

String Cheatsheet

A string is a sequence of characters. Many tips that apply to Arrays also apply to Strings.

Time complexity

A String is an array of characters, so the time complexities of basic string operations will closely resemble that of array operations.

Operation	Big-O
Access	$O(1)$
Search	$O(n)$
Insert	$O(n)$
Remove	$O(n)$

Operations involving another String

Here we assume the other string is of length m .

Operation	Big-O
Find substring	$O(n.m)$
Concatenating strings	$O(n + m)$
Slice	$O(m)$
Split (by token)	$O(n + m)$
Strip (remove leading and trailing whitespaces)	$O(n)$

Things to look out for during interviews

- Ask about input character set and case sensitivity.

Corner cases

- Empty string
- String with 1 or 2 characters

- String with repeated characters
- Strings with only distinct character

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