Leetcode

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Contents

1 General

1.1 Interviewer Considerations

Notes:

- How did the candidate **analyze** the problem?
- Did the candidate miss any special or **edge** cases?
- Did the candidate approach the problem **methodically** and logically?
- Does the candidate have a strong foundation in basic computer science **concepts**?
- Did the candidate produce **working code**? Did the candidate **test** the code?
- Is the candidate's code clean and easy to read and **maintain**?
- Can the candidate **explain** their ideas clearly?

1.2 Steps for Success During the Technical Interview

Summary:

1. **Clarify the question**
   (a) Understand what the question is asking and gather example inputs and outputs.
   (b) Clarify constraints such as:
      i. Can numbers be negative or repeated?
      ii. Are values sorted or do we need to sort them?
      iii. Can we assume input validity?
   (c) Asking clarifying questions shows communication skills and prevents missteps.
2. **Design a solution**
   (a) Avoid immediate coding; propose an initial approach and refine it.
   (b) Analyze the algorithm's time and space complexity.
   (c) Consider and address edge cases.
   (d) Think aloud to demonstrate logical reasoning and collaboration.
   (e) Discuss non-optimal ideas to show your thought process.
3. **Write your code**
   (a) Structure the solution using helper functions.
   (b) Confirm API details when uncertain.
   (c) Use your strongest programming language and full syntax.
   (d) Write complete, working code—not pseudocode.
4. **Test your code**
   (a) Validate your solution with 1–2 example test cases.
   (b) Walk through each line using inputs.
   (c) Do not assume correctness—prove it through testing.
   (d) Discuss any further optimizations and their trade-offs.

1.3 Common Mistakes to Avoid

Warning:

1. Starting to code without clarifying the problem.
2. Failing to write or discuss sample inputs and outputs.
3. Using pseudocode instead of fully functional code.
4. Misunderstanding the problem or optimizing prematurely.

1.4 Syntax

Summary:

1. `dict.items()`
   - Returns a view object that displays a list of a dictionary's key-value tuple pairs.
2. `sorted(iterable, key=..., reverse=...)`
   - `iterable`: The sequence or collection (e.g., list, dictionary view) to be sorted.
   - `key=...`: A function that extracts a comparison key from each element. Sorting is performed based on the result of this function.
     - `key=lambda x: x[0]`: Sort by the first element of each tuple.
     - `key=lambda x: x[1]`: Sort by the second element of each tuple.
   - `reverse=...`: A boolean value. If `True`, sorted in descending order; otherwise, sorted in ascending order (default is `False`).
3. `collections.Counter(iterable)`
   - Counts the frequency of each unique element in `iterable` and returns a dictionary-like object.
   - **Arguments:**
     - `iterable`: a sequence (e.g., list, string) or any iterable containing hashable elements.

2 Arrays and Hashing

2.1 When to Use?

Summary:

- To count frequencies in $O(n)$ time.
- To check membership in constant time.
- To map keys to values (e.g., index, count, group).
- To group elements by shared features (e.g., anagrams).
- To detect duplicates efficiently.

2.2 Hashing

Algorithm:

```python
def solve_problem(nums):
    # Step 1: Initialize the hashmap (e.g., for frequency, index, or existence check)
    hashmap = {}

    # Step 2: Iterate over the array
    for i, num in enumerate(nums):
        # Step 3: Define your condition (e.g., check complement, existence, frequency)
        if some_condition_based_on_hashmap(num, hashmap):
            # Step 4: Return or process result as needed
            return result_based_on_condition

        # Step 5: Update the hashmap
        hashmap_update_logic(num, i, hashmap)

    # Step 6: Handle the case where the condition is never met
    return final_result_if_needed

# Helper functions (replace with actual logic based on the problem)
def some_condition_based_on_hashmap(num, hashmap):
    # Example: return (target - num) in hashmap
    pass

def hashmap_update_logic(num, i, hashmap):
    # Example: hashmap[num] = i
    pass
```

2.3 Common Problems

Summary:

Problem	Description:
217. Contains Duplicate	Given an integer array nums, return true if any value appears at least twice.

- Use a set to store the elements. If an element is already in the set, return True.
- Otherwise, add it to the set.

242. Valid Anagram	Given two strings s and t, return true if t is an anagram of s and false otherwise.

- Use a hashMap to count the frequency of each character in s and t.
- If the frequency maps are equal, return True. Otherwise, return False.

1. Two Sum	Given an array of integers, return indices of the two numbers s.t. they add up to a specific target.

- **Tricks:**
  - Use a hashMap to store the indices of the elements, `prevMap[nums[i]] = i`
  - For each element, check if the target - nums[i] is in the map.
  - If it is, return the index of the target - nums[i] (from prevMap) and i. Otherwise, add target - nums[i].

**49. Group Anagrams	Given an array of strings, group the anagrams together.

- Use a hashMap to store a tuple of count of each char as the key and the list of words as the value.
- For each word, create a tuple of count of each char and add the word to the list in the map.
- Finally, return the values of the map.

**347. Top K Frequent Elements	Given an integer array nums and an integer k, return the k most frequent elements.

- Use a hashMap to count the frequency of each element.
- Sort the map by frequency and return the top k elements.

