

## 100 MCQs on DSA Topics:

Arrays, Prefix Sum, Sliding Window, Two Pointer, Kadane's Algorithm, Merge Sort Problems

### Part 1: Definition-Based Questions (40)

**Q1. [Definition]** What is the time complexity to access an element at a specific index in an array?

- A.  $O(n)$
- B.  $O(\log n)$
- C.  $O(1)$
- D.  $O(n \log n)$

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:** Arrays allow random access via indices, making element access  $O(1)$ .

**Q2. [Definition]** What does the prefix sum technique aim to optimize?

- A. Sorting an array
- B. Reducing time complexity of range sum queries
- C. Finding subarrays
- D. Checking for duplicates

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:** Prefix sum arrays are precomputed to quickly calculate the sum of elements in a given range.

**Q3. [Definition]** Which algorithm is used to find the maximum sum of a contiguous subarray in linear time?

- A. Merge Sort
- B. Binary Search
- C. Kadane's Algorithm
- D. Quick Sort

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:** Kadane's Algorithm efficiently finds the maximum subarray sum in  $O(n)$  time.

**Q4. [Definition]** What does a two pointer technique typically involve?

- A. Two nested loops
- B. Recursion
- C. Two variables iterating through the array
- D. Hashing elements

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:** Two pointers usually iterate from different ends or points in the array to solve problems efficiently.

**Q5. [Definition]** What is the sliding window technique commonly used for?

- A. Sorting arrays

- B. Calculating subarray sums or properties
- C. Searching in trees
- D. Counting inversions

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:** Sliding window technique is useful for calculating properties (like sum, max) of subarrays in linear time.

**Q6. [Definition] What is the main advantage of the two pointer technique?**

- A. Reduces space complexity
- B. Avoids recursion
- C. Reduces nested loops in some problems
- D. Guarantees optimal result

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:** The two pointer technique is often used to avoid brute force nested loop solutions.

**Q7. [Definition] What is the worst-case time complexity of Merge Sort?**

- A.  $O(n)$
- B.  $O(n^2)$
- C.  $O(n \log n)$
- D.  $O(\log n)$

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:** Merge Sort consistently performs at  $O(n \log n)$  in all cases.

**Q8. [Definition] In the prefix sum array, what does  $\text{prefix}[i]$  represent?**

- A. Sum of all elements from index  $i$  to end
- B. Sum of all elements from start to index  $i$
- C. Average of first  $i$  elements
- D. Maximum of first  $i$  elements

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:**  $\text{prefix}[i]$  usually stores the sum of  $\text{array}[0]$  to  $\text{array}[i]$ .

**Q9. [Definition] Which data structure is preferred when you need fast lookup and constant-time access?**

- A. Queue
- B. Stack
- C. Array
- D. Linked List

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:** Arrays provide  $O(1)$  access time via indexing.

**Q10. [Definition] What is the primary goal of Kadane's Algorithm?**

- A. Sorting arrays
- B. Finding subarrays with maximum product
- C. Finding maximum sum subarray
- D. Calculating prefix sum

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:** Kadane's Algorithm finds the subarray with the maximum sum in linear time.

**Q11. [Definition] What is the primary use of a prefix sum array?**

- A. Reduce memory consumption
- B. Simplify string matching
- C. Enable quick range sum queries
- D. Speed up sorting

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:** Prefix sums allow fast computation of sums between any two indices.

**Q12. [Definition] What is the time complexity of creating a prefix sum array?**

- A.  $O(1)$
- B.  $O(\log n)$
- C.  $O(n)$
- D.  $O(n^2)$

**Answer:** C

**Explanation:** One pass through the array is required to compute the prefix sums.

**Q13. [Definition] Which approach does the sliding window technique improve upon?**

- A. Binary search
- B. Nested loops
- C. Recursion
- D. Merge sort

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:** Sliding window avoids brute-force nested loops for subarray problems.

