

# Introduction to Problem Solving

*Lecture will begin shortly...*

Vinay Neekhra  
Senior Instructor & Mentor

*Say hi 🖐️ in Scaler Lounge 🌈*

"Look around you. Every man made object around you  
is a solution to a problem humanity faced!"

Q. The person is in Bangalore and wants to be in Delhi.

→ try to understand the content

① → time → as soon as possible

sol<sup>n</sup> ⇒ ?

flight ⇒ Private jet

② → money ⇒ train

helicopter

→ the person is prime minister

→ 20,000 years. ⇒ walking

→ Business

10:39

Question → question tab  
/ public chat  
to: everyone  
ans : to: me  
private chat

Pillars of Problem Solving

- ① Understanding the problem
- ② Observations
- ③ Coming up with multiple sol<sup>n</sup>
- ④ Quality assurance (dry run)

③ → money & time (as little as possible → money)  
as fast as possible



- FAQ.
- ① notes will be uploaded after the class  
→ 1.5x, 2x speed, bookmarks.
  - ② Hw/ assignments would be unlocked after the class.
  - ③ There is no deadline for assignments (Hw).
  - ④ 2 Hours 30 min. than doubt session.

Peer learning:

Network

→ slack, whatsapp

PM



→ Office Hour. → (Thursday 9pm-11pm)

Link: { One on one discussion  
→ Study Groups  
→ General chit-chat  
→ Slack, whatsapp

Q. Count of factors:

10 is divisible by 2?

⇔

any no. which divides N completely

ex 1

$$N \% i == 0$$

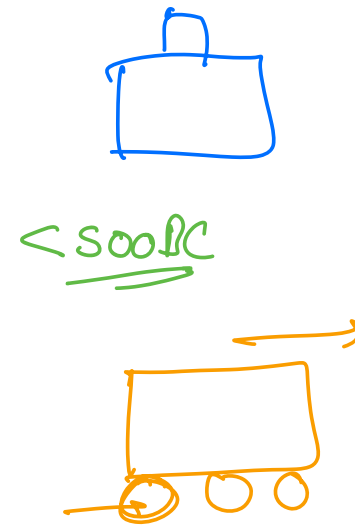
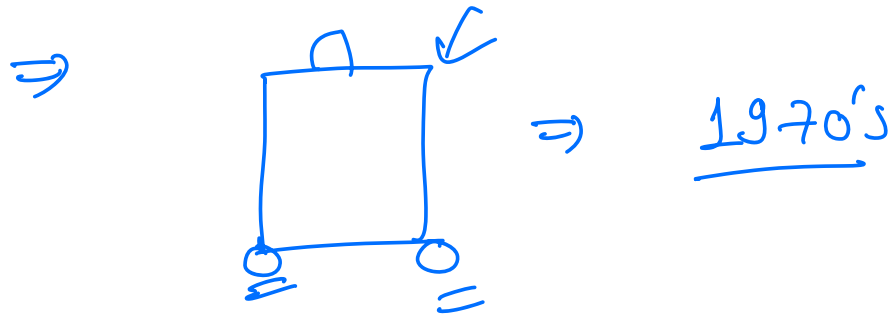
$N = 24 \Rightarrow \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, 24\} \Rightarrow 8 \text{ factors.}$

→  $N = 10 \Rightarrow \{1, 2, 5, 10\} \Rightarrow 4 \text{ factors.}$

Brute force: → easiest to implement sol<sup>n</sup>  
→ explore all the possibilities.

↙  
(walk, horses, flight, portkey, broom.

→ wheel ⇒ ? 5000 BCE  
 → trunk ⇒ < 5000 years back



pseudo code:

int CountOfFactors (int N) {

int factors = 0

for (int i=1; i<=N; i++) {

// i is a factor?

if (N%i==0)

factors += 1

return factors.

10  
 ↓  
 (1 → 10)  
 N times

N → N iterations

→  $10^8$  iterations per sec.

$$1 \text{ GHz} \Rightarrow \boxed{10^9 \text{ pulse/sec}}$$

$$1 \text{ instr}^n \Rightarrow 10 \text{ pulse}$$

$N$	iterations
$10^8$	$10^8$
$10^9$	$10^9$
<u><math>10^{18}</math></u>	$10^{18}$

execution time

1 sec.

