287. Find the Duplicate Number

Solved ●

Medium Topics Companies

Given an array of integers `nums` containing `n + 1` integers where each integer is in the range `[1, n]` inclusive.

There is only **one repeated number** in `nums`, return *this repeated number*.

You must solve the problem **without** modifying the array `nums` and using only constant extra space.

Example 1:

> **Input:** nums = [1,3,4,2,2]
> **Output:** 2

Example 2:

> **Input:** nums = [3,1,3,4,2]
> **Output:** 3

Example 3:

> **Input:** nums = [3,3,3,3,3]
> **Output:** 3

Constraints:

- `1 <= n <= 10^5`
- `nums.length == n + 1`
- `1 <= nums[i] <= n`
- All the integers in `nums` appear only **once** except for **precisely one integer** which appears **two or more** times.

Follow up:

- How can we prove that at least one duplicate number must exist in `nums`?
- Can you solve the problem in linear runtime complexity?