**Q14. [Definition] What is a common condition for applying the two pointer technique?**

- A. The array is sorted
- B. The array contains only positive integers
- C. The array is multi-dimensional
- D. The array contains duplicates

**Answer:** A

**Explanation:** Many two pointer problems require sorted arrays to efficiently find pairs.

**Q15. [Definition] In the context of merge sort, what is a key step that enables sorting?**

- A. Random partitioning
- B. Merging two sorted halves
- C. Using a stack
- D. Applying prefix sums

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:** Merge sort divides arrays and merges sorted halves recursively.

**Q16. [Definition] How are inversion counts related to merge sort?**

- A. They are not related
- B. Merge sort's merge step can be adapted to count inversions

- C. Inversions are counted during sorting
- D. Only quick sort can be used

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** The merge step is ideal for counting inversions by tracking swaps.

**Q17. [Definition] What is the time complexity of the two pointer technique on a sorted array?**

- A.  $O(n^2)$
- B.  $O(n \log n)$
- C.  $O(n)$
- D.  $O(\log n)$

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Both pointers traverse the array linearly, so it's  $O(n)$ .

**Q18. [Definition] What problem does Kadane's algorithm solve?**

- A. Count sort
- B. Maximum subarray sum
- C. Shortest path
- D. Array reversal

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Kadane's algorithm finds the contiguous subarray with the largest sum.

**Q19. [Definition] Which operation is NOT allowed on fixed-size arrays in Java?**

- A. Reading an element
- B. Modifying an element
- C. Adding a new element
- D. Initializing the array

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Arrays in Java have a fixed size and cannot grow dynamically.

**Q20. [Definition] Which of the following algorithms is divide-and-conquer based?**

- A. Insertion Sort
- B. Bubble Sort
- C. Merge Sort
- D. Linear Search

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Merge Sort is a classic example of a divide-and-conquer algorithm.

**Q21. [Definition] Which DSA concept is best suited to solve the 2-sum problem in a sorted array?**

- A. HashMap
- B. Binary Search
- C. Two Pointer Technique
- D. Stack

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Two pointers from both ends can be used efficiently in sorted arrays.

**Q22. [Definition] What does an inversion in an array mean?**

- A. A sorted pair
- B. A pair  $(i, j)$  such that  $i < j$  and  $arr[i] > arr[j]$
- C. A duplicate pair
- D. A prefix pair

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Inversion indicates disorder where a larger element appears before a smaller one.

**Q23. [Definition] What is the base case for Kadane's algorithm initialization?**

- A. 0
- B. Integer.MIN\_VALUE
- C. The first array element
- D. The maximum prefix sum

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Initialization starts with the first element for both current and max values.

**Q24. [Definition] When is a sliding window most useful?**

- A. When elements must be removed from the middle
- B. When dealing with fixed-size or dynamic subarrays
- C. For recursive tree traversal
- D. In graphs

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Sliding windows allow processing of continuous subarrays efficiently.

**Q25. [Definition] What is the best time complexity to find the max sum subarray?**

- A.  $O(n \log n)$
- B.  $O(n^2)$
- C.  $O(n)$
- D.  $O(n!)$

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Kadane's algorithm accomplishes it in  $O(n)$  time.

**Q26. [Definition] Which of these algorithms divides the array into two halves and processes them recursively?**

- A. Linear Search
- B. Bubble Sort
- C. Merge Sort
- D. Prefix Sum

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Merge Sort recursively divides the array and then merges sorted halves.

**Q27. [Definition] What is a prefix sum array used for in coding interviews?**

- A. Searching
- B. Reducing loop complexity for sum ranges
- C. Finding duplicates
- D. Heap operations

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** It precomputes cumulative sums for efficient subarray queries.

**Q28. [Definition] The main benefit of merge sort over bubble sort is:**

- A. Simpler logic
- B. In-place operation
- C. Consistent performance
- D. Better worst-case complexity

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** Merge sort has  $O(n \log n)$  in the worst case, better than  $O(n^2)$  of bubble sort.

**Q29. [Definition] Which algorithm is suitable for maximum sum of k consecutive elements?**

- A. Kadane's Algorithm
- B. Binary Search
- C. Sliding Window
- D. DFS

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Sliding window efficiently tracks sum of fixed-length subarrays.

**Q30. [Definition] What does the term 'window' in sliding window refer to?**

- A. Binary partitioning
- B. A fixed-size subarray
- C. Dynamic programming array
- D. Graph node set

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** It represents a subarray of the input array over which computation is done.

