

Binary Search

" Magic is believing in yourself.
If you can make that happen, you
can make anything happen. "

Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe



Today's content

→ Searching Basics

Problems

→ Search in sorted arr

→ first occurrence of ele in sorted arr

→ Peak element

→ Finding local minima

→ Finding unique element

Searching

Bro/Sis Missing

→ Police

→ Details/Photos (what to search)

→ last seen (where to search)

Search space

Example

Word → { Dictionary, Newspaper, Book }

Phone no. → { contact list, Diary, phonebook }

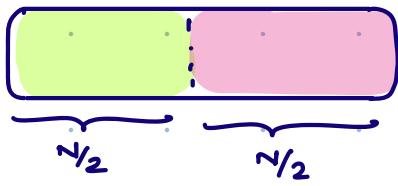
Conclusion → If search space is sorted, searching becomes easy.

* Search "Dog" in dictionary

dict = { A B C D E F G ... Z }
↑ ↑

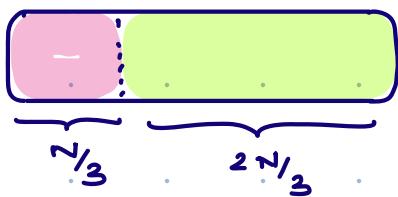
In binary search, at each step, the search range is typically half

Why to always prefer to land at mid?



Better

Worst : $N/2$ elements are getting discarded



Worst : $\frac{N}{3}$ elements are getting discarded

When to Apply Binary Search?

→ After splitting the search space, if you are able to discard one of the search space using some condition then we can go & apply Binary Search.

Q1. Given an sorted arr[]. Search if k is present or not ?

$$A[] = \{ 3 \ 6 \ 9 \ 12 \ 14 \ 19 \ 20 \ 23 \}$$

$k = 12 \rightarrow \text{True}$

$k = 16 \rightarrow \text{false}$

Brute force → Iterate through array & search for k

TC : $O(n)$

SC : $O(1)$

Idea 2

Binary Search

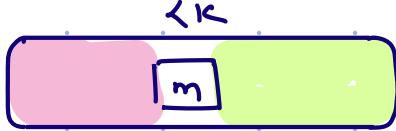
$= k$

Case I



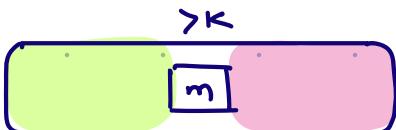
$A[m] == k \rightarrow \text{return true}$

Case II



$\text{if } (A[m] < k) \rightarrow \text{discard left}$
 $\rightarrow \text{move towards right}$

Case III



$\text{if } (A[m] > k) \rightarrow \text{discard right}$
 $\rightarrow \text{move towards left}$

m
 \downarrow
 l
 h
 \downarrow
 \downarrow

$$A[] = \{3, 6, 9, 12, 14, 19, 20, 23, 25, 27\} \quad k = 12$$

$Tar = 12$

$$\text{mid} = \left\lfloor \frac{l+h}{2} \right\rfloor$$

Search Space = 0 to 9

l h mid

compare $A[\text{mid}]$ & k

0 9 4

$A[4] > 12 : \text{goto LHS}$
 $h = \text{mid} - 1$

0 3 1

$A[1] < 12 : \text{goto RHS}$
 $l = \text{mid} + 1$

2 3 2

$A[2] < 12 : \text{goto RHS}$
 $l = \text{mid} + 1$

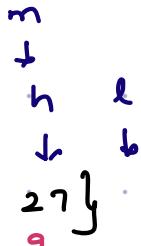
3 3 3

$A[3] == 12$



Return true :

$A[] = \{ 3, 6, 9, 12, 14, 19, 20, 23, 25, 27 \}$ $K = 35$



$lo \quad hi \quad mid$

compare $A[mid]$ & K

0 9 4

$A[4] < 35$ goto RHS
 $l = mid + 1$

5 9 7

$A[7] < 35$ goto RHS
 $l = mid + 1$

8 9 8

$A[8] < 35$ goto RHS
 $l = mid + 1$

9 9 9

$A[9] < 35$ goto RHS
 $l = mid + 1$

10 9

search space
is exhausted

boolean search (int [] A, int K)

int lo = 0;

int hi = n-1;

while (lo ≤ hi) {

 m = (lo + hi) / 2

$m = lo + \frac{(hi - lo)}{2}$

 if (A[m] == K) return true;

 else if (A[m] < K) lo = m + 1;

 else hi = m - 1;

}

return false;

TC: $O(\log n)$

SC: $O(1)$

$$n \rightarrow \frac{n}{2} \rightarrow \frac{n}{4} \rightarrow \frac{n}{8} \dots 1 \Rightarrow \log n$$

Let's ponder upon a real life problem -

"All emails in your mailbox are sorted chronologically. Can you find the first mail that you received in 2020?"

