

Conditions for Merging

$$\begin{array}{lll} x_1 & y_1 & x_2 & y_2 \\ [1, 3] & , & [2, 4] \Rightarrow [1, 4] & (x_2 < y_1) \\ [1, 3] & , & [3, 5] \Rightarrow [1, 5] & (x_2 = y_1) \\ [1, 3] & , & [2, 4] \Rightarrow [1, 6] & (x_2 < y_1) \end{array}$$

$\max(y_1, y_2)$

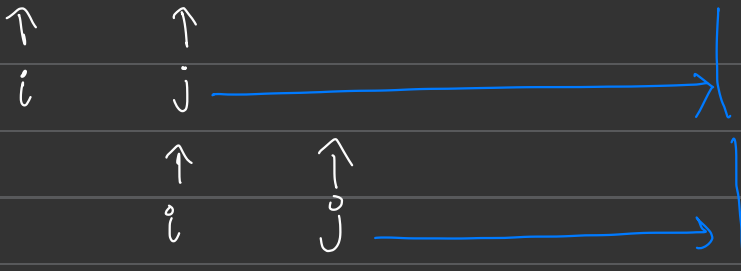
$(x_2 \leq y_1)$

End of merging

Note: The intervals should be sorted wrt x

Brute force: (Sort first)

$$a = [[1, 3], [2, 6], [4, 5], [8, 10], [15, 18]]$$



Check for all pairs, if they are merging or not,

if merging, store the new pair in a vector

$$T.C \rightarrow O(n^2) \quad | \quad s \rightarrow O(n)$$

Optimised Solution

(Single pass approach)

- Sort the intervals $\text{sort}(a.\text{begin}(), a.\text{end}());$
- Maintain a current-interval
- Linearly iterate over the intervals array
 - if i^{th} interval merges with curr-interval
 $(a[i][0] \leq \text{curr-interval}[1])$
 - Merge those intervals & update curr-interval
curr-interval[0] is unchanged.
 $\text{curr-interval}[1] = \max(\text{curr-interval}[1], a[i][1]);$
 - if not,
 - add the curr-interval to ans
 $\text{ans.push_back}(\text{curr-interval});$
 - update the curr-interval to i^{th} interval
 $\text{curr-interval}[0] = a[i][0]$
 $\text{curr-interval}[1] = a[i][1]$
- Finally, add the last curr-interval as loop broke before doing that
 $\text{ans.push_back}(\text{curr-interval});$

Dry Run

$a = [[1, 3], [2, 6], [4, 5], [8, 10], [15, 18]]$

$cur_pair = [1, 3]$

$[1, 3], [2, 6] \rightarrow [1, 6]$

$cur_pair = [1, 6]$

$[1, 6], [4, 5] \rightarrow [1, 6]$

$cur_pair = [1, 6]$

$[1, 6], [8, 10] \rightarrow \times$

$ans = [[1, 6]]$

$cur_pair = [8, 10]$

$[8, 10], [15, 18] \rightarrow \times$

$ans = [[1, 6], [8, 10]]$

$cur_pair = [15, 18]$

$ans = [[1, 6], [8, 10], [15, 18]]$

T.C $\rightarrow O(n \log n)$; SC $\rightarrow O(n)$