

23. You are given a string  $s$ .  $s[i]$  is either a lowercase English letter or '?'. For a string  $t$  having length  $m$  containing only lowercase English letters, we define the function  $\text{cost}(i)$  for an index  $i$  as the number of characters equal to  $t[i]$  that appeared before it, i.e. in the range  $[0, i - 1]$ . The value of  $t$  is the sum of  $\text{cost}(i)$  for all indices  $i$ . For example, for the string  $t = \text{"aab"}$ :

$\text{cost}(0) = 0$

$\text{cost}(2) = 0$

Hence, the value of "aab" is  $0 + 1 + 0 = 1$ . Your task is to replace all occurrences of '?' in  $s$  with any lowercase English letter so that the value of  $s$  is minimized.

PROGRAM:

```
def minimizeValue(s):
```

```
    freq = [0] * 26 # Frequency of each lowercase English letter
```

```
    result = []
```

```
    for char in s:
```

```
        if char != '?':
```

```
            result.append(char)
```

```
            freq[ord(char) - ord('a')] += 1
```

```
        else:
```

```
            # Find the character with the lowest frequency
```

```
            for i in range(26):
```

```
                if freq[i] == 0:
```

```
                    result.append(chr(ord('a') + i))
```

```
                    freq[i] += 1
```

```
                    break
```

```
            else:
```

```
                # If all characters have non-zero frequency, choose the character with the lowest frequency
```

```
                for i in range(26):
```

```
                    if freq[i] < min(freq):
```

```
                        result.append(chr(ord('a') + i))
```

```
                        freq[i] += 1
```

```
                        break
```

```
    return ''.join(result)
```

```
s = "a?c?b"
```

```
print(minimizeValue(s)) # Output: "aacaab"
```

```
INPUT: enter the string: a?c?b
```

```
OUTPUT: abcdb
```

```
TIME COMPLEXITY: O(n)
```