

Sliding Windows

Max Consecutive Sum

Given an array of positive, negative integers,
return a consecutive seq that sums to
largest amount.

$O(n^3)$

For every (i, j) , $i < j$, compute $arr(i) + \dots + arr(j)$

Return seq with max sum

$O(n^2)$ pairs, each sum computation for a pair (i, j)

takes $O(n)$ time, so $O(n^3)$

$O(n^2)$

→ Precompute $sum_till[i] = arr[0] + \dots + arr[i]$
 $= sum_till[i-1] + arr[i]$
($O(n)$ pre computation time)

→ For every pair (i, j) :
 $i < j$ compute $sum_till[j] - sum_till[i-1]$
 $O(1) \times O(n^2)$
 $= O(n^2)$

→ Find max $O(n)$

→ So overall $O(n^2)$

$O(n)$ time

Best_sum_ending_at $[j]$

$$= \max \left(\text{arr}[j], \text{Best_sum_ending_at}[j-1] + \text{arr}[j] \right)$$

→ At each index i , you can either extend the ongoing subarray, or start afresh

arr = [-2, 1, -3, 4, -1, 2, 1, -5, 4]
Best sum till

s ↓
-2

-2

-2, 1

$$-1 = -2 + 1 < 1$$

-2, 1, -3

$$-2 = 1 + -3 > -3$$

-2, 1, -3, 4

$$-2 + 4 < 4$$

-2, 1, -3, 4, -1

$$3 = 4 + -1 > -1$$

-2, 1, -3, 4, -1, 2

$$5 = 3 + 2 > 2$$

-2, 1, -3, 4, -1, 2, 1

$$6 = 5 + 1 > 1$$

-2, 1, -3, 4, -1, 2, 1, -5

$$-1 = 6 + -5 > -5$$

-2, 1, -3, 4, -1, 2, 1, -5, 4

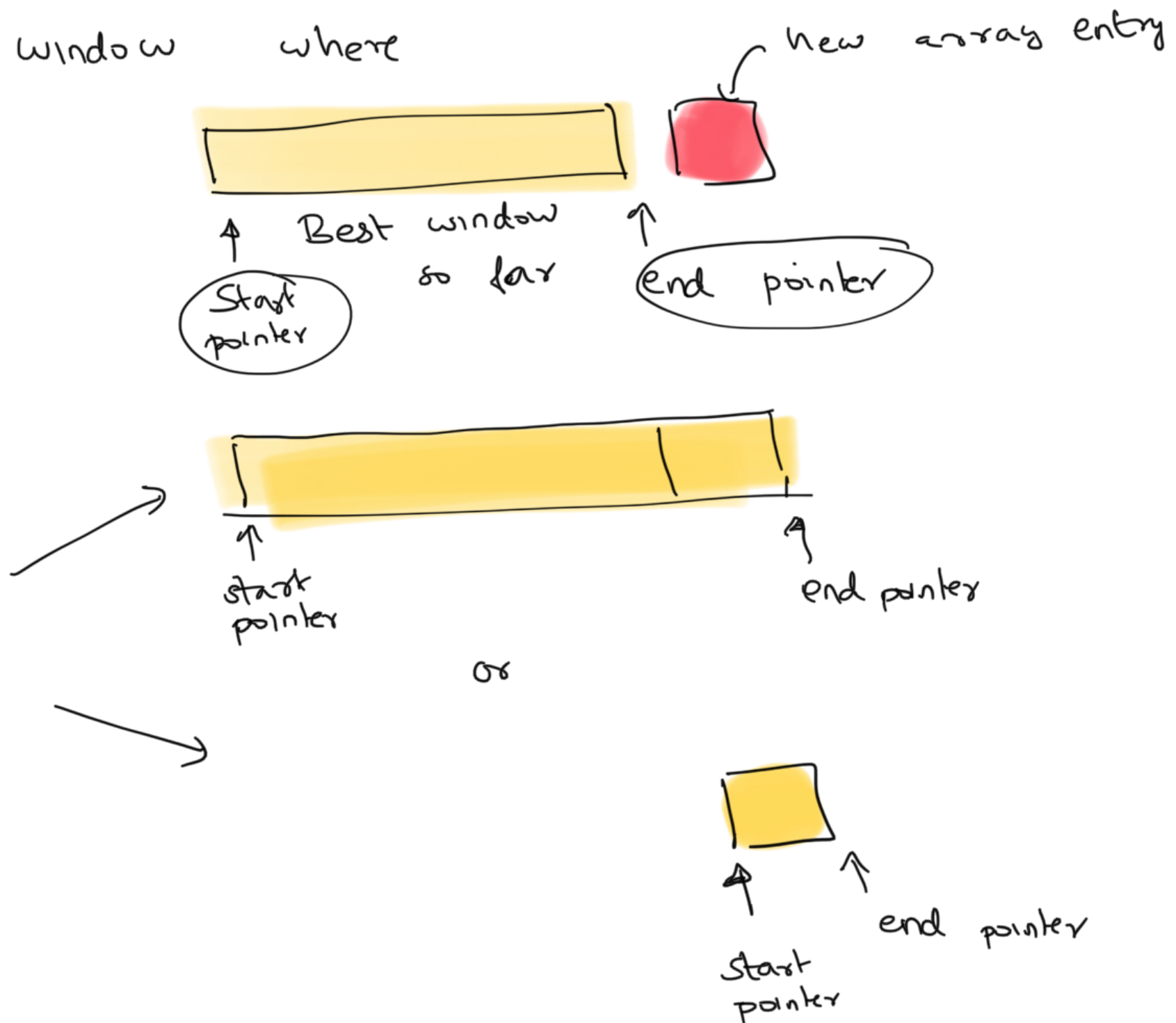
$$-1 + 4 < 4$$

$$\max (-2, 1, -2, 4, 3, 5, 6, -1, 4) = 6$$

so answer is

$$-2, 1, -3, \underbrace{4, -1, 2, 1}_{\text{sum} = 6}, -5, 4$$

you can think about this as a sliding window where



(end pointer moves ahead by 1
start pointer stays where it is / moves to end pointer!)

start pointer = "catch-up-pointer"
end pointer = "end-pointer"