**Q31. [Definition] In 3-sum problem, which approach reduces time from  $O(n^3)$  to  $O(n^2)$ ?**

- A. Brute force
- B. Hashing
- C. Sorting + Two Pointer
- D. DFS

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Sorting the array and using two pointers reduces complexity.

**Q32. [Definition] Merge sort is preferred over quick sort when:**

- A. Space is limited
- B. Worst-case time is critical
- C. Median is needed
- D. Array is already sorted

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Merge sort offers predictable  $O(n \log n)$  even in worst-case scenarios.

**Q33. [Definition] What defines the end of a subarray?**

- A. Beginning of another
- B. Any valid index  $\geq$  start index

- C. End of array only
- D. Where a 0 is encountered

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Subarrays can start and end at any valid indices.

**Q34. [Definition] What is required for an efficient 2-pointer solution?**

- A. Duplicates
- B. Sorted array
- C. Queue implementation
- D. Reversed array

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Sorted arrays help two pointers converge optimally.

**Q35. [Definition] The maximum subarray sum problem is solved optimally by:**

- A. Greedy Algorithm
- B. Kadane's Algorithm
- C. Dynamic Programming
- D. Divide and Conquer

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Kadane's algorithm is a greedy approach for maximum subarray sum.

**Q36. [Definition] What's the space complexity of Kadane's Algorithm?**

- A.  $O(n)$
- B.  $O(\log n)$
- C.  $O(1)$
- D.  $O(n^2)$

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** It uses only two variables to track current and max sums.

**Q37. [Definition] In array problems, what does 'in-place' mean?**

- A. Using recursion
- B. Using extra array
- C. Without using extra space
- D. Running inside a function

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** In-place means modifying the original array without extra space.

**Q38. [Definition] Which of these algorithms is stable?**

- A. Quick Sort
- B. Merge Sort
- C. Heap Sort
- D. Selection Sort

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Merge Sort maintains the order of equal elements.

**Q39. [Definition] Which sorting algorithm is not comparison-based?**

- A. Merge Sort
- B. Quick Sort
- C. Count Sort
- D. Bubble Sort

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Count Sort uses counting, not comparisons.

**Q40. [Definition] What's the basic idea of prefix sum optimization?**

- A. Reduce recursion depth
- B. Precompute cumulative sums to avoid repeated work
- C. Create new arrays for all ranges
- D. Use stack for storage

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** It speeds up queries by avoiding repetitive summation loops.

## Part 2: Moderate Difficulty (Error Identification & Debugging - 35)

**Q41. [Moderate] What will be the output of the following code?**

```
int[] arr = {1, 2, 3};  
System.out.println(arr[3]);
```

- A. 3
- B. 0
- C. `ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException`
- D. Compilation Error

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Index 3 is out of bounds for a 3-element array (indices 0 to 2).

**Q42. [Moderate] Which line contains the error in the following code snippet to calculate prefix sums?**

```
int[] arr = {1, 2, 3};  
int[] prefix = new int[arr.length];  
prefix[0] = arr[0];  
for (int i = 0; i < arr.length; i++) {  
    prefix[i] = prefix[i - 1] + arr[i];  
}
```

- A. Line 3
- B. Line 4
- C. Line 5
- D. Line 6

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** When  $i = 0$ , `prefix[i - 1]` results in accessing `prefix[-1]`, which is invalid.



**Q43. [Moderate] What is the output of the following code?**

```
int[] arr = {3, 2, 1};  
Arrays.sort(arr);  
System.out.println(arr[0]);
```

- A. 3
- B. 2
- C. 1
- D. Compilation Error

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Arrays.sort() sorts the array in ascending order, making the first element the smallest.

**Q44. [Moderate] Identify the issue in this code for max subarray sum:**

```
int maxSum = 0;  
for (int i = 0; i < arr.length; i++) {  
    maxSum = Math.max(maxSum, arr[i]);  
}
```

- A. Logic for max subarray sum is incorrect
- B. Runtime error
- C. Compilation error
- D. Works fine

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** This computes the max element, not the max subarray sum.

