

Minimum Moves to Equal Array Elements II

Given a **non-empty** integer array, find the minimum number of moves required to make all array elements equal, where a move is incrementing a selected element by 1 or decrementing a selected element by 1.

You may assume the array's length is at most 10,000.

Example:

Input:

[1,2,3]

Output:

2

Explanation:

Only two moves are needed (remember each move increments or decrements one element)
:

[1,2,3] => [2,2,3] => [2,2,2]

Solution 1

```
public class Solution {  
    public int minMoves2(int[] nums) {  
        Arrays.sort(nums);  
        int i = 0, j = nums.length-1;  
        int count = 0;  
        while(i < j){  
            count += nums[j]-nums[i];  
            i++;  
            j--;  
        }  
        return count;  
    }  
}
```

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Solution 2

This solution relies on the fact that if we increment/decrement each element to the median of all the elements, the optimal number of moves is necessary. The median of all elements can be found in expected $O(n)$ time using QuickSelect (or $O(n)$ time using deterministic select).

'''

```
public int minMoves2(int[] nums) {
    int sum = 0;
    int median = findMedian(nums);
    for (int i=0;i<nums.length;i++) {
        sum += Math.abs(nums[i] - median);
    }
    return sum;
}

public int findMedian(int[] nums) {
    return getKth(nums.length/2+1, nums, 0, nums.length - 1);
}

public int getKth(int k, int[] nums, int start, int end) {
    int pivot = nums[end];
    int left = start;
    int right = end;

    while (true) {
        while (nums[left] < pivot && left < right) left++;
        while (nums[right] >= pivot && right > left) right--;
        if (left == right) break;
        swap(nums, left, right);
    }

    swap(nums, left, end);
    if (k == left + 1) return pivot;
    else if (k < left + 1) return getKth(k, nums, start, left - 1);
    else return getKth(k, nums, left + 1, end);
}

public void swap(int[] nums, int n1, int n2) {
    int tmp = nums[n1];
    nums[n1] = nums[n2];
    nums[n2] = tmp;
}
```

'''

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Solution 3

```
def minMoves2(self, nums):  
    median = sorted(nums)[len(nums) // 2]  
    return sum(abs(num - median) for num in nums)  
  
def minMoves2(self, nums):  
    nums.sort()  
    return sum(nums[~i] - nums[i] for i in range(len(nums) // 2))
```

written by [StefanPochmann](#) original link [here](#)

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