CS1100 Introduction to Programming

Searching and Structures

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Course Material - SD, SB, PSK, NSN, DK, TAG - CS&E, IIT M

Searching for Elements

- Given an array of marks and names, is there someone who got X marks?
- If X occurs in the Marks array, return the index of the position where it occurs.
- If the numbers are randomly arranged, there is no option but to scan the entire array to be sure.
- Would the task be simpler if the marks were arranged in sorted order?
 - Like finding a word in a dictionary

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Searching in a Sorted Array

- Given an array of marks and names sorted in *descending* order of marks, is there someone who got X marks?
- If X is high (say 92/100), one could start scanning from the left.
- If X is low (say 47/100), one could scan the array right to left.
- But what if we do not know whether X is high or low?

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Binary Search (also called Binary Chop)

- Starts with the full sorted array - left = 0 and right = N-1
- The range of search are the elements between left and right including array[left] and array[right]
- Search terminates if right < left
- Otherwise
 - If (array[middle] == X) return middle
 - If (array[middle] < X) left = middle +1</p>
 - Else right = middle -1

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Operations on Structures

- · Structures may be copied by assignment statement
- The address of the structure (use &) can be passed to functions and can be returned by functions
 - one can pass an entire structure
 - one can pass some components of a structure
 - one can pass a pointer to a structure
- · Structures may not be compared

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