

June 28, 2025

CONTRIBUTION TECHNIQUE

Ques #1: For a given array, find the sum total of sum of each possible subarray.
[Subarray can be taken from continuous sequence]

Ex: [1, 3, 2]

Possible subarrays	Sum	Sum (Sum of ind. subarray)
1	1	
3	3	
2	2	
1 3	4	
3 2	5	
1 3 2	6	
Sum Total	21	

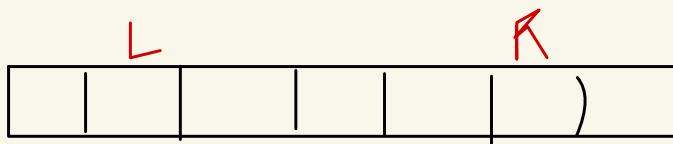
Solution:

Brute force:

Ans = 0

```
for(L=0; L<N; L++) {
```

```
    for(R=L; R<N; R++) {
```



Here, we are using the outer loops to define a range of L to R. Then we loop from L to R through the third loop, adding all elements in between.

$\{$
 sum = 0 $\{$
 for (i=L ; i≤R ; i++) // L→R
 } $\}$
 sum += arr[i]; $\rightarrow O(N^3)$
 ans += sum
 $O(N^3)$: Not enough to pass the constraints.
 $N \leq 10^3$
 $N \leq 10^5$

Another approach: Instead of third loop, keep one sum and use it.

Example:

→ [1, 3, 2]

L=0

R=0

sum += a[0]

sum = 1

→ L=0

R=2

sum += a[2]

sum = 1 + 2

= 6

and so on . . .

→ L=0 [1, 3, 2]

R=1

sum += a[1] = 1 + 3

sum = 4

$L=0$, we have all the sum
 $1 + (1+3) + (1+3+2)$

Algo for this approach:

$\text{Ans} = 0$

for ($L = 0$; $L < N$; $L++$)

$\text{Sum} = 0$

for ($R = L$; $R < N$; $R++$)

$\text{Sum} += \text{arr}[R];$

$\text{Ans} += \text{Sum}$

Complexity: $O(N^2)$

$N \leq 10^3$ will pass

here but we
will be unable
to solve it for ②.

If we go through every subarray, there is no way to do better than $O(N^2)$ because the no. of subarray itself is $O(N^2)$.

→ If there is array of size N , How many subarrays does it contain?

Subarray of size = 1

: N

Subarray of size = 2

: $N - 1$

Subarray of size = 3

: $N - 2$

Subarray of size = N

: 1

$$\text{Total} = \frac{N(N+1)}{2}$$

→ This tells us that the no. of subarrays is $O(N^2)$ and our current approach includes tracing every subarray.

With this approach, we can't code a solⁿ for

② constraints

Hence, Instead of looking at every subarray contribution, we will now look at another approach where we will look at contribution of every number instead.

New approach to tackle ~~②~~ constraint

1		
	3	
.		2
.		
1	3	
	3	2
1	3	2

```

ans = 0
for (i → 0 to N) {
    ans+ = arr[i] * (i+1) * (N-i)
}
O(N)

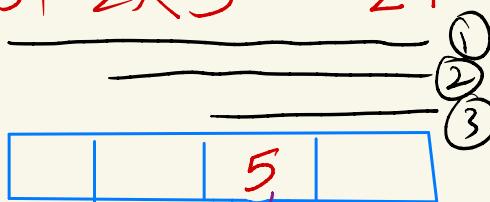
```

Here, we are calculating the contribution of i -th element

Sum of columns

$$3 \times 1 + 4 \times 3 + 2 \times 3 = 21 \quad (\text{Ans})$$

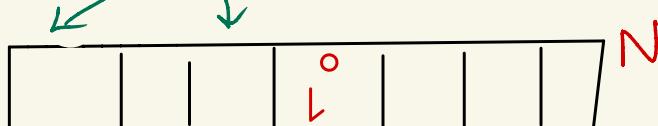
Soln



⑤ \xrightarrow{i} How many subarrays will contain this element?
 ⑥ $\xrightarrow{ }$

Start before 5 & end after 5

$$\rightarrow 3 \times 2 = 6 \text{ subarrays will contain } 5.$$



$$\text{Before} = i+1$$

$$\text{After} = ((N+1) - (i+1)) = N-i$$

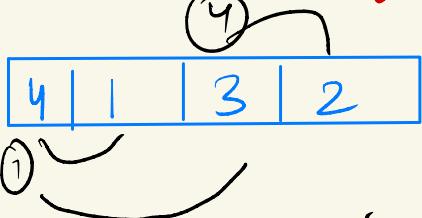
ith element will come = Before \times After

★ Contribution

- Atomic Item contribution
Here, we are looking at individual contribution of an element.
Ex: Previous problem Q1, Q2
- Extended End contribution Q3
- Mix Every [Start | End] contribution uses STL / Two pointer.

