

# Solved Problem - Subarray Sum

In this lesson, we'll see an effective way to compute sum of an subarray.

## We'll cover the following

- Problem statement
- Sample
- Brute force
- Optimization

## Problem statement #

Given an array,  $A$ , of  $N$  integers, answer  $Q$  queries of the type  $(l, r)$  - sum of the elements in the subarray  $A[l...r]$ . Print the sum for each query.

### Input format

The first line contains two space-separated integers  $N$  and  $Q$  ( $1 \leq N, Q \leq 10^6$ ).

The second line contains  $N$  integers representing the array  $A[]$  ( $1 \leq A[i] \leq 10^6$ ).

The next  $Q$  lines each contain a pair of integers  $l$  and  $r$ .

### Output format

Print  $Q$  integers and answer to the queries.

## Sample #

### Input

```
5 3
1 2 4 8 16
1 5
2 3
3 5
```

## Brute force #

The brute force method would be to loop over the subarray in the query and sum all the elements.

I am skipping the code for this solution because it is trivial.

The time for each query would be  $O(N)$ , the total complexity of the solution would be  $O(Q * N)$ . This means it is not good enough for the given constraints.

## Optimization #

First, let's discuss what the prefix sum array is.

The prefix sum array  $sum[]$  of an array  $A[]$  is defined as

$$sum[i] = \sum_{k=1}^i A[k]$$

or,  $i$ th element of  $sum[]$  is sum of first  $i$  elements of  $A[]$

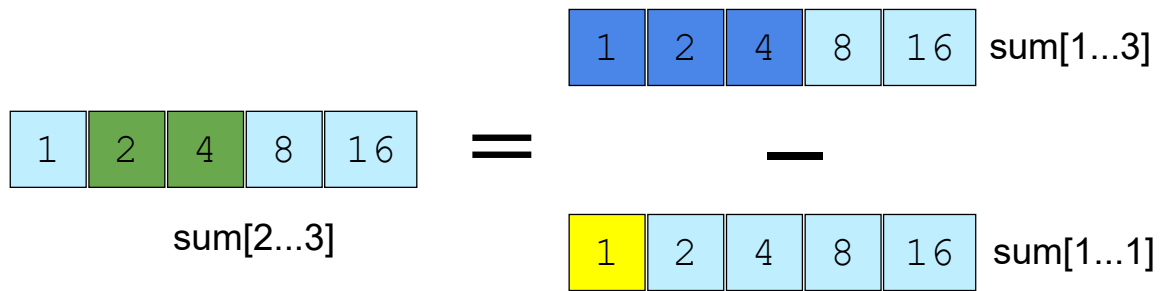
We can use the prefix sum array to find the sum of a subarray in  $O(1)$  time.

$$\begin{aligned} sum[i...j] &= A[i] + A[i+1] + \dots + A[j] \\ &= (A[1] + A[2] + \dots + A[j]) - (A[1] + A[2] + \dots + A[i-1]) \\ &= sum[j] - sum[i-1] \end{aligned}$$

From preprocessing to computing the  $sum[]$  array takes  $O(N)$  time. Each query is just  $O(1)$ .

So the total time complexity is  $O(N + Q)$ .

See the below illustration for a better understanding.



main.cpp

input.txt

All code files are copied to end of the page...

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In the next chapter, we'll start with Sieve of Eratosthenes, an efficient algorithm to generate primes.

# Code Files Content !!!

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```

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|  main.cpp [1]
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#include
#include
#include
using namespace std;

int main() {
    ifstream cin("input.txt");

    int N, Q;
    cin >> N >> Q;
    vector A(N);
    for (int i = 0; i < N; i++) cin>>A[i];

```

```

for (int i = 0; i < N; i++) sum[i] = A[i];

vector sum(N);
sum[0] = A[0];
for(int i = 1; i < N; i++)
    sum[i] = sum[i - 1] + A[i];

for(int i = 0; i < Q; i++) {
    int l, r;
    cin >> l >> r;
    l--; r--; // Convert to 0-based indexing
    int ans = sum[r];
    if (l > 0)
        ans -= sum[l - 1];

    cout << ans << " ";
}

return 0;
}

```

```

-----
|  input.txt [1]
-----

```

```

5 3
1 2 4 8 16
1 5
2 3
3 5

```

```

*****

```