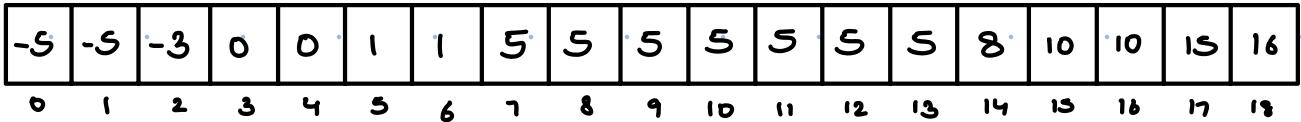
Suppose, in an array, we are given year in which an ith email was received, sorted in lexicographical order. Given a year, we need to return the index of first email of that year.

`arr[] =`

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18
2005 2005 2013 2018 2018 2019 2019 2020 2020 2020 2020 2020 2020 2020 2020 2022 2023 2023 2024 2024

NOTE: Please slide to right for checking entire array.

Q → Given a sorted array of elements . find first index of a given target

`A[] =` 

Ans

$k = 5 \rightarrow 7$

$k = 10 \rightarrow 15$

$k = -5 \rightarrow 0$

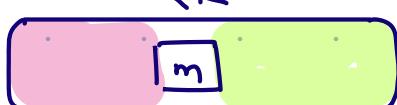
Idea 2

Binary Search

Case I



Case II



`if (A[m] == k) {`

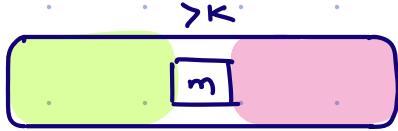
`ans = m;`

`hi = m - 1`

`if (A[m] < k) : goto RHS`

`l = m + 1`

Case III



$\text{if } (A[m] > k) \text{ go to LHS}$
 $hi = m - 1$

```
int firstIndex ( int [] A, int K )
```

```
    int lo = 0
```

```
    int hi = n - 1
```

```
    ans = -1
```

```
    while ( lo ≤ hi ) {
```

```
        m = ( lo + hi ) / 2
```

```
        if ( A[m] == k ) {
```

```
            ans = m; hi = m - 1;
```

```
            else if ( A[m] < k ) lo = m + 1;
```

```
            else hi = m - 1;
```

```
    }
```

```
    return ans;
```

```
}
```

TC: $O(\log n)$

SC: $O(1)$

* Try for last occurrence as well.

Peak element

Q3 Given an increasing decreasing array with distinct elements. Find peak element.

$$A[] = \{1, 3, 5, 2\}$$

A red line graph is drawn above the array. It starts at the first element (1), rises to the second element (3), reaches a peak at the third element (5), and then descends to the fourth element (2).

Ans = 5

$$A[] = \{1, 3, 5, 6, 2\}$$

A red line graph is drawn above the array. It starts at the first element (1), rises to the second element (3), reaches a peak at the third element (5), continues to rise to the fourth element (6), and then descends to the fifth element (2).

Ans = 6

$$A[] = \{1, 2, 6\}$$

A red line graph is drawn above the array. It starts at the first element (1), rises to the second element (2), reaches a peak at the third element (6), and then descends.

Ans = 6

$$A[] = \{10, 2, 1\}$$

A red line graph is drawn above the array. It starts at the first element (10), descends to the second element (2), and then descends again to the third element (1).

