

## 214. Shortest Palindrome

W.l.o.g, let's assume string  $s$  is  $\overline{a_0a_1...a_n...a_1a_0bcde...} = AA^{-1}B$ . And our goal is find longest palindrome  $AA^{-1}$ , which starts at  $a_0$ . Final answer is  $B^{-1}AA^{-1}B$ .

There are 2 solutions, 1st is a simple brute force method, 2nd is a recursive method which can match  $s$  and its reverse much faster. It uses one loop ( $O(N)$ ) to find longest match  $C$  and the other part  $D$  of  $s$ ,  $AA^{-1}$  must be prefix of  $C$ , and  $D$  must be prefix of  $B$ , then call the function recursively,  $D^{-1} + f(C) + D$ , to get right answer.

### 1st solution:

```
public String shortestPalindrome(String s) {
    String r = new StringBuilder(s).reverse().toString();
    int loc = 0;
    for(; loc < r.length()-1; loc++)
        if(r.substring(loc, r.length()-1).compareTo(s.substring(0, s.length()-1-loc)) == 0)
            break;
    return r.substring(0, loc).concat(s);
}
```

### 2nd solution:

```
public String shortestPalindrome(String s) {
    //String r = new StringBuilder(s).reverse().toString();
    int loc = 0;
    for(int i = s.length()-1; i >= 0; i--){
        if(s.charAt(loc) == s.charAt(i)){
            loc++;
        }
    }
    if(loc == s.length()){
        return s;
    }
    return new StringBuilder(s.substring(loc, s.length())).reverse().toString() + s.substring(0, loc) + s.substring(loc, s.length());
}
```