

Problem: given a sorted integer array ~~and its length~~ check if any element appears at least $\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor + 1$ times in the array

Algorithm majorityElement

Input: An array A

Output: Yes if an element is the majority of A, no otherwise

Start

left := 1

1 right := length of A

2 $m := \lfloor \frac{\text{right} + \text{left}}{2} \rfloor$

3 leftBisrch(A, t, left, right) start

4 $m := \lfloor \frac{\text{right} + \text{left}}{2} \rfloor$

5 if $(A[m] = t \wedge A[m-1] \neq t) \vee (A[m] = t \wedge \text{left} = m)$ then

6 return m fi

7 if $A[m] = t \vee A[m] > t$ then

8 return leftBisrch(A, t, left, m-1)

9 fi

10 else then

11 return leftBisrch(A, t, m+1, right)

12 else

13 end

14 rightBisrch(A, t, left, right) start

15 if $A[m] = t \vee A[m] < t$ then

16 return rightBisrch(A, t, m+1, right) fi

17 else then

18 return rightBisrch(A, t, left, m-1)

19 else

20 if $(A[m] = t \wedge A[m+1] \neq t) \vee (A[m] = t \wedge m = \text{right})$ then

21 return m fi end

22 $m := \text{leftBisrch}(A, t, \text{left}, \text{right})$

23 $k := \text{rightBisrch}(A, t, \text{left}, \text{right})$

if $(k - m) \geq (\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor + 1)$ then

return yes

fi

else then

return no

else

End

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Thm: leftBinSearch finds the leftmost target element. Proof by induction:

Hyp. let $P(n)$ be the assertion that leftBinSearch works for all inputs $\text{right} - \text{left} + 1 \leq n$.

Base Case: when $n=1$ $\text{left} = \text{right} = m$ meaning index m is returned as the algorithm works

Inductive Step: We assume leftBinSearch works as long as $\text{right} - \text{left} + 1 \leq k$ and must prove $\text{right} - \text{left} + 1 \leq k+1$ in 3 cases the leftmost target is found, $A[m] = t$, $A[m] < t$

Case 1: leftmost target is found
as the function works m is returned

Case 2: $A[m] < t$

t must lie between $A[\text{left}]$ and $A[m-1]$ thus $n = (m - \text{left} + 1) = (\lfloor \frac{\text{right} + \text{left}}{2} \rfloor - \text{left} + 1)$. If $\text{right} + \text{left}$ is even then $n = \frac{\text{right} + \text{left}}{2} - \text{left} + 1 = \frac{\text{right} - \text{left}}{2} \leq \text{right} - \text{left} + 1$. When odd $n = \frac{\text{right} + \text{left} + 1}{2} - \text{left} + 1 = \frac{\text{right} - \text{left} + 1}{2} \leq \text{right} - \text{left} + 1$ and $\text{right} - \text{left} + 1 \leq k$. Then the recursive call is made on interval 0 to k and is correct by Hyp thus working on interval $k+1$.

Case 3: $A[m] > t$

This is symmetrical to case 2 thus $n = \text{right} - (m+1) + 1 = \text{right} - (\lfloor \frac{\text{right} + \text{left}}{2} \rfloor + 1) + 1$. If $\text{right} + \text{left}$ is even then $n = \frac{\text{right} - \text{left} + 1}{2} \leq \text{right} - \text{left} + 1$. When odd $n = \frac{\text{right} - \text{left}}{2} \leq \text{right} - \text{left} + 1$. Then the recursive call is made on interval 0 to k and is correct by Hyp thus working on interval $k+1$.

\therefore As the inductive step works in all cases leftBinSearch works in all cases.

As well by the same math and nearly similar cases rightBinSearch also works

\therefore as both the leftmost and rightmost occurrences of t are captured we return yes if t is a majority element and no otherwise.