

# K closest elements

$[1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 4 \ 5]$   
 $K=4 \quad x=3$

o/p:  $[1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 4]$

$K=4 \quad x=6$

$[1 \ 2 \ 6 \ 7 \ 8]$   
 $\uparrow \quad \uparrow \quad \uparrow \quad \uparrow$   
 $L \quad L \quad L \quad R$   
 Solution

$dist L = |6 - 1| = 5$  more  $\therefore L++$   
 $dist R = |6 - 8| = 2$

$dist L = |6 - 2| = 4$  more:  $L++$   
 $dist R = 2$

Brute Force:

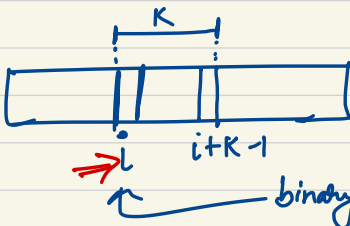
→ Sort by  $|val - x|$   
 then pick K elements  
 T.C:  $O(n \log n)$

pq:

→ Use Priority Queue  
 $O(n \log K)$  : Comparator

T.C.:  $O(n)$

while  $(R - L + 1 > K)$   
 $dist L \leftarrow |x - A[L]|$   
 $dist R \leftarrow |x - A[R]|$   
 if  $dist L > dist R$   
      $L++$   
 else  $R--$



lower bound

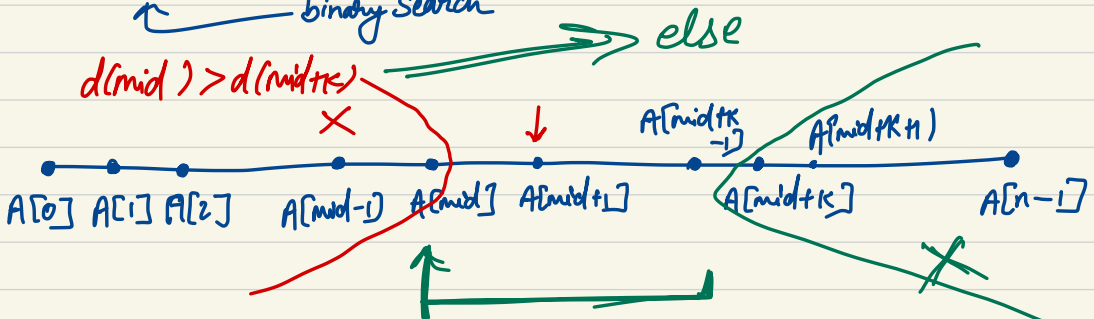
$i = 0$

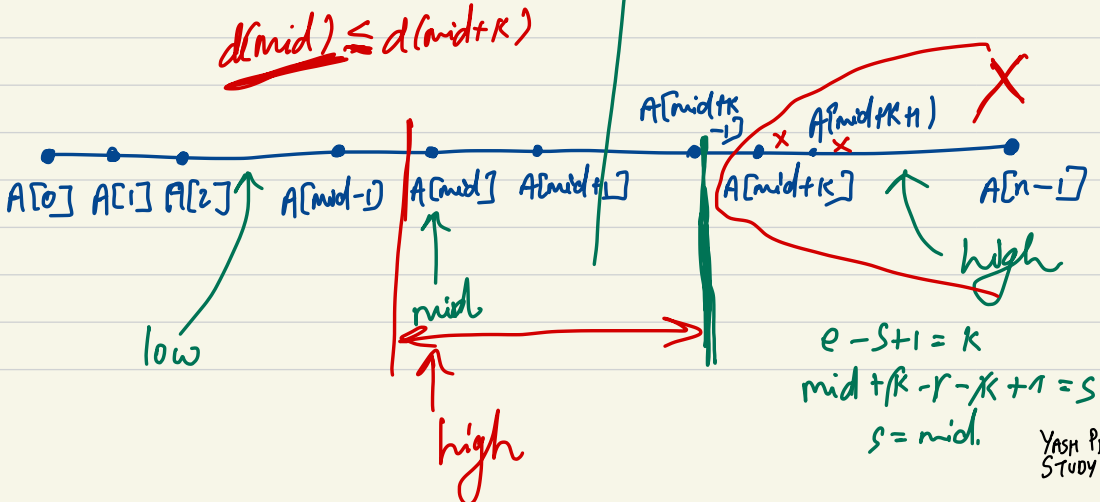
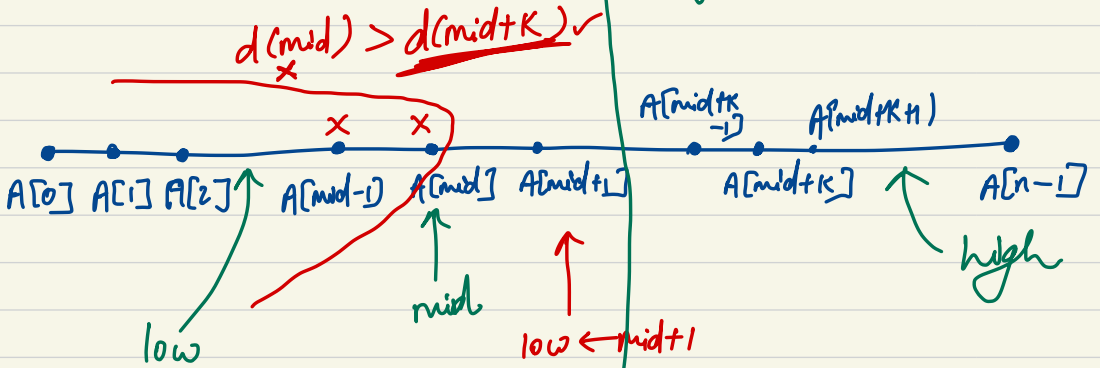
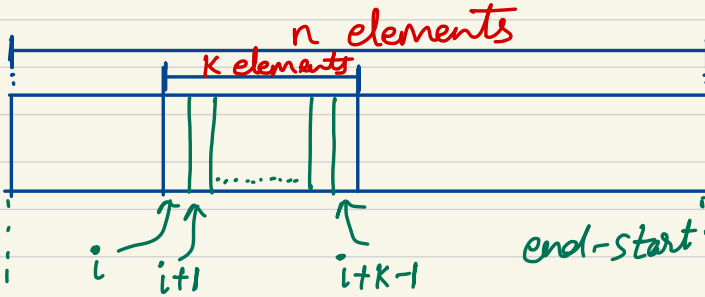
upper bound

