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Articles



Videos



Problems



Quiz

<< Prev

Next >>

Merge two Sorted Arrays

Given two sorted arrays, the task is to merge them in a sorted manner.

Examples:

Input: $arr1[] = \{1, 3, 4, 5\}$, $arr2[] = \{2, 4, 6, 8\}$

Output: $arr3[] = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 4, 5, 6, 8\}$

Input: $arr1[] = \{5, 8, 9\}$, $arr2[] = \{4, 7, 8\}$

Output: $arr3[] = \{4, 5, 7, 8, 8, 9\}$

Method 1: ($O(n1 * n2)$ Time and $O(n1+n2)$ Extra Space)

1. Create an array $arr3[]$ of size $n1 + n2$.
2. Copy all $n1$ elements of $arr1[]$ to $arr3[]$
3. Traverse $arr2[]$ and one by one insert elements (like [insertion sort](#)) of $arr3[]$ to $arr1[]$. This step take $O(n1 * n2)$ time.

We have discussed implementation of above method in [Merge two sorted arrays with \$O\(1\)\$ extra space](#)

Method 2: ($O(n1 + n2)$ Time and $O(n1 + n2)$ Extra Space)

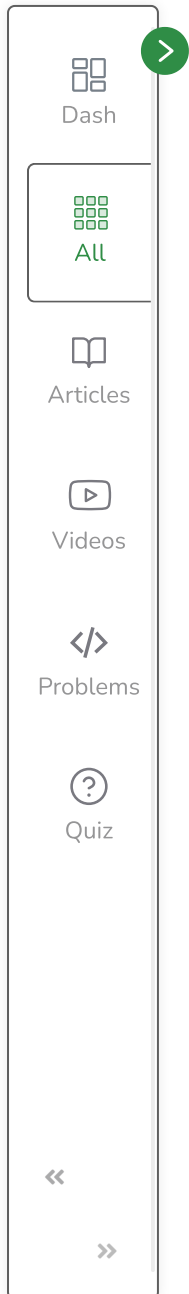
The idea is to use Merge function of [Merge sort](#).

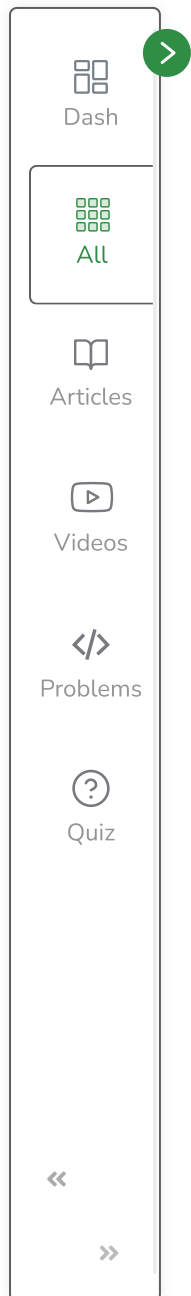
1. Create an array $arr3[]$ of size $n1 + n2$.
2. Simultaneously traverse $arr1[]$ and $arr2[]$.
 - Pick smaller of current elements in $arr1[]$ and $arr2[]$, copy this smaller element to next position in $arr3[]$ and move ahead in $arr3[]$ and the array whose element is picked.



3. If there are remaining elements in `arr1[]` or `arr2[]`, copy them also in `arr3[]`.

Below image is a dry run of the above approach:





arr1

arr2

arr3

\$	\$
----	----

arr1

arr2

arr3

\$	\$
----	----

arr1

arr2

arr3

\$	\$
----	----

arr3

\$	\$
----	----

arr1

arr2

$$j = n2$$

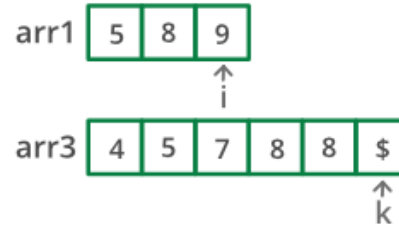
arr3

\$	\$
----	----

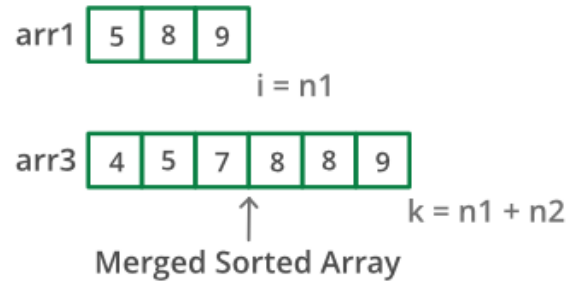
The first while loop breaks

Second while loop copies all elements from arr1 to arr3

Step 5:



Step 6:



Below is the implementation of the above approach:

C++

```
#include <bits/stdc++.h>
using namespace std;

void mergeArrays(int arr1[], int arr2[], int n1, int n2, int arr3[]) {
    int i = 0, j = 0, k = 0;

    while (i < n1 && j < n2) {
        if (arr1[i] < arr2[j])
            arr3[k++] = arr1[i++];
    }
}
```

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Articles

Videos

Problems

Quiz

<<

>>





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All



Articles



Videos



Problems



Quiz



```
        else
            arr3[k++] = arr2[j++];
    }

    while (i < n1)
        arr3[k++] = arr1[i++];

    while (j < n2)
        arr3[k++] = arr2[j++];
}

int main() {
    int arr1[] = {1, 3, 5, 7};
    int n1 = sizeof(arr1) / sizeof(arr1[0]);

    int arr2[] = {2, 4, 6, 8};
    int n2 = sizeof(arr2) / sizeof(arr2[0]);

    int arr3[n1+n2];
    mergeArrays(arr1, arr2, n1, n2, arr3);

    cout<<"Array after merging"<<"\n";
    for (int i = 0; i < n1+n2; i++)
        cout<<arr3[i]<<" ";

    return 0;
}
```



Output

Array after merging

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

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