

3. Sequence of Stock Indicators

ALL

An investment consulting firm recommends high-performing stocks to its users. The firm assigns an indicator to each stock and ranks the stocks based on this indicator. To sort these stocks a modified version of the quicksort algorithm is used.

<u>(i)</u>

This variation of the quicksort algorithm takes an array of integers as an argument and works in the following way:

1

• If the array has fewer than 3 elements, it sorts the array using some non-recursive method.

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• Otherwise, it selects *pivot* as a median of the first, the middle, and the last elements of the array. More specifically, if the array has *m* elements, it selects the *pivot* as the median of three elements with indices 0, [*m*/2], *m*-1 in the array, (where [*m*/2] denotes floor of the division of *m* by 2, for example, [5/2] = 2). It partitions the array into two subarrays called left and right with the selected *pivot* element. The left array contains all the elements less than *pivot* in the relative order they appeared before selecting the pivot, while the right contains all the elements larger than the *pivot*, also in the order they appeared before selecting the *pivot*. Next, two recursive calls are made, one with the left array as the argument, and another with the right array as the argument.

3

Determine the sequence of pivot elements chosen by the algorithm.

Example

stockIndicator = [8, 4, 3, 1]

In this example, there are n = 4 stocks in the array, so the algorithm selects *pivot* as the median of the first, the third, and the last elements which are 8, 3, and 1 respectively: *pivot* = 3. Then recursive calls of the function are made with arrays *left* = [1] and *right* = [4, 8]. Neither of these calls produces a pivot since the arrays have fewer than 3 elements. The returned sequence of *pivot* elements is [3].

Function Description

Complete the function *modifiedQuickSortIndicators* in the editor below.

The function has the following parameter(s): int stockIndicator[n]: an array of n distinct integers

Returns

int[]: the sequence of pivot elements chosen by the algorithm.

Constraints

- 3 ≤ n ≤ 10⁵
- 1 ≤ stockIndicator[i] ≤ 10⁹
- All elements of a are chosen at random without replacement from the range $[1, 10^9]$

► Input Format Format for Custom Testing

▼ Sample Case 0

Sample Input

```
STDIN Function
----- ------
3  -> stockIndicator[] size n = 3
3  -> stockIndicator = [3, 1, 2]
1
2
```

Sample Output

2

Explanation

Initially, there are 3 stocks. The algorithm selects *pivot* as the median of the first, the middle, and the last elements which are 3, 1, and 2 respectively, so *pivot* = 2. Then it recursively calls itself with arrays *left* = [1] and *right* = [3]. Neither of these calls produces a new pivot.