Ans = 10

$$A[] = \{5\}$$

Ans = 5

Idea 1 → Iterate & search for maximum element

Tc: O(n)

Sc: O(1)

Idea 2 → Sort the entire array & return last element

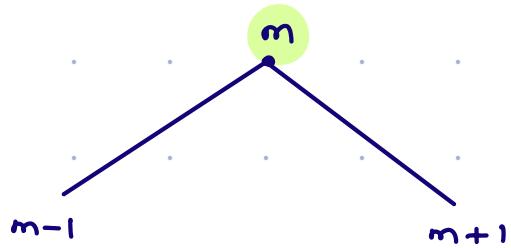
Tc: O(nlogn)

Sc: O(n)

Idea 3 :: Binary search

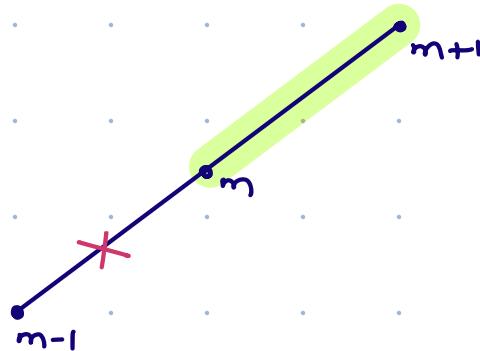


Case I



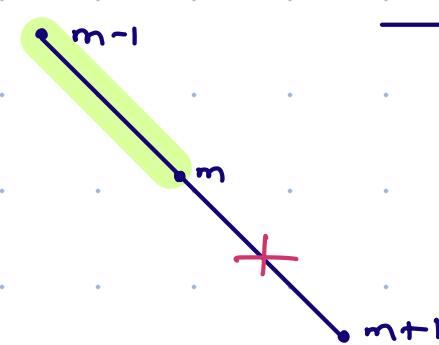
```
if ( A[m] > A[m-1] &&
     A[m] > A[m+1] )
    return A[m]
```

Case II



```
if ( A[m] > A[m-1] &&
     A[m] < A[m+1] )
    : goto RHS
```

Case III



```
if ( A[m] < A[m-1] &&
     A[m] > A[m+1] )
    : goto LHS
```

```
if ( A.length == 1 ) return A[0]
```

```
if ( A[0] > A[1] ) return A[0]
```

```
if ( A[n-1] > A[n-2] ) return A[n-1]
```

$lo = 1$

$hi = n-2$

while ($lo \leq hi$) {

$m = (lo + hi) / 2;$

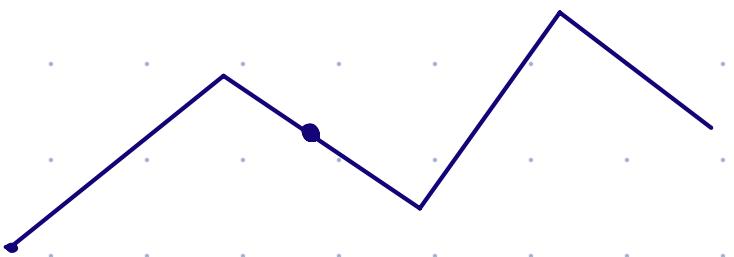
 if ($A[m] > A[m-1] \text{ & } A[m] > A[m+1]$) return $A[m]$

 else if ($A[m] > A[m-1] \text{ & } A[m] < A[m+1]$) $lo = m+1;$

 else if ($A[m] < A[m-1] \text{ & } A[m] > A[m+1]$) $hi = m-1$

}

3 10 7 6 5 14 3 2 1



10:37 pm \rightarrow 10:47 pm

Local Minima

Given an unsorted arr of distinct elements, return any local minima.

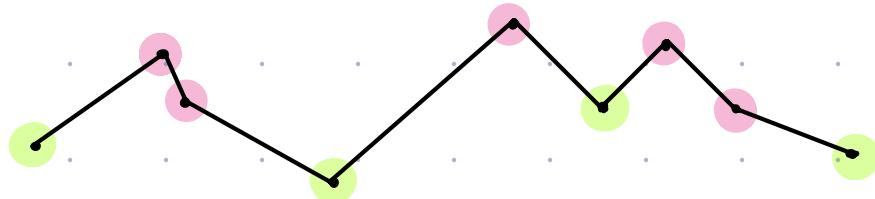
An element is a local minima, if it is less than its adjacent elements.

