


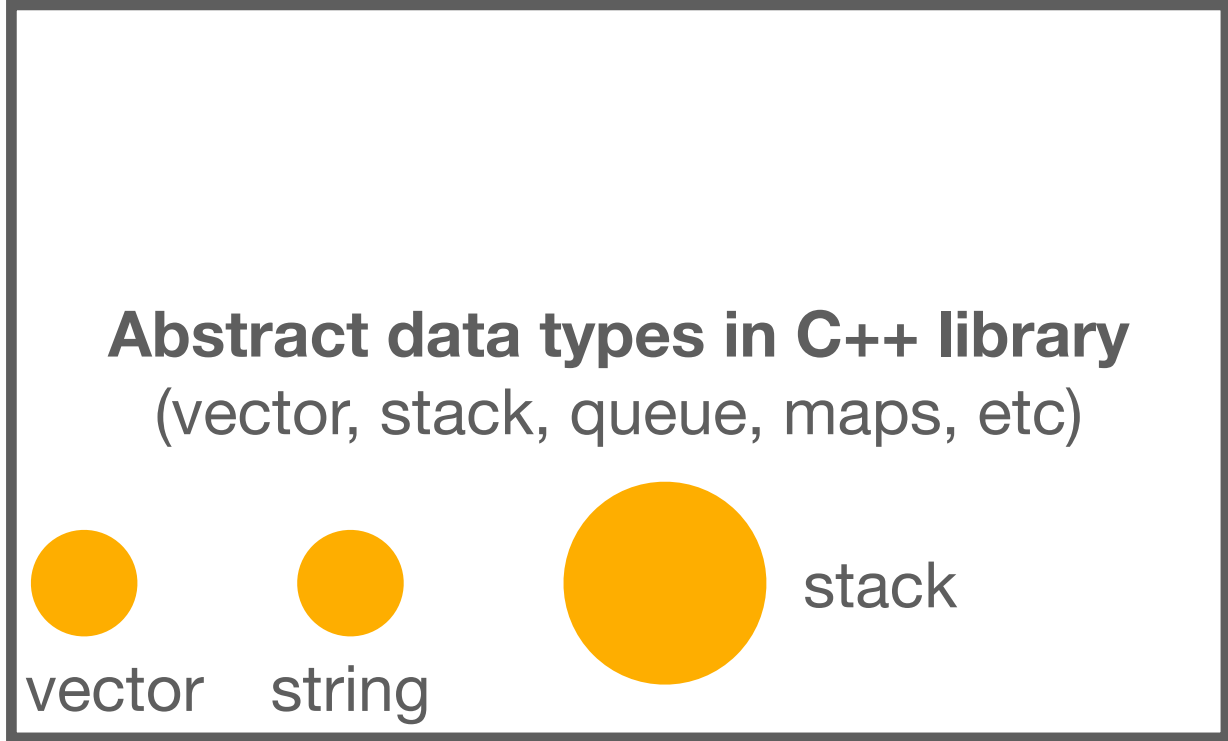
Lecture5: Stack

Xingyu Zhou

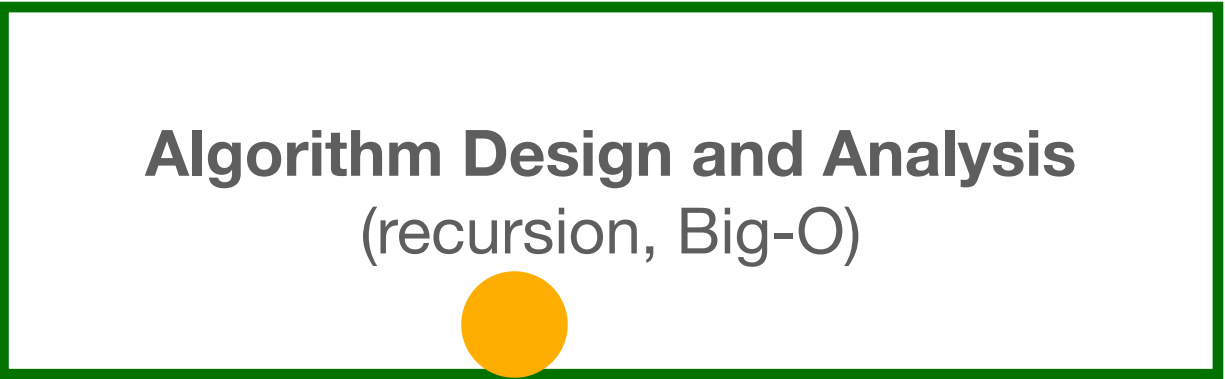
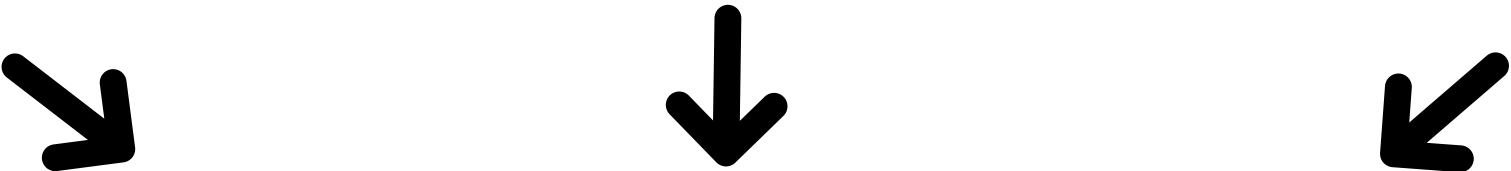
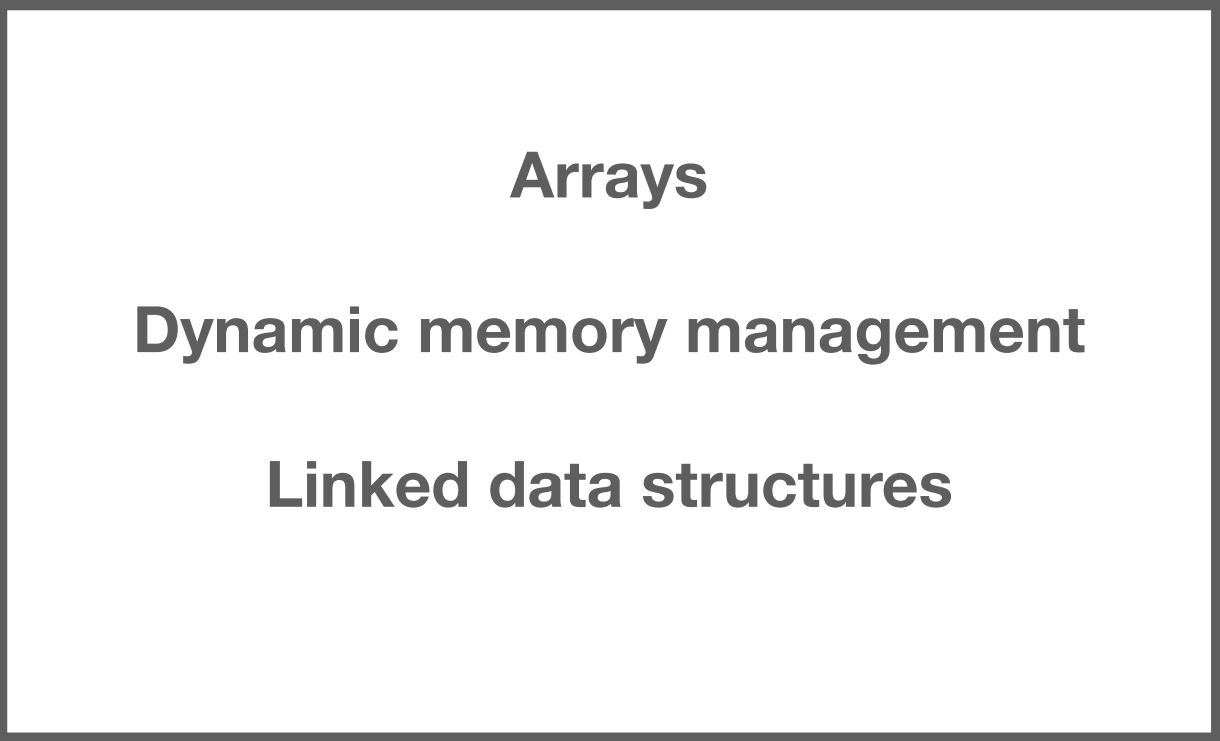
09/15 2025

Roadmap

 C++ Basics



Object-Oriented Programming
(classes, instances)



