2390. Removing Stars From a String

Medium

2.3K

150

Companies

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 "lee**t**\*\*cod\*e". s becomes "lee\*cod\*e".

- The closest character to the 2nd star is 'e' in "le**e**\*cod\*e". s becomes "lecod\*e".

- The closest character to the 3rd star is 'd' in "leco**d**\*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.