

# 209. Minimum Size Subarray Sum

<https://leetcode.com/problems/minimum-size-subarray-sum/description/>

Given an array of positive integers `nums` and a positive integer `target`, return the minimal length of a **contiguous subarray** `[numsl, numsl+1, ..., numsr-1, numsr]` of which the sum is greater than or equal to `target`. If there is no such subarray, return `0` instead.

**Example 1:**

**Input:** `target = 7, nums = [2,3,1,2,4,3]`

**Output:** `2`

**Explanation:** The subarray `[4,3]` has the minimal length under the problem constraint.

**Example 2:**

**Input:** `target = 4, nums = [1,4,4]`

**Output:** `1`

**Example 3:**

**Input:** `target = 11, nums = [1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1]`

**Output:** `0`

**Constraints:**

- `1 <= target <= 109`
- `1 <= nums.length <= 105`
- `1 <= nums[i] <= 104`

**Follow up:** If you have figured out the `O(n)` solution, try coding another solution of which the time complexity is `O(n log(n))`.

## Example

window size = 4, ans = 4

A:	1	0	1	1	3	2
	0	1	2	3	4	5

Target = 3

window size = 5, ans = 4

A:	1	0	1	1	3	2
	0	1	2	3	4	5

Target = 3

window size = 3, ans = 3

A:	1	0	1	1	3	2
	0	1	2	3	4	5

Target = 3

window size = 2, ans = 2

A:	1	0	1	1	3	2
	0	1	2	3	4	5

Target = 3

window size = 1, ans = 1

A:	1	0	1	1	3	2
	0	1	2	3	4	5

Target = 3

window size = 2, ans = 1

A:	1	0	1	1	3	2
	0	1	2	3	4	5

Target = 3

## Brute force approach

Test all combinations.

**Time complexity:**  $O(n^2)$

**Space complexity:**  $O(1)$

### pseudo-code

```
ans ← +∞
n ← nums.length
for i ∈ [0,n[ {
    s ← 0
    for j ∈ [i,n[{
        s ← s + nums[j]
    }
    if s >= target {
        ans ← min(ans, |j-i|+1)
    }
}
if (ans == +∞) return 0
else return ans
```

### C++

```
int minSubArrayLen(int target, vector<int>& nums) {
    int n = nums.size();
    int INF = numeric_limits<int>::max();
    int ans = INF;
    for (int i = 0 ; i < n ; ++i){
        int s = 0;
        for(int j = i ; j < n ; ++j){
            s += nums[j];
            if (s >= target) ans = min(ans,abs(j-i)+1);
        }
    }
    return (ans != INF) ? ans : 0;
}
```

> 209.minimum-size-subarray-sum-TLE.cpp > Solution > minSubArrayLen(int, vector<int>& nums)

```
/*
 * @lc app=leetcode id=209 lang=c++
 *
 * [209] Minimum Size Subarray Sum
 */

// @lc code=start
class Solution {
public:
    int minSubArrayLen(int target, vector<int>& nums) {
        int n = nums.size();
        int INF = numeric_limits<int>::max();
        int ans = INF;
        for (int i = 0 ; i < n ; ++i){
            int s = 0;
            for(int j = i ; j < n ; ++j){
                s += nums[j];
                if (s >= target) ans = min(ans,abs(j-i)+1);
            }
        }
        return (ans != INF) ? ans : 0;
    }
};
Submit | Test | Debug | Debug Input
// @lc code=end
```

Time Limit Exceeded

• 18/20 cases passed (N/A)

