The Virtual Learning Environment for Computer Programming

Merge Two Sorted Linked Lists

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Extend the **PositionalList** class provided in the *Public Files* section of this problem statement with a new public method called **merge**.

```
def merge(self, other):
    """

Pre: self and other are two lists sorted in ascending order.
Post: After the merge operation 'self' contains its previous
        elements and all the elements in 'other' is ascending
        order. Furthermore, 'other' is empty.
Observation: Because 'other' must be empty after carrying out
        the merge operation, there is no need to create new modes.
"""
```

Merge implements the well known **merge** algorithm, which combines the elements of two sorted sequences into a single sorted sequence. In this case, the sequences are represented by two sorted doubly linked lists (i.e. instances of the class **PositionalList** provided in the *Public Files* section of this problem statement). The first sorted sequence is represented by the calling object (i.e. **self**) and the second one by the parameter 'other'.

For example, if *t*1 and *t*2 are two instances of the *PositionalList* class, such that

```
t1 = 1 \ 3 \ 5 \ 7 \ 9
t2 = 2 \ 4 \ 6 \ 8
```

The objects *t*1 and *t*2 after executing **t1.merge(t2)** should be as follows

```
t1 = 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
t2 =
```

Although the application *jutge.org* will accept your solution if you implement the method *merge* calling other public or non-public methods of the class *PositionalList*, we recommend implementing merge using only the attributes of the nested class **_Node** (i.e., *_element*, *_prev*, *_next*) and the attributes of the class **PositionalList** (i.e., *_header*, *_trailer*, *_size*).

In the file provided in the *Public Files* section of the statement, there is a *main* procedure you may use to test the *merge* method. The **input** to this program consists of two sequences of floating point numbers corresponding to the elements of the two sorted lists t1 and t2. Each sequence starts with an integer number n that specifies the number of elements in the sequence, followed by n floating point numbers representing the elements in the sequence. The **output** of the program represents the state of both lists, t1 and t2, after executing **t1.merge(t2)**. The elements of both lists are printed separated by one white space.

Sample input

e input Sample output

```
5 1.0 3.0 5.0 7.0 9.0
4 2.0 4.0 6.0 8.0
```

Problem information

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