

Lesson 02 Demo 01

Finding the Missing Number

Objective: To design an algorithm that identifies a missing integer in a sequence, enhancing logical thinking and foundational algorithm skills

Tools required: Visual Studio Code and JavaScript

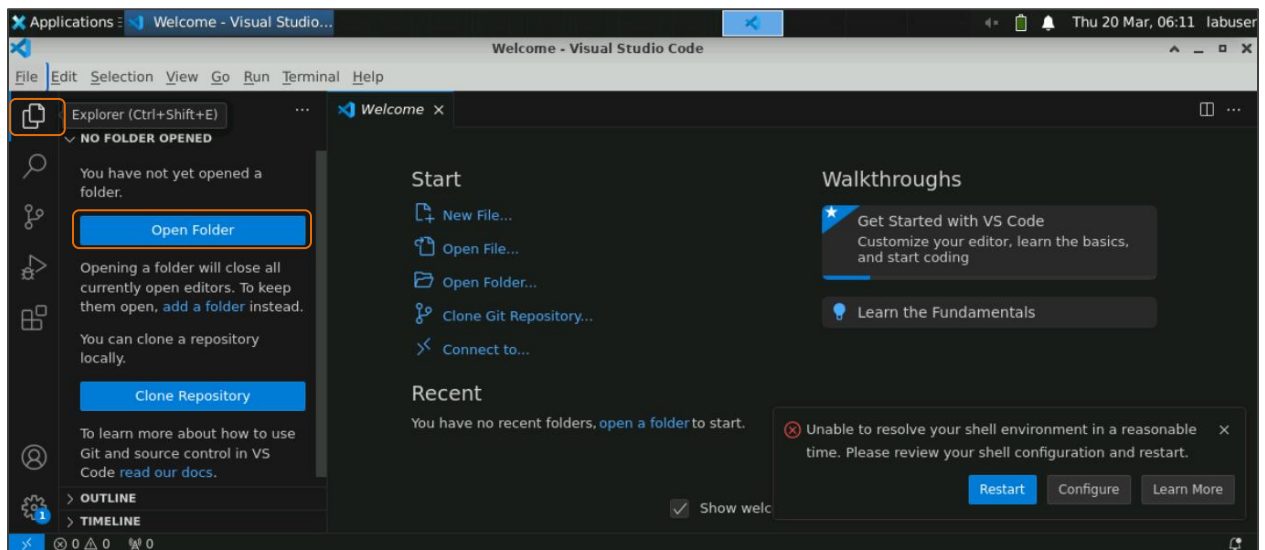
Prerequisites: None

Steps to be followed:

1. Create a working directory within the lab environment
2. Create a JavaScript file and execute it

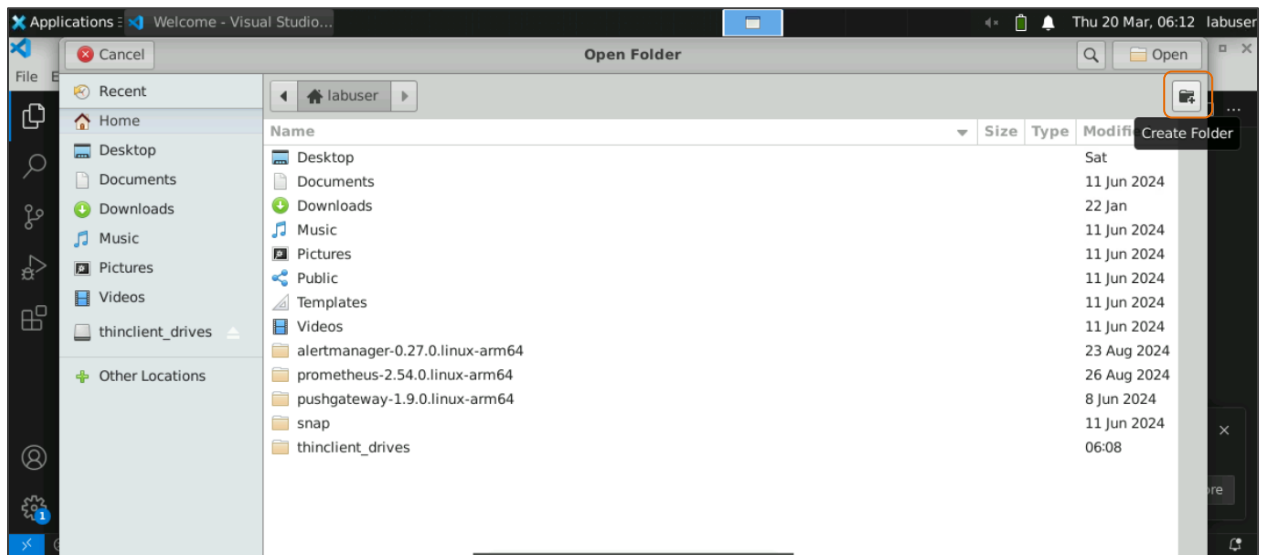
Step 1: Create a working directory within the lab environment

