

Pow(x, n)

For this problem, the key is to compute x^n efficiently, especially for large n , including negative powers.

[Key Idea: Fast Exponentiation
(Exponentiation by Squaring):]

Why?

- Naïve method: Multiply x n times $\rightarrow O(n)$ (too slow for large n).
- Fast exponentiation: Repeatedly square x , halve $n \rightarrow O(\log n)$.

[Handling Negative n]

$$x^{-n} = 1/x^n$$

• Convert n to positive, compute power, then take reciprocal.

[Algorithm:]

1. If $n < 0$:

- Let $x = 1/x$

- Use $n = -n$ (careful with INT_MIN, use long long to avoid overflow)

2. Initialize $result = 1$

3. While $n > 0$:

- If n is odd, multiply $result$ by x

- Square x and halve n .

[Complexity:]

- Time: $O(\log n)$

- Space: $O(1)$