

High Level Idea

For an interval $P = (a_i, b_i)$, we denote access to the element of a_i as $P[0]$, and b_i as $P[1]$. Also, if we have a , b , and we want to construct $P = (a, b)$, we denote that as $P = (a, b)$

We define for every two intervals $P = (a_i, b_i)$ and $Q = (a_j, b_j)$. If we have $a_i \leq a_j$ and $b_j \leq b_i$ we say that Q is **contained** in P .

This definition will be useful for the explanation. We define a utility function called `IsContained(ai, bi, aj, bj)` to check if $Q = (a_j, b_j)$ is **contained** in $P = (a_i, b_i)$:

```
IsContained(P, Q):  
    return (P[0] ≤ Q[0]) and (Q[1] ≤ P[1])
```

We also have the auxiliary function `OverlapLength(P, Q)` that calculate the overlap length of interval P and Q :

```
OverlapLength(P, Q):  
    return max(0, min(P[1], Q[1]) - max(P[0], Q[0]))
```

Before we begin, first check if the condition $n \geq 2$ is true, if we are given 0 or 1 interval, it doesn't make any sense to find the maximum overlap length. In this case, we could just end our program, and possibly give / throw a exception.

We begin by sorting the array $A[1..n]$ and permuting the array $B[1..n]$ to maintain correspondence between endpoints, in $O(n \log n)$ time (`MergeSort`).

We iterate through these sorted $A[1..n]$ (with associated $B[1..n]$). We keep a global variable `maxLength` to track the maximum overlap length between intervals we have seen so far. This sub-process is:

```
IterateThroughIntervals(A[1..n], B[1..n]):  
    maxLength ← 0  
    lastInterval ← null  
    for i ← 1 to n:  
        if lastInterval is not null:  
            currentInterval ← (A[i], B[i])  
            if IsContained(lastInterval, currentInterval):  
                maxLength ← max(maxLength, currentInterval)  
            else:  
                maxLength ← max(  
                    maxLength,  
                    OverlapLength(lastInterval, currentInterval)  
                )  
            lastInterval ← currentInterval  
    return maxLength
```

Time Complexity Analysis

We see that the the initial sorting of `A` takes $O(n \log n)$ times, and then the `IterateThroughIntervals` takes $O(n)$ (since it has one `for` loop that loop through all intervals of size n). So, the total time complexity is dominated by the initial sorting, which is $O(n \log n)$