

# Segment Trees

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## WHY DO WE NEED SEGMENT TREES?

[DISCLAIMER : I AM USING SUM AS THE PRIMARY OPERATION IN THIS TUTORIAL , WE CAN MAKE THE SEGMENT TREE FOR DIFFERENT RANGE QUERIES AS WE WANT AS PER OUR NEED FOR EX. min , sum , max, etc] .

For ex.

We have an array : [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

We need to find the sum of all the values between index (2,3) and many more .

BRUTE FORCE / NAIVE METHOD :

We can do this operation in  $O(N)$  , but when we have Q number of queries i.e. we need to find the sum of different parts of the array Q times , it will take us  $O(N * Q)$  time .

Even if we make something like a prefix-sum array , if we update the array again and again , we will have to update the prefix sum array again and again and it will still be a **quadratic** solution!

What is the solution to this madness???

BETTER / EFFICIENT METHOD :

Segment tree is the solution to this . We can make a tree type structure which can perform all these queries in  $O(\log(N))$  .

- Segment trees are used for range queries .
- Range queries refer to :
  - o Updating a range
  - o Querying a range
  - o And doing all of that in an efficient manner .

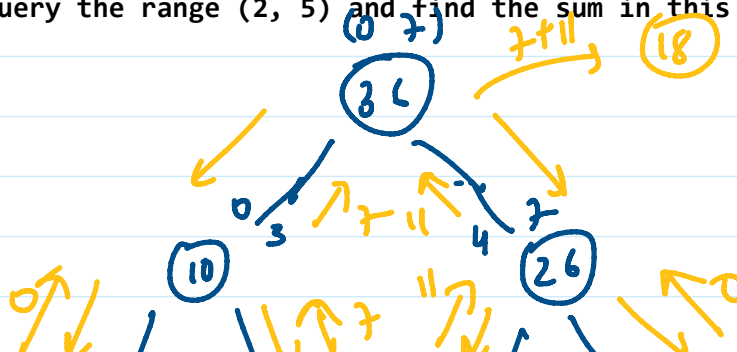
For ex.

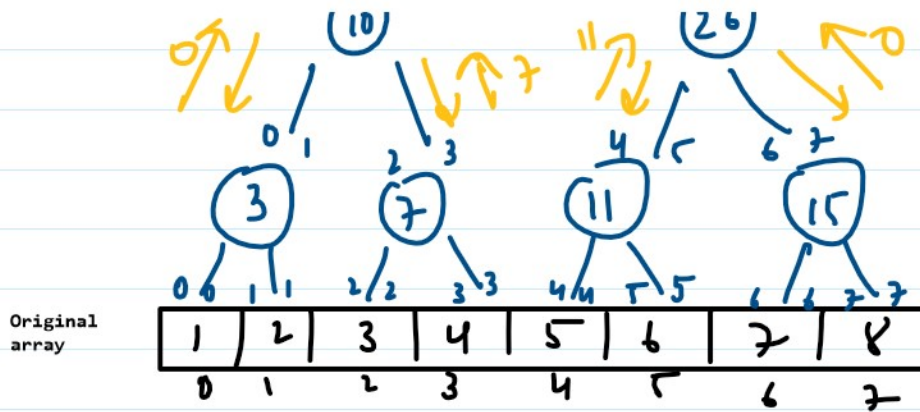
If our array is [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8]

We will make a segment tree which will look like this .