**Q45. [Moderate] What does this code do?**

```
int[] arr = {1, 2, 3};  
for (int i = 0; i <= arr.length; i++) {  
    System.out.print(arr[i]);  
}
```

- A. Prints 123
- B. Compilation error
- C. Runtime error
- D. Prints 12

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Accessing arr[arr.length] causes ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException.

**Q46. [Moderate] What will this print?**

```
int[] a = {1, 2, 3};  
a[1] = a[1] + a[2];  
System.out.println(a[1]);
```

- A. 3
- B. 5
- C. 2
- D. 1

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**  $a[1]$  becomes  $2 + 3 = 5$ .

**Q47. [Moderate] Find the error:**

```
int[] prefix = new int[n];
prefix[0] = arr[0];
for (int i = 1; i < n; i++)
    prefix[i] = arr[i] + prefix[i];
```

- A. No error
- B. `prefix[i]` should use `prefix[i-1]`
- C. Loop should start from 0
- D. `arr` not initialized

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** The correct computation is  $\text{prefix}[i] = \text{arr}[i] + \text{prefix}[i - 1]$ .

**Q48. [Moderate] Find the error in this sliding window implementation:**

```
int maxSum = 0;
for (int i = 0; i < arr.length - k; i++) {
    int sum = 0;
    for (int j = i; j < i + k; j++) {
        sum += arr[j];
    }
    maxSum = Math.max(maxSum, sum);
}
```

- A. Loop bounds are incorrect
- B. `sum` is not reset
- C. `k` must be less than array size
- D. Missing print statement

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** The outer loop should go till  $\text{arr.length} - k + 1$  to cover the last valid window.

**Q49. [Moderate] What is the output of the following?**

```
int[] arr = {1, 2, 3, 4};
int sum = 0;
for (int i = 1; i < arr.length; i++) {
    sum += arr[i] - arr[i - 1];
}
System.out.println(sum);
```

- A. 3
- B. 6

C. 0

D. 1

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Sum is  $(2-1) + (3-2) + (4-3) = 1 + 1 + 1 = 3$ .

**Q50. [Moderate] What's the bug in this merge sort implementation?**

```
void mergeSort(int[] arr) {  
    if (arr.length <= 1) return;  
    int mid = arr.length / 2;  
    int[] left = Arrays.copyOfRange(arr, 0, mid);  
    int[] right = Arrays.copyOfRange(arr, mid, arr.length);  
    mergeSort(left);  
    mergeSort(right);  
    merge(arr, left, right);  
}
```

A. Infinite recursion

B. No base case

C. merge function undefined

D. Wrong range

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** merge function must be implemented to merge the sorted halves.

**Q51. [Moderate] Identify the issue in this code for calculating the maximum subarray sum using Kadane's Algorithm:**

```
int maxSum = 0;  
int currSum = 0;  
for (int i = 0; i < arr.length; i++) {  
    currSum += arr[i];  
    if (currSum < 0) currSum = 0;  
    maxSum = Math.max(maxSum, currSum);  
}
```

A. Works correctly

B. maxSum initialization is wrong

C. Fails if all numbers are negative

D. Loop bound is off

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** This version fails when all numbers are negative; a proper Kadane's should initialize with the first element.

**Q52. [Moderate] What is the error in this 2-pointer code for finding a pair sum?**

```
int l = 0, r = arr.length - 1;  
while (l < r) {  
    int sum = arr[l] + arr[r];  
    if (sum == target) System.out.println("Found");  
    else if (sum < target) r--;
```

```
        else l++;
    }
```

- A. r-- and l++ conditions are reversed
- B. Infinite loop
- C. Array not sorted
- D. No return after print

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** If  $\text{sum} < \text{target}$ , we should move left pointer up; if  $\text{sum} > \text{target}$ , move right pointer down.

**Q53. [Moderate] Why might this prefix sum implementation be incorrect?**

```
int[] prefix = new int[n];
prefix[0] = 0;
for (int i = 1; i < n; i++) {
    prefix[i] = prefix[i - 1] + arr[i];
}
```

- A. prefix[0] should be arr[0]
- B. Loop should start from 0
- C. prefix array too small
- D. arr not initialized

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Prefix sums should start with the first value of the original array.

