

Problem Diary

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Problem Set #3

1. Solution Process

This problem was lowkey mindblowing.

I knew to keep a bitset of the letters that are already in the keyboard. But I was hardstuck on figuring out the distance between each new letter added, to every existing letter on the keyboard.

I was stuck for like 2 days and then after discussion with mates and self realisation, i figured out that you don't need to keep track of the order of the letters at all.

2. Challenges and Reflections

Major lesson learnt is that when you are not succeeding in figuring out how to keep the order, or trying too hard to precompute, then sometimes we reconsider how viable this approach is, and pivot, and think outside the box whenever we think its not quite right.

I will keep in mind dp problems of similar style later down the road

3. Collaboration

Andrew Zhang