
Algorithms Interview Questions

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1. Define the concept of an algorithm.

An algorithm is any well-defined computational procedure that takes some value (or set of values) as input and produces so short, it can be seen as a sequence of computational steps that transform the input into the output.

2. What are the arguments present in pattern matching algorithms?

These are the following arguments which are present in pattern matching Algorithms.

- 1) Subject,
- 2) Pattern
- 3) Cursor
- 4) MATCH_STR
- 5) REPLACE_STR
- 6) REPLACE_FLAG

3. Explain the function SUB in algorithmic notation?

In the algorithmic notation rather than using special marker symbols, generally people use the cursor position plus a substring the function is SUB.

SUB returns a value the sub string of SUBJECT that is specified by the parameters i and j and an assumed value of j.

4. In Algorithmic context how would you define book keeping operations?

Usually when a user wants to estimate time he isolates the specific function and brands it as active operation. The other operations the manipulations of the index and the accessing of a value in the vector, occur no more often than the addition of vector value as book keeping operations.

5. Define and describe an iterative process with general steps of flow chart?

There are four parts in the iterative process they are

Initialization: -The decision parameter is used to determine when to exit from the loop.

Decision: -The decision parameter is used to determine whether to remain in the loop or not.

Computation: - The required computation is performed in this part.

Update: - The decision parameter is updated and a transfer to the next iteration results.

6. State recursion and its different types?

Recursion is the name given to the technique of defining a set or a process in terms of itself. There are essentially two types recursively defined function and the second type of recursion is the recursive use of a procedure.

7. Define and state the importance of sub algorithm in computation and its relation ship with main algorithm?

A sub algorithm is an independent component of an algorithm and for this reason is defined separately from the main algorithm perform some computation when required, under control of the main algorithm. This computation may be performed on zero routine.

8. Name any three skills which are very important in order to work with generating functions.

The three most important skills which are used extensively while working with generating functions are

- 1) Manipulate summation expressions and their indices.
- 2) Solve algebraic equations and manipulate algebraic expressions, including partial function decompositions.
- 3) Identify sequences with their generating functions

9. What is the general strategy for Markov Algorithm?

The general strategy in a Markov Algorithm is to take as input a string x and, through a number of steps in the algorithm, transform the string. The transformation process is generally performed in computers for text editing or program compilation.

10. Define string in an algorithmic notation and an example to support it?

In the algorithmic notation, a string is expressed as any sequence of characters enclosed in single quote marks.

11. How to find median of a BST?

Find the no. of elements on the left side.

If it is $n-1$ the root is the median.

If it is more than $n-1$, then it has already been found in the left subtree.

Else it should be in the right subtree

12. What is Diffie-Hellman?

It is a method by which a key can be securely shared by two users without any actual exchange.

13. What is the goal of the shortest distance algorithm?

The goal is to completely fill the distance array so that for each vertex v , the value of $\text{distance}[v]$ is the weight of the shortest path from the source to v .

14. Explain the depth of recursion?

This is another recursion procedure which is the number of times the procedure is called recursively in the process of enlarging this quantity is not obvious except in the case of extremely simple recursive functions, such as $\text{FACTORIAL}(N)$, for which the depth of recursion is N .

15. Explain about the algorithm ORD_WORDS?

This algorithm constructs the vectors TITLE , KEYWORD and T_INDEX .

16. Which are the sorting algorithms categories?

Sorting algorithms can be divided into five categories:

- a) insertion sorts
- b) exchange sorts
- c) selection sorts
- d) merge sorts
- e) distribution sorts

17. Define a brute-force algorithm. Give a short example.

A brute force algorithm is a type of algorithm that proceeds in a simple and obvious way, but requires a huge number of steps to find out the factors of a given number N , using this sort of algorithm will require to get one by one all the possible numbers.

