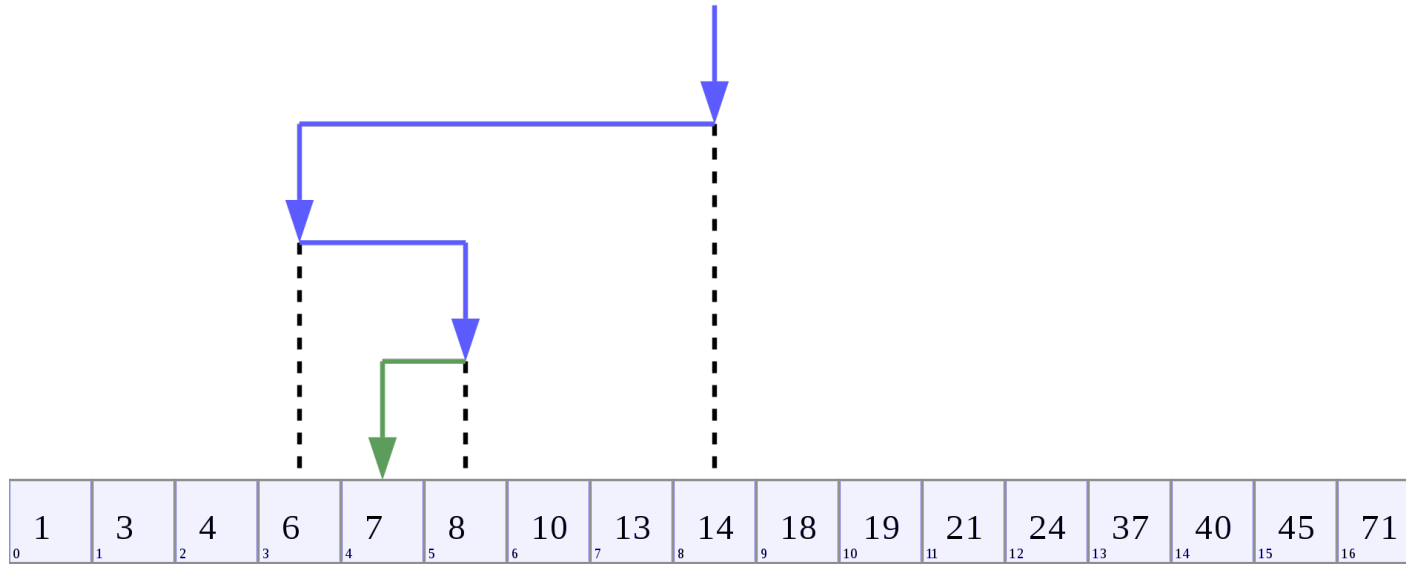


Binary search algorithm (page 58 K&R)



The algorithm finds the position of a target value within a sorted array.

In the example, 7 is the target value.

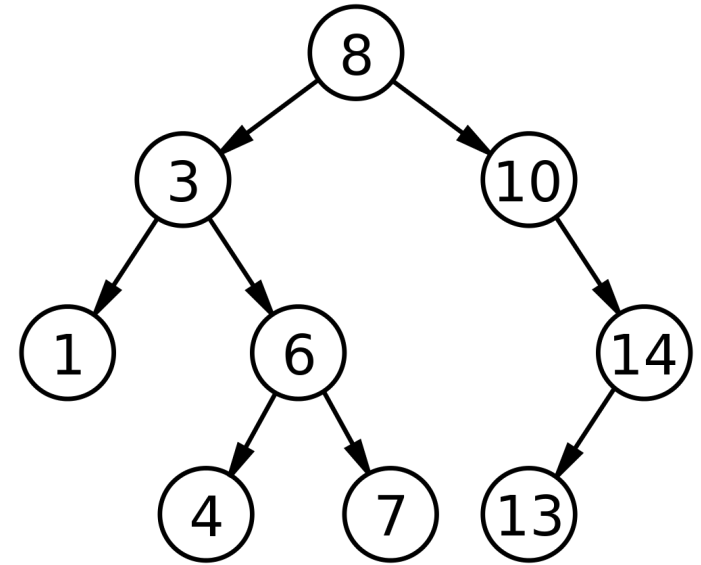
It makes $O(\log_2 N)$ comparison with N the number of elements of the array.

What about linear search? Is it faster or slower? For any N ?

Specialized data structures designed for fast searching

It is a rooted binary tree whose internal nodes each store a key greater than all the keys (values) in the node's left subtree and less than those in its right subtree.
BST allows search, addition and removal of data items.

Performance ?



Sketch of a binary
search tree (BST)