



# SEGMENT TREES

ADVANCED ALGORITHMS  
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MATERIAL FROM:  
[HTTPS://CP-ALGORITHMS.COM/DATA\\_STRUCTURES/SEGMENT\\_TREE.HTML](https://cp-algorithms.com/data_structures/segment_tree.html)

# ADVANCED TREE STRUCTURES

In this deck we will look at:

- **Segment Trees**

The background is a dark blue gradient with faint, large circular patterns. In the corners, there are white line-art illustrations of circuit boards or neural network connections, featuring lines and small circles.

# MOTIVATION: RANGE QUERIES OVER ARRAYS

# MOTIVATION

**Goal:** Given a list of integers  $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$  and a function that operates on continuous ranges in A, called  $f(l, r)$  where  $l, r \in \mathbb{Z}; l \leq r$

**Support the following operations:**

1. Calculate (for any  $l, r$ ) the value of  $f(l, r) = f(a_l, \dots, a_r)$  in  $O(\log n)$  time
2. Update the value of an element of A in  $O(\log n)$  time.
3. Use no more than  $O(n)$  memory (so no more than list A itself times a constant)

***\*\*Notice: This is the same motivation for Fenwick Trees, but Segment Trees will have some advantages / disadvantages***

# WHY WOULD WE WANT THIS?

$A = \{5, 10, 1, 11, 29, 3, 2, 209, 85, 6, 9, 11\}$

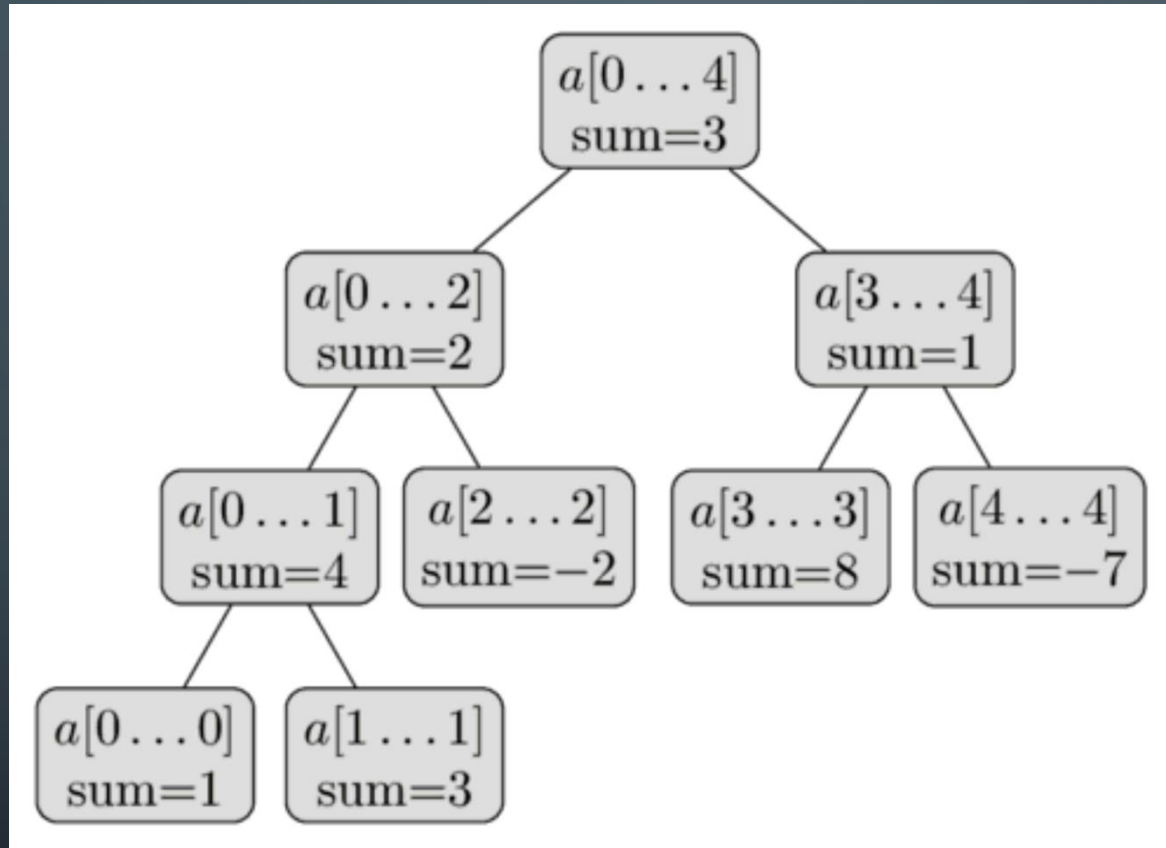
**Suppose:** That our stream of integers are stock prices over time, or sensor data across many time points, or sales per day (etc.).

**Suppose:** That  $f()$  is a function we care about over any range. Max and min (for stock prices), average (for sensor data), or sum (for sales)

Perhaps our company needs to be able to pull  $f()$  over any arbitrary range in  $A$  thousands of time per day

# SEGMENT TREES

# SEGMENT TREE



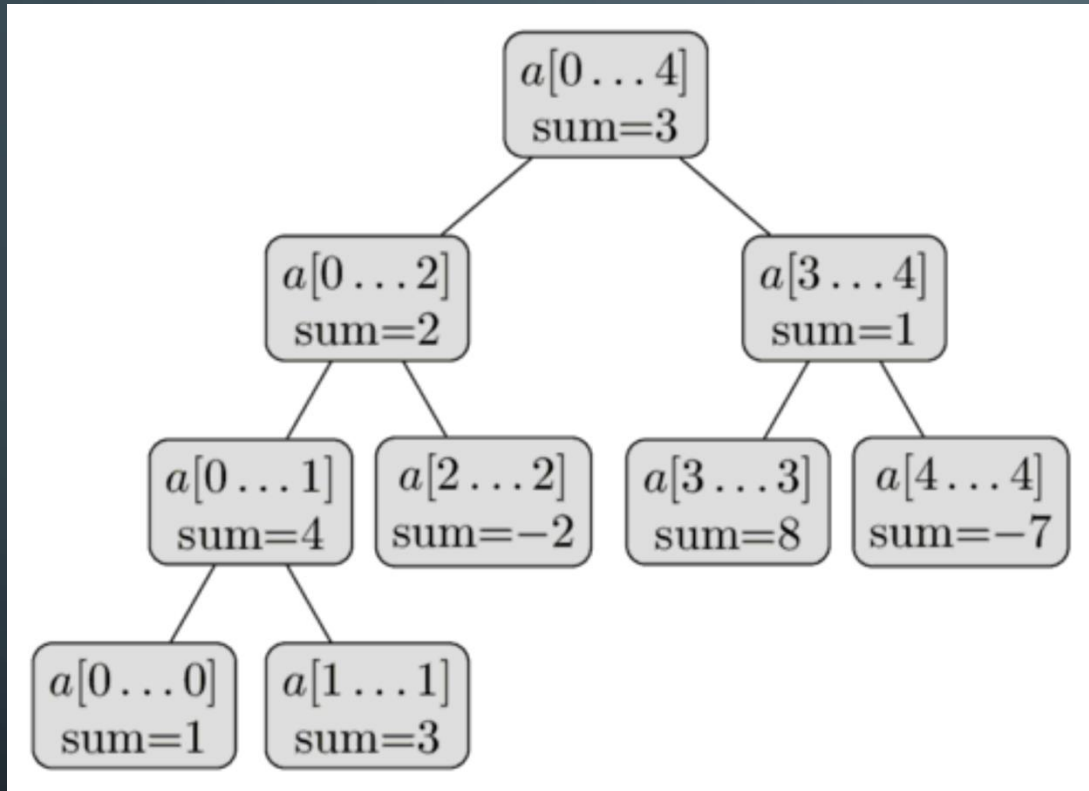
Each node stores the  $f()$  of interest value for a subrange of the array

Here, we are representing the following array:

$A = \{1, 3, -2, 8, -7\}$

Leaf nodes store  $f()$ , here we are using  $\text{sum}$ , for a single element. Usually trivial to compute.

# SEGMENT TREE



Here, we are representing the following array:

$A = \{1, 3, -2, 8, -7\}$

How much storage does this take (note that we don't store the sub-arrays, just the start and end indices, and  $f()$ )

$$1 + 2 + 4 + 8 + \dots + 2^{(\log_2 n)+1} < 4n = \Theta(n)$$



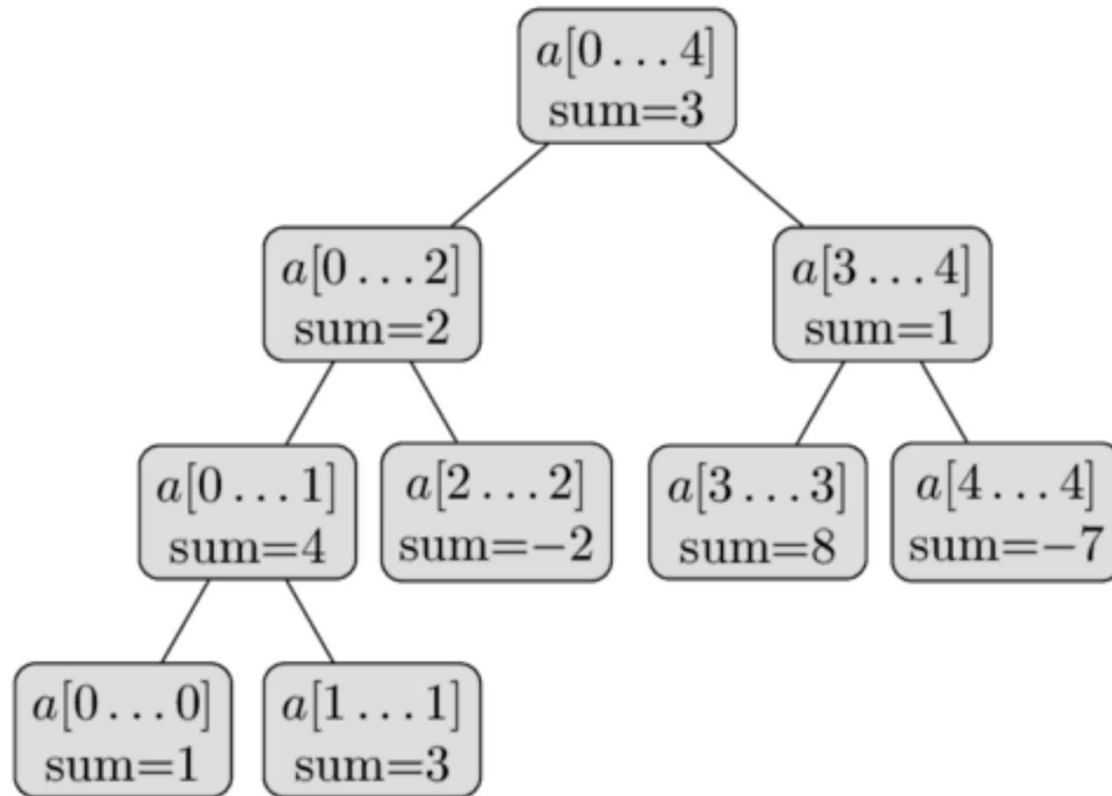
# CONSTRUCTING A SEGMENT TREE

Before constructing ST, need to determine two things:

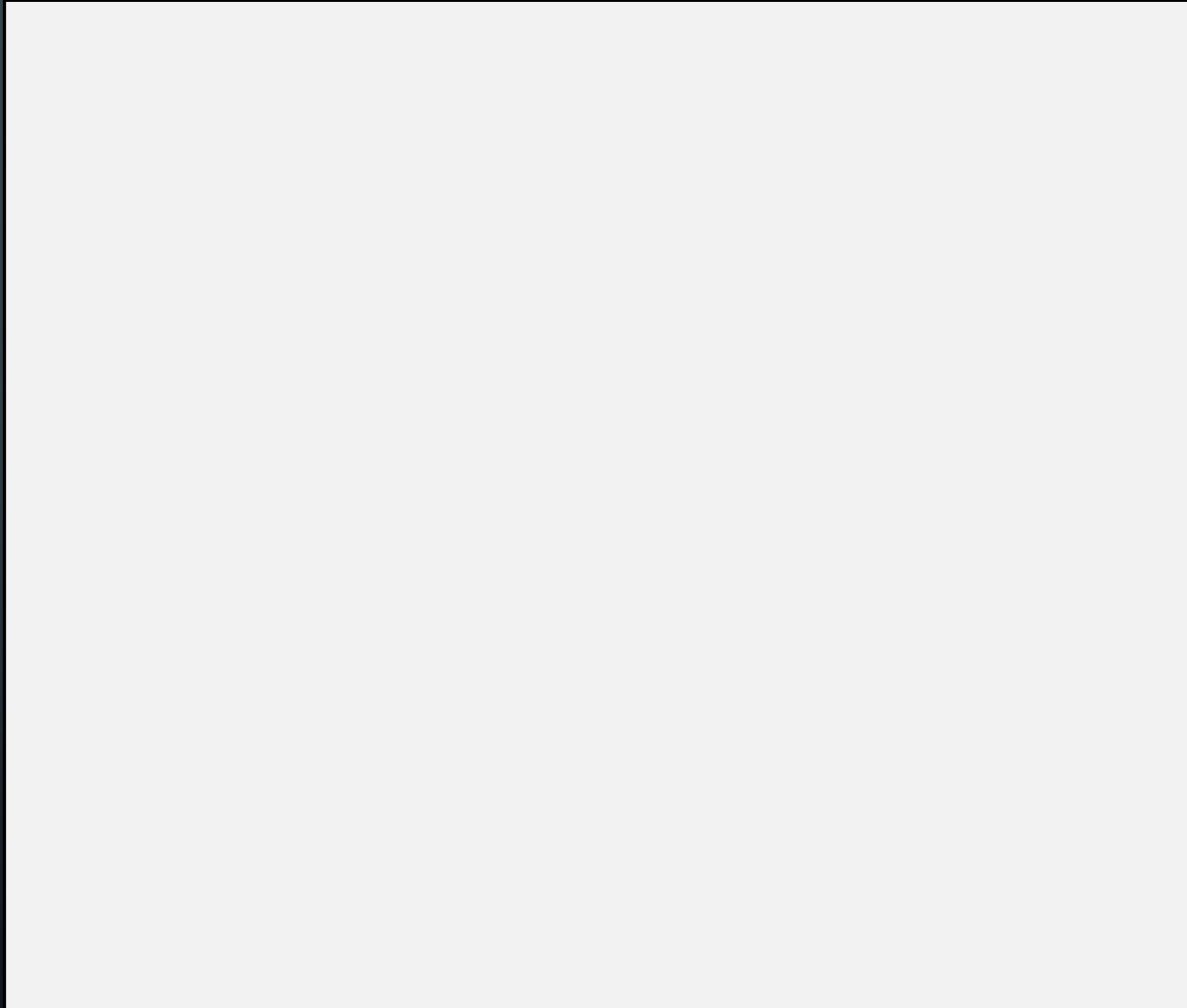
1. The value(s) that gets stored in the nodes (e.g., the sum of the nodes in the given range)

2. The merge operation, which determines the value(s) from #1 above, given the value(s) of the two children.

For sum, merge would simply be (child1 + child2)



# CONSTRUCTING A SEGMENT TREE

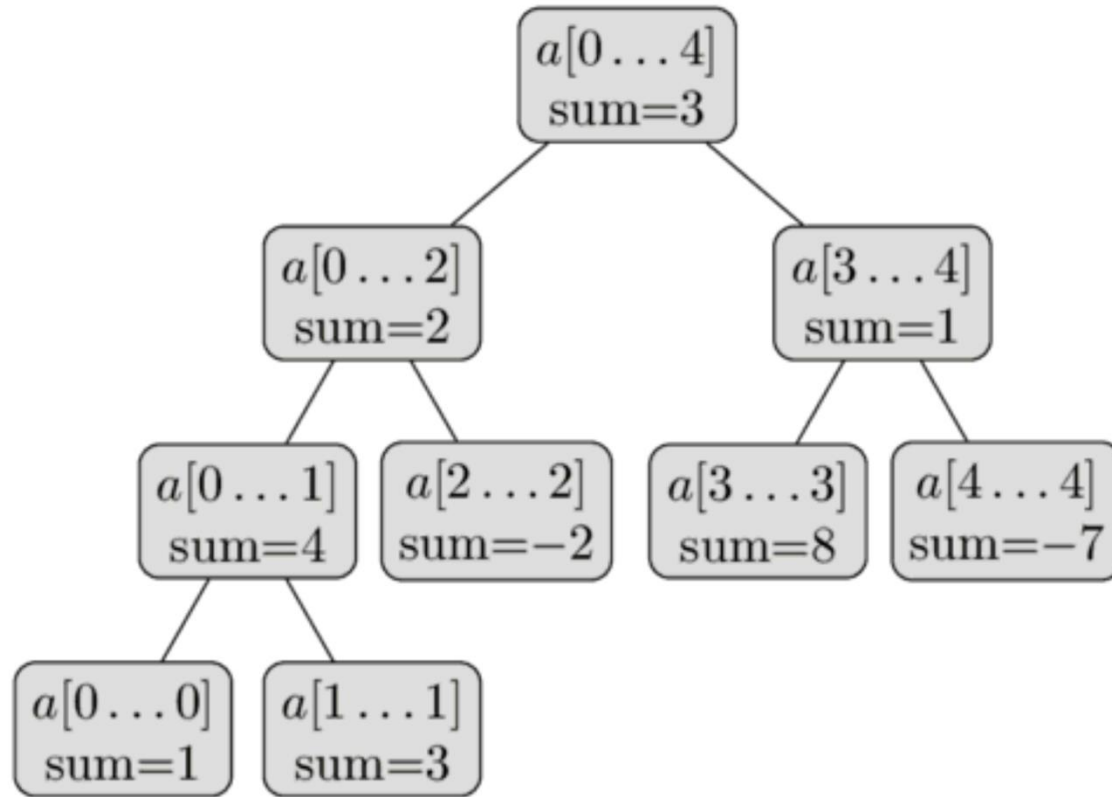


*Let's step through constructing this tree:*

$$A = \{1, 3, -2, 8, -7\}$$

# CONSTRUCTING A SEGMENT TREE

*Pseudo-code for Segment Tree Construction:*



Node:

```
int left, right;
int val;           //can be different
```

*ConstructSegTree(a[]):*

```
ConstructRecurse(a, new Node(0, a.size-1));
```

*ConstructRecurse(a[], curNode):*

```
if(curNode.left == curNode.right):
```

```
    set curNode.val to base case value
```

```
leftChild = new Node(curNode.left, mid);
```

