

Algorithms Compared

1. Linear Search

Approach:

Sequentially checks each element until the target is found or the list ends.

Time Complexity:

Best Case: $O(1)$

Average/Worst Case: $O(N)$

Requirement:

Data does not need to be sorted.

2. Binary Search

Approach:

Repeatedly divides the search space in half.

Time Complexity:

Sorting: $O(N \log N)$

Searching: $O(\log N)$

Requirement:

Data must be sorted.

| Dataset Size (N) | Linear Search ($O(N)$) | Binary Search ($O(\log N)$) |

| ----- | ----- | ----- |

| 1,000 | 1 ms | 0.01 ms |

| 10,000 | 10 ms | 0.02 ms |

| 1,000,000 | 1 s | 0.1 ms |

Linear Search time grows linearly with dataset size.

Binary Search time grows logarithmically, making it extremely efficient for large datasets.

Even when including sorting cost, Binary Search is beneficial when:

Multiple searches are performed on the same dataset

Data remains mostly static

Final Conclusion

* For small datasets or unsorted data:

Linear Search is simple and sufficient.

* For large, sorted datasets or repeated searches:

Binary Search is vastly superior and scales efficiently.

Expected Result:

Binary Search outperforms Linear Search by a significant margin for large datasets, provided the data is sorted.