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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

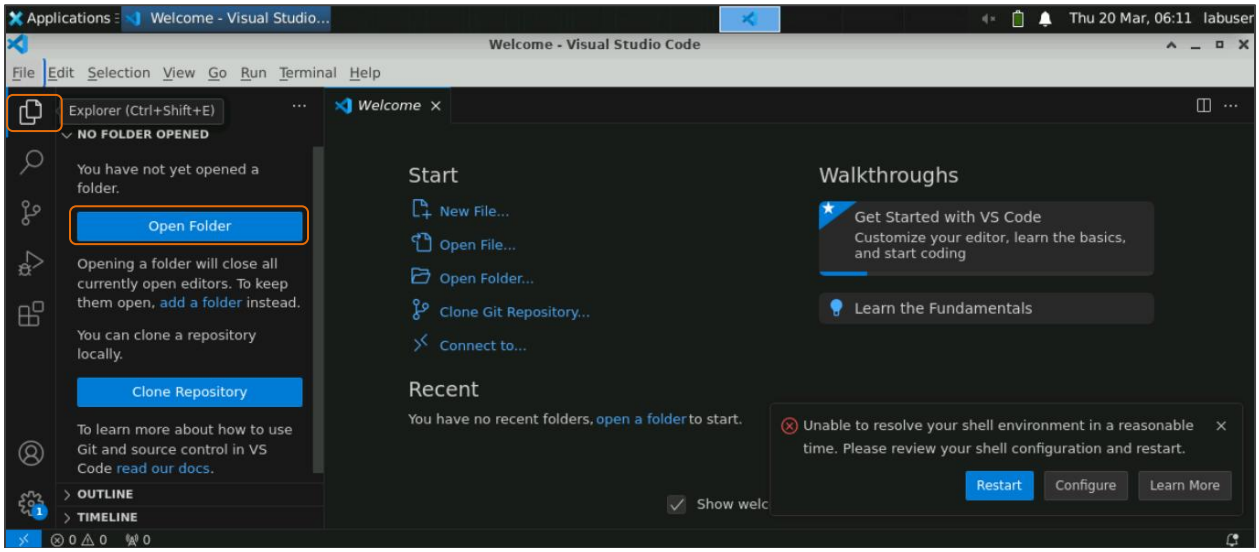
Prerequisites: None

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**



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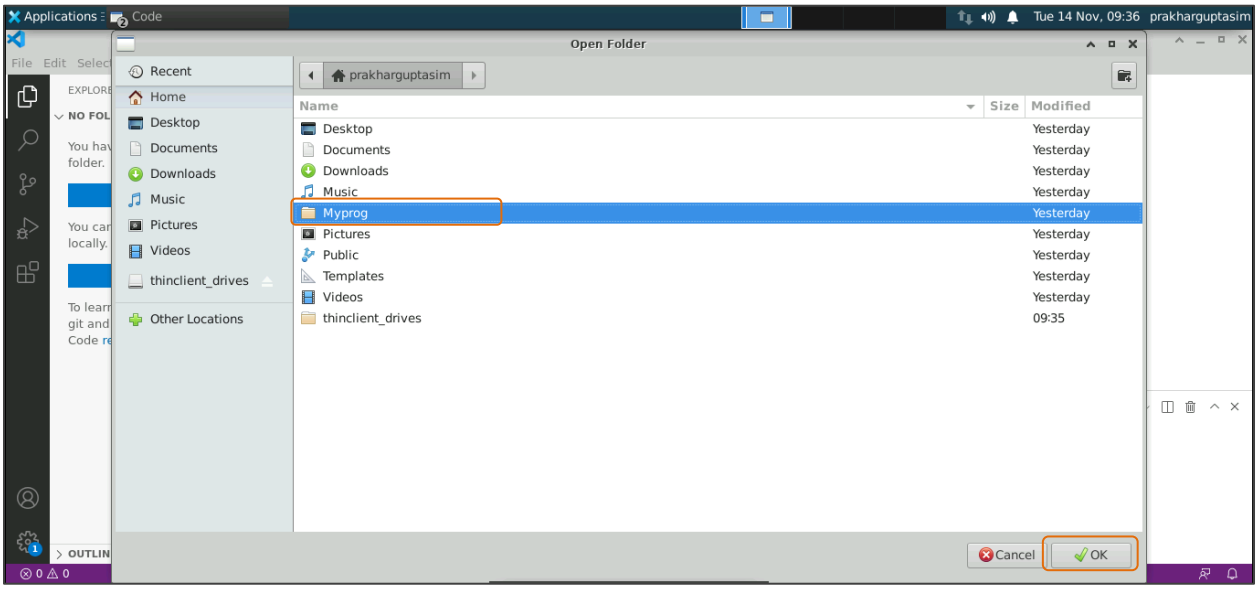
1.2 Create an arbitrary folder, which will be used as your working directory

