



Binary Search

To search the data using binary search array should be sorted.

Let's take an example to understand the working principle of binary search.

$$n = 10$$

$$\text{Search data} = 59$$

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
a	5	9	17	23	25	45	59	63	71	89

Binary search uses divide & conquer approach to it recursively divides the array.

First find middle element of an array.

$$l = 0$$

$$r = 9$$

$$\text{mid} = \frac{l+r}{2} \quad \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{take floor} \\ \text{value} \end{array} \right)$$

$$\text{mid} = \frac{0+9}{2} = 4$$

As ~~mi~~ After finding mid there are 3 cases:-

- 1) Data to search is equal to mid element.
- 2) Data to search is less than mid element
- 3) Data to search is greater than mid element



case I: $data = a[mid]$

case II: $data > a[mid]$

case III: $data < a[mid]$

In our case $a[mid] = a[4] = 25$

$data > a[mid]$
 $59 > 25$

case II

As the array is sorted data is present on the right side of mid

After 1st comparison our sample space divided into half
earlier we had 10 nos to search & now we need to find between 6 nos.

Now $l = mid + 1 = 5$

$r = 9$

$mid = \frac{l+r}{2} = 7$

$a[mid] = a[7] = 63$

$data < a[mid]$
 $59 < 63$

case III

Now $l = 5$

$r = mid - 1 = 7 - 1 = 6$

$mid = \frac{l+r}{2} = \frac{5+6}{2} = \frac{11}{2} = 5$

$a[mid] = a[5] = 45$



$$\begin{array}{lcl} \text{data} & > & a[\text{mid}] \\ 59 & > & 45 \end{array} \quad \text{case III}$$

we need to check to the right side of mid.

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Now, } l = \text{mid} + 1 = 6 \\ r = 6 \end{array}$$

$$\text{mid} = \frac{6+6}{2} = 6$$

$$a[\text{mid}] = a[6] = 59$$

$$\begin{array}{lcl} \text{data} & = & a[\text{mid}] \\ 59 & = & 59 \end{array} \quad \text{Case I}$$

and the data is found. return is the index 6 at which 59 is present.

If the data is not present then how binary search works

l	r	mid	
0	9	4	Iteration 1
5	9	7	Iteration 2
5	6	5	Iteration 3
6	6	6	Iteration 4
7	6		Iteration 5



We need to stop searching at iteration 5 and conclude that the element is present in the array.

So the stopping condition for binary search is $l > r$.

if ($l > r$) then data is not present

BinarySearch (a, n, data)

{

$l = 0, r = n - 1$

while ($l < r$)

{ $mid = (l + r) / 2$

if ($data == a[mid]$)

return mid;

else if ($data < a[mid]$)

$r = mid - 1;$

else if

$l = mid + 1;$

} return -1;

Time complexity

As our sample space is reduced to half after every comparison, binary search has worst case time complexity as $O(\log n)$



In best case the time complexity of binary search is $O(1)$.