

BINARY-SEARCH( $A, p, r, x$ )

1. **if**  $p > r$
2.     **return** NIL
3.  $q = \lfloor (p + r)/2 \rfloor$
4. **if**  $A[q] = x$
5.     **return**  $q$
6. **if**  $A[q] > x$
7.     **return** BINARY-SEARCH( $A, p, q, x$ )
8. **else**
9.     **return** BINARY-SEARCH( $A, q + 1, r, x$ )

In the worst case, BINARY-SEARCH keeps running until  $p = r$  or  $p > r$ . Thus the worst case running time of binary search,  $T(n)$  where  $n = p - r + 1$ , can be defined as such

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} c_1 & n \leq 1 \\ T(n/2) + c_2 & n > 1 \end{cases}$$

We'll look at how to solve recursions like these more formally in the upcoming chapters, but for now, notice that this recursion will expand until we have  $T(n) = T(n/2^k) + c_2k = c_1 + c_2k$  where  $n/2^k \leq 1 \implies k \geq \lg n$ .