

2154. Keep Multiplying Found Values by Two

Easy Array Hash Table Sorting Simulation

Leetcode Link

Problem Description

In this problem, you start with an integer called `original` and an array of integers called `nums`. Your goal is to perform a series of steps in which you repeatedly check whether `original` is in the array `nums`. If it is, you double the value of `original` and then search for the new value in the array. You continue this process of doubling and searching until `original` is no longer found in `nums`. The task is to return the final value of `original` after you've either doubled it several times or stopped as soon as it's not found in the array.

This problem involves the use of an iterative process to repeatedly update a number based on the contents of an array. It can be seen as a game or a search operation that has the potential to alter the target number multiple times.

Intuition

The solution to this problem relies on efficiency and simplicity. Since we are searching for `original` in `nums` multiple times, a key insight is to use a data structure with fast lookup times. A set data structure provides $O(1)$ average time complexity for lookups, which is ideal.

To utilize this, we first convert the list `nums` into a set `s`. Sets do not contain duplicate elements and allow us to check if an element is present in constant time.

The process is as follows:

1. Check if `original` is in the set `s` which contains our `nums`.
2. If it is, multiply `original` by two. This is efficiently done using the left shift operator `<<`, which basically doubles the number.
3. If it's not found, return the current value of `original`.
4. Repeat this process until `original` is not in `s`.

The while loop in the solution keeps this process going, systematically doubling `original` and checking for its presence in the set `s`. This loop will eventually terminate when `original` is no longer present in the set, at which point the most recent value of `original` is returned as the final result.

Solution Approach

The solution provided is both elegant and efficient, utilizing a set data structure and a simple while loop. Below is a step-by-step walkthrough of the implementation and the reasoning behind each step:

1. Convert the list of numbers `nums` to a set `s`:
 - The conversion is done by initializing the set with `nums`, i.e., `s = set(nums)`.
 - This step is crucial because it optimizes our search operation. While the lookup time for an element in a list is $O(n)$, for a set, it's $O(1)$ on average.
 - Despite the conversion costing $O(n)$ time where n is the number of elements in `nums`, this cost is justified since we only incur it once, and it significantly speeds up the numerous lookups that follow.
2. Use a while loop to determine the final value of `original`:
 - The condition for the while loop is `original in s`, meaning that as long as `original` is found in the set, the loop continues.
 - Inside the loop, `original` is doubled using the left shift operator, `original <<= 1`.
 - The left shift operator effectively multiplies the number by two. Using `<<= 1` on an integer is equivalent to multiplying it by 2.
 - This is a bit manipulation trick that performs the operation quickly and with less code.
3. Return the final value of `original` when it's no longer found in the set.

The algorithm's time complexity primarily depends on the number of times `original` can be doubled before it exceeds the largest number in `nums`. If we denote this number of doublings as k , then the overall time complexity is $O(n + k)$, where n is the length of `nums`. The space complexity is $O(n)$ due to the additional set.

To understand the practical bounds of k , consider that integers have a fixed upper limit (for example, $2^{31} - 1$ for 32-bit integers). The value of `original` will reach this upper limit after a finite number of doublings regardless of the contents of `nums`. Therefore, k is bounded and in practice is much smaller than the maximum possible value of `original`. Thus the doubling operation does not have a significant impact on the time complexity relative to the size of `nums`.

Example Walkthrough

Let's walk through a small example to illustrate the solution approach.

Suppose we have the integer `original = 2` and the array `nums = [1, 3, 4, 2, 8, 16]`. We are tasked with doubling `original` and checking if the new value is in `nums`, continuing this process until the value is not found.

1. Convert `nums` to a set `s`. The set `s` will be `{1, 3, 4, 2, 8, 16}`.
2. We start a while loop that will run as long as `original` is in `s`.
 - First iteration:
 - Check if `original` (which is 2) is in `s`. It is, so we proceed.
 - We double `original` using the left shift operator: `original <<= 1`.
 - Now `original` becomes 4.
 - Second iteration:
 - Check if the new `original` (which is 4) is in `s`. It is, so we repeat the doubling process.
 - Double `original` again: `original` is now 8.
 - Third iteration:
 - Check if `original` (now 8) is in `s`. It is, therefore we double it again.
 - `original` after the left shift is now 16.
 - Fourth iteration:
 - Check if `original` (now 16) is in `s`. It is, so we double it once more.
 - Doubling `original` gives us 32.
 - Fifth iteration:
 - Check if `original` (now 32) is in `s`. It is not, so the while loop exits.
3. The value of `original` is now 32, and since it's not in the set `s`, we return 32 as the final value.

