

## Search Insert Position

Given a sorted array of distinct integers and a target value return the index if target is found. If not return the index where it would be if it were inserted in order.

You must write an algorithm with  $O(\log n)$  runtime complexity.

Ex:

Input: `nums = [1,3,5,6]`, `target = 5`

Output: 2

constraints:

$1 \leq \text{nums.length} \leq 10^4$

$-10^4 \leq \text{nums}[i] \leq 10^4$

$\text{nums}$  contains distinct values sorted in ascending order.

$-10^4 \leq \text{target} \leq 10^4$

Algorithm:

Initialize `left = 0`, `right = nums.length - 1`, start & end of the array.

Input array '`nums`' and target value '`target`'

Iterate while `left <= right`.

calculate middle index: `mid = left + (right - left) / 2`

$\hookrightarrow$  We use this instead of  $\frac{\text{left} + \text{right}}{2}$  to avoid integer overflow

Compare `nums[mid]` with `target`:

- If equal, return `mid` (position found)

- If  $\text{nums}[\text{mid}] < \text{target}$ , move  $\text{left} = \text{mid} + 1$

Because the target is larger than mid, so it must lie in right half

- If  $\text{nums}[\text{mid}] \geq \text{target}$ , move  $\text{right} = \text{mid} - 1$

Because the target is ~~greater~~ greater than mid, it must lie in left ~~side~~ half

→ When the loop ends, return left, that's where the target should be inserted to keep array sorted

code:

```
int left = 0; // start of array
int right = nums.length - 1; // end of array
```

```
while (left <= right) {
```

```
    int mid = (left + right) / 2;
```

```
    // prevents overflow
```

```
    if (nums[mid] == target) {
```

```
        return mid; // match found
```

```
    }
```

```
    else if (nums[mid] < target) { // target bigger than mid
```

```
        left = mid + 1; // so move pointer to right half
```

```
    }
```

```
    else {
```

```
        right = mid - 1;
```

```
        // target less than mid, so move  
        // right pointer to left half
```

```
    }
```

```
    return left; // if target not found, left pointer is correct  
                // index to insert at
```