

binarysearch

October 25, 2016

```
In [27]: counter = 0
```

```
def binarySearch(alist, item):
    global counter
    if len(alist) == 0:
        return False
    else:
        midpoint = len(alist)//2
        print "midpoint:", midpoint
        if alist[midpoint]==item:
            print item, "found at alist[" ,midpoint, "], and counter: ", counter
            return True
        else:
            if item<alist[midpoint]:
                counter += 1
                return binarySearch(alist[:midpoint],item)
            else:
                counter += 1
                return binarySearch(alist[midpoint+1:],item)

testlist = [0, 1, 2, 8, 13, 17, 19, 32, 42,50]
binarySearch(testlist, 19)
```

```
midpoint: 5
midpoint: 2
midpoint: 1
midpoint: 0
19 found at alist[ 0 ], and counter: 3
```

```
Out[27]: True
```