

**General instructions:** After reading the questions given below, follow the steps described in `Instructions.pdf` to see the input and the expected output for each test case.

## 1 Maximum Product Subarray

Given an integer array  $A$  of size  $N$ , find a subarray that has the maximum product. A *subarray* is a contiguous and non-empty sequence of elements in an array. Formally, your task is to find the value of the following expression:

$$\max_{i,j} \left( \prod_{k=i}^j A[k] \right) \quad \text{where } 0 \leq i \leq j < N$$

Return the maximum product possible as the answer using a Divide and Conquer approach. **Only solutions using Divide and Conquer will be accepted**

**Note:** The array can also have non-positive numbers (Otherwise, the solution to the problem is always trivial - select the complete array).

### TEST CASE 1

**Input Array:**  $[1, 5, -1]$

**Output:** 5

**Explanation:**

6 subarrays are possible -  $[1], [5], [-1], [1, 5], [5, -1], [1, 5, -1]$  with the products as 1, 5, -1, 5, -5, -5 respectively.

Since  $\max(1, 5, -1, 5, -5, -5) = 5$ , the answer is 5.

### TEST CASE 2

**Input Array:**  $[-1, 5, -2]$

**Output:** 10

**Explanation:**

6 subarrays are possible -  $[-1], [5], [-2], [-1, 5], [5, -2], [-1, 5, -2]$  with the products -1, 5, -2, -5, -10, 10 respectively.

Since  $\max(-1, 5, -2, -5, -10, 10) = 10$ , the answer is 10.

**TEST CASE 3****Input Array:**  $[-10]$ **Output:**  $-10$ **Explanation:**Only 1 subarray is possible -  $[-10]$  with the product  $-10$ .Since  $\max(-10) = -10$ , the answer is  $-10$ .**Expected Time Complexity:**  $O(N)$ ,  $N$  is the size of the input array.

## 2 Maximizing Minimum Distance

We have  $N$  ( $N \geq 2$ ) sheep that need to graze on grass. Our farm is shaped like a  $1D$  number line with  $M$ -mutually disjoint intervals ( $M \geq 1$ ) where grass is available for our sheep. Each sheep wants to be placed at a unique point on the number line, where there is grass for it to eat. We want to place them so as to maximize  $D$ , where  $D$  represents the distance between the closest pair of sheep in our placement.

Return the maximum value of  $D$ .

**Note 1:** The sheep can only be placed on points where there is grass available. No two sheep can be put on the same point (i.e. it is given that  $D \neq 0$  for all test cases).

**Note 2:** The  $M$  mutually disjoint intervals (where grass is available) are provided as tuples -  $(i, j)$  with  $i \leq j$ . These tuples are already sorted in order (from left to right).

**TEST CASE 1****N:** 5**M:** 3**Farm:**  $[[0, 2], [4, 7], [9, 9]]$ **Output:** 2**Explanation:** We can place the sheep at locations 0, 2, 4, 6, and 9 to get  $D = 2$ . No other placement of the sheep can provide a  $D > 2$ .

**TEST CASE 2****N:** 3**M:** 3**Farm:**  $[[0, 0], [1, 2], [4, 7]]$ **Output:** 3**Explanation:** We can place the sheep at locations 0, 4 and 7 to get  $D = 3$ . No other placement of the sheep can provide a  $D > 3$ .**TEST CASE 3****N:** 4**M:** 3**Farm:**  $[[0, 0], [1, 2], [4, 7]]$ **Output:** 2**Explanation:** We can place the sheep at locations 0, 2, 4 and 7 to get  $D = 2$ . No other placement of the sheep can provide a  $D > 2$ .**TEST CASE 4****N:** 5**M:** 3**Farm:**  $[[0, 2], [4, 7], [9, 10]]$ **Output:** 2**Explanation:** We can place the sheep at locations 0, 2, 4, 7 and 9 to get  $D = 2$ . No other placement of the sheep can provide a  $D > 2$ .**TEST CASE 5****N:** 6**M:** 3**Farm:**  $[[0, 2], [4, 7], [9, 10]]$ **Output:** 1**Explanation:** We can place the sheep at locations 0, 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 to get  $D = 1$ . No other placement of the sheep can provide a  $D > 1$ .

**Expected Time Complexity:**  $O((N + M)\log(\maxDist))$ , where  $N$  is the number of sheep,  $M$  is the number of disjoint sets containing grass, and  $\maxDist$  is the maximum distance between any two points with grass (a.k.a. the size of the farm). **The time complexity is a big Hint!**