

127. Word Ladder

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 s_i for $1 \leq i \leq k$ is in wordList. Note that beginWord does not need to be in wordList.
- $s_k == endWord$

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:

- $1 \leq \text{beginWord.length} \leq 10$
- $\text{endWord.length} == \text{beginWord.length}$
- $1 \leq \text{wordList.length} \leq 5000$
- $\text{wordList}[i].\text{length} == \text{beginWord.length}$
- beginWord, endWord, and wordList[i] consist of lowercase English letters.
- $\text{beginWord} \neq \text{endWord}$
- All the words in wordList are unique.