



## DAILY PROGRAMMING CHALLENGE



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### Count Substrings with Exactly K Distinct Characters

You are given a string  $s$  of lowercase English alphabets and an integer  $k$ . Your task is to count all possible substrings of  $s$  that contain exactly  $k$  distinct characters.

#### Input:

- A string  $s$  consisting of lowercase English letters.
- An integer  $k$ , where  $1 \leq k \leq 26$
- The length of the string satisfies  $1 \leq n \leq 104$

#### Output:

- Return an integer that represents the number of substrings of  $s$  that contain exactly  $k$  distinct characters.

#### Examples:

- Example 1  
Input:  $s = \text{"pppqs"}$ ,  $k = 2$   
Output: 7  
Explanation: The possible substrings with exactly 2 distinct characters are: "pq", "ppq", "qp", "pqs", "pq", "qs", and "pq". Thus, there are 7 such substrings.

#### Constraints:

- A string  $s$  consisting of lowercase English letters.
- An integer  $k$ , where  $1 \leq k \leq 26$
- The length of the string satisfies  $1 \leq n \leq 104$

#### Test Cases:

1. Input:  $s = \text{"pppqs"}$ ,  $k = 2$   
Output: 7
2. Input:  $s = \text{"aabacbebebe"}$ ,  $k = 3$   
Output: 10
3. Input:  $s = \text{"a"}$ ,  $k = 1$   
Output: 1
4. Input:  $s = \text{"abc"}$ ,  $k = 3$   
Output: 1



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5. Input:  $s = \text{"abc"}$ ,  $k = 2$   
Output: 2

### Edge Cases:

1. Small values of  $k$ : If  $k = 1$ , count the number of substrings with only one distinct character (such as repeated characters).
2. Large values of  $k$ : If  $k > n$ , it is impossible to have a substring with  $k$  distinct characters, so the result is 0.
3. String with all identical characters: If the string consists of repeated characters, count substrings based on their length for different values of  $k$ .