18. Searching a List

Topics:

- Linear Search
- Binary Search
- Measuring Execution Time
- The Divide and Conquer Framework

Search

Examples:

Is this song in that playlist?

Is this number in that phone book?

Is this name in that phone book?

Is this fingerprint in that archive of fingerprints?

Is this photo in that yearbook?

More on Using Phone Books

The Manhatten phone book has 1,000,000+ entries.

How is it possible to locate a name by examining just a <u>tiny</u> , <u>tiny</u> fraction of those entries?

wide at **SuperPages.com** 195 **Car** C

Cartage New England Inc
26 Allen Ln Ipswich 01938 ..... 978 356-9960
Cartagema Lydia
18 Jewett Ros 02131 ..... 617 323-7639
Cartagena Avith
9 Bancroft Rox 02119 ..... 617 442-9780
B Hyd 02136 ..... 617 361-5253
Jessica 50 Decatur Cha 02129 ..... 617 241-0152
Lucilla 174 Harvard Cam 02139 ..... 617 491-5621
M 95 Rowe Ros 02131 ..... 617 323-9713
Melvin 501 Green Cam 02139 ..... 617 576-1061
Carte Nicholas
18 Appleton Boston 02116 ..... 617 695-6996
Cartegena O 4 Milford Bos 02118 ..... 617 338-8219
Carten Thos J Sr & Claire
1 Paradise Rd Mil 02186 ..... 617 698-6163
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Carter A Ros 02131 ..... 617 327-2257
A Roxbury 617 442-5230
A 31 Bethune Wy Roxbury 02119 ..... 617 442-1219
A 260 Putnam Av Cambridge 02139 ..... 617 492-4174
A M 255 Maschsts Av Bos 02115 ..... 617 266-7153
Adams 361 Centre St Mil 02186 ..... 617 698-9074
Alice 108 Kilmarnock Bos 02215 ..... 617 425-0193
Alice 45 Market Cambridge 02139 ..... 617 945-2711
Andrew F 62 Vinal Av Som 02143 ..... 617 625-7623
Carter Anne MD
1101 Beacon Bro 02446 ..... 617 739-1022
Carter Athens
272 Newbury Boston 02116 ..... 617 536-6329
B E 68 Gladeside Av Mat 02126 ..... 617 296-6911
Carter Barbara L MD
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Call 617 636-0051
Carter Becky Bos 02114 ..... 617 523-4368
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Franklin & Anne
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G T 27 Franklin Av Som 02145 ..... 617 623-7121
Gayle 25 Frontenac Dor 02124 ..... 617 825-0322
Geo S 115 Moss Hill Rd Jam 02130 ..... 617 522-3215
George 125 Nashua Bos 02114 ..... 617 367-9548
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J Cam 617 354-2688
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J 518 Harvard Bro 02446 ..... 617 730-9483
J 775 Ylw Pkwy West Roxbury 02132 ..... 617 323-5574
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Carter J Veal Co
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Carter James
1573 Cambridge St Cam 02138 ..... 617 492-1214
James 182 Fisher Av Roxbury 02120 ..... 617 739-2193
James
37 Gold Star Rd Cambridge 02140 ..... 617 876-8841
Jas L 14 Roseberry Rd Mat 02126 ..... 617 361-0773
Jane 114 Adena Rd Newton 02465 ..... 617 964-0435
Jeffrey 41 Warren Av Bos 02116 ..... 617 426-5994
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K 17 Esmond Dorchester 02121 ..... 617 282-1593
Carter Nella E
333 Maschsts Av Bos 02115 ..... 617 267-6483
Nicholas S F
115 Randolph Av Mil 02186 ..... 617 698-5307
Nick 21 Fairfield Bos 02116 ..... 617 267-5222
Nick & Debbi
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Norman G
38 Chickatawbut Dor 02122 ..... 617 822-1203
P 94 Crestwood Pk Rox 02121 ..... 617 427-4754
P E 501 E Sixth S Bos 02127 ..... 617 268-4213
P L 44 Hutchings Rox 02121 ..... 617 427-9170
P R 91 Bynner Jam 02130 ..... 617 983-8692
Paul & Constance
114 Anawan Av W Rox 02132 ..... 617 325-2036
Paul E 501 E Sixth St S Bos 02127 ..... 617 268-4546
Paul M 27 Union Bri 02135 ..... 617 787-2115
Carter Pile Driving Inc 17 Beaver Ct
Framingham 01702 ..... Wellesley TelNo 781 235-8488
Carter Prudence
46 Franklin Watertown 02172 ..... 617 393-3782
Prudence
46 Franklin Watertown 02172 ..... 617 926-7063
Reginald
106 Brunswick Dorchester 02121 ..... 617 541-2843
Renee & Andrew
10 Walnut Bos 02108 ..... 617 720-3765
Carter Rice Dowd
Bulkley Dunton Publishing 163 Main Wilmington 01887
Toll Free-Dial '1' & Then 800 638-1671
Cust Svc-Industrial Prod 613 Main Wilmington
Toll Free-Dial '1' & Then 800 619-7447
Cust Svc-Printing 613 Main Wilmington
Toll Free-Dial '1' & Then 800 648-7447
Headquarters 613 Main Wilmington 01887
Call 978 988-7447
Ingalls Cronin 163 Main Wilmington 01887
Toll Free-Dial '1' & Then 800 638-1673
Carter Richard
1079 Commwith Av Brighton 02215 ..... 617 987-0836
Richard A 97 Mt Vernon Bos 02108 ..... 617 566-7293
Carter Richard A MD
170 Commwith Av Bos 02116 ..... 617 267-0710
Carter Richard K
15 Mercer S Bos 02127 ..... 617 268-0448
Robert L 175 Richdale Av Cam 02140 ..... 617 864-1535
Roger 150 St Botolph Bos 02115 ..... 617 424-6148
Roy 44 Concord Av Cam 02138 ..... 617 491-6115
Royce 18 Seminary Cha 02129 ..... 617 241-0418

