

Cross-Review Summary: Kadane vs. Boyer–Moore Algorithms

1. Overview

Both algorithms demonstrate efficient linear-time solutions to distinct problem domains:

- **Kadane’s Algorithm** — finds the **maximum subarray sum** in an array of integers.
- **Boyer–Moore Majority Vote Algorithm** — identifies the **majority element** that appears more than half the time.

Each replaces a naïve quadratic approach with an elegant $O(n)$ linear-scan solution, using minimal memory and iterative updates.

2. Conceptual Comparison

| Aspect | Kadane’s Algorithm | Boyer–Moore Algorithm |
|-----------------|---|--|
| Problem Type | Maximum subarray sum | Majority element detection |
| Core Idea | Track running sum (maxEndingHere) and global maximum (maxSoFar) | Maintain candidate element and counter balance |
| Complexity | $O(n)$ time, $O(1)$ space | $O(n)$ time, $O(1)$ space |
| Data Dependence | Works on integer arrays with possible negatives | Works on categorical or integer data |
| Output | Maximum sum (and indices) | Majority element (if exists) |

3. Inefficient Sections in Partner’s Algorithm

During the mutual code review:

- The **partner’s pre-optimized Kadane** version contained **nested loops** over all start/end indices, recalculating subarray sums from scratch — resulting in $O(n^2)$ complexity.
- The **Boyer–Moore** version showed **no structural inefficiency**, though earlier drafts lacked validation for non-majority cases (which was later addressed with a verification step).

4. Optimization Results

After optimization and metric analysis using the shared PerformanceTracker, measurable improvements were observed:

| Metric | Naïve | Kadane | Optimized Kadane | Boyer–Moore |
|-------------------------|-----------|--------|------------------|-------------|
| Time Complexity | $O(n^2)$ | $O(n)$ | $O(n)$ | $O(n)$ |
| Iterations ($n=10^4$) | ~50M | ~10K | ~10K | ~10K |
| Array Accesses | Very high | Linear | Linear | Linear |
| Execution Time | ~500 ms | <5 ms | <5 ms | <4 ms |

Interpretation:

Both optimized algorithms perform linearly, but **Boyer–Moore** involves fewer arithmetic operations — it only updates a counter and candidate variable — while **Kadane** performs continuous sum comparisons. Therefore, Kadane’s version is slightly heavier computationally, though still within optimal bounds.

5. Conceptual Efficiency

- **Kadane** optimizes by **reusing partial sums**, avoiding recomputation.
- **Boyer–Moore** optimizes by **cancelling pairs of elements**, eliminating the need for extra storage or nested counting.
- Both rely on **incremental state tracking**, a hallmark of high-efficiency linear algorithms.

6. Conclusion

In cross-review, both algorithms exhibit strong **computational efficiency** and **clean design**, each representing an ideal $O(n)$ solution within its domain.

However:

- **Kadane’s Algorithm** demonstrates the power of incremental accumulation for numerical optimization problems.
- **Boyer–Moore Algorithm** exemplifies combinatorial elimination for frequency analysis.

Together, they highlight two complementary paradigms of **linear-time reasoning** — one numeric, one logical — both elegantly simple yet powerful in real-world applications.