

Competitive Programming Reference

ngmh

Last Updated: 07/01/2026

Contents

1	Data Structures	3
1.1	Prefix Sums	3
1.1.1	1D	3
1.1.2	2D	3
1.2	Fenwick Trees	3
1.2.1	Point Update Range Query	3
1.2.2	Range Update Point Query	4
1.2.3	Range Update Range Query	4
2	Graph Theory	4
2.1	Depth First Search	4
2.2	Breadth First Search	5
2.3	0-1 BFS	5
2.4	Floyd-Warshall	5
2.5	Bellman-Ford	6
2.6	Dijkstra	6
2.7	Shortest Path Faster Algorithm	6
2.8	Union Find Disjoint Subset	7
3	Dynamic Programming	7
3.1	Maxsum	7
3.1.1	1D	7
3.2	Longest Increasing Subsequence	7
3.2.1	N^2 DP	7
3.3	Coin Combinations	8
3.4	Coin Change	8
3.5	Knapsack	8
3.5.1	0-1	8
3.6	Digit DP	8
4	Math	10
4.1	Fast Exponentiation	10
4.2	Prime Factorisation	10
4.3	Sieve of Eratosthenes	10
4.4	Greatest Common Divisor	11
4.5	Lowest Common Multiple	11
4.6	Modular Inverse	11
4.7	$\binom{n}{k}$	11
4.8	Fibonacci	12
5	Algorithms	12
5.1	Binary Search	12
5.2	Binary Search using Lifting	12
5.3	Sliding Set	13

6	Miscellaneous	13
6.1	Fast I/O	13
6.2	Superfast I/O	13

1 Data Structures

Data Structure	Precomputation / Update	Query	Memory	Notes
Prefix Sum	$O(N) / X$	$O(1)$	$O(N)$	Associative Functions (+, XOR)
Sparse Table	$O(N \log N) / X$	$O(1)$	$O(N \log N)$	Non-Associative Functions (max, gcd)
Fenwick Tree	$X / O(\log N)$	$O(\log N)$	$O(N)$	Prefix Sum with Updates
Segment Tree	$X / O(\log N)$	$O(\log N)$	$O(4N)$	Allows more Information

Table 1: Quick Summary of Data Structures

1.1 Prefix Sums

1.1.1 1D

$O(N)$ precomputation, $O(1)$ query.

```
//Query - 1-Indexed
int query(int s, int e){
    return ps[e]-ps[s-1];
}

//Precomputation
ps[0] = 0;
for(int i = 1; i <= n; i++) ps[i] = ps[i-1]+a[i];
```

1.1.2 2D

$O(R \cdot C)$ precomputation, $O(1)$ query.

```
//Query - 1-Indexed
int query(int x1, int y1, int x2, int y2){
    return ps[x2][y2]-ps[x1-1][y2]-ps[x2][y1-1]+ps[x1-1][y1-1];
}

//Precomputation
for (int i = 0; i <= r; i++) ps[i][0] = 0;
for (int j = 0; j <= c; j++) ps[0][j] = 0;
for (int i = 1; i <= r; i++) {
    for (int j = 1; j <= c; j++) {
        ps[i][j] = ps[i-1][j]+ps[i][j-1]-ps[i-1][j-1]+a[i][j];
    }
}
```

1.2 Fenwick Trees

1.2.1 Point Update Range Query

$O(\log N)$ update and query.

```
inline int ls(int x){ return (x)&(-x); }

int fw[MAXN]; // 1-Indexed

void pu(int i, int v) {
    for(; i <= n; i += ls(i)) fw[i] += v;
}

int pq(int i) {
    int t = 0;
```

```

        for(; i; i -= ls(i)) t += fw[i];
        return t;
    }

    int rq(int s, int e) {
        return pq(e) - pq(s - 1);
    }

```

1.2.2 Range Update Point Query

$O(\log N)$ update and query.

```
// Requires PURQ Code (PU, PQ)
```

```

void ru(int s, int e, int v) {
    pu(s, v);
    pu(e+1, -v);
}

```

1.2.3 Range Update Range Query

$O(\log N)$ update and query.

```
// Requires PURQ Code (PU, PQ)
// Functions need to be modified to take in array parameter
// e.g. int pu(*tree, int i, int v)
```

```

void ru(int s, int e, int v) {
    pu(fw1, s, v);
    pu(fw1, e+1, -v);
    pu(fw2, s, -v*(s-1));
    pu(fw2, e+1, v*e);
}

int ps(int i) {
    return pq(fw1, i)*i + pq(fw2, i);
}

int rq(int s, int e) {
    return ps(e) - ps(s - 1);
}

