Best Practices

1. StringBuilder

- **Use when:** You need to perform many string manipulations (e.g., concatenation, insertion) inside a loop or in a performance-sensitive scenario.
- Best Practices:
 - Preferred over String for mutable strings in performance-critical code.
 - Use its append() method instead of concatenation using + for efficiency.
 - Initialize with a reasonable capacity to avoid resizing when the size is known in advance.

2. StringBuffer

- **Use when:** Thread-safety is required while manipulating strings in multi-threaded environments.
- Best Practices:
 - Use StringBuffer for thread-safe string manipulation when synchronization is necessary.
 - Avoid using StringBuffer in single-threaded environments if performance is a concern, as it's slower than StringBuilder.

3. FileReader

- Use when: You need to read character files (text files) efficiently.
- Best Practices:
 - Always wrap FileReader with a BufferedReader for better performance when reading lines.
 - Handle IOExceptions properly.
 - Use FileReader for small files; for larger files, consider using streams like FileInputStream.

4. InputStreamReader

- **Use when:** You need to convert byte streams into character streams (e.g., reading from non-text files or working with encodings).
- Best Practices:
 - Wrap InputStreamReader with BufferedReader to enhance performance.
 - Always specify the correct charset to avoid encoding issues, especially for non-ASCII text.
 - o Always close the reader using **try-with-resources** to avoid resource leakage.

5. Linear Search

- **Use when:** Data is unsorted or small-sized, or when simplicity is preferred over performance.
- Best Practices:
 - Return early: If the element is found, return immediately to avoid unnecessary checks.
 - Avoid using linear search on large data sets; consider binary search or hash-based approaches if performance is critical.

6. Binary Search

- Use when: Data is already sorted, and you need an efficient search method.
- Best Practices:
 - Ensure the list is **sorted** before using binary search.
 - Use recursive or iterative approaches as needed (iterative is generally preferred for better performance).
 - Always check for index bounds to avoid ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException.
 - o Implement binary search carefully, ensuring the middle index calculation avoids overflow: mid = low + (high - low) / 2 instead of mid = (low + high) / 2.

Problem Statements

StringBuilder Problem 1: Reverse a String Using StringBuilder

Problem:

Write a program that uses **StringBuilder** to reverse a given string. For example, if the input is "hello", the output should be "olleh".

Approach:

- 1. Create a new StringBuilder object.
- Append the string to the StringBuilder.
- 3. Use the reverse() method of StringBuilder to reverse the string.
- 4. Convert the StringBuilder back to a string and return it.

```
Sol:
```

```
import java.util.Scanner;
public class Main {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Scanner sc = new Scanner(System.in);
        System.out.println("Enter a string:");
        String input = sc.nextLine();
        StringBuilder sb = new StringBuilder();
        sb.append(input);
        sb.reverse();
        String reversed = sb.toString();
        System.out.println("Reversed string: " + reversed);
    }
}
```

StringBuilder Problem 2: Remove Duplicates from a String Using StringBuilder

Problem:

Write a program that uses **StringBuilder** to remove all duplicate characters from a given string while maintaining the original order.

Approach:

- 1. Initialize an empty StringBuilder and a HashSet to keep track of characters.
- 2. Iterate over each character in the string:

- If the character is not in the HashSet, append it to the StringBuilder and add it to the HashSet.
- 3. Return the StringBuilder as a string without duplicates.

```
Sol:
import java.util.Scanner;
import java.util.HashSet;
public class Main {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
     Scanner sc = new Scanner(System.in);
     System.out.println("Enter a string:");
     String input = sc.nextLine();
     StringBuilder sb = new StringBuilder();
     HashSet<Character> seen = new HashSet<>();
     for (int i = 0; i < input.length(); i++) {
       char ch = input.charAt(i);
       if (!seen.contains(ch)) {
          sb.append(ch);
          seen.add(ch);
       }
     System.out.println("String after removing duplicates: " + sb.toString());
  }
}
```

StringBuffer Problem 1: Concatenate Strings Efficiently Using StringBuffer

Problem:

You are given an array of strings. Write a program that uses **StringBuffer** to concatenate all the strings in the array efficiently.

