

Minimum Size Subarray Sum

For this problem we need the shortest subarray where $\text{sum} \geq \text{target}$.

Approach 1: Sliding Window ($O(n)$):

- Key Idea:**
- Use two pointers (start , end) to maintain a sliding window.
 - Expand end to increase sum .
 - Shrink start when $\text{sum} \geq \text{target}$ to minimize length.

Algorithm:

1. Initialize:
 - $\text{sum} = 0$
 - $\text{minLen} = \text{INT_MAX}$
 - $\text{start} = 0$
2. Loop end from 0 to $n-1$:
 - Add $\text{nums}[\text{end}]$ to sum
 - While $\text{sum} \geq \text{target}$:
 - Update $\text{minLen} = \min(\text{minLen}, \text{end} - \text{start} + 1)$
 - Subtract $\text{nums}[\text{start}]$ and increment start
3. Return minLen if found, else 0.

Complexity:

- Time: $O(n)$ (each element visited at most twice)
- Space: $O(1)$

Follow-up: $O(n \log n)$ Solution:

Idea: Use prefix sums + binary search:

- Build prefix sum array.
- For each i , binary search for the smallest j such that $\text{prefix}[j] - \text{prefix}[i] \geq \text{target}$.