Testcase

396893380  
' +  
' [3571,9780,8138,1030,2959,6988,29

Expected Answer

79517

## Using a prefix sum array + a deque

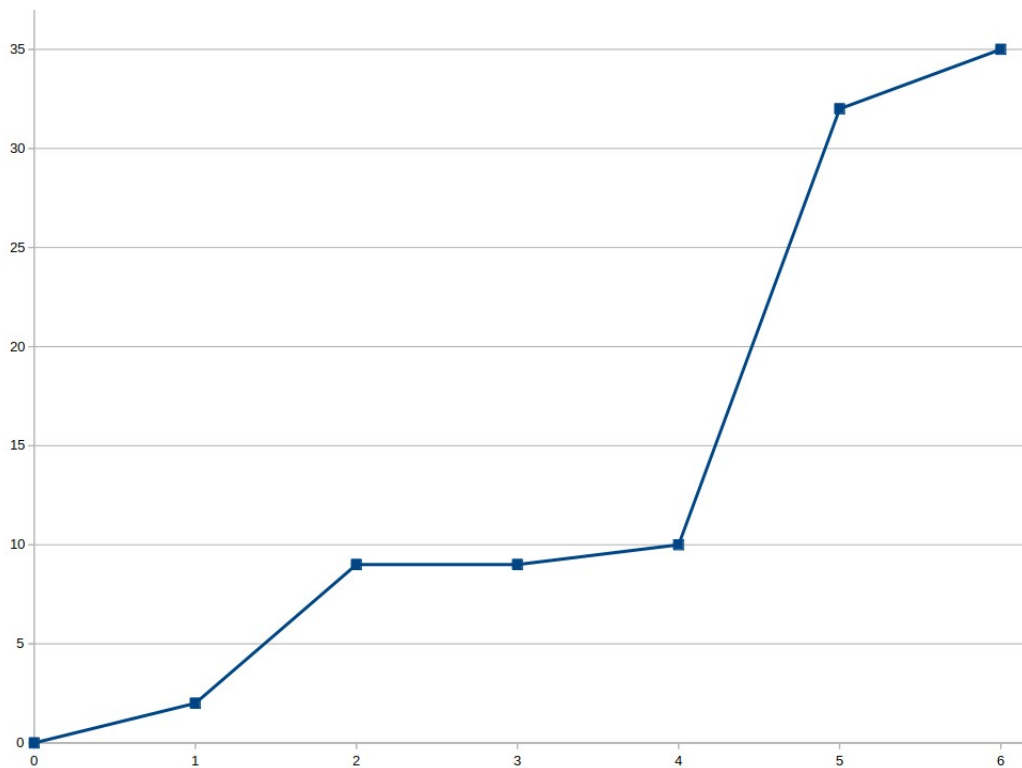
### Prefix sum array

$$PRE[i] = A[0] + A[1] + \dots + A[i-1]$$

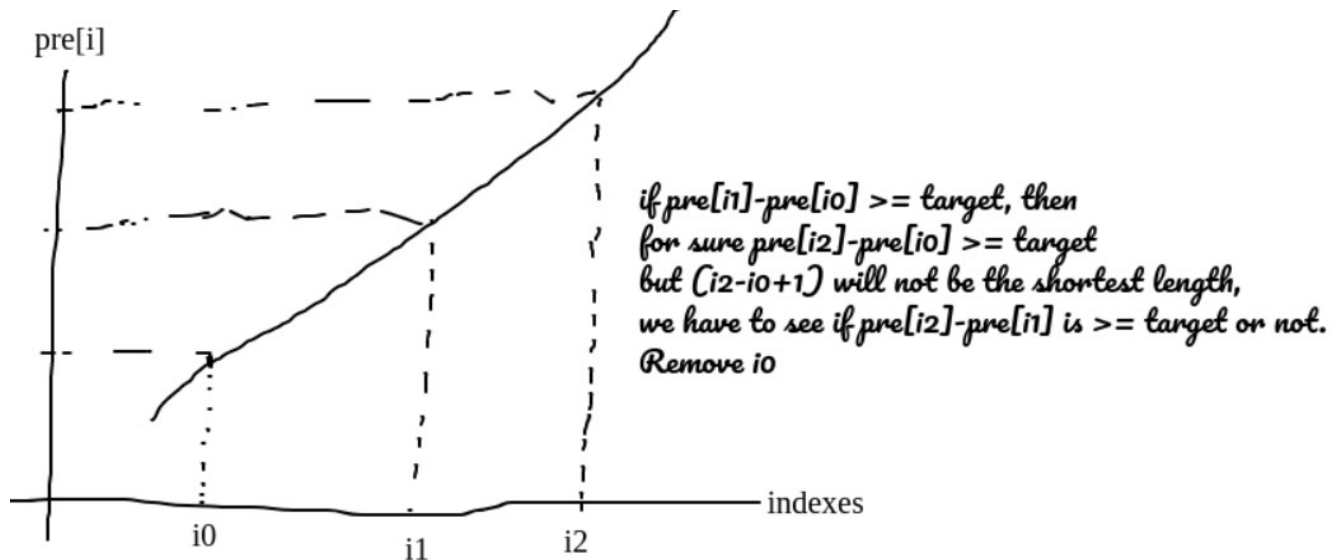
example:

A:	2	7	0	1	22	3
	0	1	2	3	4	5

PRE:	0	2	9	9	10	32	35
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6



All the values in original  $A$  are positive, then for sure we have a monotonic ascending order in the prefix sum array  $PRE$ .



To do that, we can use a deque.

## Deque

<https://cplusplus.com/reference/deque/deque/>

class template  
std::deque
<deque>

template < class T, class Alloc = allocator<T> > class deque;

### Double ended queue

**deque** (usually pronounced like "deck") is an irregular acronym of **double-ended queue**. Double-ended queues are sequence containers with dynamic sizes that can be expanded or contracted on both ends (either its front or its back).

Specific libraries may implement *deques* in different ways, generally as some form of dynamic array. But in any case, they allow for the individual elements to be accessed directly through random access iterators, with storage handled automatically by expanding and contracting the container as needed.

Therefore, they provide a functionality similar to **vectors**, but with efficient insertion and deletion of elements also at the beginning of the sequence, and not only at its end. But, unlike **vectors**, **deques** are not guaranteed to store all its elements in contiguous storage locations: accessing elements in a deque by offsetting a pointer to another element causes *undefined behavior*.

Both **vectors** and **deques** provide a very similar interface and can be used for similar purposes, but internally both work in quite different ways: While vectors use a single array that needs to be occasionally reallocated for growth, the elements of a deque can be scattered in different chunks of storage, with the container keeping the necessary information internally to provide direct access to any of its elements in constant time and with a uniform sequential interface (through iterators). Therefore, deques are a little more complex internally than **vectors**, but this allows them to grow more efficiently under certain circumstances, especially with very long sequences, where reallocations become more expensive.

For operations that involve frequent insertion or removals of elements at positions other than the beginning or the end, deques perform worse and have less consistent iterators and references than **lists** and **forward lists**.

### Container properties

**Sequence**  
 Elements in sequence containers are ordered in a strict linear sequence. Individual elements are accessed by their position in this sequence.

**Dynamic array**  
 Generally implemented as a dynamic array, it allows direct access to any element in the sequence and provides relatively fast addition/removal of elements at the beginning or the end of the sequence.

**Allocator-aware**  
 The container uses an allocator object to dynamically handle its storage needs.

To resolve this problem with a deque, we have to satisfy a main condition, which is the **monotonically increasing order of the sum must be maintained**, by:

- insertion of the new sum value at the end in monotonically ascending order.
- Reducing of the sum value from the begin to minimize window(subarray) size.