$$\text{ar[]} = \{ 9 \ 8 \ 7 \ 3 \ 6 \ 4 \ 1 \ 5 \ 2 \}$$

Local minima \rightarrow $\text{ar}[i-1] > \text{ar}[i] < \text{ar}[i+1]$

$\text{ar}[0] < \text{ar}[1]$

$\text{ar}[n-1] < \text{ar}[n-2]$



Idea 1 \rightarrow Iterate on array & check if

$$A[k] < A[k-1] \quad \&\&$$

$$A[k] < A[k+1]$$

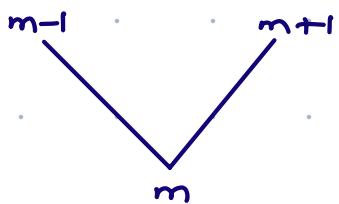
$$TC : O(n)$$

$$SC : O(1)$$

Idea 2

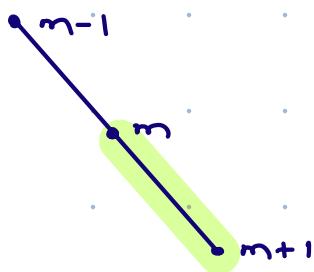
Binary Search

01. Case I



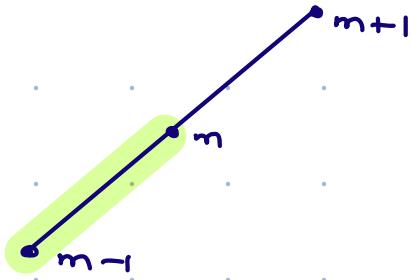
return $A(m)$

02. Case II



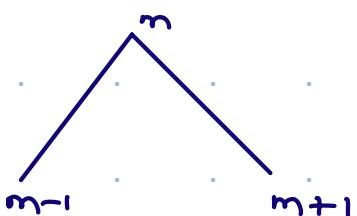
→ move towards RHS

03. Case III



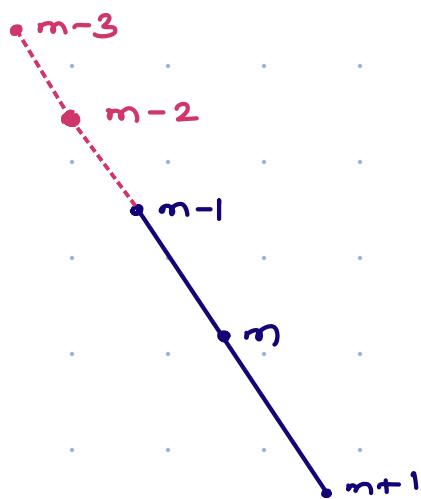
→ move towards LHS

04. Case IV



→ Either side will work

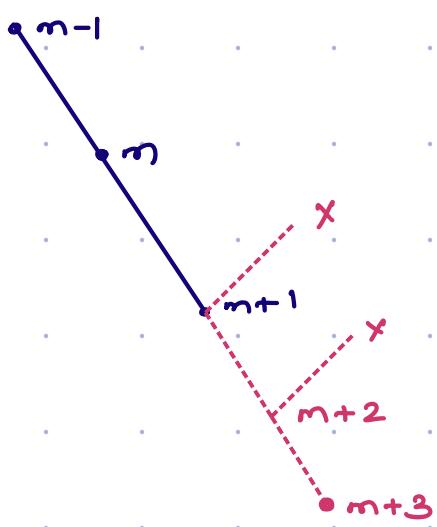
* Analysing the second case



for LHS

Worst case scenario →
There is no dip on LHS
& hence no local minima

RHS



Obs → There will always be
one local minima present
on RHS.

```

if (A.length == 1) return A[0]
if (A[0] < A[1]) return A[0]
if (A[n-1] < A[n-2]) return A[n-1]

```

$l = 1$

$h = n-2$

Tc : $O(\log n)$

Sc : $O(1)$

while ($l \leq h$) {

$$m = (l_0 + h_1) / 2$$

if ($A[m] < A[m-1]$ && $A[m] < A[m+1]$) return $A[m]$

else if ($A[m] < A[m-1]$ && $A[m] > A[m+1]$) $l_0 = m+1$

else $h_1 = m-1$;

Unique Elements

Q5. Every element in an array occurs twice except for one. Find the unique element.

