

Solution 1:

Understanding the problem.

Two walls (n cells each), start at left index 0. Each move takes 1s, then water rises by 1. Legal moves: up $x+1$, down $x-1$, jump to other wall $x+k$. Cells marked 'X' are blocked. You escape if a generated move lands at $x \geq n$.

Approach

Model it as reachability on a time-expanded graph and use **BFS**:

- State: $(\text{wall}, \text{index}, \text{time})$.
- Pop (w, x, t) , generate neighbors at $t+1$.
- Enqueue only if safe, not visited, and won't be underwater after the move.
- If any neighbor has $x \geq n$, print **YES**; else **NO** when the queue empties.

What went wrong

- Mixed a single array for **blocked** and **visited**, which blurred responsibilities.
- Applied the **flood rule** inconsistently (checked for some moves but not all; didn't skip popped states already underwater).
- Checked **escape** in the wrong place (on the current cell or after bounds), making it impossible to ever reach $x \geq n$.
- Minor indexing/typos (e.g., pushing $x+1$ on a left move), and ordering checks after indexing caused out-of-bounds risks.

Fixes

- **Separated concerns**: wall layout vs. visited.
- **Established invariants**:
 - On pop: skip if $x < t$ (already underwater).
 - On push (every move): require $nx \geq t+1$.
 - **Escape-first**: if $nx \geq n$, succeed **before** any array access.

- Unified the neighbor-check pipeline: `escape? → bounds → not 'X' → not visited → not underwater` .

What would have prevented it

- Writing the three invariants up front (pop-skip, push- `nx ≥ t+1` , escape-first).
- A small per-move checklist applied identically to up/down/jump.
- Early manual trace on a tiny case to validate water timing and escape condition.
- Keeping **data roles separate** from the start.

Outcome

Clean BFS with simple data structures, correct under all cases: time handled as BFS depth, no underwater states enqueued, and escape detected on generation.