

Freshmen Programming Contests 2024

Solutions presentation

By the Freshmen Programming Contests 2024 jury for:

- AAPJE in Amsterdam
- FPC in Delft
- FYPC in Eindhoven
- GAPC in Groningen

May 4, 2024



D: Dragged-out Duel

Problem author: Wietze Koops



- **Problem:** Read two lines, comprised of 'R', 'P', and 'S', and determine who wins the most games.

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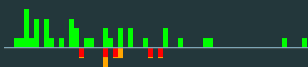
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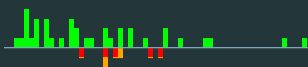
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Statistics: 45 submissions, 37 accepted

B: Building Pyramids

Problem author: Maarten Sijm



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- **Solution:** Simplify $T(t) = \frac{t \cdot (t+1)}{2}$. Now calculating $P(n)$ runs in $\mathcal{O}(n)$, accepted!

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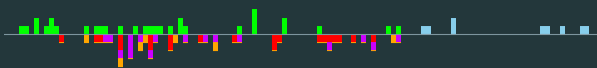


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Statistics: 75 submissions, 36 accepted, 1 unknown

F: Flag Rotation

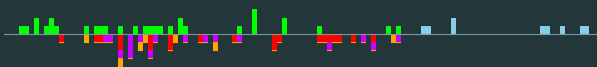
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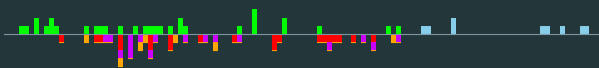
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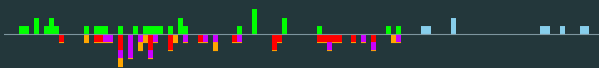
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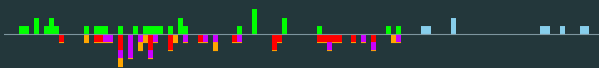
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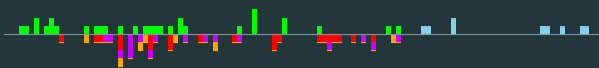
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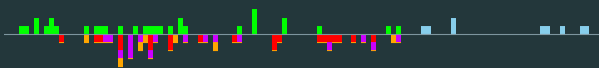
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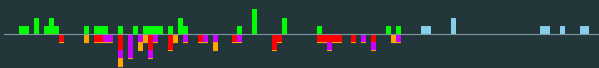
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Statistics: 85 submissions, 31 accepted, 9 unknown

E: European Election

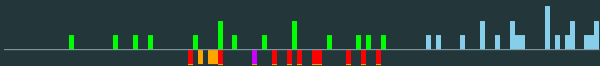
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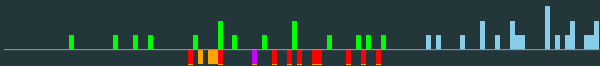
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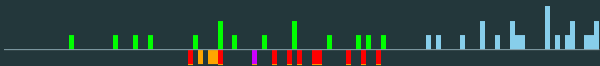
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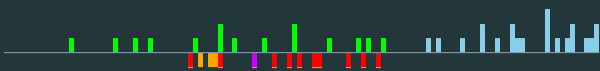
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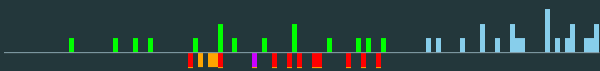
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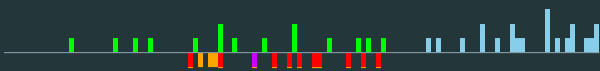
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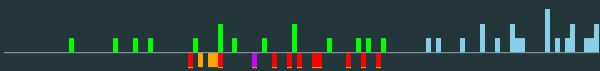
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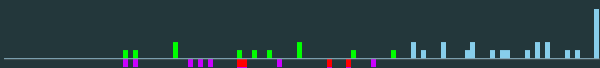


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Statistics: 50 submissions, 15 accepted, 21 unknown