There must be a great search algorithm behind the scenes.

Linear Search

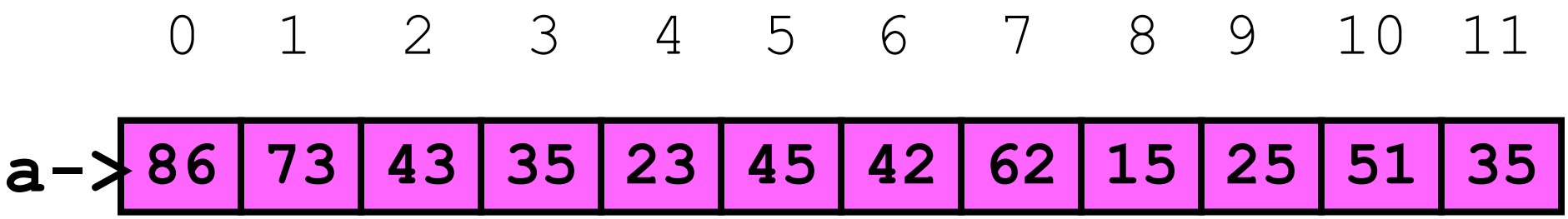
LinSearch: The Spec

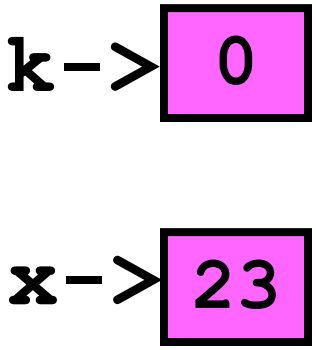
```
def LinSearch(x,a):
    """ Returns an int k with the
    property that a[k]==x is True.
    If no such k exists, then
    k==-1.

    PreC: a is a nonempty list of
    ints and x is an int.
    """
```

Could also apply the same ideas for searching a list of strings.