118. Pascal's Triangle	Given an integer numRows, return the first numRows of Pascal's triangle.

- **Initialize:** `res = [[1]]`.
- **Loop from numRows - 1:**
  - **Pad the PrevRow:** Create `dummy_row` by padding the last row in `res` with zeros at both ends.
  - **Loop 2 from len(prevRow) + 1:** For each position `i`, compute the value `dummy_row[i] + dummy_row[i+1]` and append it to the new row.

Summary:

Problem	**Description:**
73. Set Matrix Zeroes	Given an m x n integer matrix, if an element is 0, set its entire row and column to 0.

- **Record Zero Positions:** Iterate through all elements. If `matrix[i][j] == 0`, append `[i, j]` to list.
- **Row/Column Zeroing:** Set all elements in column `col_ind` to zero and all elements in row `row_ind` to zero using two helpers.

54. Spiral Matrix	Given an m x n matrix, return all elements of the matrix in spiral order.

- **Initialize:** Create an empty list `res`, set boundaries: `top, bottom, left, right`, and current pos (i, j).
- **Loop:** While top <= bottom and left <= right. Use helper functions to achieve the following:
  - Traverse from left to right along the top row and adjust top bdy and check if top > bottom.
  - Traverse from top to bottom along the right column and adjust right bdy and check if left > right.
  - Traverse from right to left along the bottom row and adjust bottom bdy and check if top > bottom.
  - Traverse from bottom to top along the left column and adjust left bdy and check if left > right.

3 Two Pointers

3.1 When to Use?

Summary:
- If we need to find a pair of elements that satisfy a condition.
- If we need to find a subarray that satisfies a condition.

3.2 Slow and Fast Pointers

Algorithm:
1.

3.2.1 Common Problems

Summary:

Problem	Description:
15. 3Sum	Given an array of integers, return all the triplets [nums[i], nums[j], nums[k]] s.t. i != j, i != k, and j != k.
• **Tricks:**	
125. Valid Palindrome	Given a string, determine if it is a palindrome, considering only alphanumeric characters and ignoring cases.
• `s_new = ".join(char.lower() for char in s if char.isalnum())` to remove non-alphanumeric and lowercase.	
• Use front and back pointers. If they not equal, return False. If equal move both pointers.	
167. Two Sum II - Input array is sorted	Given an array of integers that is already sorted in ascending order, find two numbers such that they add up to a target.
• Use front and back pointers. If > target, move back pointer left. If < target, move front pointer right.	

3.3 Left and Right Pointers

Algorithm:

1. Initialize two pointers. Some common choices:
   - One at the front and one at the back of the array.
   - Both at the front of the array.
   - Both at the back of the array.

3.3.1 Common Problems

Summary:

Problem	Description:
15. 3Sum	Given an array of integers, return all the triplets [nums[i], nums[j], nums[k]] s.t. i != j, i != k, and j != k.
• **Tricks:**	
125. Valid Palindrome	Given a string, determine if it is a palindrome, considering only alphanumeric characters and ignoring cases.
• `s_new = ".join(char.lower() for char in s if char.isalnum())` to remove non-alphanumeric and lowercase.	
• Use front and back pointers. If they not equal, return False. If equal move both pointers.	
167. Two Sum II - Input array is sorted	Given an array of integers that is already sorted in ascending order, find two numbers such that they add up to a target.
• Use front and back pointers. If $>$ target, move back pointer left. If $<$ target, move front pointer right.	

4 Sliding Window

4.1 Fixed Sliding Window

Summary:

- Find a subarray/substring of a fixed size that satisfies a condition.
- Find the maximum or minimum of a subarray of a fixed size.

Algorithm:

```
initialize window_sum = 0
initialize max_result (or other required value)

# Set up initial window
for i in range(0, k):
    window_sum += arr[i]

max_result = window_sum # Initialize result

# Slide the window
for i in range(k, n):
    window_sum += arr[i] - arr[i - k] # Add new element and remove 1st element of prev window
    max_result = max(max_result, window_sum) (or other computation)

return max_result (or other required value)

```

4.1.1 Common Problems

Summary:

Problem	Description:
643. Maximum Average Subarray I	Given an integer array nums and an integer k, return the maximum average value of a subarray of length k.
• Follow template.	
567. Permutation in String	Given two strings s1 and s2, return true if s2 contains a permutation of s1, or false otherwise.
• **Init:** Follow template with window_valid, freqMap_window, freqMap_s1, and fixed size k of len(s1). Rather than sum, get freq of chars. • **Special Case:** If len(s1) > len(s2), return False. • **For:** Since contiguous, slide through s2 and update freqMap_window by adding new char and removing old char (make sure to del key if freq = 0). • **Condition:** If freqMap_window == freqMap_s1, return True.	
219. Contains Duplicate II	Given an integer array nums and an integer k, return true if there are two distinct indices i and j in the array such that nums[i] == nums[j] and abs(i - j) <= k.
• **Init:** Follow template with window_freq and fixed size k. • **Special Case:** If len(nums) < 2, return False. • **Initial window:** Range(min(k+1, len(nums))) since first window can be smaller than k.	

4.2 Dynamic Sliding Window

Summary:

- Find longest or shortest subarray/substring that satisfies a condition.

Algorithm:

```
initialize left = 0
initialize window_state (sum, count, frequency map, etc.)
initialize min_or_max_result

for right in range(n):
    update window_state to include arr[right] # Expand the window

    while window_state violates the condition:
        update min_or_max_result (if needed)
        update window_state to exclude arr[left] # Shrink the window
        move left pointer forward

return min_or_max_result
```

4.2.1 Common Problems

Summary:

Problem	Description:
121. Best Time to Buy and Sell Stock	Given an array where the ith element is the price of a stock on day i, find the maximum profit you can achieve. You may not engage in multiple transactions.

