

Intro to Problem Solving

MCPC Workshop



Outline

1 USACO

2 Basic Tactics

3 End



USACO

- USA Computing Olympiad training system



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- Provides instructions and practice problems



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- Friendly to beginners



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- USA Computing Olympiad training system
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- <https://train.usaco.org/usacogate>
- DO NOT SEARCH SOLUTION ONLINE!



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GCJ 2019 R1 A: Pylons

- Complete Search



GCJ 2019 R1 A: Pylons

- Complete Search
- Pruning



GCJ 2019 R1 A: Pylons

- Complete Search
- Pruning
- Constructive



GCJ 2019 Qualification A: Foregone

■ Brute-Force & Constructive



GCJ 2019 Qualification A: Foregone

- Brute-Force & Constructive
- Testing



GCJ 2019 Qualification A: Foregone

- Brute-Force & Constructive
- Testing
- Optimize



GCJ 2019 Qualification B: You Can Go Your Own Way

- Constructive



GCJ 2019 Qualification B: You Can Go Your Own Way

- Constructive
- DO NOT OVERKILL!



FHC(Facebook Hacker Cup) 2019 Qualification A: Leapfrog 1

- Simplify: what if **B** frogs are not allowed move?



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- Observation 1: **A** frog has to jump over all **B** frogs anyway.



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- Observation 1: **A** frog has to jump over all **B** frogs anyway.
- Observation 2: the initial location of **B** frogs doesn't matter.



FHC(Facebook Hacker Cup) 2019 Qualification A: Leapfrog 1

- Simplify: what if **B** frogs are not allowed move?
- Observation 1: **A** frog has to jump over all **B** frogs anyway.
- Observation 2: the initial location of **B** frogs doesn't matter.
- What's the min and max distance to jump over all **B** frogs?



FHC 2019 Qualification B: Leapfrog 2

Your Turn



Extra bonus - FHC 2019 Qualification C: Mr. X

- Make an assumption: no need to change any parentheses



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- How to evaluate a Boolean expression if x is given? ($f(x)$)



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- Actually, $f(x)$ is a truth table!
- How many possible truth table?



Extra bonus - FHC 2019 Qualification C: Mr. X

- Make an assumption: no need to change any parentheses
- How to evaluate a Boolean expression if x is given? ($f(x)$)
- Actually, $f(x)$ is a truth table!
- How many possible truth table?
- How many possible ways to combine two truth tables?



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Resources

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End

Thank you!