```

2 Graph Theory

2.1 Depth First Search

Runs in $O(V + E)$.

```
// For adjacency lists
void dfs(int x, int p) {
    for (int y : adj[x]) {
        if (y != p) {
            dist[y] = dist[x]+1;
            dfs(y, x);
        }
    }
}

```

2.2 Breadth First Search

Runs in $O(V + E)$.

```
// For adjacency lists
visited[s] = 1;
dist[s] = 0;
q.push(s);
while (!q.empty()) {
    int f = q.front(); q.pop();
    for (int i : adjlist[f]) {
        if (!visited[i]) {
            q.push(i);
            visited[i] = 1;
            dist[i] = dist[f] + 1;
        }
    }
}
```

2.3 0-1 BFS

Runs in $O(V + E)$.

```
// For adjacency lists
deque<int> dq;
dist[s] = 0;
dq.push(s);
while (!dq.empty()) {
    int u = dq.front(); dq.pop();
    for (int e : adjlist[u]) {
        int v = e.first, w = e.second;
        if (dist[v] > dist[u] + w) {
            dist[v] = dist[u] + w;
            if (w == 0) dq.push_front(v);
            else dq.push_back(v);
        }
    }
}
```

2.4 Floyd-Warshall

Runs in $O(N^3)$.

```
// Initialise adjacency matrix
for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
    for (int j = 0; j < n; j++) {
        if (i == j) adj[i][j] = 0;
        else adj[i][j] = INF;
    }
}

// Floyd-Warshall
for (int k = 0; k < n; k++) {
    for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
        for (int j = 0; j < n; j++) {
            adj[i][j] = min(adj[i][j], adj[i][k] + adj[k][j]);
            if (adj[i][i] < 0) negCycle = true;
        }
    }
}
```

2.5 Bellman-Ford

Runs in $O(VE)$.

```
vector<int> dist(n, INF);
dist[s] = 0;
bool negCycle = false;
for (int i = 1; i <= n; i++) {
    bool update = false;
    for (Edge e : edges) {
        if (dist[e.u] < INF && dist[e.v] > dist[e.u] + e.w) {
            dist[e.v] = dist[e.u] + e.w;
            update = true;
        }
    }
    if (!update) break;
    if (update && i == n) negCycle = true;
}
```

2.6 Dijkstra

Runs in $O(E \log V)$.

```
priority_queue<pi, vector<pi>, greater<pi>> pq;
vector<int> dist(n, INF);
dist[s] = 0;
pq.push({0, s});
while (!pq.empty()) {
    pi f = pq.top(); pq.pop();
    int d = f.first, u = f.second;
    if (d != dist[u]) continue;
    for (pi x : adj[u]) {
        int v = x.first, w = x.second;
        if (dist[v] > d + w) {
            dist[v] = d + w;
            pq.push({ dist[v], v });
        }
    }
}
```

2.7 Shortest Path Faster Algorithm

Runs in $O(VE)$.

```
vector<int> dist(n, INF);
vector<int> inQueue(n, 0);
queue<int> q;
dist[s] = 0;
q.push(s);
inQueue[s]++;
bool negCycle = false;
while (!q.empty()) {
    int u = q.front(); q.pop();
    inQueue[u]--;
    for (Edge e : adj[u]) {
        if (dist[e.v] > dist[u] + e.w) {
            dist[e.v] = dist[u] + e.w;
            if (inQueue[e.v] == 0) {
                q.push(e.v);
            }
        }
    }
}
```

```

        inQueue[e.v]++;
        if (inQueue[e.v] > n) {
            negCycle = true;
            break;
        }
    }
}
if (negCycle) break;
}

```

2.8 Union Find Disjoint Subset

With both path compression and union by rank, runs in $O(\alpha(n))$ (basically constant time).

```

int p[MAXN];
int sz[MAXN];

int root(int x) {
    if (p[x] == -1) return x;
    return p[x] = root(p[x]);
}

void connect(int x, int y) {
    x = root(x); y = root(y);
    if (x == y) return;
    if (sz[x] < sz[y]) swap(x, y);
    p[y] = x;
    sz[x] += sz[y];
}

fill(p, p+MAXN, -1);
fill(sz, sz+MAXN, 1);

