

Nearest Smaller Element

[Suggest Edit](#)[Bookmark](#)

Asked in: [Amazon \(/search/?q=Amazon\)](/search/?q=Amazon) [Microsoft \(/search/?q=Microsoft\)](/search/?q=Microsoft)

Given an array, find the **nearest** smaller element $G[i]$ for every element $A[i]$ in the array such that the element has an **index smaller than i** .

More formally,

$G[i]$ for an element $A[i]$ = an element $A[j]$ such that
 j is maximum possible AND
 $j < i$ AND
 $A[j] < A[i]$

Elements for which no smaller element exist, consider next smaller element as -1.

Input Format

The only argument given is integer array A .

Output Format

Return the integer array G such that $G[i]$ contains nearest smaller number than $A[i]$. If no

For Example

Input 1:

$A = [4, 5, 2, 10, 8]$

Output 1:

$G = [-1, 4, -1, 2, 2]$

Explanation 1:

index 1: No element less than 4 in left of 4, $G[1] = -1$

index 2: $A[1]$ is only element less than $A[2]$, $G[2] = A[1]$

index 3: No element less than 2 in left of 2, $G[3] = -1$

index 4: $A[3]$ is nearest element which is less than $A[4]$, $G[4] = A[3]$

index 5: $A[3]$ is nearest element which is less than $A[5]$, $G[5] = A[3]$

Input 2:

$A = [3, 2, 1]$

Output 2:

$[-1, -1, -1]$

Explanation 2:

index 1: No element less than 3 in left of 3, $G[1] = -1$

index 2: No element less than 2 in left of 2, $G[2] = -1$

index 3: No element less than 1 in left of 1, $G[3] = -1$

[See Expected Output](#)