**Q54. [Moderate] What will this sliding window code print for arr = {1,2,3,4,5}, k = 3?**

```
int maxSum = 0;
int sum = 0;
for (int i = 0; i < k; i++) sum += arr[i];
maxSum = sum;
for (int i = k; i < arr.length; i++) {
    sum += arr[i] - arr[i - k];
    maxSum = Math.max(maxSum, sum);
}
System.out.println(maxSum);
```

- A. 9
- B. 10
- C. 12
- D. 15

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Max window sum of size 3 in {1,2,3,4,5} is {3,4,5} = 12. But the logic correctly gives 12.

**Q55. [Moderate] What is wrong with this code to check if array is sorted?**

```
boolean sorted = true;
for (int i = 0; i <= arr.length; i++) {
```

```
        if (arr[i] > arr[i+1]) sorted = false;
    }
```

- A.  $i \leq \text{arr.length}$  should be  $i < \text{arr.length} - 1$
- B. sorted should be initialized as false
- C. Missing return statement
- D. Works fine

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** `arr[i+1]` will be out of bounds on the last iteration.

**Q56. [Moderate] What does this code print for `arr = {4,3,2,1}`?**

```
int count = 0;
for (int i = 0; i < arr.length; i++) {
    for (int j = i+1; j < arr.length; j++) {
        if (arr[i] > arr[j]) count++;
    }
}
System.out.println(count);
```

- A. 4
- B. 6
- C. 3
- D. 10

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** It counts all inversions. For reverse sorted array of 4 elements, there are 6.

**Q57. [Moderate] Which line causes error in this two-sum approach?**

```
int l = 0, r = arr.length;
while (l < r) {
    int sum = arr[l] + arr[r];
    if (sum == target) return true;
    else if (sum < target) l++;
    else r--;
}
```

- A. `l = 0`
- B. `r = arr.length`
- C. `return true`
- D. `l < r`

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Index `arr.length` is out of bounds. Use `r = arr.length - 1`.

**Q58. [Moderate] What is the issue with this prefix sum range query?**

```
int[] prefix = new int[n];
for (int i = 1; i < n; i++) {
    prefix[i] = prefix[i-1] + arr[i];
}
```

```
int sum = prefix[j] - prefix[i];
```

- A. Index out of bounds for prefix[j]
- B. sum calculation is incorrect for i = 0
- C. Prefix initialization is invalid
- D. Loop is incorrect

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** For i = 0, prefix[i-1] becomes prefix[-1], which is invalid.

**Q59. [Moderate] What is the error in this merge function?**

```
void merge(int[] arr, int[] left, int[] right) {
    int i = 0, j = 0, k = 0;
    while (i < left.length && j < right.length) {
        if (left[i] <= right[j]) arr[k++] = left[i++];
        else arr[k++] = right[j++];
    }
    while (i < left.length) arr[k++] = left[i++];
    while (j < right.length) arr[k++] = right[j++];
}
```

- A. merge doesn't sort correctly
- B. Array index error
- C. arr is not large enough
- D. Works perfectly

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** arr should be of size left.length + right.length, or merging will fail.

**Q60. [Moderate] Identify the logical issue in this maximum subarray code:**

```
int max = Integer.MIN_VALUE;
for (int i = 0; i < arr.length; i++) {
    int sum = 0;
    for (int j = i; j < arr.length; j++) {
        sum += arr[j];
        max = Math.max(max, sum);
    }
}
```

- A. Logic is wrong
- B. Initialization of sum
- C. Inefficient but correct
- D. sum never resets

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** This is a brute-force method; it works but takes  $O(n^2)$  time.

**Q61. [Moderate] What issue exists in this code to compute inversion count?**

```
int count = 0;
for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
```

```
    for (int j = i+1; j < n; j++) {  
        if (arr[i] < arr[j]) count++;  
    }  
}
```

- A. Missing equals check
- B. Should be `arr[i] > arr[j]` for inversion
- C. Inner loop should start at 0
- D. Loop indices are invalid

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Inversion requires `arr[i] > arr[j]` with  $i < j$ .