Approach:

- 1. Create a new StringBuffer object.
- 2. Iterate through each string in the array and append it to the StringBuffer.
- 3. Return the concatenated string after the loop finishes.
- 4. Using StringBuffer ensures efficient string concatenation due to its mutable nature.

```
public class Main {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
     String[] words = {"Hello", "World", "From", "Java"};
```

```
StringBuffer sb = new StringBuffer();
for (int i = 0; i < words.length; i++) {
    sb.append(words[i]);
    if (i < words.length - 1) {
        sb.append(" ");
    }
}
String result = sb.toString();
System.out.println(result);
}</pre>
```

StringBuffer Problem 2: Compare StringBuffer with StringBuilder for String Concatenation

Problem:

Write a program that compares the performance of **StringBuffer** and **StringBuilder** for concatenating strings. For large datasets (e.g., concatenating 1 million strings), compare the execution time of both classes.

Approach:

- 1. Initialize two StringBuffer and StringBuilder objects.
- Perform string concatenation in both objects, appending 1 million strings (e.g., "hello").
- 3. Measure the time taken to complete the concatenation using System.nanoTime() for both StringBuffer and StringBuilder.
- 4. Output the time taken by both classes for comparison.

```
public class Main {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    int iterations = 1000000;
  long startTime1 = System.nanoTime();
    StringBuffer stringBuffer = new StringBuffer();
  for (int i = 0; i < iterations; i++) {
      stringBuffer.append("hello");
    }
  long endTime1 = System.nanoTime();
  long durationBuffer = endTime1 - startTime1;
  long startTime2 = System.nanoTime();
    StringBuilder stringBuilder = new StringBuilder();
  for (int i = 0; i < iterations; i++) {</pre>
```

```
stringBuilder.append("hello");
}
long endTime2 = System.nanoTime();
long durationBuilder = endTime2 - startTime2;
System.out.println("Time taken by StringBuffer: " + durationBuffer + " ns");
System.out.println("Time taken by StringBuilder: " + durationBuilder + " ns");
}
```

FileReader Problem 1: Read a File Line by Line Using FileReader

Problem:

Write a program that uses **FileReader** to read a text file line by line and print each line to the console.

Approach:

- 1. Create a FileReader object to read from the file.
- 2. Wrap the FileReader in a BufferedReader to read lines efficiently.
- 3. Use a loop to read each line using the readLine() method and print it to the console.
- 4. Close the file after reading all the lines.

```
import java.io.FileReader;
import java.io.BufferedReader;
import java.io.IOException;
public class Main {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
     BufferedReader reader = null;
     try {
       FileReader fileReader = new FileReader("input.txt");
       reader = new BufferedReader(fileReader);
       String line:
       while ((line = reader.readLine()) != null) {
          System.out.println(line);
       }
     } catch (IOException e) {
       System.out.println("An error occurred while reading the file.");
       e.printStackTrace();
     } finally {
       try {
          if (reader != null) {
             reader.close();
```

```
}
} catch (IOException e) {
    System.out.println("An error occurred while closing the file.");
    e.printStackTrace();
}
}
}
```

FileReader Problem 2: Count the Occurrence of a Word in a File Using FileReader

Problem:

Write a program that uses **FileReader** and **BufferedReader** to read a file and count how many times a specific word appears in the file.

Approach:

- 1. Create a FileReader to read from the file and wrap it in a BufferedReader.
- 2. Initialize a counter variable to keep track of word occurrences.
- 3. For each line in the file, split it into words and check if the target word exists.
- 4. Increment the counter each time the word is found.
- 5. Print the final count.

```
import java.io.FileReader;
import java.io.BufferedReader;
import java.io.IOException;
public class Main {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
     BufferedReader reader = null;
     try {
       FileReader fileReader = new FileReader("input.txt");
       reader = new BufferedReader(fileReader);
       String targetWord = "java";
       int count = 0;
       String line;
       while ((line = reader.readLine()) != null) {
          String[] words = line.split("\\s+");
          for (String word : words) {
             if (word.equals(targetWord)) {
               count++;
            }
```

```
}
       }
        System.out.println("The word \"" + targetWord + "\" appears " + count + " times in the
file.");
     } catch (IOException e) {
        System.out.println("An error occurred while reading the file.");
        e.printStackTrace();
     } finally {
       try {
          if (reader != null) {
             reader.close();
        } catch (IOException e) {
          System.out.println("An error occurred while closing the file.");
          e.printStackTrace();
       }
     }
  }
}
```

