

1418. Fair Distribution of Cookies

Difficulty : Medium

<https://leetcode.com/problems/fair-distribution-of-cookies>

You are given an integer array `cookies`, where `cookies[i]` denotes the number of cookies in the i^{th} bag. You are also given an integer `k` that denotes the number of children to distribute **all** the bags of cookies to. All the cookies in the same bag must go to the same child and cannot be split up.

The **unfairness** of a distribution is defined as the **maximum total** cookies obtained by a single child in the distribution.

Return *the **minimum** unfairness of all distributions.*

Example 1:

Input: `cookies = [8,15,10,20,8]`, `k = 2`

Output: 31

Explanation: One optimal distribution is `[8,15,8]` and `[10,20]`

- The 1st child receives `[8,15,8]` which has a total of $8 + 15 + 8 = 31$ cookies.
- The 2nd child receives `[10,20]` which has a total of $10 + 20 = 30$ cookies.

The unfairness of the distribution is $\max(31, 30) = 31$.

It can be shown that there is no distribution with an unfairness less than 31.

Example 2:

Input: `cookies = [6,1,3,2,2,4,1,2]`, `k = 3`

Output: 7

Explanation: One optimal distribution is `[6,1]`, `[3,2,2]`, and `[4,1,2]`

- The 1st child receives `[6,1]` which has a total of $6 + 1 = 7$ cookies.
- The 2nd child receives `[3,2,2]` which has a total of $3 + 2 + 2 = 7$ cookies.
- The 3rd child receives `[4,1,2]` which has a total of $4 + 1 + 2 = 7$ cookies.

The unfairness of the distribution is $\max(7, 7, 7) = 7$.

It can be shown that there is no distribution with an unfairness less than 7.

Constraints:

- $2 \leq \text{cookies.length} \leq 8$
- $1 \leq \text{cookies}[i] \leq 10^5$
- $2 \leq k \leq \text{cookies.length}$