

2390. Removing Stars From a String

Medium Topics Companies Hint

You are given a string `s`, which contains stars `*`.

In one operation, you can:

- Choose a star in `s`.
- Remove the closest **non-star** character to its **left**, as well as remove the star itself.

Return *the string after **all** stars have been removed*.

Note:

- The input will be generated such that the operation is always possible.
- It can be shown that the resulting string will always be unique.

Example 1:

Input: `s = "leet**cod*e"`
Output: `"lecoe"`
Explanation: Performing the removals from left to right:
– The closest character to the 1st star is 't' in `"leet**cod*e"`. `s` becomes `"lee*cod*e"`.
– The closest character to the 2nd star is 'e' in `"lee*cod*e"`. `s` becomes `"lecod*e"`.
– The closest character to the 3rd star is 'd' in `"lecod*e"`. `s` becomes `"lecoe"`.
There are no more stars, so we return `"lecoe"`.

Example 2:

Input: `s = "erase*****"`
Output: `""`
Explanation: The entire string is removed, so we return an empty string.

Constraints:

- `1 <= s.length <= 105`
- `s` consists of lowercase English letters and stars `*`.
- The operation above can be performed on `s`.

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