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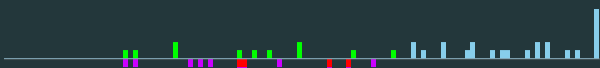
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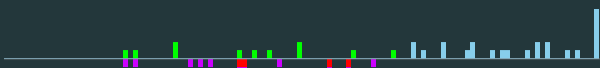
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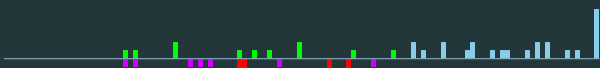
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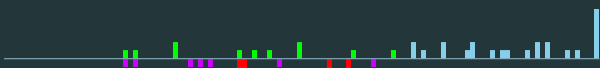
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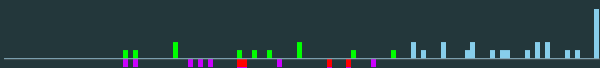
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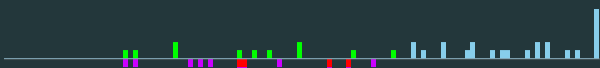
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 - Decrement $c_{v_{old}}$.
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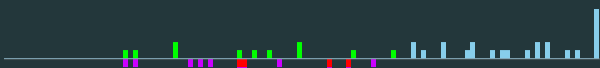
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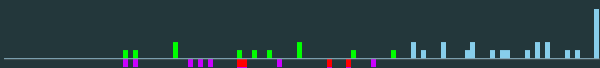
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- **Problem:** Calculate the value of the function `sum`, which uses values instead of indices.
- **Naive solution:** Simply run the function after every update. This takes $\mathcal{O}(n \cdot q)$ time, too slow!
- **Observation:** To be fast enough, every query must be processed in $\mathcal{O}(1)$.
- **Solution:** Do some extra bookkeeping:
 - Count how often every value occurs in the initial array ($= c_x$ for every $0 \leq x < n$).
 - Calculate the value of `sum` for the initial array and store this.
 - For every update (x, v) (let the old value in the array be v_{old}):
 - Decrement $c_{v_{old}}$.
 - Subtract $c_x \cdot v_{old} + a_{v_{old}}$ and add $c_x \cdot v + a_v$ to the stored value of `sum`.
 - Increment c_v .
 - Update the value in the array.
- **Complexity:** $\mathcal{O}(n + q)$.
- **Pitfall:** Beware of `int` overflow, be sure to use 64-bit integers!

H: Horrendous Mistake

Problem author: Jeroen Op de Beek

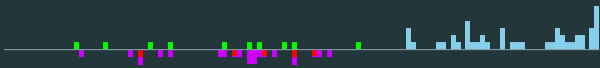


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Statistics: 46 submissions, 11 accepted, 24 unknown

I: Intelligence Exploration

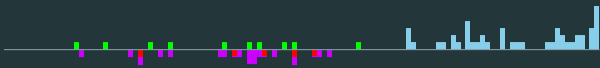
Problem author: Makar Kuleshov



- **Problem:** Calculate the value of the implication $a_l \rightarrow a_{l+1} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow a_r$ for many subarrays.

I: Intelligence Exploration

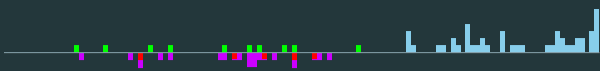
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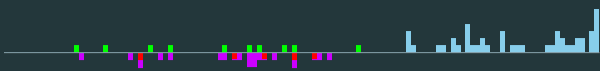
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I: Intelligence Exploration

Problem author: Makar Kuleshov

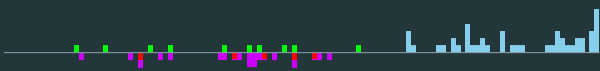


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$$a_l \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow 1 = 1$$

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Problem author: Makar Kuleshov

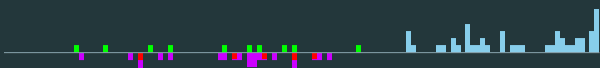


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Problem author: Makar Kuleshov

