

if a sorted array is given, try binary search first.

-: Binary Search Questions :-

Problem 1:

Ceiling of a no.

arr = [2, 3, 5, 9, 14, 16, 18]

target = 15.

here ceiling = 16

Ceiling : smallest element greater or equal to target element.

Ceiling (arr, target = 14) = 14

ceiling (arr, target = 15) = 16,

target = 4 \Rightarrow 5.

* if element is not found, return smallest greater element.

10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

s
-∞

e
∞

S - floor
e - ceiling

target = 61

↓
50

100

↓
80

↓

↓
60

↓
70

\ ,

after this ~~exit~~ $s > e$.

Algorithm.

- 1) start helps us locate the ~~ceil~~ floor
 - 2) end helps us locate the ~~floor~~ ceil
 - 3) we first assume both ceil and floor at $+\infty$ and $-\infty$.
 - 4) when given the array range adjust between s and e .
 - 5) while searching 61 ,
range adjust from 50 to 100
(mid) (end)
 - 6) further range adjusts from 50 to 80
 - 7) ultimately we have 60 and 70
 \uparrow \uparrow
Floor ceil
- after which $s > e$

Problem 2:

Floor of a number.

floor: largest element smaller than or equal to target.

* algorithm is already written above.

Problem 3

Find smallest letter greater than given letter.

i) exact same approach as ceiling problem.

ii) the equal to case gets ignored.

iii) arr = ['c', 'd', 'f', 'j']

target = j

start = end + 1 → condition violated.

↓
length of array.

return s % N → because in case the element is the last one then the first element is returned else s only remains since it is < N.

Problem 4.

Return 1st and last index of a given element in sorted array.

1)

s				m					e
↓				↓					↓
10	10	10	20	20	30	30	30	40	40
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
target =		30							

2)

s			m		e
↓			↓		↓
30	30	20	40	40	
5	6	7	8	9	

↑
can be a potential ans array but not guaranteed.

s \swarrow 10, 20, 30, 30, 30, 40, 50 $\nwarrow e$
 0 1 2 3 4 5 6
 ↑
 mid

target = 30

if target == mid.

↓
 potential (not guaranteed)
 answer.

{
 fi = mid; // save the value for first index
 e = mid - 1;
 }
 ↳ move left to
 look if
 there is an
 occurrence
 in the
 left.

for last index
 everything remains same.

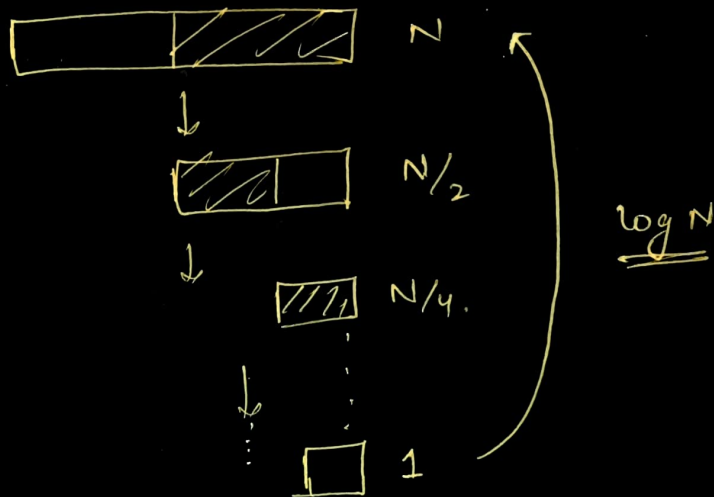
start = mid + 1

↳ ^{move} right and check
 for last occurrence.

Problem 5:

Position of element in infinite sorted array.

→ move in chunks and then find start and end.



* after every step, double the size of array and check if it lies inside or not.

* just do opposite of what is done in binary search and then apply binary search

2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 20, 23, 30

target = 15.

1) s e
2 3

2) s e
5 8

3) s e
10 30

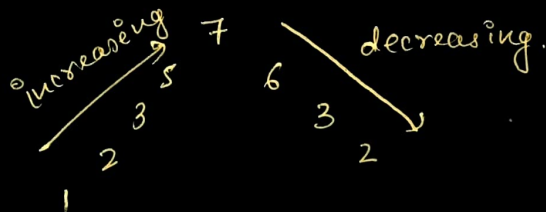
↓
apply
binary
search.

* code yourself.

Problem 6 :

Peak Index in Mountain Array.

Mountain Array \rightarrow Biatonic Array.



arr = $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 5 & 6 & 4 & 3 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$
s m e

Possibility

i) if $el[mid] > el[mid+1]$

el \rightarrow element.

\hookrightarrow decreasing part of array.

$e = mid \rightarrow$ because
// checking l.h.s.

we arent sure
if an answer
exists in the
left.

ii) $el[mid] < el[mid+1]$

\hookrightarrow ascending part of array.

$s = mid + 1$

\hookrightarrow because we are sure that
there is an answer on the right.

iii) when will loop break

\hookrightarrow when s and e point
to the
largest no.