

Longest Palindromic Substring | Set 1

Given a string, find the longest substring which is palindrome. For example, if the given string is “forgeeksskeegfor”, the output should be “geeksskeeg”.

We strongly recommend that you click here and practice it, before moving on to the solution.

Method 1 (Brute Force)

The simple approach is to check each substring whether the substring is a palindrome or not. We can run three loops, the outer two loops pick all substrings one by one by fixing the corner characters, the inner loop checks whether the picked substring is palindrome or not.

Time complexity: $O(n^3)$

Auxiliary complexity: $O(1)$

Method 2 (Dynamic Programming)

The time complexity can be reduced by storing results of subproblems. The idea is similar to [this post](#). We maintain a boolean table[n][n] that is filled in bottom up manner. The value of table[i][j] is true, if the substring is palindrome, otherwise false. To calculate table[i][j], we first check the value of table[i+1][j-1], if the value is true and str[i] is same as str[j], then we make table[i][j] true. Otherwise, the value of table[i][j] is made false.

```
// A dynamic programming solution for longest palindr.
// This code is adopted from following link
// http://www.leetcode.com/2011/11/longest-palindromic-substring-part-i.html
```

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>
```

```
// A utility function to print a substring str[low..high]
void printSubStr( char* str, int low, int high )
{
    for( int i = low; i <= high; ++i )
        printf("%c", str[i]);
}
```

```
// This function prints the longest palindrome substring
// of str[].
// It also returns the length of the longest palindrome
int longestPalSubstr( char *str )
{
    int n = strlen( str ); // get length of input string

    // table[i][j] will be false if substring str[i..j]
    // is not palindrome.
    // Else table[i][j] will be true
    bool table[n][n];
    memset(table, 0, sizeof(table));

    // All substrings of length 1 are palindromes
    int maxLength = 1;
    for (int i = 0; i < n; ++i)
        table[i][i] = true;

    // check for sub-string of length 2.
    int start = 0;
    for (int i = 0; i < n-1; ++i)
    {
        if (str[i] == str[i+1])
        {
            table[i][i+1] = true;
            start = i;
            maxLength = 2;
        }
    }

    // Check for lengths greater than 2. k is length
    // of substring
    for (int k = 3; k <= n; ++k)
    {
        // Fix the starting index
        for (int i = 0; i < n-k+1; ++i)
        {
            // Get the ending index of substring from
            // starting index i and length k
            int j = i + k - 1;

            // checking for sub-string from ith index to
            // jth index iff str[i+1] to str[j-1] is a
            // palindrome
            if (table[i+1][j-1] && str[i] == str[j])
            {
                table[i][j] = true;

                if (k > maxLength)
                {
                    start = i;
                    maxLength = k;
                }
            }
        }
    }

    printf("Longest palindrome substring is: ");
    printSubStr( str, start, start + maxLength - 1 );

    return maxLength; // return length of LPS
}
```

```
// Driver program to test above functions
int main()
{
    char str[] = "forgeeksskeegfor";
    printf("\nLength is: %d\n", longestPalSubstr( str ) );
    return 0;
}
```

Run on IDE

Output:

```
Longest palindrome substring is: geeksskeeg
Length is: 10
```

Time complexity: $O(n^2)$

Auxiliary Space: $O(n^2)$

We will soon be adding more optimized methods as separate posts.