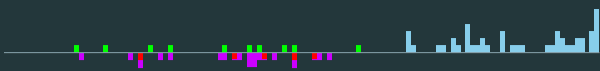


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Problem author: Makar Kuleshov

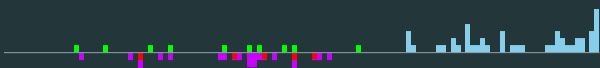


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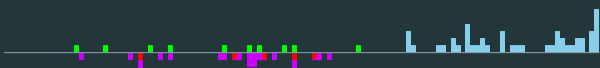
$$a_l \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow \underbrace{0 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow 0}_{k \text{ zeros}}$$

If k is even then the result equals 1.

If k is odd then the result equals 0.

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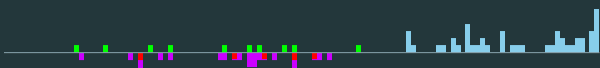
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- **Solution:** For each position precompute the index of the last 1 appearing not after it. This way you can determine the number of zeros in the end of a subarray in $\mathcal{O}(1)$.

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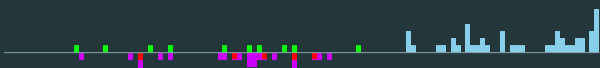
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Statistics: 78 submissions, 10 accepted, 46 unknown

A: Annoying Alliterations

Problem author: Maciek Sidor



- **Problem:** Given n words, find a pair such that after their common prefix is removed, the sum of lengths of the two resulting words is the greatest.

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- **Problem:** Given n words, find a pair such that after their common prefix is removed, the sum of lengths of the two resulting words is the greatest.
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- **Claim:** For a given pair s, t and a third word v such that $|v| \geq \max(|s|, |t|)$, we can always replace one of the words and the score will not decrease.

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- **Claim:** For a given pair s, t and a third word v such that $|v| \geq \max(|s|, |t|)$, we can always replace one of the words and the score will not decrease.
- **Proof:** Denote the common prefix of s, t as $p(s, t)$ and let $g(s, t) = |s| + |t| - 2|p(s, t)|$ be our goodness function.

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- Suppose $g(s, t) > g(s, v)$ and $g(s, t) > g(v, t)$. Then:

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$$|p(s, v)| > |p(s, t)|$$

- Similarly, $|p(v, t)| > |p(s, t)|$, but these two together give us a contradiction. \square

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- **Claim:** For a given pair s, t and a third word v such that $|v| \geq \max(|s|, |t|)$, we can always replace one of the words and the score will not decrease.
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- **Solution:** Pick any word of maximum length and check it with every other word, take the maximum result.

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- **Complexity:** $\mathcal{O}(n)$.

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- **Complexity:** $\mathcal{O}(n)$.
- **Note:** Can also be solved using a trie (also known as a prefix tree).

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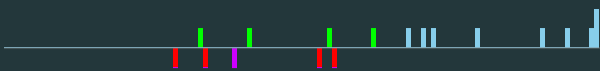


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Statistics: 58 submissions, 7 accepted, 20 unknown

J: Jailbreak

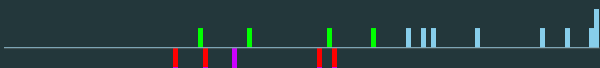
Problem author: Wietze Koops



- **Problem:** Escape from a $w \times h$ grid jail where you can go up only if you have a ladder. Ladders can be carried to a different place on the same storey.
- **Observation:** If we know to which holes a ladder can be carried, then for each cell, we know which cell we can move to.

J: Jailbreak

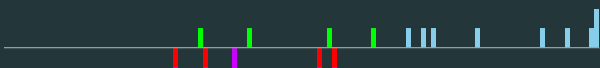
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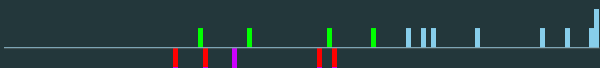
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 - Hence, we can define a graph representing the grid.

