

## 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](https://github.com/DiegoMendezMedina/C_Algorithms/tree/master/Insertion-Sort/searching_problem.c) or go to the next url: [https://github.com/DiegoMendezMedina/C\\_Algorithms/tree/master/Insertion-Sort/searching\\_problem.c](https://github.com/DiegoMendezMedina/C_Algorithms/tree/master/Insertion-Sort/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 posible positions of the array and  $v$  was not found then ' $N$ ' is returned.