

## 704. Binary Search

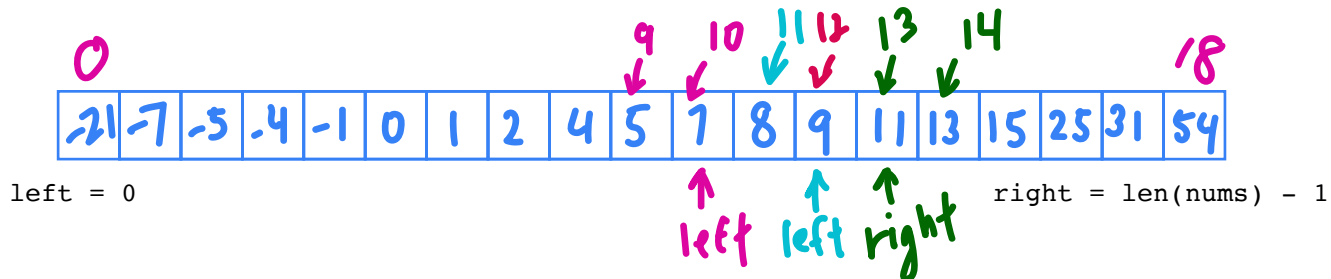
Easy

Given an array of integers `nums` which is sorted in ascending order, and an integer `target`, write a function to search `target` in `nums`. If `target` exists, then return its index. Otherwise, return `-1`.

You must write an algorithm with  $O(\log n)$  runtime complexity.

```
class Solution:
    def search(self, nums: List[int], target: int) -> int:
        left, right = 0, len(nums) - 1

        while left <= right:
            middle = (left + right) // 2
            if nums[middle] == target:
                break
            elif nums[middle] < target:
                left = middle + 1
            elif nums[middle] > target:
                right = middle - 1
        return middle if nums[middle] == target else -1
```



`middle = (left + right) // 2`

Handwritten calculations for the binary search steps:

- Step 1:  $mid = 0 + 18 // 2 = 9$   
 $nums[mid] = 5 < 9$   
 $left = mid + 1 = 10$
- Step 2:  $mid = 10 + 18 // 2 = 14$   
 $nums[mid] = 13 > 9$   
 $right = mid - 1 = 13$
- Step 3:  $mid = 10 + 13 // 2 = 11$   
 $nums[mid] = 8 < 9$   
 $left = mid + 1 = 12$
- Step 4:  $mid = 12 + 13 // 2 = 12$   
 $nums[mid] = 9 == 9$