

Documentation: Valid Palindrome

Problem Statement

A phrase is considered a palindrome if, after converting all uppercase letters to lowercase and removing all non-alphanumeric characters, it reads the same forward and backward. Alphanumeric characters include both letters and numbers.

Given a string `s`, determine if it is a palindrome. Return `true` if it is a palindrome, or `false` otherwise.

Example 1:

- **Input:** `s = "A man, a plan, a canal: Panama"`
- **Output:** `true`
- **Explanation:** After processing, the string becomes "amanaplanacanalpanama", which is a palindrome.

Example 2:

- **Input:** `s = "race a car"`
- **Output:** `false`
- **Explanation:** After processing, the string becomes "raceacar", which is not a palindrome.

Example 3:

- **Input:** `s = " "`
- **Output:** `true`
- **Explanation:** After processing, the string becomes an empty string "", which reads the same forward and backward. Therefore, it is a palindrome.

Constraints

- The length of the string *s* is between 1 and 200,000 characters (inclusive).
- The string *s* consists only of printable ASCII characters.

Solution Explanation

The approach to solve this problem involves the following steps:

1. Filtering and Conversion:

- Convert all uppercase letters to lowercase.
- Remove all non-alphanumeric characters.
- This is done using a list comprehension that iterates through each character of the string, checking if it is alphanumeric, and converting it to lowercase if it is.

2. Palindrome Check:

- Compare the filtered list of characters with its reverse.
- If they are the same, the string is a palindrome; otherwise, it is not.

Example Usage

1. Example 1:

- *Input:* "A man, a plan, a canal: Panama"
- *Output:* true

2. Example 2:

- *Input:* "race a car"
- *Output:* false

3. Example 3:

- *Input:* " "
- *Output:* true

The provided solution efficiently checks if a given string is a palindrome by focusing only on its alphanumeric characters and ignoring case differences.