

'Uniq' Command #1



Objective

In this challenge, we practice using the *uniq* command to eliminate consecutive repetitions of a line when a text file is piped through it.

Resources

Here's a useful video on the topic:

Plain Uniq

If this is the file *test.txt*:

```
00
00
01
01
00
00
02
02
```

This is the output on passing it through the *uniq* command, either via pipes or as input via STDIN:

```
Command: uniq < test.txt

00
01
00
02
```

The first two lines of the original file are the same, **(00)**. The next two lines are **(01)** which are followed by two repetitions of **(00)** again and two repetitions of **(02)**. The *uniq* command replaces the consecutive repetitions with only one line in each case.

Uniq with counts

```
uniq -c < test.txt
```

This example indicates the count of repetitions for each of the lines it collapses.

If this is the test file, *testCounts.txt*:

```
00
00
01
01
```

```
00
00
02
02
03
aa
aa
aa
```

Command: `uniq -c < input00.txt`

```
2 00
2 01
2 00
2 02
1 03
3 aa
```

The first number is the *count* of the repeated occurrences in the original file.

Printing only duplicate lines

The `-d` option only prints those lines that are followed by one or more repetitions immediately after them:

```
uniq -d < testCounts.txt
```

OR

```
cat testCounts.txt | uniq -d
```

OR

```
uniq -d testCounts.txt
```

Printing only unique lines

The `-u` option only prints those lines that are succeeded and preceded by different lines:

```
uniq -u < testCounts.txt
```

OR

```
cat testCounts.txt | uniq -u
```

OR

```
uniq -u testCounts.txt
```

Other possible options:

- Limit comparison only to the first ***N*** characters (using the `-w` option).
- Avoid comparing the first ***N*** characters (using the `-s` option).
- Ignore variations in case between lines (using the `-i` option).
- Avoid comparing the first ***N*** fields (using the `-f` option).
(This may be useful while processing TSV files when you'd like to ignore the first column if it has serial numbers.)

You might find [these examples](#) interesting and useful.

Task

Given a text file, remove the consecutive repetitions of any line.

Sample Input

```
00
00
01
01
00
00
02
02
```

Sample Output

```
00
01
00
02
```