Linear Search

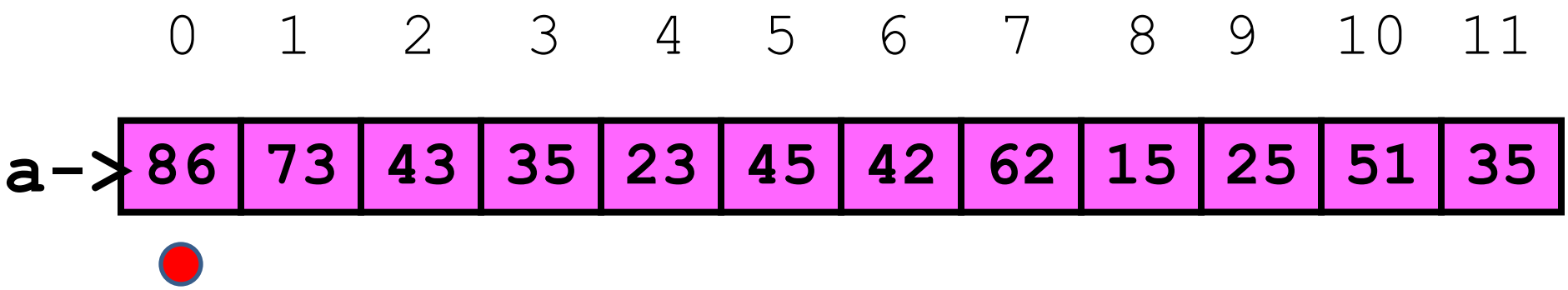


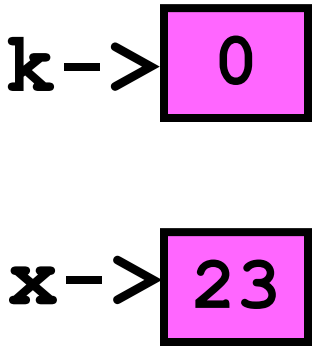



```
def  LinSearch(x,a):
    for k in range(len(a)):
        if x == a[k]:
            return k
    return -1
```

Walk down the list looking for a match

Linear Search



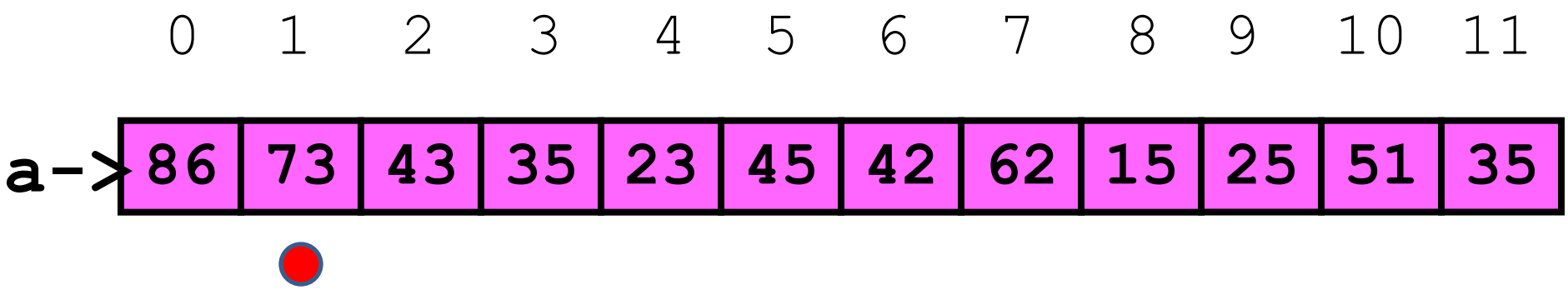



```
def  LinSearch(x,a):
    for k in range(len(a)):
        if x == a[k]:
            return k
    return -1
```