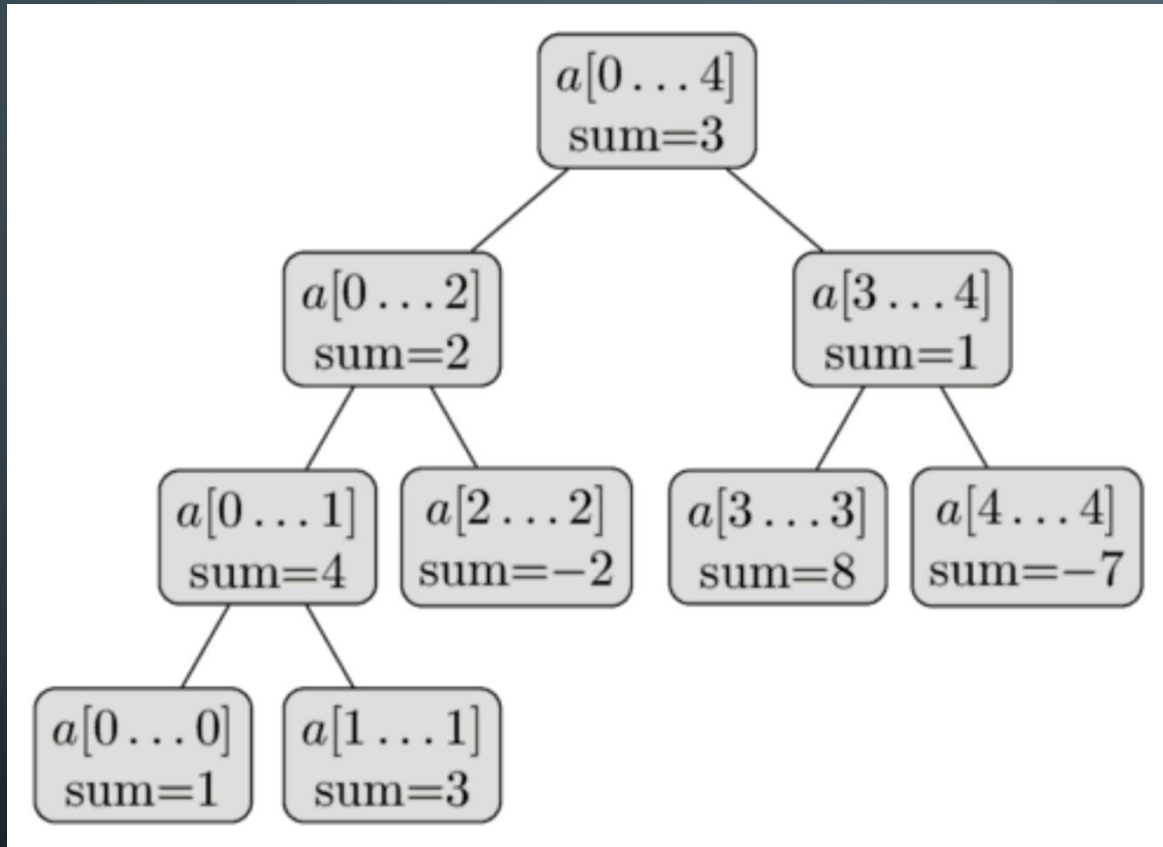
```
rightChild = new Node(mid+1, curNode.right);
```

```
ConstructRecurse(a, leftChild);
```

```
ConstructRecurse(a, rightChild);
```

```
this.val = merge(leftChild, rightChild);
```

# A QUICK NOTE ON REPRESENTATION



*You can store Segment Trees the same way binary heaps are typically done. Use an array.*

*Left child =  $((\text{index} + 1) * 2) - 1$*

*Right child =  $(\text{index} + 1) * 2$*

*^^These are a tad simpler if you index by 1 instead of 0*

*I'll show these as trees in this slide deck though...*

$T = \{3, 2, 1, 4, -2, 8, -7, 1, 3\}$

# RANGE QUERIES

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$$A = \{1, 3, -2, 8, -7\}$$

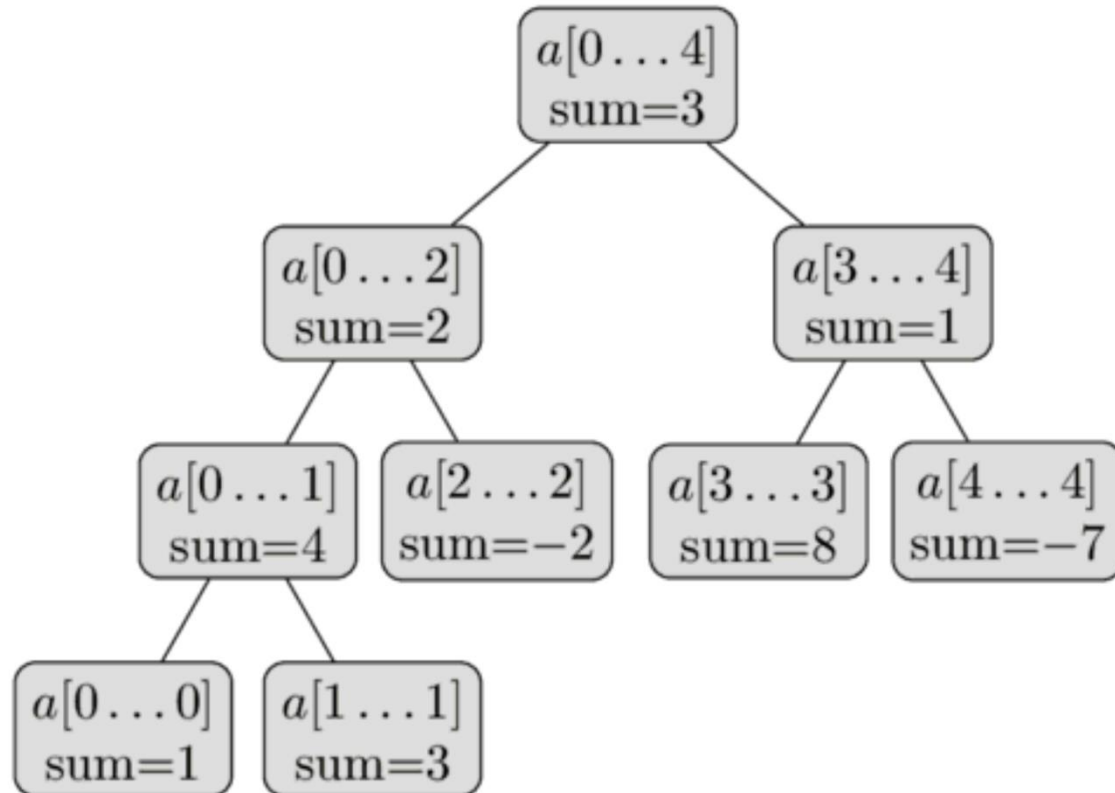
For now, let's assume that our function  $f()$  that we care about is sum (as in the example to the left)

We want to answer queries of the form:

$sum(left, right)$

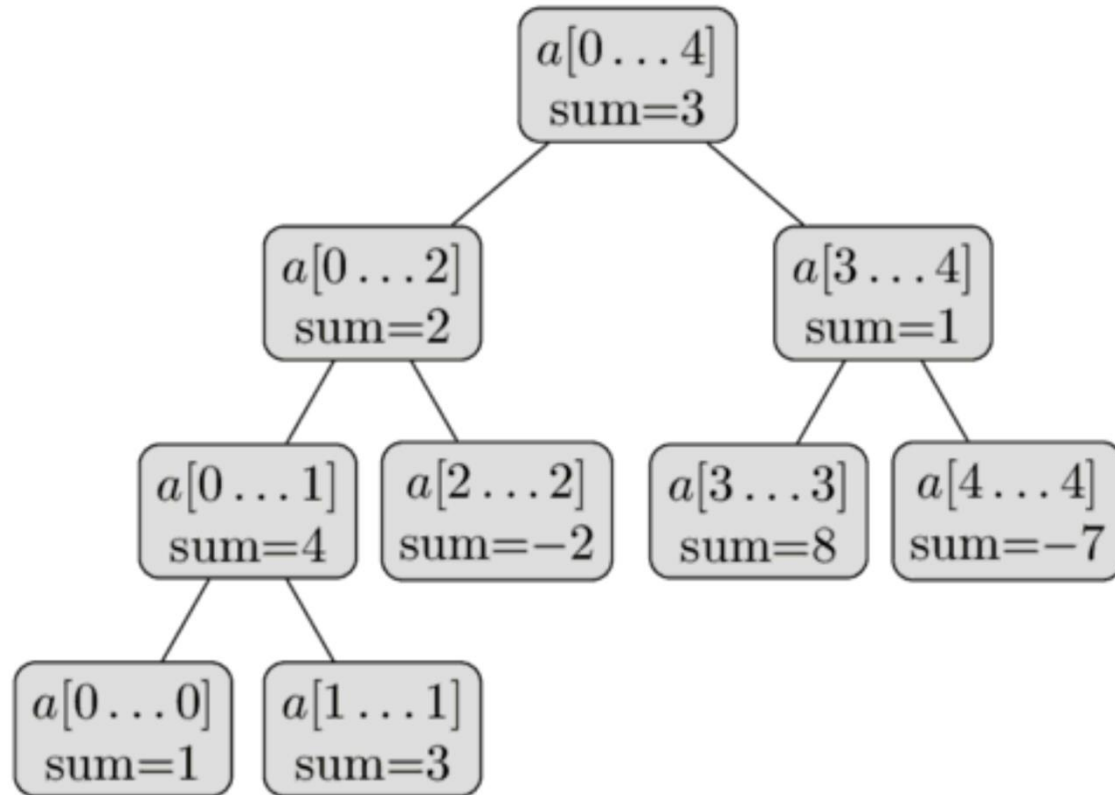
Example:

$$sum(2, 4) = a[2] + a[3] + a[4] = -1$$



# RANGE QUERIES

$A = \{1, 3, -2, 8, -7\}$



$sum(left, right)$ :

Three cases that could occur:

1.  $[left, right]$  is exact range of this node
2.  $[left, right]$  falls completely within left child or right child
3.  $[left, right]$  crosses the dividing line of this node

