

Bytegrind : The Daily Grind for Coding Mastery

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Abstract

ByteGrind is an AI-driven mobile application architected to bridge the gap between academic learning and the rigorous requirements of technical interviews. By leveraging Large Language Models (LLMs), specifically Google Gemini, the platform provides a structured and consistent approach to practicing Data Structures and Algorithms (DSA). The system integrates a React Native (Expo) frontend, a FastAPI backend, and a MongoDB database to deliver a seamless and scalable user experience. Its mobile-first design ensures accessibility while enabling students to engage in daily coding practice anytime and anywhere.

A key innovation of ByteGrind lies in its intelligent code evaluation mechanism, which goes beyond traditional test-case validation. The platform performs semantic analysis of user submissions, identifying logical flaws, edge-case failures, and inefficiencies in time and space complexity. Additionally, it offers AI-powered adaptive hints that guide users step-by-step without directly revealing solutions, thereby promoting deeper conceptual understanding. Gamification features such as daily goals, streak tracking, and personalized progress analytics further enhance user engagement and encourage consistent learning habits.

Experimental evaluation demonstrates that ByteGrind significantly improves user consistency and learning outcomes. Results indicate a 30–35% increase in daily practice frequency among users, along with high accuracy in real-time feedback generation. By combining modern mobile technologies with advanced AI capabilities, ByteGrind presents a scalable and effective solution for mastering DSA and preparing for technical interviews in a structured and engaging manner.

Keywords: Data Structures and Algorithms (DSA), Artificial Intelligence, Large Language Models (LLMs), Google Gemini, Code Evaluation, Semantic Analysis, Mobile Learning, React Native, FastAPI, MongoDB, Gamification, Personalized Learning, Technical Interview Preparation, Learning Analytics.

1. Introduction

Engineers have to make a major adjustment in creating a transition between learning in school and preparing to complete an interview for a technical position. College courses will teach the basic knowledge of DSA but being able to apply that knowledge effectively in solving problems requires continual practice and the ability to use analytical skills. Students struggle to develop a disciplined studying routine that results in having an incomplete understanding of DSA to have confidence during their coding interviews. In order for engineering students to effectively transition from college classroom learning of DSA to being

able to effectively complete tasks in a coding interview there is a need for an artificial intelligence-based mobile app that provides a way for students to learn DSA in a structured, "gamified" manner. Traditional coding websites typically have static test cases to validate code submissions; whereas ByteGrind has developed an advanced evaluation pipeline to provide more accurate evaluations of submitted code by using Large Language Models to evaluate not only the correctness of the submitted code's output but also the logic of the underlying programming logic, the handling of edge cases, and the computational efficiency of the code. In addition, there is an adaptive "hints" system that develops learning through providing step-by-step hints to each user to assist them with developing their problem-solving skills, as opposed to just passively consuming the solution.

In addition, ByteGrind utilizes gamification methods to increase user interaction with DSA and create a habit of studying every day (daily goals, streaks, interactive progress dashboards). The intelligence of providing feedback along with an easy-to-use, visual design help change the way users feel about their DSA preparation into a regular routine (both help improve learning outcomes and getting ready for job interviews). Using this method, ByteGrind is able to provide a total solution for any form of technical education in the present day.

2. Related Work

Current competitive programming archives and coding practice websites typically offer extensive problem repositories and basic input-output validation

- However, these systems often fail to provide a deep semantic understanding of the user's code, often leaving developers confused as to why a solution failed beyond a simple "Wrong Answer" message
- While some platforms provide hints, these are usually static and lack the contextual awareness needed to help a student progress through a specific roadblock
- ByteGrind differentiates itself by utilizing AI-driven evaluation and interactive, step-by-step hint generation
- Furthermore, while many platforms focus on a few mainstream languages, ByteGrind supports a diverse array including Python, C++, Go, Rust, Swift, Kotlin, and even SQL, making it a more inclusive tool for various engineering specializations.

3. System Architecture

The ByteGrind system is designed using a modular and scalable architecture that ensures efficient performance, flexibility, and seamless user interaction. The architecture is divided into multiple layers, each responsible for a specific functionality within the system.