Nope

Walk down the list looking for a match

Linear Search



k-> 1

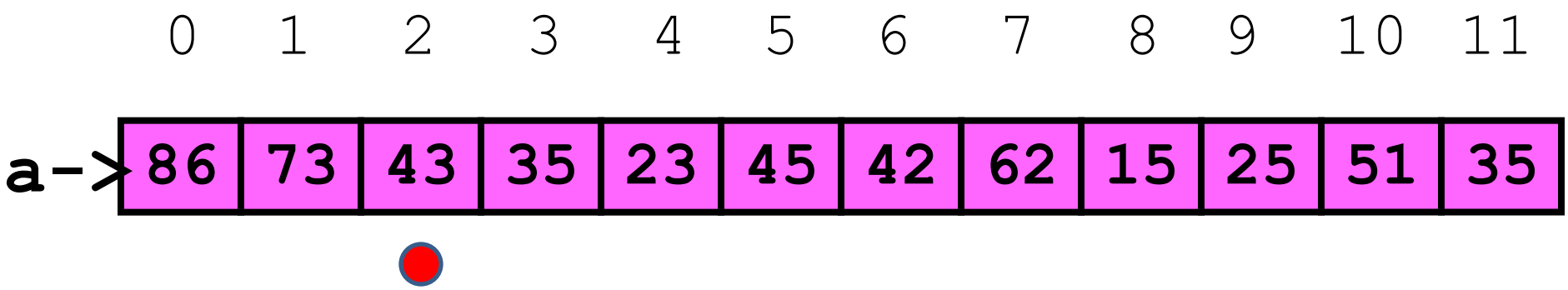
x-> 23

```
def  LinSearch(x,a):
    for k in range(len(a)):
        if x == a[k]:
            return k
    return -1
```

Nope

Walk down the list looking for a match

Linear Search



k-> 2

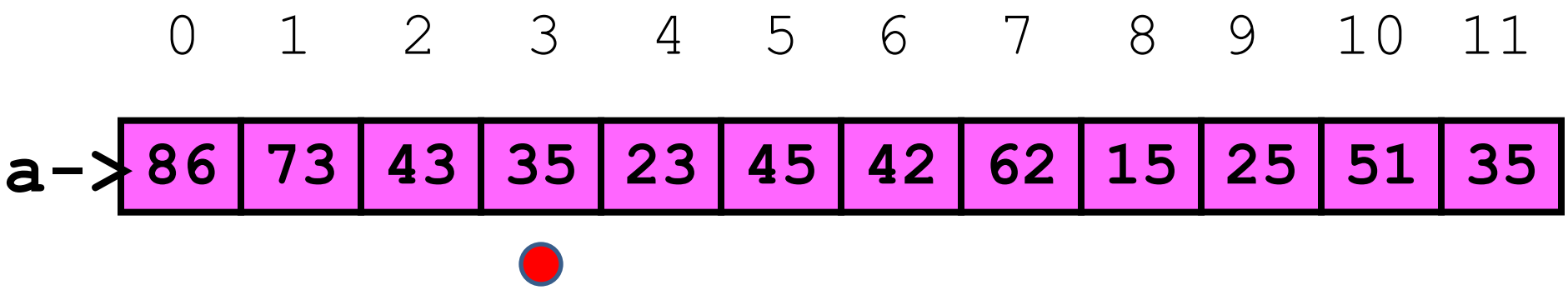
x-> 23

```
def  LinSearch(x,a):
    for k in range(len(a)):
        if x == a[k]:
            return k
    return -1
```