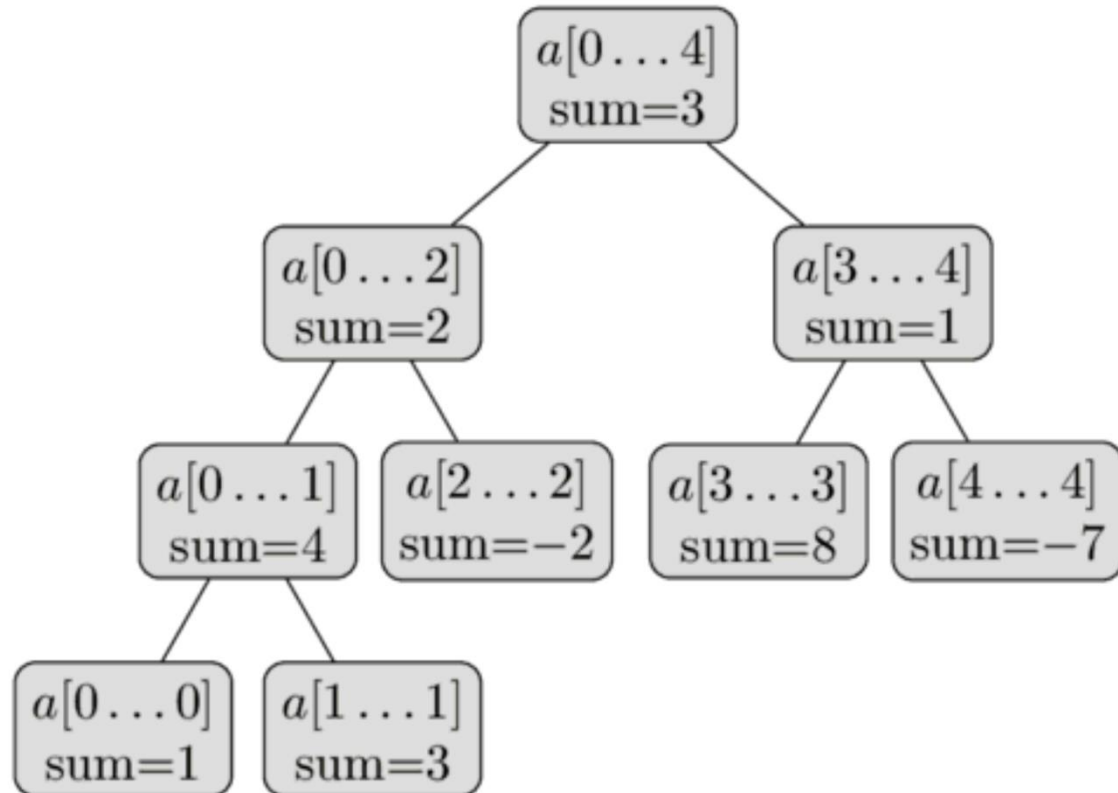
# RANGE QUERY EXAMPLE

$A = \{1, 3, -2, 8, -7\}$

Let's step through:

$\text{sum}(2, 4)$

// answer should be -1





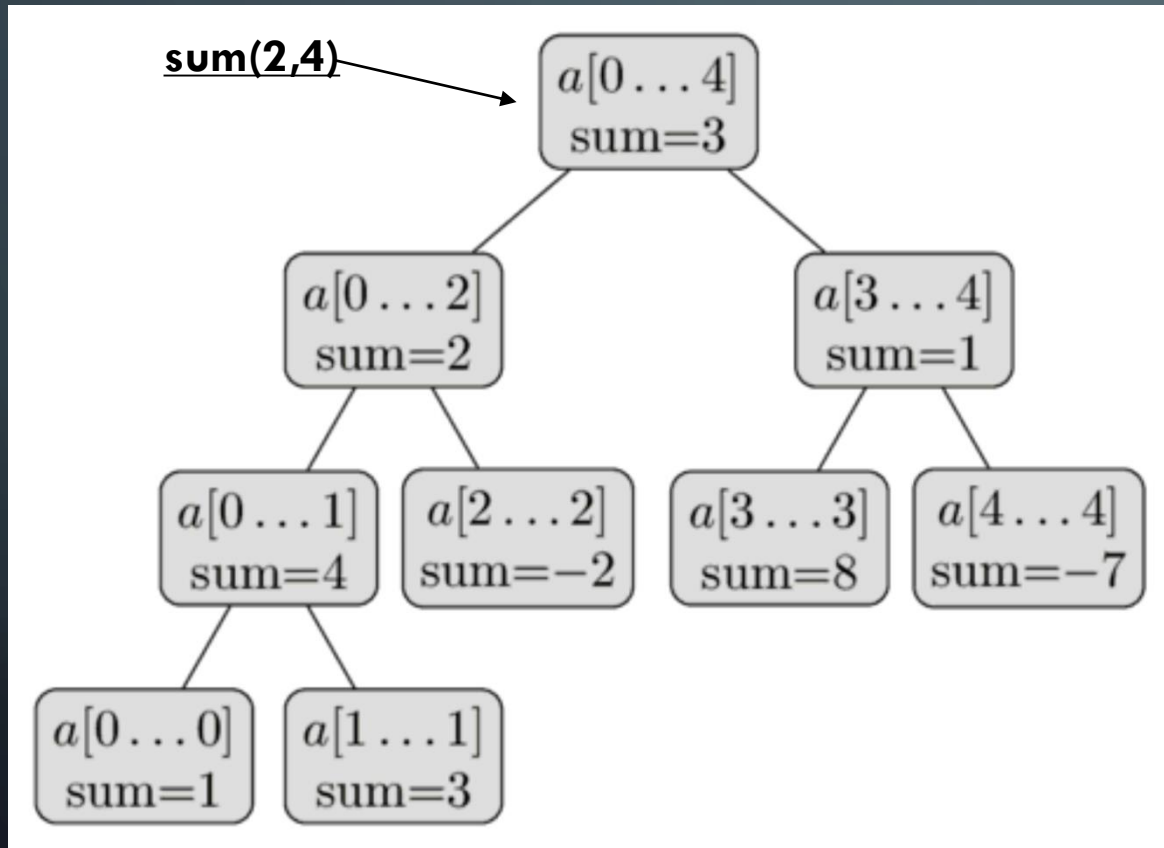
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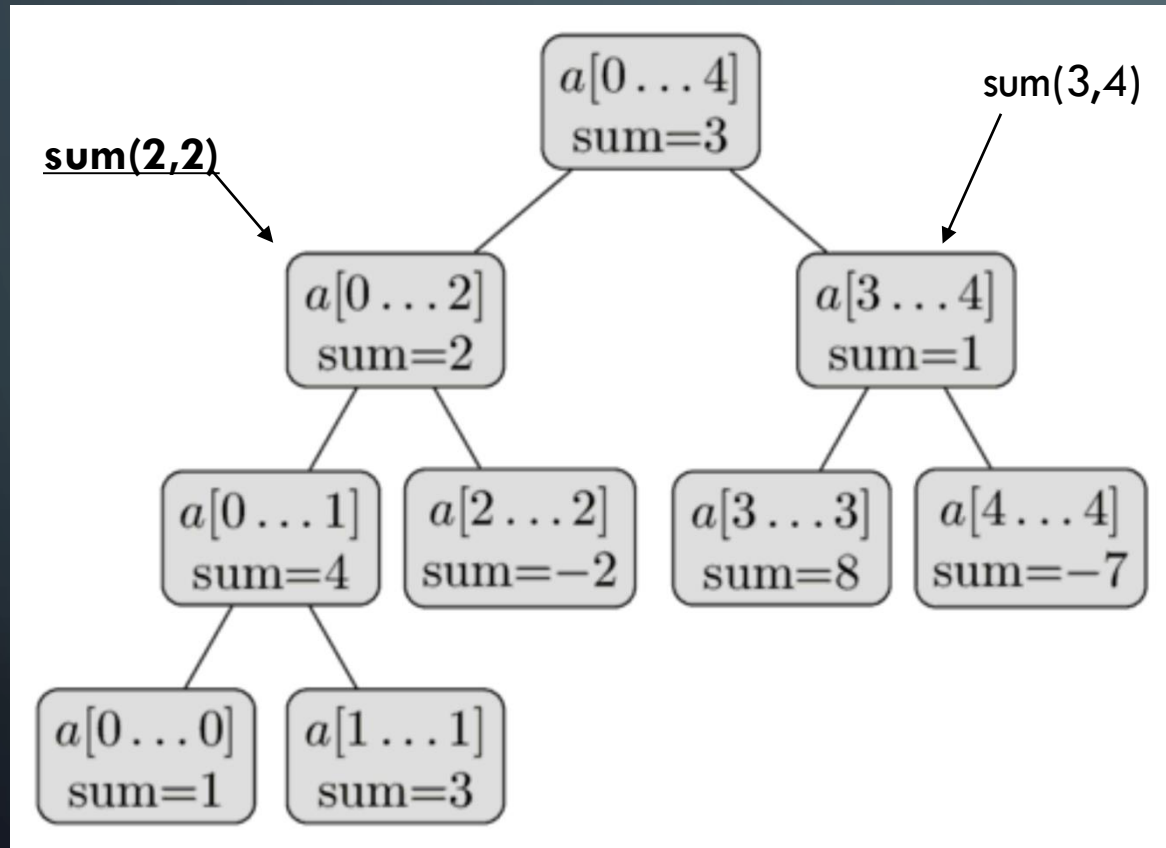
$\text{sum}(2, 4)$  // answer should be -1

$[2, 4]$  Spans both children, so recurse on both children!



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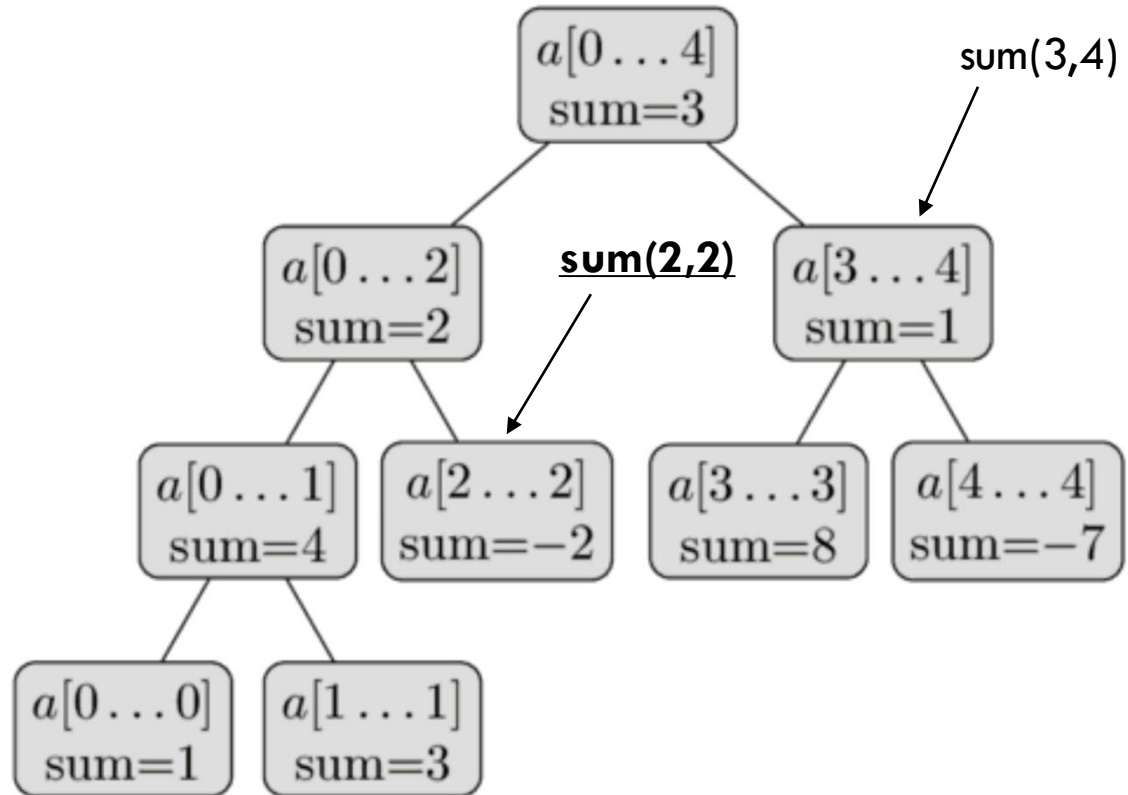
$[2, 4]$  Spans both children, so recurse on both children!