InputStreamReader Problem 1: Convert Byte Stream to Character Stream Using InputStreamReader

Problem:

Write a program that uses **InputStreamReader** to read binary data from a file and print it as characters. The file contains data encoded in a specific charset (e.g., UTF-8).

Approach:

- 1. Create a FileInputStream object to read the binary data from the file.
- 2. Wrap the FileInputStream in an InputStreamReader to convert the byte stream into a character stream.
- 3. Use a BufferedReader to read characters efficiently from the InputStreamReader.
- 4. Read the file line by line and print the characters to the console.
- 5. Handle any encoding exceptions as needed.

```
import java.io.FileInputStream;
import java.io.InputStreamReader;
import java.io.BufferedReader;
import java.io.IOException;
public class Main {
   public static void main(String[] args) {
```

```
BufferedReader reader = null;
     try {
       FileInputStream fileInputStream = new FileInputStream("input.txt");
       InputStreamReader inputStreamReader = new InputStreamReader(fileInputStream,
"UTF-8");
       reader = new BufferedReader(inputStreamReader);
       String line;
       while ((line = reader.readLine()) != null) {
          System.out.println(line);
       }
     } catch (IOException e) {
       System.out.println("An error occurred while reading the file.");
       e.printStackTrace();
     } finally {
       try {
          if (reader != null) {
             reader.close();
          }
       } catch (IOException e) {
          System.out.println("An error occurred while closing the file.");
          e.printStackTrace();
       }
     }
  }
```

InputStreamReader Problem 2: Read User Input and Write to File Using InputStreamReader

Problem:

Write a program that uses **InputStreamReader** to read user input from the console and write the input to a file. Each input should be written as a new line in the file.

Approach:

- Create an InputStreamReader to read from System.in (the console).
- Wrap the InputStreamReader in a BufferedReader for efficient reading.
- 3. Create a FileWriter to write to the file.
- 4. Read user input using readLine() and write the input to the file.
- 5. Repeat the process until the user enters "exit" to stop inputting.
- Close the file after the input is finished.

```
import java.io.InputStreamReader;
import java.io.BufferedReader;
import java.io.FileWriter;
import java.io.IOException;
public class Main {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
     BufferedReader reader = null;
     FileWriter writer = null;
     try {
       InputStreamReader inputStreamReader = new InputStreamReader(System.in);
       reader = new BufferedReader(inputStreamReader);
       writer = new FileWriter("output.txt");
       String line;
       while (true) {
          line = reader.readLine();
          if (line.equalsIgnoreCase("exit")) {
             break;
          }
          writer.write(line + System.lineSeparator());
       System.out.println("Input has been written to the file.");
     } catch (IOException e) {
       System.out.println("An error occurred.");
       e.printStackTrace();
     } finally {
       try {
          if (reader != null) {
             reader.close();
          if (writer != null) {
             writer.close();
       } catch (IOException e) {
          System.out.println("An error occurred while closing the resources.");
          e.printStackTrace();
       }
    }
}
```

Challenge Problem: Compare StringBuilder, StringBuffer, FileReader, and InputStreamReader

Problem:

Write a program that:

- 1. Uses **StringBuilder** and **StringBuffer** to concatenate a list of strings 1,000,000 times.
- 2. Uses **FileReader** and **InputStreamReader** to read a large file (e.g., 100MB) and print the number of words in the file.

Approach:

1. StringBuilder and StringBuffer:

- Create a list of strings (e.g., "hello").
- Concatenate the strings 1,000,000 times using both StringBuilder and StringBuffer.
- Measure and compare the time taken for each.