Nope

Walk down the list looking for a match

Linear Search



k-> 3

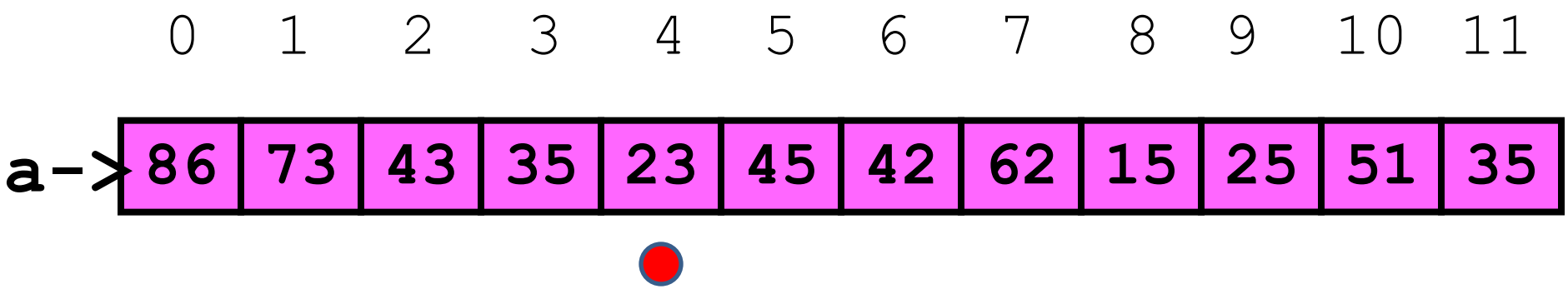
x-> 23

```
def  LinSearch(x,a):
    for k in range(len(a)):
        if x == a[k]:
            return k
    return -1
```

Nope

Walk down the list looking for a match

Linear Search



k-> 4

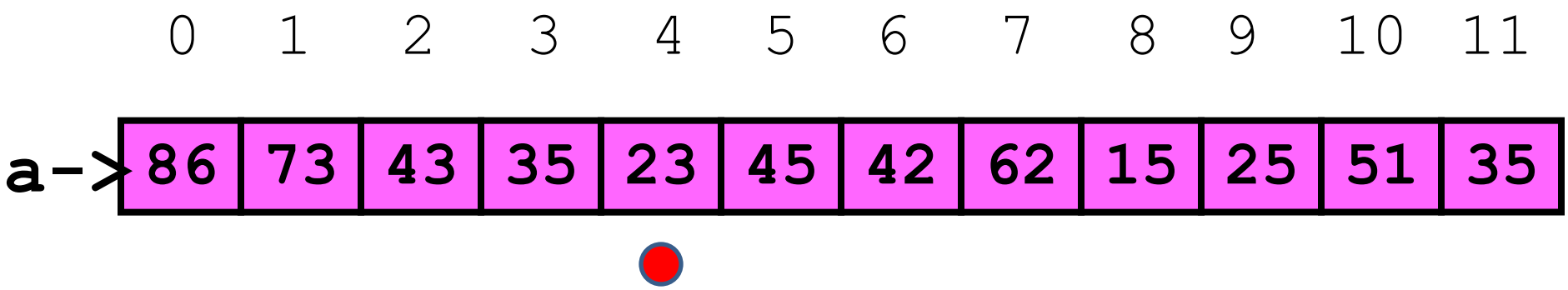
x-> 23

```
def  LinSearch(x,a):
    for k in range(len(a)):
        if x == a[k]:
            return k
    return -1
```

Yup

Walk down the list looking for a match

Linear Search



k-> 4

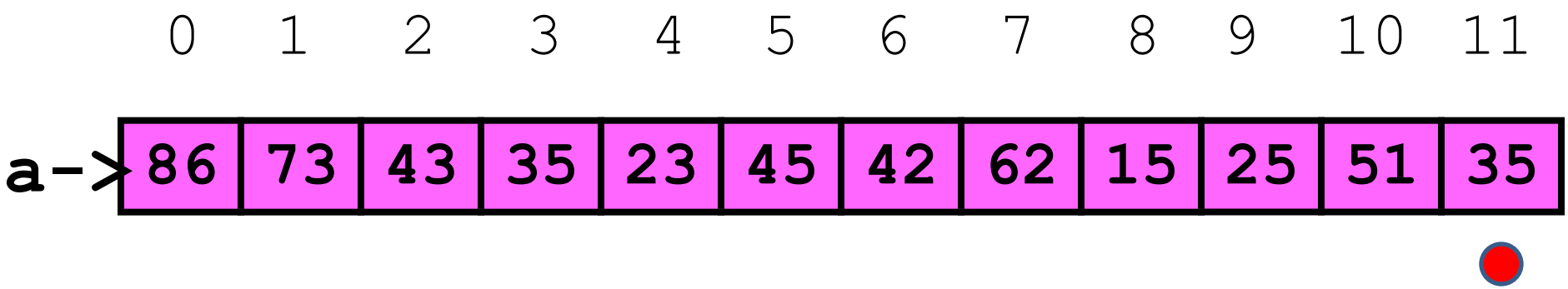
x-> 23

```
def  LinSearch(x,a):
    for k in range(len(a)):
        if x == a[k]:
            return k
    return -1
```

