

2144. Minimum Cost of Buying Candies With Discount

Description

A shop is selling candies at a discount. For **every two** candies sold, the shop gives a **third** candy for **free**.

The customer can choose **any** candy to take away for free as long as the cost of the chosen candy is less than or equal to the **minimum** cost of the two candies bought.

- For example, if there are **4** candies with costs **1**, **2**, **3**, and **4**, and the customer buys candies with costs **2** and **3**, they can take the candy with cost **1** for free, but not the candy with cost **4**.

Given a **0-indexed** integer array `cost`, where `cost[i]` denotes the cost of the `ith` candy, return *the minimum cost of buying all the candies*.

Example 1:

```
Input: cost = [1,2,3]
Output: 5
Explanation: We buy the candies with costs 2 and 3, and take the candy with cost 1 for free.
The total cost of buying all candies is 2 + 3 = 5. This is the only way we can buy the candies.
Note that we cannot buy candies with costs 1 and 3, and then take the candy with cost 2 for free.
The cost of the free candy has to be less than or equal to the minimum cost of the purchased candies.
```

Example 2:

```
Input: cost = [6,5,7,9,2,2]
Output: 23
Explanation: The way in which we can get the minimum cost is described below:
- Buy candies with costs 9 and 7
- Take the candy with cost 6 for free
- We buy candies with costs 5 and 2
- Take the last remaining candy with cost 2 for free
Hence, the minimum cost to buy all candies is 9 + 7 + 5 + 2 = 23.
```

Example 3:

```
Input: cost = [5,5]
Output: 10
Explanation: Since there are only 2 candies, we buy both of them. There is not a third candy we can take for free.
Hence, the minimum cost to buy all candies is 5 + 5 = 10.
```

Constraints:

- `1 <= cost.length <= 100`
- `1 <= cost[i] <= 100`