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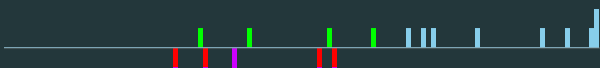
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 - Determining whether a path exists from the starting cell to an exit can be done using $\mathcal{O}(wh)$ BFS/DFS.

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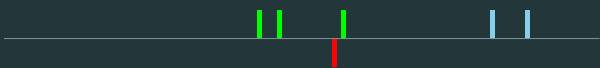


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Statistics: 18 submissions, 4 accepted, 9 unknown

C: Curious Jury

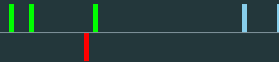
Problem author: Jeroen Op de Beek



- **Problem:** Given two types of penalty times for n teams ($1 \leq l_i < s_i \leq n$), find out over all ways of choosing the type of penalty time for each team, how many fixed points the scoreboard contains in total.

C: Curious Jury

Problem author: Jeroen Op de Beek



- **Problem:** Given two types of penalty times for n teams ($1 \leq l_i < s_i \leq n$), find out over all ways of choosing the type of penalty time for each team, how many fixed points the scoreboard contains in total.
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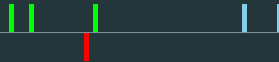
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- **Observation 3:** Other teams form 3 groups:
 - **A** Teams with $l_j < f, s_j < f$
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C: Curious Jury

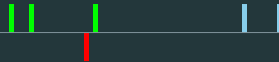
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 - **B** Teams with $l_j < f, s_j \geq f$
 - **C** Teams with $l_j \geq f, s_j \geq f$
- **Observation 4:** The number of ways to choose the other submission times, for team i to have a fixed point at rank f : $2^{|A|+|C|} \cdot \binom{|B|}{f-|A|}$

C: Curious Jury

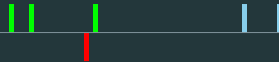
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- **Observation 1:** Instead of finding fixed points for each out of 2^n options, find how many times team i is a fixed point.
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- **Observation 3:** Other teams form 3 groups:
 - **A** Teams with $l_j < f, s_j < f$
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- Otherwise, team j is in **B**. By sorting the l_j and s_j arrays, $|A|$ and $|C|$ can be found by binary search.

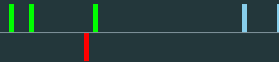
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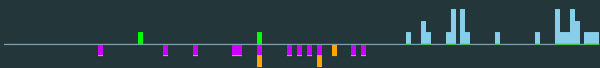
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Statistics: 6 submissions, 3 accepted, 2 unknown

K: Kangaroo Race

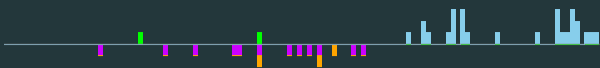
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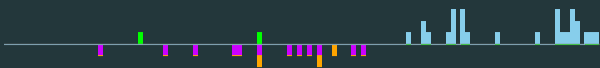
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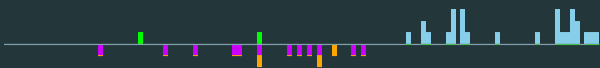
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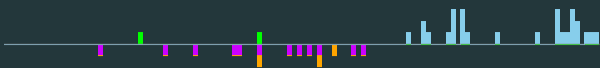
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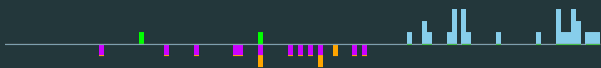
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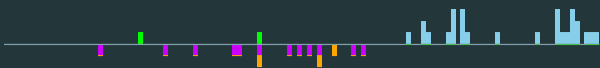
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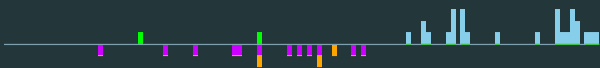
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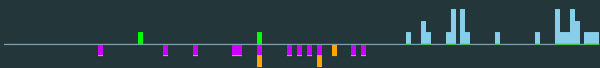


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- Notice that the powers of x repeat every r -th power:

$$1, x, x^2, x^3, \dots, x^{r-1}, x^r = 1, x^{r+1} = x, x^2, x^3, \dots$$

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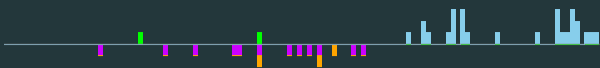
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- Therefore, any i that satisfies $x^{2^i} \equiv 1 \pmod n$ also satisfies $2^i \equiv 0 \pmod r$.