**Q62. [Moderate] Which case causes sliding window sum to break?**

```
for (int i = 0; i <= arr.length - k; i++) {  
    int sum = 0;  
    for (int j = i; j < i + k; j++) {  
        sum += arr[j];  
    }  
}
```

- A. If  $k > \text{arr.length}$
- B. If arr has negative elements
- C. If arr is sorted
- D. If  $k = 1$

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** The range goes out of bounds when  $k > \text{arr.length}$ .

**Q63. [Moderate] What happens if the prefix sum array is not initialized properly?**

```
int[] prefix = new int[n];  
for (int i = 1; i < n; i++) {  
    prefix[i] = prefix[i-1] + arr[i];  
}
```

- A. `prefix[0]` remains 0
- B. `prefix[0]` must be `arr[0]`
- C. prefix will not represent correct sums
- D. All of the above

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** Prefix array must start with `prefix[0] = arr[0]` for correct computation.

**Q64. [Moderate] What's the issue with this two pointer loop?**

```
int i = 0, j = 0;  
while (i < n && j < n) {  
    if (arr[i] + arr[j] == target && i != j) return true;  
    else if (arr[i] + arr[j] < target) j++;  
    else i++;  
}
```

- A. i and j can both increase indefinitely
- B. Possibility of infinite loop
- C. Fails if  $i == j$
- D. All of the above

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** i and j can skip correct pairs; condition  $i != j$  may be redundant.

**Q65. [Moderate] What condition will fix the above code?**

- A. Set  $j = i+1$  and use  $i < j$  loop
- B. Use HashSet
- C. Sort the array
- D. Replace target

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Starting  $j = i+1$  and keeping  $i < j$  avoids redundant comparisons and ensures  $i \neq j$ .

**Q66. [Moderate] What is the potential bug in this Kadane's implementation?**

```
int max = 0, sum = 0;
for (int i = 0; i < arr.length; i++) {
    sum += arr[i];
    max = Math.max(max, sum);
    if (sum < 0) sum = 0;
}
```

- A. Incorrect max initialization
- B. sum condition should be before max update
- C. Handles only positive elements
- D. Works correctly

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** max should be initialized with Integer.MIN\_VALUE or first element to work with negative-only arrays.

**Q67. [Moderate] Why might this two pointer approach for 3-sum fail?**

```
for (int i = 0; i < arr.length - 2; i++) {
    int l = i + 1, r = arr.length - 1;
    while (l < r) {
        int sum = arr[i] + arr[l] + arr[r];
        if (sum == 0) System.out.println("Triplet found");
        else if (sum < 0) r--;
        else l++;
    }
}
```

- A. r-- and l++ are reversed
- B. Should sort the array first
- C. Loop should break after finding triplet
- D. Works fine



**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Array must be sorted to use the two-pointer strategy effectively.

**Q68. [Moderate] What's the issue if this code runs on an empty array?**

```
int max = arr[0];  
System.out.println(max);
```

- A. Returns incorrect result
- B. Prints 0
- C. Throws `ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException`
- D. Compilation error

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Accessing `arr[0]` in an empty array will cause runtime exception.

**Q69. [Moderate] What could be improved in this merge sort base condition?**

```
if (arr.length == 0) return;
```

- A. Check for null too
- B. Use `arr.length <= 1`
- C. Merge step is missing
- D. Works fine

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** A single-element array is already sorted; base case should be `arr.length <= 1`.

**Q70. [Moderate] What is wrong with this max window sum code if  $k > \text{arr.length}$ ?**

```
int maxSum = 0;  
for (int i = 0; i <= arr.length - k; i++) {  
    int sum = 0;  
    for (int j = i; j < i + k; j++) {  
        sum += arr[j];  
    }  
    maxSum = Math.max(maxSum, sum);  
}
```

- A. No error
- B. Logic is inefficient
- C. Index out of bounds
- D.  $k$  should be 1

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** When  $k > \text{arr.length}$ , `arr[j]` access will exceed array bounds.

