

# Two pointer method

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Find two numbers in a sorted array that add up to a target.

## Idea (Two Pointers Method)

Since the array is **already sorted**, we can:

1. Put one pointer at the **start** (`left = 0`)
2. Put another pointer at the **end** (`right = n-1`)
3. Check their sum:
  - If  $\text{sum} = \text{target} \rightarrow$  found
  - If  $\text{sum} < \text{target} \rightarrow$  move **left++** (increase sum)
  - If  $\text{sum} > \text{target} \rightarrow$  move **right--** (decrease sum)

Time Complexity:  **$O(n)$**

Space Complexity:  **$O(1)$**

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## Example

Array = [2, 4, 7, 11, 15]

Target = 9

Steps:

- $2 + 15 = 17 \rightarrow$  too big  $\rightarrow$  move right
- $2 + 11 = 13 \rightarrow$  too big  $\rightarrow$  move right
- $2 + 7 = 9$

Answer  $\rightarrow$  **2 and 7**

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## Java Code (Easy)

```
public class TwoSumSorted {
```

```

public static void findPair(int[] arr, int target) {
    int left = 0;
    int right = arr.length - 1;

    while (left < right) {
        int sum = arr[left] + arr[right];

        if (sum == target) {
            System.out.println("Pair found: " + arr[left] + " and " +
arr[right]);
            return;
        }
        else if (sum < target) {
            left++;
        }
        else {
            right--;
        }
    }
    System.out.println("No pair found");
}

public static void main(String[] args) {
    int[] arr = {2, 4, 7, 11, 15};
    int target = 9;
    findPair(arr, target);
}
}

```

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## Interview Tip

If the array is **NOT sorted**, use:

👉 **HashMap approach** (Two Sum classic problem).