

Peer Review Summary

The boggle class is initialized with two primary parameters. The code is well structured with functions managing several components of game, such as initialization and validation, prefix formation, word search, and final solution generation. However, there are several areas where improvements could be made.

1. Code Structure and initialization:

The `__init__` method correctly initializes the board, dictionary, prefixes, and movement directions. Converting the board characters to uppercase and storing the dictionary as a set enhances consistency and lookup speed. Adding type hints to the `__init__` method and other functions might help to improve readability and maintainability.

2. DFS:

The method manages backtracking, marking cells, reverting changes. The handling of 'Q' and 'S' ensures that the word formation respect boggle rules for specific letter behavior. To make conditions more efficient, combine boundary checks into a single `if` statement at the start of the function. Use a dictionary to update how the letters "Q" and "S" are handled in unusual instances (`extra_chars_map = {'Q': 'U', 'S': 'T'}`). This streamlines and arranges the handling of exceptional cases. To eliminate any unnecessary characters added because of special cases, backtrack and extract the backtracking logic into a helper method. Ensure the dfs method calls backtrack after traversing a cell

3. Backtracking:

Define a new `backtrack` method, which removes extra characters from `current_word` based on the `extra_chars` count. By separating the backtracking logic, this modular approach makes the primary DFS function more understandable and aligns with the structure of the revised solver.

4. Finding words:

The `getSolution` method sets up and runs the DFS search from each cell, then returns the sorted list of valid words found on the board. Create a separate `find_valid_words` method, which will handle the DFS logic by initializing the `found_words` set, iterating over each cell on the board, and launching DFS from each starting cell. Update `getSolution` to call `find_valid_words` and return its results. This way, `getSolution` works as a higher-level access point to retrieve the valid words, while the core word-finding logic is handled by `find_valid_words` handles the core word-finding logic, aligning with the updated code structure.

5. Main function:

The use of the Boggle class is demonstrated in the main function. It starts a Boggle object, initializes a dictionary and example board, and calls `getSolution` to output the answer.

Code Efficiency and Complexity

The code seems to be efficient since it minimizes duplicate calculations by optimizing prefix matching by generating a set of prefixes in advance. By efficiently going back and avoiding cell revisits, the `dfs` function makes sure that it only investigates legitimate board pathways. Prefix and dictionary storage sets work together to reduce the time complexity of searching through a potentially huge Boggle board by utilizing $O(1)$ average lookup times.

Edge Cases

The code handles certain edge cases such as:

- Boards with inconsistent row lengths, which are flagged as invalid.
- Specific rules for 'Q' and 'S' letters.
- Early exit from DFS when a sequence does not match any dictionary prefix.

With an emphasis on efficiency and clarity, the Boggle class implementation successfully creates a well-organized framework for the Boggle game. To improve readability and lookup speed, the class is initialized by converting board characters to uppercase and storing the dictionary as a set. Its modular structure, which includes the DFS algorithm, allows for effective word search in all situations while managing exceptional circumstances, including sequences containing the letters "Q" and "S." The DFS function might be further streamlined by separating backtracking logic into a helper method, and maintainability could be improved by utilizing type hints.

Overall, a strong solution structure is supported by the code's design, which handles crucial edge situations like row length consistency and premature DFS exits for unmatched prefixes from grid validation to solution generation. The class retains high readability while utilizing appropriate data structures for time complexity benefits by decomposing the `getSolution` function and DFS process into distinct tasks, such as adding a separate `find_valid_words` function. In the end, these enhancements optimize efficiency and improve the Boggle solver's overall clarity by creating a more modular and manageable solution.