1.2.1 Click on the **Create Folder** icon

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



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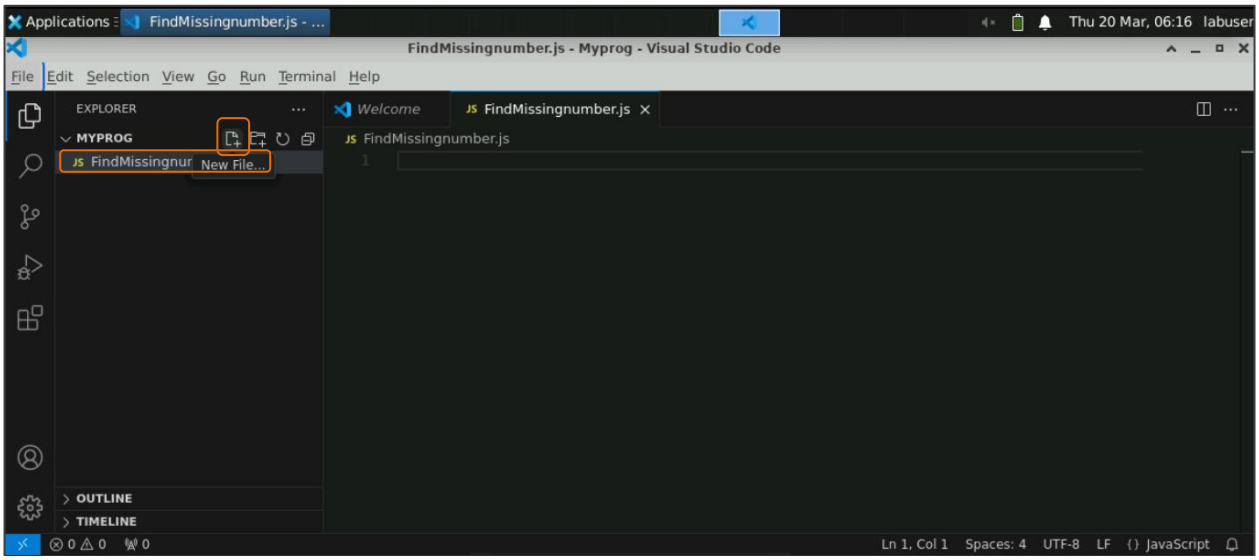
Step 2: Create a JavaScript file and execute it