- **Buy low, sell high principle**
  - Use left = buy and right = sell, initialized at 0, 1.
  - If price[right] >= price[left], update max profit. Move right pointer since we can still sell for a profit.
  - If price[right] < price[left], move left pointer since we need to find a lower price to buy.
  - Continue until right pointer reaches the end of the array.

3. Longest Substring W/O Repeating Characters	Given a string s, find the length of the longest substring without repeating characters.

- **Init:** Follow template and use frequency map of chars for window_state.
- **While:** If a char is repeated, move left pointer to right by 1 and adjust freqMap until current char is unique.
- **Change:** Compare substring length outside of while with `max_res = max(max_res, right - left + 1)`.

424. Longest Repeating Character Replacement	Given a string s that consists of only uppercase English letters, you can replace any letter with another letter. Find the length of the longest substr containing the same letter after performing at most k replacements.

- **Init:** Follow template and use freqMap of chars for window_state.
- **While:** If the number of replacements needed exceeds k, i.e. `(r - l + 1) - max_freq > k`
  - Move left pointer to right by 1 and adjust freqMap until the condition is satisfied.
- **Change:** Compare substring length outside of while with `max_res = max(max_res, right - left + 1)`.

**76. Minimum Window Substring	Given two strings s and t, return the minimum window substr of s such that every character in t (including duplicates) is included in the window. If there is no such substring, return ""

- **Init:** Set `left = 0`. Initialize `count_t` as frequency map of `t`, `count_s` for current window, and variables `have = 0`, `required = len(count_t)`, `res = [-1, -1]`, and `resLen = \infty`.
- **For right in range(n):** Expand window by adding `s[right]` to `count_s`. If frequency matches `count_t`, increment `have`.
- **While have == required:**
  - Update result if current window is smaller.
  - Shrink window by decrementing `count_s[s[left]]`; if below `count_t`, decrement `have`; increment `left`.
- **Return:** `s[res[0]:res[1]+1]` if valid window found, else empty string.

239. Sliding Window Maximum	Given an integer array nums and an integer k, return the maximum value in each sliding window of size k.

- **Init:** Use deque to store indices of elements in the current window.
- **For right in range(n):**
  - Remove indices that are out of the current window.
  - Remove indices from the back of the deque while the current element is greater than the element at those indices.
  - Append the current index to the deque.
  - If the window size is reached, append the maximum (element at the front of the deque) to the result list.

5 Binary Search

Algorithm:

```python
def binary_search(nums, target):
    left, right = 0, len(nums) - 1

    while left <= right:
        mid = (left + right) // 2

        if nums[mid] == target:
            return mid
        elif nums[mid] < target:
            left = mid + 1
        else:
            right = mid - 1

    return -1
```

5.1 When to Use?

Summary:

- Use when the input is **sorted** or can be **monotonically mapped**.
- Common for problems involving **searching for a target**, **finding boundaries**, or **min/max constraints**.
- Works on arrays, answer ranges, or implicit search spaces with $\mathcal{O}(\log n)$ complexity.

5.1.1 Common Problems

Summary:

Problems	Description
704. Binary Search	Given a sorted array of integers, return the index of the target. If not found, return -1.

- Implement binary search.

74. Search a 2D Matrix	Given a 2D matrix, search for a target value. If found, return its index.

- Use binary search to find the row by comparing first value of mid row < target (decrement bottom) & last value of mid row < target (increment top).
- Row is top + bottom // 2.
- Then, use binary search to find the column in that row.

875. Koko Eating Bananas	Given an array of piles and an integer h, find the minimum eating speed k such that Koko can eat all bananas in h hours.

- Use binary search to find the minimum k w/ l = 0, r = max(piles) since k must be in this range.
- Check if k is valid by calculating the total hours needed to eat all bananas.
  - for p in piles total_hours += math.ceil(p / k)
  - Compare total_hours with h. If hours <= h, update r = mid - 1 and res = mid. Else update l = mid + 1.

**153. Find Minimum in Rotated Sorted Array	Given a rotated sorted array, find the minimum element.

- Initialize `res = nums[0]` as a candidate minimum.
- Set binary search bounds: `l = 0`, `r = len(nums) - 1`.
- While `l <= r`:
  - If `nums[l] < nums[r]`, subarray is sorted; update `res = min(res, nums[l])` and break.
  - Compute midpoint `m = (l + r) // 2`, update `res = min(res, nums[m])`.
  - If `nums[m] >= nums[l]`, left half is sorted; search right: `l = m + 1`.
  - Else, pivot is in left half; search left: `r = m - 1`.
- Return `res` as the minimum element.

**33. Search in Rotated Sorted Array	Given a rotated sorted array, search for a target value. If found, return its index.

-

6 Linked List

Summary: Data structure for storing objects in linear order.
- **Object:** Data and a pointer to the next object.

6.1 When to Use?

Summary:
- Implement other DS: stacks, queues, hash tables.
- Dynamic memory allocation.

