

Day-49: Search a 2D Matrix (LeetCode-74)

Problem Statement:

You are given a matrix where each row is sorted from left to right and the first element of each row is greater than the last element of the previous row. Determine whether a target value exists in the matrix.

Example:

Matrix:

[[1,3,5,7], [10,11,16,20], [23,30,34,60]]

Target = 3

Approach 1: Brute Force

Check every element of the matrix.

Time Complexity: $O(n \times m)$

Space Complexity: $O(1)$

Java Code:

```
for(int i=0;i<matrix.length;i++){
    for(int j=0;j<matrix[i].length;j++){
        if(matrix[i][j]==target) return true;
    }
}
return false;
```

Python Code:

```
for row in matrix:
    for val in row:
        if val==target: return True
return False
```

C++ Code:

```
for(auto row:matrix){
    for(int val:row){
        if(val==target) return true;
    }
}
return false;
```

Approach 2: Binary Search on Flattened Matrix

Treat the matrix as a sorted 1D array and apply binary search.

Time Complexity: $O(\log(n \times m))$

Space Complexity: $O(1)$

Java Code:

```
int low=0, high=rows*cols-1;
while(low<=high){
    int mid=(low+high)/2;
    int val=matrix[mid/cols][mid%cols];
    if(val==target) return true;
    else if(val<target) low=mid+1;
    else high=mid-1;
}
return false;
```

Python Code:

```
low,high=0,rows*cols-1
```

```
while low<=high:
    mid=(low+high)//2
    val=matrix[mid//cols][mid%cols]
    if val==target: return True
    elif val < target: low=mid+1
    else: high=mid-1
return False
```

C++ Code:

```
int low=0, high=rows*cols-1;
while(low<=high){
    int mid=(low+high)/2;
    int val=matrix[mid/cols][mid%cols];
    if(val==target) return true;
    else if(val < target) low=mid+1;
    else high=mid-1;
}
return false;
```

Interview Tip:

LeetCode-74 is best solved using binary search by flattening the matrix logically into a 1D sorted array.