

# 26. Remove Duplicates from Sorted Array

Difficulty	easy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Finished	@July 8, 2023
Problem	array
Previously asked company	Microsoft
website	leetcode

### Question:

Given an integer array `nums` sorted in **non-decreasing order**, remove the duplicates **in-place** such that each unique element appears only **once**. The **relative order** of the elements should be kept the **same**. Then return *the number of unique elements in `nums`*.

Consider the number of unique elements of `nums` to be `k`, to get accepted, you need to do the following things:

- Change the array `nums` such that the first `k` elements of `nums` contain the unique elements in the order they were present in `nums` initially. The remaining elements of `nums` are not important as well as the size of `nums`.
- Return `k`.

### Custom Judge:

The judge will test your solution with the following code:

```
int[] nums = [...]; // Input array
int[] expectedNums = [...]; // The expected answer with correct length

int k = removeDuplicates(nums); // Calls your implementation

assert k == expectedNums.length;
for (int i = 0; i < k; i++) {
    assert nums[i] == expectedNums[i];
}
```

If all assertions pass, then your solution will be **accepted**.

### Example 1:

```
Input: nums = [1,1,2]
Output: 2, nums = [1,2,_]
Explanation: Your function should return k = 2, with the first two elements of nums being 1 and 2 respectively.
It does not matter what you leave beyond the returned k (hence they are underscores).
```

### Example 2:

Input: nums = [0,0,1,1,1,2,2,3,3,4]

Output: 5, nums = [0,1,2,3,4,\_,\_,\_,\_,\_]

Explanation: Your function should return k = 5, with the first five elements of nums being 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4 respectively.

It does not matter what you leave beyond the returned k (hence they are underscores).

### Optimal solution:

Time complexity:  $O(n)$

Space complexity:  $O(1)$

```
class Solution(object):
    def removeDuplicates(self, nums):
        l = 1
        n = len(nums)
        for r in range(1,n):
            if nums[r] != nums[r-1]:
                nums[l] = nums[r]
                l += 1
        return l
```