

**SEARCHING**

# SEARCHING

- Given a **collection** and an **element (key)** to find...
- **Output**
  - **Print a message** (ex: “Found”, “Not Found)
  - **Return a value** (position of key)
- **Don't modify** the collection in the search!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	21	36	14	62	91	8	22	7	81	77	10
---	----	----	----	----	----	---	----	---	----	----	----

I am looking for 62!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	21	36	14	62	91	8	22	7	81	77	10
---	----	----	----	----	----	---	----	---	----	----	----

**62 != 4**

I am looking for 62!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	21	36	14	62	91	8	22	7	81	77	10
---	----	----	----	----	----	---	----	---	----	----	----

62 != 21

I am looking for 62!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	21	36	14	62	91	8	22	7	81	77	10
---	----	----	----	----	----	---	----	---	----	----	----

**62 != 36**

I am looking for 62!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	21	36	14	62	91	8	22	7	81	77	10
---	----	----	----	----	----	---	----	---	----	----	----

**62 != 14**

I am looking for 62!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	21	36	14	62	91	8	22	7	81	77	10
---	----	----	----	----	----	---	----	---	----	----	----

**62 == 62**

I am looking for 62!



a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	21	36	14	62	91	8	22	7	81	77	10
---	----	----	----	----	----	---	----	---	----	----	----

**62 is at a[4]**

I am looking for 62!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	21	36	14	62	91	8	22	7	81	77	10
---	----	----	----	----	----	---	----	---	----	----	----

I am looking for 72!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	21	36	14	62	91	8	22	7	81	77	10
---	----	----	----	----	----	---	----	---	----	----	----

**72 != 4**

I am looking for 72!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	21	36	14	62	91	8	22	7	81	77	10
---	----	----	----	----	----	---	----	---	----	----	----

**72 != 21**

I am looking for 72!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	21	36	14	62	91	8	22	7	81	77	10
---	----	----	----	----	----	---	----	---	----	----	----

**72 != 36**

I am looking for 72!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	21	36	14	62	91	8	22	7	81	77	10
---	----	----	----	----	----	---	----	---	----	----	----

**72 != 14**

I am looking for 72!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	21	36	14	62	91	8	22	7	81	77	10
---	----	----	----	----	----	---	----	---	----	----	----

**72 != 62**

I am looking for 72!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	21	36	14	62	91	8	22	7	81	77	10
---	----	----	----	----	----	---	----	---	----	----	----

**72 != 91**

I am looking for 72!



a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	21	36	14	62	91	8	22	7	81	77	10
---	----	----	----	----	----	---	----	---	----	----	----

**72 != 8**

I am looking for 72!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	21	36	14	62	91	8	22	7	81	77	10
---	----	----	----	----	----	---	----	---	----	----	----

**72 != 22**

I am looking for 72!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	21	36	14	62	91	8	22	7	81	77	10
---	----	----	----	----	----	---	----	---	----	----	----

**72 != 7**

I am looking for 72!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	21	36	14	62	91	8	22	7	81	77	10
---	----	----	----	----	----	---	----	---	----	----	----

**72 != 81**

I am looking for 72!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	21	36	14	62	91	8	22	7	81	77	10
---	----	----	----	----	----	---	----	---	----	----	----

**72 != 77**

I am looking for 72!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	21	36	14	62	91	8	22	7	81	77	10
---	----	----	----	----	----	---	----	---	----	----	----

**72 != 10**

I am looking for 72!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	21	36	14	62	91	8	22	7	81	77	10
---	----	----	----	----	----	---	----	---	----	----	----

**72 is not found**

I am looking for 72!

# UNORDERED LINEAR SEARCH

- Search an unordered array of integers for a value and return its index if the value is found. Otherwise, return -1.

A[0]   A[1]   A[2]   A[3]   A[4]   A[5]   A[6]   A[7]

14	2	10	5	1	3	17	2
----	---	----	---	---	---	----	---



# UNORDERED LINEAR SEARCH

Start with the first array element (index 0)

```
while (more elements in array) {  
    if value found at current index, return index;  
    Try next element (increment index);  
}  
Value not found, return -1;
```

ALGORITHM

# ORDERED LINEAR SEARCH

- Search an ordered array of integers for a value and return its index if the value is found; Otherwise, return -1.

