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by Oliver Chang

How to compute mid?

Recursive Function for Binary Search

index → left mid right

Recursive function

```
int binarySearch(int A[], int key, int left, int right){
    if (left > right) // test if array is empty
        return KEY_NOT_FOUND;

    int mid = midpoint(left, right); // calculate midpoint to cut set in half

    // three-way comparison
    if (A[mid] > key) // key is in lower subset
        return binary_search(A, key, left, mid - 1);
    else if (A[mid] < key) // key is in upper subset
        return binary_search(A, key, mid + 1, right);
    else // key has been found
        return mid;
}
```

Quiz: How to compute mid?

- $\text{mid} = (\text{left} + \text{right}) / 2 \rightarrow$ Overflow risk!
- $\text{mid} = \text{left} + (\text{right} - \text{left}) / 2 \rightarrow$ More reliable!

Example usage

- `index = binarySearch(vec, key, 0, vec.size()-1)`

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A better way to compute mid

-> by Interpolation (内插)

Iterative Function for Binary Search

left mid right

Iterative function

```
int binarySearch(int A[], int key, int lmin, int right){
    while (left <= right){ // continue searching while [left, right] is not empty
        int mid = midpoint(left, right); // calculate the midpoint for roughly
        // equal partition
        if (A[mid] == key) // key found at index mid
            return mid;
        // determine which subarray to search
        if (A[mid] < key) // change min index to search upper subarray
            left = mid + 1;
        else // change max index to search lower subarray
            right = mid - 1;
    }
    return KEY_NOT_FOUND; // key was not found
}
```

Quiz: A better way to compute mid

→ By interpolation

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Linear

Binary

Hash

Summary

Comparisons

- Linear search
- Complexity $O(n)$
- For any unsorted arrays → Fast when appending new elements
Considerable speedup if frequently searched items are placed at the beginning
- Binary search
- Complexity $O(\log(n))$
- For sorted arrays → Slow when inserting new elements
- Hash search
- Complexity $O(1)$
- For arrays pre-processed by hash functions

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Extensions

- Other similar problems
 - Interval finding (e.g., insertion sort)
 - Given a sorted vector, find the interval of a given value.
 - Non-zero element finding
 - Given a sign-sorted vector, find the no. of positive elements.
- Binary search using multiple keys Quiz!
 - Data preprocessing: Stable sort for multiple keys starting from the least-significant key
 - Search action: Binary search starting from the most-significant key

3 keys

For instance: Search for [Year, Month, Date]

1980

7 c
4 d
9 d
4 b
7 a

sort on key 2 →

7 a
4 b
7 c
4 d
9 d

sort on key 1 →

4 b
4 d
7 a
7 c
9 d