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
```

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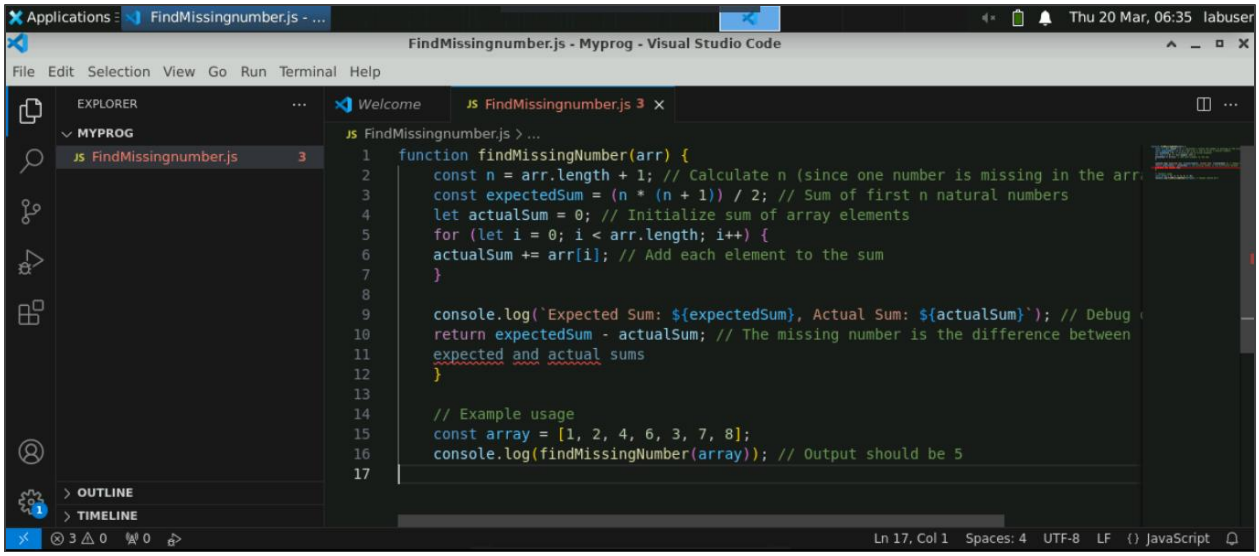
Note:

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.



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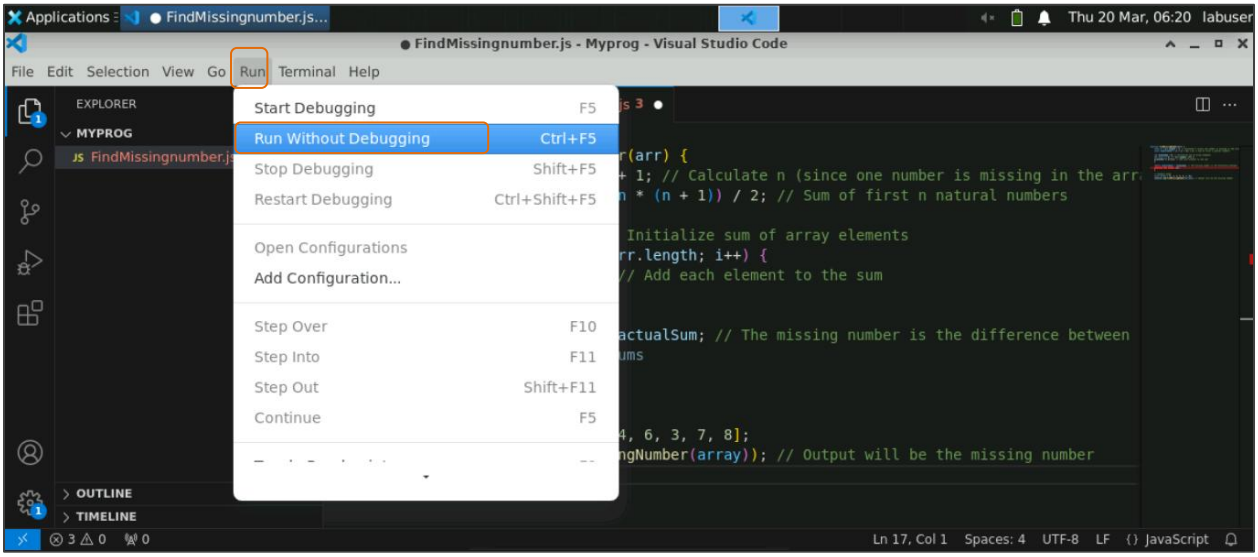
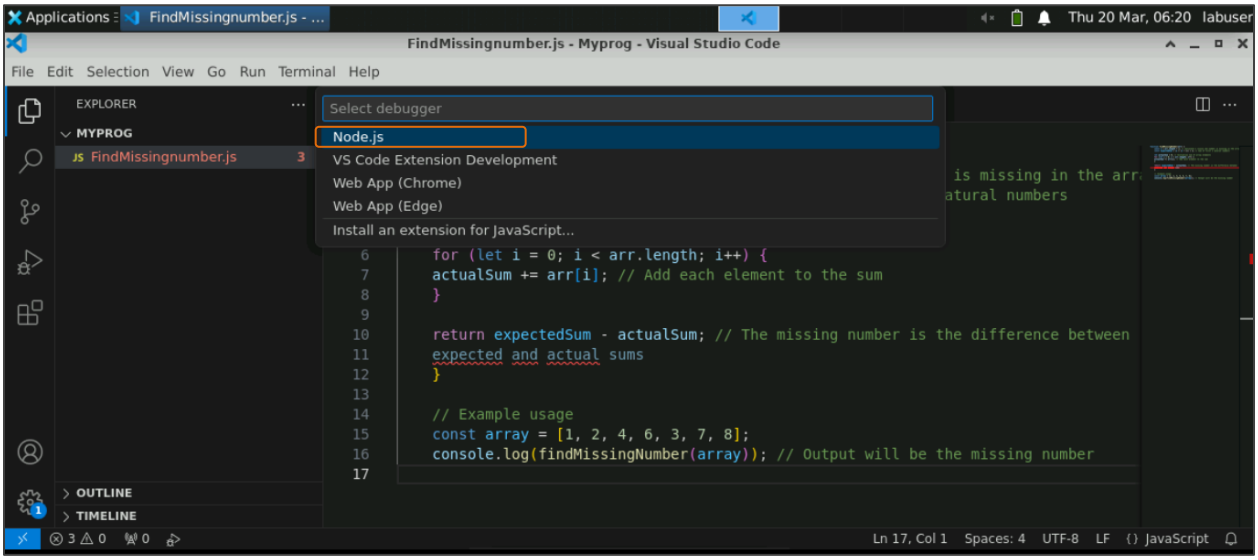
