

Equilibrium Index

Find an index in an array such that the sum of elements to the left is equal to the sum of elements to the right.

Equilibrium Index in an Array

An **Equilibrium Index** is an index in an array where:

Sum of elements on the left = Sum of elements on the right

👉 The element at that index is **NOT included** in either sum.

Definition

For an array `arr[]`, an index `i` is an equilibrium index if:

$$\begin{aligned} &arr[0] + arr[1] + \dots + arr[i-1] \\ &= \\ &arr[i+1] + arr[i+2] + \dots + arr[n-1] \end{aligned}$$

Efficient Approach (Using Prefix Logic)

Instead of calculating left and right sums repeatedly:

Steps:

1. Find total sum of array.
2. Traverse the array.
3. Keep updating left sum.
4. Right sum = total sum – left sum – current element.
5. Compare both.

Java Code Implementation

```
class EquilibriumIndex {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        int[] arr = {1, 3, 5, 2, 2};
        int n = arr.length;

        int totalSum = 0;

        // Step 1: Calculate total sum
        for (int num : arr) {
            totalSum += num;
        }

        int leftSum = 0;

        // Step 2: Find equilibrium index
        for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {

            totalSum -= arr[i]; // now totalSum becomes right sum

            if (leftSum == totalSum) {
                System.out.println("Equilibrium Index = " + i);
                return;
            }

            leftSum += arr[i];
        }

        System.out.println("No Equilibrium Index found");
    }
}
```



Time Complexity

Method	Time
Brute Force	$O(n^2)$
Efficient Method	$O(n)$



Key Points to Remember

- There can be **more than one** equilibrium index
- First and last index can also be equilibrium (if one side sum = 0)
- Works with negative numbers too

