

Searching Algorithm

Linear Search

Binary Search



Linear Search



Linear search is also called as Sequential Search. This suits for both sorted and unsorted arrays.

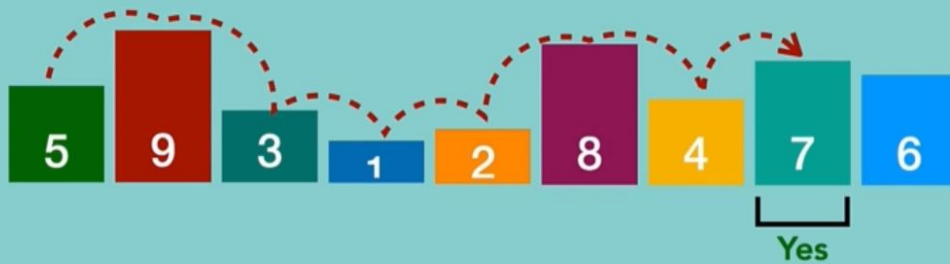
Linear Search

Search for 7



Linear Search

Search for 7



Time complexity : $O(N)$

Space complexity : $O(1)$

Linear Search Pseudocode

- Create function with two parameters which are an array and a value
- Loop through the array and check if the current array element is equal to the value
- If it is return the index at which the element is found
- If the value is never found return -1

Time complexity: $O(N)$

Space complexity: $O(1)$

Binary Search

- Binary Search is faster than Linear Search
- Half of the remaining elements can be eliminated at a time, instead of eliminating them one by one
- Binary Search only works for **sorted arrays**.

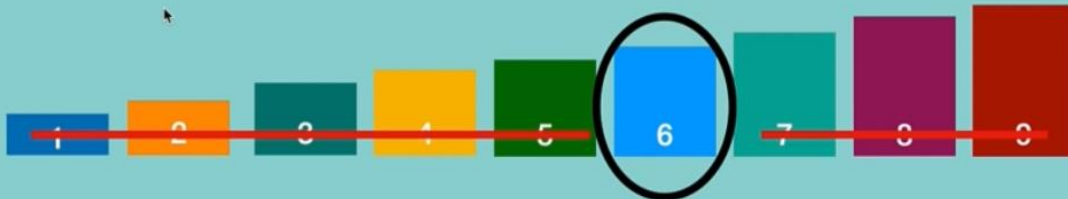
Binary Search

Searching for 6



Binary Search

Searching for 6



Binary Search

Searching for 6



Binary Search Pseudocode

- Create function with two parameters which are a sorted array and a value
- Create two pointers : a left pointer at the start of the array and a right pointer at the end of the array.
- Based on left and right pointers calculate middle pointer
- While middle is not equal to the value and $\text{start} \leq \text{end}$ loop:
 - if the middle is greater than the value move the right pointer down
 - if the middle is less than the value move the left pointer up
- If the value is never found return -1

Binary Search Time Complexity

Worst and Average Case

$O(\log n)$

Best Case

$O(1)$

Binary Search Time Complexity

Searching for 12

[2,4,5,9,11,13,14,15,19,20,22,23,27,30,32,39]

Step 1 [2,4,5,9,11,13,14,15,19,20,22,23,27,30,32,39]

Step 2 [2,4,5,9,11,13,14]

Step 3 [11,13,14]

Step 4 [11]

Not Found

16 elements = 4 Steps

Binary Search Time Complexity

Searching for 72

[2,4,5,9,11,13,14,15,19,20,22,23,27,30,32,39,42,44,45,49,51,53,54,55,59,60,62,63,67,70,72,79]

Step 1 [2,4,5,9,11,13,14,15,19,20,22,23,27,30,32,39,42,44,45,49,51,53,54,55,59,60,62,63,67,70,72,79]

Step 2 [42,44,45,49,51,53,54,55,59,60,62,63,67,70,72,79]

Step 3 [59,60,62,63,67,70,72,79]

72 Found

32 elements = 5 Steps

Step 4 [67,70,72,79]

$\log_2 N$ $2^x \Rightarrow N$

Step 5 [72,79]

AppMillers



Binary Search Time Complexity

Searching for 12

[2,4,5,9,11,13,14,15,19,20,22,23,27,30,32,39]

Step 1 [2,4,5,9,11,13,14,15,19,20,22,23,27,30,32,39]

Step 2 [2,4,5,9,11,13,14]

Step 3 [11,13,14]

Not Found

16 elements \div 4 Steps

Step 4 [11]

$$\log_2 16 = 2^x = 16 = 2^4 = 2 * 2 * 2 * 2 = 16$$

Here, the size of the array is 16. The time complexity for Binary Search is $\log_2(\text{size of the array})$. $\log_2(16) = 4 \rightarrow$ so to find the search element we need 4 steps.

