

## 1718. Construct the Lexicographically Largest Valid Sequence

Given an integer  $n$ , find a sequence that satisfies all of the following:

- The integer 1 occurs once in the sequence.
- Each integer between 2 and  $n$  occurs twice in the sequence.
- For every integer  $i$  between 2 and  $n$ , the **distance** between the two occurrences of  $i$  is exactly  $i$ .

The **distance** between two numbers on the sequence,  $a[i]$  and  $a[j]$ , is the absolute difference of their indices,  $|j - i|$ .

Return the **lexicographically largest** sequence. It is guaranteed that under the given constraints, there is always a solution.

A sequence  $a$  is lexicographically larger than a sequence  $b$  (of the same length) if in the first position where  $a$  and  $b$  differ, sequence  $a$  has a number greater than the corresponding number in  $b$ . For example,  $[0, 1, 9, 0]$  is lexicographically larger than  $[0, 1, 5, 6]$  because the first position they differ is at the third number, and 9 is greater than 5.

### Example 1:

**Input:**  $n = 3$

**Output:**  $[3, 1, 2, 3, 2]$

**Explanation:**  $[2, 3, 2, 1, 3]$  is also a valid sequence, but  $[3, 1, 2, 3, 2]$  is the lexicographically largest valid sequence.

### Example 2:

**Input:**  $n = 5$

**Output:**  $[5, 3, 1, 4, 3, 5, 2, 4, 2]$

### Constraints:

- $1 \leq n \leq 20$

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### Overview

Given an integer  $n$ , we need to find the lexicographically largest sequence that satisfies all of these conditions:

- The integer  $1$  occurs once in the sequence.
- All other integers from  $2$  to  $n$  occur exactly twice, and the distance between these occurrences is equal to the value of this integer.

The distance between two integers is defined as the difference in the indices of both the integers. For example: in the array  $nums = [1, 2, 3, 1, 2]$ , the distance between both occurrences of  $1$  is given by  $3$ .

*A sequence  $a$  is lexicographically larger than a sequence  $b$  (of the same length) if in the first position where  $a$  and  $b$  differ, sequence  $a$  has a number greater than the corresponding number in  $b$ . For example,  $[0, 1, 9, 0]$  is lexicographically larger than  $[0, 1, 5, 6]$  because the first position they differ is at the third number, and  $9$  is greater than  $5$ .*

### Approach: Backtracking

#### Intuition

Observe the lexicographically largest sequences for smaller values of  $n$ :

- For  $n=1$ :  $[1]$
- For  $n=2$ :  $[2, 1, 2]$
- For  $n=3$ :  $[3, 1, 2, 3, 2]$
- For  $n=4$ :  $[4, 2, 3, 2, 4, 3, 1]$

Identifying an intuitive pattern for these sequences is challenging. Given that  $n$  lies in the range  $1 \leq n \leq 20$ , we can generate all possible valid sequences and find the lexicographically largest among them using backtracking. We'll use a recursive boolean function to determine whether the current sequence is valid. If it's not, we can terminate the recursive process early.

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```
/*  
    Recursive backtracking  
    Time complexity:  $O(n!)$   
    Space complexity:  $O(3n)=O(n)$   
*/  
typedef std::vector<int> vi;  
class Solution {  
public:  
    vi constructDistancedSequence(int n){  
        vi ans(2*n-1,0);  
        vi is_placed(n+1,0);
```

```

auto solve=[&](int index,auto& self)->bool{
    // If all positions are filled, we get our answer
    if(index==ans.size()) return true;

    // If current position is filled, pass the next position
    if(ans[index]) return self(index+1,self);

    // Try to place the largest number
    for(int e=n;e>=1;--e){
        // Determine the corresponded index of the element at the current index
        int corresponded_index=(e==1)?index:index+e;

        // If it is already placed or
        // we can not place the element in the corresponded position (if element>1)
        // then, go to lesser number
        if(is_placed[e] || (e>1 && (corresponded_index>=ans.size() || ans[corresponded_index]))) continue;

        // Place it
        is_placed[e]=1; // Mark the element as placed
        ans[index]=ans[corresponded_index]=e; // Put the element in both correct positions

        // Then pass to next positions
        if(self(index+1,self)) return true;

        // If we can not place the current element
        // Undo the placements for pervious elements
        ans[index]=ans[corresponded_index]=0;
        is_placed[e]=0;
    }

    return false;
};

```

```
    solve(0,solve);  
  
    return ans;  
}  
};
```