

Work with your neighbor. (This will be graded for participation only.)

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**Problem 1. Merging two lists.** Determine the complexity of the `merge()` function below, which is an iterative solution to merging two sorted lists.

```
def merge(in1, in2, output):

    """merges two input lists into an output list
    in1, in2 - the sorted input lists
    output - a list whose length accommodates both lists
              (the elements of output will be overwritten)
    """
    assert len(output) == len(in1) + len(in2)

    pos1 = 0
    pos2 = 0
    while pos1 < len(in1) and pos2 < len(in2):
        if in1[pos1] <= in2[pos2]:
            output[pos1+pos2] = in1[pos1]
            pos1 += 1
        else:
            output[pos1+pos2] = in2[pos2]
            pos2 += 1

    # if one of the lists was shorter, add any
    # of the leftover elements to the output list
    while pos1 < len(in1):
        output[pos1+pos2] = in1[pos1]
        pos1 += 1
    while pos2 < len(in2):
        output[pos1+pos2] = in2[pos2]
        pos2 += 1

    assert pos1+pos2 == len(output)
```

Complexity of `merge()`:

**Problem 2.** In this problem, you will write two different versions of a function and determine their run-time complexity. Write a function `has_dups(alist)` that takes a list of integers and returns `True` if `alist` contains duplicate values and `False` otherwise. If `alist` is empty, the function returns `False`.

- a) In the first version, use nested loops. What is the complexity of your function?
- b) In the second version, use a dictionary to keep track of whether a value has been seen before. Once a value has been seen, the function can immediately return.

- c) Since the function only iterates through `alist` once (worst case), its complexity appears to be  $O(n)$ . What would we need to know (that we don't know yet!) about dictionary operations in order to give a thorough answer?

**Wait until we have covered linked list complexity before doing the next problem.**

**Problem 3.** Write a method `concat(self, list2)` that concatenates the linked list `list2` to the end of `self`.

What is the complexity of `concat()`?