

# AIR Question 2

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## 1 Question 2

Before tackling the problem head on, I wanted to first review the definition given on wikipedia and then make adjustments

```
[1]: def hamming_distance(string1, string2):  
    dist_counter = 0  
    for n in range(len(string1)):  
        if string1[n] != string2[n]:  
            dist_counter += 1  
    return dist_counter  
  
[2]: # just trying out two of the test cases from the document  
print(hamming_distance('make', 'mage'))  
print(hamming_distance('MaiSY', 'MaiZy'))
```

1  
2

## 1.1 Modification 1

The first modification to be made is to add another point for capitalization, unless it occurs in the first position

```
[3]: def hamming_distance1(s1, s2):
    distance = 0
    for n in range(len(s1)):
        if n == 0: # applying a different rule if we are looking at the first
            position
            if s1[n].lower() != s2[n].lower():
                distance += 1
        else:
            if s1[n].lower() != s2[n].lower(): # modification of original rule
                distance += 1

        # The following could be on one line in an or statement, but I
        visually prefer to see the logic this way

        if s1[n].isupper() and s2[n].islower(): # checking for
            capitalization and applying exception
            distance += 0.5
        if s1[n].islower() and s2[n].isupper(): # checking for
            capitalization and applying exception
            distance += 0.5

    return distance

[4]: # testing on the examples
print(hamming_distance1('Kitten', 'kitten'))
print(hamming_distance1('kitten', 'kiTten'))
print(hamming_distance1('Puppy', 'POppy'))
```

```
0
0.5
1.5
```

## 1.2 Modification 2

The second modification considers s and z to be the same letter. The previous rules still apply

```
[5]: # to make this more dynamic, lets create a list with exceptions that we can add
      →to or remove later
exception_pairs = [('s', 'z'), ('z', 's'), ('S', 'Z'), ('Z', 'S')]

[6]: def hamming_distance_Final(s1, s2):
      distance = 0
      for n in range(len(s1)):
          if n == 0:
              if s1[n].lower() != s2[n].lower():
                  distance += 1
          else:
              if s1[n].lower() != s2[n].lower():
                  if (s1[n], s2[n]) not in exception_pairs: #applying our last
                  →exception
                      distance += 1
                  if s1[n].isupper() and s2[n].islower():
                      distance += 0.5
                  if s1[n].islower() and s2[n].isupper():
                      distance += 0.5

      return distance

[7]: # all text cases explored
print(hamming_distance_Final('make', 'Mage'))
print(hamming_distance_Final('MaiSY', 'MaiZy'))
print(hamming_distance_Final('Eagle', 'Eager'))
print(hamming_distance_Final('Sentences work too', 'Sentences wAKE too'))
```

1  
0.5  
2  
3.5

### 1.3 Scoring Given Strings

```
[8]: print('The score for a) is: ' + str(hamming_distance_Final("data Science", "Data_Sciency")))
      print('The score for b) is: ' + str(hamming_distance_Final("organizing", "orGanising")))
      print('The score for c) is: ' + str(hamming_distance_Final("AGPRklafsdyeIIIIlgEnXuTggzF", "AgpRkliFZdiweIIIIlgENXUTygSF")))
```

The score for a) is: 1

The score for b) is: 0.5

The score for c) is: 8.5

### 1.4 Applications of Hammering Distance

One of the applications of Hammering Distance I see right away is for spellchecking or spell formatting certain texts. A Hammering Distance above 0 means that there is something wrong between two texts or two words being compared during a spellcheck algorithm. RegEx can cut through a document and then it can be coupled with this algorithm to give an overall measure of how misspelled a document is. The first exception we made helps when dealing with proper nouns or the beginning of a sentence. The second exception I see as especially useful for comparing US and UK texts, given that we are ignoring the counting for s and z.