

Containers With Most Water

Solving the classic "Containers With Most Water" problem - best approached with the two pointer technique.

[Key Idea:] To maximise the area between two vertical lines:

- $Area = \min(\text{height}[i], \text{height}[j]) \times (j - i)$

- Start with two pointers:

- $left = 0, right = n - 1$

- Move the pointer pointing to the shorter height inward;

 - moving the taller one can't give a better result (width shrinks but height doesn't improve).

[Algorithm Steps:]

1. Initialize: $left = 0, right = n - 1$

$maxArea = 0$

2. While $left < right$:

- Calculate area: $area = \min(\text{height}[left], \text{height}[right]) \times (right - left)$

- Update $maxArea$

- Move the shorter line inward:

 - If $\text{height}[left] < \text{height}[right]$:

- $left++$

 - Else: $right--$

3. Return $maxArea$

[Time Complexity:]

- $O(n)$ - single pass from both ends.
- $O(1)$ space

[Example:] For $[1, 8, 6, 2, 5, 4, 8, 3, 7]$:

- Max area is between indices 1 and 8:

- $\rightarrow \min(8, 7) \times (8 - 1) = 7 \times 7 = 49$