

# Cyclic Sort Pattern

**Cyclic Sort** is a clever technique for solving problems where:

- You have an array of size  $n$  with numbers in a *known range* (usually  $1$  to  $n$  or  $0$  to  $n-1$ ).
- The goal is often to find missing or duplicate numbers, or to put every number in its correct index with minimal space and time.

## Key Idea:

Place each number at its correct index by repeatedly swapping.

# CYCLIC SORT PATTERN: FIND ALL MISSING NUMBERS

**Input Array:** [4, 3, 2, 7, 8, 3, 1]

**Task:** Find all numbers missing from 1 to 8.

- 1 **SOAL:** Place every number at its correct index (number  $x$  goes to position  $x-1$ ).



**SWAP** numbers until each position is correct or contains a duplicate



- 2
- 3
- 4
- IF a position doesn't contain the correct number, that number is missing.



**MISSING  
NUMBERS**

5, 6

Use Cyclic Sort whenever array elements are from a known range (like 1 to N)—great for missing/duplicate number problems!

Cyclic Sort puts each value in its place with minimal passes—no ..

## Classic Problem: Find Missing Number

### Problem Statement:

Given an array containing  $n$  numbers taken from the range 1 to  $n+1$ , with one number missing, find the missing number.

But let's do the most classic Cyclic Sort example:

## Example: Find All Missing Numbers

### Problem:

Given an unsorted array of numbers taken from  $1$  to  $n$ , some numbers may be missing and some may be duplicated. Find all the missing numbers.

### Input:

```
arr[] = {4, 3, 2, 7, 8, 2, 3, 1}
```

### Output:

```
[5, 6] (since 5 and 6 are missing)
```

## Explanation

1. Try to place every number at its correct index.
  - For number  $x$ , its correct index is  $x-1$ .
  - Swap numbers until each position has the right value or a duplicate.
2. After this pass, if a position  $i$  doesn't have  $i+1$ , that's a missing number!

## C Code Example: Find All Missing Numbers

```
#include <stdio.h>

// Swap helper
void swap(int* a, int* b) {
    int t = *a;
    *a = *b;
    *b = t;
}

// Main function
void findMissingNumbers(int arr[], int n) {
    // Cyclic sort: place each number at its correct position if possible
    for (int i = 0; i < n; ) {
        int correctIdx = arr[i] - 1;
        // If arr[i] is not at correct position and not a duplicate
        if (arr[i] >= 1 && arr[i] <= n && arr[i] != arr[correctIdx]) {
            swap(&arr[i], &arr[correctIdx]);
        } else {
            i++;
        }
    }

    // After cyclic sort, numbers not in correct position mean missing numbers
    printf("Missing numbers: ");
    for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
        if (arr[i] != i + 1) {
            printf("%d ", i + 1);
        }
    }
    printf("\n");
}

int main() {
    int arr[] = {4, 3
```

## Explanation

### 1. Why swap?

You want number 1 at index 0, number 2 at index 1, ..., number  $n$  at index  $n-1$ .

### 2. What happens in the loop?

- For each position, if the number is not at its correct spot and not a duplicate, swap it into the right place.
- If it is already correct or a duplicate, just move to the next.

### 3. How do we find missing numbers?

- After arranging, scan the array.
- Any position where `arr[i] != i+1`, means `i+1` is missing.

### 4. In our example:

After cyclic sort: `[1, 2, 3, 4, 3, 2, 7, 8]`

- At index 4, value is 3, so 5 is missing.
- At index 5, value is 2, so 6 is missing.

## When to Use Cyclic Sort?

- When elements are from a known, tight range (like 1 to n).
- When asked for missing or duplicate numbers.

## Practice Challenge

Try modifying the code to **find duplicate numbers** in the same array.