

Delivery Zone Optimization

Problem Description

A logistics company is working on optimizing its delivery zones to ensure efficient and timely delivery of packages. Each delivery zone is represented as an interval $(a[i], b[i])$ indicating the inclusive range of house numbers it covers. These delivery zones can overlap.

You are given a list of n delivery zones and a maximum allowed length, k . Your task is to add exactly **one new delivery zone (a, b)** , with the constraint that its length $(b - a)$ must be less than or equal to k .

The goal is to add this new zone in such a way that it **minimizes the number of disconnected sets of delivery zones**.

Defining "Connected"

A set of delivery zones $(a[1], b[1]), (a[2], b[2]), \dots, (a[n], b[n])$ is considered **connected** if every house number in the range $(\min(a[1], \dots, a[n]), \max(b[1], \dots, b[n]))$ is covered by at least one of the delivery zones in the set.

Examples of Connectivity

- **Connected:** The set $[(1,2), (2,3), (1,5)]$ is connected. The overall range is $(1, 5)$, and every house number from 1 to 5 is covered by at least one of those intervals.
- **Disconnected:** The set $[(2,2), (3,4)]$ is not connected. The intervals do not overlap, creating a gap.

Note: The input arrays a and b are 1-based.

Example

Consider the following delivery zones and a k value:

- **Zones:** $[(1,5), (2,4), (6,6), (7,14), (16,19)]$
- **k :** 2

If you add a new delivery zone of **$(5, 7)$** (length 2, which is $\leq k$), you can merge the first three zones with the fourth, resulting in two connected sets:

1. $[(1,5), (2,4), (5,7), (6,6), (7,14)]$
2. $[(16,19)]$

This gives a total of **2** connected sets.

Alternatively, if you add a new delivery zone of **(14, 16)**, you would end up with three connected sets:

1. [(1,5), (2,4)]
2. [(6,6)]
3. [(7,14), (14,16), (16,19)]

The optimal solution is to add the delivery zone **(5, 7)**, which results in a minimum of **2** connected sets.

Function Signature

You need to implement the following function:

```
public static int minimumSets(List<Integer> a, List<Integer> b, int k)
```

Parameters:

- List<Integer> a: A list containing the starting house numbers for each delivery zone.
- List<Integer> b: A list containing the ending house numbers for each delivery zone.
- int k: The maximum allowed length for the new delivery zone.

Returns:

- int: The minimum number of connected delivery zones achievable after adding exactly one new zone.