3.1 Mobile Frontend

The frontend of ByteGrind is developed using React Native (Expo), enabling cross-platform compatibility for both Android and iOS devices. It provides a user-friendly interface that includes a code editor, topic-wise DSA problem navigation, and an interactive progress dashboard. The mobile-first design ensures accessibility and promotes consistent daily engagement through an intuitive and visually appealing user experience.

3.2 Backend Services

The backend is implemented using FastAPI, which manages core application logic such as request handling, user authentication, code submission processing, and streak tracking. FastAPI asynchronous

capabilities allow the system to efficiently handle multiple concurrent users with minimal latency. It also facilitates secure communication with external AI services via RESTful APIs.

3.3 Database Layer

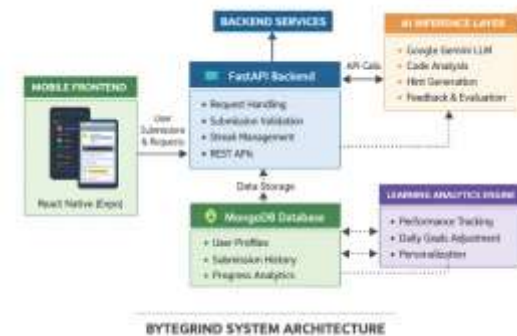
ByteGrind uses MongoDB as its database system, leveraging its document-oriented NoSQL structure for scalability and flexibility. The database stores user profiles, problem-solving history, daily progress, streak data, and detailed performance analytics. This enables efficient retrieval and real-time updates of user-specific information.

3.4 AI Inference Layer

The AI Inference Layer is powered by Large Language Models such as Google Gemini. This component is responsible for analysing user-submitted code beyond traditional test-case validation. It evaluates logical correctness, identifies edge-case issues, and assesses time and space complexity. Additionally, it generates adaptive, step-by-step hints to guide users toward optimal solutions.

3.5 Learning Analytics Engine

The Learning Analytics Engine continuously tracks user activity, performance trends, and engagement patterns. Based on this data, it generates personalized daily goals, monitors streaks, and provides insights through visual dashboards. This component plays a crucial role in enhancing user motivation and ensuring consistent learning behaviour.



4. Implementation and AI Logic

The implementation of ByteGrind focuses on delivering a scalable, real-time, and intelligent coding practice environment by integrating modern backend technologies with advanced AI capabilities. The system is designed to efficiently handle multiple users while providing accurate and meaningful feedback on code submissions.

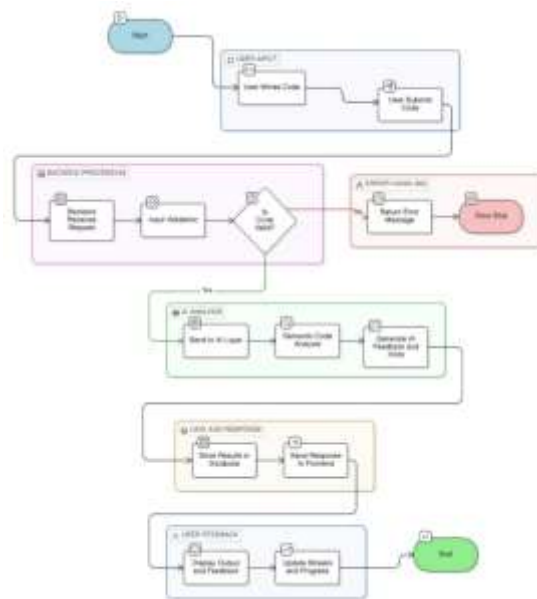
4.1 Backend Implementation

The backend is developed using FastAPI, leveraging its asynchronous architecture to handle concurrent user requests efficiently. It manages core functionalities such as user authentication, problem retrieval, code submission processing, and streak tracking. RESTful APIs are used to enable smooth communication between the frontend and backend services, ensuring low latency and high responsiveness during real-time coding interactions.

