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Program to find an element in array such that sum of left array is equal to sum of right array

Posted on [August 19, 2019](#) | by [Prashant Yadav](#)

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An algorithm to find the element in [array](#) such that the sum of its left elements is equal to the sum of its right elements in javascript.

Example

Input:

[2, 1, 9, 3]

[1, 2, 3]

Output:

9

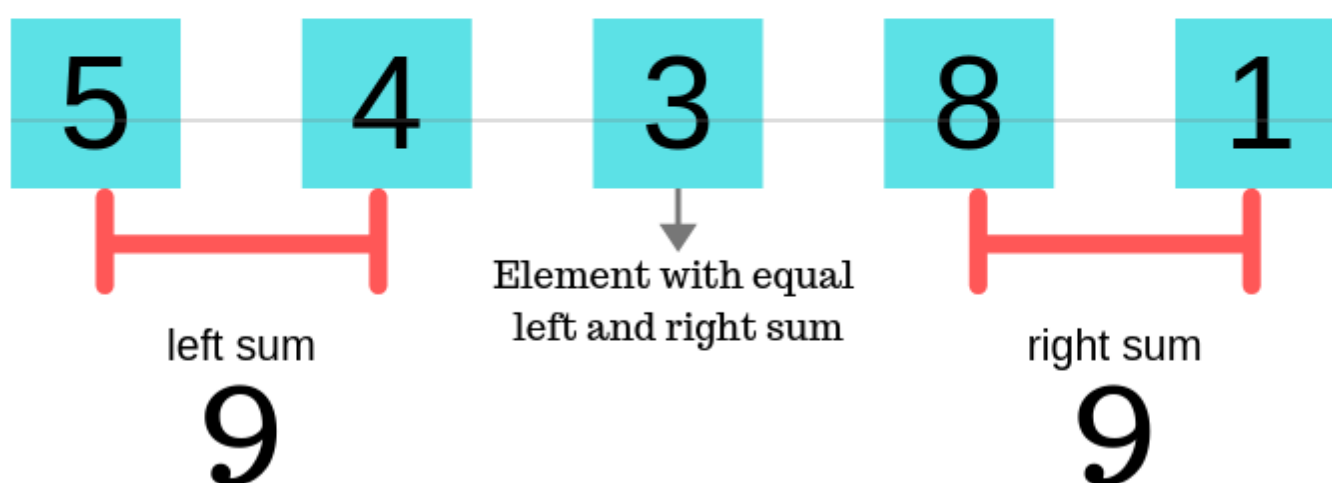
-1

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Element on the left ($2+1$) subarray and right (3) subarray of 9 are equal.

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Program to find the element with equal left & right sum of subarrays



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We are going to see three different solution for this problem.

Method 1: Brute Force approach.

Implementation

- We are going to use two nested loops.
- In the outer loop start from the second element in the array.
- Then calculate its left and right sum and check them if they are equal or not.

```
let solution1 = (arr, n = arr.length) => {  
  //Return if there is only one element in the array  
  if(arr.length === 1){  
    return arr[0];  
  }  
  
  for(let i = 1; i < n; i++){  
    //Calculate the left sum for the current element  
    let leftSum = 0;  
    for(let j = i-1; j >= 0; j--){  
      leftSum += arr[j];  
    }  
  
    //Calculate the right sum for the current element  
    let rightSum = 0;  
    for(let k = i+1; k < n; k++){  
      rightSum += arr[k];  
    }  
  
    //If equal then return the elm  
    if(leftSum === rightSum){  
      return arr[i];  
    }  
  }  
  
  return -1;  
}
```

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```
Input:  
console.log(solution1([2, 7, 3, 5, 2, 2]));
```

```
Output:  
3
```

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Time complexity: $O(n^2)$.

Space complexity: $O(1)$.

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Method 2: In $O(n)$ but with extra space.

Implementation

- We are going to use two different arrays to calculate and store the left sum and right sum of each elements.
- Then compare the left and right sum for each elements.

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```
let solution2 = (arr, n = arr.length) => {  
  //Return if there is only one element in the array  
  if(arr.length === 1){  
    return arr[0];  
  }  
  
  //Calculate the left sum for each element  
  let prefixSum = [];  
  prefixSum[0] = arr[0];  
  for(let i = 1; i < n; i++){  
    prefixSum[i] = prefixSum[i - 1] + arr[i];  
  }  
  
  //Calculate the right sum for each element  
  let suffixSum = [];  
  suffixSum[n-1] = arr[n-1];  
  for(let i = n-2; i >= 0; i--){  
    suffixSum[i] = suffixSum[i + 1] + arr[i];  
  }  
  
  //Check the left sum and right sum for each element  
  for(let i = 0; i < n; i++){  
    if(prefixSum[i] === suffixSum[i]){  
      return arr[i];  
    }  
  }  
  
  return -1  
}
```

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Input:
console.log(solution2([2, 3, 4, 1, 4, 5]));

Output:
1

Time complexity: $O(n)$.

Space complexity: $O(n)$.

Method 3: Best approach, Time and space efficient.

Implementation to find the element with equal left and right sum.

- We are going to first calculate the sum of all the elements on the right of the first element in the array.
- Then start calculating the left sum, while calculating it we will add the element to the left sum and subtract it from right sum.
- Every time we will check if left sum is equal to right sum or not and return the element if they are equal.

```
let solution3 = (arr, n = arr.length) => {
  //Return if there is only one element in the array
  if(arr.length === 1){
    return arr[0];
  }

  let leftSum = 0, rightSum = 0;

  //Calculate the sum of all the right elements
  for(let i = 1; i < n; i++){
    rightSum += arr[i];
  }

  //Now subtract the element from the right sum
  //And add to the element to the left sum
  //Check if the rightSum === leftSum
  for(let i = 0, j = 1; j < n; i++, j++){
    rightSum -= arr[j];
    leftSum += arr[i];

    if(rightSum === leftSum){
      return arr[i+1];
    }
  }

  return -1;
}
```

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Input:
 console.log(solution2([2, 3, 4, 1, 4]));

Output:
 4

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Time complexity: $O(n)$.

Space complexity: $O(1)$.

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