Note :- Duplicates are adjacent to each other.

arr [] =

3	3	1	1	8	8	10	10	9	6	2	2	4	4
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

01. Take XOR of all elements

TC: O(n)

SC: O(1)

02. Use hashset

TC: O(n)

SC: O(n)

03. Freq. Array

TC: O(n)

SC: O(range of ele)

04. Linear search & find the unique element

TC: O(n)

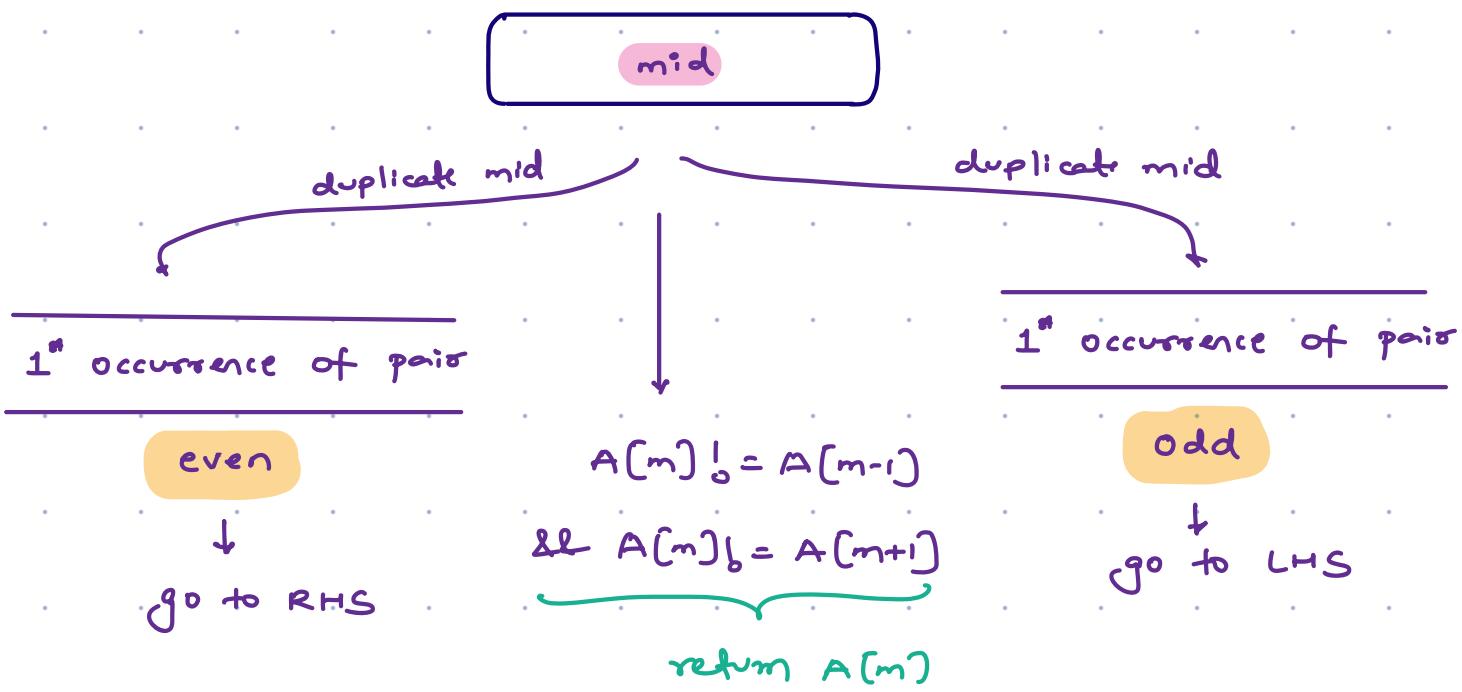
SC: O(1)

arr [] =

3	3	1	1	8	8	10	10	9	6	6	2	2	4	4
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14

1st occurrence of every dup pair will be at even idx

1st occurrence of every dup pair will be at odd idx



if ($n == 1$) return $A[0]$

if ($A[0] \neq A[1]$) return $A[0]$

if ($A[n-1] \neq A[n-2]$) return $A[n-1]$

$l = 1$, $h = n - 2$

while ($l \leq h$) {

```
int m = (l + h) / 2
```

```
if ( $A[m] \neq A[m-1] \& A[m] \neq A[m+1]$ ) {
```

```
    return A[m];
```

```
    if ( $A[m] == A[m-1]$ ) {
```

```
        m = m - 1; // move mid to 1st occurrence
```

if ($m \% 2 == 0$) {

 lo = m + 2;

else {

 hi = m - 1;

TC: O(log n)

SC: O(1)

arr [] =

3	3	1	1	8	8	10	10	9	6	6	2	2	4	4
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14

m
↓

l, h

↓↓

 |

lo

hi

mid

0

14

7

8

14

11

8

10

9

8

8

8

return A[8]