2. FileReader and InputStreamReader:

- o Read a large text file (100MB) using FileReader and InputStreamReader.
- Count the number of words by splitting the text on whitespace characters.
- o Print the word count and compare the time taken for reading the file.

```
import java.io.FileReader;
import java.io.InputStreamReader;
import java.io.BufferedReader;
import java.io.IOException;
public class Main {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
     long startTime, endTime;
     String word = "hello";
     startTime = System.currentTimeMillis();
     StringBuilder sb = new StringBuilder();
     for (int i = 0; i < 1000000; i++) {
       sb.append(word);
     endTime = System.currentTimeMillis();
     System.out.println("StringBuilder time: " + (endTime - startTime) + " ms");
     startTime = System.currentTimeMillis();
     StringBuffer sbf = new StringBuffer();
     for (int i = 0; i < 1000000; i++) {
       sbf.append(word);
     }
     endTime = System.currentTimeMillis();
     System.out.println("StringBuffer time: " + (endTime - startTime) + " ms");
     BufferedReader reader = null;
     try {
```

```
startTime = System.currentTimeMillis();
       FileReader fileReader = new FileReader("largefile.txt");
       reader = new BufferedReader(fileReader);
       int wordCount = 0;
       String line;
       while ((line = reader.readLine()) != null) {
          String[] words = line.split("\\s+");
          wordCount += words.length;
       }
       endTime = System.currentTimeMillis();
       System.out.println("FileReader word count: " + wordCount);
       System.out.println("FileReader time: " + (endTime - startTime) + " ms");
     } catch (IOException e) {
       e.printStackTrace();
     } finally {
       try {
          if (reader != null) {
            reader.close();
       } catch (IOException e) {
          e.printStackTrace();
       }
     reader = null;
     try {
       startTime = System.currentTimeMillis();
       InputStreamReader inputStreamReader = new InputStreamReader(new
FileReader("largefile.txt"), "UTF-8");
       reader = new BufferedReader(inputStreamReader);
       int wordCount = 0;
       String line;
       while ((line = reader.readLine()) != null) {
          String[] words = line.split("\\s+");
          wordCount += words.length;
       }
       endTime = System.currentTimeMillis();
       System.out.println("InputStreamReader word count: " + wordCount);
       System.out.println("InputStreamReader time: " + (endTime - startTime) + " ms");
     } catch (IOException e) {
       e.printStackTrace();
     } finally {
       try {
          if (reader != null) {
            reader.close();
```

Linear Search Problem 1: Search for the First Negative Number

Problem:

You are given an integer array. Write a program that performs **Linear Search** to find the **first negative number** in the array. If a negative number is found, return its index. If no negative number is found, return -1.

Approach:

- 1. Iterate through the array from the start.
- 2. Check if the current element is negative.
- 3. If a negative number is found, return its index.
- 4. If the loop completes without finding a negative number, return -1.

```
import java.util.Scanner;
public class Main {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    Scanner sc = new Scanner(System.in);
    int n = sc.nextInt();
    int[] arr = new int[n];
    for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
        arr[i] = sc.nextInt();
    }
    int index = -1;
    for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
        if (arr[i] < 0) {</pre>
```

```
index = i;
break;
}

System.out.println(index);
}
```

Linear Search Problem 2: Search for a Specific Word in a List of Sentences

Problem:

You are given an array of sentences (strings). Write a program that performs **Linear Search** to find the **first sentence** containing a specific word. If the word is found, return the sentence. If no sentence contains the word, return "Not Found".

Approach:

- 1. Iterate through the list of sentences.
- 2. For each sentence, check if it contains the specific word.
- 3. If the word is found, return the current sentence.
- 4. If no sentence contains the word, return "Not Found".

```
import java.util.Scanner;
public class Main {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    Scanner sc = new Scanner(System.in);
    int n = sc.nextInt();
    sc.nextLine();
    String[] sentences = new String[n];
    for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {</pre>
```

```
sentences[i] = sc.nextLine();
}
String word = sc.nextLine();
String result = "Not Found";
for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
    if (sentences[i].contains(word)) {
        result = sentences[i];
        break;
    }
}
System.out.println(result);
}</pre>
```

Binary Search Problem 1: Find the Rotation Point in a Rotated Sorted Array

Problem:

You are given a **rotated sorted array**. Write a program that performs **Binary Search** to find the **index of the smallest element** in the array (the rotation point).

