

# Trapping Rainwater

**Problem Statement:** Given an array of non-negative integers representation elevation of ground. Your task is to find the water that can be trapped after raining.

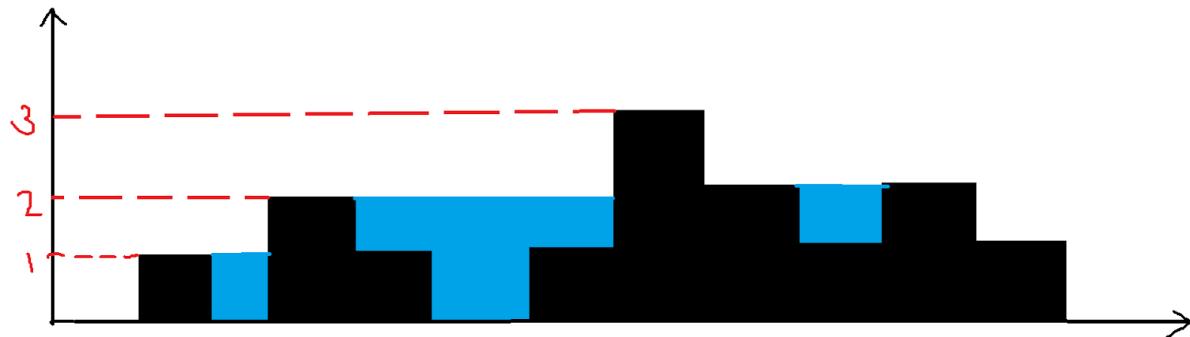
**Examples:**

**Example 1:**

**Input:** height= [0,1,0,2,1,0,1,3,2,1,2,1]

**Output:** 6

**Explanation:** As seen from the diagram  $1+1+2+1+1=6$  unit of water can be trapped



**Example 2:**

**Input:** [4,2,0,3,2,5]

**Output:** 9

## Solution

**Disclaimer:** Don't jump directly to the solution, try it out yourself first.

### Solution 1: Brute force

**Approach:** For each index, we have to find the amount of water that can be stored and we have to sum it up. If we observe carefully the amount the water stored at a particular index is the minimum of maximum elevation to the left and right of the index minus the elevation at that index.

**Code:**

```
static int trap(int[] arr) {  
    int n = arr.length;  
    int waterTrapped = 0;  
    for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {  
        int j = i;  
        int leftMax = 0, rightMax = 0;  
        while (j >= 0) {  
            leftMax = Math.max(leftMax, arr[j]);  
            j--;  
        }  
        j = i;  
        while (j < n) {  
            rightMax = Math.max(rightMax, arr[j]);  
            j++;  
        }  
        waterTrapped += Math.min(leftMax, rightMax) - arr[i];  
    }  
    return waterTrapped;  
}
```

**Time Complexity:**  $O(N^2)$  as for each index we are calculating leftMax and rightMax so it is a nested loop.

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

## Solution 2:Better solution

**Intuition:** We are taking  $O(N)$  for computing leftMax and rightMax at each index. The complexity can be boiled down to  $O(1)$  if we precompute the leftMax and rightMax at each index.

**Approach:** Take 2 array prefix and suffix array and precompute the leftMax and rightMax for each index beforehand. Then use the formula  $\min(\text{prefix}[i], \text{suffix}[i]) - \text{arr}[i]$  to compute water trapped at each index.

**Code:**

```
static int trap(int[] arr) {  
    int n = arr.length;  
    int prefix[] = new int[n];  
    int suffix[] = new int[n];  
    prefix[0] = arr[0];  
    for (int i = 1; i < n; i++) {  
        prefix[i] = Math.max(prefix[i - 1], arr[i]);  
    }  
    suffix[n - 1] = arr[n - 1];  
    for (int i = n - 2; i >= 0; i--) {  
        suffix[i] = Math.max(suffix[i + 1], arr[i]);  
    }  
    int waterTrapped = 0;  
    for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {  
        waterTrapped += Math.min(prefix[i], suffix[i]) - arr[i];  
    }  
}
```

```
    return waterTrapped;  
}
```

**Time Complexity:**  $O(3*N)$  as we are traversing through the array only once. And  $O(2*N)$  for computing prefix and suffix array.

**Space Complexity:**  $O(N)+O(N)$  for prefix and suffix arrays.

### Solution 3:Optimal Solution(Two pointer approach)

**Approach:** Take 2 pointer l(left pointer) and r(right pointer) pointing to 0th and  $(n-1)$ th index respectively. Take two variables leftMax and rightMax and initialise it to 0. If  $height[l]$  is less than or equal to  $height[r]$  then if leftMax is less than  $height[l]$  update leftMax to  $height[l]$  else add  $leftMax - height[l]$  to your final answer and move the l pointer to the right i.e  $l++$ . If  $height[r]$  is less than  $height[l]$ , then now we are dealing with the right block. If  $height[r]$  is greater than rightMax, then update rightMax to  $height[r]$  else add  $rightMax - height[r]$  to the final answer. Now move r to the left. Repeat these steps till l and r crosses each other.

**Intuition:** We need a minimum of leftMax and rightMax. So if we take the case when  $height[l] \leq height[r]$  we increase  $l++$ , so we can surely say that there is a block with height more than  $height[l]$  to the right of l. And for the same reason when  $height[r] \leq height[l]$  we can surely say that there is a block to the left of r which is at least of height  $height[r]$ . So by traversing with these cases and using two pointers approach the time complexity can be decreased without using extra space.

#### Code:

```
public int trap(int[] height) {  
    int leftMax=0,rightMax=0,left=0,right=height.length-1;  
    int totalWater=0;  
    while(left<=right)  
    {  
        if(height[left]<=height[right])  
        {
```

```

        if(height[left]>=leftMax)
            leftMax=height[left];
        else
            totalWater+=leftMax-height[left];
        left++;
    }
    else
    {
        if(height[right]>=rightMax)
            rightMax=height[right];
        else
            totalWater+=rightMax-height[right];
        right--;
    }
}

return totalWater;
}

```

**Time Complexity:** O(N) because we are using 2 pointer approach.

**Space Complexity:** O(1) because we are not using anything extra.