```

3 Dynamic Programming

3.1 Maxsum

3.1.1 1D

Kadane's Algorithm. Runs in $O(N)$.

```

int ans = nums[0], cur = nums[0];
for (int i = 1; i < nums.size(); i++) {
    if (cur < 0) cur = 0;
    cur += nums[i];
    ans = max(ans, cur);
}

```

3.2 Longest Increasing Subsequence

3.2.1 N^2 DP

```

int ans = 0, dp[n];
memset(dp, 0, sizeof(dp));
for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
    for (int j = 0; j < i; j++) {

```

```

        if (a[j] < a[i]) {
            dp[i] = max(dp[i], dp[j]);
        }
    }
    dp[i]++;
    ans = max(ans, dp[i]);
}

```

3.3 Coin Combinations

Runs in $O(N \cdot V)$.

```

int ways[v+1];
memset(ways, 0, sizeof(ways));
ways[0] = 1;
for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
    int c = coins[i];
    for (int sum = c; sum <= v; sum++) {
        ways[sum] = (ways[sum] + ways[sum - c]) % MOD;
    }
}
cout << ways[v];

```

3.4 Coin Change

Runs in $O(N \cdot V)$.

```

const int INF = 1e9;
vector<int> dp(v + 1, INF);
dp[0] = 0;
for (int i = 1; i <= v; i++) {
    for (int j = 0; j < n; j++) {
        if (i >= c[j] && dp[i - c[j]] != INF) {
            dp[i] = min(dp[i], dp[i - c[j]] + 1);
        }
    }
}
cout << dp[v];

```

3.5 Knapsack

3.5.1 0-1

Runs in $O(N \cdot S)$.

```

for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
    for (int j = s; j >= w[i]; j--) {
        dp[j] = max(dp[j], dp[j - w[i]] + v[i]);
    }
}
cout << dp[s];

```

3.6 Digit DP

Runs in $O(D)$.

```

// Example - Numbers
// Compute the number of palindrome free numbers in a given range

vector<int> num;
ll dp[20][11][11][2][2]; // idx, last1, last2, tight, hasStarted

ll derp(int pos, int last1, int last2, bool tight, bool hasStarted) {
    if(pos == num.size()) return 1; // successfully populated whole number

    if(dp[pos][last1][last2][tight][hasStarted] != -1) {
        // state already visited
        return dp[pos][last1][last2][tight][hasStarted];
    }

    ll res = 0;
    int limit = tight ? num[pos] : 9; // do we need to keep to the range
    for(int d = 0; d <= limit; d++) { // try all next digits
        bool newHasStarted = hasStarted || (d != 0);
        bool newTight = tight && (d == limit);
        // skip palindromes only if the number has started
        if(newHasStarted) {
            if(d == last1) continue; // palindrome length 2
            if(d == last2) continue; // palindrome length 3
        }
        int newLast1 = newHasStarted ? d : 10;
        int newLast2 = hasStarted ? last1 : 10;
        res += derp(pos+1, newLast1, newLast2, newTight, newHasStarted);
    }
    return dp[pos][last1][last2][tight][hasStarted] = res;
}

// convert number to digits
void dcmp(ll x){
    num.clear();
    if(x == 0) num.push_back(0);
    while(x > 0) {
        num.push_back(x % 10);
        x /= 10;
    }
    reverse(num.begin(), num.end());
}

// Total Valid with value <= x
// Use PIE to get number within [a, b]
ll solve(ll x){
    dcmp(x);
    memset(dp, -1, sizeof(dp));
    return derp(0, 10, 10, true, false);
}

// To compute the kth string satisfying
// Either binary search or build character by character:
int count = 0;
vector<int> ans;
for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
    int x = 0;

```

```

    for (int j = 1; j < 10; j++) { // adjust to size of alphabet
        if (count + dp(i, j) > k) {
            break;
        }
        x = j;
    }
    count += dp(i, x); // position i is bounded by x
    ans.push_back(x);
}

```

4 Math

4.1 Fast Exponentiation

Runs in $O(\log b)$.

```

int powmod(int a, int b, int m) {
    int res = 1;
    while (b > 0) {
        if (b & 1) res = (res * a) % m;
        a = (a * a) % m;
        b >>= 1;
    }
    return res % m;
}

```

4.2 Prime Factorisation

Runs in $O(\sqrt{x})$.

```

map<int, int> cnt;
while (x % 2 == 0) {
    cnt[2]++;
    x /= 2;
}
for (int i = 3; i * i <= x; i++) {
    while (x % i == 0) {
        cnt[i]++;
        x /= i;
    }
}
if (x > 1) {
    cnt[x]++;
}

