

# CSSE 230 Day 4

Maximum Contiguous Subsequence Sum

Check out from SVN: MCSSRaces

# Reminder of good code style

- ▶ **Good comments:**
  - Javadoc comments for public fields and methods.
  - Explanations of anything else that is not obvious.
- ▶ **Good variable and method names:**
  - Eclipse has name completion (ALT /), so the “typing cost” of using long names is small
- ▶ **Use local variables and static methods** (instead of fields and non-static methods) where appropriate
  - “where appropriate” includes any place where you can’t explicitly justify creating instance fields
- ▶ **No super-long lines of code**
- ▶ **No super-long methods:** use top down design
- ▶ **Consistent indentation** (ctrl-shift f)
- ▶ **Blank lines** between methods, **space** after punctuation

# Recap: MCSS

*Problem definition:* Given a non-empty sequence of  $n$  (possibly negative) integers  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$ , find the maximum consecutive subsequence  $S_{i,j} = \sum_{k=i}^j A_k$ , and the corresponding values of  $i$  and  $j$ .

- ▶ In  $\{-2, 11, -4, 13, -5, 2\}$ , MCSS is  $S_{2,4} = ?$
- ▶ In  $\{1, -3, 4, -2, -1, 6\}$ , what is MCSS?

# Recap: Eliminate the most obvious inefficiency, get $\Theta(N^2)$

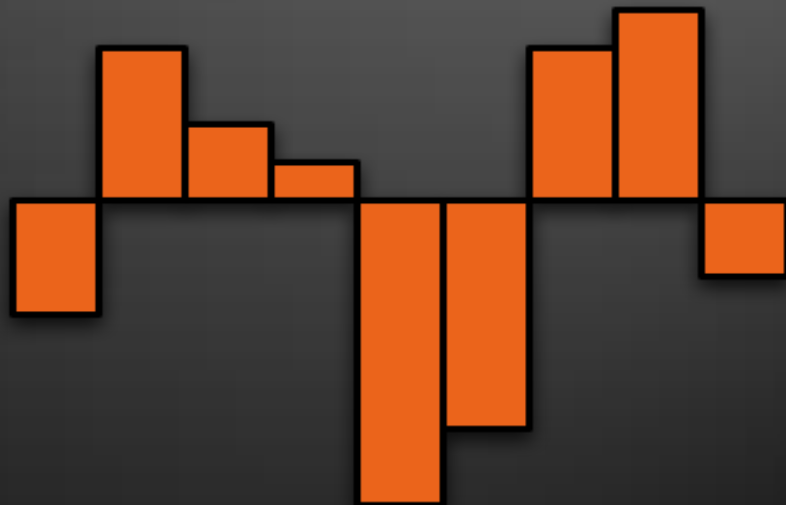
```
for( int i = 0; i < a.length; i++ ) {  
    int thisSum = 0;  
    for( int j = i; j < a.length; j++ ) {  
        thisSum += a[ j ];  
  
        if( thisSum > maxSum ) {  
            maxSum = thisSum;  
            seqStart = i;  
            seqEnd = j;  
        }  
    }  
}
```

We can do  
even better  
than this!

# Maximum Contiguous Subsequence Sum

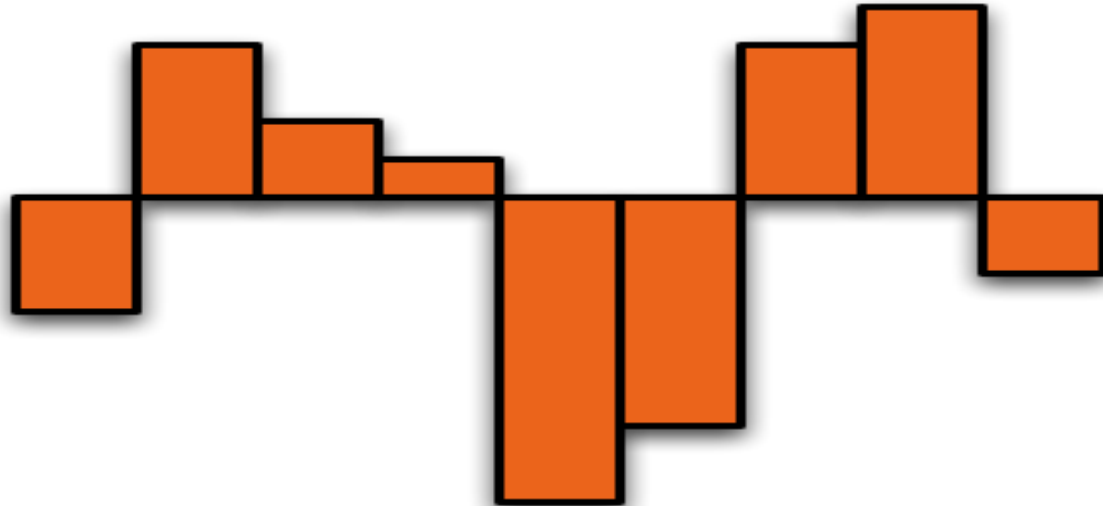
A linear algorithm.

