



# Practice Arena

Practice problems aimed to improve your coding skills.

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# Overlapping Patterns

## LAB-PRAC-07\_LOOPS-ARR

**Overlapping Patterns [20 marks]****Problem Statement**

Mr C likes figuring out patterns in sequences. He is very happy if he is able to find the pattern "1 2 1" (without quotes) in the sequence. You will be given a sequence of integers in the input. The sequence contain only the numbers 0, 1 and 2. The sequence will be terminated by a -1 and this -1 is not a part of the sequence.

Mr C wants to figure out how many times does the pattern "1 2 1" (without quotes) appear in the pattern. Your output should simply be the number of time this pattern appears in the sequence you have been given.

**Caution**

1. Be careful about extra/missing lines and extra/missing spaces.
2. The given sequence may have zero occurrences of the pattern. The sequence itself may be empty.
3. Note that, the occurrences of the pattern "1 2 1" (without quotes) can be overlapping as demonstrated in the following examples. However, in brief, we can appreciate this by looking at the sequence 1 2 1 2 1. This sequence actually contains two occurrences of the pattern 1 2 1. The third element of the sequence which is a 1, acts as the final element of one occurrence of the pattern 1 2 1 and also acts as the beginning of a new occurrence of the pattern 1 2 1. Thus, if we were to explicitly bracket the occurrences, we would get (1 2 (1) 2 1)

**HINT:** You may require the use of flags in this question.

**EXAMPLE 1:**

INPUT

1 2 1 2 1 2 0 1 -1

OUTPUT:

2

**Explanation:** The first 3 numbers form 121. In addition, the 3rd to 5th numbers also form 121. The occurrences of the pattern are (1 2 (1) 2 1) 2 0 1

**EXAMPLE 2:**

INPUT

1 2 1 0 1 2 1 1 0 0 -1

OUTPUT:

2

**Explanation:** The first 3 numbers, as well as the 5th-7th numbers, form the pattern 121. Thus, the number of times the pattern appears is 2. The occurrences of the pattern are (1 2 1) 0 (1 2 1) 1 0 0

**Grading Scheme:**

Total marks: **[20 Points]**

There will be no partial grading in this question. An exact match will receive full marks whereas an

incomplete match will receive 0 points. Please be careful of missing/extra spaces and missing/lines (take help of visible test cases). Each visible test case is worth 2 point and each hidden test case is worth 4 points. There are 2 visible and 4 hidden test cases.

 **Start Solving!** (</editor/practice/6139>)