

Linear Search

Linear search is a sequential searching algorithm where we start from one end and check every element of the list until the desired element is found. It is the simplest searching algorithm.

Linear Search Algorithm

LinearSearch(array, key)

for each item in the array

if item == value

return its index

code example:-

Linear Search

def linearSearch(array, n, x):

Going through array sequentially

for i in range(0, n):

if (array[i] == x):

return i

return -1

array = [2, 4, 0, 1, 9]

x = 1

n = len(array)

result = linearSearch(array, n, x)

if(result == -1):

print("Element not found")

else:

print("Element found at index: ", result)

Linear Search Complexities

Time Complexity:

$O(n)$

Space Complexity: $O(1)$

Linear Search Applications

1. For searching operations in smaller arrays (<100 items).