**The deck will store the indexes of prefix sum array in ascending order of the sum.**

**Example:**

A:	1	0	1	1	3	2
	0	1	2	3	4	5

Target = 3

PRE:	0	1	1	2	3	6	8
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6

Target = 3

ans	i	DQ ≠ ∅ and PRE[i] - PRE[DQ[0]] ≥ target	DQ												
+∞			∅												
	0	DQ ≠ ∅ and .....													
			{0}												
	1	DQ ≠ ∅ and PRE[1] – PRE[0] = 1 – 0 = 1 ≥ 3													
			{0,1}												
	2	DQ ≠ ∅ and PRE[2] – PRE[0] = 1 – 0 = 1 ≥ 3													
			{0,1,2}												
	3	DQ ≠ ∅ and PRE[3] – PRE[0] = 2 – 0 = 2 ≥ 3													
			{0,1,2,3}												
min(+∞,4-0) = 4	4	DQ ≠ ∅ and PRE[4] – PRE[0] = 3 – 0 = 3 ≥ 3	{1,2,3}												
		A: <table><tr><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr></table>	1	0	1	1	3	2	0	1	2	3	4	5	
1	0	1	1	3	2										
0	1	2	3	4	5										
		DQ ≠ ∅ and PRE[4] – PRE[1] = 3 – 1 = 2 ≥ 3													
			{1,2,3,4}												



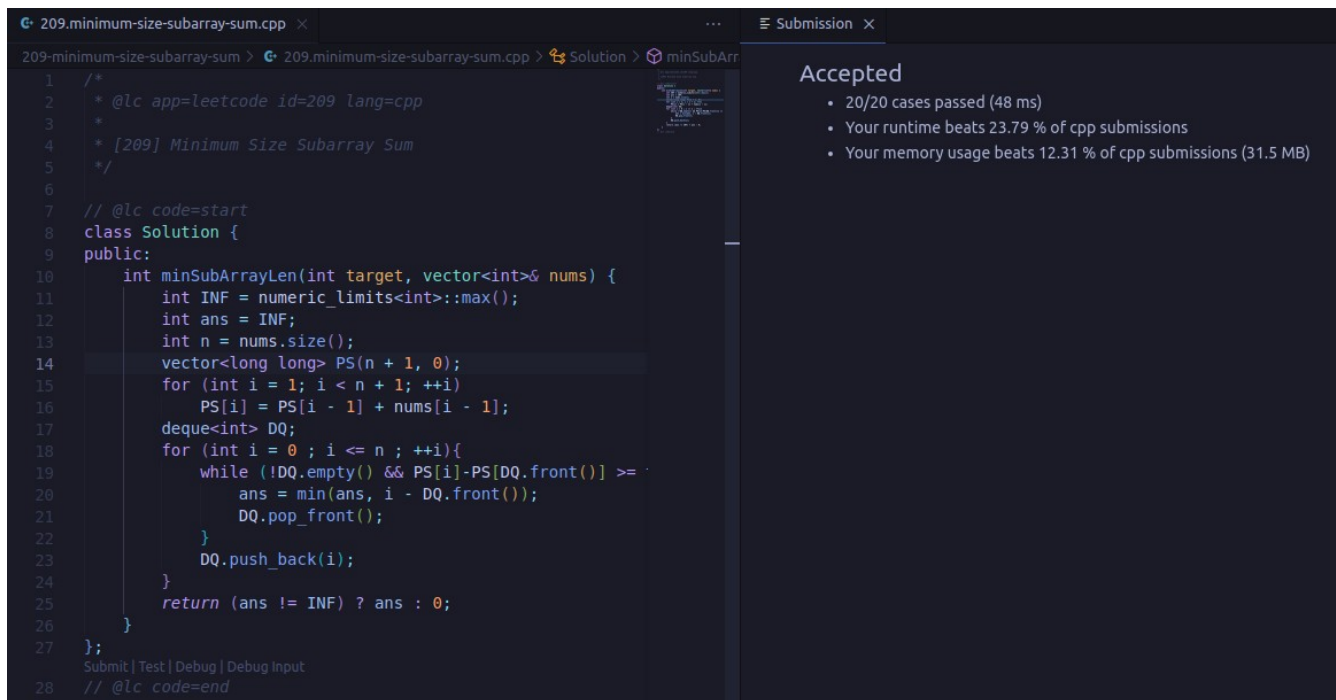
ans	i	DQ ≠ ∅ and PRE[i] - PRE[DQ[0]] >= target	DQ												
min(4,5-1) = 4	5	DQ ≠ ∅ and PRE[5] – PRE[1] = 6 – 1 = 5 >= 3	{2,3,4}												
		A: <table><tr><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr></table>	1	0	1	1	3	2	0	1	2	3	4	5	
1	0	1	1	3	2										
0	1	2	3	4	5										
min(4,5-2) = 3		DQ ≠ ∅ and PRE[5] – PRE[2] = 6 – 1 = 5 >= 3	{3,4}												
		A: <table><tr><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr></table>	1	0	1	1	3	2	0	1	2	3	4	5	
1	0	1	1	3	2										
0	1	2	3	4	5										
min(4,5-3) = 2		DQ ≠ ∅ and PRE[5] – PRE[3] = 6 – 2 = 4 >= 3	{4}												
		A: <table><tr><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr></table>	1	0	1	1	3	2	0	1	2	3	4	5	
1	0	1	1	3	2										
0	1	2	3	4	5										
min(4,5-4) = 1		DQ ≠ ∅ and PRE[5] – PRE[4] = 6 – 3 = 3 >= 3	∅												
		A: <table><tr><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr></table>	1	0	1	1	3	2	0	1	2	3	4	5	
1	0	1	1	3	2										
0	1	2	3	4	5										
		DQ ≠ ∅ and .....													
			{5}												
	6	DQ ≠ ∅ and PRE[6] – PRE[5] = 8 – 6 = 2 >= 3													
			{5,6}												
Final ans = 1															

## pseudo-code

```
ans  $\leftarrow +\infty$ 
n  $\leftarrow$  nums.length
Initialize PRE of size n+1 to zeros
for i  $\in$  [0,n[ {
    PRE[i+1]  $\leftarrow$  PRE[i] + A[i]
}
for i  $\in$  [0,n+1[ {
    while DQ  $\neq \emptyset$  and PRE[i] - PRE[DQ[0]]  $\geq$  target {
        ans  $\leftarrow$  min(ans, i-DQ[0])
        remove DQ[0]
    }
    push i to DQ
}
if (ans ==  $+\infty$ ) return 0
else return ans
```