**Q71. [Moderate] What is the error in using this for inversion count?**

```
int count = 0;  
for (int i = 0; i < n - 1; i++) {  
    if (arr[i] > arr[i + 1]) count++;  
}
```

}

- A. Doesn't count all inversions
- B. Outer loop range is incorrect
- C. Works for sorted arrays only
- D. All of the above

**Answer:** A

**Explanation:** This only checks adjacent elements, not all pairs ( $i < j$ ).

**Q72. [Moderate] What is the problem with this logic to find max in prefix sum array?**

```
int max = prefix[0];
for (int i = 0; i < prefix.length; i++) {
    max = Math.max(max, prefix[i]);
}
```

- A. Redundant first comparison
- B. Off-by-one error
- C. Index starts wrong
- D. Works fine

**Answer:** A

**Explanation:** The first comparison is redundant since we start at  $i = 0$ .

**Q73. [Moderate] What is the bug in using  $\text{prefix}[j] - \text{prefix}[i - 1]$  without check?**

- A. Invalid if  $i = 0$
- B. prefix not initialized
- C.  $j$  must be greater than  $i$
- D. All of the above

**Answer:** A

**Explanation:** When  $i = 0$ ,  $\text{prefix}[i-1]$  becomes  $\text{prefix}[-1]$ , which is invalid.

**Q74. [Moderate] Which is a limitation of two pointer technique?**

- A. Can't work on sorted arrays
- B. Not usable when backtracking is required
- C. Doesn't reduce time complexity
- D. Only works with strings

**Answer:** B

**Explanation:** Two pointer solutions do not backtrack, so they aren't suited for problems requiring reversals.

**Q75. [Moderate] Which of these is not an inversion pair?**

Array: [2, 4, 1, 3, 5]

- A. (2, 1)
- B. (4, 1)
- C. (4, 3)
- D. (3, 5)

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**  $3 < 5$  and 3 precedes 5, so it's not an inversion..

## Part 3: Difficult (Output, Scenario-Based - 25)

**Q76. [Difficult] What will be the output of the following Java program using Kadane's Algorithm?**

```
int[] arr = {-2, 1, -3, 4, -1, 2, 1, -5, 4};
int maxSoFar = arr[0], maxEndingHere = arr[0];
for (int i = 1; i < arr.length; i++) {
    maxEndingHere = Math.max(arr[i], maxEndingHere + arr[i]);
    maxSoFar = Math.max(maxSoFar, maxEndingHere);
}
System.out.println(maxSoFar);
```

- A. 6
- B. 7
- C. 4
- D. 5

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** The maximum subarray sum is [4, -1, 2, 1], which adds up to 6.

**Q77. [Difficult] You are given an array [1, 20, 6, 4, 5]. How many inversions are there?**

- A. 5
- B. 4
- C. 3
- D. 2

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** The inversions are: (20, 6), (20, 4), (20, 5), (6, 4), (6, 5).

**Q78. [Difficult] What will this code output for arr = {2, -1, 2, 3, 4, -5}?**

```
int maxSum = Integer.MIN_VALUE;
int currSum = 0;
for (int i = 0; i < arr.length; i++) {
    currSum += arr[i];
    if (currSum > maxSum) maxSum = currSum;
    if (currSum < 0) currSum = 0;
}
System.out.println(maxSum);
```

- A. 10
- B. 11
- C. 9
- D. 7

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** The subarray [2, -1, 2, 3, 4] sums to 10, which is the maximum.

**Q79. [Difficult] Given the array [5, 3, 2, 4, 1], find the number of inversions.**

- A. 6
- B. 8
- C. 7
- D. 5

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** The inversion pairs are (5,3), (5,2), (5,4), (5,1), (3,2), (3,1), (2,1), (4,1).

**Q80. [Difficult] What will this code print?**

```
int[] arr = {2, 1, 5, 1, 3, 2};  
int k = 3;  
int maxSum = 0;  
for (int i = 0; i < k; i++) maxSum += arr[i];  
int windowSum = maxSum;  
for (int i = k; i < arr.length; i++) {  
    windowSum += arr[i] - arr[i - k];  
    maxSum = Math.max(maxSum, windowSum);  
}  
System.out.println(maxSum);
```

- A. 8
- B. 9
- C. 7
- D. 6

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Maximum window sum of size 3 is [5,1,3] = 9.