

Problem 126: Word Ladder II

Problem Information

Difficulty: Hard

Acceptance Rate: 27.36%

Paid Only: No

Tags: Hash Table, String, Backtracking, Breadth-First Search

Problem Description

A **transformation sequence** from word `beginWord` to word `endWord` using a dictionary `wordList` is a sequence of words `beginWord -> s1 -> s2 -> ... -> sk` such that:

- * Every adjacent pair of words differs by a single letter.
- * Every `si` for $1 \leq i \leq k$ is in `wordList`. Note that `beginWord` does not need to be in `wordList`.
- * `sk == endWord`

Given two words, `beginWord` and `endWord`, and a dictionary `wordList`, return **all the shortest transformation sequences** from `beginWord` to `endWord`, or an empty list if no such sequence exists. Each sequence should be returned as a list of the words `[beginWord, s1, s2, ..., sk]`.

Example 1:

Input: `beginWord = "hit", endWord = "cog", wordList = ["hot", "dot", "dog", "lot", "log", "cog"]`

Output: `[["hit", "hot", "dot", "dog", "cog"], ["hit", "hot", "lot", "log", "cog"]]` **Explanation:** There are 2 shortest transformation sequences: `"hit" -> "hot" -> "dot" -> "dog" -> "cog"` `"hit" -> "hot" -> "lot" -> "log" -> "cog"`

Example 2:

Input: `beginWord = "hit", endWord = "cog", wordList = ["hot", "dot", "dog", "lot", "log"]`

Output: `[]` **Explanation:** The endWord "cog" is not in wordList, therefore there is no valid transformation sequence.

Constraints:

* `1 <= beginWord.length <= 5` * `endWord.length == beginWord.length` * `1 <= wordList.length <= 500` * `wordList[i].length == beginWord.length` * `beginWord`, `endWord`, and `wordList[i]` consist of lowercase English letters. * `beginWord != endWord` * All the words in `wordList` are **unique**. * The **sum** of all shortest transformation sequences does not exceed `105`.

Code Snippets

C++:

```
class Solution {
public:
    vector<vector<string>> findLadders(string beginWord, string endWord,
    vector<string>& wordList) {

    }
};
```

Java:

```
class Solution {
    public List<List<String>> findLadders(String beginWord, String endWord,
    List<String> wordList) {

    }
}
```

Python3:

```
class Solution:
    def findLadders(self, beginWord: str, endWord: str, wordList: List[str]) ->
    List[List[str]]:
```