

5766. Stone Game VIII

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Back to Contest (/contest/weekly-contest-242/)

Alice and Bob take turns playing a game, with **Alice starting first**.

There are  $n$  stones arranged in a row. On each player's turn, while the number of stones is **more than one**, they will do the following:

- Choose an integer  $x > 1$ , and **remove** the leftmost  $x$  stones from the row.
- Add the **sum** of the **removed** stones' values to the player's score.
- Place a **new stone**, whose value is equal to that sum, on the left side of the row.

The game stops when **only one** stone is left in the row.

The **score difference** between Alice and Bob is (Alice's score - Bob's score) . Alice's goal is to **maximize** the score difference, and Bob's goal is the **minimize** the score difference.

Given an integer array `stones` of length  $n$  where `stones[i]` represents the value of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  stone **from the left**, return *the score difference between Alice and Bob if they both play **optimally***.

User Accepted:	0
User Tried:	0
Total Accepted:	0
Total Submissions:	0
Difficulty:	Hard

Example 1:

**Input:** `stones = [-1,2,-3,4,-5]`  
**Output:** 5  
**Explanation:**  
- Alice removes the first 4 stones, adds  $(-1) + 2 + (-3) + 4 = 2$  to her score, and places a stone of value 2 on the left. `stones = [2,-5]`.  
- Bob removes the first 2 stones, adds  $2 + (-5) = -3$  to his score, and places a stone of value -3 on the left. `stones = [-3]`.  
The difference between their scores is  $2 - (-3) = 5$ .

Example 2:

**Input:** `stones = [7,-6,5,10,5,-2,-6]`  
**Output:** 13  
**Explanation:**  
- Alice removes all stones, adds  $7 + (-6) + 5 + 10 + 5 + (-2) + (-6) = 13$  to her score, and places a stone of value 13 on the left. `stones = [13]`.  
The difference between their scores is  $13 - 0 = 13$ .

Example 3:

**Input:** `stones = [-10,-12]`  
**Output:** -22  
**Explanation:**  
- Alice can only make one move, which is to remove both stones. She adds  $(-10) + (-12) = -22$  to her score and places a stone of value -22 on the left. `stones = [-22]`.  
The difference between their scores is  $(-22) - 0 = -22$ .

Constraints:

- $n == \text{stones.length}$
- $2 \leq n \leq 10^5$
- $-10^4 \leq \text{stones}[i] \leq 10^4$

JavaScript



```
1 ▾ /**
2   * @param {number[]} stones
3   * @return {number}
4   */
5 ▾ var stoneGameVIII = function(stones) {
6
7   };
```

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