Editorial

# Sherlock and the Valid String ☆

Submissions

 $oldsymbol{c}$ . That would leave character frequencies of  $\{a:1,b:1,c:2\}$ .

Sherlock considers a string to be valid if all characters of the string appear the same number of times. It is also valid if he can remove just 1 character at 1 index in the string, and the remaining characters will occur the same number of times. Given a string 8, determine if it is valid. If so, return YES, otherwise return NO. For example, if s = abc, it is a valid string because frequencies are  $\{a:1,b:1,c:1\}$ . So is s = abcc because we can remove one cand have  ${f 1}$  of each character in the remaining string. If  ${m s}={m abccc}$  however, the string is not valid as we can only remove  ${f 1}$  occurrence of

Discussions

### **Function Description**

Problem

Complete the isValid function in the editor below. It should return either the string YES or the string NO.

Leaderboard

isValid has the following parameter(s):

• s: a string

### Input Format

A single string 8

### Constraints

- $1 \le |s| \le 10^5$
- Each character  $s[i] \in ascii[a-z]$

### **Output Format**

Print YES if string **s** is valid, otherwise, print NO.

### Sample Input 0

aabbcd

### Sample Output 0

NO

### **Explanation 0**

Given s = "aabbcd", we would need to remove two characters, both c and d  $\rightarrow$  aabb or a and b  $\rightarrow$  abcd, to make it valid. We are limited to removing only one character, so **s** is invalid.

# Sample Input 1

aabbccddeefghi

# Sample Output 1

### **Explanation 1**

Frequency counts for the letters are as follows:

{'a': 2, 'b': 2, 'c': 2, 'd': 2, 'e': 2, 'f': 1, 'g': 1, 'h': 1, 'i': 1}

There are two ways to make the valid string:

- Remove 4 characters with a frequency of 1: {fghi}.
- Remove 5 characters of frequency 2: {abcde}.

Neither of these is an option.

# Sample Input 2

abcdefghhgfedecba

## Sample Output 2

YES

### **Explanation 2**

All characters occur twice except for e which occurs 3 times. We can delete one instance of e to have a valid string.

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