

# 1239. Maximum Length of a Concatenated String with Unique Characters

Medium Topics Companies Hint

You are given an array of strings `arr`. A string `s` is formed by the **concatenation** of a **subsequence** of `arr` that has **unique characters**.

Return the *maximum possible length* of `s`.

A **subsequence** is an array that can be derived from another array by deleting some or no elements without changing the order of the remaining elements.

Example 1:

```
Input: arr = ["un","iq","ue"]
Output: 4
Explanation: All the valid concatenations are:
- ""
- "un"
- "iq"
- "ue"
- "uniq" ("un" + "iq")
- "ique" ("iq" + "ue")
Maximum length is 4.
```

Example 2:

```
Input: arr = ["cha","r","act","ers"]
Output: 6
Explanation: Possible longest valid concatenations are "chaers" ("cha" + "ers") and "acters" ("act" + "ers").
```

Example 3:

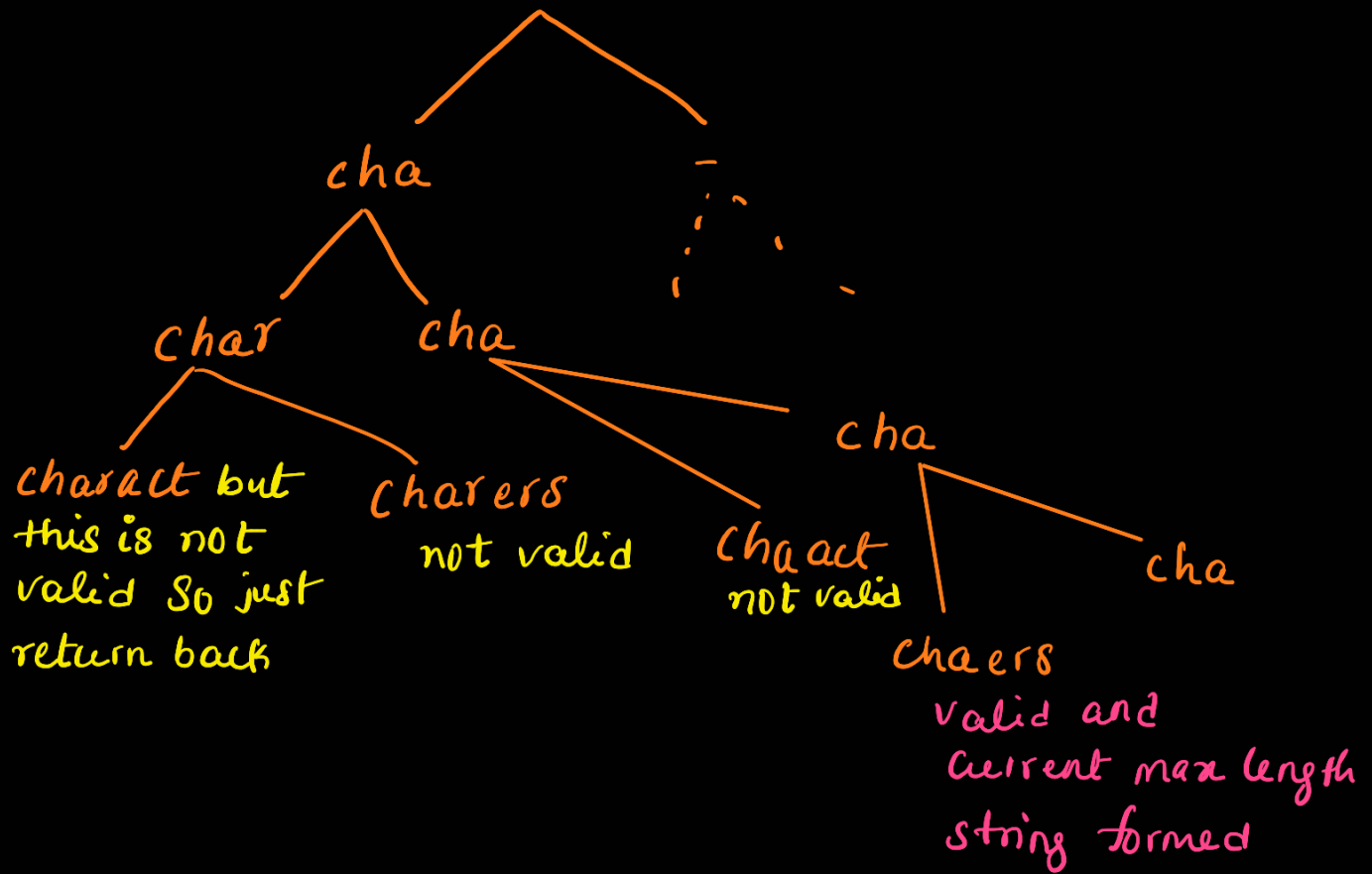
```
Input: arr = ["abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz"]
Output: 26
Explanation: The only string in arr has all 26 characters.
```

Constraints:

- $1 \leq \text{arr.length} \leq 16$
- $1 \leq \text{arr}[i].\text{length} \leq 26$
- `arr[i]` contains only lowercase English letters.

we can view this problem as a combination problem.  
for every string we have 2 choices - "include or not include"  
This problem is pretty simple intuitively but things get a bit complicated while implementing.

# characters



```
class Solution {
public:
    void find(int i,vector<string> &arr,int currLen,vector<bool> &isThere,int &ans){
        if(i == arr.size()){
            ans = max(ans,currLen);
            return;
        }
    }
}
```

base case

```
string s = arr[i];
bool flag = false;
for(int k = 0;k<s.length();k++){
    if(isThere[s[k] - 'a']){
        flag = true;
        break;
    }
}
```

} To check if current string has any character that is already there in formed string so far.

```
if(!flag){
    bool inFlag = false;
    for(int k = 0;k<s.length();k++){
        if(isThere[s[k] - 'a']){
            inFlag = true;
            break;
        }
        isThere[s[k] - 'a'] = true;
    }
}
```

To check if currString itself has any repeating characters.

$$Eg: arr: [{}^u aa^v, {}^u bb^v]$$

```
if(!inFlag)
    find(i+1,arr,currLen+arr[i].length(),isThere,ans); → include
```

```
for(int k = 0;k<s.length();k++) {
```

```
isThere[s[k] - 'a'] = false;  
}
```

ending

```
find(i+1, arr, currLen, isThere, ans); → not include  
}
```

```
int maxLength(vector<string>& arr) {  
    vector<bool> isThere(26, false);
```

To keep track of included  
characters so far

```
    int ans = 0;
```

```
    find(0, arr, 0, isThere, ans);
```

```
    return ans;
```

```
}
```

```
};
```