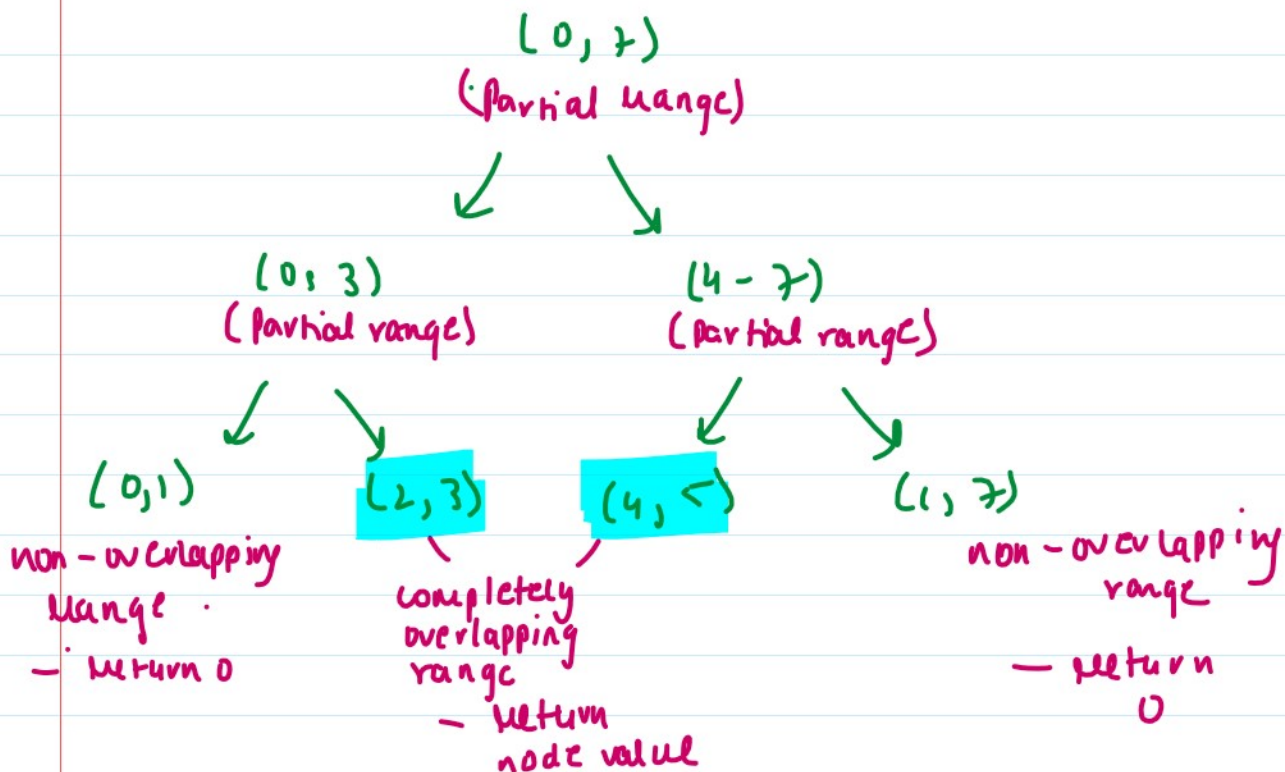
## QUERY :

Let's query the range (2, 5) and find the sum in this range :





Here we see that we traverse the range (2, 5).  
The traversal looks as follows :



#### • Types of ranges :

- Completely overlapping range - We will add this completely to our answer , no need to explore the children .
- Partially overlapping range - We will keep this with us as we need a part of it , here we will explore the left and right child .
- Non overlapping range - we will discard it since we don't need it at all , no need to explore the children .

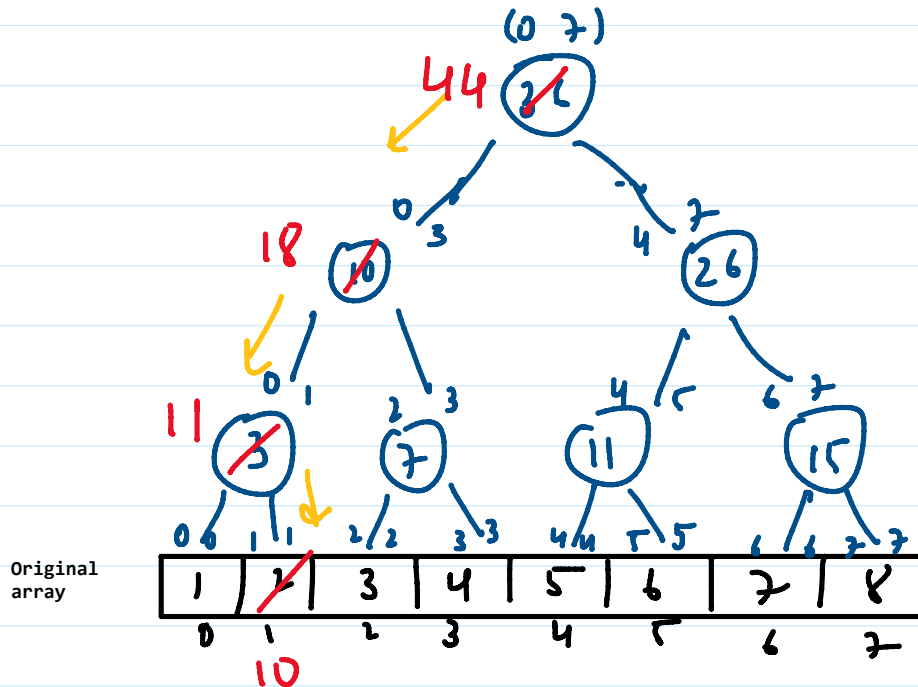
Here we saw that if we want to query a particular range , we can do that very easily in a time complexity of :  $O(\log(N))$  , N - size of array .

