

difference between subarry and subsequence

Here is the **clean CP/DSA-style difference** between **subarray** and **subsequence**, exactly how it's explained in interviews:

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## SUBARRAY vs SUBSEQUENCE (CP/DSA Style)

### ✓ SUBARRAY

#### Definition

A **subarray** is a *contiguous* part of the array.

#### Key Points

- **Must be continuous** (no gaps allowed)
- Comes from **original array directly**
- Defined by **l to r (range)**
- Count is  **$O(n^2)$**  possible subarrays

#### Example

Array:

[3, 5, 1, 4]

Valid subarrays:

[3], [3,5], [5,1], [1,4], [3,5,1], [5,1,4], [3,5,1,4]

Invalid:

[3,1] ✗ (not contiguous)

#### Where used?

- Sliding window
- Kadane's algorithm
- Prefix/suffix sums
- Range queries

### ✓ SUBSEQUENCE

## Definition

A **subsequence** is formed by deleting ANY elements *without changing order*.

## Key Points

- Not required to be contiguous
- Order must remain same
- Can skip elements
- Count is  $2^n$  possible subsequences

## Example

Array:

[3, 5, 1, 4]

Valid subsequences:

[3], [5], [3, 1], [3, 5, 4], [5, 4], [3, 1, 4], [3, 5, 1, 4]

Invalid:

[5, 3] × (order changes)

## Where used?

- DP problems
- LCS (longest common subsequence)
- LIS (longest increasing subsequence)
- Subsequence counting



## ULTRA-SHORT VERSION

Subarray = Contiguous

Subsequence = Ordered, not necessarily contiguous



## Quick Code Examples

### Subarray Generation (Contiguous)

cpp

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```
for (int l = 0; l < n; l++) {  
    for (int r = l; r < n; r++) {  
        // subarray is from l to r  
    }  
}
```

## Subsequence Generation (Not Contiguous)

cpp

Copy code

```
void gen(int i, vector<int>& a, vector<int>& cur) {  
    if (i == a.size()) {  
        // cur is a subsequence  
        return;  
    }  
    gen(i+1, a, cur);      // skip  
    cur.push_back(a[i]);   // take  
    gen(i+1, a, cur);  
    cur.pop_back();  
}
```

If you want, I can also explain:

- substring vs subsequence
- subarray vs subset
- when interviewer tries to confuse you with examples or give real LeetCode problems where these matter.

Just tell me!

