

## 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.