

Intuition of this Problem:

The implementation uses two pointers, i and j , to traverse the character array. The variable i is used to iterate over the array, while j is used to keep track of the position to which the compressed character needs to be written. The variable $prev$ is used to store the previous character encountered, and $count$ is used to keep track of the number of consecutive occurrences of the current character.

Approach for this Problem:

1. Initialize two pointers, i and j , to 0. Pointer i will be used to traverse the input array, while pointer j will be used to modify the array in place.
2. While i is less than the length of the input array, do the following:
 - a. Initialize a variable $count$ to 1. This variable will keep track of the number of consecutive repeating characters in the input array.
 - b. While i is less than the length of the input array minus 1, and the character at index i is equal to the character at index $i+1$, increment $count$ and i .
 - c. Write the character at index i to the output array at index j , and increment both i and j .
 - d. If $count$ is greater than 1, convert it to a string and write each character of the string to the output array at index j , incrementing j for each character.
3. Return j , which is the length of the compressed array.

Time Complexity and Space Complexity:

- **Time complexity:** $O(n)$, where n is the length of the input character array. This is because we traverse the array only once, and the operations within the loop take constant time.
- **Space complexity:** $O(1)$, i.e. constant extra space. This is because we are modifying the input array in place, without using any additional data structures. The only extra space used is the variables i , j , $prev$, and $count$, which all take constant space.
 - Note that the conversion of the count of consecutive characters to a string may take up to $O(\log(count))$ space, but this is still considered constant space as the maximum length of the string is bounded by a constant (i.e., 10). Therefore, the overall space complexity of the algorithm is $O(1)$.