

DSA Revision Notes

1. Best Time to Buy and Sell Stock (Greedy)

- Goal: Max profit with only one transaction.
- Track minimum price seen so far.
- At each day, compute profit = current price - min_price.
- Update max_profit accordingly.
- Time: O(n), Space: O(1).

2. Maximum Subarray (Kadane's Algorithm)

- Goal: Find maximum sum of contiguous subarray.
- Maintain current_sum and max_sum.
- $\text{current_sum} = \max(\text{nums}[i], \text{current_sum} + \text{nums}[i])$.
- Update max_sum each step.
- Handles negative arrays correctly.
- Time: O(n), Space: O(1).

3. Move Zeroes (Two Pointers)

- Goal: Move all zeros to end while maintaining order.
- Use pointer k for position of next non-zero.
- Swap or overwrite non-zero elements forward.
- Time: O(n), Space: O(1).

4. Remove Duplicates from Sorted Array (Two Pointers)

- Array is sorted, so duplicates are adjacent.
- Use slow pointer k to track unique placement.
- If $\text{nums}[i] \neq \text{nums}[i-1]$, place at $\text{nums}[k]$ and increment k.
- Return k as new length.

- Time: $O(n)$, Space: $O(1)$.

5. Merge Sorted Array (Three Pointers from End)

- Merge nums2 into nums1 in-place.
- Use pointers $i = m-1$, $j = n-1$, $k = m+n-1$.
- Compare from back and place larger element at k .
- Continue until nums2 is exhausted.
- Time: $O(m+n)$, Space: $O(1)$.

6. Majority Element (Boyer-Moore Voting)

- Goal: Find element appearing $> n/2$ times.
- Maintain candidate and count.
- If $\text{count} == 0$, set $\text{candidate} = \text{current}$.
- If $\text{current} == \text{candidate}$, $\text{count}++$ else $\text{count}--$.
- Works because majority $>$ sum of all others.
- Time: $O(n)$, Space: $O(1)$.