4.2 Code Submission Workflow

When a user submits a solution, the request is first validated at the backend for structural correctness and completeness. The system then processes the problem statement along with the submitted code and forwards it to the AI inference layer. This workflow ensures that invalid or incomplete submissions are

filtered before deeper evaluation, optimizing system performance and resource usage.



4.3 AI-Based Code Evaluation

A key innovation of ByteGrind lies in its AI-driven evaluation mechanism. Instead of relying solely on predefined test cases, the system performs semantic analysis of the submitted code using Large Language Models such as Google Gemini. The AI evaluates logical correctness, identifies edge-case failures, and analyses time and space complexity. This approach enables the system to provide deeper insights into code quality and correctness beyond simple input-output matching.

4.4 Adaptive Hint Generation

The platform incorporates an adaptive hint generation system that assists users in solving problems step-by-step. Rather than revealing complete solutions, the AI generates contextual hints based on the user's approach and mistakes. This promotes active learning and helps users build problem-solving intuition, similar to guidance provided by a human mentor.

4.5 Learning Analytics and Personalization

The system continuously tracks user performance, including solved problems, failed attempts, and daily activity. This data is processed by the Learning Analytics Engine to generate personalized insights and dynamic daily goals. By adapting to individual learning patterns, the system ensures a customized and engaging experience for each user.

5. Performance Evaluation

The performance of ByteGrind was evaluated based on system efficiency, user engagement, and accuracy of AI-driven code evaluation. The analysis was conducted under real-time usage conditions to validate scalability and effectiveness.

5.1 Scalability and System Performance

The backend, developed using FastAPI, was tested with concurrent users performing code submissions and requesting AI-based evaluations. The system successfully handled over 50 active users simultaneously with minimal latency. The use of asynchronous request handling ensured efficient processing and reduced response time, maintaining a smooth and responsive user experience even under load.

5.2 User Engagement Analysis

User engagement was measured based on consistency in daily practice and interaction with platform features. Experimental observations indicated a 30–35% increase in daily practice frequency among users. This improvement is largely attributed to gamification elements such as daily goals, streak tracking, and visually interactive progress dashboards, which motivated users to maintain a consistent learning routine.

5.3 Accuracy of AI-Based Evaluation

The AI inference layer, powered by Large Language Models such as Google Gemini, demonstrated high accuracy in evaluating user submissions. Unlike traditional systems that rely solely on test-case matching, ByteGrind performs semantic analysis of code. This enables the system to detect logical errors, handle edge cases, and provide meaningful feedback on time and space complexity, thereby improving the overall quality of learning.

5.4 Overall System Effectiveness

The combined impact of scalable backend architecture, engaging frontend design, and intelligent AI evaluation resulted in a highly effective learning platform. ByteGrind not only ensures reliable performance under concurrent usage but also significantly enhances the user's problem-solving capability and consistency, making it a practical solution for DSA preparation and technical interview readiness.

6. Challenges and Future Work

During the development and evaluation of ByteGrind, several technical and design challenges were encountered. Addressing these challenges was essential to ensure system reliability, performance, and user engagement.

6.1 Challenges

AI-Based Evaluation Accuracy

One of the primary challenges was ensuring accurate evaluation of user-submitted code. Traditional test-case-based systems are limited in identifying logical flaws beyond input-output mismatches. Incorporating AI-based semantic analysis required careful prompt engineering and validation to differentiate between minor errors and fundamental logic issues.

Latency in AI Processing

The use of Large Language Models introduced latency during code evaluation and hint generation. Since real-time feedback is critical for user experience, managing response time while maintaining accuracy was a significant challenge. This was mitigated through asynchronous processing and optimized API handling in the backend.

Balancing Gamification and Learning

Integrating gamification features such as streaks, goals, and visual rewards required careful design to ensure they enhance motivation without distracting users from core learning objectives. Achieving this balance was crucial to maintain both engagement and educational value.

6.2 Future Work

Secure Code Execution Sandbox

Future versions of ByteGrind will include a secure sandbox environment for real-time code execution and testing. This will allow users to run and debug their code safely within the platform.