Approach:

- 1. Initialize left as 0 and right as n 1.
- 2. Perform a binary search:
 - Find the middle element mid = (left + right) / 2.
 - If arr[mid] > arr[right], then the smallest element is in the right half, so update left = mid + 1.
 - If arr[mid] < arr[right], the smallest element is in the left half, so update right = mid.
- 3. Continue until left equals right, and then return arr[left] (the rotation point).

```
import java.util.Scanner;
public class Main {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
     Scanner sc = new Scanner(System.in);
     int n = sc.nextInt();
     int[] arr = new int[n];
     for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
        arr[i] = sc.nextInt();
     }
     int left = 0, right = n - 1;
     while (left < right) {
        int mid = (left + right) / 2;
        if (arr[mid] > arr[right]) {
           left = mid + 1;
        } else {
           right = mid;
        }
     }
     System.out.println(left);
  }
}
```

Binary Search Problem 2: Find the Peak Element in an Array

Problem:

A peak element is an element that is **greater than its neighbors**. Write a program that

performs **Binary Search** to find a peak element in an array. If there are multiple peak elements, return any one of them.

Approach:

- 1. Initialize left as 0 and right as n 1.
- 2. Perform a binary search:

```
    Find the middle element mid = (left + right) / 2.
    If arr[mid] > arr[mid - 1] and arr[mid] > arr[mid + 1], arr[mid] is a peak element.
    If arr[mid] < arr[mid - 1], then search the left half, updating right = mid - 1.</li>
    If arr[mid] < arr[mid + 1], then search the right half, updating left =</li>
```

3. Continue until a peak element is found.

mid + 1.

```
Sol:
```

```
import java.util.Scanner;
public class Main {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    Scanner sc = new Scanner(System.in);
    int n = sc.nextInt();
    int[] arr = new int[n];
    for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
        arr[i] = sc.nextInt();
    }
    int left = 0, right = n - 1;
    while (left < right) {
        int mid = (left + right) / 2;
        if (arr[mid] < arr[mid + 1]) {
            left = mid + 1;
        }
}</pre>
```

```
} else {
    right = mid;
}

System.out.println(arr[left]);
}
```

Binary Search Problem 3: Search for a Target Value in a 2D Sorted Matrix

Problem:

You are given a 2D matrix where each row is sorted in ascending order, and the first element of each row is greater than the last element of the previous row. Write a program that performs **Binary Search** to find a target value in the matrix. If the value is found, return true. Otherwise, return false.

Approach:

- 1. Treat the matrix as a **1D array** (flattened version).
- 2. Initialize left as 0 and right as rows * columns 1.
- 3. Perform binary search:
 - Find the middle element index mid = (left + right) / 2.
 - Convert mid to row and column indices using row = mid / numColumns and
 col = mid % numColumns.
 - Compare the middle element with the target:
 - If it matches, return true.
 - If the target is smaller, search the left half by updating right = mid 1
 - If the target is larger, search the right half by updating left = mid + 1.
- 4. If the element is not found, return false.

Sol:

import java.util.Scanner;

```
public class Main {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
     Scanner sc = new Scanner(System.in);
     int rows = sc.nextInt();
     int cols = sc.nextInt();
     int[][] matrix = new int[rows][cols];
     for (int i = 0; i < rows; i++) {
        for (int j = 0; j < cols; j++) {
           matrix[i][j] = sc.nextInt();
        }
     }
     int target = sc.nextInt();
     int left = 0, right = rows * cols - 1;
     boolean found = false;
     while (left <= right) {
        int mid = (left + right) / 2;
        int row = mid / cols, col = mid % cols;
        if (matrix[row][col] == target) {
           found = true;
           break;
        } else if (matrix[row][col] < target) {
           left = mid + 1;
        } else {
           right = mid - 1;
```

```
}

System.out.println(found);
}
```

Binary Search Problem 4: Find the First and Last Occurrence of an Element in a Sorted Array

Problem:

Given a **sorted array** and a target element, write a program that uses **Binary Search** to find the **first and last occurrence** of the target element in the array. If the element is not found, return -1.