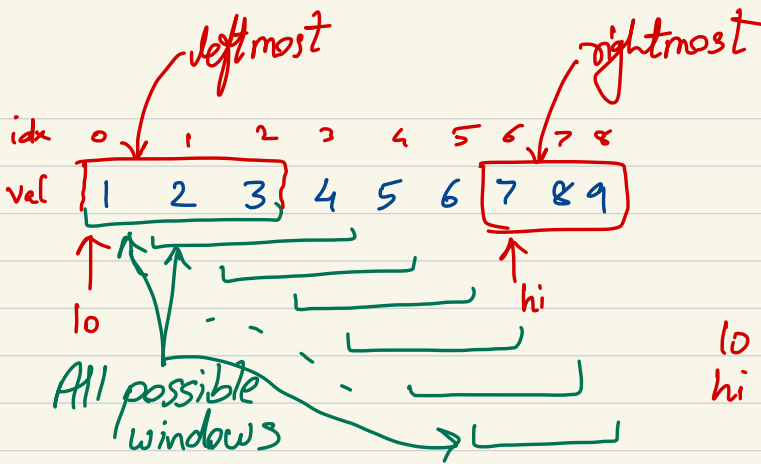
$i = n - K$

Goal:

low at beginning of  
 desired window







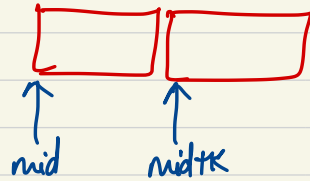
$$k=3 \quad n=9$$

$$x=5$$

$$lo \leftarrow 0$$

$$hi \leftarrow 9 - 3 = 6$$

2 adjacent candidate windows.



$$\text{while } low \leq high$$

$$mid \leftarrow (low + high) / 2$$

$$\text{if } d(mid) > d(mid+k)$$

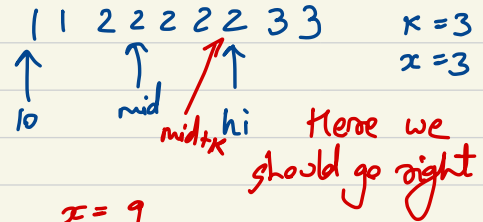
// mid is far away

$$lo \leftarrow mid + 1$$

else

// mid+k far away.

$$hi \leftarrow mid$$



$$x=1 \quad x=4 \quad x=6 \quad x=9$$

value		3	7
index		mid	mid+k
$x=1$	$d(mid)$	$d(mid+k)$	
	-2 ✓	6	
$x=4$	1 ✓	3	
$x=6$	3	1 ✓	
$x=9$	6	-2 ✓	

✓ indicates closer.

$$d(mid) = x - arr[mid]$$

$$d(mid+k) = arr[mid+k] - x$$