## C++

```
int minSubArrayLen(int target, vector<int>& nums) {
    int INF = numeric_limits<int>::max();
    int ans = INF;
    int n = nums.size();
    vector<long long> PS(n + 1, 0);
    for (int i = 1; i < n + 1; ++i)
        PS[i] = PS[i - 1] + nums[i - 1];
    deque<int> DQ;
    for (int i = 0 ; i <= n ; ++i){
        while (!DQ.empty() && PS[i]-PS[DQ.front()] >= target){
            ans = min(ans, i - DQ.front());
            DQ.pop_front();
        }
        DQ.push_back(i);
    }
    return (ans != INF) ? ans : 0;
}
```



The screenshot shows a C++ solution for the "Minimum Size Subarray Sum" problem (LeetCode 209). The code is written in a dark-themed editor and is part of a submission that has been accepted. The code uses a sliding window approach with a deque to maintain the current subarray. The time complexity is  $O(n)$  and the space complexity is  $O(2N)$ .

```
209.minimum-size-subarray-sum.cpp x ... Submission x
209.minimum-size-subarray-sum > 209.minimum-size-subarray-sum.cpp > Solution > minSubArr
1  /*
2   * @lc app=leetcode id=209 lang=cpp
3   *
4   * [209] Minimum Size Subarray Sum
5   */
6
7  // @lc code=start
8  class Solution {
9  public:
10     int minSubArrayLen(int target, vector<int>& nums) {
11         int INF = numeric_limits<int>::max();
12         int ans = INF;
13         int n = nums.size();
14         vector<long long> PS(n + 1, 0);
15         for (int i = 1; i < n + 1; ++i)
16             PS[i] = PS[i - 1] + nums[i - 1];
17         deque<int> DQ;
18         for (int i = 0 ; i <= n ; ++i){
19             while (!DQ.empty() && PS[i]-PS[DQ.front()] >= target){
20                 ans = min(ans, i - DQ.front());
21                 DQ.pop_front();
22             }
23             DQ.push_back(i);
24         }
25         return (ans != INF) ? ans : 0;
26     }
27 };
28 // @lc code=end
```

**Accepted**

- 20/20 cases passed (48 ms)
- Your runtime beats 23.79 % of cpp submissions
- Your memory usage beats 12.31 % of cpp submissions (31.5 MB)

**Time complexity:**  $\textit{Amortized } O(n)$

**Space complexity:**  $O(2N)$

# window sliding technique using two pointers(variables)

## Idea

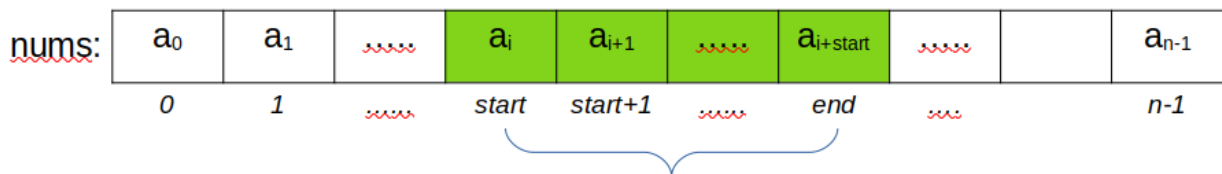
The idea behind it is to maintain two pointers: *start* and *end* , moving them in a smart way to avoid examining all possible values  $0 \leq end \leq n-1$  and  $0 \leq start \leq end$  (to avoid brute force).

1. Incrementing the *end* pointer while the sum of current subarray (defined by current values of *start* and *end* ) is smaller than the target.

2. Once we satisfy our condition  $\sum_{i=start}^{end} nums[i] \geq target$  we keep incrementing the *start* pointer until we violate it (until  $\sum_{i=start}^{end} nums[i] < target$  ).

3. Once we violate the condition we keep incrementing the *end* pointer until the condition is satisfied again and so on.

The reason why we stop incrementing *start* when we violate the condition is that we are sure we will not satisfy it again if we keep incrementing *start* . In other words, if the sum of the current subarray from *start* to *end* is smaller than the target then the sum from *start+1* to *end* is necessarily smaller than the target. (positive values)



We have all  $a_i > 0, (0 \leq i \leq n-1)$ , so, if  $\sum_{i=start}^{end} nums[i] < target$ , then  $\sum_{i=start+1}^{end} nums[i] < target$

if  $\sum_{i=start}^{end} nums[i] \geq target$ ,  $\sum_{i=start+x}^{end} nums[i]$ , could be still  $\geq target, (1 \leq x \leq end)$ ,

the shortest length of subarray which sum  $\geq target$  is  $\min(\text{previous\_length}, end - start + 1)$

