

Interview question

Search 2D Matrix

→ Row-wise sorted from left to right

→ first integer of each row > Last integer of the previous row

2D Matrix →

| | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---------|---------|----------|----------|
| 0 | 1 0 | 3 1 | 5 2 | 7 3 |
| 1 | 10 5 | 11 8 | 16 6 | 20 7 |
| 2 | 23 8 | 30 9 | 34 10 | 60 11 |

3x4

$m=3, n=4$

$m \rightarrow$ # rows (no. of rows)

$n \rightarrow$ # columns (no. of columns)

target = 60

Left = 0 (starting index)

right = $m \times n - 1$

= $3 \times 4 - 1$

= 11 (ending index)

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{target} = 3 \\ \quad \hookrightarrow \text{true} \\ \\ \text{target} = 22 \\ \quad \hookrightarrow \text{false} \end{array} \right.$

Brute force Approach →

$O(m \times n)$ / n

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{for } i=0 \text{ to } m-1: \quad \text{ } / n \text{ times} \\ \quad \text{for } j=0 \text{ to } n-1: \\ \quad \quad \text{if } arr[i][j] == \text{target:} \\ \quad \quad \quad \text{return True} \\ \\ \text{return false} \end{array} \right.$

Third iteration

$$\text{mid} = (0+1)/2 = 0$$

#Using optimized approach using

Row-major form \rightarrow Virtual Array

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 10 | 11 | 16 | 20 | 23 | 30 | 34 | 60 |

Second iteration

$$(0+4)//2 = 2$$

$$row = 2 // 4 = 0$$

$$col = 2 \% 4 = 2$$

target = 3

(Binary Search)

$$n = 4$$

Time complexity in case of using Binary Search approach

$$O(\log mn)$$

First iteration using Binary Search approach

$$mid = 0 + (11 - 0) // 2 = 5$$

Index of middle element when 2D array is arranged in linear or 1D fashion

$$row \leftarrow 5 // 4 = 1$$

row index of mid element in 2D array = (mid element // no. of columns)

$$column \leftarrow 5 \% 4 = 1$$

column index of mid element in 2D array = (mid element % no. of columns)

$$left = 0$$

$$right = mid - 1$$

If element is not found then change the start and end pointers

Maybe if we are arranging in Column major form then for getting row and column of indexes of mid value we would require to take division and modulo with no. of rows for generating the respective row and col index for middle element

Please note that here in Virtual array we are basically producing the Row major form array by arranging 2D in linear fashion using their respective array indices.

First thing that should come in your mind when introduced with searching problem statement is to look for presence of sorted array. If present then simply try applying the Binary Search algorithm on top of it.