6.2 Singly Linked List

Algorithm:

```python
class Node:
    def __init__(self, data):
        self.data = data  # Value stored in the node
        self.next = None  # Pointer to the next node

class SinglyLinkedList:
    def __init__(self,data):
        self.head = Node(data)  # Head of the list

    def operations(self):
        pass
```

Listing 1: Singly Linked List in Python

Summary:

Operation	Time Complexity
Search	$O(n)$
Insert	$O(1)$
Delete	$O(1)$
Access	$O(n)$

6.3 Operations

6.4 Common Problems

Summary:

Problem	Description:
206. Reverse Linked List	Given the head of a singly linked list, reverse the list and return the reversed list.

- **Iterative:**
  - Init: $\underbrace{\text{None}}_{\text{prev}} \rightarrow \underbrace{1}_{\text{cur}} \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 5$
  - While loop:
    - Temp: $\underbrace{\text{None}}_{\text{prev}} \rightarrow \underbrace{1}_{\text{cur}} \rightarrow \underbrace{2}_{\text{temp}} \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 5$
    - Switch link: $\underbrace{\text{None}}_{\text{prev}} \leftarrow \underbrace{1}_{\text{cur}} \rightarrow \underbrace{2}_{\text{temp}} \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 5$
    - Swap positions: $\underbrace{1}_{\text{prev = cur}} \rightarrow \underbrace{2}_{\text{cur = temp}} \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 5$

21. Merge Two Sorted Lists	Given two sorted linked lists, merge them into one sorted list.

- **Initialize a dummy head:**
  - `dummy = ListNode()`: Placeholder node to simplify edge case handling.
  - `current = dummy`: Build the merged list step-by-step.
- **Iterate through both lists while neither is empty:**
  - **Compare current nodes:**
    - If `list1.val <= list2.val`, attach `list1`'s node to `current.next`, and move `list1` forward. Otherwise, do the same for `list2`.
  - Move the `current` pointer forward.
- **Attach remaining nodes (if any):** After the loop, only one of `list1` or `list2` may still have nodes left.
  - `current.next = list1 if list1 else list2` ensures the remainder is attached.
- **Return the merged list:** `return dummy.next` returns actual start of the merged list.
  - **Visualization:**
    - **Initial state:**
      - List1: $\underbrace{1}_{\text{list1}} \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4$
      - List2: $\underbrace{1}_{\text{list2}} \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 4$
      - Merged List: $\underbrace{\text{dummy}}_{\text{start}} \rightarrow$
    - **Step 1: Compare list1 and list2 ($1 \leq 1$), take list1**
      - dummy $\rightarrow \underbrace{1}_{\text{current}} \rightarrow$
      - list1 $\rightarrow \underbrace{2}_{\text{list1}} \rightarrow 4$
      - list2 unchanged: $\underbrace{1}_{\text{list2}} \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 4$
    - **Step 2: Compare 2 and 1 ($2 > 1$), take list2**
      - dummy $\rightarrow 1 \rightarrow \underbrace{1}_{\text{current}} \rightarrow$
      - list1 remains: $\underbrace{2}_{\text{list1}} \rightarrow 4$
      - list2 $\rightarrow \underbrace{3}_{\text{list2}} \rightarrow 4$

Summary:

Problem	Description:
141. Linked List Cycle	Given a linked list, determine if it has a cycle in it.

- **Floyd's Cycle Detection Algorithm:**
  - Use two pointers (slow and fast) to traverse the list
  - If they meet, a cycle exists.
- **While Condition:** While fast and fast.next are not None b/c fast moves twice as fast so will reach the end first if no cycle.
  - `fast`: Ensures `fast` is not `None`, so `fast.next` is safe.
  - `fast.next`: Ensures ttfast.next is not `None`, so `fast.next.next` is safe.

143. Reorder List	Given a linked list, reorder it in a specific pattern. Specifically, the pattern is to rearrange the list s.t. the first element is followed by the last element, and so on.

- Find middle of list using slow/fast pointers w/ Floyd's algorithm, but have fast start at 2nd node.
- Reverse the second half of the list using 206.
- Merge the two halves together.

19. Remove Nth Node From End of List	Given a linked list, remove the Nth node from the end of the list.

- **Idea:** Use two pointers (slow and fast) to traverse the list by moving fast pointer N steps ahead.
  - **Conditional:** If fast is None, then this means N = length of list, therefore, remove head by returning head.next.
- Move both pointers until fast reaches the end.
  - Slow pointer will be at the node to be deleted, so store prev node and do appropriate adjustments.

7 Images

7.1 2D Convolution Operations

Notes:

1. **1. Output Dimensions**
   The output height and width of a 2D convolution are given by:

$$\text{out\_height} = \left\lfloor \frac{\text{in\_height} + 2 \cdot \text{padding}_h - \text{effective\_kernel}_h}{\text{stride}_h} \right\rfloor + 1$$

$$\text{out\_width} = \left\lfloor \frac{\text{in\_width} + 2 \cdot \text{padding}_w - \text{effective\_kernel}_w}{\text{stride}_w} \right\rfloor + 1$$

2. **2. Effective Kernel Size (with Dilation)**
   The effective kernel size when dilation is applied:

$$\text{effective\_kernel}_h = \text{kernel\_height} + (\text{kernel\_height} - 1) \cdot (\text{dilation}_h - 1)$$

$$\text{effective\_kernel}_w = \text{kernel\_width} + (\text{kernel\_width} - 1) \cdot (\text{dilation}_w - 1)$$

3. **3. Convolution Operation (Batch, Channel-aware)**
   The general convolution operation for a batch of input tensors is:

$$\text{output}[b, c_{\text{out}}, h_{\text{out}}, w_{\text{out}}] = \sum_{c_{\text{in}}} \sum_{k_h} \sum_{k_w} (\text{input}[b, c_{\text{in}}, h_{\text{in}} + k_h \cdot \text{dilation}_h, w_{\text{in}} + k_w \cdot \text{dilation}_w] \cdot \text{filter}[c_{\text{out}}, c_{\text{in}}, k_h, k_w])$$

   where:

$$h_{\text{in}} = h_{\text{out}} \cdot \text{stride}_h, \quad w_{\text{in}} = w_{\text{out}} \cdot \text{stride}_w$$

7.2 Common Problems

Summary:

Problem	Description
661. Image Smoother	Given an image represented by a 2D array, smooth the image by averaging the pixel values of each pixel and its neighbors.

