

Single Number (136)

Extremely good use of XOR operator. Trick is that

- (i) XOR of a number with itself is 0.
- (ii) XOR is associative and commutative.
- (iii) Also, $\text{num} \wedge 0 = \text{num}$.

$$\text{So, } a \wedge (c \wedge d) \wedge (b \wedge e) = a \wedge b \wedge c \wedge d \wedge e.$$

So, take XOR of all elements, the value left would be the single number.

CODE

```
int singleNumber (vector<int> & nums) {  
    int res = 0;  
    for (int i = 0; i < nums.size(); i++) {  
        res = res ^ nums[i];  
    }  
    return res;  
}
```