

# 375. Guess Number Higher or Lower II

## Difficulty : Medium

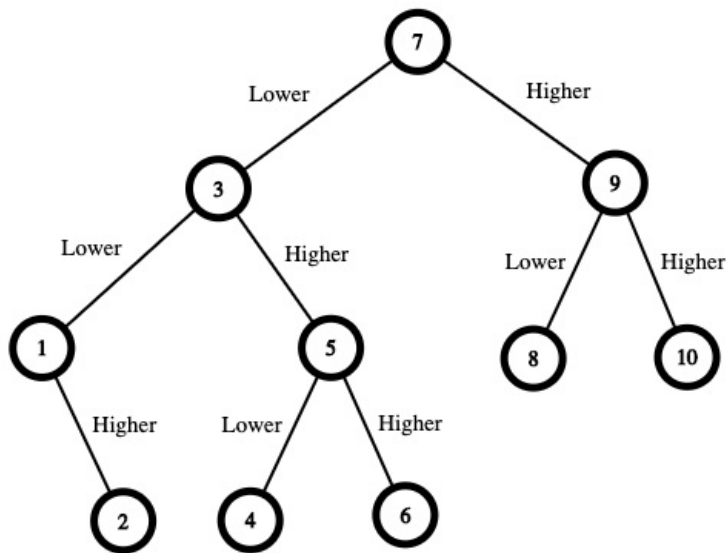
<https://leetcode.com/problems/guess-number-higher-or-lower-ii>

We are playing the Guessing Game. The game will work as follows:

1. I pick a number between 1 and  $n$ .
2. You guess a number.
3. If you guess the right number, **you win the game**.
4. If you guess the wrong number, then I will tell you whether the number I picked is **higher or lower**, and you will continue guessing.
5. Every time you guess a wrong number  $x$ , you will pay  $x$  dollars. If you run out of money, **you lose the game**.

Given a particular  $n$ , return *the minimum amount of money you need to **guarantee a win regardless of what number I pick***.

### Example 1:



**Input:**  $n = 10$

**Output:** 16

**Explanation:** The winning strategy is as follows:

- The range is  $[1,10]$ . Guess 7.
  - If this is my number, your total is \$0. Otherwise, you pay \$7.
  - If my number is higher, the range is  $[8,10]$ . Guess 9.
    - If this is my number, your total is \$7. Otherwise, you pay \$9.
    - If my number is higher, it must be 10. Guess 10. Your total is \$7 + \$9 = \$16.
    - If my number is lower, it must be 8. Guess 8. Your total is \$7 + \$9 = \$16.
  - If my number is lower, the range is  $[1,6]$ . Guess 3.
    - If this is my number, your total is \$7. Otherwise, you pay \$3.
    - If my number is higher, the range is  $[4,6]$ . Guess 5.
      - If this is my number, your total is \$7 + \$3 = \$10. Otherwise, you pay \$5.
      - If my number is higher, it must be 6. Guess 6. Your total is \$7 + \$3 + \$5 = \$15.
      - If my number is lower, it must be 4. Guess 4. Your total is \$7 + \$3 + \$5 = \$15.
    - If my number is lower, the range is  $[1,2]$ . Guess 1.
      - If this is my number, your total is \$7 + \$3 = \$10. Otherwise, you pay \$1.
      - If my number is higher, it must be 2. Guess 2. Your total is \$7 + \$3 + \$1 = \$11.

The worst case in all these scenarios is that you pay \$16. Hence, you only need \$16 to guarantee a win.

### Example 2:

**Input:**  $n = 1$

**Output:** 0

**Explanation:** There is only one possible number, so you can guess 1 and not have to pay anything.

### Example 3:

**Input:**  $n = 2$

**Output:** 1

**Explanation:** There are two possible numbers, 1 and 2.

- Guess 1.
  - If this is my number, your total is \$0. Otherwise, you pay \$1.
  - If my number is higher, it must be 2. Guess 2. Your total is \$1.

The worst case is that you pay \$1.

### Constraints:

- $1 \leq n \leq 200$