## pseudo-code

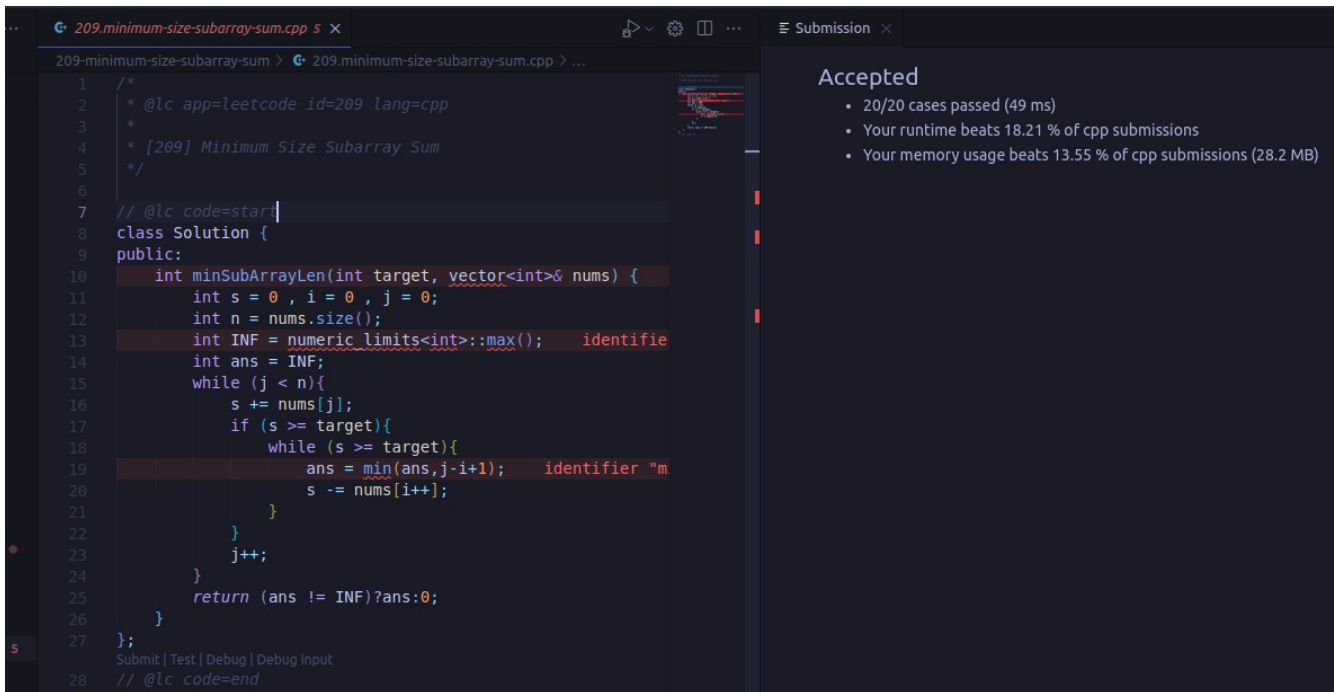
```
start ← 0, end ← 0 , s ← 0
ans ← +∞
n ← nums.length
while end < n {
    s ← s + nums[end]
    if s >= target {
        while s >= target {
            ans ← min(ans, end-start+1)
            s ← s - nums[start]
            start ← start + 1
        }
    }
    end ← end + 1
}
if (ans == +∞) return 0
else return ans
```

**Time complexity:** *Amortized*  $O(n)$

**Space complexity:**  $O(1)$

## C++

```
int minSubArrayLen(int target, vector<int>& nums) {
    int s = 0 , i = 0 , j = 0;
    int n = nums.size();
    int INF = numeric_limits<int>::max();
    int ans = INF;
    while (j < n){
        s += nums[j];
        if (s >= target){
            while (s >= target){
                ans = min(ans, j-i+1);
                s -= nums[i++];
            }
        }
        j++;
    }
    return (ans != INF)?ans:0;
}
```



```
209.minimum-size-subarray-sum.cpp 5 x
209.minimum-size-subarray-sum > 209.minimum-size-subarray-sum.cpp > ...
1  /*
2   * @lc app=leetcode id=209 lang=cpp
3   *
4   * [209] Minimum Size Subarray Sum
5   */
6
7  // @lc code=start
8  class Solution {
9  public:
10     int minSubArrayLen(int target, vector<int>& nums) {
11         int s = 0 , i = 0 , j = 0;
12         int n = nums.size();
13         int INF = numeric_limits<int>::max();
14         int ans = INF;
15         while (j < n){
16             s += nums[j];
17             if (s >= target){
18                 while (s >= target){
19                     ans = min(ans, j-i+1);
20                     s -= nums[i++];
21                 }
22             }
23             j++;
24         }
25         return (ans != INF)?ans:0;
26     }
27 };
28 // @lc code=end
```

Accepted

- 20/20 cases passed (49 ms)
- Your runtime beats 18.21 % of cpp submissions
- Your memory usage beats 13.55 % of cpp submissions (28.2 MB)

# 862. Shortest Subarray with Sum at Least K

Given an integer array `nums` and an integer `k`, return the length of the shortest non-empty **subarray** of `nums` with a sum of at least `k`. If there is no such **subarray**, return `-1`.

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

**Example 1:**

```
Input: nums = [1], k = 1  
Output: 1
```



**Example 2:**

```
Input: nums = [1,2], k = 4  
Output: -1
```



**Example 3:**

```
Input: nums = [2,-1,2], k = 3  
Output: 3
```



**Constraints:**

- `1 <= nums.length <= 105`
- `-105 <= nums[i] <= 105`
- `1 <= k <= 109`

In #209, we compute the shortest length of subarray with sum at least target.

We used two approaches to resolve it:

- deque,
- sliding window technique.

These two approaches work because the original array contains only positive values, so we have a monotonically increasing sum.

However, in #862, the original array could contain **negative values**, that's why **we can not have a monotonically increasing sum**.

**To resolve #862, we must maintain a monotonically increasing sum.**

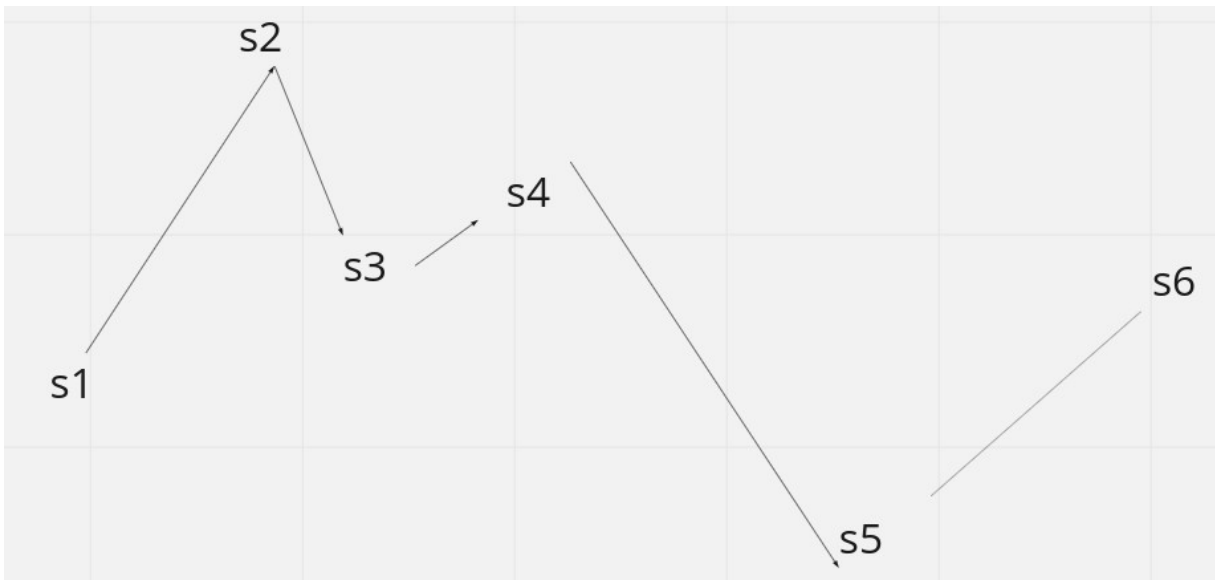
**Can we maintain a monotonically increasing sum with the two pointers sliding window technique?**

