

[leetcode.com](https://leetcode.com)

# Sliding Window algorithm template to solve all the Leetcode substring search problem.

10-12 minutes

**Among all leetcode questions, I find that there are at least 5 substring search problem which could be solved by the sliding window algorithm.**

so I sum up the algorithm template here. wish it will help you!

## 1. *the template:*

```
public class Solution {
    public List<Integer>
slidingWindowTemplateByHarryChaoyangHe(String s,
String t) {
        //init a collection or int value to save the
result according the question.
        List<Integer> result = new LinkedList<>();
        if(t.length() > s.length()) return result;

        //create a hashmap to save the Characters of
the target substring.
        //(K, V) = (Character, Frequence of the
Characters)
```

```
        Map<Character, Integer> map = new
HashMap<>();
        for(char c : t.toCharArray()){
            map.put(c, map.getOrDefault(c, 0) + 1);
        }
        //maintain a counter to check whether match
the target string.
        int counter = map.size();//must be the map
size, NOT the string size because the char may be
duplicate.

        //Two Pointers: begin - left pointer of the
window; end - right pointer of the window
        int begin = 0, end = 0;

        //the length of the substring which match the
target string.
        int len = Integer.MAX_VALUE;

        //loop at the beginning of the source string
        while(end < s.length()){

            char c = s.charAt(end);//get a character

            if( map.containsKey(c) ){
                map.put(c, map.get(c)-1);// plus or
minus one

                if(map.get(c) == 0)
counter--;//modify the counter according the
requirement(different condition).
```

```
        }
        end++;

        //increase begin pointer to make it
invalid/valid again
        while(counter == 0 /* counter condition.
different question may have different condition */){

            char tempc = s.charAt(begin);/**be
careful here: choose the char at begin pointer, NOT
the end pointer

            if(map.containsKey(tempc)){
                map.put(tempc, map.get(tempc) +
1);**//plus or minus one
                if(map.get(tempc) > 0)
counter++;**//modify the counter according the
requirement(different condition).
            }

            /* save / update(min/max) the result
if find a target*/
            // result collections or result int
value

            begin++;
        }
    }
    return result;
}
}
```

1. Firstly, here is my sliding solution this question. I will sum up the template below this code.

## 2) the similar questions are:

<https://leetcode.com/problems/minimum-window-substring/>

<https://leetcode.com/problems/longest-substring-without-repeating-characters/>

<https://leetcode.com/problems/substring-with-concatenation-of-all-words/>

<https://leetcode.com/problems/longest-substring-with-at-most-two-distinct-characters/>

<https://leetcode.com/problems/find-all-anagrams-in-a-string/>

## 3) I will give my solution for these questions use the above template one by one

### Minimum-window-substring

<https://leetcode.com/problems/minimum-window-substring/>

```
public class Solution {
    public String minWindow(String s, String t) {
        if(t.length() > s.length()) return "";
        Map<Character, Integer> map = new
HashMap<>();
        for(char c : t.toCharArray()){
            map.put(c, map.getOrDefault(c, 0) + 1);
        }
        int counter = map.size();

        int begin = 0, end = 0;
        int head = 0;
        int len = Integer.MAX_VALUE;
```

```
while(end < s.length()){
    char c = s.charAt(end);
    if( map.containsKey(c) ){
        map.put(c, map.get(c)-1);
        if(map.get(c) == 0) counter--;
    }
    end++;

    while(counter == 0){
        char tempc = s.charAt(begin);
        if(map.containsKey(tempc)){
            map.put(tempc, map.get(tempc) +
1);

            if(map.get(tempc) > 0){
                counter++;
            }
        }
        if(end-begin < len){
            len = end - begin;
            head = begin;
        }
        begin++;
    }

}

if(len == Integer.MAX_VALUE) return "";
return s.substring(head, head+len);
}
```

you may find that I only change a little code above to solve the question "Find All Anagrams in a String":

change

```
        if(end-begin < len){
            len = end - begin;
            head = begin;
        }
```

to

```
        if(end-begin == t.length()){
            result.add(begin);
        }
```

