

# Two Characters



In this challenge, you will be given a string. You must remove characters until the string is made up of any two alternating characters. When you choose a character to remove, all instances of that character must be removed. Your goal is to create the longest string possible that contains just two alternating letters.

As an example, consider the string `abaacdabd`. If you delete the character `a`, you will be left with the string `bcdabd`. Now, removing the character `c` leaves you with a valid string `bdbd` having a length of 4. Removing either `b` or `d` at any point would not result in a valid string.

Given a string  $s$ , convert it to the longest possible string  $t$  made up only of alternating characters. Print the length of string  $t$  on a new line. If no string  $t$  can be formed, print `0` instead.

## Function Description

Complete the `alternate` function in the editor below. It should return an integer that denotes the longest string that can be formed, or `0` if it cannot be done.

`alternate` has the following parameter(s):

- $s$ : a string

## Input Format

The first line contains a single integer denoting the length of  $s$ .

The second line contains string  $s$ .

## Constraints

- $1 \leq |s| \leq 1000$
- $s[i] \in \text{ascii}[a-z]$

## Output Format

Print a single integer denoting the maximum length of  $t$  for the given  $s$ ; if it is not possible to form string  $t$ , print `0` instead.

## Sample Input

```
10
beabeefeab
```

## Sample Output

```
5
```

## Explanation

The characters present in  $s$  are `a`, `b`, `e`, and `f`. This means that  $t$  must consist of *two* of those characters and we must delete *two* others. Our choices for characters to leave are `[a,b]`, `[a,e]`, `[a,f]`, `[b,e]`, `[b,f]` and `[e,f]`.

If we delete `e` and `f`, the resulting string is `babab`. This is a valid  $t$  as there are only two distinct characters (`a` and `b`), and they are alternating within the string.

If we delete `a` and `f`, the resulting string is `bebeeeb`. This is not a valid string  $t$  because there are consecutive `e`'s present. Removing them would leave consecutive `b`'s, so this fails to produce a valid string  $t$ .

Other cases are solved similarly.

**babab** is the longest string we can create.