Outline of Today's Class

- Review
- Stack
- Application: Balanced Parenthesis
- In-class problem

Review...

```
string s = "I'm sorry, Dave.";
           0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 indices
```

non-mutating

s.size()	→ 16	(number of characters)
s[2]	→ 'm'	(character at index 2)
s.find("r")	→ 6	(first match from start)
s.rfind("r")	→ 7	(first match from end)
s.find("X")	→ string::npos	(not found, invalid index)
s.find(' ', 5)	→ 10	(first match after index ≥ 5)
s.substr(4, 6)	→ string{"sorry,"}	
s.contains("sorry")	→ true	(C++23)
s.starts_with('I')	→ true	(C++20)
s.ends_with("Dave.")	→ true	(C++20)
s.compare("I'm sorry, Dave.")	→ 0	(identical)
s.compare("I'm sorry, Anna.")	→ > 0	(same length, but 'D' > 'A')
s.compare("I'm sorry, Saul.")	→ < 0	(same length, but 'D' < 'S')

mutating

size
index based
iterator based

s += " I'm afraid I can't do that."	⇒ s = "I'm sorry, Dave. I'm afraid I can't do that."
s.append("...")	⇒ s = "I'm sorry, Dave..."
s.clear()	⇒ s = ""
s.resize(3)	⇒ s = "I'm"
s.resize(20, '?')	⇒ s = "I'm sorry, Dave.????";
s.insert(4, "very ")	⇒ s = "I'm very sorry, Dave."
s.erase(5, 2)	⇒ s = "I'm srry, Dave."
s[15] = '!'	⇒ s = "I'm sorry, Dave!"
s.replace(11, 5, "Frank")	⇒ s = "I'm sorry, Frank"
s.insert(s.begin(), "HAL: ")	⇒ s = "HAL: I'm sorry, Dave."
s.insert(s.begin()+4, "very ")	⇒ s = "I'm very sorry, Dave."
s.erase(s.begin()+5)	⇒ s = "I'm srry, Dave."
s.erase(s.begin(), s.begin()+4)	⇒ s = "sorry, Dave."

Constructors

string{'a','b','c'} → a b c

string(4, '\$') → \$ \$ \$ \$

string(@firstIn, @lastIn) → e f g h
source ↓ iterator range ↓
b c d e f g h i j

string(a b c d) copy/move → a b c d
source string object

Obtain Iterators or Reverse Iterators

.begin() → @first
↓
a b c d e f

.end() → @one_behind_last
↓
a b c d e f
don't use to access elements!

.rbegin() → reverse@last
↓
a b c d e f
base()

.rend() → reverse@one_before_first
↓
a b c d e f
base()
don't use to access elements!

String → Number Conversion

int stoi (●, ●, ●);
long stol (●, ●, ●);
long long stoll (●, ●, ●);

const string& input string

std::size_t* p = nullptr

output for number of processed characters

int base = 10

base of target system; default: decimal

unsigned long stoul (●, ●, ●);
unsigned long long stoull (●, ●, ●);

float stof (●, ●, ●);
double stod (●, ●, ●);
long double stold (●, ●, ●);

Number → String Conversion

string to_string (●);

int | long | long long |
unsigned | unsigned long | unsigned long long |
float | double | long double

C++ string

```
#include<string>
```

- C++ string is a sequence container of characters
 - It is similar to `vector<char>`
- `string str = "hello";`



str

Key features of C++ string

Mutable

- C++ string is mutable
 - Unlike Python and Java

```
string str = "hello";
```

```
str[1] = 'a'
```

Note that we need to use single quote



str

Key features of C++ string

Concatenation

- You can add **character** to strings and **string** to strings using += and +

```
string str = "hello";
```

```
str += '!'
```



str

```
string str = "hello";
```

```
str += "hi"
```



str

Key features of C++ string

Compare

- You can use logical operators to compare strings (and characters)
 - `> = <`
 - It will use the corresponding ascii value of char

```
string str1 = "ab";
```

```
string str2 = "ba";
```

```
str1 < str2; // true
```

```
string str1 = "aa";
```

```
string str2 = "AA";
```

```
Str1 > str2; // true
```

Key features of C++ string

Loop over a string

- You can use index or directly use for each

- For example, `string str = "hello";`

```
for(int index = 0; index < str.length(); index++) {
```

```
    cout << str[index];
```

```
}
```

```
for(char a: str) {
```

```
    cout << a;
```

```
}
```



String utility functions, return the length of the string

C++ string utility functions

- **s.append(str)**: add text **str** to the end of a string
- **s.compare(str)**: return -1, 0, or 1 depending on relative ordering
- **s.erase(index, length)**: delete text from a string starting at given **index**
- **s.find(str)**: return first **index** where the start of **str** appears in this string (returns `string::npos` if not found)
- **s.rfind(str)**: return last **index** where the start of **str** appears in this string (returns `string::npos` if not found)
- **s.insert(index, str)**: add text **str** into a string at a given **index**
- **s.length()** or **s.size()**: number of characters in this string
- **s.replace(index, len, str)**: replaces **len** chars at **index** with text **str**
- **s.substr(start, length)** or **s.substr(start)**: the next **length** characters beginning at **start** (inclusive); if **length** omitted, grabs till end of string

Stack

[An ADT that follows Last-In-First-Out principle]

What is a stack?

LIFO

- An ADT represents a stack of things
- Element can only be **pushed** on top of the stack
- Element can only be **popped** from the top of the stack
 - Hence, it follows the Last-In-First-Out
- One cannot have a random access to any particular element
 - This restricts the behavior, but it also leads to a simple interface
- Stack has a wide range of applications

Stack in C++

`#include<stack>`

- `push(value)` — place an entity onto the top of the stack
- `pop()` — remove an entity from the top of the stack
- `top()` — get the entity at the top of the stack, but don't remove it
- `empty()` — true if the stack is empty
- `size()` — return the number of elements in the stack

With these simple operations, one can use stack to solve many interesting real-world problems!

Live Demo

[Basics of stack in C++: <https://onlinegdb.com/v50vUqnWA>]

Application

[Balanced parenthesis]

Balanced Parenthesis

Given a string, determine whether the parenthesis is correct

```
void fun(){if (x[0] > 3) {y = 1};}
```



As a human, we can easily see this expression is correct in terms of parenthesis

But, how can we write a program to automatically do this for us?

Key observation: any **closed** parenthesis need to match the most recent **open** parenthesis



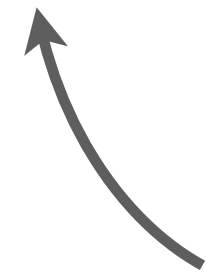
Remind you about something? The most recent one is the top one on the stack, right?

Balanced Parenthesis

Using stack!

```
void fun(){if (x[0] > 3) {y = 1};}
```

^



For each char in the string:

If it not a parenthesis, skip it...(do nothing)

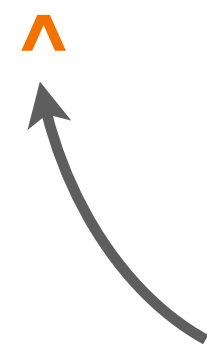


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Balanced Parenthesis

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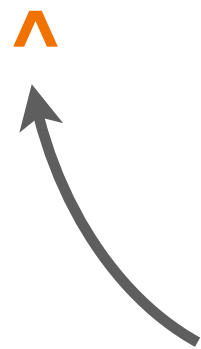


Stack

Balanced Parenthesis

Using stack!

```
void fun(){if (x[0] > 3) {y = 1};}
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For each char in the string:

If it is a **left (open) parenthesis**, push it on the stack

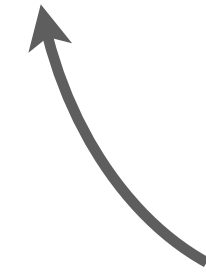


Stack

Balanced Parenthesis

Using stack!

