

127. Word Ladder

Description

A **transformation sequence** from word `beginWord` to word `endWord` using a dictionary `wordList` is a sequence of words

`beginWord -> s1 -> s2 -> ... -> sk` such that:

- Every adjacent pair of words differs by a single letter.
- Every `si` for `1 ≤ i ≤ k` is in `wordList`. Note that `beginWord` does not need to be in `wordList`.
- `sk == endWord`

Given two words, `beginWord` and `endWord`, and a dictionary `wordList`, return *the number of words in the shortest transformation sequence from `beginWord` to `endWord`, or 0 if no such sequence exists.*

Example 1:

Input: `beginWord = "hit", endWord = "cog", wordList = ["hot","dot","dog","lot","log","cog"]`

Output: 5

Explanation: One shortest transformation sequence is "hit" -> "hot" -> "dot" -> "dog" -> "cog", which is 5 words long.

Example 2:

Input: `beginWord = "hit", endWord = "cog", wordList = ["hot","dot","dog","lot","log"]`

Output: 0

Explanation: The endWord "cog" is not in wordList, therefore there is no valid transformation sequence.

Constraints:

- `1 ≤ beginWord.length ≤ 10`
- `endWord.length == beginWord.length`
- `1 ≤ wordList.length ≤ 5000`
- `wordList[i].length == beginWord.length`
- `beginWord`, `endWord`, and `wordList[i]` consist of lowercase English letters.
- `beginWord != endWord`
- All the words in `wordList` are **unique**.