Ques #2 Calculate # of inversions of a given array

Ex:



$(i, j) : i < j, a[i] > a[j]$

inversions = 4

$\sum [\# \text{ of inversion of each subarray}]$

$N \leq 10^3$

Working Example :

1 3 2

of inversion

Subarray ($i < j$) :
 $a[i] > a[j]$

1 3 \rightarrow

0 ($1 > 3$ false)

3 2 \rightarrow

1 ($3 > 2$ true)

1 3 2 \rightarrow 1 ($3 > 2$)

Ans = 2

Atomic Item = Inversion

What subarray contains a particular inversion?

ans = 0;

for($i = 0$ to N) {

 for($j = i + 1$ to N) {

 if($a[i] > a[j]$) {

 ans += ($i + 1$) * ($N - j$)

 }

SOLUTION



Flow many options to start = $i + 1$

$\sum \sum (i + 1)(N - j) \quad a[i] > a[j]$

#3 Find sum of product of every subarray

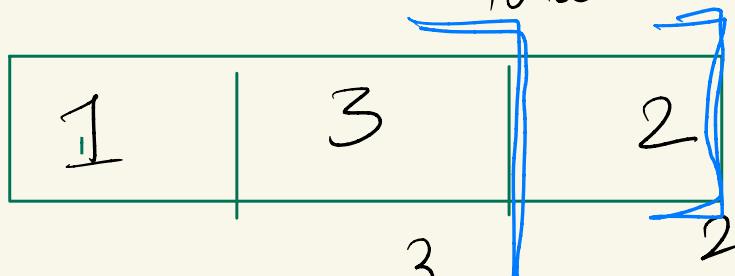
Ex [1, 3, 2]

Generalizing the example below:

1		1
3		3
	2	2
1	3	$1 \times 3 = 3$
3	2	$3 \times 2 = 6$
1	3	2

$$\begin{matrix} a & b & c & d \\ a & +b & +c & +d \\ axb & +bx c & +bcx d & \\ axbxc & +bxcxd & ; & \\ axbxcx d & & & \end{matrix}$$

21 ← product
Total



Here, we are looking at each endpoint and thinking of what is the contribution till that end point.

$$\left(\begin{matrix} 3 \\ 1 \times 3 \end{matrix} \right) \times 2 = \left(\begin{matrix} +2 \\ 3 \times 2 \\ 1 \times 3 \times 2 \end{matrix} \right)$$

$$\begin{matrix} ① \\ 1 \times 3 \\ \times 2 \\ +2 \end{matrix} \quad \begin{matrix} ② \\ 3 \times 2 \\ 1 \times 3 \times 2 \end{matrix}$$

Focus: How from ① we can get ② given we know ① :

We can see in this example, that we can just add one 2 and multiply ① by 2 to get ②.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 a & b & c \\
 a & b & c \\
 & ab & + \\
 & & bc \\
 & & abc
 \end{array}$$

$a+b+ab+c+bc+abc$.

For every end point, we will calculate.

$ans = 0$

$lastans = 0$

for ($0 \rightarrow N$)

{

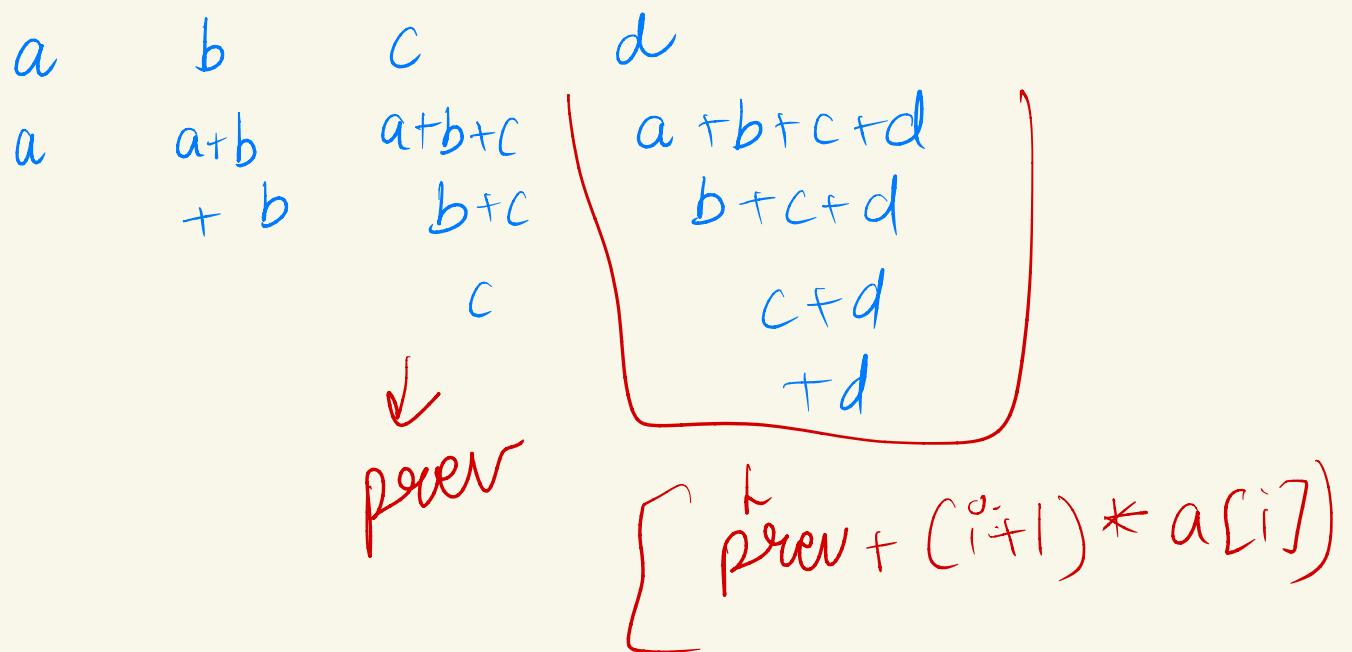
$lastans = lastans * a[i] + a[i]$

$ans += lastans$;

}

cout << ans ;

Let us look at Ques #1 using this technique:



#4 Max Sum Subarray (Kadane's Algo)

for ($i = 0$ to N)

$$\text{lastans} = \max(\text{lastans} + a[i], a[i])$$

$$\text{ans} = \max(\text{ans}, \text{lastans}).$$

Whenever we encounter subarray problems with count, sum, it can be taken as a hint to use the above discussed contribution Technique.