$sum(2, 2)$

$[2, 2]$  falls completely on right half, so recurse right!

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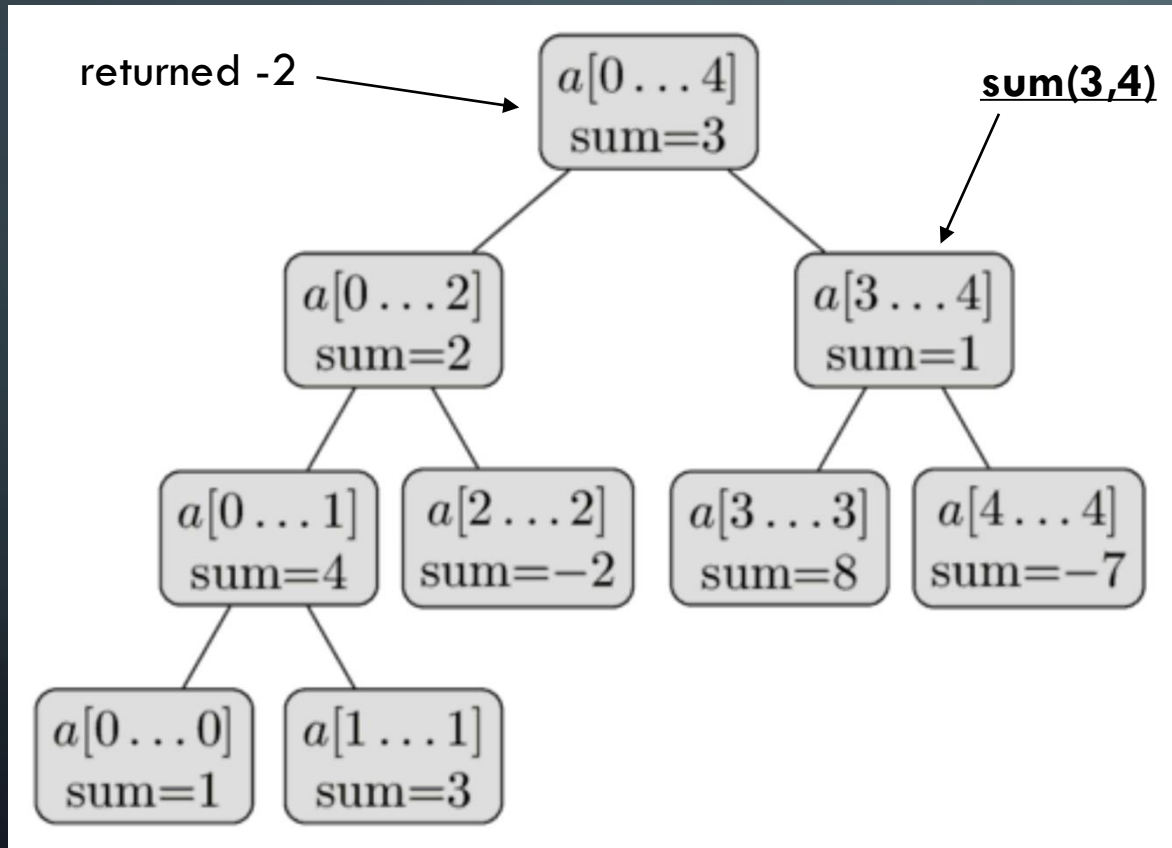
$sum(2, 2)$

$[2, 2]$  falls completely on right half, so recurse right!

$[2, 2]$  is now complete range, return -2

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$\text{sum}(2, 4)$  // answer should be -1

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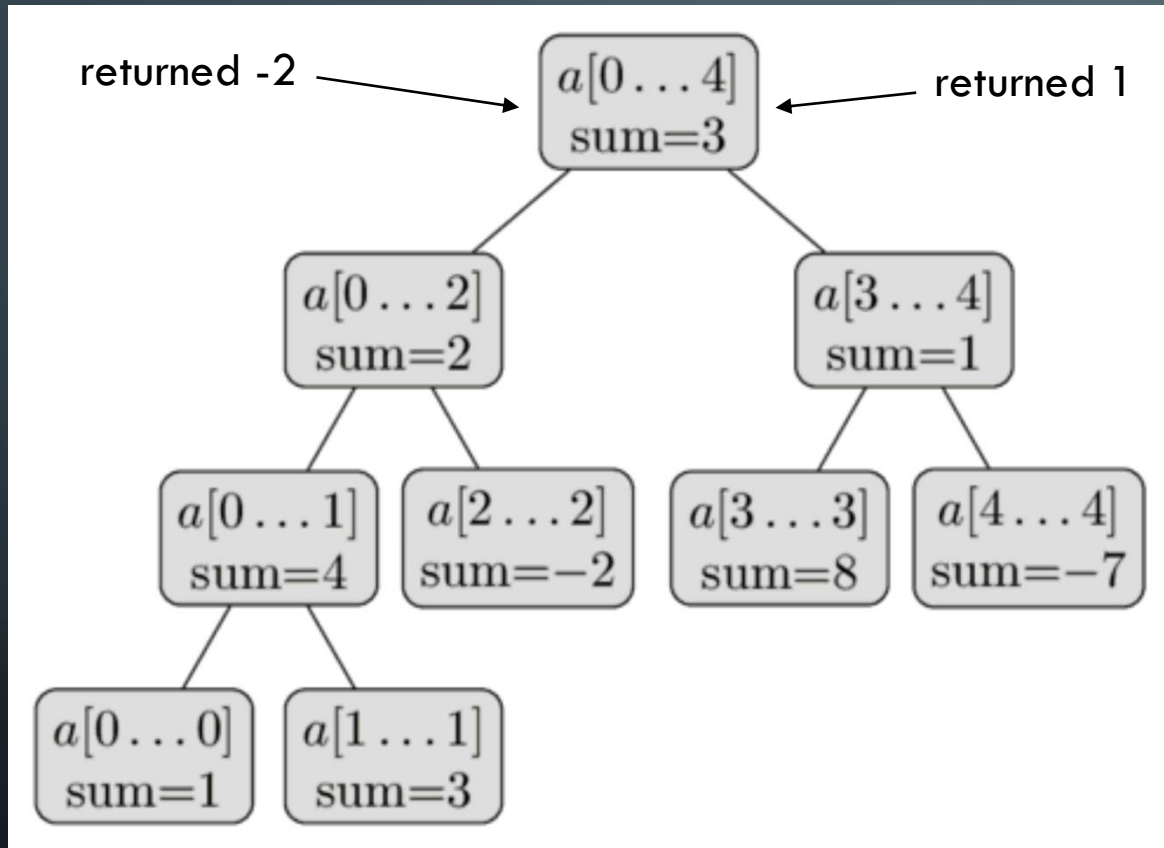
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$\text{sum}(3, 4)$

$[3, 4]$  is the entire range, so return 1

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$A = \{1, 3, -2, 8, -7\}$



Let's step through:

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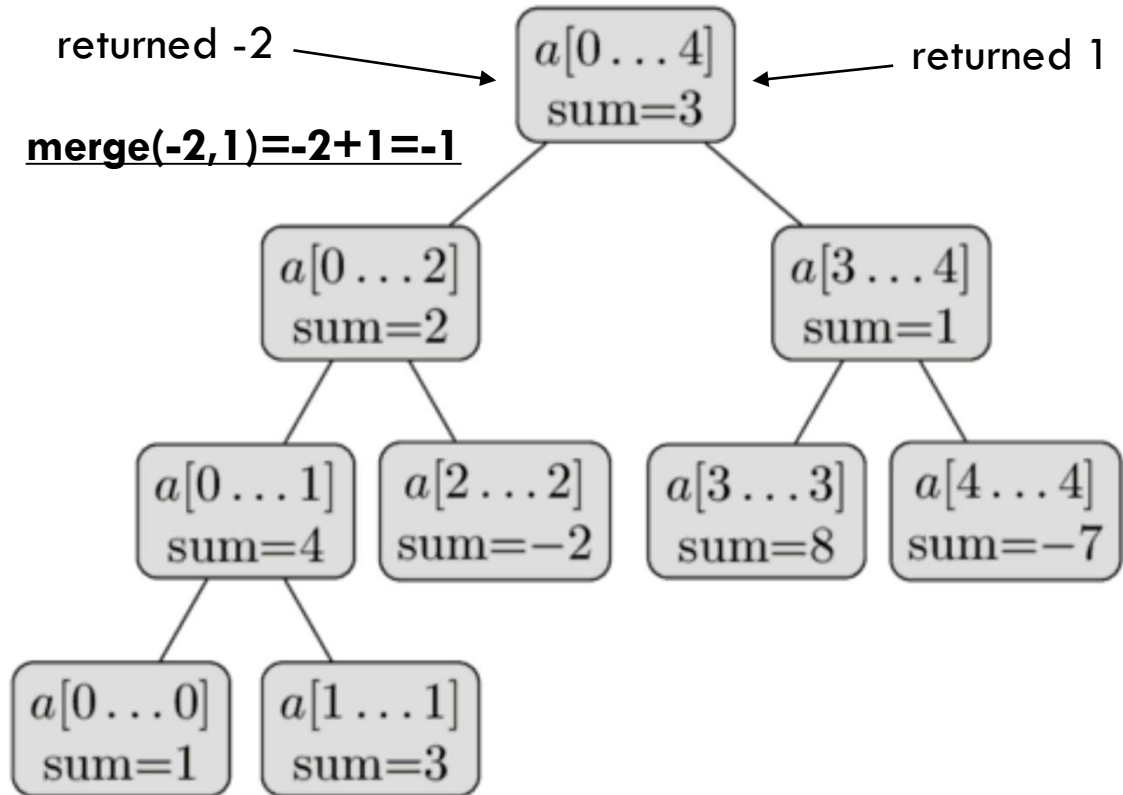
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$[2, 2]$  falls completely on right half, so recurse right!