```
void fun(){if (x[0] > 3) {y = 1};}
```

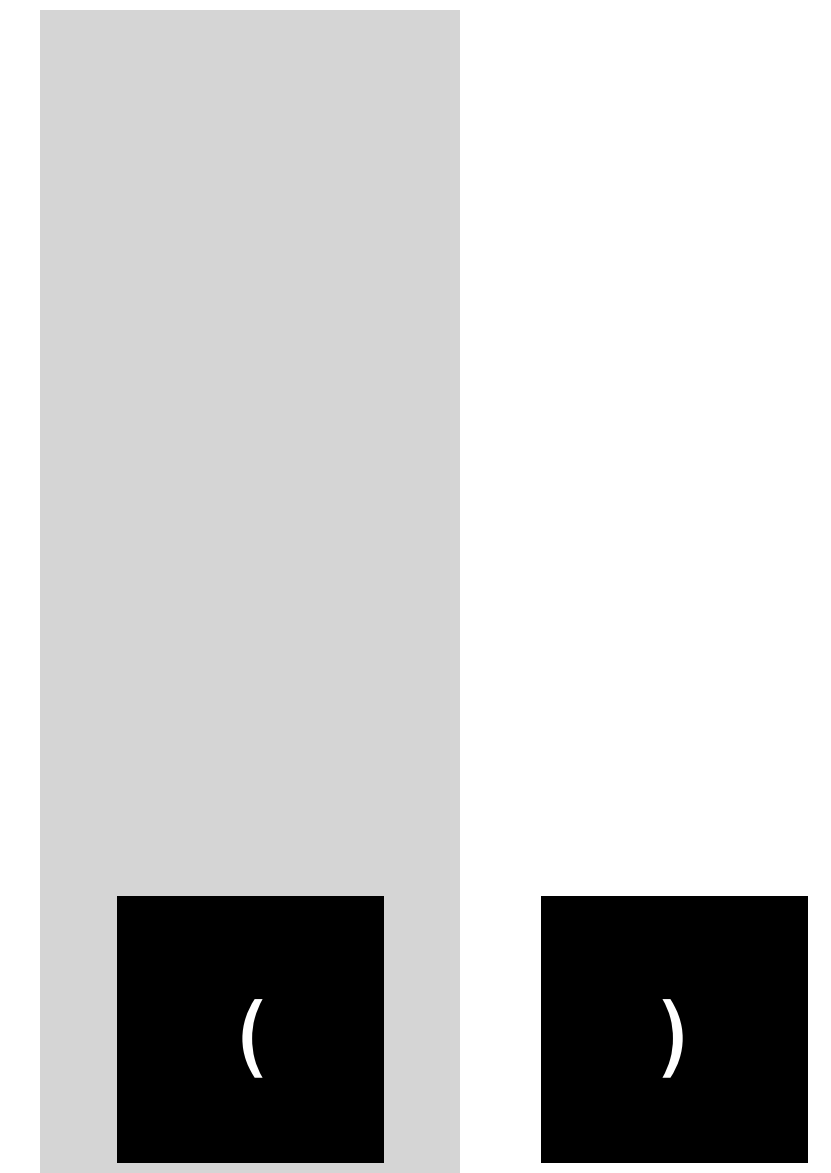


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compare it with the top (and pop it)

If they are not matched, return false

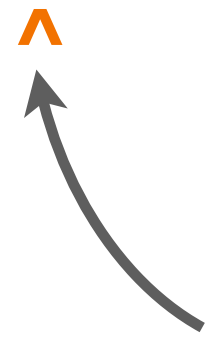


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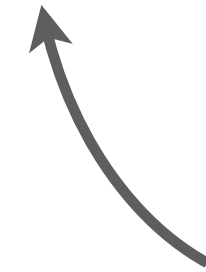
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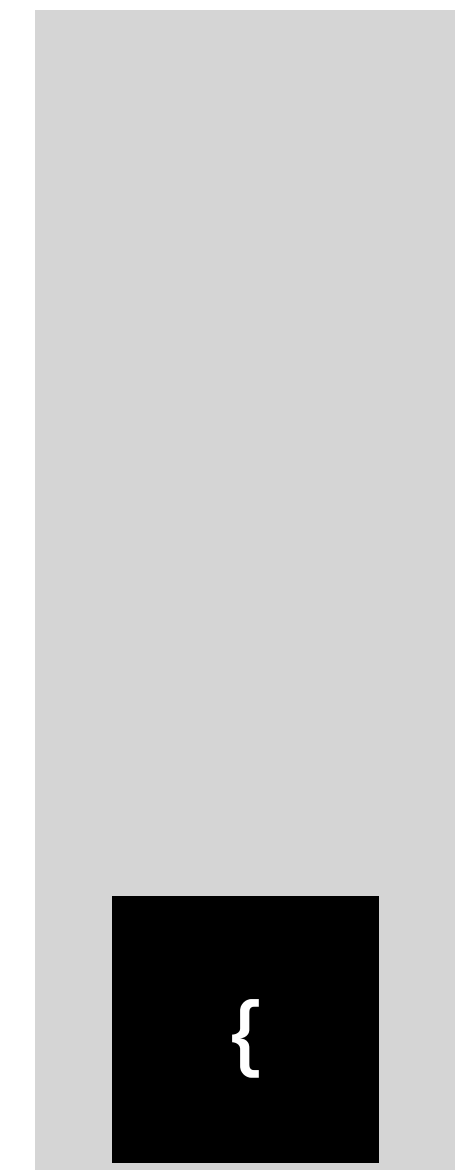
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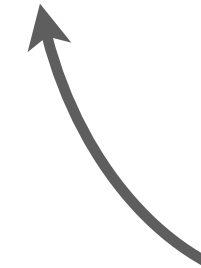
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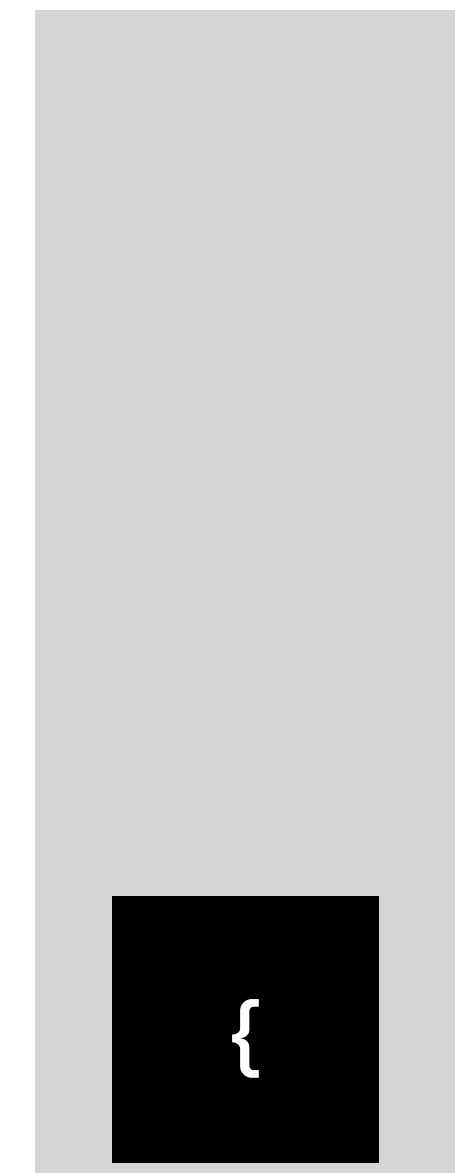
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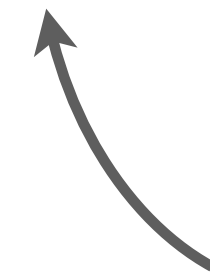
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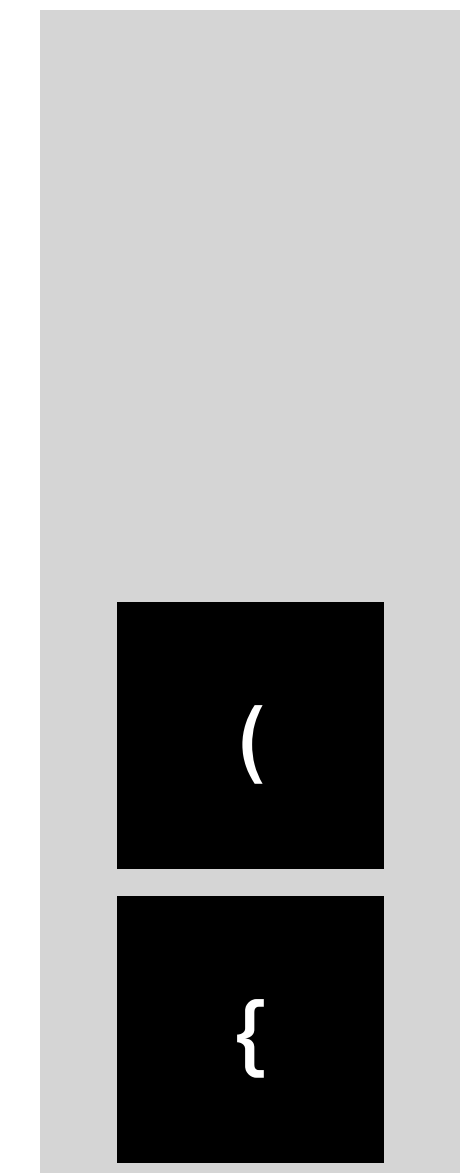
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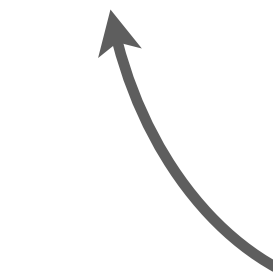
