

Code Challenge #9 Product Sum (Easy)

Difficulty:  Category:  Successful Submissions: 43,578+

Product Sum

Write a function that takes in a "special" array and returns its product sum.

A "special" array is a non-empty array that contains either integers or other "special" arrays. The product sum of a "special" array is the sum of its elements, where "special" arrays inside it are summed themselves and then multiplied by their level of depth.

The depth of a "special" array is how far nested it is. For instance, the depth of `[]` is `1`; the depth of the inner array in `[[]]` is `2`; the depth of the innermost array in `[[[]]]` is `3`.

Therefore, the product sum of `[x, y]` is `x + y`; the product sum of `[x, [y, z]]` is `x + 2 * (y + z)`; the product sum of `[x, [y, [z]]]` is `x + 2 * (y + 3z)`.

Sample Input

```
array = [5, 2, [7, -1], 3, [6, [-13, 8], 4]]
```

Sample Output

```
12 // calculated as: 5 + 2 + 2 * (7 - 1) + 3 + 2 * (6 + 3 * (-13 + 8) + 4)
```

Solution #1

```
1. function productSum(array, multiplier = 1) {
2.
3.   let sum = 0;
4.   for (let element of array){
5.     if (Array.isArray(element)) {
6.       sum += productSum(element, multiplier + 1);
7.     } else {
8.       sum += element;
9.     }
10.  }
11.    return sum * multiplier;
12.  }
13.
```

Explanation

This solution works using a recursive solution where we call the original function `productSum` on all subarrays in the original array. We solve this problem by creating a function called `ProductSum` which takes in two arguments called `array` and `multiplier` with an initial value of `1`. We create a variable called `sum`

which has an initial value of 0. We then create a for loop which loops through each element of the array. We check to see if the element is an array using an object method called `Array.isArray(element)`. If it is we add to the sum the values of that nested array using the recursive call of `ProductSum` with arguments of `element` and `multiplier + 1`. If it isn't a nested array we simply add to the sum the element of the array. We finally return the sum times the multiplier. *The multiplier would have incremented each time we found a nested array in the original array. This function runs in $O(n)$ time.