2.3 Click **Run** and then **Run Without Debugging**. Select **Node.js** to check the output in the DEBUG CONSOLE.





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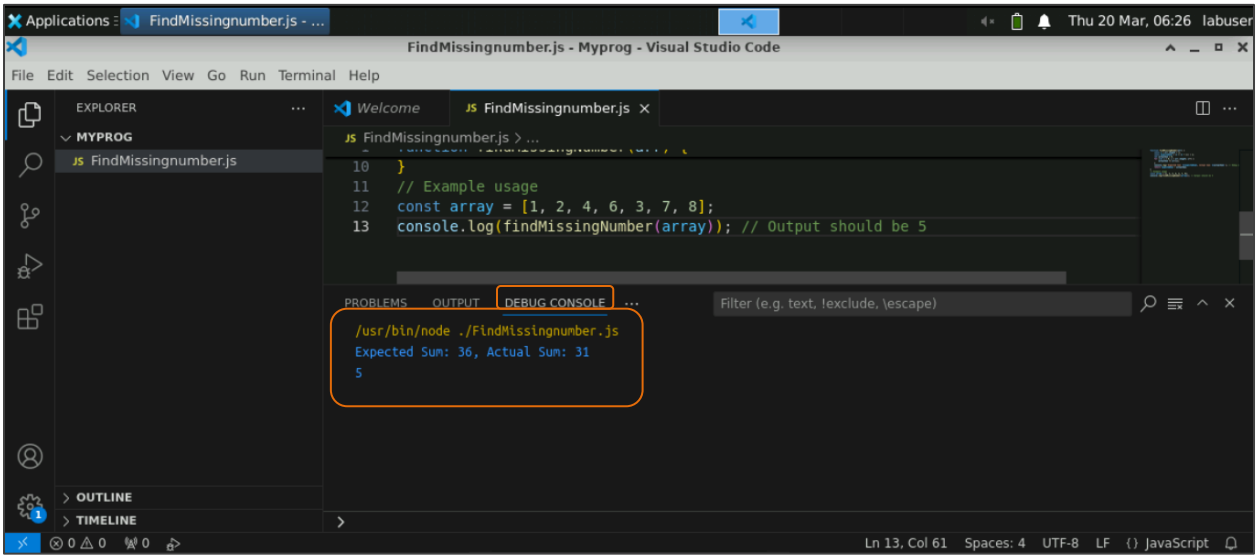
2.4 View the output in the **DEBUG CONSOLE** as shown below:



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.