

Single Element in Sorted Array

arr = [1, 1, 2, 2, 3, (4), 5, 5, 6, 7, 8, 7, 8, 3]

Single Element which is unique as well

→ Brute Force Approach

Linear Search $O(n)$

Single $A[i-1] \neq A[i] \neq A[i+1]$

→ Optimal Approach

Binary Search

$$① \text{ mid} = \left(s + \frac{e-s}{2} \right)$$

$$② \text{ } A[\text{mid}-1] \neq A[\text{mid}] \neq A[\text{mid}+1]$$

return mid

Array having unique element would always have the odd number size.

Perfect Duplicates → Even

Duplicate + Single → Odd

[1, 1, 2, 2, ^N3, 4, 4, 8, 8]

Odd Number

So unique element must exist here

$[1,1,2,3,3,4,4,8,8] \rightarrow \text{mid} \cdot 2 == 0$

L & R \rightarrow Even Number Size

$$A[m-1] = A[m]$$

↓

left

duplicate

+

single

odd

$$A[m] = A[m+1]$$

↓

Right

Duplicate

+

Single

odd

$[3, 3, 7, 10, 11, 11]$ Unique

$\text{mid} \cdot 2 \neq 0$

L & R odd Number

$$A[m-1] = A[m]$$

↓

Right

$$A[m] = A[m+1]$$

↓

Left

Pseudocode while (st <= end) {

mid = (st + (e - st) / 2)

if (A[m] != A[m+1])

return A[mid]

if (mid * 2 == 0) // Even

if (A[m-1] == A[m]) - end = mid - 1

else st = mid + 1

else - odd

if (A[m-1] == A[m])

st = mid + 1

else

end = mid - 1

T.C
 $O(\log n)$
S.C
 $O(1)$

corner cases

- ① if ($mid == 0$ || $A[0] != A[1]$) {
 return $A[mid]$ }
- ② if ($mid == n-1$ || $A[n-1] != A[n-2]$)
 return $A[mid]$
- ③ if ($n == 1$) return $A[0]$.