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$\text{sum}(3, 4)$

$[3, 4]$  is the entire range, so return 1

Finally, merge the two return values

# THREE MORE EXAMPLES

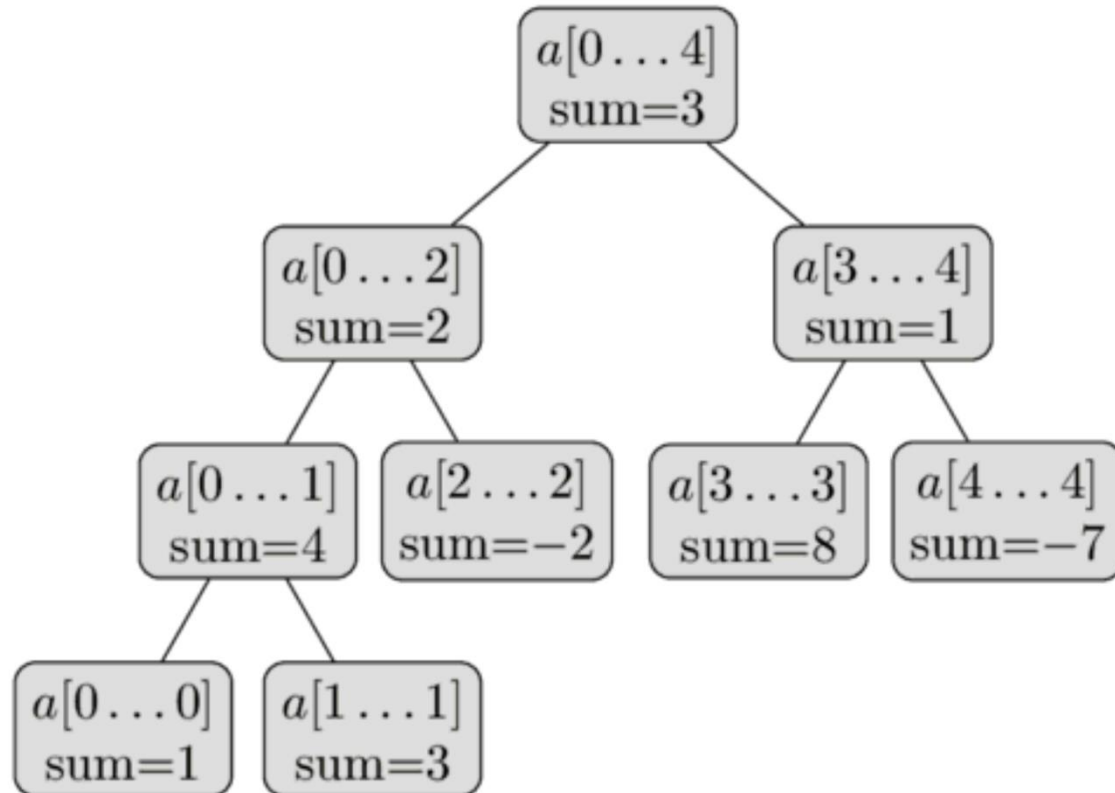
$A = \{1, 3, -2, 8, -7\}$

Let's step through:

$sum(0,4)$

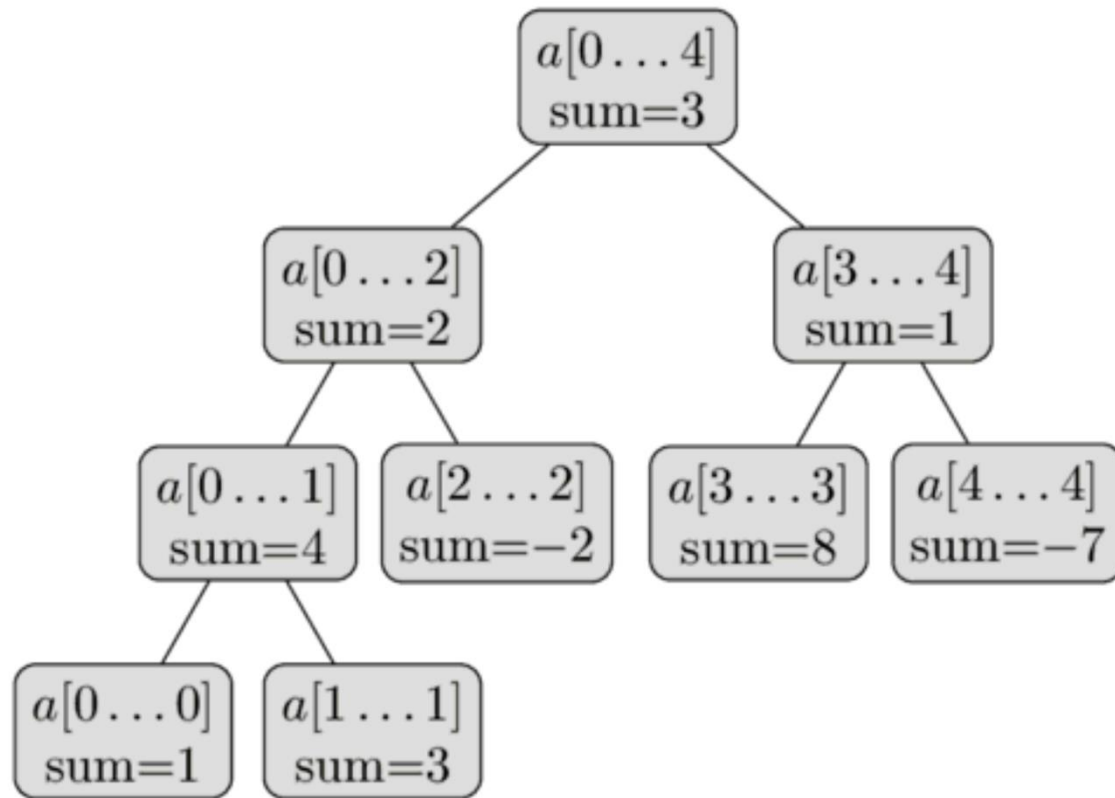
$sum(0,1)$

$sum(1,3)$



# LET'S PSEUDOCODE THIS...

$A = \{1, 3, -2, 8, -7\}$



***sumQuery(left, right):***

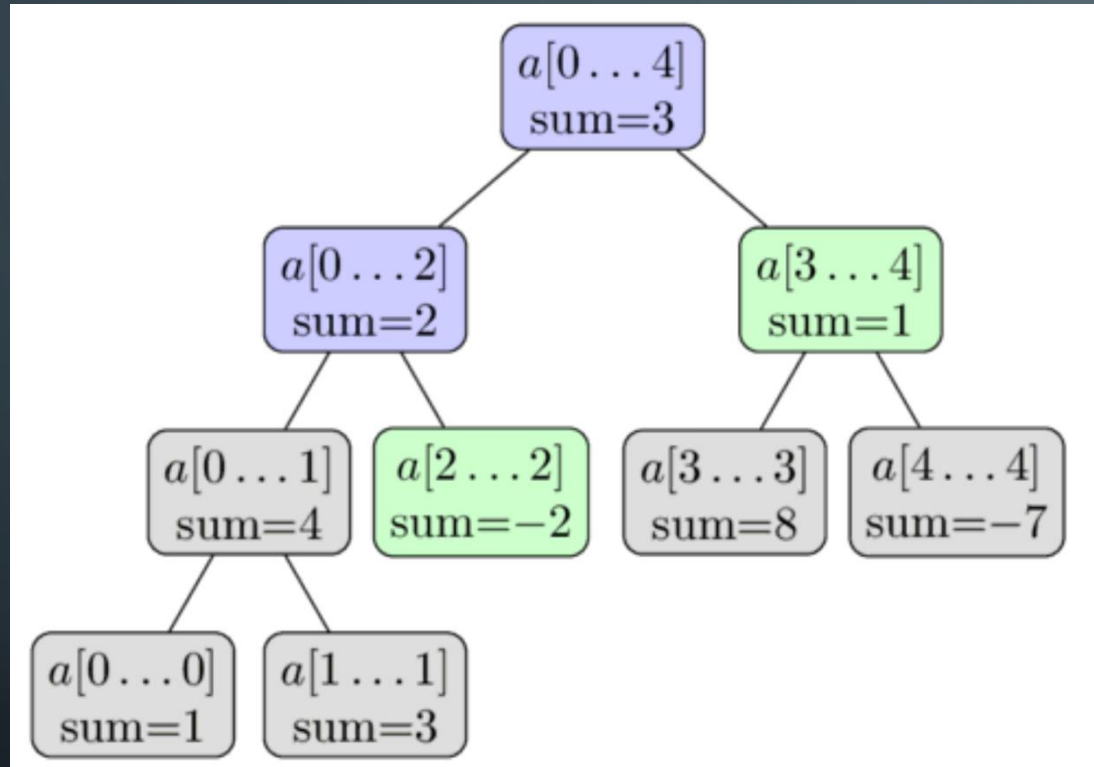
***sumQuery(root, l, r)***

***sumQuery(curNode, l, r):***



# RANGE QUERY RUNTIME

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Another representation of the execution of  $\text{sum}(2, 4)$  from earlier.

