

Problem One: Loops and ASCII Graphics

Write a program that prompts the user for a number between 1 and 9, inclusive, then prints a square of text to the console that looks like this:

```
1****
22***
333**
4444*
55555
```

That is, the output should be an $n \times n$ square, where n was the number that was read. All the elements on or below the main diagonal should be marked with the row number, and all the other elements should be stars.

Problem Two: Array Processing

Write a function that takes as input an array and returns the second-largest element in that array. You should decide what behavior your function should have if there isn't a second-largest element, though it should be consistent with how errors are normally handled in your programming language of choice. Then, determine the big-O time complexity of your solution ($O(\log n)$? $O(n)$? $O(n \log n)$? $O(n^2)$? Something else?)

Problem Three: Linked Lists

Write a function in a programming language of your choice that accepts a linked list as input, then reverses that linked list. If the programming language you choose has a library linked list type (e.g. `std::list` or `ArrayList`), we'd prefer that you not use it and instead create your own type representing a linked list. What is the time complexity of your solution ($O(n)$? $O(n \log n)$? $O(n^2)$? Something else?)

Problem Four: String Algorithms

In a programming language of your choice, write a function that accepts as input two strings, a text string and a pattern string, then returns the index of the first occurrence of the pattern string inside the text string. If the pattern string doesn't appear inside the text string, return an appropriate sentinel value. Although virtually every programming language has some library function that does this (e.g. `strstr`, `string::find`, `String.indexOf`, etc.), we'd like you to implement this function without using those functions. Assuming the text string has length m and the pattern string has length n , what is the time complexity of your solution ($O(m + n)$? $O(m \log n)$? $O(mn)$? $O(m^n)$?)

Problem Five: Binary Search

In a programming language of your choice, write an implementation of binary search. Your implementation should return the index of the key in the array if it exists and an appropriate sentinel otherwise. Make sure your implementation runs in time $O(\log n)$. (Again, many programming languages have an implementation of this function in the standard libraries – `bsearch`, `std::lower_bound`, `Arrays.binarySearch`, etc. – but please refrain from using them.)

Problem Six: Know Your Tools!

Below is a list of common algorithms, data structures, and operations on those data structures. For each data structure, give the name of the implementation of that data structure in your main programming language, then list the names of the methods or functions that implement the specified operations. For each algorithm, figure out what standard library function or method implements that algorithm and briefly show off some code using it.

Not all languages have built-in libraries that perform all of these operations – C is notably lacking in this department, for example – and if that's the case, don't worry about it. However, be sure that you've looked carefully before concluding that there is no standard library that does what you want. Many languages have weird names for common data structures and operations.

- String
 - Search, Reverse
- Dynamic array
 - Append, Insert, Delete
- Hash table
 - Insert, Delete, Contains-Key, Lookup
- Linked List
 - Append, Prepend, Insert, Delete, Split, Splice
- Stack
 - Push, Pop, Is Empty
- Queue
 - Enqueue, Dequeue, Is Empty
- Priority Queue
 - Enqueue, Dequeue, Is Empty
- Balanced binary search tree
 - Insert, Delete, Contains-Key, Lookup
- Binary search
- Some fast sorting algorithm (quicksort, heapsort, etc.)

Problem Seven: Data Structures

Implement a dynamic array (similar to `std::vector` or `ArrayList`) in a language of your choice. Feel free to have your dynamic array only store elements of some fixed type if that makes your life a bit easier. What is the big-O time complexity of each of the operations?

Problem Eight: Regular Expressions

Write a function that takes as input a string containing the full text of a webpage and returns a list of all the US phone numbers in that webpage. Make reasonable guesses for what the format of those phone numbers will be. Your function should have appropriate behavior in the event that the file cannot be opened.

Problem Nine: Binary Representations

Write a function in a programming language of your choice that accepts as input a non-negative integer, then reports how many 1's are in the binary representation of that number.

Problem Ten: Object Orientation*

1. What's the difference between a class and an object?
2. What is meant by the term “encapsulation?” What language features support it?
3. What is a constructor? What is a destructor (or finalizer)? What should they do?
4. What is a static method? How is it different from a nonstatic method?
5. What is overriding? How does a language of your choice support overriding?
6. What is an abstract class? How do you declare an abstract class?
7. What is an interface? How does it differ from a class?

* Based on a list of questions from <https://sites.google.com/site/steveyegge2/five-essential-phone-screen-questions>.