

287. Find the Duplicate Number

Medium

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Given an array of integers `nums` containing $n + 1$ integers where each integer is in the range $[1, n]$ inclusive.

There is only **one repeated number** in `nums`, return *this repeated number*.

You must solve the problem **without** modifying the array `nums` and uses only constant extra space.

Example 1:

Input: `nums = [1,3,4,2,2]`
Output: `2`

Example 2:

Input: `nums = [3,1,3,4,2]`
Output: `3`

Constraints:

- $1 \leq n \leq 10^5$
- `nums.length == n + 1`
- $1 \leq \text{nums}[i] \leq n$
- All the integers in `nums` appear only **once** except for **precisely one integer** which appears **two or more** times.

Follow up:

- How can we prove that at least one duplicate number must exist in `nums`?
- Can you solve the problem in linear runtime complexity?

Seen this question in a real interview before? 1/4

☒ Yes ☐ No

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