10 sec.

$10^{10}$  sec. = 317 years.

↓

$10 \times 10^9$  sec

10 Billion sec.

↓

1 million sec → 12 day

1 billion → 31.7 years

$$10^8 \rightarrow 1 \text{ sec}$$

$$1 \text{ instr} \rightarrow \frac{1}{10^8} \text{ sec}$$

$$10^9 \text{ instr}^n \rightarrow \frac{10^9}{10^8} \text{ sec}$$

$$10^{18} \rightarrow \frac{1}{10^8} \times 10^{18} \text{ sec}$$

unitary method

→ sol<sup>n</sup> ✓  
practical sol<sup>n</sup> ✗

⇒ obs<sup>n</sup>.

$i$  is a factor ⇒  $N \% i == 0$

⇒  $j = N/i \Rightarrow ?$  factor

$$\boxed{2^5 = 32}$$

$\Rightarrow \underline{i * j = N} \Rightarrow (i, j \text{ are factors})$

N = 24

i		N/i
1	<	24
2	<	12
3	<	8
4	<	6
<hr/>		
6	>	4
8	>	3
12	>	2
24	>	1

N/2?

N = 25

i		N/i
1	<	25
5	<=	5
25	>	1

N = 36

i		N/i	i	N/i
1	<	36	9	> 4
2	<	18	12	> 3
3	<	12	18	> 2
4	<	9	36	> 1
6	<	6		

Obs<sup>n</sup>

① After a certain number, factors are repeating

② inflection point cond<sup>n</sup>

$i \leq N/i$

$$\Rightarrow i \leq N/i$$

$$\Rightarrow i * i \leq N$$

$$\Rightarrow i \leq \sqrt{N}$$

optimised code

1. int countFactors (int N) {  
 2.     int factors = 0  
 3.     for (i = 1;  $i * i \leq N$ ; i++) {  
 4.         if (N % i == 0) {  
 5.             if (i == N/i)  
 6.                 factors += 1  
 7.             else  
 8.                 factors += 2  
 9.         }  
 10.     }

$N = 25$       $6 \leq 5$   
 $i \rightarrow \cancel{1}, \cancel{2}, 3, \cancel{4}, 5, 6$   
factors  $\rightarrow \cancel{0}, 2, 4$

factor  $\Rightarrow 4$

$25 \Rightarrow \{1, 5, 25\}$

$N = 24$       $6 \leq 4$   
 $i \rightarrow \cancel{1}, \cancel{2}, 3, \cancel{4}, 5$   
 $f \rightarrow \cancel{0}, 2, \cancel{4}, 6, 8$

8

$\sqrt{N}$  iteration



9. return factors.

execution time.

N

$10^{18}$

iterations

$10^9$

$10^8$  iteration/sec.

time

10 sec

317 year



Q. Given N, check if it's prime or not.

$N > 0$

$N = 10 \Rightarrow \text{No} \Rightarrow (1, 2, 5, 10)$

Quiz

$\alpha \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \times \times \checkmark \Rightarrow \underline{4}$   
10, 11, 23, 2, 25, 27, 31

prime: number which is having exactly 2 factors.  
(1 and itself)

```
boolean checkPrime(int N){  
    if (countOfFactors(N) == 2)  
        return true;  
    else  
        return false;  
}
```

$\sqrt{N}$

}

Abstraction: ignoring lower level details

→  $N \Rightarrow 1, \Rightarrow$  neither is prime or composite  
 $\downarrow$   
 2 factors.

————— X —————

Q 4<sup>th</sup> class.