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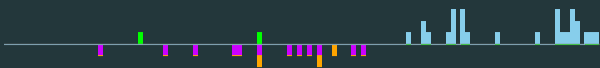
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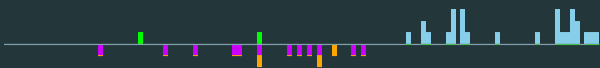
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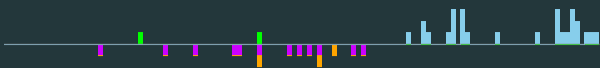
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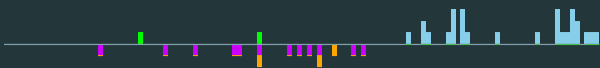
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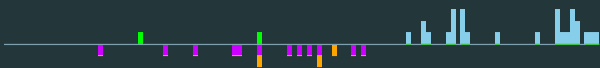
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Statistics: 44 submissions, 2 accepted, 27 unknown

G: Galactic Expedition

Problem author: Veselin Mitev

- **Problem:** Navigate between wormholes to find the ancient relic, without running out of fuel.

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- If we know all wormholes, it is guaranteed that we can reach the relic, if we follow an optimal path.

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- If we know all wormholes, it is guaranteed that we can reach the relic, if we follow an optimal path.
- **Time Complexity:** $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$ or $\mathcal{O}(n^3 \log n)$. Or if you're clever about how you cache the results from the Dijkstra search algorithm you can do it in $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ or $\mathcal{O}(n^2 \log n)$.

G: Galactic Expedition

Problem author: Veselin Mitev

- **Problem:** Navigate between wormholes to find the ancient relic, without running out of fuel.
- **Observation:** You can refuel more than enough times to simply explore all wormholes, until you find a way to reach the relic.
- **Solution:** Perform a “live” search – explore the wormholes while always keeping enough fuel ($\frac{d}{2}$) to go back to home base:
 - If you can reach the relic within the fuel limit, do that.
 - Find the closest unexplored wormhole:
 - You can do that using **Dijkstra**, or **Floyd-Warshall**.
 - Can we reach it while still having enough fuel to go back to home base?
 - If yes: Go to that wormhole and update the distances between the points.
 - If no: Go back to home base and refuel.
 - Repeat.
- Worst case: We can explore all wormholes in $\frac{n}{2}$ runs.
- If we know all wormholes, it is guaranteed that we can reach the relic, if we follow an optimal path.
- **Time Complexity:** $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$ or $\mathcal{O}(n^3 \log n)$. Or if you're clever about how you cache the results from the Dijkstra search algorithm you can do it in $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ or $\mathcal{O}(n^2 \log n)$.

