

Base Case: $n=1$. $\therefore \text{left} = \text{right} = 0$. $\text{middle} = 0$. If the list element is same as searchnum, $\text{middle} = 0$ is returned (correct). Otherwise, it's easy to see that binsearch returns -1.

Inductive hypothesis: Let, $\forall K \leq n$, $K \in \mathbb{N}$, if K is the no. of elements in the list, then if searchnum is present in the list, the binsearch function returns a position pos s.t. $\text{list}[\text{pos}] = \text{searchnum}$, else the binsearch function returns -1.

Induction Step: Let, $K = n+1$, where K is the no. of elements in the list. $\therefore \text{left} = 0$, $\text{right} = n$. In line 5, we compute $\text{middle} = \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$.

- If $\text{list}[\text{middle}] < \text{searchnum}$, the COMPARE macro returns -1, and in line 7, we call binsearch function from the posns. $\text{middle}+1 = \lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1$ to n .
- The no. of elements: $(n - (\lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1) + 1) + 1 = n - \lfloor n/2 \rfloor = \lceil n/2 \rceil \leq n$. We apply the inductive hypothesis to show that the binsearch function runs correctly.
- If $\text{list}[\text{middle}] = \text{searchnum}$, we return middle
- Else, we again apply the inductive hypothesis similarly to show that the binsearch function runs correctly. \square

Iterative implementation of binary search

1. int binsearch(int list[], int searchnum, int left, int right)

2. {
3. int middle;

4. while (left <= right) {

5. middle = (left + right) / 2;

6. switch (COMPARE(list[middle], searchnum)) {

7. case -1: left = middle + 1;

8. break;

9. case 0: return middle;

10. case 1: right = middle - 1;

11. }

12. }

13. return -1;

14. }