

Problem: Roman to Integer

Question Statement

Given a Roman numeral string s , convert it into an integer.

Roman Numeral Rules

Symbol Value

I	1
V	5
X	10
L	50
C	100
D	500
M	1000

Special Subtractive Cases

Roman Value

IV	4
IX	9
XL	40
XC	90
CD	400
CM	900

Example

Input: "MCMXCV"

Output: 1994

APPROACH 1: Explicit Subtractive Pair Checking

Idea

- Store **single symbols + subtractive pairs** in HashMap

- Traverse string:
 - First check **2-character substring**
 - If found → add its value & skip one index
 - Else → add single character value
-

□ Dry Run (Approach 1)

Input: "MCMXCIIV"

Index Substring Found? Value Added Result

Index	Substring	Found?	Value	Added Result
0	"MC"	✗	M = 1000	1000
1	"CM"	✓	900	1900
3	"XC"	✓	90	1990
5	"IV"	✓	4	1994

✓ Final Answer = **1994**

□ Another Example

Input: "LVIII"

Index Substring Found? Value Result

Index	Substring	Found?	Value	Result
0	"LV"	✗	L = 50	50
1	"VI"	✗	V = 5	55
2	"II"	✗	I = 1	56
3	"I"	✗	I = 1	58

✓ Output = **58**

💻 Code – Approach 1

✓ Java

```
class Solution {  
    public int romanToInt(String s) {  
        HashMap<String, Integer> hm = new HashMap<>();  
        hm.put("I",1); hm.put("V",5); hm.put("X",10);
```

```

hm.put("L",50); hm.put("C",100);

hm.put("D",500); hm.put("M",1000);

hm.put("IV",4); hm.put("IX",9);

hm.put("XL",40); hm.put("XC",90);

hm.put("CD",400); hm.put("CM",900);

int res = 0;

int i = 0;

while (i < s.length()) {

    if (i + 1 < s.length() && hm.containsKey(s.substring(i, i+2))) {

        res += hm.get(s.substring(i, i+2));

        i += 2;

    } else {

        res += hm.get(s.substring(i, i+1));

        i++;

    }

}

return res;
}
}

```

 C++

```

class Solution {

public:

int romanToInt(string s) {

    unordered_map<string,int> mp = {

        {"I",1}, {"V",5}, {"X",10}, {"L",50},

        {"C",100}, {"D",500}, {"M",1000},

        {"IV",4}, {"IX",9}, {"XL",40},

        {"XC",90}, {"CD",400}, {"CM",900}
    }
}

```

```

};

int res = 0;

for(int i = 0; i < s.size(); ) {

    if(i + 1 < s.size() && mp.count(s.substr(i,2))) {

        res += mp[s.substr(i,2)];

        i += 2;

    } else {

        res += mp[s.substr(i,1)];

        i++;

    }

}

return res;

}

};


```

Python

```

class Solution:

    def romanToInt(self, s: str) -> int:

        mp = {

            "I":1,"V":5,"X":10,"L":50,
            "C":100,"D":500,"M":1000,
            "IV":4,"IX":9,"XL":40,
            "XC":90,"CD":400,"CM":900
        }

        res = 0
        i = 0

        while i < len(s):

            if i+1 < len(s) and s[i:i+2] in mp:

                res += mp[s[i:i+2]]
```

```
i += 2  
else:  
    res += mp[s[i]]  
    i += 1  
return res
```

APPROACH 2: Compare Current & Next (BEST / INTERVIEW)



Roman rule:

If a **smaller value comes before a larger one**, subtract it.

So:

- If curr < next → subtract
 - Else → add
-

□ Dry Run (Approach 2)

Input: "MCMXCIIV"

i Char curr next Operation Result

0	M	1000	100	+1000	1000
1	C	100	1000	-100	900
2	M	1000	10	+1000	1900
3	X	10	100	-10	1890
4	C	100	5	+100	1990
5	I	1	5	-1	1989
6	V	5	0	+5	1994

✓ Final Answer = **1994**

□ Example: "LVIII"

Char curr next Action Result

L	50	5	+50	50
---	----	---	-----	----

Char curr next Action Result

V	5	1	+5	55
I	1	1	+1	56
I	1	1	+1	57
I	1	0	+1	58

✓ Output = **58**

Code – Approach 2

✓ Java

```
class Solution {  
  
    public int romanToInt(String s) {  
  
        HashMap<Character, Integer> hm = new HashMap<>();  
  
        hm.put('I',1); hm.put('V',5);  
  
        hm.put('X',10); hm.put('L',50);  
  
        hm.put('C',100); hm.put('D',500);  
  
        hm.put('M',1000);  
  
  
        int res = 0;  
  
        for (int i = 0; i < s.length(); i++) {  
  
            int curr = hm.get(s.charAt(i));  
  
            int next = (i+1 < s.length()) ? hm.get(s.charAt(i+1)) : 0;  
  
  
            if (curr < next) res -= curr;  
            else res += curr;  
        }  
  
        return res;  
    }  
}
```

✓ C++

```

class Solution {
public:
    int romanToInt(string s) {
        unordered_map<char,int> mp = {
            {'I',1},{'V',5},{'X',10},
            {'L',50},{'C',100},
            {'D',500},{'M',1000}
        };

        int res = 0;
        for(int i = 0; i < s.size(); i++) {
            int curr = mp[s[i]];
            int next = (i+1 < s.size()) ? mp[s[i+1]] : 0;

            if(curr < next) res -= curr;
            else res += curr;
        }
        return res;
    }
};

```

Python

```

class Solution:

    def romanToInt(self, s: str) -> int:
        mp = {
            'I':1,'V':5,'X':10,
            'L':50,'C':100,
            'D':500,'M':1000
        }

        res = 0

```

```
for i in range(len(s)):  
    curr = mp[s[i]]  
    next_val = mp[s[i+1]] if i+1 < len(s) else 0  
  
    if curr < next_val:  
        res -= curr  
    else:  
        res += curr  
  
return res
```

⌚ Final Interview Conclusion

Approach **Verdict**

Pair checking Easy to understand

Compare logic **BEST & INTERVIEW FAVORITE**