

Searching



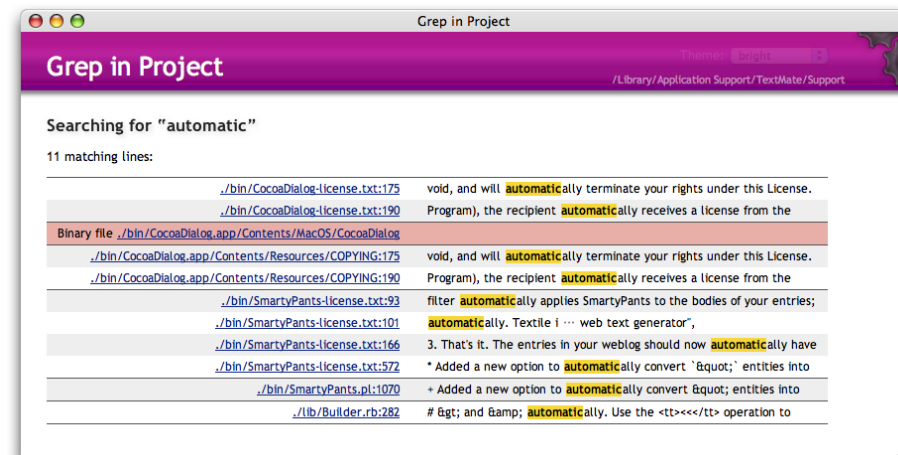
Google™

recursive backtracking|

Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky

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Linear Search

- ▶ Given a list of data, find the location of a particular value or report that value is not present
- ▶ Linear search
 - intuitive approach:
 - start at first item
 - is it the one I am looking for?
 - If not, go to next item
 - repeat until found or all items checked
- ▶ If items not sorted or unsortable this approach is necessary



Linear Search Code

```
/*  
    return the index of the first occurrence  
    of target in list, or -1 if target not present in  
    list  
*/  
public int linearSearch(int list[], int target)  
{  
    int i = 0;  
    while(i < list.length && list[i] != target)  
        i++;  
  
    if(i >= list.length)  
        return -1;  
    else  
        return i;  
}
```

Question 1

- ▶ What is the average case Big-O of **linear search** in an array with n items, if an item is present?
 - A. $O(n)$
 - B. $O(n^2)$
 - C. $O(1)$
 - D. $O(\log(n))$
 - E. $O(n \log(n))$

Question 1

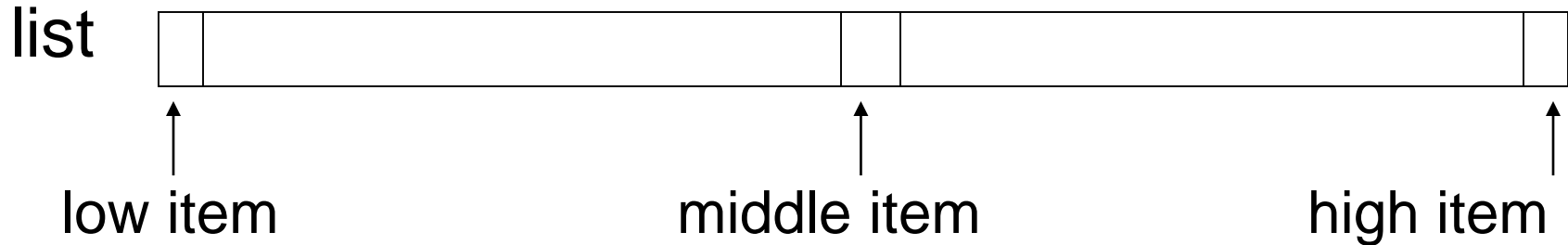
► What is the average case Big-O of **linear search** in an array with n items, if an item is present?

- ☒ A. $O(n)$
- ☐ B. $O(n^2)$
- ☐ C. $O(1)$
- ☐ D. $O(\log(n))$
- ☐ E. $O(n \log(n))$

Searching in a Sorted List

- ▶ If items are sorted, we can *divide and conquer*
- ▶ Dividing your work in half with each step
 - Generally a good thing
- ▶ The Binary Search on list in ascending order
 - start at middle of list
 - is that the item?
 - if not, is it less than or greater than the item?
 - less than, move to second half of list
 - greater than, move to first half of list
 - repeat until found or sub-list size = 0

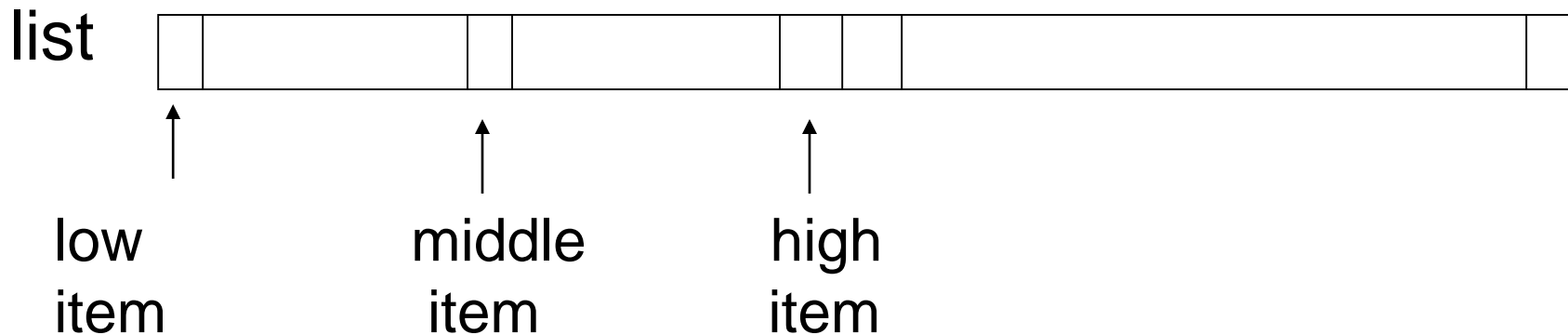
Binary Search



Is middle item what we are looking for?

If not, is it more or less than the target?

If lower...



and so forth...

Recursive Binary Search

```
public static int search(int list[], int target)
{
    return b-search(list, target, 0, list.length - 1);
}

public static int b-search(int list[], int target,
                           int low, int high)
{
    if( low <= high )
    {
        int mid = low + ((high - low) / 2);
        if( list[mid] == target )
            return mid;
        else if( list[mid] > target )
            return b-search(list, target, low, mid - 1);
        else
            return b-search(list, target, mid + 1, high);
    }
    return -1;
}
```


Question 2

- ▶ What is the worst case Big O of **binary search** in an array with n items, if an item is present?
 - A. $O(n)$
 - B. $O(n^2)$
 - C. $O(1)$
 - D. $O(\log(n))$
 - E. $O(n \log(n))$

Question 2

- What is the worst case Big O of **binary search** in an array with n items, if an item is present?
- A. $O(n)$
 - B. $O(n^2)$
 - C. $O(1)$
 - ☒ D. $O(\log(n))$
 - E. $O(n \log(n))$

Other Searching Algorithms

- ▶ Interpolation Search
 - more like what people really do
- ▶ Binary Search Trees
- ▶ Hash Table Searching
- ▶ Best-First
- ▶ A*