1.1 Launch Visual Studio Code, click on the **Explorer** icon, and select **Open Folder**

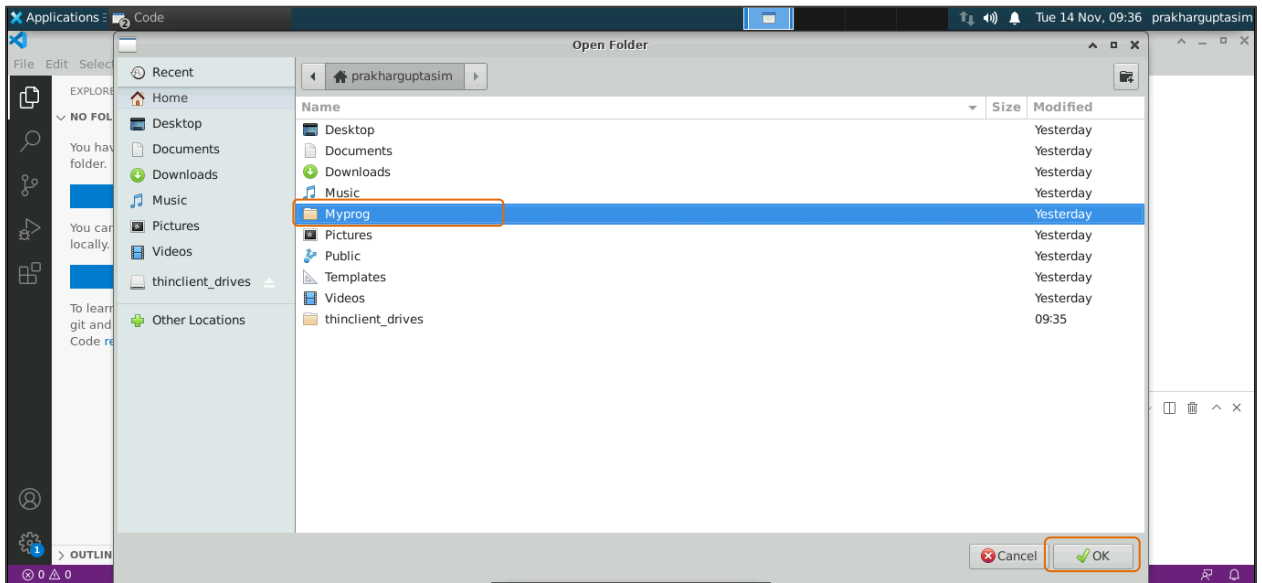


1.2 Create an arbitrary folder, which will be used as your working directory

1.2.1 Click on the **Create Folder** icon

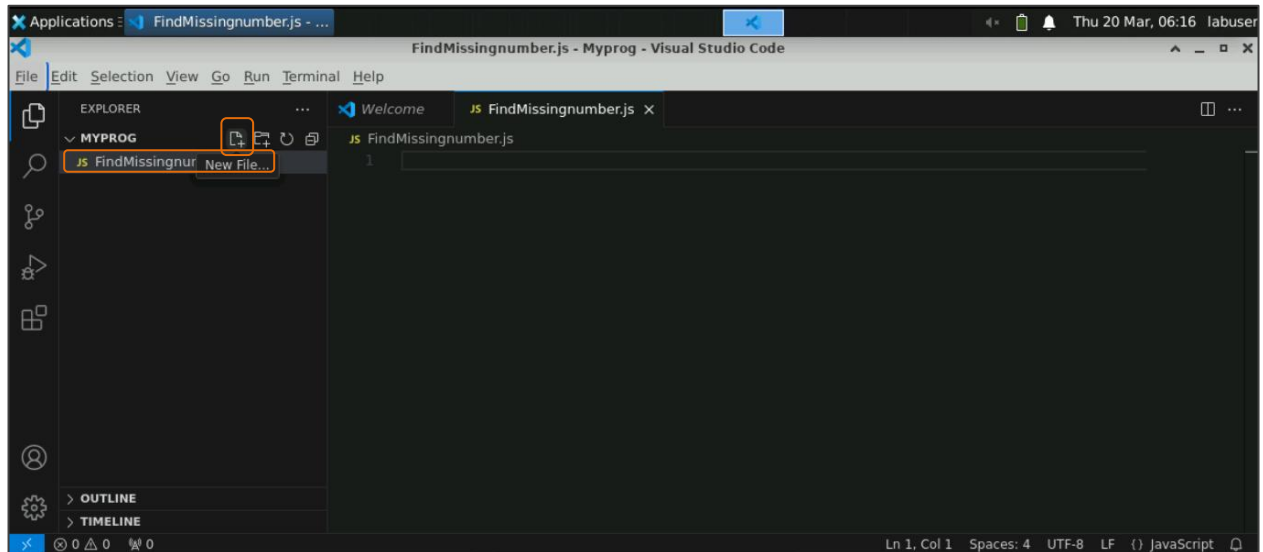


1.2.2 Create a folder named **Myprog** and then click **OK**



Step 2: Create a JavaScript file and execute it

2.1 Click on the **New File...** icon and create a JavaScript file named **FindMissingnumber.js**



Note: You can name the JavaScript file according to your preference.

2.2 Add the code given below to the file created in step 1.3

```
function findMissingNumber(arr) {  
  const n = arr.length + 1; // Calculate n (since one number is missing in the array)  
  const expectedSum = (n * (n + 1)) / 2; // Sum of first n natural numbers  
  let actualSum = 0; // Initialize sum of array elements  