1 → 100 →

$\Rightarrow$   $\downarrow$  15 secs. Gauss

$$\begin{array}{r}
 S = 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + \dots + 98 + 99 + 100 \\
 + \\
 S = 100 + 99 + 98 + 97 + \dots + 3 + 2 + 1
 \end{array}$$

$$\Rightarrow 101 \ 101 \ - \dots$$

$$101 \ 101 \ 101$$

$$2S \Rightarrow (101)^* 100$$

$$\Rightarrow S = \frac{(101)^* 100}{2} \Rightarrow (101)^* S_0 \Rightarrow \underline{S_0 S_0}$$

$\Rightarrow$  Sum of  $N$  natural numbers.

$$\begin{aligned} S &= 1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + (N-1) + N \\ S &= N + (N-1) + \dots + 2 + 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$2S = (N+1)^* N$$

$$\Rightarrow S = \frac{N^*(N+1)}{2}$$

assume valid inputs

Q Given a no.  $N \rightarrow$  perfect square. find  $\text{sqrt}(N)$ .

$$N = 2S \Rightarrow \text{ans} = 5$$

$$N = \{ \underline{1} \rightarrow 2S \}$$

$$\Rightarrow N = 100 \Rightarrow \text{ans} = 10$$

```
int sqrt(N) {
    for (i = 1; i <= N; i++) {
        if (i * i == N)
            return i;
    }
}
```

$N - 1$  to  $2$

$= 10$   
 $\Rightarrow \sqrt{N} \Rightarrow \underline{i * i \leq N}$        $\underline{i \leq N/i}$   
 $N; i++) \{$   
 $\quad *i == N)$   
 $\quad \text{return } i;$   
 $N - 1 \text{ to } 2)$   
 $\quad \underline{1 \text{ to } 5}$        $\underline{2 \text{ times}}$   
 $\quad \underline{5 \text{ times}}$

Amazon MCQ

a  $\log_2 N$

b  $N$

C  $\sqrt{N}$  ✓✓

D None of these

Q. Find  $\sqrt{N}$ .  
If  $N$  is not a perfect square, return  $\text{floor}(\sqrt{N})$ .

$$N = 49 \Rightarrow 7$$
$$N = 60 \Rightarrow 7$$
$$N = 31 \Rightarrow 5$$
$$1^* 1 \leq S_0$$
$$\sqrt{31} \Rightarrow LS. \overset{x}{\sim} \Rightarrow S$$

$$N = 29 \Rightarrow 5$$

$$N = 50$$

i	$i * i \leq N$
1	<del>ans = 1</del>
2	ans = 2
3	ans = 3
4	ans = 4
5	ans = 5
6	ans = 6
7	ans = 7
8	$64 \leq 50 \times$

$N = 29 \Rightarrow 5$  (ans)  
 $i = 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 5 \rightarrow 6$   
 $ans = 0 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 5$

return 5

$\text{floor}(x) \Rightarrow$  greatest integer  $\leq x$

$$\text{floor}(7.258) = 7$$

$$\text{floor}(6.99) = 6$$

$$\text{floor}(9) = 9$$

```

1. int sqrt(N) {
2.     int i = 1, ans = 0
3.     while (i * i <= N) {
4.         ans = i
5.         i += 1
6.     }
7.     return ans;
8. }