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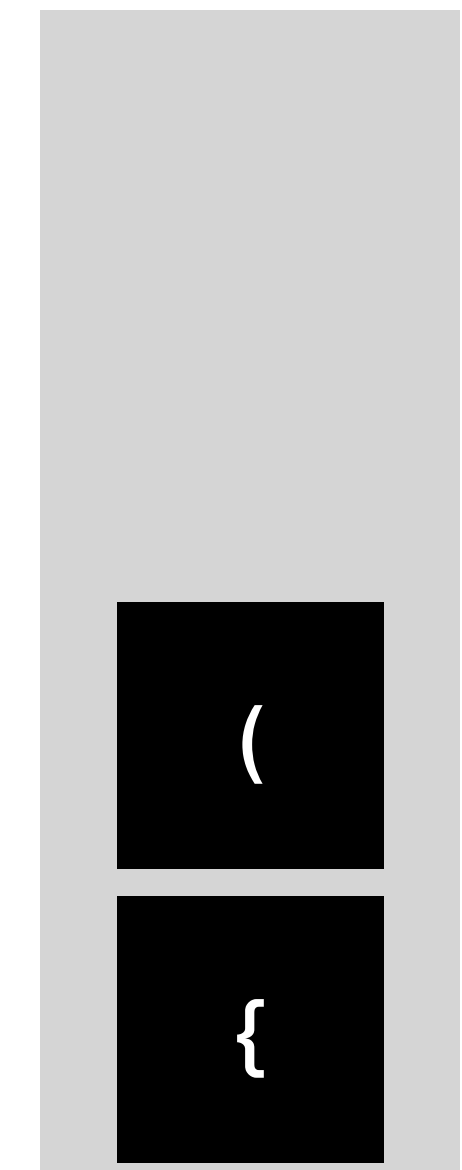
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Stack

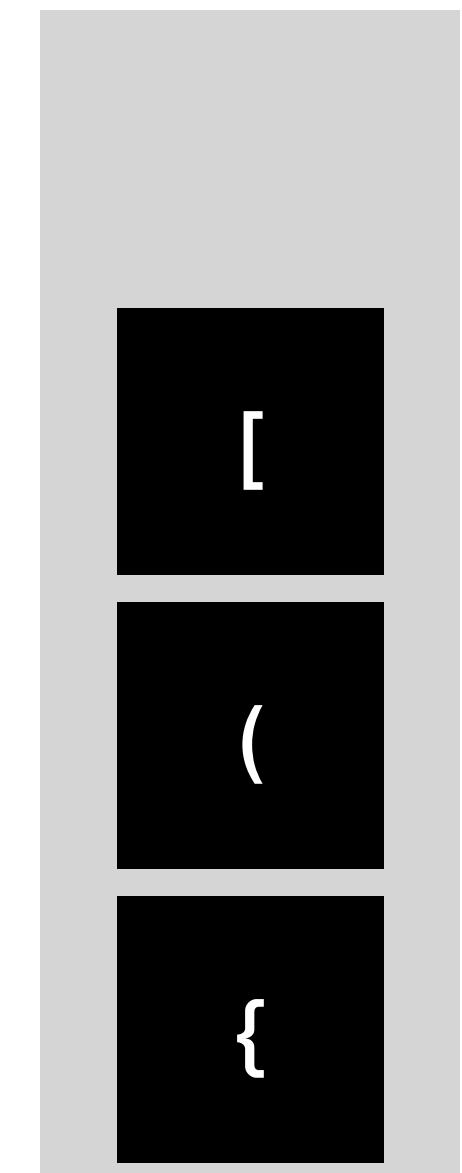
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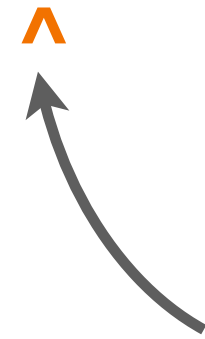


Stack

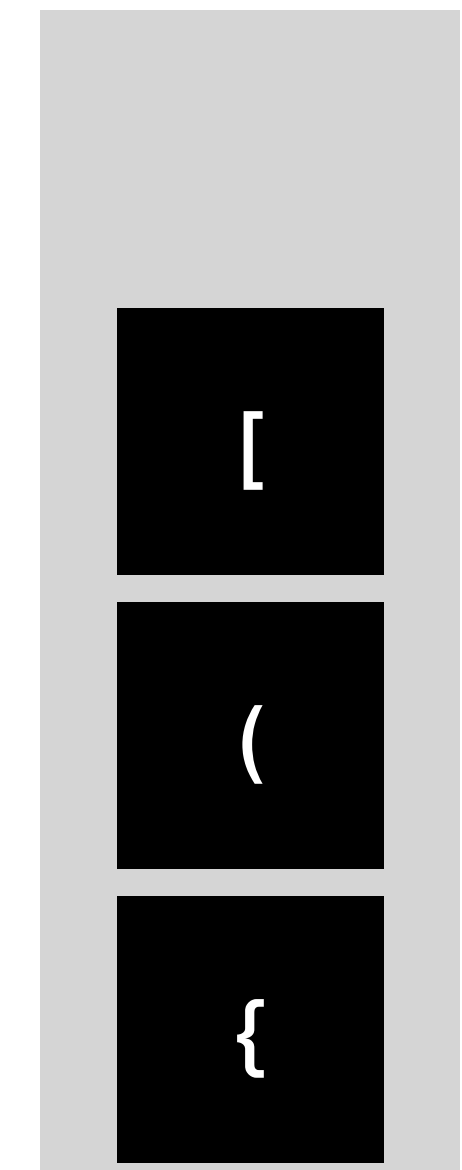
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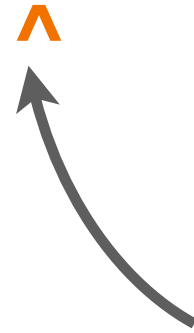


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Balanced Parenthesis

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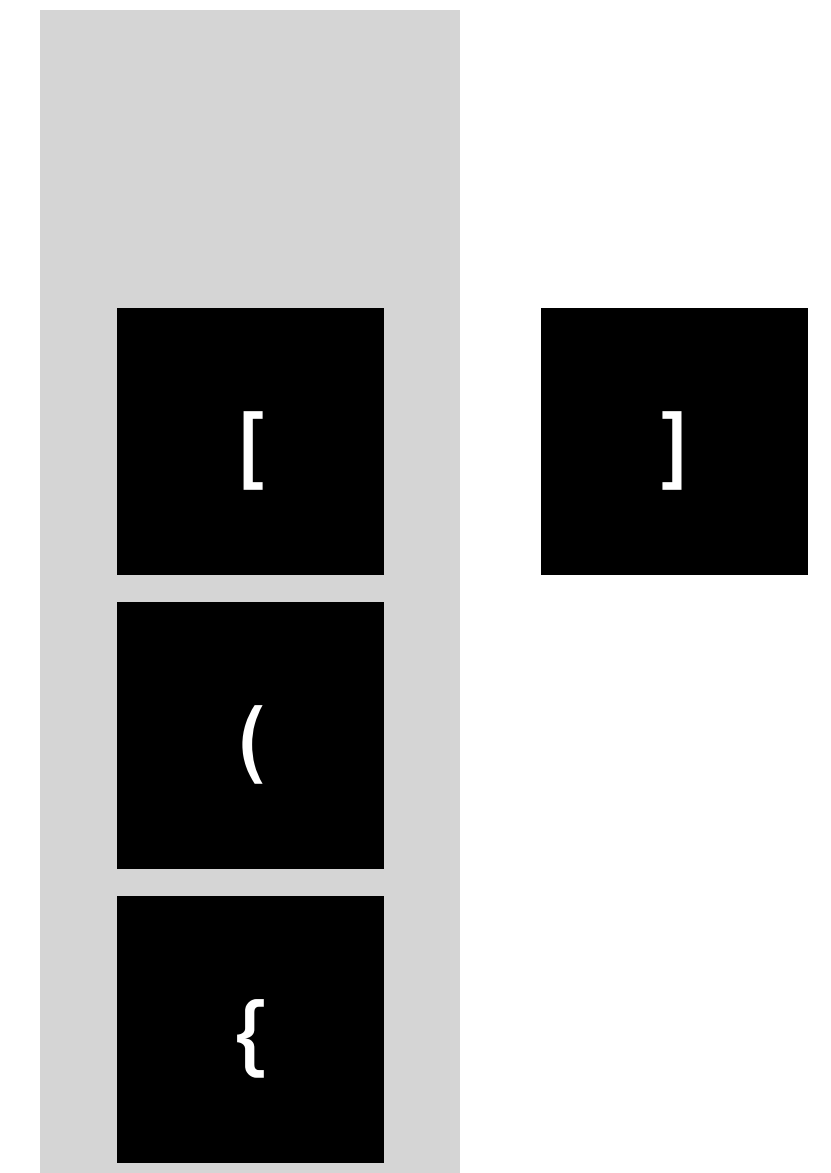


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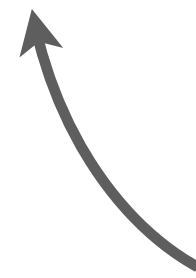
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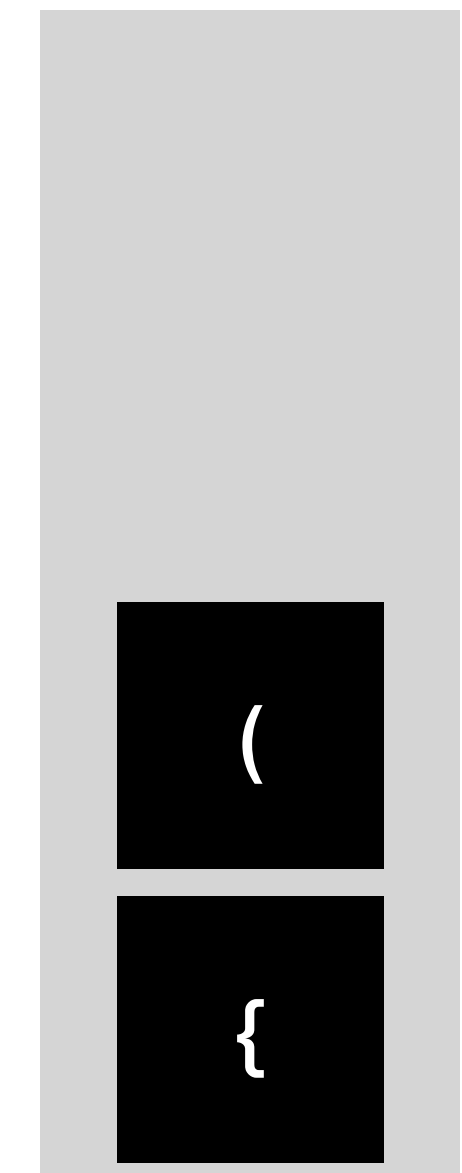
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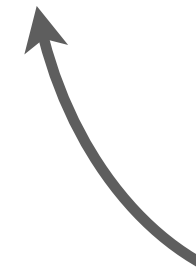
