

Find Minimum in Rotated Sorted Array.

: Suppose an array of length n sorted in ascending order is rotated between 1 and n times. Return the minimum element of this array.

Your algorithm must run in $O(\log n)$ time.

↳ Use binary search algorithm.

Ex)

4	5	6	7	1	2	3
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Idea: 1. Check if $\text{nums}[0] < \text{nums}[-1]$.

↳ Yes: Not rotated, return $\text{nums}[0]$

2. Find mid located element.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6
mid

2	3	4	5	6	7	1
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Since it's rotated we only need to search right half

$\text{nums}[\text{mid}-1] > \text{nums}[\text{mid}]$ only $n/2$

$\text{nums}[\text{mid}] > \text{nums}[\text{mid}+1]$ only $6/7/1$

else update mid

if $\text{nums}[\text{mid}] > \text{nums}[\text{left}]$.

As we only need to look at right side.

$\text{left} = \text{mid} + 1$

else

$\text{right} = \text{mid} - 1$

Then,

6	7	1
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l mid r

$\text{nums}[\text{mid}] > \text{nums}[\text{mid}+1]$

return $\text{nums}[\text{mid}+1]$