```

# iterations  $\Rightarrow \sqrt{N}$   
 $i \rightarrow 1 \text{ to } \sqrt{N}$

⊛ log Basics: ↓

$$\log_a b = c$$
$$\Rightarrow a^c = b$$

①  $\log_2 4 = ?$  ⊛ 2

②  $\log_2 64 = ?$  ⊛ 6

③  $\log_5 25 = 2$

④  $\log_2 (2^6) = 6$

$$\Rightarrow \log_2 2^n = n$$

Binary search  $\log N$

$$\log_2 32 = 5$$
$$\Rightarrow 2^5 = 32$$

$$2^x = 4 \Rightarrow 2$$
$$2^x = 64 \Rightarrow$$

1	=	$2^0$
2	=	$2^1$
4	=	$2^2$
8	=	$2^3$
16	=	$2^4$
32	=	$2^5$
64	=	$2^6$

$$\textcircled{5} \quad \log_3 81 = 4 \quad \Rightarrow \quad 3^4 = 81$$

$$\Rightarrow 2^k = N$$

$$\Rightarrow \log_2 N = k$$

Q. Given an integer  $N$  (+ve). How many times do we need to divide it by 2 until it reaches 1.

$$\begin{array}{c}
 N = 100 \\
 \swarrow \downarrow / 2 \\
 50 \\
 \swarrow \downarrow / 2 \\
 25 \\
 \swarrow \downarrow / 2 \\
 12 \\
 \swarrow \downarrow / 2 \\
 6 \\
 \swarrow \downarrow / 2 \\
 3 \\
 \swarrow \downarrow / 2 \\
 2
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 N = 324 \quad \text{[Homework]} \\
 \swarrow \downarrow / 2 \\
 162 \\
 \swarrow \downarrow / 2 \\
 81 \\
 \swarrow \downarrow / 2 \\
 40 \\
 \swarrow \downarrow / 2 \\
 20 \\
 \swarrow \downarrow / 2 \\
 10
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \swarrow \downarrow 1/2 \\
 1 \\
 \text{ans} = 6 \\
 \hline
 \hline
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \swarrow \downarrow 1/2 \\
 5 \\
 \swarrow \downarrow 1/2 \\
 2 \\
 \swarrow \downarrow 1/1 \\
 1 \\
 \text{ans} = 8
 \end{array}$$

---

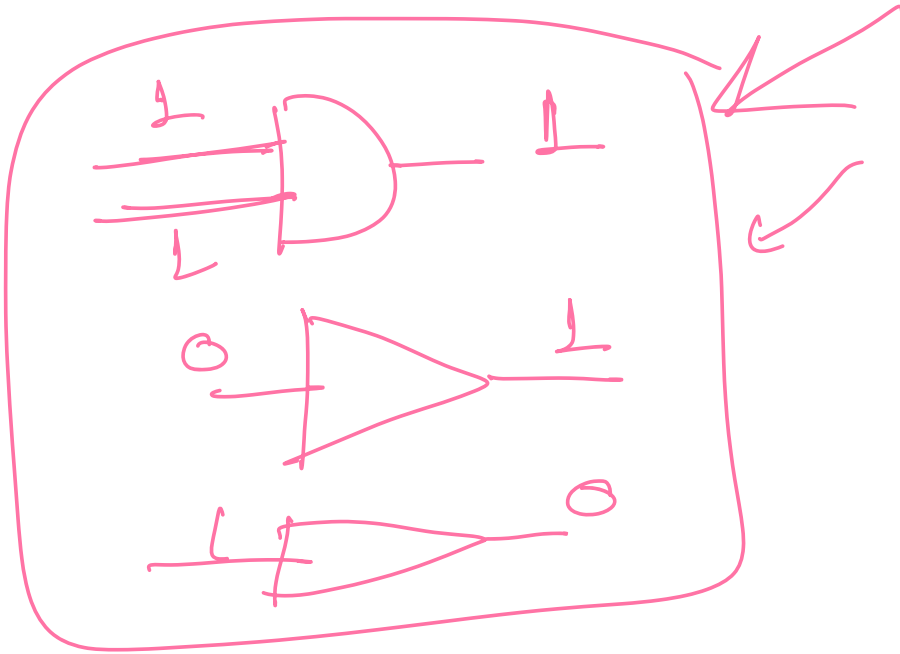
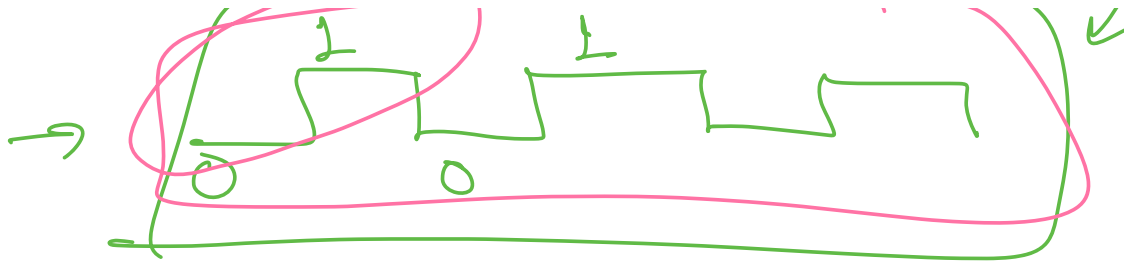
$\Rightarrow$  walking  $\rightarrow$  horses  $\rightarrow \dots$ 

 $\downarrow$   
 Rocks  $\rightarrow$  
 $\times$   
 Broom

---







logic gates



NOR

+ 5  
+ 4



$$C = a + b \approx 10^{\text{per}}$$