

Name Changes - Feedback

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In this problem we were asked to find and output the minimum edit distance between three names. I learned about this in Natural Language Processing last term, but I have never actually developed a program to find it. I had to bring out my old class notes and remember how to make a minimum edit distance table. Once I relearned the process, it was easy (although my first submission misbuilt the table). I used dynamic programming to iterate through each letter of the word and form a solution table. Note: I ignored the “substitution” part of the problem because a substitution (worth 2) is equivalent to a deletion+insertion (worth 1 each).

The programming was very easy, but it did take some time trying to figure out an approach. One suggestion would be to make substitutions worth 1. This way, substitutions would actually have a purpose in the name change process. Great problem Carly!