

W3D2 Lab 1: Binary Search

Description:

In this lab you will add a `contains()` method to the `ArrayList` which assumes that the list is already sorted and then does a binary search through its items.

Provided:

We've provided the `FixedArray` class, `ArrayList` class, and a binary search function with this lab. The Binary Search function can be modified to become a method of `ArrayList`.

Instructions:

Update the `ArrayList` class to include a `.contains(element)` method which uses binary search to find the given element, returning the index of the element if it is found, and -1 if it is not. The method should assume that the user has sorted the list before calling `contains()`.

Test your code making a Mocha / Chai test where you add the following items (see below) to the `ArrayList`, first sort the array using a proper comparator, and then use `contains` to check if the list contains: "number" (should return -1) and "tiny" (should return its index).

```
["big", "small", "tall", "short", "round", "square", "enormous",  
"tiny", "gargantuan", "lilliputian", "numberless", "none", "vast",  
"miniscule"]
```

Extra step:

Do this step once you've finished all the other labs. Create a recursive version of binary search called `containsRec(element)` that returns a boolean `true/false` instead of an index.

In essence your `containsRec` method should call a private `._recurse(array, element)` method where the `array` parameter could also be half of an array (you can cut an array in half by using the `.spliced()` method on `Array`). This does mean you have to pull the underlying `Array` out from inside the `FixedArray` that is inside `ArrayList`.