

## Problem Statement

We start with an integer and create a sequence of successors using the following procedure: First split the decimal representation of the given number into several (at least two) parts, and multiply the parts to get a possible successor. With the selected successor, we repeat this procedure to get a third number, and so on, until we reach a single-digit number.

For example, let's say we start with the number 234. The possible successors are:

- $23 * 4 = 92$ ,
- $2 * 34 = 68$  and
- $2 * 3 * 4 = 24$ .

If we select 68 as the successor, we then generate  $6 * 8 = 48$  (the only possibility), from this we generate  $4 * 8 = 32$  and finally  $3 * 2 = 6$ . With this selection, we have generated a sequence of 5 integers (234, 68, 48, 32, 6).

Given the starting number, **start**, return the length of the longest sequence that can be generated with this procedure. In the example, the given sequence would be the longest one since the other selections in the first step would give the sequences: (234, 92, 18, 8) and (234, 24, 8), which are both shorter than (234, 68, 48, 32, 6).

## Definition

Class:                NumberSplit  
Method:             longestSequence  
Parameters:        int  
Returns:            int  
Method signature: int longestSequence(int start)  
(be sure your method is public)

## Notes

- There can not exist an infinite sequence.
- Although we use no leading zeros in the decimal representation of the number we start with, the parts we get by splitting the number may have leading zeros (e.g. from 3021 we can get  $3 * 021 = 63$ ).

## Constraints

- **start** is between 1 and 100000, inclusive.

## Examples

0)

6

Returns: 1

A single-digit number is already the last number.

1)

97

Returns: 4

For two-digit numbers, there is always only one possible sequence. Here:  $97 \rightarrow 63 \rightarrow 18 \rightarrow 8$  (4 numbers).

2)

234

Returns: 5

The example from the problem statement.

3)

876

Returns: 7

Here, it is optimal to make a three way split in the first step - i.e. use  $8*7*6=336$  as the first successor. Although a two way split would lead to a larger number ( $87*6=522$  or  $8*76=608$ ), both these choices would lead in the end to a shorter sequence. The optimal sequence is: 876,  $8*7*6=336$ ,  $33*6=198$ ,  $19*8=152$ ,  $1*52=52$ ,  $5*2=10$ ,  $1*0=0$ .

4)

99999

Returns: 29