A[0]   A[1]   A[2]   A[3]   A[4]   A[5]   A[6]   A[7]

1	2	3	5	7	10	14	17
---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----

- Linear search can stop immediately when it has passed the possible position of the search value.

# ORDERED LINEAR SEARCH

Start with the first array element (index 0)

```
while(more elements in the array){  
    if value at current index is greater than value,  
        value not found, return -1;  
    if value found at current index, return index;  
    Try next element (increment index);  
}  
value not found, return -1;
```

ALGORITHM

**Best Case:** match with the first item

**Best Case:  
1 comparison**

7	12	5	22	13	32
---	----	---	----	----	----

target = 7

LINEAR SEARCH ANALYSIS: BEST CASE

**Worst Case:** match with the last item

**Worst Case:  
n comparisons**

7	12	5	22	13	32
---	----	---	----	----	----

target = 32

LINEAR SEARCH ANALYSIS: WORST CASE

**Worst Case:** no match

**Worst Case:  
n comparisons**

7	12	5	22	13	32
---	----	---	----	----	----

target = 42

LINEAR SEARCH ANALYSIS: WORST CASE

# BINARY SEARCH

- Search an ordered array of integers for a value and return its index if the value is found. Otherwise, return -1.

A[0]   A[1]   A[2]   A[3]   A[4]   A[5]   A[6]   A[7]

1	2	3	5	7	10	14	17
---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----

- Binary search skips over parts of the array if the search value cannot possibly be there.

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	7	8	10	14	21	22	36	62	77	81	91
---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

I am looking for 22!



a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	7	8	10	14	21	22	36	62	77	81	91
---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

**first**

**mid**

**last**

I am looking for 22!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	7	8	10	14	21	22	36	62	77	81	91
---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

first

mid

last

22 > 21

I am looking for 22!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	7	8	10	14	21	22	36	62	77	81	91
---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

first

mid

last

22 > 21

I am looking for 22!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	7	8	10	14	21	22	36	62	77	81	91
---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

first

mid

last

I am looking for 22!

a[0]	a[1]	a[2]	a[3]	a[4]	a[5]	a[6]	a[7]	a[8]	a[9]	a[10]	a[11]
4	7	8	10	14	21	22	36	62	77	81	91
						first		mid			last

**22 < 62**

I am looking for 22!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	7	8	10	14	21	22	36	62	77	81	91
---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

first

mid

last

**22 < 62**

I am looking for 22!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	7	8	10	14	21	22	36	62	77	81	91
---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

first

last

mid

I am looking for 22!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	7	8	10	14	21	22	36	62	77	81	91
---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

first  
mid

last

22 == 22

I am looking for 22!



a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	7	8	10	14	21	22	36	62	77	81	91
---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

first  
mid

last

22 is at a[6]

I am looking for 22!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	7	8	10	14	21	22	36	62	77	81	91
---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

I am looking for 11!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	7	8	10	14	21	22	36	62	77	81	91
---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

**first**

**mid**

**last**

I am looking for 11!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	7	8	10	14	21	22	36	62	77	81	91
---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

first

mid

last

11 < 21

I am looking for 11!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	7	8	10	14	21	22	36	62	77	81	91
---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

first

mid

last

11 < 21

I am looking for 11!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	7	8	10	14	21	22	36	62	77	81	91
---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

**first**

**mid**

**last**

I am looking for 11!

a[0]	a[1]	a[2]	a[3]	a[4]	a[5]	a[6]	a[7]	a[8]	a[9]	a[10]	a[11]
4	7	8	10	14	21	22	36	62	77	81	91
first		mid		last							

11 > 8

I am looking for 11!

a[0]	a[1]	a[2]	a[3]	a[4]	a[5]	a[6]	a[7]	a[8]	a[9]	a[10]	a[11]
4	7	8	10	14	21	22	36	62	77	81	91
first		mid		last							

11 > 8

I am looking for 11!



a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	7	8	10	14	21	22	36	62	77	81	91
---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

first

last

mid

I am looking for 11!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	7	8	10	14	21	22	36	62	77	81	91
---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

first

last

mid

11 > 10

I am looking for 11!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	7	8	10	14	21	22	36	62	77	81	91
---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

first

last

mid

11 > 10

I am looking for 11!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	7	8	10	14	21	22	36	62	77	81	91
---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

last

first

mid

I am looking for 11!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	7	8	10	14	21	22	36	62	77	81	91
---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

last

first

mid

11 < 14

I am looking for 11!

a[0] a[1] a[2] a[3] a[4] a[5] a[6] a[7] a[8] a[9] a[10] a[11]

4	7	8	10	14	21	22	36	62	77	81	91
---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

last

first

mid

!! is not found

I am looking for !!