  for (let i = 0; i < arr.length; i++) {  
    actualSum += arr[i]; // Add each element to the sum  
  }  
  
  console.log(`Expected Sum: ${expectedSum}, Actual Sum: ${actualSum}`); // Debug  
  output  
  return expectedSum - actualSum; // The missing number is the difference between  
  expected and actual sums  
}  
  
// Example usage  
const array = [1, 2, 4, 6, 3, 7, 8];  
console.log(findMissingNumber(array)); // Output should be 5
```

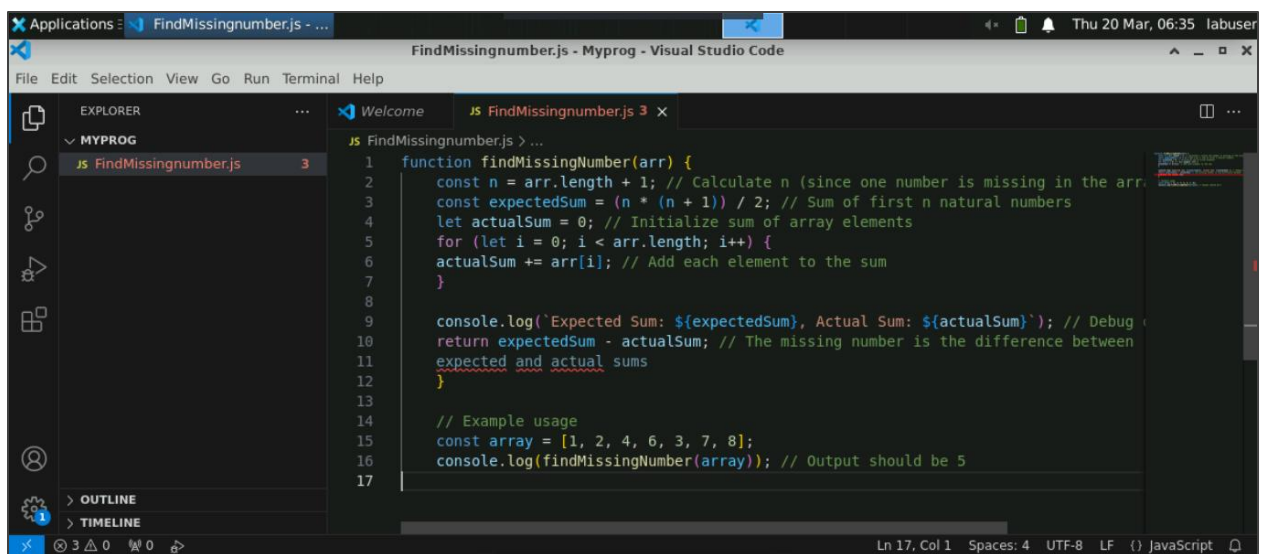
Note:

1. Calculate **n**, the total array length (including the missing number)
2. Use the formula $(n * (n + 1)) / 2$ to find the sum of the initial **n** natural numbers
3. Sum all elements within the array

The difference between the expected sum (sum of the first **n** natural numbers) and the actual sum (sum of array elements) determines the missing number.

