

3135. Equalize Strings by Adding or Removing Characters at Ends Premium

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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.

Seen this question in a real interview before? 1/5

Yes No

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