

881. Boats to Save People

Medium

Topics

Companies

You are given an array `people` where `people[i]` is the weight of the i^{th} person, and an infinite number of boats where each boat can carry a maximum weight of `limit`. Each boat carries at most two people at the same time, provided the sum of the weight of those people is at most `limit`.

Return the minimum number of boats to carry every given person.

Example 1:

Input: `people = [1,2], limit = 3`

Output: 1

Explanation: 1 boat (1, 2)

Example 2:

Input: `people = [3,2,2,1], limit = 3`

Output: 3

Explanation: 3 boats (1, 2), (2) and (3)

Example 3:

Input: `people = [3,5,3,4], limit = 5`

Output: 4

Explanation: 4 boats (3), (3), (4), (5)

Constraints:

- $1 \leq \text{people.length} \leq 5 * 10^4$
- $1 \leq \text{people}[i] \leq \text{limit} \leq 3 * 10^4$

3 2 2 1
2 1 3 1

Approach 1: Sort + Two pointers

[1 2 2 3] limit = 3
 l r

$$a_l + a_r = 1 + 3 = 4 \text{ i.e. } > \text{limit}$$

if you can't take ③ with the minimum ① then it's obvious that you can't take ③ combined with any other in array.

So ③ must go alone in a boat

So ⑤ must go alone in a boat
Hence increase boat count and
decrement r pointer

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{boats} = 1$$

$\underset{l}{1} \qquad \qquad \qquad \underset{r}{2}$

$$a_l + a_r = 1 + 2 = 3 \text{ i.e. } == \text{ limit}$$

So ① & ② can go in a single boat.

Hence increase boat count and move both l and r

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{boats} = 2$$

$\underset{l}{2} \qquad \qquad \qquad \underset{r}{2}$

now as $l < r$ is false we stop

The while loop gets terminated with $l == r$ only when there is ① person left to get into the boat.

let

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{limit} = 4$$

$\underset{l}{1} \qquad \qquad \qquad \underset{r}{3}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{boats} = 1$$

$\underset{l}{1} \qquad \qquad \qquad \underset{r}{2}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{boats} = 2$$

$\underset{r}{1} \qquad \underset{l}{2}$

As $l < r$ is false we stop.

is there anyone left to get into a boat.

NO, we can be sure about this because $l > r$.

```
class Solution {
public:
    int numRescueBoats(vector<int>& people, int limit) {
        sort(people.begin(), people.end());

        int boats=0, l=0, r=people.size()-1;

        while(l<r)
        {
            if(people[l]+people[r] <= limit) boats++, l++, r--;
            else boats++, r--;
        }

        return l==r?boats+1:boats;
    }
};
```

here we are allowing only 2 people in a boat at max. i.e. if $p_l + p_r < \text{limit}$ we are increasing boats and moving both l & r . we are not checking if boat can hold even more people with p_l and p_r being in the boat

$T(n): O(n \log n) + O(n)$
 $S(n): O(1)$

Approach 2: Bucket Sort

$T(n): O(n)$
 $S(n): O(\text{limit})$

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