### longest substring without repeating characters

<https://leetcode.com/problems/longest-substring-without-repeating-characters/>

```
public class Solution {
    public int lengthOfLongestSubstring(String s) {
        Map<Character, Integer> map = new
HashMap<>();
        int begin = 0, end = 0, counter = 0, d = 0;

        while (end < s.length()) {
            // > 0 means repeating character
            //if(map[s.charAt(end++)]-- > 0)
counter++;

            char c = s.charAt(end);
            map.put(c, map.getOrDefault(c, 0) + 1);
            if(map.get(c) > 1) counter++;
            end++;
        }
    }
}
```

```
        while (counter > 0) {
            //if (map[s.charAt(begin++)]-- > 1)
counter--;

            char charTemp = s.charAt(begin);
            if (map.get(charTemp) > 1) counter--;
            map.put(charTemp,
map.get(charTemp)-1);
            begin++;
        }
        d = Math.max(d, end - begin);
    }
    return d;
}
}
```

### Longest Substring with At Most Two Distinct Characters

<https://leetcode.com/problems/longest-substring-with-at-most-two-distinct-characters/>

```
public class Solution {
    public int
lengthOfLongestSubstringTwoDistinct(String s) {
        Map<Character,Integer> map = new HashMap<>();
        int start = 0, end = 0, counter = 0, len = 0;
        while(end < s.length()){
            char c = s.charAt(end);
            map.put(c, map.getOrDefault(c, 0) + 1);
            if(map.get(c) == 1) counter++; //new char
            end++;
            while(counter > 2){
```

```
        char cTemp = s.charAt(start);
        map.put(cTemp, map.get(cTemp) - 1);
        if(map.get(cTemp) == 0){
            counter--;
        }
        start++;
    }
    len = Math.max(len, end-start);
}
return len;
}
```

### Substring with Concatenation of All Words

<https://leetcode.com/problems/substring-with-concatenation-of-all-words/>

```
public class Solution {
    public List<Integer> findSubstring(String S,
String[] L) {
        List<Integer> res = new LinkedList<>();
        if (L.length == 0 || S.length() < L.length *
L[0].length()) return res;
        int N = S.length();
        int M = L.length; // *** length
        int w1 = L[0].length();
        Map<String, Integer> map = new HashMap<>(),
curMap = new HashMap<>();
        for (String s : L) {
            if (map.containsKey(s)) map.put(s,
map.get(s) + 1);
```



```
                else                                map.put(s, 1);
            }
            String str = null, tmp = null;
            for (int i = 0; i < wl; i++) {
                int count = 0; // remark: reset count
                int start = i;
                for (int r = i; r + wl <= N; r += wl) {
                    str = S.substring(r, r + wl);
                    if (map.containsKey(str)) {
                        if (curMap.containsKey(str))
                            curMap.put(str, curMap.get(str) + 1);
                        else
                            curMap.put(str, 1);

                        if (curMap.get(str) <=
map.get(str)) count++;
                        while (curMap.get(str) >
map.get(str)) {
                            tmp = S.substring(start,
start + wl);
                            curMap.put(tmp,
curMap.get(tmp) - 1);
                            start += wl;

                            //the same as
https://leetcode.com/problems/longest-substring-
without-repeating-characters/
                            if (curMap.get(tmp) <
map.get(tmp)) count--;

```

```
        }
        if (count == M) {
            res.add(start);
            tmp = S.substring(start,
start + w1);

            curMap.put(tmp,
curMap.get(tmp) - 1);

            start += w1;
            count--;
        }
    }else {
        curMap.clear();
        count = 0;
        start = r + w1;//not contain, so
move the start
    }
}
curMap.clear();
}
return res;
}
}
```

## Find All Anagrams in a String

<https://leetcode.com/problems/find-all-anagrams-in-a-string/>

```
public class Solution {
    public List<Integer> findAnagrams(String s,
String t) {
        List<Integer> result = new LinkedList<>();
        if(t.length() > s.length()) return result;
```

```
        Map<Character, Integer> map = new
HashMap<>();
        for(char c : t.toCharArray()){
            map.put(c, map.getOrDefault(c, 0) + 1);
        }
        int counter = map.size();

        int begin = 0, end = 0;
        int head = 0;
        int len = Integer.MAX_VALUE;

        while(end < s.length()){
            char c = s.charAt(end);
            if( map.containsKey(c) ){
                map.put(c, map.get(c)-1);
                if(map.get(c) == 0) counter--;
            }
            end++;

            while(counter == 0){
                char tempc = s.charAt(begin);
                if(map.containsKey(tempc)){
                    map.put(tempc, map.get(tempc) +
1);

                    if(map.get(tempc) > 0){
                        counter++;
                    }
                }
                if(end-begin == t.length()){
```

```
        result.add(begin);  
    }  
    begin++;  
}  
  
}  
return result;  
}  
}
```