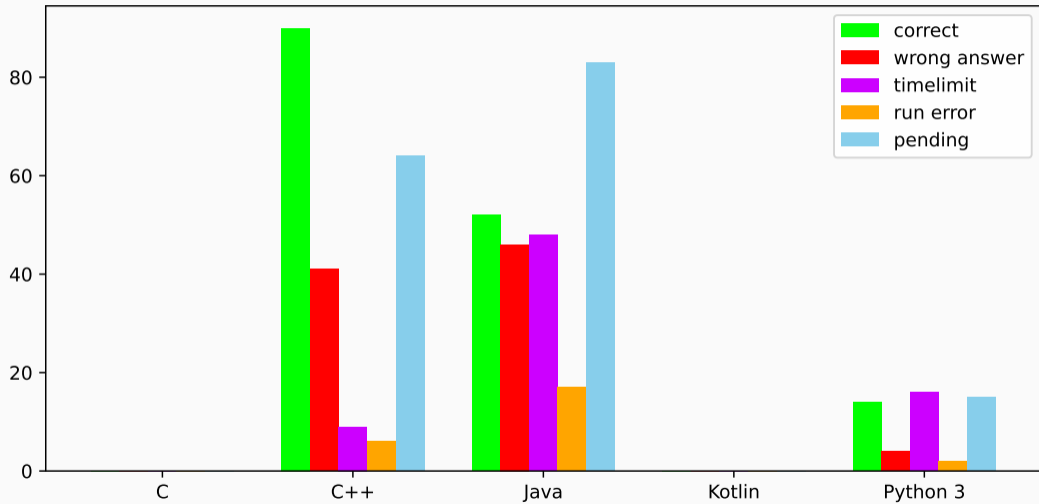
Statistics: 3 submissions, 0 accepted, 3 unknown

Want to solve the problems you could not finish?
Or have friends that like to solve algorithmic problems?

<https://fpcs2024.bapc.eu/>

Friday 10 May 2024 13:00–17:00

Language stats



Jury work

- 448 commits (last year: 361)

¹After codegolfing

Jury work

- 448 commits (last year: 361)
- 357 secret test cases (last year: 339)

¹After codegolfing

Jury work

- 448 commits (last year: 361)
- 357 secret test cases (last year: 339)
- 120 accepted jury/proofreader solutions (last year: 96)

¹After codegolfing

Jury work

- 448 commits (last year: 361)
- 357 secret test cases (last year: 339)
- 120 accepted jury/proofreader solutions (last year: 96)
- The minimum¹ number of lines the jury needed to solve all problems is

$$2 + 1 + 11 + 1 + 5 + 1 + 22 + 5 + 3 + 11 + 4 = 66$$

On average 6.0 lines per problem, down from 6.4 last year

¹After codegolfing

Thanks to the proofreaders:

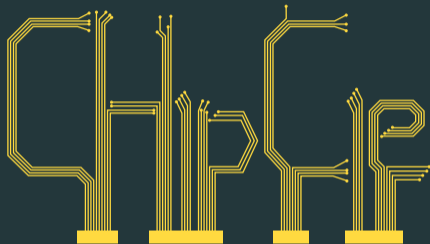
- Arnoud van der Leer (TU Delft)
- Daniel Cortild (RU Groningen)
- Davina van Meer (Delft)
- Henk van der Laan (TU Eindhoven)
- Matei Tinca (VU Amsterdam, 📍)
- Michael Vasseur
(VU Amsterdam / DOMjudge)
- Mylène Martodihardjo (VU Amsterdam)
- Nicky Gerritsen
(TU Eindhoven / DOMjudge)
- Pavel Kunyavskiy
(JetBrains Amsterdam, 🇺🇦 Kotlin Hero 📍)
- Ragnar Groot Koerkamp
(ETH Zürich / NWERC jury)
- Rick Wouters (TU Eindhoven)
- Sièna van Schaick (Radboud Nijmegen)
- Thomas Verwoerd
(TU Delft, 🇺🇦 Kotlin Hero 📍)
- Yoshi van den Akker (TU Delft)

Thanks to the Jury for the Freshmen Programming Contests:

- Angel Karchev (TU Delft)
- Ivan Bliznets (RU Groningen)
- Jeroen Op de Beek (TU Delft)
- Leon van der Waal (TU Delft)
- Maarten Sijm (TU Delft)
- Maciek Sidor (VU Amsterdam)
- Makar Kuleshov (TU Delft)
- Mansur Nurmukhambetov (RU Groningen)
- Tymon Cichocki (TU Delft)
- Veselin Mitev (TU Delft)
- Vitor Greati (RU Groningen)
- Wietze Koops (Radboud Nijmegen / RU Groningen)
- Wiktor Cupiał (TU Delft)



Want to help out with future contests?



<https://wisv.ch/chipcie-interest>

<https://wisv.ch/runner>