n

Grokking the Coding Interview: Patterns for Coding Questions



Pattern: Merge Intervals



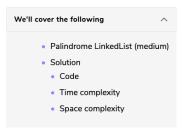
Pattern: Cyclic Sort



Pattern: In-place Reversal of a



Solution Review: Problem Challenge 1



Palindrome LinkedList (medium)

Given the head of a Singly LinkedList, write a method to check if the LinkedList is a palindrome or not.

Your algorithm should use **constant space** and the input LinkedList should be in the original form once the algorithm is finished. The algorithm should have O(N) time complexity where 'N' is the number of nodes in the LinkedList.

Example 1:

```
Input: 2 -> 4 -> 6 -> 4 -> 2 -> null
Output: true
```

Example 2:

```
Input: 2 -> 4 -> 6 -> 4 -> 2 -> 2 -> null
Output: false
```

Solution

As we know, a palindrome LinkedList will have nodes values that read the same backward or forward. This means that if we divide the LinkedList into two halves, the node values of the first half in the forward direction should be similar to the node values of the second half in the backward direction. As we have been given a Singly LinkedList, we can't move in the backward direction. To handle this, we will perform the following steps:

- We can use the Fast & Slow pointers method similar to Middle of the LinkedList to find the middle node
 of the LinkedList.
- $2. \ \,$ Once we have the middle of the LinkedList, we will reverse the second half.
- 3. Then, we will compare the first half with the reversed second half to see if the LinkedList represents a palindrome.
- 4. Finally, we will reverse the second half of the LinkedList again to revert and bring the LinkedList back to its original form.

Code

Here is what our algorithm will look like:

```
Python3
                   ⊘ C++
class ListNode {
 ListNode next;
 ListNode(int value) {
class PalindromicLinkedList {
  public static boolean isPalindrome(ListNode head) {
   if (head == null || head.next == null)
   ListNode slow = head;
   ListNode fast = head;
    while (fast != null && fast.next != null) {
     slow = slow.next:
     fast = fast.next.next;
   ListNode headSecondHalf = reverse(slow); // reverse the second half
    ListNode copyHeadSecondHalf = headSecondHalf; // store the head of reversed part to revert back lat
                                                                               SAVE
                                                                                          RESET
                                                                                                  03
                                                                                             Close
```