- Loop through the cols and rows of the image, then
  - total sum for each pixel = $\sum_{x,y \in \text{neighbours}} \text{image}[x][y] = \sum_{x=i-1}^{i+1} \sum_{y=j-1}^{j+1} \text{image}[x][y]$
    - If x or y is out of bounds, ignore it.
  - count = $\sum_{x=i-1}^{i+1} \sum_{y=j-1}^{j+1} 1$
  - average = total sum//count
- result$[i][j]$ = average

832. Flipping an Image	Given a binary matrix, flip the image horizontally and invert it.

- Loop through the rows of the image, then use .reverse() to flip the row horizontally.
- Double for loop to invert image (change 0 to 1 and 1 to 0).

48. Rotate Image	Given an n x n 2D matrix, rotate the image 90 degrees clockwise.

- Transpose the matrix (swap rows and columns) if $i < j$, then matrix$[i][j] \overset{\text{swap}}{\iff}$ matrix$[j][i]$.
- Reverse each row.

**835. Image Overlap	Given two images represented by 2D arrays, find the maximum overlap between the two images.

- Try all possible translations of img1.
- For each translation, calculate the overlap with img2.

8 Trees

8.1 Binary Search Tree (BST)

Summary:

- A binary tree where for each node, left subtree values are smaller, and right subtree values are larger.
- **Balanced vs. Unbalanced:**

$$O(\log(n)) \text{ (balanced)} \leq O(h) \leq O(n) \text{ (unbalanced)}$$

Algorithm:

```
class Node:
    def __init__(self, key):
        self.val = key
        self.left = None
        self.right = None

class BST:
    def __init__(self):
        self.root = None

    def operations(self,_):
        pass
```

8.2 Operations

Summary:

Operation	Time Complexity
Search	$O(h)$
Insert	$O(h)$
Delete	$O(h)$
Find Min/Max	$O(h)$
In-order Traversal	$O(n)$
Pre-order Traversal	$O(n)$
Post-order Traversal	$O(n)$
Level-order Traversal	$O(n)$

8.2.1 Search

Algorithm:

```
def search(self, key):
    current = self.root
    while current:
        if key == current.val:
            return current
        elif key < current.val:
            current = current.left
        else:
            current = current.right
    return None
```

8.2.2 Insert

Algorithm:

```
def insert(self, key):
    def _insert(node, key):
        if node is None:
            return TreeNode(key)
        if key < node.val:
            node.left = _insert(node.left, key)
        elif key > node.val:
            node.right = _insert(node.right, key)
        return node
    self.root = _insert(self.root, key)
```

8.2.3 Delete

Algorithm:

```
def delete(self, key):
    def _delete(node, key):
        if node is None:
            return None
        if key < node.val:
            node.left = _delete(node.left, key)
        elif key > node.val:
```

```
            node.right = _delete(node.right, key)
        else:
            # Node with one child or no child
            if node.left is None:
                return node.right
            elif node.right is None:
                return node.left
            # Node with two children
            temp = self._find_min(node.right)
            node.val = temp.val
            node.right = _delete(node.right, temp.val)
        return node
    self.root = _delete(self.root, key)
```

8.2.4 Find Min

Algorithm:

```
def find_min(self, node):
    while node.left is not None:
        node = node.left
    return node
```

8.2.5 Find Max

Algorithm:

```
def find_max(self, node):
    while node.right is not None:
        node = node.right
    return node
```

8.2.6 DFS In-order Traversal (Left → Root → Right)

Definition: Visit the left subtree, then the root, and finally the right subtree.

- Used for retrieving elements in sorted order from a BST.

Algorithm:

```
def inorder(node):
    if node:
        inorder(node.left)
        print(node.val)
        inorder(node.right)
```

8.2.7 DFS Pre-order Traversal (Root → Left → Right)

Definition: Visit the root first, then the left subtree, and finally the right subtree.

- Useful for copying or serializing the tree.

Algorithm:

```
def preorder(node):
```

```
    if node:
        print(node.val)
        preorder(node.left)
        preorder(node.right)
```

8.2.8 DFS Post-order Traversal (Left → Right → Root)

Definition: Visit the left subtree, then the right subtree, and finally the root.

- Useful for deleting or freeing nodes in memory.

Algorithm:

```
def postorder(node):
    if node:
        postorder(node.left)
        postorder(node.right)
        print(node.val)
```

8.2.9 BFS Level-order Traversal (Top → Bottom, Left → Right)

Definition: Visit nodes level-level from top to bottom & left to right.

- Useful for finding shortest paths or visualizing layers of a tree.

