

Linear vs Binary Search:

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→ Linear Search:

→ Searches for an element by visiting all the elements sequentially until the element is found.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	10	2	9	11	21	3

Search '2'



Element found.

⇒ Can ~~not~~ be sorted / unsorted.

Worst complexity: $O(n)$.

→ Binary Search:

→ Searches for an element by breaking the search space into halves in a sorted array.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	11	18	22	31	88

Search '18'

↑
LOW

↑
MED

↑
HIGH

Worst complexity: $O(\log n)$.

→ The search continues towards either side of mid based on whether the element to be searched is lesser or greater than mid.

LINEAR SEARCH

BINARY SEARCH

→ Works on both sorted & unsorted arrays.

→ Works only on sorted arrays.

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→ Equality operations.

→ $O(n)$ WC complexity.

→ Inequality operations.

→ $O(\log n)$ WC complexity.