

🔥 Priyansh's Revision Notes for: Leetcode 1493 - Longest Subarray of 1's After Deleting One Element

💡 🧠 Problem Statement (Simplified)

Given a binary array `nums` (only contains `0s` and `1s`), **delete any one element** from it. After deletion, return the **length of the longest contiguous subarray that contains only 1's**.

Important:

- Deletion is *mandatory* (you **must** delete one element, even if all are 1s).
- After deletion, you have to find the longest subarray consisting only of 1s.

💡 📌 Example Walkthroughs

✅ Example 1:

Input: `[1,1,0,1]`

Delete index 2 (value 0)

Result: `[1,1,1]` → Length = 3

✅ Example 2:

Input: `[0,1,1,1,0,1,1,0,1]`

Delete index 4 (value 0)

Result: `[1,1,1,1,1]` → Length = 5

✓ Example 3:

Input: [1,1,1]

Deletion required → remove one 1

Result: [1,1] → Length = 2

🔍 Intuition (My Thought Process)

Maine is problem ko sliding window approach se solve karne ka socha — kyunki hume continuous subarray ki baat ho rahi hai.

- **Window [i...j] maintain karo**, jahan:
 - Sirf ek hi 0 allowed ho (jisko hum "delete" kar denge).
- Agar 0 mila aur abhi tak delete nahi kiya → toh usko "ignore" karne ke liye `x_factor` (delete power) ka use karo.
- Agar doosra 0 mila → toh ab window shrink karo from the left (`i++`) until ek 0 remove ho jaye.
- Har valid window par, length calculate karo `j - i - 1` (kyunki ek element humne delete kiya hai).
- Maximum length ko update karte raho.

🚀 Approach (Step-by-Step)

1. Initialize Pointers:

`i = 0` , `j = 0` → window start and end

`x_factor = 1` → means ek 0 ko ignore kar sakte hain (delete karne ke liye)

2. Traverse array with `j`:

- Agar `nums[j] == 1`: simple, window extend karo → `j++`
- Agar `nums[j] == 0`:
 - Aur agar `x_factor > 0`: use delete power → `j++` , `x_factor--`
 - Agar `x_factor == 0`: window mein already ek 0 delete ho chuka, toh ab window shrink karo from left:

- Pehle window ka length calculate karo `len = j - i - 1`
- `maxlen` update karo
- Then left pointer `i` ko aage badhao jab tak wo 0 encounter na kare.
- Uske baad `i++` to remove that 0 and regain `x_factor = 1`

3. Loop ke baad:

- Final window ka length calculate karo $(j-i-1)$, and maxlen update karo.

💻 Code (With Comments)

```
class Solution {
public:
    int longestSubarray(vector<int>& nums) {
        int n = nums.size();
        int i = 0; // window start
        int j = 0; // window end
        int len;
        int x_factor = 1; // power to delete one 0
        int maxlen = INT_MIN;

        while (j < n) {
            if (nums[j] == 1) {
                j++; // window expand
            } else {
                if (x_factor == 1) {
                    // Use delete power
                    j++;
                    x_factor--;
                } else {
                    // Already used delete power → shrink window
                    len = j - i - 1;
                    maxlen = max(len, maxlen);

                    // Move i ahead to remove one 0 from window
                }
            }
        }
    }
};
```

```

        while (nums[i] == 1) i++;
        i++; // move past the 0
        x_factor++; // regain delete power
    }
}

// Final check after loop
len = j - i - 1;
maxlen = max(len, maxlen);

return maxlen;
}
};

```

◆ **Dry Run Example:** **[0,1,1,1,0,1,1,0,1]**

1. $i = 0, j = 0 \rightarrow \text{nums}[0] = 0 \rightarrow x_factor = 1 \rightarrow \text{use it} \rightarrow j++, x_factor = 0$
2. $j = 1 \text{ to } 3 \rightarrow \text{all 1s} \rightarrow j++$
3. $j = 4 \rightarrow \text{nums}[4] = 0 \rightarrow x_factor = 0 \rightarrow \text{can't delete} \rightarrow \text{calculate } len = 4 - 0 - 1 = 3$
4. Move i ahead till $\text{nums}[i] == 0$, $i = 0 \rightarrow i++ \rightarrow \text{now } i = 1, x_factor = 1$
5. Repeat...

Final maxlen = 5

◆ **Final Notes / Takeaways**

- Ye problem ek **variant of longest subarray with at most K zeroes** hai — but yahan $K = 1$, aur ek 0 delete *karna hi hai*.
- Sliding window with two pointers kaafi efficient hai, $O(N)$ time complexity.
- Edge Case: Jab poori array 1s se bhari ho, tab bhi ek element delete karna hi padega \rightarrow final answer $n-1$ hoga.

 **TC:** $O(N)$

✓ SC: $O(1)$

(No extra space used except variables)

If you're revising this later, just remember:

"Window banayi thi delete power ke saath, jahan sirf ek 0 allowed hai. Doosra 0 aate hi window chhoti kar di, aur har valid window ka size check kiya after removing 1 element."