Algorithm:

```
from collections import deque

def level_order(root):
    if not root:
        return

    queue = deque([root])
    while queue:
        node = queue.popleft()
        print(node.val)

        if node.left:
            queue.append(node.left)
        if node.right:
            queue.append(node.right)
```

8.2.10 Common Problems

Summary:

Problem	Description:
**226. Invert Binary Tree	Given a binary tree, invert it.

- Base case: If the node is None, return.
- Swap left and right children of the current node.
- Recursively call the function on left and right children.

**104. Maximum Depth of Binary Tree	Given a binary tree, find its maximum depth.

- **Recursive DFS:**
  - Base case: If the node is None, return 0.
  - Recursively find the maximum depth of left and right subtrees.
  - Return the maximum of the two depths plus one for the current node.
- **Iterative BFS:**
  - Initialize an empty queue q.
  - Append *root* to q and set $level \leftarrow 0$ unless root is None.
  - While q is not empty:
    - For each node in the current level (`len(q)` iterations):
      - Pop the front node from q.
      - If the node has a left child, append it to q.
      - If the node has a right child, append it to q.
    - Increment *level* after processing all nodes in the current level.
  - Return *level* as the maximum depth of the tree.

**543. Diameter of Binary Tree	Given a binary tree, find its diameter.

- The diameter is the longest path between any two nodes in the tree.
- Use DFS to calculate the height of each subtree and update the diameter.
- The diameter at each node is the sum of the heights of its left and right subtrees.

---

110. Balanced Binary Tree	Given a binary tree, check if it is height-balanced.

- A tree is balanced if the heights of the two child subtrees of any node differ by no more than one.
- Use DFS to calculate the height of each subtree and check the balance condition.

8.2.11 BST-based Sets and Maps

Summary:

- **BST Set**: Stores unique values in sorted order. Supports insert, search, delete.
- **BST Map**: Associates keys with values, maintaining keys in sorted order.
- Can be implemented using self-balancing trees (e.g., AVL, Red-Black Tree) for O(log n) operations.
- Useful for range queries, floor/ceiling lookups, and ordered iteration.

Algorithm:

```python
class BSTSet:
    def __init__(self):
        self.root = None

    def add(self, val):
        self.root = insert_bst(self.root, val)

    def contains(self, val):
        return search_bst(self.root, val) is not None

    def remove(self, val):
        self.root = delete_bst(self.root, val)

class BSTMap:
    def __init__(self):
        self.root = None

    def put(self, key, value):
        self.root = self._put(self.root, key, value)

    def _put(self, node, key, value):
        if not node:
            return TreeNode((key, value))
        if key < node.val[0]:
            node.left = self._put(node.left, key, value)
        elif key > node.val[0]:
            node.right = self._put(node.right, key, value)
        else:
            node.val = (key, value)
        return node

    def get(self, key):
        node = self.root
        while node:
            if key < node.val[0]:
                node = node.left
            elif key > node.val[0]:
                node = node.right
            else:
                return node.val[1]
        return None
```

9 Heaps and Priority Queues

9.1 Heap

Summary:

- **Max heap:** Largest key at root, where every parent node is **greater than or equal to** its children.
- **Min heap:** Smallest key at root, where every parent node is **less than or equal to** its children.
- **Balanced Tree:** $h = \log n$
- **Indexing:** Given a node at index i in the array:
  1. **Parent:** parent(i) $= \left\lfloor \frac{i}{2} \right\rfloor$
  2. **Left child:** leftchild(i) $= 2i$
  3. **Right child:** rightchild(i) $= 2i + 1$

9.2 Heapq

Summary:

```
heapq.heapify(x)
```

- Transforms a list `x` into a valid min-heap in-place.
- **Arguments:** `x`: list to be heapified.

```
heapq.heappush(heap, item)
```

- Inserts `item` into `heap` while maintaining the heap invariant.
- **Arguments:** `heap`: list representing a heap; `item`: element to insert.

```
heapq.heappop(heap)
```

- Removes and returns the smallest element from the heap.
- **Arguments:** `heap`: non-empty list representing a valid heap.

```
heapq.heappushpop(heap, item)
```

- Pushes `item` onto the heap, then pops and returns the smallest element.
- **Arguments:** `heap`: valid heap; `item`: element to insert.

```
heapq.heapreplace(heap, item)
```

- Pops and returns the smallest element, then inserts `item` into the heap.
- **Arguments:** `heap`: non-empty valid heap; `item`: element to insert.

```
heapq.nlargest(n, iterable)
```

- Returns the `n` largest elements from `iterable` in descending order.
- **Arguments:** `n`: number of elements; `iterable`: list or other iterable.

```
heapq.nsmallest(n, iterable)
```

- Returns the `n` smallest elements from `iterable` in ascending order.
- **Arguments:** `n`: number of elements; `iterable`: list or other iterable.

