

Problem Title: Search in a Sorted List Without Multiplication, Division, or Bit-Shifts

Company: Netflix

Scenario:

You are working on a constrained system where certain operations (multiplication, division, and bit-shifting) are **not allowed** due to hardware limitations. However, you still need to **efficiently search** for a given element x in a **sorted list of integers**.

Your task is to determine if the element exists in the list in **$O(\log N)$** time.

Problem Statement:

Given:

- A sorted list of integers `arr` of length N .
- A target value x .

Return `true` if x exists in the list, otherwise return `false`.

You **cannot** use multiplication ($*$), division ($/$), or bit-shift (\ll , \gg) operations.

Input Format:

- First line: integer N (size of the list).
 - Second line: N integers (sorted in ascending order).
 - Third line: integer x (target value).
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Output Format:

- `true` if x is found, otherwise `false`.
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Example 1:

Input:
 $N = 7$

```
arr = [-5, -2, 0, 3, 7, 10, 15]
x = 7
```

Output:
true

Example 2:

```
Input:
N = 5
arr = [1, 2, 4, 8, 16]
x = 3
```

Output:
false

Approach Hints:

- Use **Binary Search** ($O(\log N)$).
- To calculate mid, avoid $(low + high) / 2$ since division is not allowed.
 - Instead, use **repeated addition/subtraction** or
 - Use $mid = low + ((high - low) >> 1)$ conceptually, but implement without bit shifts.

Possible workaround:

```
mid = low + (high - low) // 2
```

...but implement your own function for integer division using subtraction or addition.

Practice Links:

- [LeetCode – Binary Search](#)
 - [GeeksforGeeks – Binary Search without Division](#)
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Video Explanations:

- [NeetCode – Binary Search Explained](#)
- [Tushar Roy – Binary Search](#)