

Remove Duplicates from sorted array

Given a sorted array `nums`, remove duplicates in-place so that each unique element appears only once. Return k = no. of unique elements. The first ' k ' elements of '`nums`' should contain unique numbers in order.

Ex:

`nums = [0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4]`

output: $k = 5$, `nums = [0, 1, 2, 3, 4, -, -, -, -, -]`

constraints:

- `nums.length` $\leq 3 * 10^4$
- $-100 \leq \text{nums}[i] \leq 100$
- `nums` is sorted

Algorithm

- 1) Input a sorted array `nums`
- 2) Initialize $i = 0$ - keeps track of index of last unique element
- 3) Iterate j from 1 to `nums.length - 1`
 - if `nums[j]` is not equal to `nums[i]`
 - increment ' i ' → move to next position for unique element
 - Assign `nums[i] = nums[j]`
 - move new unique element to front

return i+1 → no. of unique elements 'k'

code:

```
int i = 0; // last unique element index
for (int j = 1; j < nums.length; j++) { // iterate through array
    if (nums[j] != nums[i]) { // found a new unique element
        i++; // move to next position for unique element
        nums[i] = nums[j]; // place new unique element at front
    }
}
return i+1; // total no. of unique elements
```