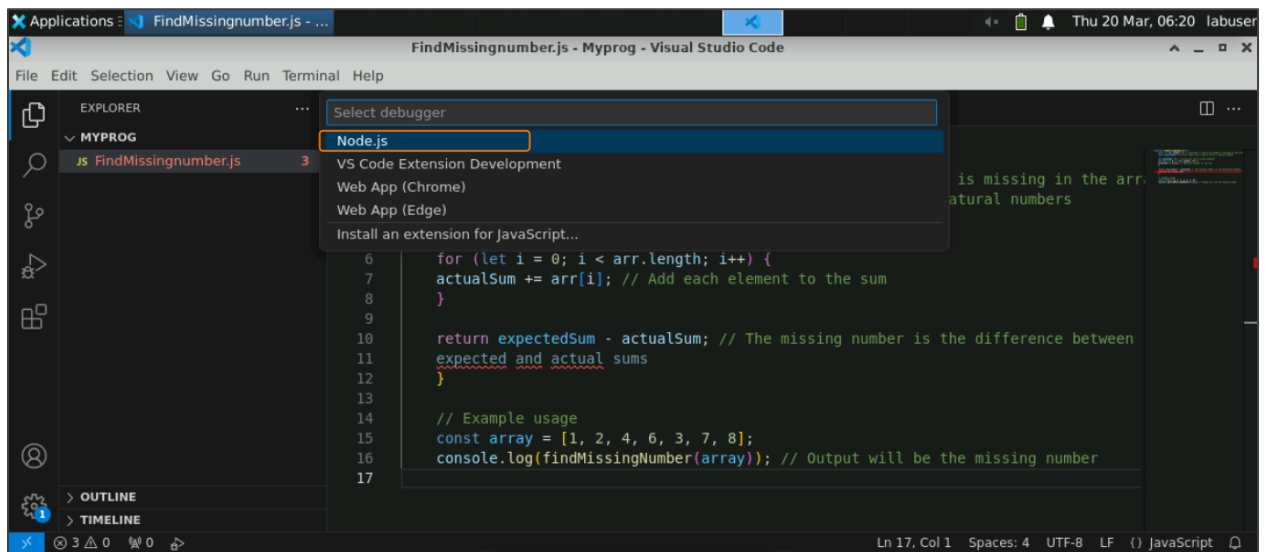
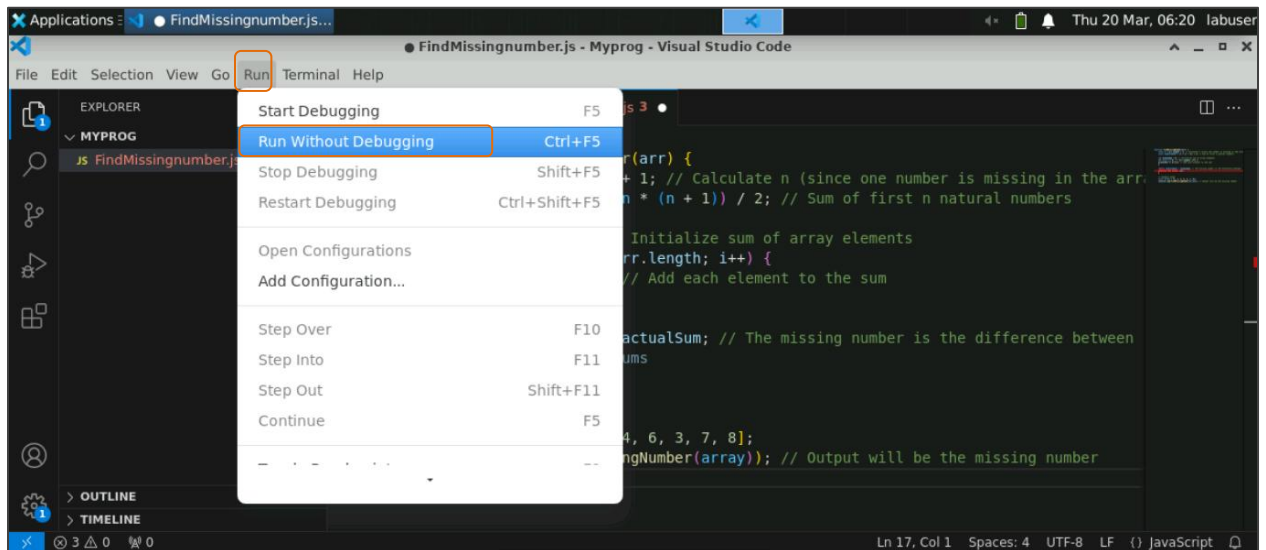
Assumptions:

1. In this solution approach, we assume the absence of duplicate elements in the array.
2. This solution identifies only a single missing element.
3. Modifying the expected formula sum in the code allows finding missing numbers in various other arithmetic progression (AP) series.