Algorithm:

```python
class MinHeap:
    def __init__(self):
        self.heap = []

    def parent(self, i):
        return (i - 1) // 2

    def left(self, i):
        return 2 * i + 1

    def right(self, i):
        return 2 * i + 2

    def insert(self, key):
        self.heap.append(key)
        i = len(self.heap) - 1
        while i != 0 and self.heap[self.parent(i)] > self.heap[i]:
            self.heap[i], self.heap[self.parent(i)] = self.heap[self.parent(i)], self.heap[i]
            i = self.parent(i)

    def heapify(self, i):
        smallest = i
        l = self.left(i)
        r = self.right(i)

        if l < len(self.heap) and self.heap[l] < self.heap[smallest]:
            smallest = l
        if r < len(self.heap) and self.heap[r] < self.heap[smallest]:
            smallest = r

        if smallest != i:
            self.heap[i], self.heap[smallest] = self.heap[smallest], self.heap[i]
            self.heapify(smallest)

    def extract_min(self):
        if not self.heap:
            return None
        if len(self.heap) == 1:
            return self.heap.pop()

        root = self.heap[0]
        self.heap[0] = self.heap.pop()
        self.heapify(0)
        return root

    def get_min(self):
        return self.heap[0] if self.heap else None
```

9.2.1 Operations

Summary:

Operation	Time Complexity
Insert	$O(\log n)$
Extract Min	$O(\log n)$
Get Min	$O(1)$
Heapify	$O(n)$
Build Heap	$O(n)$
Search	$O(n)$
Delete	$O(n)$
Heap Sort	$O(n \log n)$

9.2.2 Common Problem

Summary:

Problem	Description
703. Kth Largest Element in a Stream	Design a class to find the kth largest element in a stream of numbers.

- Implement a heap that keeps track of the k largest elements using a min-heap so that the kth largest element is always at the root.
- **Process:**
  1. Change list into heap. If more than k elements, pop until only k elements remain.
  2. Add: Push new element into heap. If size exceeds k, pop the smallest element. Return the root.

1046. Last Stone Weight	You are given an array of integers. Each integer represents the weight of a stone.

- Convert the list into a max-heap using heapq with negation.
- While there are at least 1 stone in heap:
  - If they are equal, both stones are destroyed. If not, new stone is created and pushed back into the heap.
- Return the weight of the last remaining stone or 0 if there are no stones left.

973. K Closest Points to Origin	Given an array of points, find the k closest points to the origin.

- Use a min-heap to store the points based on their distance using a tuple of (distance, point).
- While len(heap) > k, pop the largest element.
- Return the k closest points by using heapq.nsmallest.

215. Kth Largest Element in an Array	Find the kth largest element in an unsorted array.

- Use a min-heap to keep track of the k largest elements.
- If the heap size exceeds k, pop the smallest element.
- Return the root of the heap.

621. Task Scheduler	Given a list of tasks and a cooldown period, find the least time to finish all tasks.

- Use `Counter` to count the frequency of each task.
- Use a max-heap to store tasks by frequency: `(-freq, task)`.
- Use a queue to track cooldowns: `(-freq, ready_time)`.
- While either heap or queue is non-empty:
  - Increment `time`.
  - If heap is non-empty, pop task, decrement frequency, and if not 0, add to queue with `time + n`.
  - If the front of the queue is ready (`ready_time == time`), pop and push it back into the heap.

9.2.3 Priority Queue

Algorithm:

10 Graphs

Summary:

Algorithm	Time Complexity	Space Complexity
BFS	$O(V+E)$	$O(V)$
DFS	$O(V+E)$	$O(V)$
Topological Sort (DFS)	$O(V+E)$	$O(V)$

10.1 Breadth-First Search (BFS)

Summary:

- Use when exploring nodes layer-by-layer, typically in unweighted graphs or grids.
- Ideal for finding the shortest path, level order traversal, or minimum number of steps.
- Queue-based traversal ensures nodes are visited in order of increasing distance from the source.

Algorithm:

```python
from collections import deque

def bfs(start, graph):
    visited = set()
    queue = deque([start])
    visited.add(start)

    while queue:
        node = queue.popleft() # FIFO (BFS)

        for neighbor in graph[node]:
            if neighbor not in visited:
                visited.add(neighbor)
                queue.append(neighbor)
```

10.1.1 Common Problems

> **Summary**:

10.2 Depth-First Search (DFS)

Summary:

- Use when traversing all nodes or paths in **trees**, **graphs**, or **matrices**.
- Ideal for problems involving **backtracking**, **recursion**, or exploring all **connected components**.
- Can be implemented recursively or iteratively with a stack.
- Maintain a `visited` set or matrix to avoid revisiting nodes.
- Useful for **topological sorting**, **cycle detection**, and **pathfinding**.

Algorithm:

```python
from collections import deque

def dfs(start, graph):
    visited = set()
    stack = deque([start])
    visited.add(start)

    while stack:
        node = stack.pop()  # LIFO (DFS)

        for neighbor in graph[node]:
            if neighbor not in visited:
                visited.add(neighbor)
                stack.append(neighbor)
```

Algorithm:

```python
def dfs(node, visited):
    if node in visited:
        return

    visited.add(node)

    for neighbor in graph[node]:
        dfs(neighbor, visited)
```

10.2.1 Common Problems

Summary:

Problem	Description:
200. Number of Islands	Given a 2D grid of '1's (land) and '0's (water), count the number of islands.
	• Use DFS or BFS to explore all connected '1's and mark them as visited. • Increment the island count for each unvisited '1'.
695. Max Area of Island	Given a 2D grid of '1's (land) and '0's (water), find the maximum area of an island.
	• Use DFS or BFS to explore all connected '1's and calculate the area. • Keep track of the maximum area encountered during the traversal.
79. Word Search	Given a 2D board and a word, check if the word exists in the grid.
	• Use DFS to explore all possible paths in the grid. • Mark cells as visited to avoid revisiting. • Backtrack if the current path does not lead to a solution.

