# **Minimum Distances**

# HackerRank

The distance between two array values is the number of indices between them. Given a, find the minimum distance between any pair of equal elements in the array. If no such value exists, return -1.

### Example

 $a = \left[3, 2, 1, 2, 3
ight]$ 

There are two matching pairs of values: 3 and 2. The indices of the 3's are i = 0 and j = 4, so their distance is d[i, j] = |j - i| = 4. The indices of the 2's are i = 1 and j = 3, so their distance is d[i, j] = |j - i| = 2. The minimum distance is 2.

# **Function Description**

Complete the *minimumDistances* function in the editor below.

minimumDistances has the following parameter(s):

• *int a[n]:* an array of integers

#### Returns

- *int:* the minimum distance found or -1 if there are no matching elements

#### **Input Format**

The first line contains an integer n, the size of array a. The second line contains n space-separated integers a[i].

# Constraints

- $1 \le n \le 10^3$
- $1 \leq a[i] \leq 10^5$

# **Output Format**

Print a single integer denoting the minimum d[i, j] in a. If no such value exists, print -1.

#### Sample Input

```
    STDIN
    Function

    6
    arr[] size n = 6

    7 1 3 4 1 7
    arr = [7, 1, 3, 4, 1, 7]
```

#### Sample Output

### Explanation

There are two pairs to consider:

- a[1] and a[4] are both 1, so d[1,4]=|1-4|=3.
- a[0] and a[5] are both 7, so d[0,5]=|0-5|=5.

The answer is min(3,5)=3.