HackerRank

Alternating Characters

You are given a string containing characters \boldsymbol{A} and \boldsymbol{B} only. Your task is to change it into a string such that there are no matching adjacent characters. To do this, you are allowed to delete zero or more characters in the string.

Your task is to find the minimum number of required deletions.

Example

s = AABAAB

Remove an A at positions 0 and 3 to make s=ABAB in 2 deletions.

Function Description

Complete the alternatingCharacters function in the editor below.

alternatingCharacters has the following parameter(s):

• string s: a string

Returns

• int: the minimum number of deletions required

Input Format

The first line contains an integer q, the number of queries.

The next q lines each contain a string s to analyze.

Constraints

- $1 \le q \le 10$
- $1 \le length of s \le 10^5$
- ullet Each string $oldsymbol{s}$ will consist only of characters $oldsymbol{A}$ and $oldsymbol{B}.$

Sample Input

5 AAAA BBBBB ABABABAB BABABA AAABBB

Sample Output

0 0 4

Explanation

The characters marked red are the ones that can be deleted so that the string does not have matching adjacent characters.

AAAA -> A (3 deletions)

BBBBB -> B (4 deletions)

ABABABAB -> ABABABAB (0 deletions)

BABABA -> BABABA (0 deletions)

AAABBB -> AB (4 deletions)