

# 3135. Equalize Strings by Adding or Removing Characters at Ends 🔒

## Description

Given two strings `initial` and `target`, your task is to modify `initial` by performing a series of operations to make it equal to `target`.

In one operation, you can add or remove **one character** only at the *beginning* or the *end* of the string `initial`.

Return the **minimum** number of operations required to *transform* `initial` into `target`.

### Example 1:

**Input:** `initial = "abcde"`, `target = "cdef"`

**Output:** 3

**Explanation:**

Remove `'a'` and `'b'` from the beginning of `initial`, then add `'f'` to the end.

### Example 2:

**Input:** `initial = "axxy"`, `target = "yabx"`

**Output:** 6

**Explanation:**

Operation	Resulting String
Add <code>'y'</code> to the beginning	<code>"yaxxy"</code>
Remove from end	<code>"yaxx"</code>
Remove from end	<code>"yax"</code>
Remove from end	<code>"ya"</code>
Add <code>'b'</code> to the end	<code>"yab"</code>
Add <code>'x'</code> to the end	<code>"yabx"</code>

### Example 3:

**Input:** `initial = "xyz"`, `target = "xyz"`

**Output:** 0

**Explanation:**

No operations are needed as the strings are already equal.

### Constraints:

- `1 <= initial.length, target.length <= 1000`
- `initial` and `target` consist only of lowercase English letters.