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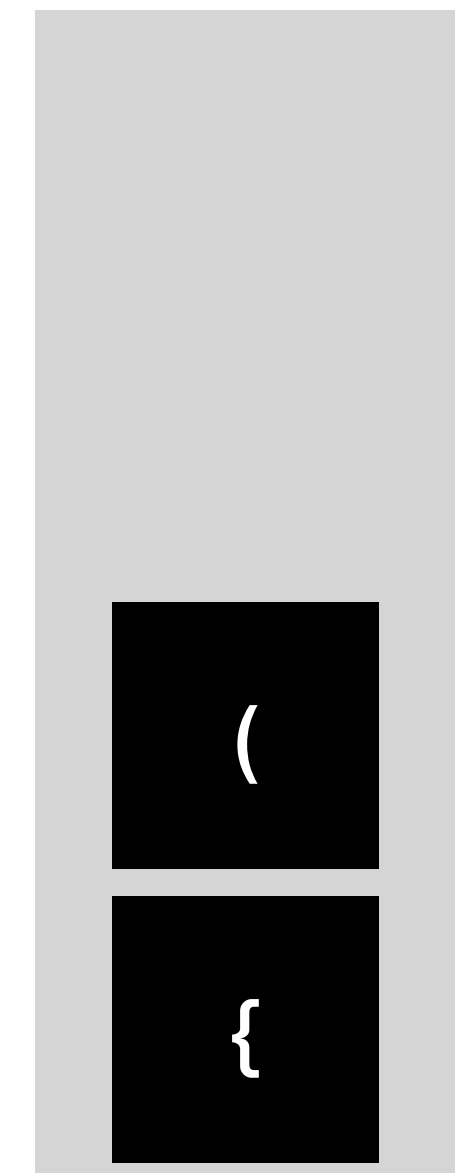
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Stack

Balanced Parenthesis

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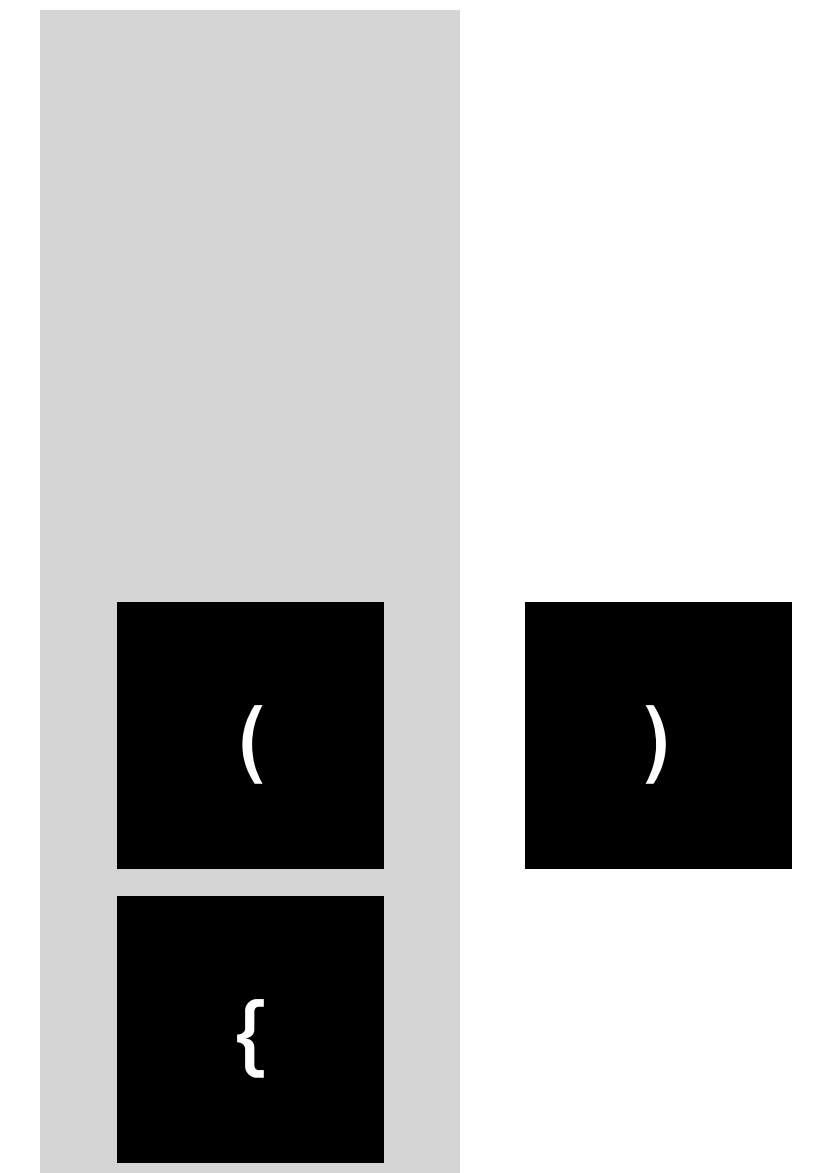


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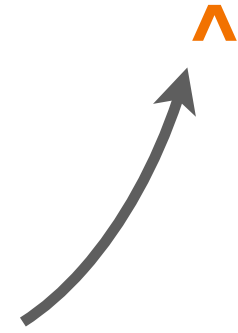


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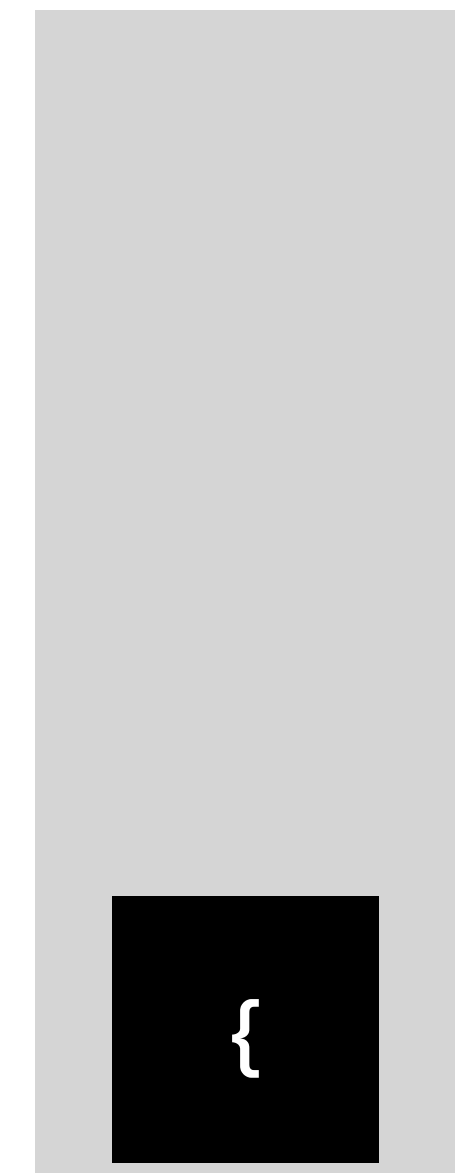
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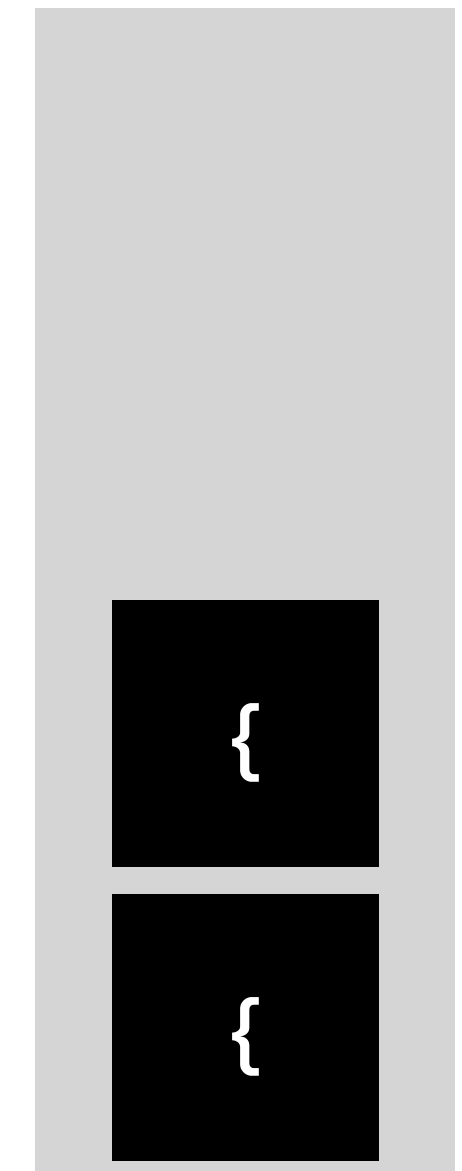
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```

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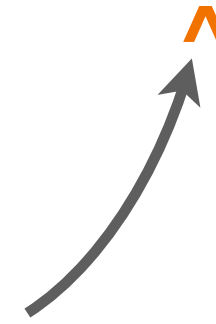


Stack

Balanced Parenthesis

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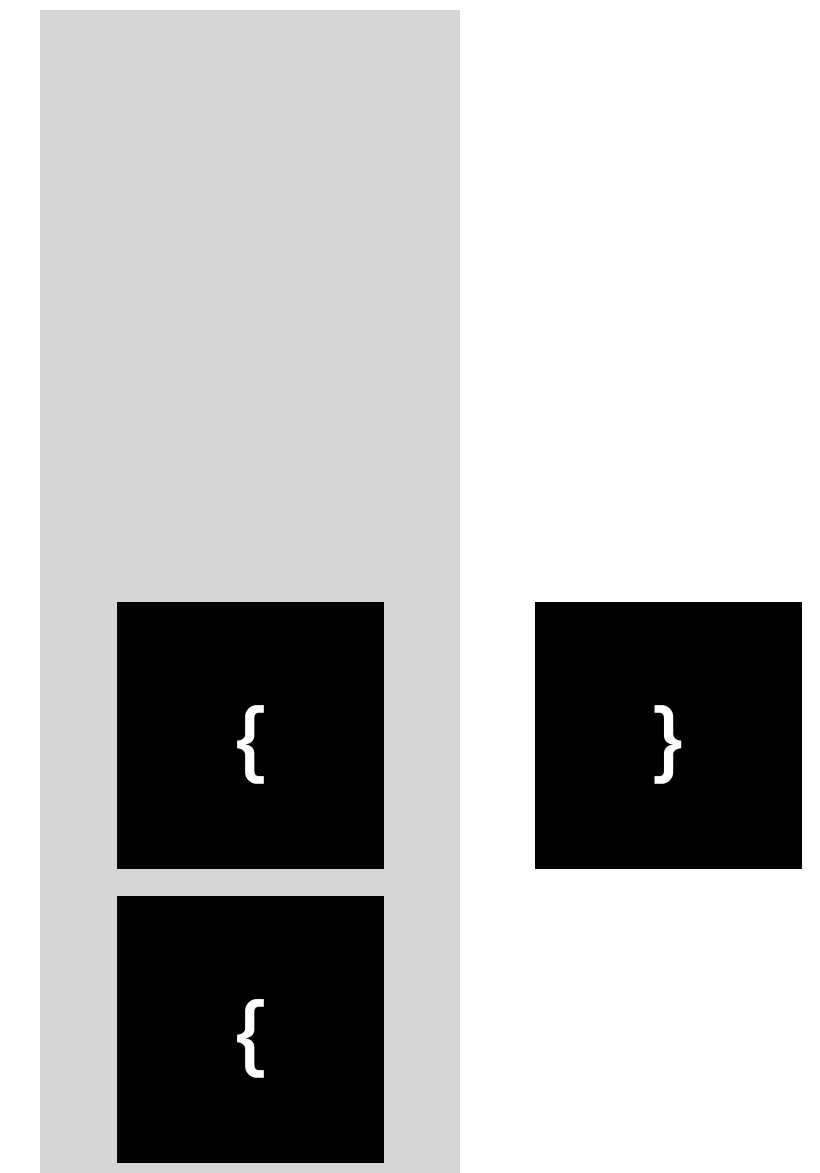


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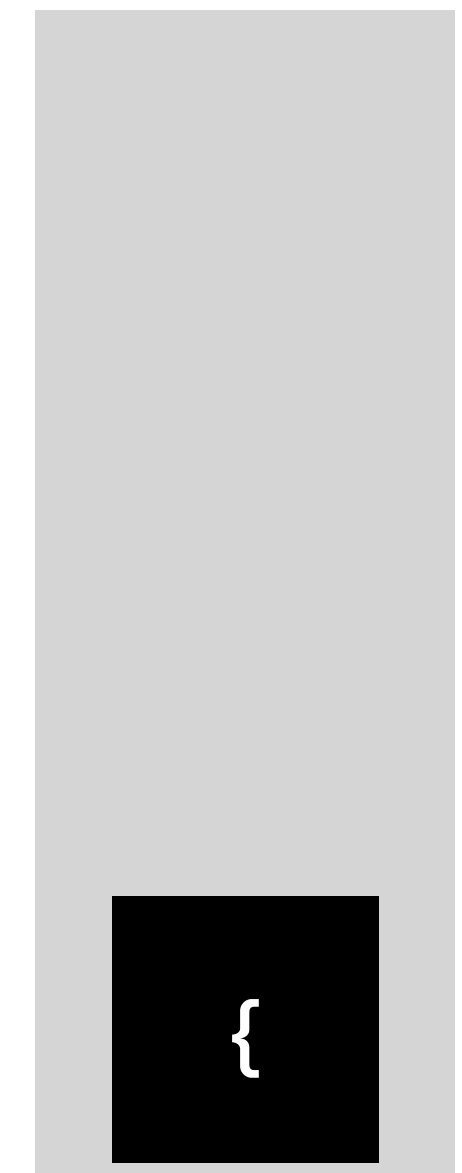