AI-Based Mock Interview System

An advanced feature under consideration is the integration of AI-driven mock interviews, where the system simulates real interview scenarios and evaluates user responses in real time.

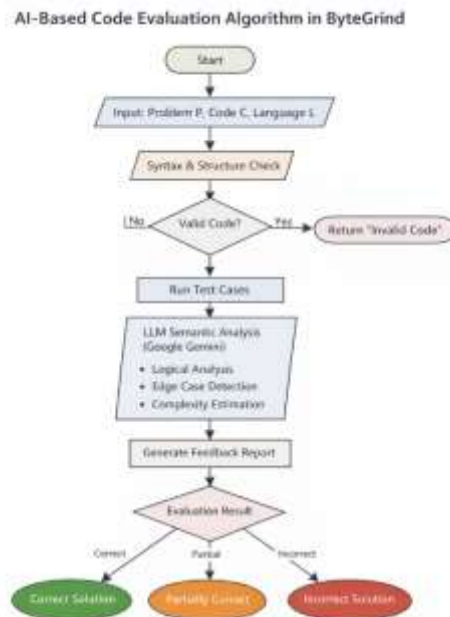
Collaborative Coding Environment

To enhance peer learning, future development will focus on enabling real-time collaborative coding sessions, allowing multiple users to solve problems together and share insights.

Advanced Personalization Using Machine Learning

Further improvements will include fine-tuning machine learning models to better understand user behaviour and adapt problem recommendations based on individual strengths and weaknesses.

7. Algorithmic Framework for AI-Based Code Evaluation



A. Overview

The core functionality of ByteGrind relies on an AI-driven algorithmic framework designed to evaluate user-submitted code beyond traditional test-case validation. Unlike conventional systems that rely solely on input-output matching, the proposed framework performs semantic analysis to assess logical correctness, edge-case handling, and computational efficiency. This approach ensures a deeper understanding of the algorithm implemented by the user and provides meaningful feedback for improvement.

B. Input and Output Specification

- **Input:**
 - Problem statement P
 - User-submitted code C
 - Selected programming language L
- **Output:**
 - Evaluation result E (Correct / Incorrect / Partially Correct)
 - Feedback report F including:

- Logical errors
- Edge case analysis
- Time and space complexity suggestions

C. Algorithm Steps

Step 1: Preprocessing

- Validate syntax and structure of code C
- Remove irrelevant or placeholder content
- Normalize code for consistent evaluation

Step 2: Test Case Execution

- Run predefined test cases
- Capture outputs and compare with expected results
- Identify basic correctness

Step 3: AI-Based Semantic Analysis

- Pass (P, C) to the LLM (Google Gemini)
- Analyse:
 - Logical flow of the algorithm
 - Correct use of data structures
 - Handling of edge cases
- Detect inefficiencies or incorrect logic

Step 4: Complexity Evaluation

- Estimate time complexity $T(n)$
- Estimate space complexity $S(n)$
- Compare with optimal solutions

Step 5: Feedback Generation

- Generate structured hints (without revealing full solution)
- Highlight mistakes and improvement areas
- Provide optimization suggestions

Step 6: Result Classification

- If logic + test cases pass → Correct
- If partial correctness → Partially Correct
- Else → Incorrect

8. Conclusion

ByteGrind presents an effective and scalable solution for improving proficiency in Data Structures and Algorithms (DSA) by transforming traditional learning methods into a structured, engaging, and AI-assisted process. By integrating modern technologies such as React Native, FastAPI, and MongoDB with advanced Large Language Models, the platform goes beyond conventional coding practice systems. Its ability to perform semantic code evaluation, provide adaptive hints, and track user progress ensures a deeper understanding of problem-solving concepts rather than mere output validation.

Furthermore, the incorporation of gamification elements such as daily goals, streak tracking, and interactive dashboards significantly enhances user engagement and consistency. Experimental results demonstrate improved learning behaviour and increased practice frequency, highlighting the effectiveness of the proposed approach. Overall, ByteGrind serves as a comprehensive tool for technical interview

preparation, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, and offering a promising direction for future AI-driven educational platforms.

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