The answer is no, because pre-calculated sums are not saved.

We can maintain a monotonically increasing sum with a deque.



## How to maintain a monotonically increasing sum?



**Objectif:** push sums in the deque in monotonically increasing sum.

- At the beginning the deque is empty:  $DQ = \emptyset$
- we push the first sum

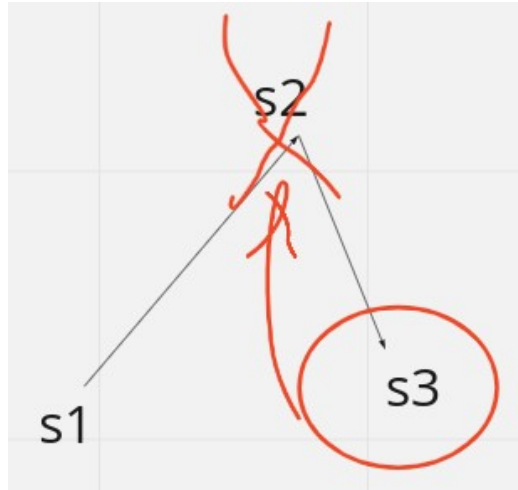


$DQ = \{s_1\}$

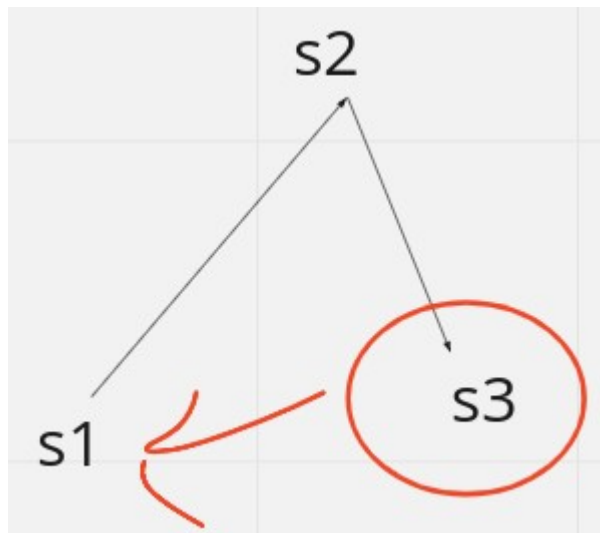
- at  $s_2$ , we compare it with the last element of the deque, if the current sum is less than the sum in last element of the deque, then remove it.  
 $DQ = \{s_1, s_2\}$



