

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

## 1 Find the Peak Element

Given a 0-indexed array  $A$  of size  $N$ , find the peak element in it and return its index. The peak element is defined as the element at index  $i$  such that:

$$A[k] \leq A[i] \geq A[j] \quad \text{where } 0 \leq k \leq i \leq j < N$$

**Note:** There is one and only one peak in the array. Where would the peak lie if the complete array is sorted in ascending or descending order?

### TEST CASE 1

Input Array: `[1, 4, 5, 2]`

Output: `2`

Explanation: 5 is the peak element since  $5 > 4$  and  $5 > 2$ .

### TEST CASE 2

Input Array: `[10, 9, 5, 3]`

Output: `0`

Explanation: 10 is the peak element since  $10 > 9$ .

### TEST CASE 3

Input Array: `[2, 4, 6, 7]`

Output: `3`

Explanation: 7 is the peak element since  $7 > 6$ .

**Expected Time Complexity:**  $O(\log(N))$ , where  $N$  is the size of the input array. Solutions using  $O(N)$  time complexity will not be accepted.

## 2 Maximum Profit from Stocks

The problem is to find the **maximum profit** that can be obtained by buying the stock on day  $i$  and selling it on day  $j$ , where  $j > i$ . Let  $P[0..n]$  be the input array that contains the price of the stock from day 0 to day  $n$ . You need to find the maximum value of  $P[j] - P[i]$ , where  $j > i$ . Devise a **Divide-And-Conquer** algorithm to solve the maximum profit problem.

**Note:** You can only buy and sell the stock only **once**. Additionally, buying at the lowest price is not always the correct answer!

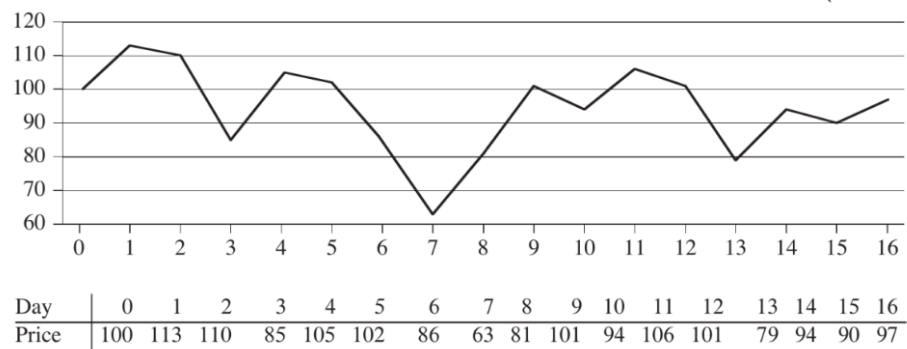


Figure 1: The figure above shows the stock price of a company on different days. In this example, profit will be maximized when the stock is bought on day 7 and sold on day 11.

### TEST CASE 1

Input Array: Given in Figure 1

Output: 43

Explanation: Buying on day 7 and selling on day 11.

### TEST CASE 2

Input Array: [70, 25, 50, 35, 60, 10, 30]

Output: 35

Explanation: Buying on day 1 and selling on day 4.

**TEST CASE 3**

Input Array: [7, 1, 5, 3, 6, 4]

Output: 5

Explanation: Buying on day 1 and selling on day 4.

**TEST CASE 4**

Input Array: [10, 5]

Output: 0

Explanation: No profit can be made. This is a bad stock!

**TEST CASE 5**

Input Array: [7]

Output: 0

Explanation: There is only one day to buy and no day to sell, so no profit.

**Input Format:**

The first line contains  $N$  - the no. of elements in the array.

The next line contains  $N$  space-separated integers, denoting the prices of the stock on  $i^{\text{th}}$  day. ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ )

**Output Format:**

A single integer denoting the maximum profit possible.

**Expected Time Complexity:**  $O(N \log(N))$ , where  $N$  is the size of the input array.

**Hint:** Use a Divide-And-Conquer approach.