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Merge Strings

50 points



Easy

Strings

General Programming

Basic Programming

Core Skills

Classic

Complete the *mergeStrings* function in your editor. It has 2 parameters:

1. A string, *a*.
2. A string, *b*.

Your function must *merge* strings *a* and *b*, and then return a single merged string. A *merge* operation on two strings is described as follows:

- Append alternating characters from *a* and *b*, respectively, to some new string, *mergedString*.
- Once all of the characters in one of the strings have been merged, append the remaining characters in the other string to *mergedString*.

Input Format

The locked stub code in your editor reads two strings, *a* and *b*, from stdin and passes them to your function.

Constraints

- $1 \leq |a|, |b| \leq 25000$

Output Format

Your function must return the *merged* string. This will be printed to stdout by the locked stub code in your editor.

Sample Input 1

```
abc
def
```

Sample Output 1

```
adbecf
```

Sample Input 2

```
ab
zsd
```

Sample Output 2

```
azbsd
```

Explanation

Sample Case 1

a = *abc*

b = *def*

Taking alternate characters from both the strings, we get *adbecf*

Sample Case 2

a = *ab*

b = *zsd*

Taking alternate characters from both the strings, we get *azbsd*