$A = \{1, 3, -2, 8, -7\}$

What is the runtime of range queries?

Clearly it is  $O(n)$  and  $\Omega(\log n)$

Will this actually  
happen? Consider  
 $\text{sum}(0, 4)$

Or will this happen?  
Always? Just  
sometimes? If latter,  
how often?

# RANGE QUERY RUNTIME

**Claim:** *As a range query on a segment tree executes. The number of nodes explored (let's call it  $e_i$ ) at each level (let's call it  $i$ ) of the tree is at most 4.  $\forall_{i \geq 0} 0 \leq e_i \leq 4$*

Induction on the level of the tree as the algorithm executes.

**Base Case:** Level 0 (root node). There is only one node, so  $e_0 = 1 \leq 4$

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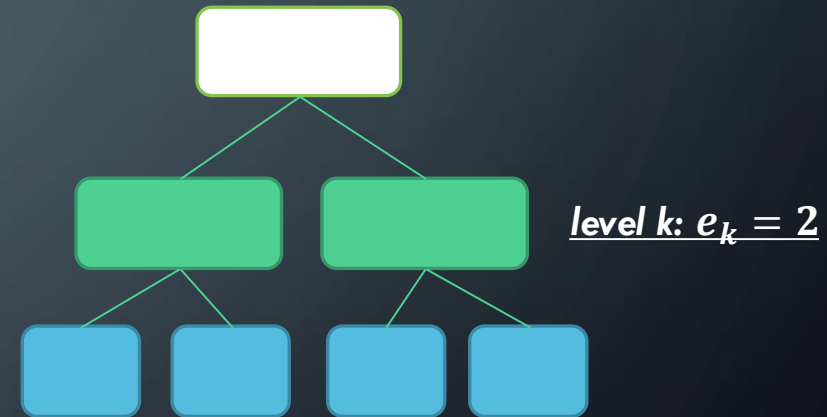
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**Inductive Step:** Consider level  $k+1$ , There are two cases:

**Case 1: Previous level has 2 or fewer recursive calls ( $e_k \leq 2$ )**

**Case 2: Previous level has 3 or 4 calls ( $3 \leq e_k \leq 4$ )**



Because level  $k$  only has at most 2 nodes traversed, each can make at most 2 recursive calls, so  $e_k \leq 4$

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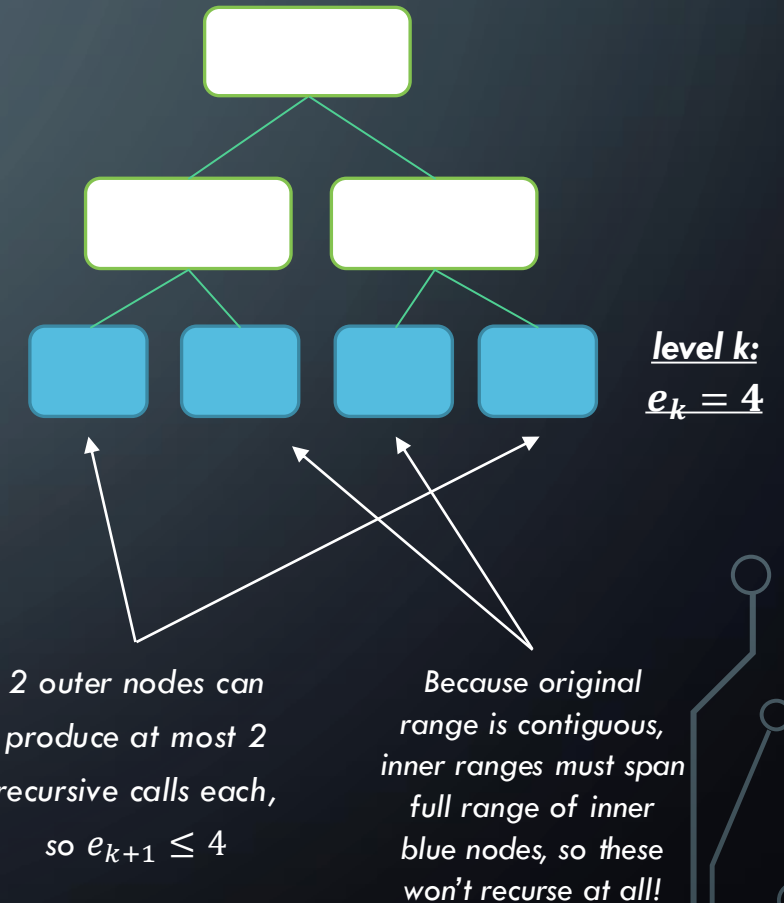
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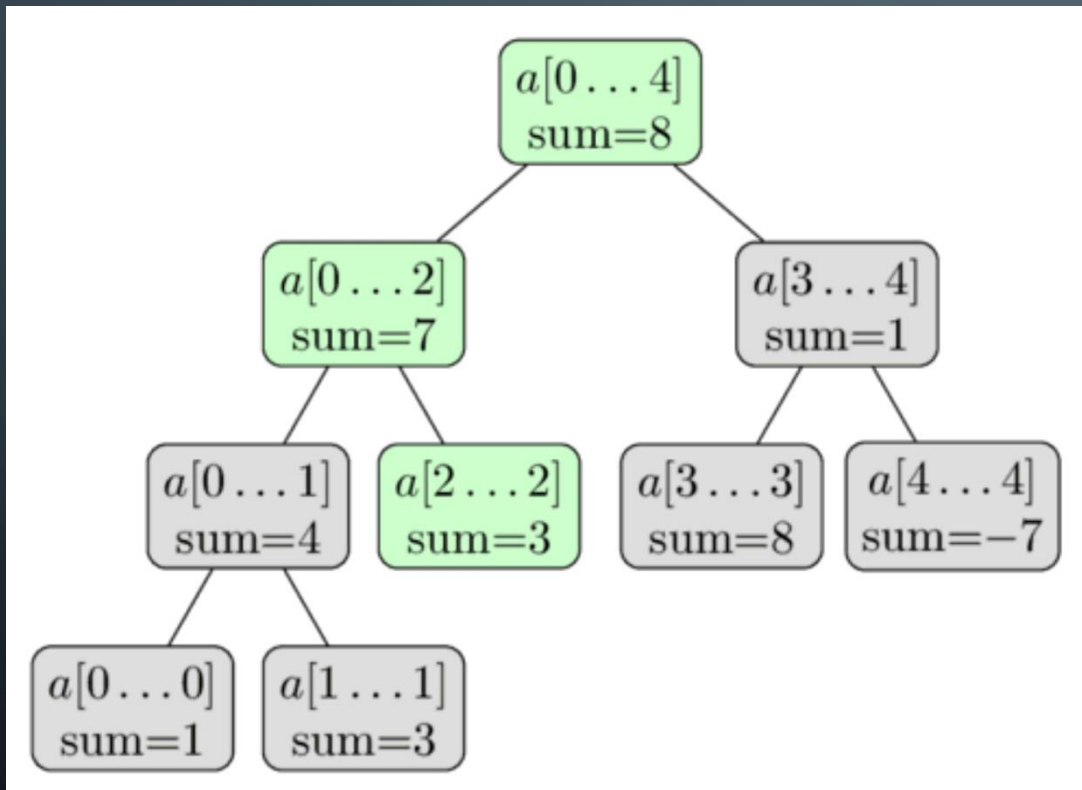
*Claim is proven! Because each level has at most 4 nodes traversed, and there are  $\log(n)$  levels of the segment tree, the total nodes traversed is bounded by  $\sum_{e_i} 4 \log n$*

# UPDATE QUERIES



# UPDATE QUERY

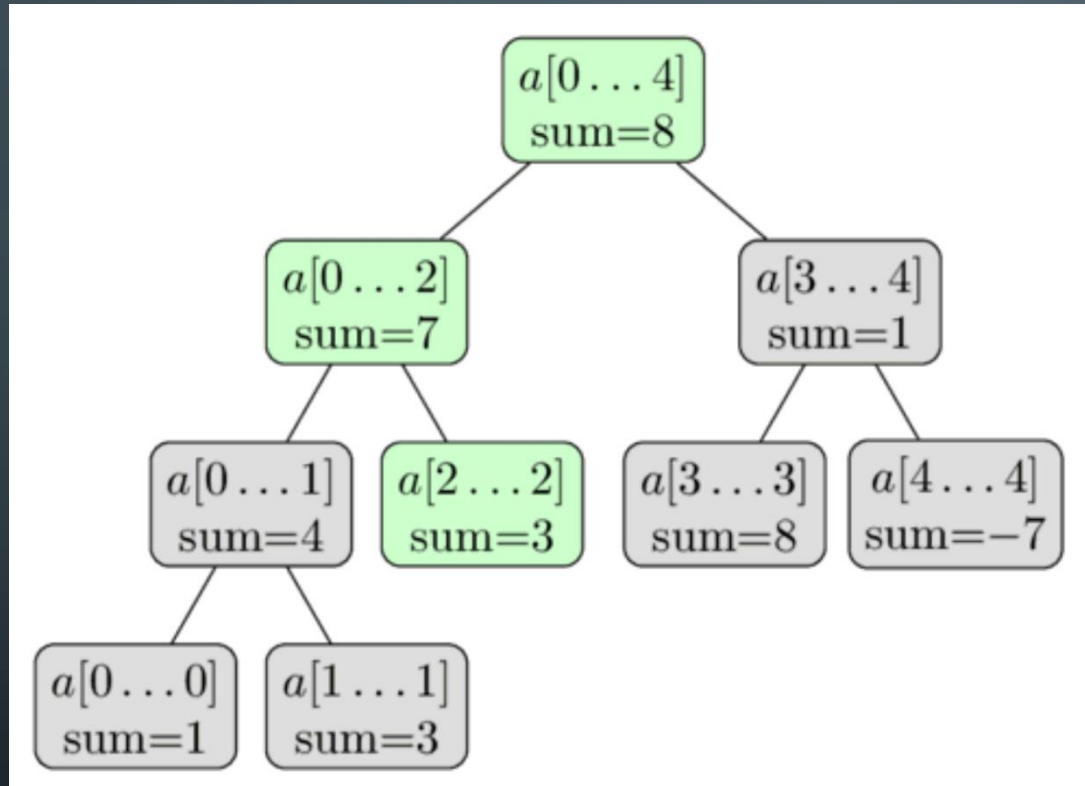
$A = \{1, 3, -2, 8, -7\}$   $\xrightarrow{\text{update}(2, 3)}$   $A = \{1, 3, 3, 8, -7\}$



Traverse the tree to find index 2

Make sure to call merge() to update value along the path as recursion returns

# TWO MORE QUICK EXAMPLES



$A = \{1, 3, 3, 8, -7\}$

Let's step through:

`update(3, 10)`

`update(0, 2)`

The image features a dark blue gradient background with faint, light blue concentric circles centered behind the text. In the four corners, there are decorative white line art elements resembling circuit board traces or neural network connections, with small circles at various points.

