

My goal for improvement was to improve my understanding in the book of data structures. I noticed I could come up with a brute force solution relatively quickly (although this is the easy part) . I struggled in improving run times during most competitions. So in general my plan was to practice problems that utilized data structures directly. I knew if I did this without doing a bit of refreshing on certain data structures then it was entirely pointless.

So I focused on improving my understanding of three data structures ; Binary Search Tree, Hash Tables, and Graphs. I wanted to understand what type of problems these data structures tackle best.

Here are my results and general guideline

Leet-code hint used: No

Solved within time limit : No

Solved: Yes

Time to solve - 75 minutes

<https://leetcode.com/problems/letter-combinations-of-a-phone-number/>

Leet-code hint used: Yes

Solved within time limit : No

Solved: Yes

Time to solve - 64 minutes

<https://leetcode.com/problems/unique-binary-search-trees-ii/>

Leet-code hint used: Yes

Solved within time limit : No

Solved: Partially (Required more than one hint)

Time to solve - 91 minutes

<https://leetcode.com/problems/clone-graph/>

The time limit I gave myself was 60 minutes for each problem. The hardest problem with some of these problems is truly understanding them so you know what you are writing/building