Binary Search Time Complexity

Searching for 72

[2,4,5,9,11,13,14,15,19,20,22,23,27,30,32,39,42,44,45,49,51,53,54,55,59,60,62,63,67,70,72,79]

Step 1 [2,4,5,9,11,13,14,15,19,20,22,23,27,30,32,39,42,44,45,49,51,53,54,55,59,60,62,63,67,70,72,79]

Step 2 [42,44,45,49,51,53,54,55,59,60,62,63,67,70,72,79]

Step 3 [59,60,62,63,67,70,72,79]

72 Found

32 elements = 5 Steps

Step 4 [67,70,72,79]

$$\log_2 32 = 2^x = 32 = 2^5 = 2 * 2 * 2 * 2 * 2 = 32$$

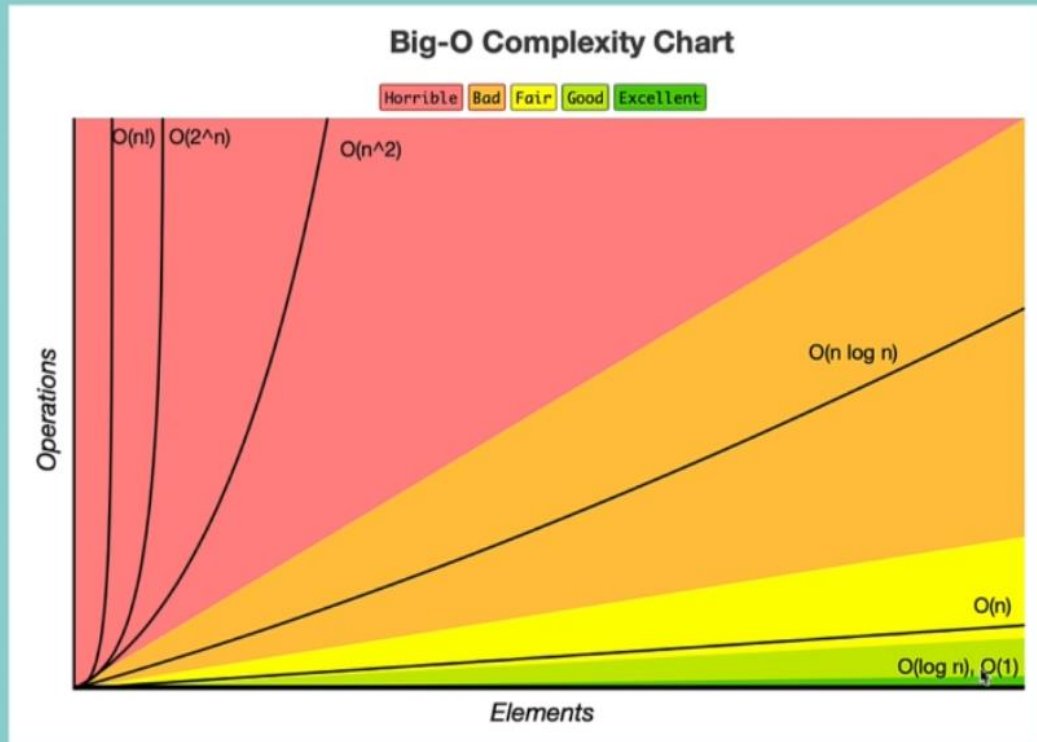
Step 5 [72,79]

AppMillers



Here, the size of the array is 32. The time complexity for Binary Search is $\log_2(\text{size of the array})$. $\log_2(32) = 5 \rightarrow$ so to find the search element we need 5 steps.

Binary Search Time Complexity



If we have a sorted array then the best searching algorithm is binary search.