

1. Stack Challenge (30 Points)

Problem: Valid Parentheses Checker

Description:

Given a string `s` consisting only of the characters '(', ')', '{', '}', '[', and ']', write a Python function `is_balanced(s)` that uses a **stack** to determine whether the parentheses/brackets in the string are **balanced**. The rules for a balanced string are:

- Every opening bracket has a corresponding closing bracket of the **same type**.
- Brackets must close in the **correct order** (e.g., "`()`" is invalid even though each character has a match of some type).

Input: A string `s`.

Output: Return `True` if `s` is balanced, otherwise `False`.

Examples:

1. `s = "()" → True`
2. `s = "()[]{}" → True`
3. `s = "]" → False`
4. `s = "([)]" → False`
5. `s = "{[]}" → True`

Constraints:

- The length of `s` can be up to 10^5 characters.
- `s` may contain only the characters `(){}[]`.

Starter Template:

```
def is_balanced(s: str) -> bool:
    """
    Return True if the string s is a valid sequence of parentheses/brackets.
    Otherwise return False.
    """
    # HINT: Use a stack to store opening brackets.
    # When you see a closing bracket, check if it matches the top of the stack.

    # Your code here
    pass

# Sample test calls:
print(is_balanced("()"))      # Expected True
print(is_balanced "()[]{}")  # Expected True
print(is_balanced("{}"))     # Expected False
print(is_balanced "([)]")    # Expected False
print(is_balanced "{[]}")    # Expected True
```

Challenge: Implement the **stack** operations (push/pop) logically. You'll need to decide how to map closing brackets to matching opening brackets and how to handle mismatches or leftover openings.

2. Treasure Hunt Game Using Queues (30 Points)

Problem:

You are leading a team of adventurers to find treasure on an island represented as a grid. The treasure is hidden at specific locations, and you must direct your team to collect them in the shortest time possible.

Game Rules:

1. The island is represented as a 2D grid of size $n \times n$.
 - 0 represents an empty cell.
 - 1 represents the adventurers' starting point.
 - T represents treasure locations.
 - X represents obstacles.
 2. Adventurers can move **up, down, left, or right**, but they cannot move into obstacles.
 3. Your task is to find the **shortest path** to collect all treasures.
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Example Input/Output:

Grid:

```
[
    [1, 0, 0, T],
    [X, X, 0, T],
    [0, 0, 0, 0],
    [T, 0, X, T]
]
```

Output:

```
# Start at (0, 0), collect all treasures
game = TreasureHunt(grid)
print(game.find_treasures()) # Output: 10 (Shortest time to collect all treasures)
```