## UPDATE :

This is the easiest operation among all . Here we just recursively traverse the range in the tree and update the ancestors .

For ex .

Let's update the node at index 1 from 2 -> 10:



Here we go into the range as :

$$(0, 7) \rightarrow (0, 3) \rightarrow (2, 3) \rightarrow (2, 2)$$

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Then we come back updating ONLY the ancestors of the node with the sum of the left and right node .

$$(0, 7) \rightarrow (0, 3) \rightarrow (2, 3) \rightarrow (2, 2)$$

36 → 4410 → 183 → 112 → 10

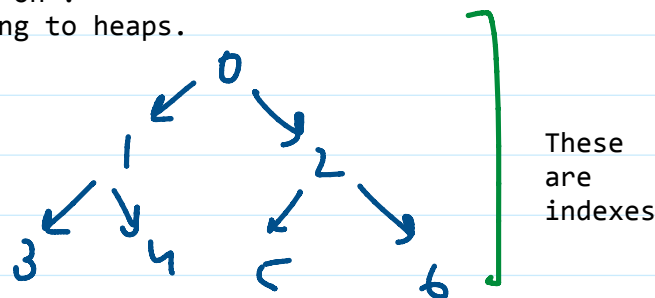
- So we understand that :

- Segment tree is used when we need to do multiple range updates on a large range efficiently .
- The operations in segment tree include :
  - Query
  - Update
- Both of these operations are done in  $\log(N)$  time complexity .

We understand the structure of segment tree in the form of an array due to its indexing :

0, 1, 2, 3 . . . . so on .

This is a similar thing to heaps.



Here we can see that the :

If the parent node has index : index

The child nodes have index :

- Left :  $2 * \text{index} + 1$
- Right :  $2 * \text{index} + 2$

LET'S NOW UNDERSTAND THE CODE :

Structure of the segment tree :

```
struct segmenttree {  
    int n;  
    vector<int> st;  
  
    segmenttree(int n) {  
        this->n = n;  
        st.resize(4 * n, 0);  
    }  
};
```

→ size of the tree

→ st : segment tree vector .

Build :

```
void build(int start, int end, int node, vector<int> v) {  
    if (start == end) {  
        st[node] = v[start];  
        return;  
    }  
  
    int mid = (start + end) / 2;  
    build(start, mid, 2 * node + 1, v);  
    build(mid + 1, end, 2 * node + 2, v);  
  
    st[node] = st[2 * node + 1] + st[2 * node + 2];  
}
```

base case :  
leaf node .

going to the leaf node .

adding  
sum  
of child nodes

Query :

```
int query(int l, int r, int start, int end, int node) {  
    // no overlap  
    if (start > r or end < l) {  
        return 0;  
    }  
  
    // complete overlap  
    if (start >= l and end <= r) {  
        return st[node];  
    }  
  
    // partial overlap  
    int mid = (start + end) / 2;  
    int q1 = query(l, r, start, mid, 2 * node + 1);  
    int q2 = query(l, r, mid + 1, end, 2 * node + 2);  
  
    return (q1 + q2);  
}
```

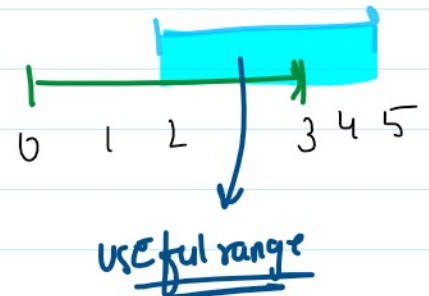
No overlap

complete overlap

Partial overlap

for ex .

our range : [2, 5]  
total range : [0, 3]



Update :

```
void update(int start, int end, int index, int value, int node) {  
    if (start == end) {  
        st[node] = value;  
        return;  
    }  
  
    int mid = (start + end) / 2;  
    if (index <= mid) {  
        update(start, mid, index, value, 2 * node + 1);  
    } else {  
        update(mid + 1, end, index, value, 2 * node + 2);  
    }  
    st[node] = st[2 * node + 1] + st[2 * node + 2];  
}
```

→ updating  
ancestors