

# Binary Search

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Algorithm:-

arr = [2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 12, 14, 20, 36, 48]

sorted array

↑ ascending order

target = 36

1. Find the middle element

2. Check:

if target > middle  $\Rightarrow$  search in right

else  $\Rightarrow$  search in left

3. if target == middle we found the element.

Example:- In the above array,

arr = [2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 12, 14, 20, 36, 48]

target = 36

1<sup>st</sup>  $\rightarrow$  find middle element.

$\boxed{\text{mid} = \frac{\text{start} + \text{end}}{2}} = \frac{0 + 9}{2} = 4$  [the element at index 4 is middle element]

2<sup>nd</sup>  $\rightarrow$  let's check:

Is target > middle  $\Rightarrow 36 > 11 \Rightarrow \text{yes} \Rightarrow$  check in right

Now, arr = [2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 12, 14, 20, 36, 48]

$\text{mid} = \frac{5 + 9}{2} = 7$  [the element at index 7 is middle element]

Let's check:

Is target > middle  $\Rightarrow 36 > 20 \Rightarrow \text{yes} \Rightarrow$  check in right side.



Now, arr = [2, 4, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14, 20, <sup>8</sup>36, <sup>9</sup>48]

mid =  $\frac{8+9}{2} = 8$  [the element at index 8 is the middle element]

here,

target == middle  $\Rightarrow 36 == 36 \Rightarrow$  we found the element at index 8

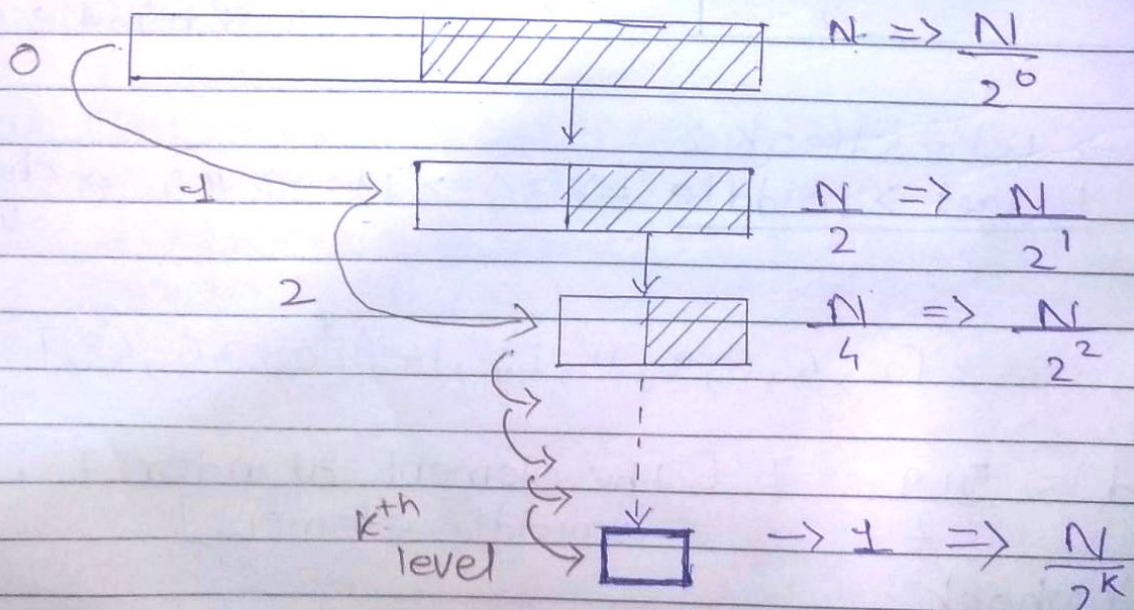
\* Here, the space in which we are searching is getting divided into two spaces.

### \* Time Complexity

Best Case :  $O(1)$

Worst Case :  $O(\log n)$

Explanation:- find maximum Number of comparison.



at the end  
only one element  
will be there.



$$\frac{N}{2^k} = 1$$

$$N = 2^k$$

$$\log(N) = \log(2^k)$$

$$\log(N) = k \log 2$$

$$k = \frac{\log N}{\log 2}$$

total  
number of  
comparison in  
worst case.  $\leftarrow$   $k = \log_2 N$   $\rightarrow$  size of  
array

Example :-

```
Public Static Void Main () {
    int[] arr = { 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 };
    int target = 10;
    int ans = binarySearch(arr, target);
    System.out.println (ans);
}
```

```
Static int binarySearch (int[] arr, int target) {
    int start = 0;
    int end = arr.length - 1;

    while (start <= end) {
        int mid = start + (end - start) / 2;

        if (target < arr[mid]) {
            end = mid - 1;
        }
    }
}
```



```
else if (target > arr[mid]) {  
    start = mid + 1;  
}  
else {  
    return mid;  
}  
}  
return -1;  
}
```

### \* Order agnostic Binary Search

Let's say if we don't know that the array is sorted in ascending or descending order.

arr = [90, 75, 18, 12, 6, 4, 3, 1]

target = 75

Here, target > middle = search in left  
target < middle = -1 — right

Here,

start > end. → Descending order

when start < end → Ascending order.