- $s3 < s2$ : pop  $s2$   
DQ = {s1}

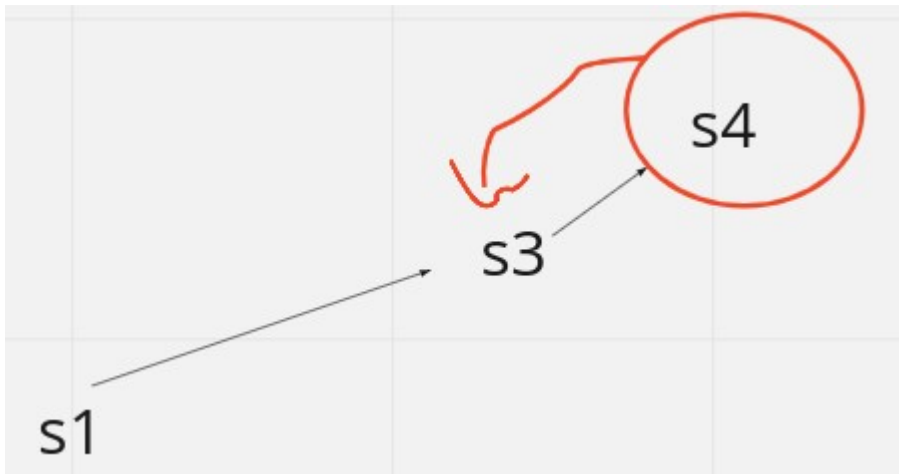


$s3 > s1$ : keep s1

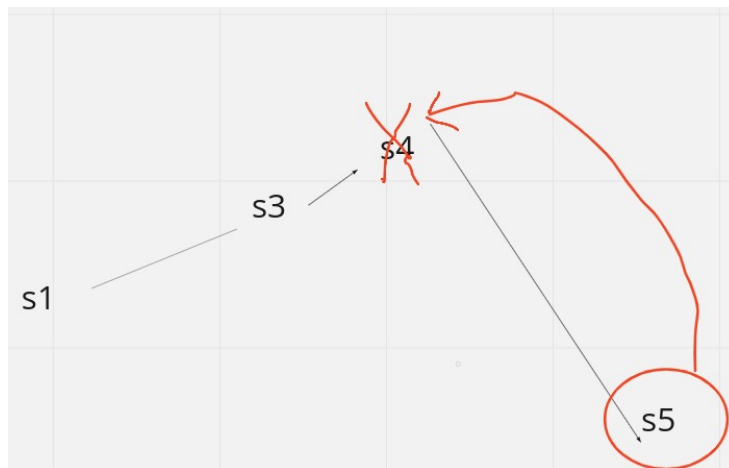


push s3: DQ = {s1,s3}

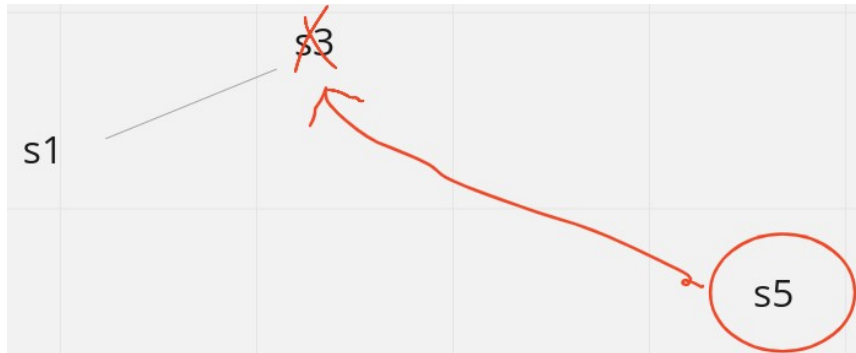
- $s4 > s3$ : keep  $s3$ , push  $s4$   
DQ = { $s1, s3, s4$ }



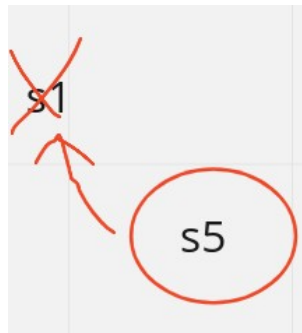
- $s5 < s4$ : remove  $s4$   
DQ = { $s1, s3$ }



$s5 < s3$ : remove  $s3$   
DQ = { $s1$ }



$s5 < s1$ : remove  $s1$



push  $s5$ : DQ = { $s5$ }

- $s6 > s5$ : keep  $s5$ , push  $s6$ :  
DQ = { $s5, s6$ }



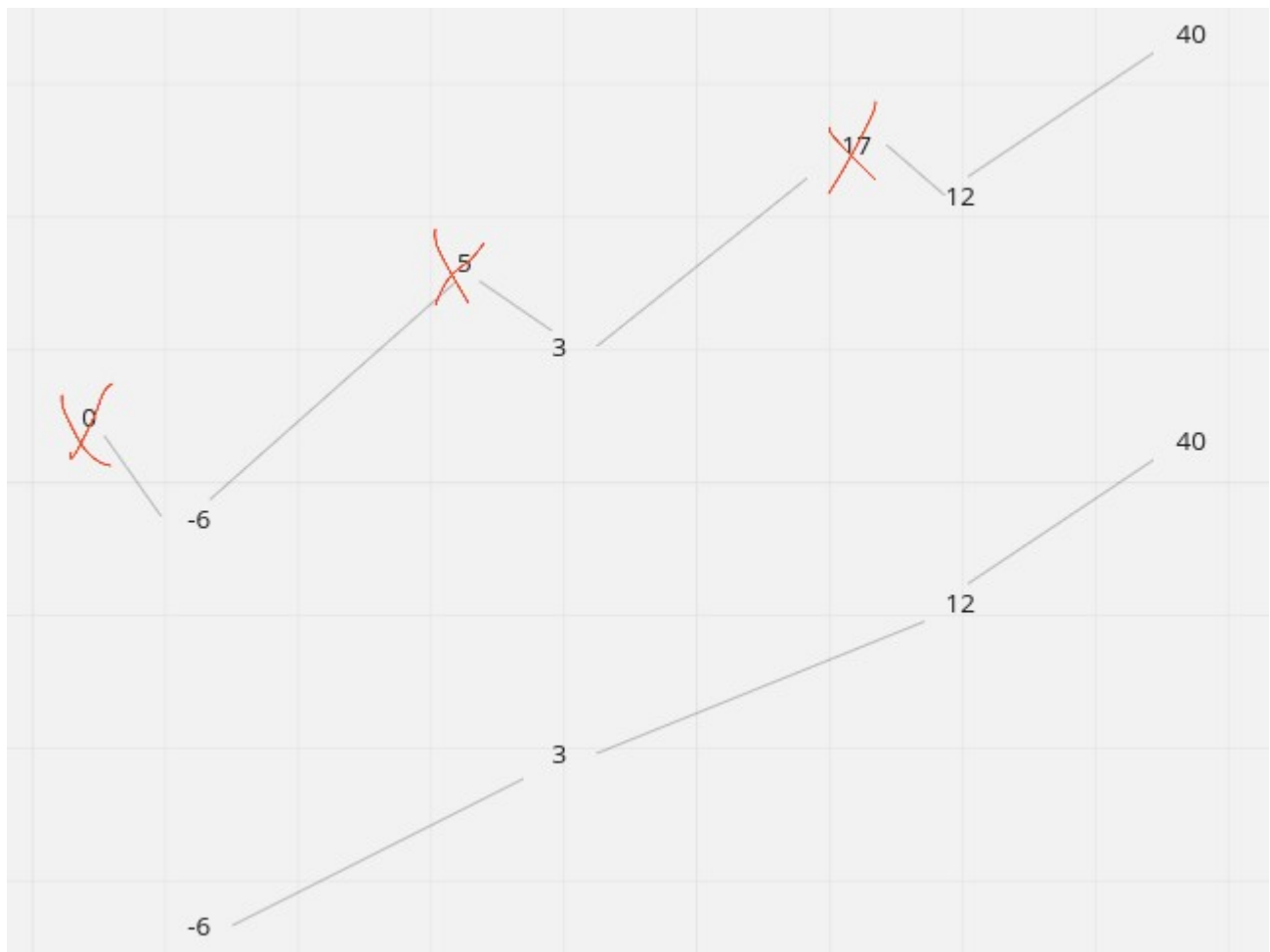
**Examples:**

A:

-6	11	-2	14	-5	28
0	1	2	3	4	5

PRE:

