

583. Delete Operation for Two Strings

Medium

Topics

Companies

Given two strings `word1` and `word2`, return the minimum number of **steps** required to make `word1` and `word2` the same.

In one **step**, you can delete exactly one character in either string.

Example 1:

Input: `word1 = "sea", word2 = "eat"`

Output: 2

Explanation: You need one step to make "sea" to "ea" and another step to make "eat" to "ea".

Example 2:

Input: `word1 = "leetcode", word2 = "etco"`

Output: 4

Constraints:

- `1 <= word1.length, word2.length <= 500`
- `word1` and `word2` consist of only lowercase English letters.

To make the minimum deletion operations, we should not delete the characters that are same in both words.

Get the LCS of `word1` and `word2`

Then

$$\text{deletions required} = m - \text{LCS} + n - \text{LCS}$$

i.e. Now the problem got reduced to problem of finding LCS. #1143

$T(n)$: $T(n)$ of LCS
 $S(n)$: $S(n)$ of LCS

```
class Solution {  
public:
```

public:

```
int minDistance(string text1, string text2) {  
    int m = text1.length();  
    int n = text2.length();  
    vector<int> prev(n + 1, 0);  
    for (int i = 1; i <= m; i++) {  
        vector<int> curr(n + 1, 0);  
        for (int j = 1; j <= n; j++) {  
            int val;  
            if (text1[i - 1] == text2[j - 1])  
                val = 1 + prev[j - 1];  
            else  
                val = max(prev[j], curr[j - 1]);  
  
            curr[j] = val;  
        }  
        prev = curr;  
    }  
  
    int lcs = prev[n];  
    return m - lcs + n - lcs;  
}  
};
```