

2002 Sun Microsystems and TopCoder Collegiate Challenge – Problem Statement

MaxDensity PROBLEM STATEMENT

Given a set of non-negative integers S , and a non-negative integer N , find a closed interval of length N that starts on a non-negative number and contains the largest number of elements of S . Return the first element of that interval. If there are multiple such intervals, choose the one that starts with the lowest non-negative number.

Closed interval is defined as follows: given two integers a and b such that $a \leq b$, closed interval $[a,b] ::=$ all integer x such that $a \leq x \leq b$; the length of the interval equals $b-a$. For example, $[5,7]$ has the length of 2; $[100,100]$ has the length of 0.

DEFINITION

Class name: MaxDensity

Method name: getMaxDens

Parameters: int[], int

Return type: int

Method signature (be sure your method is public): int getMaxDens (int[] S, int N);

S specifies the numbers in the set; N specifies the length of the interval. Your method should return the beginning of the first interval of length N that starts on a non-negative number, and encloses the maximum number of elements of S .

TopCoder will ensure the validity of the inputs. Inputs are valid if all of the following criteria are met:

- S has between 1 and 50 elements, inclusive,
- S contains values from 0 to 2,000,000,000, inclusive,
- S contains no duplicate values,
- N is in the range from 0 to 2,000,000,000, inclusive.

NOTE

While calculating the result, ignore all intervals that start with a negative number (see example 2).

EXAMPLES

1. $S=\{1, 2, 3, 100, 101, 102, 103, 200, 205\}$, $N=5$. There are three closed intervals of length 5, each containing 4 elements of S : $[98,103]$, $[99,104]$, and $[100,105]$. Your method should return 98, since it is the beginning of the interval that starts with the lowest non-negative number.

2. $S=\{0,1,2\}$, $N=3$. There are two closed intervals of length 3 that contain all three elements of S : $[-1,2]$ and $[0,3]$. Since the first interval starts with a negative number, your method should return 0, which is the beginning of the second interval.

3. $S=\{1,2,4,10,11,12\}$, $N=2$. Your method should return 10.

4. $S=\{1,100,2000000,1999999\}$, $N=100$. Your method should return 0.

5. $S=\{1,100,2000000,1999999,1999998\}$, $N=100$. Your method should return 1999900.

6. $S=\{0,1000000001,2000000000\}$, $N=1000000000$. Your method should return 1000000000.

7. $S=\{1000\}$, $N=0$. Your method should return 1000.