

Problem 2186: Minimum Number of Steps to Make Two Strings Anagram II

Problem Information

Difficulty: **Medium**

Acceptance Rate: 73.01%

Paid Only: No

Tags: Hash Table, String, Counting

Problem Description

You are given two strings `s` and `t`. In one step, you can append **any character** to either `s` or `t`.

Return the minimum number of steps to make `s` and `t` **anagrams** of each other.

An **anagram** of a string is a string that contains the same characters with a different (or the same) ordering.

Example 1:

Input: `s = "leetcode", t = "coats"` **Output:** 7 **Explanation:**
- In 2 steps, we can append the letters in "as" onto `s = "leetcode"`, forming `s = "leetcodeas"`.
- In 5 steps, we can append the letters in "leede" onto `t = "coats"`, forming `t = "coatsleede"`.
"`leetcodeas`" and "`coatsleede`" are now anagrams of each other. We used a total of $2 + 5 = 7$ steps. It can be shown that there is no way to make them anagrams of each other with less than 7 steps.

Example 2:

Input: `s = "night", t = "thing"` **Output:** 0 **Explanation:** The given strings are already anagrams of each other. Thus, we do not need any further steps.

Constraints:

$1 \leq s.length, t.length \leq 2 \times 10^5$ `s` and `t` consist of lowercase English letters.

Code Snippets

C++:

```
class Solution {  
public:  
    int minSteps(string s, string t) {  
  
    }  
};
```

Java:

```
class Solution {  
    public int minSteps(String s, String t) {  
  
    }  
}
```

Python3:

```
class Solution:  
    def minSteps(self, s: str, t: str) -> int:
```