

Simplify Path

For this problem we must simulate Unix style path normalization.

[Key Idea:]

- Split the path by '/'
- Use a stack to build the canonical path:
 - Ignore empty parts and '.' (current directory).
 - When encountering '..', pop from the stack if not empty (go up a level).
 - Otherwise, push normal directory names (including names like ... which are valid).
- Reconstruct the path by joining stack with '/'.

[Algorithm:]

- Split path by '/'
- For each component:
 - skip "" or ".".
 - If ".." → pop stack (if not empty).
 - Else → push component.
- Join stack with '/' and prepend '/'
- If stack is empty → return "/"

[Complexity:]

- Time: $O(n)$ (splitting and processing each component once).
- Space: $O(n)$ (stack to store directories).