P8 - Maximum Subsequence

Background definitions

Subsequence of a given string: Any string that can be obtained by deleting zero or more symbols from the given string (the remaining symbols occur in the same order, but aren't necessarily consecutive).

Examples: "", "a", "xb", "aaa", "bbb", "xabb", "xaaabbb" are subsequences of "xaaabbb".

Common subsequence of a given set of strings: Any string that is a subsequence of each of the given strings.

Examples: "xa", "aaa", "bbb" are common subsequences of the strings in {"xaaabbb", "a7axb8bab", "bbabartxta"}.

Longest common subsequence of a given set of strings: Any maximum length common subsequence of the given set of strings.

Example: "aaa", "bbb" are the two longest common subsequences of the above set of strings. Their length is 3, which is greater than the length of any other common subsequence.

<u>Determine</u> the maximum length of the common subsequences of a given set of *N* non-empty words.

Consider a set of N words (strings), where each word is a non-empty sequence of lowercase English letters and digits. Assume that $2 \le N \le 100$, that each word contains maximum 100 characters, and that in each set the product of all its word lengths is maximum 2,097,152.

INPUT FORMAT:

The input may consist of several sets, and each set consists of several lines.

- Line 1: A positive integer N giving the number of words in the current set. The value N = 0 signals the end.
- Next N Lines: Each line consists of a non-empty word, ie, a non-empty sequence of lowercase English letters and digits.

OUTPUT FORMAT:

The output consists of one line for each input set.

• Each line contains an integer giving the maximum length of all common subsequences of the corresponding set (in input order).

ACM SP 2001

SAMPLE INPUT:

```
ab
bc
3
xaaabbb
a7axb8bab
bbabartxta
3
ab
bc
cd
2
1abc2def3ghi4jkl5mno6pqr7stu8vwx9yz0
abc8def7ghi6jkl0mno4pqr3stu2vwx1yz
0
```

SAMPLE OUTPUT

and COMMENTS

```
1 = the length of "b"
3 = the length of either "aaa" or "bbb"
0 = the length of the empty word
26 = the length of "abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz"
```