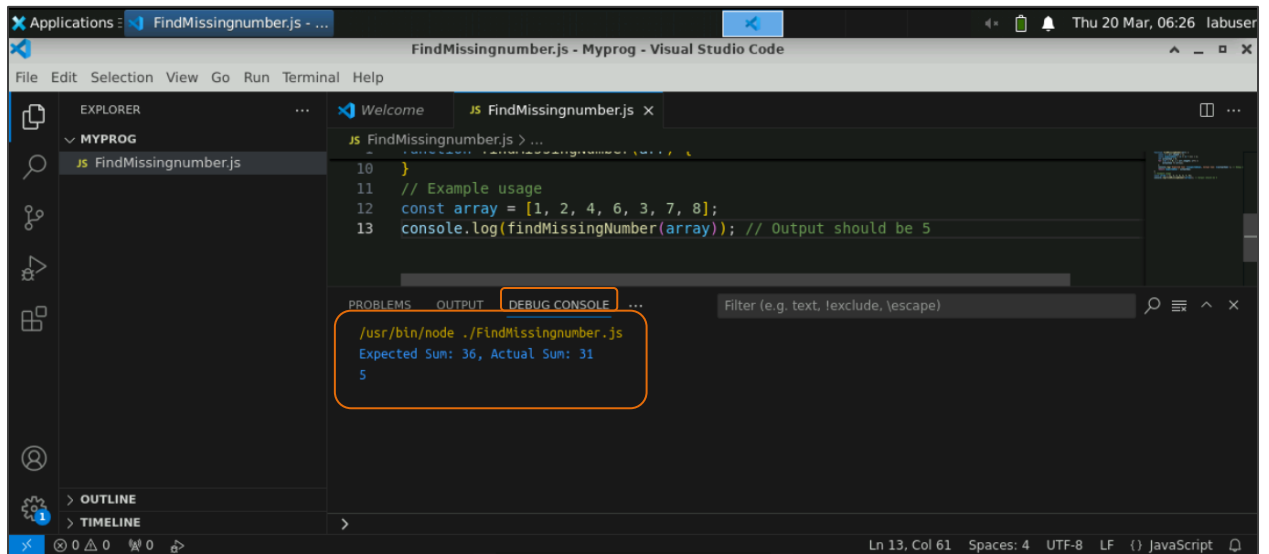


```
1 function findMissingNumber(arr) {
2   const n = arr.length + 1; // Calculate n (since one number is missing in the arr)
3   const expectedSum = (n * (n + 1)) / 2; // Sum of first n natural numbers
4   let actualSum = 0; // Initialize sum of array elements
5   for (let i = 0; i < arr.length; i++) {
6     actualSum += arr[i]; // Add each element to the sum
7   }
8
9   console.log(`Expected Sum: ${expectedSum}, Actual Sum: ${actualSum}`); // Debug
10  return expectedSum - actualSum; // The missing number is the difference between
11  expected and actual sums
12 }
13
14 // Example usage
15 const array = [1, 2, 4, 6, 3, 7, 8];
16 console.log(findMissingNumber(array)); // Output should be 5
17
```

2.3 Click **Run** and then **Run Without Debugging**. Select **Node.js** to check the output in the **DEBUG CONSOLE**.



2.4 View the output in the **DEBUG CONSOLE** as shown below:



The screenshot shows the Visual Studio Code interface with a file named `FindMissingnumber.js` open. The file contains the following code:

```
10 }  
11 // Example usage  
12 const array = [1, 2, 4, 6, 3, 7, 8];  
13 console.log(findMissingNumber(array)); // Output should be 5
```

The **DEBUG CONSOLE** tab is active, showing the output of the command `/usr/bin/node ./FindMissingnumber.js`. The output is:

```
Expected Sum: 36, Actual Sum: 31  
5
```

The output is highlighted with an orange box. The status bar at the bottom indicates the file is at line 13, column 61, with 4 spaces, UTF-8 encoding, LF line endings, and is a JavaScript file.

By following these steps, you have successfully created an algorithm for identifying a missing number in a sequence from 1 to n. This enhances logical thinking and foundational algorithm skills.