**MORE EXAMPLES**

# NUMBER OF 0'S AND K'TH 0

*Given an array, we want to be able to query for the number of zero's in any segment (range) AND also query for the location of the k'th zero.*

$A = \{1, 0, 0, -2, 0, 7, 0, 0, 3, 3, 1, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 4\}$

1. What will we store in each node of the segment tree?

2. How will we define the merge() operation?

3. How will we query for the k'th zero?

**Try to solve this problem on your own!**

# NUMBER OF 0'S AND K'TH 0

*Given an array, we want to be able to query for the number of zero's in any segment (range) AND also query for the location of the k'th zero.*

$A = \{1, 0, 0, -2, 0, 7, 0, 0, 3, 3, 1, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 4\}$

**Store:** The number of 0's in each segment in the node itself

**Merge:** Simple, just add number of 0's together

**Query (# of 0's):** Simply query like we did with sum()

**Query (k'th 0):** If number of 0's on left is k or larger, recurse left. Or search for the leftChild-k on right

**Update:** Only thing that matters is...did the new value become a 0 or change FROM a 0. Update num 0's by 1 if so and merge up.

The background is a dark blue gradient. In the corners, there are decorative white line art elements resembling circuit boards or neural network connections. These elements consist of straight lines of varying lengths and angles, terminating in small open circles. They are located in the top-left, top-right, bottom-left, and bottom-right corners.

# OTHER SEGMENT TREE EXAMPLES

# FINDING MAXIMAL SUB-SEGMENT

Given an array  $A$ , and a range  $[l .. r]$ , find the subsegment  $[l' .. r']$  such that  $l \leq l'$  and  $r \geq r'$  and sum of  $[l' .. r']$  is maximal

$A = \{1, 6, -3, -1, -1, 1, -5, 11, 12, 1, 1, 2, -4, -2, -8, 9, 11\}$

So  $\text{maximal}(2, 8)$  would return 23 because range  $[7 .. 8]$  ( $11+12$ ) is the maximal sum within the range  $[2 .. 8]$ .

1. What will we store in each node of the segment tree?

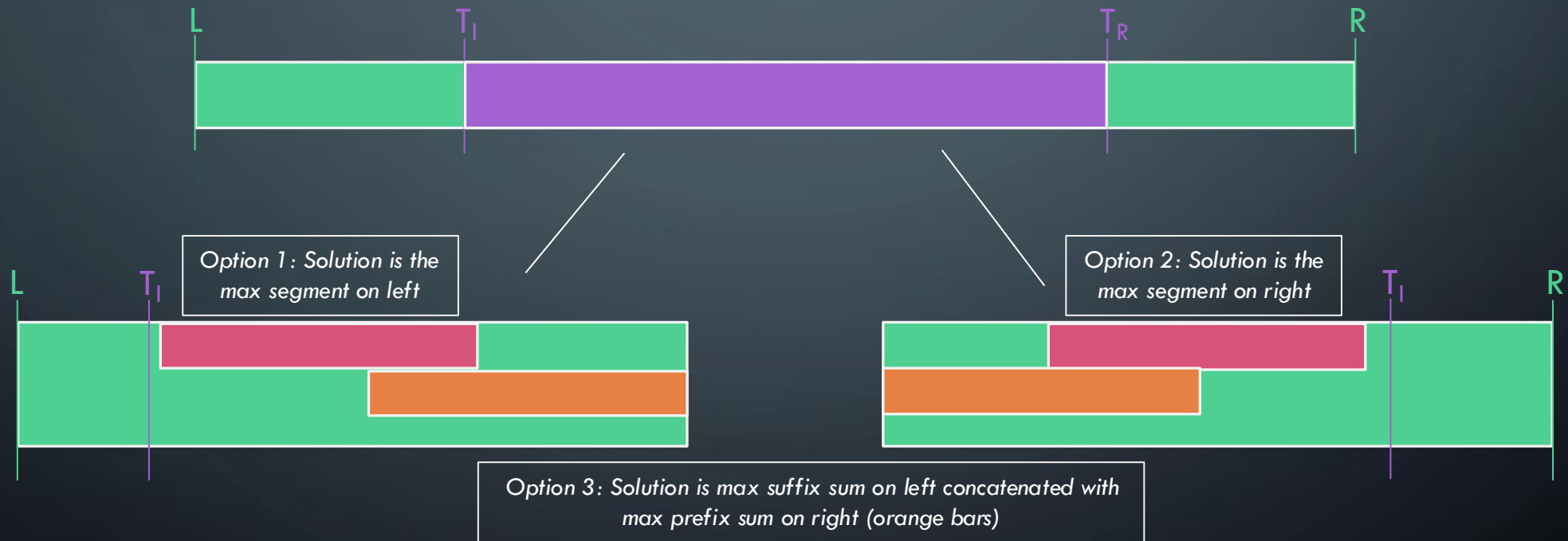
2. How will we define the `merge()` operation?

3. How will we query?

# FINDING MAXIMAL SUB-SEGMENT

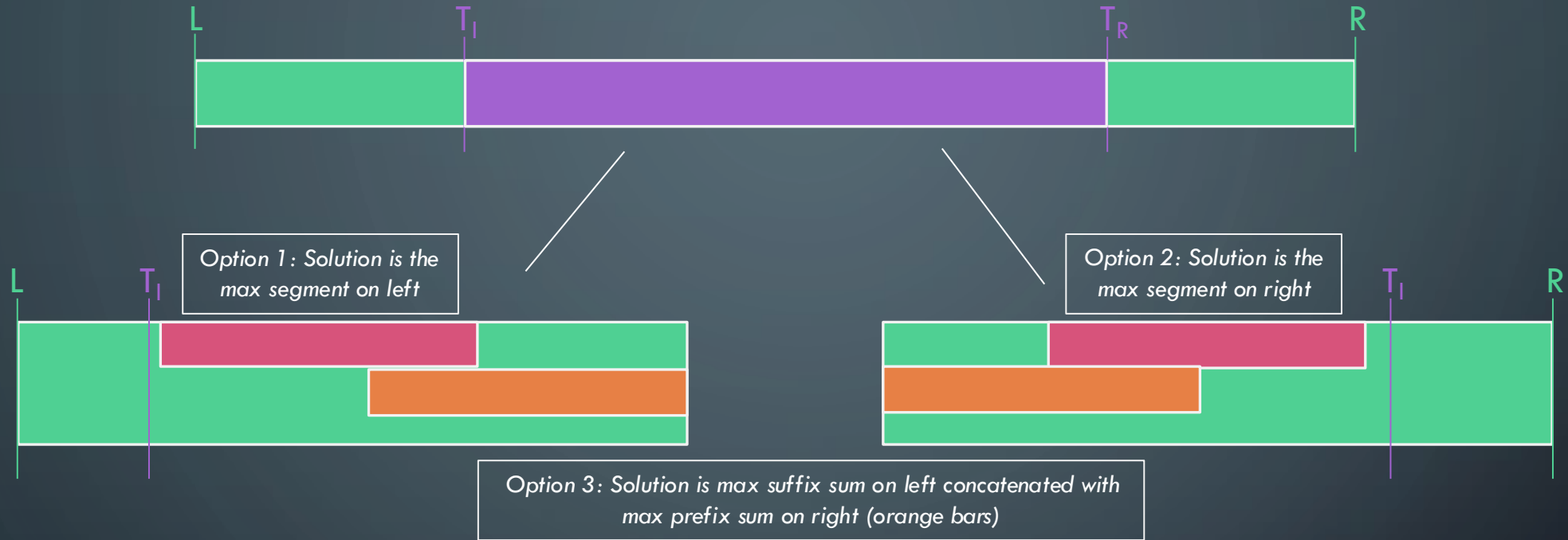
Given an array  $A$ , and a range  $[l .. r]$ , find the subsegment  $[l' .. r']$  such that  $l \leq l'$  and  $r \geq r'$  and sum of  $[l' .. r']$  is maximal

**Key Idea:** Observe that the maximal sub-segment of a range is one of a few options given the solution to its two children.





# FINDING MAXIMAL SUB-SEGMENT



## Each node should store:

Sum of segment:      useful for computing other values below

Max prefix sum:      for combining across splits

Max suffix sum:      for combining across splits

Ans:      The answer (max segment)

## How to merge:

$sum = L.sum + R.sum$

$pre = \text{Max}(L.pre, L.sum + R.pre)$

$suf = \text{Max}(R.suf, R.sum + L.suf)$

$ans = \text{Max}(L.ans, R.ans, L.suf + R.pre)$

# CONCLUSION

# CONCLUSIONS

## Strengths:

- More intuitive than Fenwick trees for many applications
- Binary Trees very easy to implement
- Seems to work for a wider array of functions of interest
- Only really have to focus on what to store and merge function, once you get those right the rest falls into place.

## Weaknesses:

- Uses a bit more memory than Fenwick Tree (because Fenwick tree isn't really a tree and doesn't have internal nodes)
- Does not take advantage of fast bit operations to traverse tree