

Motivation for the Algorithm

Consider the last swap that was made in making the string a palindrome



.....0...0...1...1.....

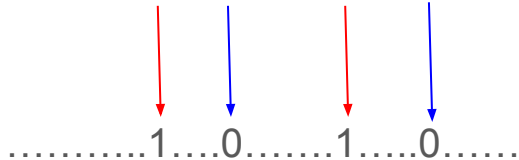
The diagram shows a sequence of bits: 0, 0, 1, 1. The first and last bits are highlighted in blue. Two red arrows point down to the first and last bits, indicating the swap operation.

The red arrow point to the location pair that was swapped to make the string a Palindrome. The other 0 and 1 are the corresponding location for this location.

If a bit is at location n then the corresponding location will be $\text{length}-n$.

So swapping the red arrows led to a palindrome. This one swap fixed two different location pairs

After swapping:



.....1...0...1...0.....

The diagram shows the string after swapping: 1, 0, 1, 0. The first and last bits are highlighted in blue. Two red arrows point down to the first and last bits, indicating the swap operation.

Algorithm steps



0 1 0 0 1 0 1

Bit differs, count = 1



0 1 0 0 1 0 1

Bit differs, count = 2




0 1 0 0 1 0 1

Swap the blue positions

1 0 0 0 1 0 1

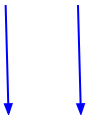
After swapping

1 0 0 0 1 0 1



Bit differs, count = 1

1 0 0 0 1 0 1

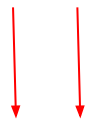


String length is odd and there is an extra 0
Put 1 in center, swap the blue location

1 0 0 1 0 0 1

Alternate case where 1's are more in the end

1 0 1 1 0 0 1



1 0 1 0 1 0 1

Final Algorithm

Some observations:

- If the number of location differences are even there is a solution
- If the string is of odd length there is always a solution
- If the string length is even length and the number of location differences is odd there is no solution

Pseudocode:

```
Int countDiffLocations=0;
```

```
Int swap=0;
```

```
for(char c in binString){
```

```
    if(c!=bit at corresponding location)
```

```
        countDiffLocations++;
```

```
}
```

```
If counDiffLocations is odd and string length is even
```

```
    Return -1; // There is no solution
```

```
If countDiffLocations is odd and string length is odd
```

```
    swap=(countDiffLocations+1)/2 // There will be one extra swap to fix the middle string
```

```
If countDiffLocations is even
```

```
    Swap = countDiffLocations/2
```