# **Unknown Title**



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Editorial

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Solutions

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Submissions

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Code

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Testcase

**Testcase** 

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Test Result

Test Result

#### 134. Gas Station

Medium



**Topics** 

**△**Companies

There are n gas stations along a circular route, where the amount of gas at the i<sup>th</sup> station is gas[i].

You have a car with an unlimited gas tank and it costs cost[i] of gas to travel from the  $i^{th}$  station to its next  $(i + 1)^{th}$  station. You begin the journey with an empty tank at one of the gas stations.

Given two integer arrays gas and cost, return the starting gas station's index if you can travel around the circuit once in the clockwise direction, otherwise return -1. If there exists a solution, it is **guaranteed** to be **unique**.

#### Example 1:

```
Input: gas = [1,2,3,4,5], cost = [3,4,5,1,2]
Output: 3
Explanation:
Start at station 3 (index 3) and fill up with 4 unit of gas. Your tank = 0 + 4 = 4
Travel to station 4. Your tank = 4 - 1 + 5 = 8
Travel to station 0. Your tank = 8 - 2 + 1 = 7
Travel to station 1. Your tank = 7 - 3 + 2 = 6
Travel to station 2. Your tank = 6 - 4 + 3 = 5
Travel to station 3. The cost is 5. Your gas is just enough to travel back to station 3.
Therefore, return 3 as the starting index.
```

# Example 2:

**Input:** gas = [2,3,4], cost = [3,4,3]

Output: -1

# Explanation:

You can't start at station 0 or 1, as there is not enough gas to travel to the next station.

Let's start at station 2 and fill up with 4 unit of gas. Your tank = 0 + 4 = 4Travel to station 0. Your tank = 4 - 3 + 2 = 3

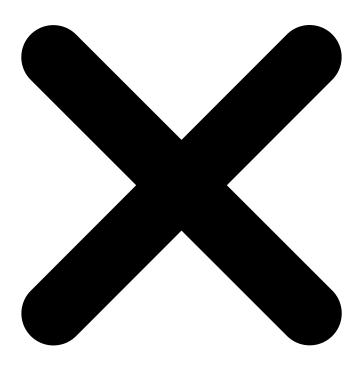
Travel to station 1. Your tank = 3 - 3 + 3 = 3

You cannot travel back to station 2, as it requires 4 unit of gas but you only have 3.

Therefore, you can't travel around the circuit once no matter where you start.

## **Constraints:**

- n == gas.length == cost.length
- 1 <= n <=  $10^5$
- $0 \le gas[i], cost[i] \le 10^4$



Seen this question in a real interview before?

1/5

Yes

No

Accepted

934.5K

Submissions

2M

Acceptance Rate

45.6%



Topics
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Discussion Rules
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1. Please don't post <b>any solutions</b> in this discussion.
2. The problem discussion is for asking questions about the problem or for sharing tips - anything except for solutions.
3. If you'd like to share your solution for feedback and ideas, please head to the solutions tab and post it there.
Kratos50

Jan 06, 2023

I got interview in a couple hours but LeetCode streak is more important

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4
yomaChoma
Jan 07, 2023
This question is very confusing.
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Q ♦
7
dadick
Jan 06, 2023
Hint: if you start from station a and stuck at b, then you can't get to b from any station between a and b.
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Q \$\dagger\$
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Aug 31, 2023

One of the test cases does not have a unique solution. It's gas = [2,0, lotsofzeros] with cost = [0,1,0,lotsofzeros]. With those parameters, any station other than 1 is a valid solution. That test case should be invalidated.

Read more

Feedback



91



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Jul 29, 2015

Hi

can anyone please explain with giving some examples also to make it clear what is asked? thanks

Read more



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B



CourteousCoder

Nov 21, 2018

In order to prepare for an interview, it is more important that I am able to recognized the pattern in this problem.

Can someone please help me identify the pattern of this problem?

Is this a variation of a classic problem in Computer Science? If so, which?

Read more



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Nov 30, 2020

I solved it with a two pass algorithm fairly quickly, the idea is:

- 1. First just assum the gas tank can fall below zero, complete a loop starting at position 0, and record the index with lowest amount of gas (possibly negative) in tank, call it lowest idx.
- 2. Complete a loop starting from lowest\_idx, break and return -1 if the tank falls below zero at any point. Return lowest\_idx if it never fell below zero.

Sure it's not one pass, but extremely easy to understand, guarantees to be O(N) time and O(1) space, and did pass all tests. Am I missing anything?

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## evidem64

Feb 03, 2022

Problem description states:

If there exists a solution, it is guaranteed to be unique

On submission my solution fails for the following case:

[1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8] [1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8]

Clearly, there IS a solution, but it's NOT unique, since you can start at any of the stations.

Expected answer is 0 though, anything else gets rejected.

#### Read more



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Jan 21, 2022

This is not a rant, I genuinly want to know what is it that this problem trying to test so that I can practice it more and be better at it

#### Read more



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Jun 18, 2023

The last sentence from the problem description states "If there exists a solution, it is **guaranteed** to be **unique**"

This is violated for testcases similar to the 40th testcase, for example, if gas=[2,0,0] cost=[0,1,0] the expected answer is 0.

However, one can also start from 2 and complete the circuit.

Since this is a circular problem, a simple rotation should still work.

If the rotated version was manually inputted as a custom testcase gas=[0,2,0] cost=[0,0,1], the answer from the official testcase should also be rotated to 1.

However, the system says "Invalid Testcase" and "The answer should be unique."

Meaning that the system successfully detects there are non-unique solutions for gas=[0,2,0] cost=[0,0,1], but fails to detect it in the official testcase gas=[2,0,0] cost=[0,1,0]

#### Read more

#### Feedback



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```
class Solution {
  public int canCompleteCircuit(int[] gas, int[] cost) {
  }
}
Saved
Ln 5, Col 2
gas =
[1,2,3,4,5]
cost =
[3,4,5,1,2]
9
1
2
3
4
[1,2,3,4,5]
[3,4,5,1,2]
[2,3,4]
[3,4,3]
</>
Source
?
```

FindHeaderBarSize

FindTabBarSize

FindBorderBarSize