# BINARY SEARCH

- Binary search is based on the “divide-and-conquer” strategy which works as follows:
  - Start by looking at the middle element of the array
    - 1. If the value it holds is lower than the search element, eliminate the first half of the array from further consideration.
    - 2. If the value it holds is higher than the search element, eliminate the second half of the array from further consideration.
  - Repeat this process until the element is found, or until the entire array has been eliminated.

# **BINARY SEARCH:**

## A BETTER SEARCH ALGORITHM

- Of course, we could use our simpler search and traverse the array
- But we can use the fact that the array is sorted to our advantage
- This will allow us to reduce the number of comparisons



# BINARY SEARCH

Set **first** and **last** boundary of array to be searched

Repeat the following:

Find middle element between first and last boundaries;

**if** (middle element contains the search value)

**return** middle\_element position;

**else if** (**first** >= **last** )

**return** -1;

**else if** (value < the value of middle\_element)

    set **last** to middle\_element position - 1;

**else**

    set **first** to middle\_element position + 1;

ALGORITHM

• 14?

A[0]	A[1]	A[2]	A[3]	A[4]	A[5]	A[6]	A[7]
1	2	3	5	7	10	14	17
first			mid		last		

A[4]	A[5]	A[6]	A[7]
7	10	14	17
first	mid	last	

A[6]	A[7]
14	17
f	mid last

In this case,  
(data[middle] == value)  
return middle;

• 8 ?

A[0]	A[1]	A[2]	A[3]	A[4]	A[5]	A[6]	A[7]
1	2	3	5	7	10	14	17
first			mid	last			

A[4]	A[5]	A[6]	A[7]
7	10	14	17
first	mid	last	

In this case,  
(first == last)  
return -1;

A[4]
7
f m l

BINARY SEARCH EXAMPLE

- 4 ?

A[0]	A[1]	A[2]	A[3]	A[4]	A[5]	A[6]	A[7]
1	2	3	5	7	10	14	17
first			mid		last		

A[0]	A[1]	A[2]
1	2	3
first	mid	last

In this case, (first == last)  
return -1;

A[2]
3
f m l

**Best Case:** match with the first comparison

**Best Case:  
1 comparison**

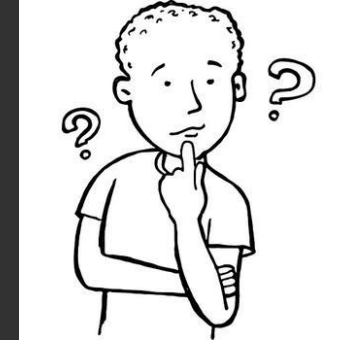
1	7	9	12	33	42	59	76	81	84	91	92	93	99
---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

target = 59

BINARY SEARCH ANALYSIS: BEST CASE

**Worst Case:** divide until reach one item, or no match.

How many comparisons??



1	7	9	12	33	42	59	76	81	84	91	92	93	99
---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

BINARY SEARCH ANALYSIS: WORST CASE

- With each comparison we throw away  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the list

n ..... 1 comparison

n/2 ..... 1 comparison

n/4 ..... 1 comparison

n/8 ..... 1 comparison

⋮

1 ..... 1 comparison

Number of steps is at  
most  $\rightarrow \log n$

BINARY SEARCH ANALYSIS: WORST CASE

# SUMMARY

- Binary search **reduces the work by half** at each comparison
- If array is not sorted → Linear Search
  - **Best Case  $O(1)$**
  - **Worst Case  $O(n)$**
- If array is sorted → Binary search
  - **Best Case  $O(1)$**
  - **Worst Case  $O(\log n)$**