```

4.3 Sieve of Eratosthenes

Runs in $O(n \log \log n)$ with high constant.

```

bitset<MAXN> prime;
prime.set();
prime[0] = prime[1] = 0;
for (int i = 2; i < MAXN; i++) {
    if (prime[i]) {
        for (int j = i*i; j < MAXN; j += i) {
            prime[j] = 0;
        }
    }
}

```

```
}  
}
```

4.4 Greatest Common Divisor

Runs in $O(\log \min(a, b))$.

```
int gcd(int a, int b) {  
    if (a > b) swap(a, b);  
    while (a != 0) {  
        b %= a;  
        swap(a, b);  
    }  
    return b;  
}
```

4.5 Lowest Common Multiple

```
int lcm(int a, int b) {  
    return a / gcd(a, b) * b;  
}
```

4.6 Modular Inverse

```
ll modinv(ll a){  
    return powmod(a, MOD-2, MOD);  
}
```

4.7 $\binom{n}{k}$

Precomputation takes $O(MAXN)$ time, queries answered in $O(1)$.

```
ll fac[MAXN+1], modinv[MAXN+1];  
  
ll nck(ll n, ll k) {  
    if (n < k) return 0;  
    ll res = fac[n];  
    res = (res * modinv[k]) % MOD;  
    res = (res * modinv[n-k]) % MOD;  
    return res;  
}  
  
fac[0] = 1;  
for(int i = 1; i <= MAXN; i++) {  
    fac[i] = fac[i-1] * i % MOD;  
}  
modinv[MAXN] = powmod(fac[MAXN], MOD-2, MOD);  
for(int i = MAXN; i > 0; i--) {  
    modinv[i-1] = modinv[i] * i % MOD;  
}
```

4.8 Fibonacci

Runs in $O(\log N)$ time.

```
struct Mat {
    ll a, b, c, d; // 2x2 Matrix: [a b; c d]
};

Mat mul(Mat x, Mat y) {
    return {
        x.a*y.a + x.b*y.c,
        x.a*y.b + x.b*y.d,
        x.c*y.a + x.d*y.c,
        x.c*y.b + x.d*y.d
    };
}

Mat mpow(Mat base, long long exp) {
    Mat res = {1, 0, 0, 1}; // Identity Matrix
    while (exp) {
        if (exp & 1) res = mul(res, base);
        base = mul(base, base);
        exp >>= 1;
    }
    return res;
}

ll fib(long long n) {
    if (n == 0) return 0;
    Mat m = {1, 1, 1, 0}; // Fibonacci Seed Matrix
    return mpow(m, n-1).a;
}
```

5 Algorithms

5.1 Binary Search

Find the cuberoot of n . Runs in $O(\log N)$.

```
long long n; cin >> n;
long long mini = 0, maxi = 1e6, medi;
while (mini < maxi) {
    medi = mini + (maxi - mini) / 2;
    if (medi * medi * medi >= n) maxi = medi;
    else mini = medi + 1;
}
cout << mini << "\n";
```

5.2 Binary Search using Lifting

Find the cuberoot of n . Runs in $O(\log N)$.

```
long long n; cin >> n;
long long cur = 0, gap = 1e6, next;
while (gap > 0) {
    while (next = cur + gap, next * next * next < n) {
        cur = next;
    }
}
```

```

        gap >>= 1;
    }
    cout << cur+1 << "\n";

```

5.3 Sliding Set

Speeds up DP from $O(N^2)$ to $O(N \log N)$.

```

// Example - Candymountain
// Jump across with minimax candies
// Populate with initial window
for(int i = 0; i < k; i++) {
    dp[i] = candies[i];
    s.insert(candies[i]);
}
// Sliding Set
for(int i = k; i < n; i++){
    dp[i] = max(candies[i], *s.begin());
    s.erase(s.find(dp[i-k]));
    s.insert(dp[i]);
}

```

6 Miscellaneous

6.1 Fast I/O

Cannot use with scanf, printf.

```

ios_base::sync_with_stdio(false);
cin.tie(0);

```

6.2 Superfast I/O

Only for non-negative integer input.

```

inline ll ri () {
    ll x = 0;
    char ch = getchar_unlocked();
    while (ch < '0' || ch > '9') ch = getchar_unlocked();
    while (ch >= '0' && ch <= '9') {
        x = (x << 3) + (x << 1) + ch - '0';
        ch = getchar_unlocked();
    }
    return x;
}

```
