

[875. Koko Eating Bananas](#)

this is an interesting problem where I discovered a very important technique of combining binary search to eliminate some iterative process, convert $n \Rightarrow \log(n)$.

This problem states that, Koko the monkey, eats bananas from piles. There is a guard who remains absent for a number of hours when Koko can eat bananas. Koko cannot eat banana from more than one pile in an hour. A pile contains x number of bananas. We have to find the minimum number of banana-eating-per-hour which can ensure that, koko eats all the bananas before the guard comes in after h hours.

So let us look at this problem, there are n number of piles containing n_x number of bananas (pile x contains n_x number of bananas). Koko can eat less or equal to the total number of bananas present in a pile in an hour. The minimal number of hour needed to eat all the bananas should be n .

So h must be equal or greater than n . If k (banana eating speed per hour) is equal to \max value of n_x in all the piles then, it takes h_{\min} or n hours to finish all bananas.

So let's say, piles = {2,4,3,8} $h = 4$. If $k = 8$ (equal to the max number of bananas in a pile) Koko will eat one pile banana in an hour equaling to 4 hours. So $k_{\max} = \max(\text{piles_number})$. $k_{\min} = 1$, because say $h = 100$, therefore koko can eat 1 banana an hour and finish all the bananas before time. Therefore, we got a range of k from 1 to piles_max_number . Now we can run a brute force to compute hours needed for all values of k from 1 to max_piles_number , but that will be a linear search, will take $O(\text{max_value_of_pile} * n)$, but this can be eliminated with a binary search putting $\text{low} = 1$, $\text{high} = \text{max_value_of_piles}$ and computing hrs_needed for the values of k . If $(k \leq \text{hrs})$ we set result is equal to k and go even left to find if a smaller result exists, else we go to the right side, as if we increase k , we are decreasing h , therefore this approach works because of the fact that, increasing k results in decreasing h needed from the function. Therefore binary search works in this case instead of a regular linear search because with this technique as we already know that, h is decreasing if we increase k , we find some sort of sorting here due to the inner function inside the binary search for computing the hrs needed. The code is as follows:

```
class Solution {
public:
    unsigned long long int hrsneeded(vector<int>& piles, int k){
        unsigned long long int sum = 0;
        for(int i=0;i<piles.size();i++){
            sum+=ceil((double)piles[i]/k);
        }
        return sum;
    }
    int minEatingSpeed(vector<int>& piles, int h) {
        int mini = 1;
        int maxi = *max_element(piles.begin(),piles.end());
        int res;
        while(mini <= maxi) {
            int mid = mini + (maxi-mini)/2;
            unsigned long long int hrs = hrsneeded(piles,mid);
            if(hrs <= h){
                res = mid;
                maxi = mid - 1;
            }
            else if(hrs>h){
                mini = mid+1;
            }
        }
        return res;
    }
};
```