

LeetCode #3: Longest Substring w/o repeating Characters.

• Brute force approach:

$O(N^2)$ { for i in string
 for j in string
 substring = string.substring(i, j+1)
 if has unique chars(substring)
 $O(N)$ { result = max(result, len(substring))

Time complexity = $O(N^2)$

More optimized solution:

Sliding Window Algorithm

• Window (or section) formed over parts of data (in this case parts of the string) we move window over increments of the data.

P W W K E W
 └─ window

• Sliding window is just looking at data incrementally.

ex1.)
0 1 2 3 4 5
P W W K E W
pointers < j

Max = 0

set = []

length of window is $i - j + 1$

• move i pointer first

• check if letters are in set.

• j moves if you find duplicate.

• max keeps track of length of substring w/ no repeating char.

• Set keeps track of unique char in substring window.

• When i is greater than string length, return Max

leet code #3: length of longest substring continued.

- return an int.
- first: check if our input is valid
 - if its null or empty, we know there's no substring; return 0.
 - Initialize values i, j, max, set.
 - Set = new HashSet.
- next, we know we need to move pointers, starting w/ i.
 - extract char at i pointer position.
 - this where sliding window comes in.
 - we need to check if `CharAt(i)` is already in set.
 - if set contains char "c", remove the char that j is pointing to from the set.
- when we come out of loop we know that char c is not in our set.
 - we can do `set.add(c)`

Time complexity is linear. In the worst case i & j have to touch every single char. Algo is technically $O(2N)$, but 2 can be dropped to be $O(N)$.

Space complexity = $O(N)$, where N is the size of our string

Worst case is ~~that~~ all values are unique and set contains whole string.