CS2810 - OOAIA Lab 13 Ashoka's Sentinels: The Imperial Cover Protocol

Date: 15 April 2025

Link: Hackerrank Link

Problem Description

In the **glorious age of the Mauryan Empire**, Emperor **Ashoka the Great** reigned over a vast and diverse kingdom. After his transformative victory in the **Kalinga campaign**, Ashoka shifted his focus toward maintaining peace, unity, and order across the realm. To safeguard every province and ensure uninterrupted communication between them, he strategically deployed **imperial sentinels** at key outposts.

These outposts are interconnected by roads that form a **tree-like structure**—a sprawling network that spans the length and breadth of the empire. Each sentinel stationed at an outpost is responsible for monitoring the roads connected to it. In his pursuit of efficiency, Ashoka now seeks to **activate the minimum number of sentinels** such that **every road in the kingdom is monitored** by at least one of its two endpoints.

To ensure discipline and authority in his ranks, Ashoka's sentinels belong to **three distinct military titles**, each representing a unique level of command in the Mauryan hierarchy:

- 1. **SENAPATI** The supreme military commander, at the top of the hierarchy
- DANDANAYAKA The general responsible for justice and discipline, ranking just below the Senapati
- 3. **CHATURANGINI** The guardian of the fourfold army divisions (infantry, cavalry, elephants, and chariots), representing the foundational command level

This rank hierarchy plays a crucial role in organizing and sorting the sentinels based on their authority and responsibility. When required, the system must respect this military order, where:

SENAPATI > DANDANAYAKA > CHATURANGINI

To aid his mission, Ashoka has summoned his royal tacticians—you—to design and implement a sophisticated system that models the deployment plan.

Your task is to build the Imperial Surveillance System, a software solution that:

- 1. **Calculates the minimum number of active sentinels** required to achieve complete surveillance of all roads in the empire.
- 2. **Sorts and displays all sentinels** based on their rank using a custom comparator that respects the military hierarchy.
- 3. Count the number of sentinels in the empire who hold a higher rank than a given sentinel.

By blending strategy with structure, and optimization with object-oriented design, you will bring order to Ashoka's defense network and demonstrate the power of intelligent military engineering.

Design Specifications

Class Hierarchy

Implement an abstract base class Sentinel:

- Holds fields like id, name, and rank.
- Includes a pure virtual method countHigherRanked() to return the number of sentinels who have a strictly higher rank than the current sentinel. Sentinels with the same rank should not be included, even if they have a smaller ID.
- For example, a Senapati will always return 0 from this method since no rank is higher than Senapati.

Implement derived classes:

 Senapati, Dandanayaka, and Chaturangini, each with their own implementation of countHigherRanked().

Tree Structure

Implement a template class Kingdom<NodeType> to:

- In this case the NodeType can be Sentinel.
- Add roads (edges) between outposts (nodes).
- Track all sentinels and apply dynamic programming to compute minimum vertex cover.

- Each sentinel's ID is the same as the node assigned to them in the tree. Nodes are numbered from 0 to n-1.
- Sentinels are assigned to nodes in the same order as their details appear in the input.

Custom Comparator

Define a comparator functor to order sentinels based on rank hierarchy:

Senapati > Dandanayaka > Chaturangini

If two sentinels have the same rank, the one with the smaller ID is considered higher.

Note: You can define additional classes and methods as needed. Use of STL is allowed.

Input and Output Format

Input Format:

- 1. Each test case corresponds to one configuration of the empire.
- 2. The first line contains n, the number of outposts (nodes).

The next n-1 lines each contain two integers u v, representing a road between outposts.

The next n lines each contain details of a sentinel at node i, in the format:

<Name> <Rank> — Rank is one of SENAPATI, DANDANAYAKA, or CHATURANGINI.

3. The next line contains q, the number of queries.

Each of the following q lines is one of the following:

Query Types:

- $1 \rightarrow$ Output the minimum number of active sentinels required.
- 2 → Output a sorted list of all sentinels based on rank.
- $3 \rightarrow$ Output the count of sentinels with a higher rank than the sentinel with the given ID.

Output Format:

- 1. **Query Type 1**: Output a single integer on one line the minimum number of active sentinels required to monitor all roads.
- 2. **Query Type 2**: Output one line containing the IDs of all sentinels sorted by rank (highest to lowest), using the custom rank comparator. If two sentinels have the same rank, the one with the smaller ID comes first. IDs should be separated by spaces.
- 3. **Query Type 3**: Output a single integer on one line the number of sentinels who hold a strictly higher rank than the sentinel with the given ID.

Note: Use \n instead of std::endl to avoid TLE.

Input Constraints

 $1 \le n \le 10^5$

 $1 \le q \le 10^3$

Rank will always be one of SENAPATI, DANDANAYAKA, or CHATURANGINI

Tree structure is guaranteed (connected and acyclic)

Sample Test Cases & Explanation

Sample Test Case 1

Input:

5

0 1

02

23

24

Karna SENAPATI

Vikram DANDANAYAKA

Arjun SENAPATI

Bhima CHATURANGINI

Abhimanyu SENAPATI

3

1

2

3 2

Output:

2

02413

0

Explanation:

The empire has 5 outposts connected in a tree. Using dynamic programming for vertex cover, nodes 0 and 2 are selected for activating sentinels (e.g., Karna and Arjun), which gives full coverage with just 2 active sentinels.

Another optimal solution is selecting nodes 1 and 2, these also give full coverage of the tree.

For query 2, sorting by rank (SENAPATI > DANDANAYAKA > CHATURANGINI), we get SENAPATI nodes (IDs 0, 2, 4) first, followed by DANDANAYAKA (ID 1), then CHATURANGINI (ID 3).

Query 3 asks how many sentinels are higher ranked than the sentinel at node 2 (Arjun, SENAPATI). Since no rank is higher than SENAPATI, the answer is 0.

Sample Test Case 2

Input:

4

0 1

12

13

Mitra DANDANAYAKA Ajeet SENAPATI Chitra CHATURANGINI Lalit DANDANAYAKA

3

1

2

3 0

Output:

1

1032

1

Explanation:

Minimum vertex cover selects node 1, resulting in only 1 active sentinel.

Sorting by rank gives SENAPATI (1), then DANDANAYAKA (0 and 3), then CHATURANGINI (2).

Query 3 asks how many sentinels are higher ranked than ID 0 (Mitra, DANDANAYAKA). Only Ajeet (ID 1, SENAPATI) is higher ranked.

Sample Test Case 3

Input:

4

0 1

12

23

Raj SENAPATI Ajay CHATURANGINI Sanjay DANDANAYAKA Vijay DANDANAYAKA

4

1

2

33

3 1

Output:

2

0231

1

3

Explanation:

Minimum vertex cover can select node 1 and 3, resulting in 2 active sentinel. (There can be multiple selections that give optimal vertex cover).

Sorting by rank gives SENAPATI (0), then DANDANAYAKA (2 and 3), then CHATURANGINI (1).

Query 3 asks how many sentinels are higher ranked than ID 3 (Vijay, DANDANAYAKA). Only Raj (ID 0, SENAPATI) is higher ranked.

Query 4 asks how many sentinels are higher ranked than ID 1 (Ajay, CHATURANGINI). There are 3 sentinels ranked higher: Raj (ID 0, SENAPATI), Sanjay (ID 2, DANDANAYAKA), and Vijay (ID 3, DANDANAYAKA).