

125. Valid Palindrome

A man, a plan, a canal: panama

↳ It's a palindrome

First lower case all

`s.lower()` a man, a plan, a ...

Then remove non alphanumeric

`s = ''.join(char for char in s if char.isalpha())`

amanaplanacanalpanama

Make `s` a list

`s = list(s)` `['a', 'm', 'a', 'n', ...]`

Create two pointers at the beginning and at the end of the list

$P_1 = 0$

$P_2 = \text{len}(s) - 1$

$\text{len}(s) - 1$
`['a', 'm', 'a', ..., 'a', 'm', 'a']`
↑ P_1 ↑ P_2

then review at

the same time

P_1 and P_2 whilst

$P_1 < P_2$

if `arr[P1] == arr[P2]`

move P_1 to the right
move P_2 to the left

and return True

if `arr[P1] != arr[P2]`

return False

While $P_1 < P_2$:

if `s[P1] == s[P2]`:

$P_1 += 1$

$P_2 -= 1$

else:

return False

return True

`['a', 'm', 'a', ..., 'a', 'm', 'a']`
↑ ↑ P_1 ↑ P_2 ↑

We're reviewing just once the list

so the time complexity is $O(n)$