Approach:

- 1. Use binary search to find the **first occurrence**:
 - Perform a regular binary search, but if the target is found, continue searching on the left side (right = mid - 1) to find the first occurrence.
- 2. Use binary search to find the **last occurrence**:
 - Similar to finding the first occurrence, but once the target is found, continue searching on the right side (left = mid + 1) to find the last occurrence.
- 3. Return the indices of the first and last occurrence. If not found, return -1.

```
import java.util.Scanner;
public class Main {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    Scanner sc = new Scanner(System.in);
    int n = sc.nextInt();
    int[] arr = new int[n];
    for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {</pre>
```

```
arr[i] = sc.nextInt();
  }
  int target = sc.nextInt();
  int first = findFirstOccurrence(arr, target);
  int last = findLastOccurrence(arr, target);
  System.out.println(first + " " + last);
}
public static int findFirstOccurrence(int[] arr, int target) {
  int left = 0, right = arr.length - 1, result = -1;
  while (left <= right) {
     int mid = (left + right) / 2;
     if (arr[mid] == target) {
        result = mid;
        right = mid - 1;
     } else if (arr[mid] < target) {
        left = mid + 1;
     } else {
        right = mid - 1;
     }
  }
  return result;
}
public static int findLastOccurrence(int[] arr, int target) {
  int left = 0, right = arr.length - 1, result = -1;
```

```
while (left <= right) {
    int mid = (left + right) / 2;
    if (arr[mid] == target) {
        result = mid;
        left = mid + 1;
    } else if (arr[mid] < target) {
        left = mid + 1;
    } else {
        right = mid - 1;
    }
}
return result;
}</pre>
```

Challenge Problem (for both Linear and Binary Search)

Problem:

You are given a list of integers. Write a program that uses **Linear Search** to find the **first** missing positive integer in the list and **Binary Search** to find the **index of a given target** number.

Approach:

- 1. Linear Search for the first missing positive integer:
 - Iterate through the list and mark each number in the list as visited (you can use negative marking or a separate array).
 - o Traverse the array again to find the first positive integer that is not marked.
- 2. Binary Search for the target index:
 - After sorting the array, perform binary search to find the index of the given target number.
 - Return the index if found, otherwise return -1.

```
Sol:
import java.util.Arrays;
import java.util.Scanner;
public class Main {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
     Scanner sc = new Scanner(System.in);
     int n = sc.nextInt();
     int[] arr = new int[n];
     for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
        arr[i] = sc.nextInt();
     }
     int target = sc.nextInt();
     int firstMissingPositive = findFirstMissingPositive(arr);
     System.out.println("First Missing Positive: " + firstMissingPositive);
     Arrays.sort(arr);
     int targetIndex = binarySearch(arr, target);
     System.out.println("Target Index: " + targetIndex);
  }
  public static int findFirstMissingPositive(int[] arr) {
     int n = arr.length;
     for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
        if (arr[i] <= 0) {
          arr[i] = n + 1;
        }
```

```
}
   for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
      int absVal = Math.abs(arr[i]);
      if (absVal \leq n && arr[absVal - 1] \geq 0) {
        arr[absVal - 1] = -arr[absVal - 1];
     }
   }
   for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
      if (arr[i] > 0) {
        return i + 1;
      }
   }
   return n + 1;
}
public static int binarySearch(int[] arr, int target) {
   int left = 0, right = arr.length - 1;
   while (left <= right) {
      int mid = (left + right) / 2;
      if (arr[mid] == target) {
         return mid;
     } else if (arr[mid] < target) {
        left = mid + 1;
      } else {
         right = mid - 1;
```

```
}
return -1;
}
```