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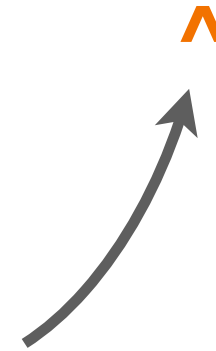


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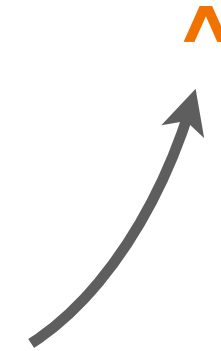


Stack

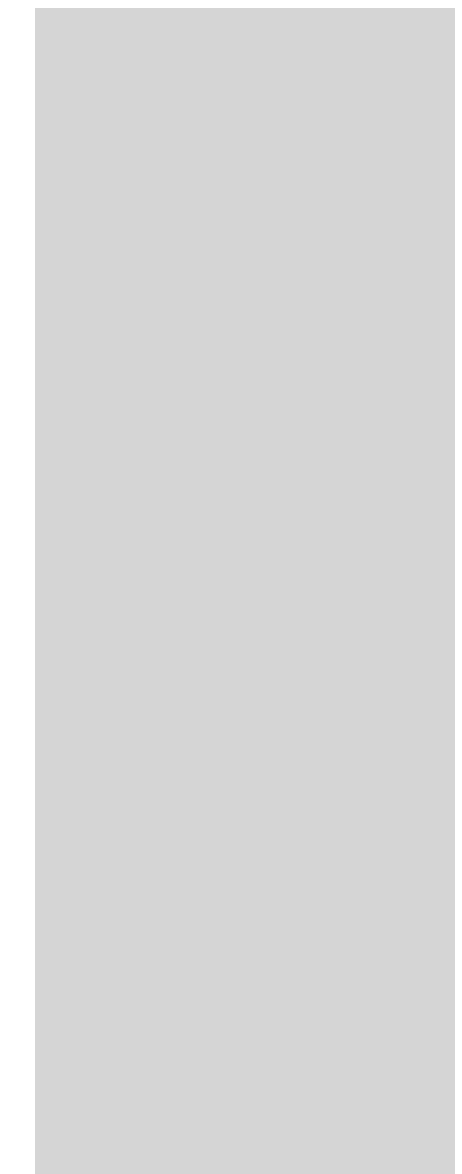
Balanced Parenthesis

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```



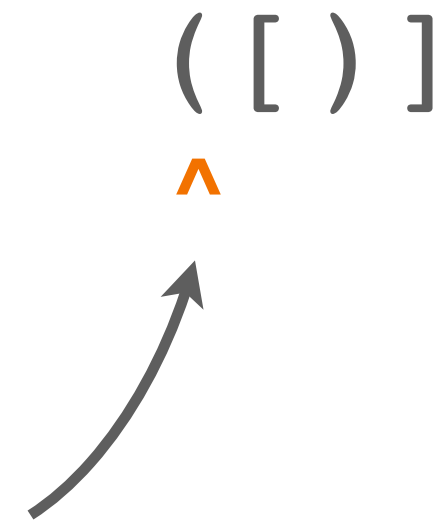
At the end, the stack should be empty



Stack

Balanced Parenthesis

Bad case



For each char in the string:

If it is a **left (open) parenthesis**, push it on the stack

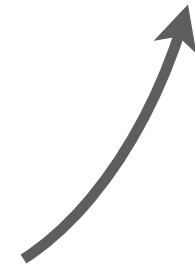


Stack

Balanced Parenthesis

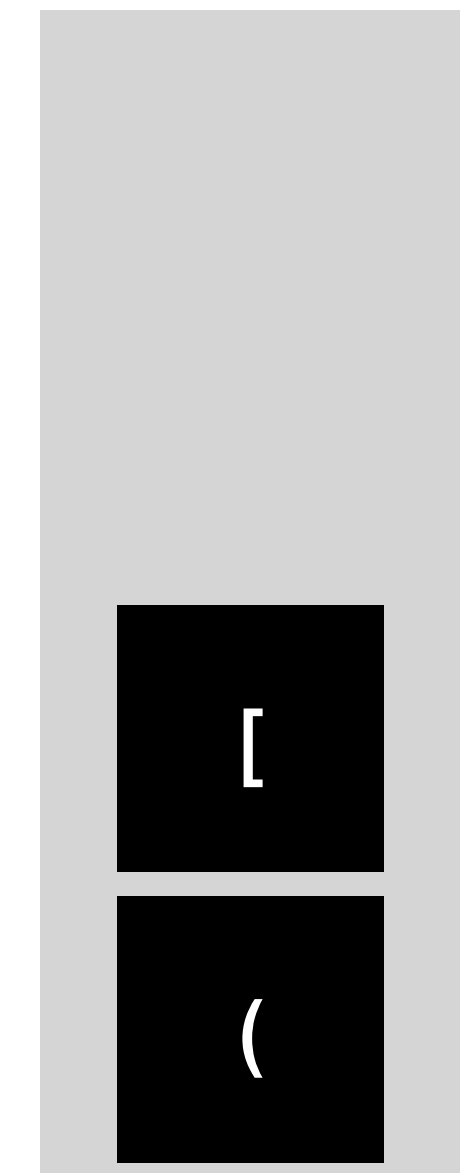
Bad case

([)]



For each char in the string:

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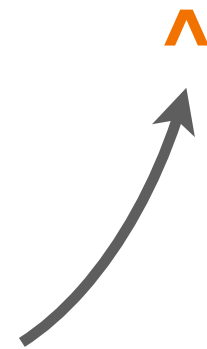


Stack

Balanced Parenthesis

Bad case

([)]

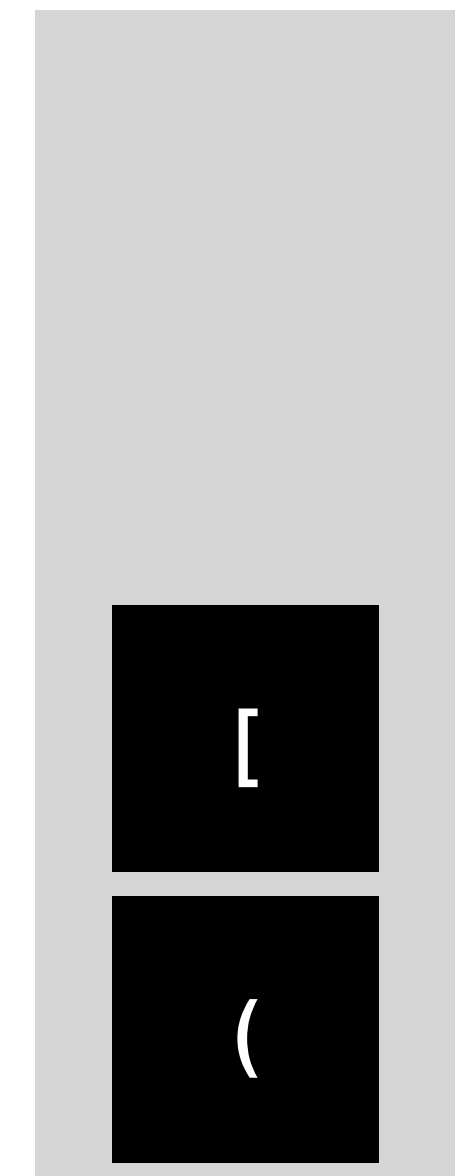


For each char in the string:

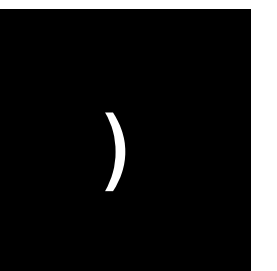