18. What is a greedy algorithm? Give examples of problems solved using greedy algorithms.

A greedy algorithm is any algorithm that makes the local optimal choice at each stage with the hope of finding the global optimum. A problem solved using a greedy strategy is the traveling salesman problem. Another problem that can be solved using greedy algorithms is the NP-complete problems.

19. What is a backtracking algorithm? Provide several examples.

It is an algorithm that considers systematically all possible outcomes for each decision. Examples of backtracking algorithms are permutations of a given sequence.

20. What is the difference between a backtracking algorithm and a brute-force one?

Due to the fact that a backtracking algorithm takes all the possible outcomes for a decision, it is similar from this point of view. The difference consists in the fact that sometimes a backtracking algorithm can detect that an exhaustive search is unnecessary.

21. Describe divide and conquer paradigm.

When a problem is solved using a divide and conquer algorithm, it is subdivided into one or more subproblems which are all solved independently. In the end, the solutions to the subproblems are combined in order to solve the original problem.

22. Describe on short an insertion sorting algorithm.

An algorithm that sorts by insertion takes the initial, unsorted sequence and computes a series of sorted sequences using the following steps:

- the first sequence in the series is the empty sequence
- given a sequence $S(i)$ in the series, for $0 \leq i$

23. Which are the advantages provided by insertion sort?

Insertion sort provides several advantages:

- simple implementation
- efficient for small data sets
- adaptive - efficient for data sets that are already substantially sorted: the time complexity is $O(n + d)$, where d is the number of elements out of sorted order
- more efficient in practice than most other simple quadratic, i.e. $O(n^2)$ algorithms such as selection sort or bubble sort; the time complexity is $O(n^2)$
- stable - does not change the relative order of elements with equal keys
- in-place - only requires a constant amount $O(1)$ of additional memory space
- online - can sort a list as it receives it

24. Shortly describe the quicksort algorithm.

In quicksort, the steps performed are the following:

- pick an element, called a pivot, from the list
- reorder the list so that all elements with values less than the pivot come before the pivot, while all elements with values greater than the pivot come after the pivot (elements with equal values can be placed anywhere)

values can go either way)

c) recursively sort the sub-list of lesser elements and the sub-list of greater elements

25. What is the difference between selection and insertion sorting?

In insertion sorting elements are added to the sorted sequence in an arbitrary order. In selection sorting, the elements are always added at one end.

26. What is merge sorting?

Merging is the sorting algorithm which combines two or more sorted sequences into a single sorted sequence. It is a divide-and-conquer comparison-based sorting algorithm. Most implementations produce a stable sort, meaning that the implementation preserve the relative order of sorted output.

27. Which are the main steps of a merge sorting algorithm?

Sorting by merging is a recursive, divide-and-conquer strategy. The basic steps to perform are the following:

- divide the sequence into two sequences of length $n/2$
- recursively sort each of the two subsequences
- merge the sorted subsequences to obtain the final result

28. Provide a short description of binary search algorithm.

Binary search algorithm always chooses the middle of the remaining search space, discarding one half or the other, again and again, until the key value found at the estimated position and the key value sought. The remaining search space is reduced to the part before or after the key value found.

29. What is the linear search algorithm?

Linear search is a method for finding a particular value in a list which consists of checking every one of its elements, one at a time, until the value is found. It is the simplest search algorithm, a special case of brute-force search. Its worst case cost is proportional to the number of elements in the list. The expected cost, if all list elements are equally likely to be searched for. Therefore, if the list has more than a few elements, other search algorithms (such as binary search or hashing) may be much more efficient.

30. What is best-first search algorithm?

It is a search algorithm that considers the estimated best partial solution next. This is typically implemented with priority queue.

31. What is Huffman coding?

In computer science and information theory, Huffman coding is an entropy encoding algorithm used for lossless data compression. It is a variable-length code table for encoding a source symbol (such as a character in a file) where the variable-length code table is based on the estimated probability of occurrence for each possible value of the source symbol.

