

## Couples Holding Hands

$N$  couples sit in  $2N$  seats arranged in a row and want to hold hands. We want to know the minimum number of swaps so that every couple is sitting side by side. A *swap* consists of choosing **any** two people, then they stand up and switch seats.

The people and seats are represented by an integer from  $0$  to  $2N-1$ , the couples are numbered in order, the first couple being  $(0, 1)$ , the second couple being  $(2, 3)$ , and so on with the last couple being  $(2N-2, 2N-1)$ .

The couples' initial seating is given by `row[i]` being the value of the person who is initially sitting in the  $i$ -th seat.

### Example 1:

**Input:** `row = [0, 2, 1, 3]`

**Output:** `1`

**Explanation:** We only need to swap the second (`row[1]`) and third (`row[2]`) person.

### Example 2:

**Input:** `row = [3, 2, 0, 1]`

**Output:** `0`

**Explanation:** All couples are already seated side by side.

### Note:

1. `len(row)` is even and in the range of  $[4, 60]$ .
2. `row` is guaranteed to be a permutation of  $0 \dots \text{len}(\text{row})-1$ .

## Solution 1

Since the solution that simply searches and swaps is accepted, why the difficulty of this problem is hard?

When I see "hard", I expect that something like DFS or DP is required. Could be a missing test case?

**Update 1:** I posted below an inductive proof that the simple search and swap solution gives the correct result.

Also, OJ accepted the  $O(n * n)$  solution, may be the TLE limit is too high?

**Update 2:** Here is the  $O(n)$  solution I came up with : C++  $O(n)$  [unordered\\_multimap](#).

**Update 3:** An elegant development of the solution above, but the intuition is hard to get: [\[Monster Style\] C++  \$O\(n\)\$  unordered\\_map](#).

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

## Solution 2

```
class Solution {  
  
    public int minSwapsCouples(int[] row) {  
        int n = row.length;  
        int[] pos = new int[n];  
        for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {  
            pos[row[i]] = i;  
        }  
        int count = 0;  
        for (int i = 0; i < n; i += 2) {  
            int j = row[i] % 2 == 0 ? row[i] + 1 : row[i] - 1;  
            if (row[i + 1] != j) {  
                swap(row, pos, i + 1, pos[j]);  
                count++;  
            }  
        }  
        return count;  
    }  
  
    void swap(int[] row, int[] pos, int x, int y) {  
        int temp = row[x];  
        pos[temp] = y;  
        pos[row[y]] = x;  
        row[x] = row[y];  
        row[y] = temp;  
    }  
}
```

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## Solution 3

```
int minSwapsCouples(vector<int>& row) {  
    for (int& i: row)  
        i /= 2;  
    unsigned len = 0;  
    for (auto it = row.begin(); it != row.end(); it += 2)  
        if (*it != *(it+1)) {  
            auto toswap = find(it+2, row.end(), *it);  
            iter_swap(it+1, toswap);  
            ++len;  
        }  
    return len;  
}
```

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