

## 06 [Challenge]: Palindrome Transform

# Palindrome Transform

## • Problem

Nam is playing with a string on his computer. The string consists of  $n$  lowercase English letters. It is meaningless, so Nam decided to make the string more beautiful, that is to make it be a palindrome by using 4 arrow keys: left, right, up, down.

There is a cursor pointing at some symbol of the string. Suppose that cursor is at position  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ , the string uses 1-based indexing) now. Left and right arrow keys are used to move cursor around the string. The string is cyclic, that means that when Nam presses left arrow key, the cursor will move to position  $i-1$  if  $i > 1$  or to the end of the string (i. e. position  $n$ ) otherwise. The same holds when he presses the right arrow key (if  $i = n$ , the cursor appears at the beginning of the string).

When Nam presses up arrow key, the letter which the text cursor is pointing to will change to the next letter in English alphabet (assuming that alphabet is also cyclic, i. e. after 'z' follows 'a'). The same holds when he presses the down arrow key.

Initially, the text cursor is at position  $p$ .

Because Nam has a lot homework to do, he wants to complete this as fast as possible. Can you help him by calculating the minimum number of arrow keys presses to make the string to be a palindrome?

# Palindrome Transform

- **Input**

The first line contains two space-separated integers  $n$  ( $1 \leq n \leq 10^5$ ) and  $p$  ( $1 \leq p \leq n$ ), the length of Nam's string and the initial position of the text cursor. The next line contains  $n$  lowercase characters of Nam's string.

- **Output**

Print the minimum number of presses needed to change string into a palindrome.

# Palindrome Transform

- Test case

input
8 3 aeabcaez
output
6

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- **Note**

A string is a palindrome if it reads the same forward or reversed.

In the sample test, initial Nam's string is: aeabcaez (cursor position is shown bold).

In optimal solution, Nam may do 6 following steps:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \text{aeabcaez} & \xrightarrow{\text{right}} & \text{aeab} \mathbf{b} \text{caez} & \xrightarrow{\text{up}} & \text{aeac} \mathbf{c} \text{caez} & \xrightarrow{\text{left}} & \\ \text{aeac} \mathbf{c} \text{caez} & \xrightarrow{\text{left}} & \text{ae} \mathbf{a} \text{ccaez} & \xrightarrow{\text{left}} & \text{ae} \mathbf{a} \text{ccaez} & \xrightarrow{\text{down}} & \text{zeac} \mathbf{c} \text{caez} \end{array}$$

The result, zeaccaez, is now a palindrome.

# Palindrome Transform

- **Evaluation strategy**

Term		Credit
Track 1	Design an algorithm that can solve the given problem (Algorithms in pseudo code or flowchart is accepted)	40
Track 2	Implement an algorithm that can solve the given problem (3 cases will be tested)	60

