

linear search algorithm

Consider the searching problem:

- Input: A sequence of n numbers $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$ and a value v .
- Output: An index i such that $v = A[i]$ or the special value N if v does not appear in A .

You can find the implementation [here](#) or go to the next url: https://github.com/DiegoMendezMedina/C_Algorithms/blob/master/Search/linear_searching/implementations/searching_problem.c.

Pseudocode-Search.

1. **for** $i = 0$ **to** $n-1$
2. **if** $v == A[i]$
3. return i
4. return ' N '

Proof of linear search algorithm.

Loop invariant:

At the start of each iteration of the **for** loop of lines 1-3, v was not found on the previous i values. **if** $v == A[i]$, i is returned and the **for** loop breaks. Otherwise at the end of the loop ' N ' is returned.

Initialization:

When $i = 0$, since $i = 0$ there are no previous i values. **if** $A[0] = v$; then i is return and the **for** loop breaks.

Maintenance:

There's another iteration which means that for all the previous value of i v was found. If for the current value of i happens that $A[i] = v$ then i is returned and the **for** loop breaks.

Termination:

When the loop finishes i had browsed all the possible positions of the array and v was not found then ' N ' is returned.