));
for (const auto& val : a2)
    assert(val[0] == -1 && val[1] == -1);

std::memset(a2.data(), 1, sizeof(a2));
for (const auto& val : a2)
    assert(val[0] == 0x01010101 && val[1] == 0x01010101);
}

```