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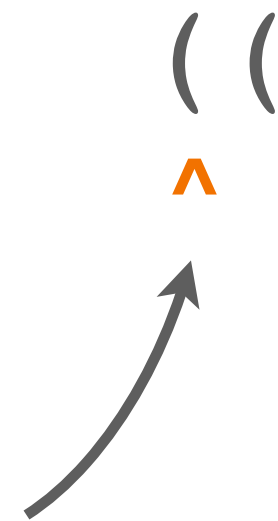


Stack



Balanced Parenthesis

Another bad case



For each char in the string:

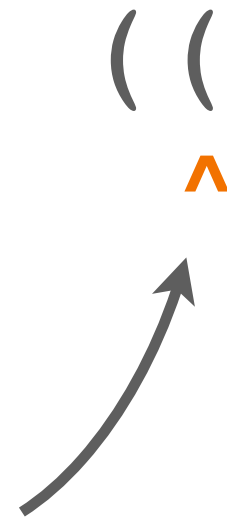
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Stack

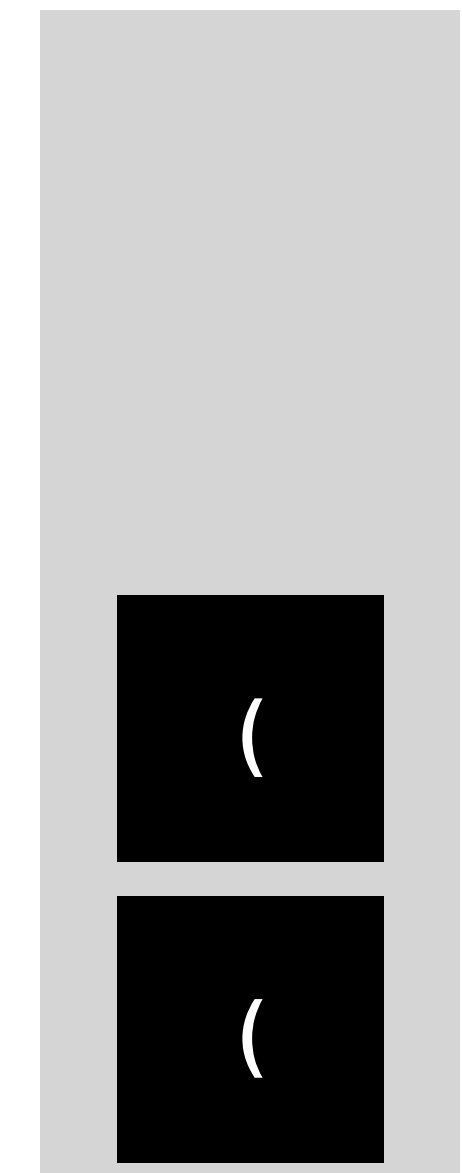
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Another bad case



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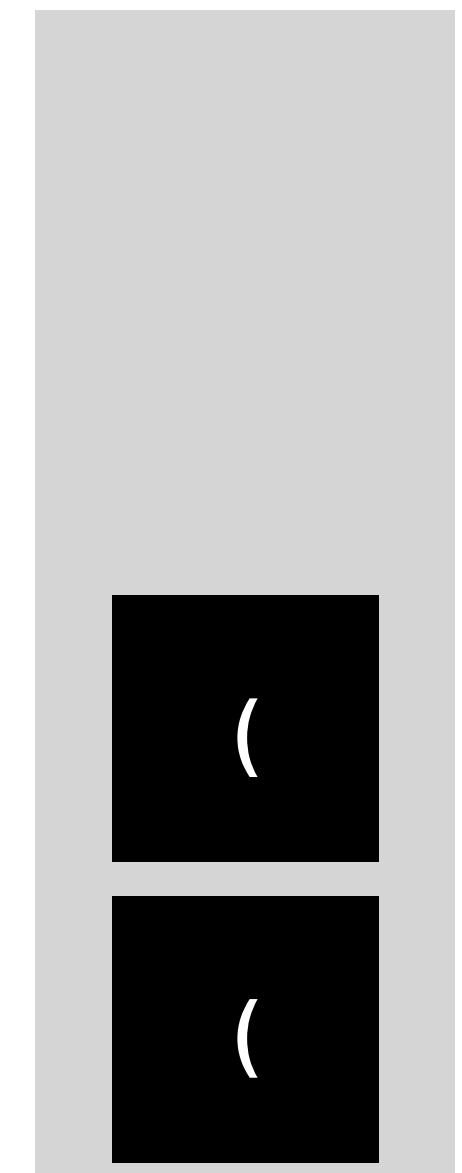
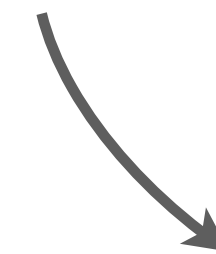
Stack

Balanced Parenthesis

Another bad case

((
^

😞 Oops! At the end, we still have some parenthesis that are not matched



Stack

Balanced Parenthesis

Another bad case

2 3)
^
↖

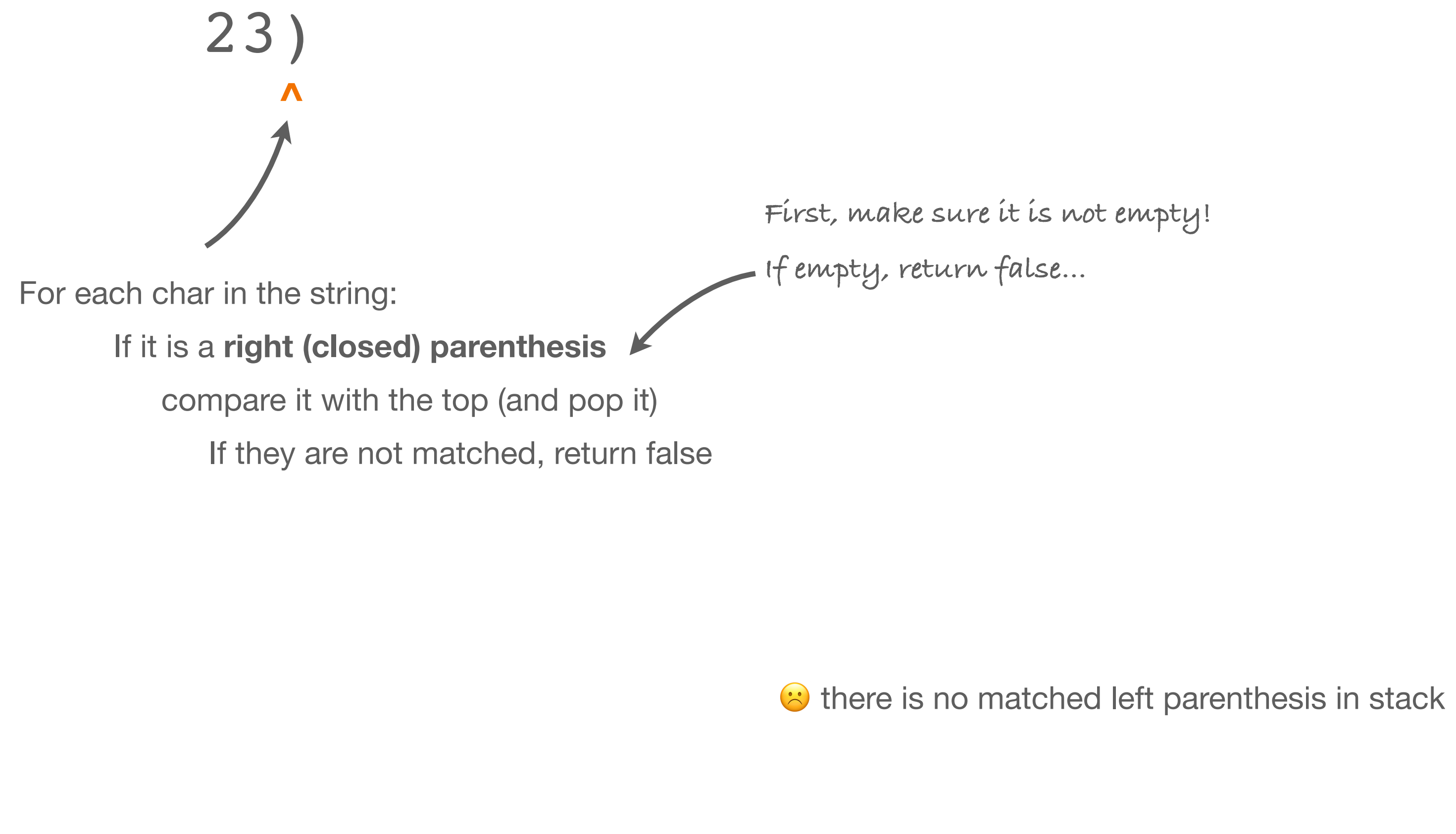
For each char in the string:
If it not a parenthesis, skip it...



Stack

Balanced Parenthesis

Another bad case



Our algorithm

`isBalancedParenthesis()`

- For each char in the string:
 - If it is a left parenthesis, push it on top of the stack
 - If it is a right parenthesis:
 - If the stack is empty, return false
 - If it doesn't pair the top value on the stack (remember to pop), return false
- At the end, if the stack is not empty, return false; otherwise, return true.

In-class problem

1. Fork the following [project](#)
2. Get familiar with the code structures
 - For simplicity, I merge all functions into a single file (not recommended, though)
3. Finish the implementations of `isBalancedParenthesis()`
 - You will use the three provided functions:
 - `isLeftParenthesis(char c)`: whether `c` is any left parenthesis, e.g., `{[(`
 - `isRightParenthesis(char c)`: whether `c` is any right parenthesis, e.g., `]})`
 - `isMatched(char l, char r)`: whether `l` and `c` are matched, e.g., `{` and `}`
4. Share the link of your finished project link to this [Google sheet](#)