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Background

The goal of this chapter is to provide a solid foundation for understanding the concepts of binary search.

Template I

This chapter shows a snippet of code for the binary search algorithm.

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Binary Search Template I

Sqrt(x)

Guess Number Higher or Lower

Search in Rotated Sorted Array

Template II

This chapter shows a snippet of code for the binary search algorithm.

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Binary Search Template II

First Bad Version

Find Peak Element

Find Minimum in Rotated Sorted Array

Template III

This chapter shows a snippet of code for the binary search algorithm.

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Binary Search Template III

Search for a Range

Find K Closest Elements

Find Peak Element

Template Analysis

This chapter sums up the key attributes of binary search.

Conclusion

Binary Search is an important algorithm that you should know.

More Practices

In this chapter, we have provided some additional practice problems for you.

A Binary Search Template II

[Report Issue](#)

Template #2:

C++JavaPython

CopyRunPlayground

```
1 int binarySearch(int[] nums, int target){
2     if(nums == null || nums.length == 0)
3         return -1;
4
5     int left = 0, right = nums.length - 1;
6     while(left < right){
7         // Prevent (left + right) overflow
8         int mid = left + (right - left) / 2;
9         if(nums[mid] == target){ return mid; }
10        else if(nums[mid] < target) { left = mid + 1; }
11        else { right = mid; }
12    }
13
14    // Post-processing:
15    // End Condition: left == right
16    if(nums[left] == target) return left;
17    return -1;
18 }
```

Template #2 is an advanced form of Binary Search.

Key Attributes:

- An advanced way to implement Binary Search.
- Use the element's right neighbor to determine if the condition is met and decide whether to go left or right
- Guarantees Search Space is at least 2 in size at each step
- Post-processing required. Loop/Recursion ends when you have 1 element left. Need to assess if the remaining element meets the condition.

Distinguishing Syntax:

- Initial Condition: `left = 0, right = length - 1`
- Termination: `left == right`
- Searching Left: `right = mid`
- Searching Right: `left = mid+1`