
Problem Statement:

Given an integer array `nums`, return an array `result` such that `result[i]` is equal to the product of all the elements of `nums` except `nums[i]`.

Solution One – Brute Force

```
def product_except_self_brute(nums: List[int]) -> List[int]:
    result = [0] * len(nums)
    i = 0
    while i < len(nums):
        product = 1
        j = 0
        while j < len(nums):
            if j != i: product *= nums[j]
            j += 1
        result[i] = product
        i += 1

    return result
```

Step-by-Step Breakdown

1. **Input:** [1, 2, 3, 4]

2. **Outer Loop (i):**

- For each element in `nums`, compute the product of all other elements.

3. **Inner Loop (j):**

- If `j != i`, multiply `product` by `nums[j]`.

Step	i	j Exclusion	Intermediate Product	Result Update
1	0	0	$2 * 3 * 4 = 24$	24
2	1	1	$1 * 3 * 4 = 12$	12
3	2	2	$1 * 2 * 4 = 8$	8
4	3	3	$1 * 2 * 3 = 6$	6

4. **Output:** [24, 12, 8, 6]

5. **Efficiency Analysis:**

- Time Complexity:** $O(n^2)$ due to the nested loops.
- Space Complexity:** $O(n)$ for the result list.

Solution Two – Optimised Prefix Suffix Approach

```
def product_except_self(nums: List[int]) -> List[int]:
    n = len(nums)
    result = [1] * n
    prefix = 1
    suffix = 1

    # Compute prefix products
    for i in range(n):
        result[i] = prefix
        prefix *= nums[i]

    # Compute suffix products and multiply with prefix results
    for i in range(n - 1, -1, -1): # for i in [3, 2, 1, 0]
        result[i] *= suffix
        suffix *= nums[i]

    return result
```

Step-by-Step Breakdown

1. Input: [1, 2, 3, 4]

2. Prefix Calculation:

- Traverse the list from left to right, computing cumulative products.
- Store the prefix product at each index.

Step	i	Prefix Value	Result[]	Prefix Update
1	0	1	[1, 1, 1, 1]	prefix *= 1 -> 1
2	1	1	[1, 1, 1, 1]	prefix *= 2 -> 2
3	2	2	[1, 1, 2, 1]	prefix *= 3 -> 6
4	3	6	[1, 1, 2, 6]	prefix *= 4 -> 24

3. Suffix Calculation:

- Traverse the list from right to left, computing cumulative products.
- Multiply each element of the result by the suffix product.

Step	i	Suffix Value	Result Progression	Suffix Update
1	3	1	[1, 1, 2, 6]	suffix *= 4 -> 4
2	2	4	[1, 1, 8, 6]	suffix *= 3 -> 12

3	1	12	[1, 12, 8, 6]	suffix *= 2 -> 24
4	0	24	[24, 12, 8, 6]	suffix *= 1 -> 24

4. **Output:** [24, 12, 8, 6]

5. **Efficiency Analysis:**

- a. Time Complexity: $O(n)$ due to two linear traversals.
- b. Space Complexity: $O(1)$ extra space excluding the result list.

Comparison

Aspect	Solution One	Solution Two
Time Complexity	$O(n^2)$	$O(n)$
Space Complexity	$O(n)$	$O(1)$
Ease of Implementation	Simple	Slightly Complex
Scalability	Poor	Excellent
