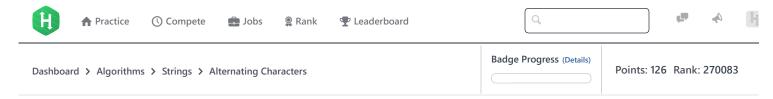
15/11/2017 HackerRank



# **Alternating Characters**



Problem Submissions Leaderboard Discussions Editorial 🔒 Topic
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You are given a string containing characters  $\boldsymbol{A}$  and  $\boldsymbol{B}$  only, your task is to change it into a string such that every two consecutive characters are different. To do this, you are allowed to delete one or more characters in the string.

Your task is to find the minimum number of required deletions.

For example, string ABAA should be changed to ABA by deleting one character A.

#### **Input Format**

The first line contains an integer  $m{t}$ , i.e. the number of test cases.

The next  $m{t}$  lines contain a string  $m{s}$ .

#### **Constraints**

- $1 \le t \le 10$
- $1 \le |s| \le 10^5$

### **Output Format**

For each test case, print the minimum number of deletions required in a new line.

#### **Sample Input**

5 AAAA BBBBB ABABABA BABABA AAABBB

## **Sample Output**

- 3
- 0
- 0
- 4

## Explanation

The characters marked red are the ones that need to be deleted so that the string doesn't have two same consecutive characters.

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AAAA -> A (3 deletions)

BBBBB -> B (4 deletions)

ABABABAB -> ABABABAB (0 deletions)

BABABA -> BABABA (0 deletions)

AAABBB -> AB (4 deletions)

⊮ in Submissions:75048 Max Score:20 Difficulty: Easy Rate This Challenge: Need Help? String Basics

More

```
Current Buffer (saved locally, editable) & 🗗
                                                                                          Java 7
                                                                                                                           Ö
1 ▼ import java.io.*;
2 import java.util.*;
3 import java.text.*;
   import java.math.*;
   import java.util.regex.*;
6
7 ▼ public class Solution {
8
9 🔻
        static int alternatingCharacters(String s){
10
            // Complete this function
11
12
13 ▼
        public static void main(String[] args) {
            Scanner in = new Scanner(System.in);
14
15
            int q = in.nextInt();
            for(int a0 = 0; a0 < q; a0++){
16 ▼
17
                String s = in.next();
18
                int result = alternatingCharacters(s);
19
                System.out.println(result);
20
21
        }
22
   }
23
                                                                                                                   Line: 1 Col: 1
```

**1** Upload Code as File

☐ Test against custom input

Run Code

Submit Code

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