

Binary Search

- Binary search operates by repeatedly dividing in half the portion of the list that could contain the target element and then comparing the target value with the middle element.
- The list must be sorted in ascending order for binary search to work effectively.

BinarySearch(arr, target):

left = 0

right = length of arr - 1

while left <= right:

 mid = (left + right) / 2

 if arr[mid] == target:

 return mid

 elif arr[mid] < target:

 left = mid + 1

 else:

 right = mid - 1

return -1 // Target not found

Time Complexity:

Best Case: $O(1)$: Target element is at the middle.

Average and Worst Case: $O(\log n)$: Due to the halving of the search range in each step.

Space Complexity:

Binary search is an in-place algorithm, so the space complexity is $O(1)$ (constant).

Applications:

- Binary search is widely used in searching algorithms, such as finding an item in a sorted array, binary search trees, and other data structures.
- It's a key algorithmic component in various computer science applications, including algorithms for sorting, searching, and more.