

DescriptionSolution (653)Submissions

159. Longest Substring with At Most Two Distinct Characters

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Given a string `s`, return the length of the longest substring that contains at most **two distinct characters**.

Example 1:

Input: `s = "eceba"`

Output: `3`

Explanation: The substring is "ece" which its length is 3.

Example 2:

Input: `s = "ccaabbb"`

Output: `5`

Explanation: The substring is "aabbb" which its length is 5.

Constraints:

- `1 <= s.length <= 105`
- `s` consists of English letters.

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```
1 class Solution {
2     public int lengthOfLongestSubstringTwoDistinct(String s) {
3         int n = s.length();
4         if (n <= 3) return n;
5
6         // sliding window left and right pointers
7         int left = 0;
8         int right = 0;
9         // hashmap character -> its rightmost position
10        // in the sliding window
11        HashMap<Character, Integer> hashmap = new HashMap<Character, Integer>();
12
13        int max_len = 2;
14
15        while (right < n) {
16            // when the slidewindow contains less than 3 characters
17            hashmap.put(s.charAt(right), right++);
18
19            // slidewindow contains 3 characters
20            if (hashmap.size() == 3) {
21                // delete the leftmost character
22                int del_idx = Collections.min(hashmap.values());
23                hashmap.remove(s.charAt(del_idx));
24                // move left pointer of the slidewindow
25                left = del_idx + 1;
26            }
27            max_len = Math.max(max_len, right - left);
28        }
29        return max_len;
30    }
31 }
32 }
```