


Tasks summary

Task	Time spent	Score
Flags Python 	7 min	100%

Total score



Tasks Details

Medium

1. **Flags**

Find the maximum number of flags that can be set on mountain peaks.

Task Score

Correctness

Performance

100%

100%

100%

Task description

A non-empty array A consisting of N integers is given.

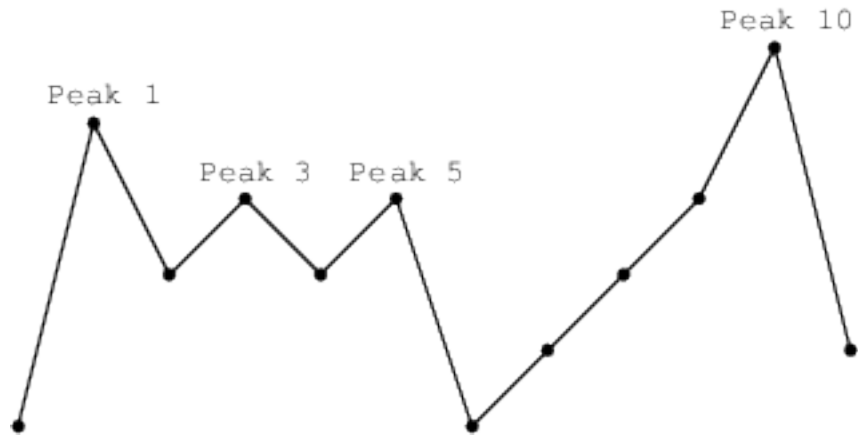
A *peak* is an array element which is larger than its neighbours. More precisely, it is an index P such that $0 < P < N - 1$ and $A[P - 1] < A[P] > A[P + 1]$.

For example, the following array A:

```
A[0] = 1
A[1] = 5
A[2] = 3
A[3] = 4
A[4] = 3
A[5] = 4
A[6] = 1
A[7] = 2
A[8] = 3
A[9] = 4
A[10] = 6
A[11] = 2
```

has exactly four peaks: elements 1, 3, 5 and 10.

You are going on a trip to a range of mountains whose relative heights are represented by array A, as shown in a figure below. You have to choose how many flags you should take with you. The goal is to set the maximum number of flags on the peaks, according to certain rules.



Flags can only be set on peaks. What's more, if you take K flags, then the distance between any two flags should be greater than or equal to K. The distance between indices P and Q is the absolute value $|P - Q|$.

For example, given the mountain range represented by array A, above, with $N = 12$, if you take:

- two flags, you can set them on peaks 1 and 5;
- three flags, you can set them on peaks 1, 5 and 10;
- four flags, you can set only three flags, on peaks 1, 5 and 10.

You can therefore set a maximum of three flags in this case.

Write a function:

```
def solution(A)
```

that, given a non-empty array A of N integers, returns the maximum number of flags that can be set on the peaks of the array.

For example, the following array A:

```
A[0] = 1
A[1] = 5
A[2] = 3
A[3] = 4
A[4] = 3
A[5] = 4
A[6] = 1
A[7] = 2
A[8] = 3
A[9] = 4
A[10] = 6
A[11] = 2
```

the function should return 3, as explained above.

Write an **efficient** algorithm for the following assumptions:

- N is an integer within the range $[1..400,000]$;
- each element of array A is an integer within the range $[0..1,000,000,000]$.

Solution

Programming language used:	Python
Total time used:	7 minutes 
Effective time used:	7 minutes 
Notes:	<i>not defined yet</i>

Task timeline



Code: 22:49:02 UTC, py, final, score: 100

[show code in pop-up](#)

```
1 # you can write to stdout for debugging purposes, e.g.
2 # print("this is a debug message")
3
4 def left_over_flags(peaks, flags_provided, N):
5     flags_remaining = flags_provided
6     i=0
7     while flags_remaining > 0 and i < N:
8         if peaks[i] == 1:
9             flags_remaining -= 1
10            i += flags_provided
11        else:
12            i += 1
13    return flags_remaining
14
15 def solution(A):
16     # write your code in Python 3.6
17     N = len(A)
18     if N == 0:
19         return 0
20     elif N == 1:
21         return 0
22     elif N == 2:
23         return 0
24     elif N == 3:
25         if A[0] < A[1] > A[2]:
26             return 1
27         else:
28             return 0
29     else:
30         npeaks = 0
31         peaks = [0]*N
32         for i in range(1, N-1):
33             if A[i-1] < A[i] > A[i+1]:
34                 peaks[i] = 1
35                 npeaks += 1
36         if npeaks == 0:
37             return 0
38         elif npeaks == 1:
39             return 1
40         else:
41             nflags = 1
42             while left_over_flags(peaks, nflags, N) == 0:
43                 nflags *= 2
44             flags_ceiling = min(int(N**0.5+1), nflags)
45             for nflags in range(flags_ceiling, 0, -1):
46                 if left_over_flags(peaks, nflags, N) == 0:
47                     return nflags # at max
```

Analysis summary

The solution obtained perfect score.

Analysis

Detected time complexity: O(N)	
expand all	Example tests
▶ example	✓ OK
example test	
expand all	Correctness tests
▶ single	✓ OK
extreme min test	
▶ triple	✓ OK
three elements	
▶ extreme_without_peaks	✓ OK
test without peaks	
▶ simple1	✓ OK
first simple test	
▶ simple2	✓ OK
second simple test	
▶ medium_many_peaks	✓ OK
medium test with 100 peaks	
▶ medium_random	✓ OK
chaotic medium sequences, length = ~10,000	
▶ packed_peaks	✓ OK
possible to set floor(sqrt(N))+1 flags	
expand all	Performance tests
▶ large_random	✓ OK
chaotic large sequences, length = ~100,000	
▶ large_little_peaks	✓ OK
large test with 20-800 peaks	
▶ large_many_peaks	✓ OK
large test with 10,000 - 25,000 peaks	
▶ large_anti_slow	✓ OK
large test anti slow solutions	
▶ large_anti_slow2	✓ OK
large test anti slow solutions	
▶ extreme_max	✓ OK
extreme test, maximal number of elements	
▶ extreme_max2	✓ OK
extreme test, maximal number of elements	