Throughout this process, we have used the set for efficient lookup and doubled `original` easily with the left shift operator. The final result of this example would be 32, as that's the value of `original` when it's no longer present in `nums`.

Python Solution

```
1 class Solution:
2     def findFinalValue(self, nums: List[int], original: int) -> int:
3         # Convert the list of numbers into a set for faster lookup
4         num_set = set(nums)
5
6         # Keep doubling the original value as long as it's found in the set
7         while original in num_set:
8             original *= 2 # Equivalent to original <<= 1 but clearer
9
10        # Once the value is not found in the set, return it
11        return original
12
```

Java Solution

```
1 class Solution {
2
3     /**
4      * Finds the final value by doubling the original number until it's not found in the set.
5      *
6      * @param nums An array of integers.
7      * @param original The integer whose final value is to be found.
8      * @return The final value of the original integer after doubling.
9      */
10    public int findFinalValue(int[] nums, int original) {
11        // Create a set to store unique elements from the array
12        Set<Integer> numSet = new HashSet<>();
13
14        // Add all elements from the array into the set for quicker searches
15        for (int num : nums) {
16            numSet.add(num);
17        }
18
19        // Keep doubling the original value until it's no longer found in the set
20        while (numSet.contains(original)) {
21            original *= 2; // equivalent to original <<= 1; for doubling
22        }
23
24        // Return the final value of original after it couldn't be doubled any further (not found in the set)
25        return original;
26    }
27 }
28
```

C++ Solution

```
1 #include <unordered_set>
2 #include <vector>
3
4 class Solution {
5 public:
6     // Function to find the final value after doubling the original value if it is in the nums array
7     int findFinalValue(std::vector<int>& nums, int original) {
8         // Create an unordered_set to store the unique elements in 'nums'
9         std::unordered_set<int> elementsSet;
10
11        // Insert all the numbers in the 'nums' vector into the set
12        for (int num : nums) {
13            elementsSet.insert(num);
14        }
15
16        // Keep doubling the 'original' value as long as it is present in the set
17        while (elementsSet.count(original) > 0) {
18            original <<= 1; // This is equivalent to multiplying 'original' by 2
19        }
20
21        // Return the final value of 'original' after it can no longer be doubled
22        return original;
23    }
24 };
25
```

Typescript Solution

```
1 // Finds the final value by multiplying the original value by two as long
2 // as that new value exists in the set generated from the nums array.
3 function findFinalValue(nums: number[], original: number): number {
4     // Initialize a new set from the nums array to facilitate O(1) lookups.
5     let numberSet: Set<number> = new Set(nums);
6
7     // Continue doubling 'original' as long as it exists within 'numberSet'.
8     while (numberSet.has(original)) {
9         original *= 2;
10    }
11
12    // Return the final value, which is not present in 'numberSet'.
13    return original;
14 }
15
```

Time and Space Complexity

Time Complexity

The time complexity of the code is $O(n)$ where n is the length of the `nums` list. The reasoning behind this is that the conversion of the list to a set, `s = set(nums)`, takes linear time relative to the number of elements in the list. Then, the `while` loop runs at most until the value of `original` becomes larger than the largest element in `s`. In the worst-case scenario, this value could double at most n times before exceeding the max element in `nums` if the array contained a sequence of powers of 2. However, since the `while` loop checks membership in a set which is done in constant time, $O(1)$, the increase in `original` does not significantly affect the overall time complexity.

Space Complexity

The space complexity of the code is $O(n)$. The extra space is used to create the set `s` from the list `nums`. The set will contain at most n unique values where n is the number of elements in `nums`. Thus, the space complexity depends linearly on the size of the input array.