10.3 Topological Sort

Summary:

- Use when processing nodes in a directed acyclic graph (DAG) in a linear order.
- Ideal for scheduling tasks, resolving dependencies, or ordering items.
- Can be implemented using DFS or Kahn's algorithm (BFS).
- Maintain an in-degree count for each node to identify nodes with no dependencies.
- Use a queue to process nodes with zero in-degrees and update the in-degrees of their neighbors.
- Continue until all nodes are processed or a cycle is detected.

Algorithm:

```python
from collections import defaultdict, deque

def topological_sort(num_nodes, edges):
    # Build adjacency list and in-degree count
    graph = defaultdict(list)
    in_degree = [0] * num_nodes

    for u, v in edges:
        graph[u].append(v)
        in_degree[v] += 1

    # Start with all nodes that have in-degree 0
    queue = deque([i for i in range(num_nodes) if in_degree[i] == 0])
    topo_order = []

    while queue:
        node = queue.popleft()
        topo_order.append(node)

        for neighbor in graph[node]:
            in_degree[neighbor] -= 1
            if in_degree[neighbor] == 0:
                queue.append(neighbor)

    # If not all nodes are processed, there is a cycle
    if len(topo_order) != num_nodes:
        return []  # or raise an error

    return topo_order
```

11 Backtracking

11.1 Subsets

Algorithm: Enumerates all 2^n subsets of a given set, $\mathcal{S}$, where n is the size of the input set.

```
def generate_subsets(S):
    res = [[]]
    for num in nums:
        res += [subset + [num] for subset in res]
    return res
```

11.2 Combinations

Algorithm:

11.3 Permutations

Algorithm:

12 Sorting

Summary:

Name	Space	Time (BC,AC,WC)	Prop. (In-place, Stable, D&C)
Comparison Based			
Merge Sort	$\Theta(n)$	$\Theta(n \log n)$	$\not$IP,S,DC
• **DS:** Auxiliary arrays			
Quick Sort	$\Theta(1)$, $\Theta(\log n)$,$\Theta(n)$	$\Theta(n \log n)$, $\Theta(n \log n)$,$\Theta(n^2)$	IP, $\not$S,DC
• **DS:** Original array (in-place) • Space complexity depends on implementation.			
Heap Sort	$\Theta(1)$	$\Theta(n \log n)$	IP, $\not$S,$\not$DC
• **DS:** Binary heap • **Time Complexity:** – n: Number of elements in the input array that need to be sorted. – $h = \log n$: Height of the binary heap (can be changed) • Space complexity doesn't include the input.			
Bubble Sort	$\Theta(1)$	$\Theta(n)$,$\Theta(n^2)$,$\Theta(n^2)$	IP,S,$\not$DC
• **DS:** Original array (in-place)			
Selection Sort	$\Theta(1)$	$\Theta(n^2)$	IP,$\not$S,$\not$DC
• **DS:** Original array (in-place)			
Insertion Sort	$\Theta(1)$	$\Theta(n)$,$\Theta(n^2)$,$\Theta(n^2)$	IP,S,$\not$DC
• **DS:** Original array (in-place)			
Non-Comparison Based			
Counting Sort	$\Theta(n+k)$	$\Theta(n+k)$ if $k \gg O(n)$, $\Theta(n)$ if $k \leq O(n)$	$\not$IP, S,$\not$DC
• **DS:** Auxiliary arrays • **Assumption:** Elements are integers ranging from 0 to k. • n: Size of array • k: Range of numbers (i.e. $[0, ..., k]$)			
Radix Sort	$\Theta(n+k)$	$\Theta(d \cdot (n+k))$	$\not$IP, S,$\not$DC
• **DS:** Auxiliary arrays • **Assumption:** All elements have $\leq d$-digits • **One pass time complexity:** $O(n+k)$ (i.e. counting sort) • **Note:** If $k = d = O(1)$, then $O(n)$ time complexity. • n: Size of array • k: Range of numbers • d: Number of digits			

12.1 Stable, In-place, and Divide and Conquer

Definition:

- **Stable:** Relative order of ties is maintained.
  - e.g. $[2_a, 3, 2_b, 1] \to [1, 2_a, 2_b, 3]$
- **In-place sorting:** $O(1)$ extra space.
- **Lower bound on comparison-based sorting:** No CBS algorithm on **unrestricted** range is better than $\Omega(n \log n)$

12.2 Merge Sort

Algorithm:

```python
def merge_sort(arr):
    if len(arr) <= 1:
        return arr

    # Divide
    mid = len(arr) // 2
    left = merge_sort(arr[:mid])
    right = merge_sort(arr[mid:])

    # Conquer: Merge two sorted halves
    return merge(left, right)

def merge(left, right):
    result = []
    i = j = 0

    # Merge two sorted lists
    while i < len(left) and j < len(right):
        if left[i] <= right[j]:
            result.append(left[i])
            i += 1
        else:
            result.append(right[j])
            j += 1

    # Append remaining elements
    result.extend(left[i:])
    result.extend(right[j:])
    return result
```

12.3 Quick Sort

Algorithm:

```python
def quick_sort(arr):
    if len(arr) <= 1:
        return arr

    pivot = arr[len(arr) // 2]  # Choose middle element as pivot
    left = [x for x in arr if x < pivot]
    middle = [x for x in arr if x == pivot]
    right = [x for x in arr if x > pivot]

    # Recursively sort left and right, then concatenate
    return quick_sort(left) + middle + quick_sort(right)
```