

3779. Minimum Number of Operations to Have Distinct Elements

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You are given an integer array `nums`.

In one operation, you remove the **first three elements** of the current array. If there are fewer than three elements remaining, **all** remaining elements are removed.

Repeat this operation until the array is empty or contains no duplicate values.

Return an integer denoting the number of operations required.

Example 1:

Input: `nums = [3,8,3,6,5,8]`

Output: 1

Explanation:

In the first operation, we remove the first three elements. The remaining elements `[6, 5, 8]` are all distinct, so we stop. Only one operation is needed.

Example 2:

Input: `nums = [2,2]`

Output: 1

Explanation:

After one operation, the array becomes empty, which meets the stopping condition.

Example 3:

Input: `nums = [4,3,5,1,2]`

Output: 0

Explanation:

All elements in the array are distinct, therefore no operations are needed.

Constraints:

- $1 \leq \text{nums.length} \leq 10^5$
- $1 \leq \text{nums}[i] \leq 10^5$

Seen this question in a real interview before? 1/5

Yes No

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Topics



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Hint 1



Hint 2



Hint 3



Discussion (26)

