

# 414. Third Maximum Number

## Description

Given an integer array `nums`, return *the third distinct maximum number in this array. If the third maximum does not exist, return the maximum number.*

### Example 1:

```
Input: nums = [3,2,1]
Output: 1
Explanation:
The first distinct maximum is 3.
The second distinct maximum is 2.
The third distinct maximum is 1.
```

### Example 2:

```
Input: nums = [1,2]
Output: 2
Explanation:
The first distinct maximum is 2.
The second distinct maximum is 1.
The third distinct maximum does not exist, so the maximum (2) is returned instead.
```

### Example 3:

```
Input: nums = [2,2,3,1]
Output: 1
Explanation:
The first distinct maximum is 3.
The second distinct maximum is 2 (both 2's are counted together since they have the same value).
The third distinct maximum is 1.
```

### Constraints:

- $1 \leq \text{nums.length} \leq 10^4$
- $-2^{31} \leq \text{nums}[i] \leq 2^{31} - 1$

**Follow up:** Can you find an  $O(n)$  solution?

