

Euler Problem #4 - Largest Palindromic Product of 3 digit numbers

- Generalize algorithm:

1. largest palindromic product of 2 n-digit numbers \rightarrow start with this
2. largest palindromic product of 2 n-digit numbers where n_1 and n_2 are the lengths of num1 and num2 respectively but n_1 and n_2 are not necessarily the same $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{ } \\ \text{ } \end{array} \right\}$ expand to this

Given we need to multiply over pairs using a two pointers strategy:

- Have a pointer to the highest n-digit number and another one to the lowest n-digit number

$$\text{High pointer} = 10^n - 1$$

$$\text{Low pointer} = 10^{n-1}$$

Pseudocode:

Function largestPalindromic(numberLength):

max = 0 \rightarrow global variable to update & track largest palindromic

low, high \rightarrow values for lowest & highest numbers using function parameter to determine length

```
for i in range(start at high, end at low, step -1):  
    for j in range(start at i, end low, step -1):  
        product = i * j  
        if product is less than max:  
            break  
        if product is palindromic and greater than max:  
            max = product  
return max
```

Having both pointers start at high is the best option because:

1. It optimizes search for largest products first, contrary to starting pointers at low
2. Avoids checking duplicate pairs like 100 x 100 and 100 x 100 if we started low and then high

\rightarrow because as j decreases it will only produce smaller products

Function isPalindromic(number):

convert to iterable object

get length

for i in range(length // 2): \rightarrow Use of length // 2 to check each half of number to ensure symmetry

if index not equal to \rightarrow works for odd length numbers 12321 as checks first and last 2

length - index - 1: \rightarrow works for even length numbers 1221

return False \rightarrow given 0-based indexing this finds the corresponding mirror

return True