0	-6	5	3	17	12	40
0	1	2	3	4	5	6

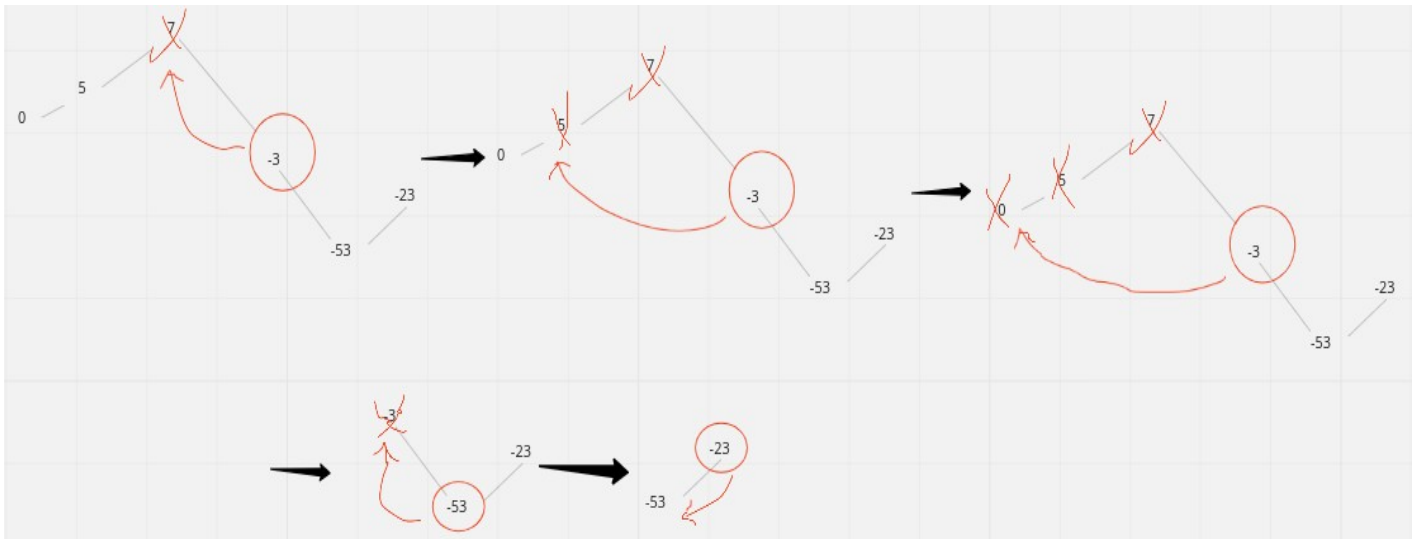


A:

5	2	-10	-50	30
0	1	2	3	4

PRE:

0	5	7	-3	-53	-23
0	1	2	3	4	5



## Pseudo code of the maintaining monotonically increasing sum part

```
while DQ  $\neq$   $\emptyset$  and PRE[i] < DQ.last_element {  
    remove the last element of the deque  
}
```

## Pseudo code

```
ans  $\leftarrow +\infty$ 
n  $\leftarrow$  nums.length
for i  $\in$  [0,n[ {
    while DQ  $\neq \emptyset$  and PRE[i] - PRE[DQ.first_element]  $\geq$  k {
        ans  $\leftarrow$  min(ans, i-index_of_first_element)
        remove the first element of the deque
    }
    while DQ  $\neq \emptyset$  and PRE[i] < DQ.last_element {
        remove the last element of the deque
    }
    push i in DQ
}
if (ans ==  $+\infty$ ) return 0
else return ans
```

## C++

```
int minSubArrayLen(int target, vector<int>& nums) {

    int n = nums.size();
    vector<long long> PS(n+1,0);
    for(int i = 1 ; i < n+1 ; ++i)
        PS[i] = PS[i-1] + nums[i-1];

    deque<int> DQ;

    int INF = numeric_limits<int>::max();

    int ans = INF;

    for (int i = 0 ; i < n+1 ; ++i){
        while (!DQ.empty() && PS[i]-PS[DQ.front()] >= k){
            ans = min(ans, i - DQ.front());
            DQ.pop_front();
        }

        while (!DQ.empty() && PS[i] < PS[DQ.back()]){
            DQ.pop_back();
        }

        DQ.push_back(i);
    }
    return (ans != INF) ? ans : -1;
}
```



```
209.minimum-size-subarray-sum.cpp 862.shortest-subarray-with-sum-at-least-k.cpp Submission
862.shortest-subarray-with-sum-at-least-k.cpp > Solution > shortestSubarray(vector<int>&, int)
1 /*
2  * @lc app=leetcode id=862 lang=cpp
3  *
4  * [862] Shortest Subarray with Sum at Least K
5  */
6
7 // @lc code=start
8 class Solution {
9 public:
10     int shortestSubarray(vector<int>& nums, int k) {
11         int n = nums.size();
12         vector<long long> PS(n+1,0);
13         for(int i = 1; i < n+1; ++i)
14             PS[i] = PS[i-1] + nums[i-1];
15
16         deque<int> DQ;
17
18         int INF = numeric_limits<int>::max();
19
20         int ans = INF;
21
22         for (int i = 0; i < n+1; ++i){
23             while (!DQ.empty() && PS[i]-PS[DQ.front()] >= k) {
24                 ans = min(ans, i - DQ.front());
25                 DQ.pop_front();
26             }
27
28             while (!DQ.empty() && PS[i] < PS[DQ.back()]){
29                 DQ.pop_back();
30             }
31
32             DQ.push_back(i);
33         }
34         return (ans != INF) ? ans : -1;
35     }
36 };
37 // @lc code=end
```

Accepted

- 97/97 cases passed (413 ms)
- Your runtime beats 39.11 % of cpp submissions
- Your memory usage beats 88.44 % of cpp submissions (104.7 MB)

**Time complexity:** *Amortized*  $O(n)$

**Space complexity:**  $O(2N)$

### References:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S6Xg-0uaODc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K0NgGYEAKA4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=101kTeuKQ2M>