$\{-3, 4, 2, 1, -8, -6, 4, 5, -2\}$



# Observations?

- ▶ Consider  $\{-3, 4, 2, 1, -8, -6, 4, 5, -2\}$



- ▶ Any subsequences you can safely ignore?
  - Discuss with another student (2 minutes)

# Observation 1

- ▶ We noted that a max-sum sequence  $A_{i,j}$  cannot begin with a negative number.
- ▶ Generalizing this, it cannot begin with a prefix  $A_{i,k}$  with  $k < j$  whose sum is negative.
  - **Proof by contradiction.** Suppose that  $A_{i,j}$  is a max-sum sequence and that  $S_{i,k}$  is negative. In that case, a larger max-sum sequence can be created by removing  $A_{i,k}$ . However, this violates our assumption that  $A_{i,j}$  is the largest max-sum sequence.

# Observation 2

- ▶ All contiguous subsequences that border the maximum contiguous subsequence must have negative or zero sums.
  - **Proof by contradiction.** Consider a contiguous subsequence that borders a maximum contiguous subsequence. Suppose it has a positive sum. We can then create a larger max-sum sequence by combining both sequences. This contradicts our assumption of having found a max-sum sequence.



# Observation 3

- ▶ No max-sum sequence can start from inside a subsequence that has a negative sum and extend beyond it.
- ▶ In other words, if we find that  $S_{i,j}$  is negative, we can skip all sums that begin with any of  $A_i, A_{i+1}, \dots, A_j$ .
- ▶ We can “skip  $i$  ahead” to be  $j+1$ .

# Observation 3

For any  $i$ , let  $j \geq i$  be the smallest number such that  $S_{i,j} < 0$ .

Then for any  $p$  and  $q$  such that  $i \leq p \leq j$  and  $p \leq q$ :

- either  $A_{p,q}$  is not a MCS, or
- $S_{p,q}$  is less than or equal to a sum already seen (i.e., one with subscripts less than  $i$  and  $j$  respectively).

## Proof of Observation 3

*Proof:* Note that  $S_{i,q} = S_{i,p-1} + S_{p,q}$ . By assumption,  $S_{i,p-1} \geq 0$ , since  $p-1 < j$ , and  $S_{i,p-1} \geq 0$  implies  $S_{i,q} \geq S_{p,q}$ . Consider cases:

- Suppose  $q > j$ , then  $A_{i,j}$  is part of  $A_{i,q}$  and (by Obs. 1)  $A_{i,q}$  is not a MCS. But  $S_{i,q} \geq S_{p,q}$ , so  $A_{p,q}$  is not a MCS either.
- Suppose  $q \leq j$ , then  $S_{i,q}$  is a “sum already seen”. Since  $S_{p,q} \leq S_{i,q}$  the claim holds.

# New, improved code!

```

public static Result mcSSLinear(int[] seq) {
    Result result = new Result();
    result.sum = 0;
    int thisSum = 0;

    int i = 0;
    for (int j = 0; j < seq.length; j++) {
        thisSum += seq[j];

        if (thisSum > result.sum) {
            result.sum = thisSum;
            result.startIndex = i;
            result.endIndex = j;
        } else if (thisSum < 0) {
            // advances start to where end
            // will be on NEXT iteration
            i = j + 1;
            thisSum = 0;
        }
    }
    return result;
}

```

$S_{i,j}$  is negative. So, skip ahead per Observation 3

Running time is  $\Theta(?)$   
How do we know?

# Time Trials!

- ▶ From SVN, checkout *MCSSRaces*
- ▶ Study code in *MCSS.main()*
- ▶ For each algorithm, how large a sequence can you process on your machine in less than 1 second?

# MCSS Conclusions

- ▶ The first algorithm we think of may be a lot worse than the best one for a problem
- ▶ Sometimes we need clever ideas to improve it
- ▶ Showing that the faster code is correct can require some serious thinking
- ▶ Programming is more about careful consideration than fast typing!

# Interlude

- ▶ If GM had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25 cars that got 1000 miles to the gallon.
  - Bill Gates
  
- ▶ If the automobile had followed the same development cycle as the computer, a Rolls–Royce would today cost \$100, get a million miles per gallon, and explode once a year, killing everyone inside.
  - Robert X. Cringely

# Stacks and Queues

A preview of Abstract Data Types  
and Java Collections

This week's major program



# Stacks and Queues Part 1

An exercise in implementing your own growable circular Queue:

1. Grow it as needed (like day 1 exercise)
2. Wrap-around the array indices for more efficient dequeuing

Discuss Stacks as a warmup, then ideas for Queues

Analyze implementation choices for Queues – much more interesting than stacks!

# Stacks Part 2: Evaluator

An exercise in writing cool algorithms that evaluate mathematical expressions:

Infix:  $6 + 7 * 8$

Postfix:  $6 7 8 * +$

Both using **stacks**.

# Meet your partner

- ▶ Plan when you'll be working
- ▶ Review the pair programming video as needed
- ▶ Check out the code and read the specification together