

Maximum sum such that no two elements are adjacent

Question: Given an array of positive numbers, find the maximum sum of a subsequence with the constraint that no 2 numbers in the sequence should be adjacent in the array. So 3 2 7 10 should return 13 (sum of 3 and 10) or 3 2 5 10 7 should return 15 (sum of 3, 5 and 7). Answer the question in most efficient way.

Algorithm:

Loop for all elements in `arr[]` and maintain two sums `incl` and `excl` where `incl` = Max sum including the previous element and `excl` = Max sum excluding the previous element.

Max sum excluding the current element will be `max(incl, excl)` and max sum including the current element will be `excl + current element` (Note that only `excl` is considered because elements cannot be adjacent).

At the end of the loop return max of `incl` and `excl`.

Example:

```
arr[] = {5, 5, 10, 40, 50, 35}
```

```
inc = 5
```

```
exc = 0
```

```
For i = 1 (current element is 5)
```

```
incl = (excl + arr[i]) = 5
```

```
excl = max(5, 0) = 5
```

```
For i = 2 (current element is 10)
```

```
incl = (excl + arr[i]) = 15
```

```
excl = max(5, 5) = 5
```

```
For i = 3 (current element is 40)
```

```
incl = (excl + arr[i]) = 45
```

```
excl = max(5, 15) = 15
```

```
For i = 4 (current element is 50)
```

```
incl = (excl + arr[i]) = 65
```

```
excl = max(45, 15) = 45
```

```
For i = 5 (current element is 35)
```

```
incl = (excl + arr[i]) = 80
excl = max(5, 15) = 65
```

And 35 is the last element. So, answer is $\max(\text{incl}, \text{excl}) = 80$

Thanks to [Debanjan](#) for providing code.

Implementation:

```
#include<stdio.h>

/*Function to return max sum such that no two elements
are adjacent */
int FindMaxSum(int arr[], int n)
{
    int incl = arr[0];
    int excl = 0;
    int excl_new;
    int i;

    for (i = 1; i < n; i++)
    {
        /* current max excluding i */
        excl_new = (incl > excl)? incl: excl;

        /* current max including i */
        incl = excl + arr[i];
        excl = excl_new;
    }

    /* return max of incl and excl */
    return ((incl > excl)? incl : excl);
}

/* Driver program to test above function */
int main()
{
    int arr[] = {5, 5, 10, 100, 10, 5};
    printf("%d \n", FindMaxSum(arr, 6));
    getchar();
    return 0;
}
```

Time Complexity: $O(n)$

Now try the same problem for array with negative numbers also.

Please write comments if you find any bug in the above program/algorithm or other ways to solve the same problem.



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