All done

Walk down the list looking for a match

Linear Search: No Match Case



k-> 11

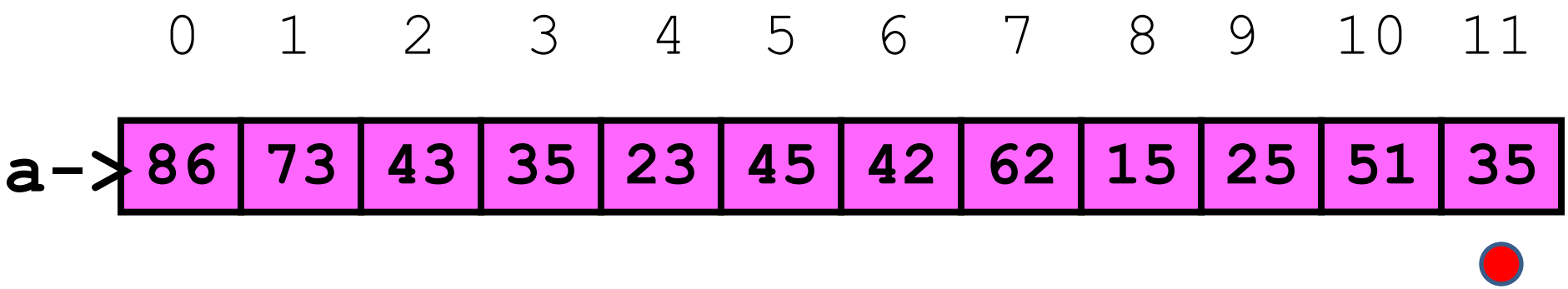
x-> 7

```
def  LinSearch(x,a):
    for k in range(len(a)):
        if x == a[k]:
            return k
    return -1
```

Nope

Walk down the list looking for a match

Linear Search: No Match Case



x-> 7

```
def  LinSearch(x,a):
    for k in range(len(a)):
        if x == a[k]:
            return k
    return -1
```

Yup

Return -1 if no match

Linear Search: While Implementation

```
def  LinSearchW(x,a):
    k=0
    while k<len(a) and a[k]!=x:
        k+=1
    if k==len(a):
        return -1
    else:
        return k
```

Binary Search

Now we assume that the list
to be searched is sorted
from little to big.

```
a = [10,20,40,60,90]

a = ['brown','dog','fox','lazy','quick','the']
```

Back to Using Phone Books

The Ithaca phone book has 10,000+ entries.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Cartage New England Inc
26 Allen Ln Ipswich 01938 ..... 978 356-9960
Cartagema Lydia
18 Jewett Ros 02131 ..... 617 323-7639
Cartagena Avith
9 Bancroft Rox 02119 ..... 617 442-9780
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M 95 Rowe Ros 02131 ..... 617 323-9713
Melvin 501 Green Cam 02139 ..... 617 576-1061
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50 Thompson Ln Mil 02186 ..... 617 696-6919
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Cust Svc-Printing 613 Main Wilmington
Toll Free-Dial '1' & Then 800 648-7447
Headquarters 613 Main Wilmington 01887
Call 978 988-7447
Ingalls Cronin 163 Main Wilmington 01887
Toll Free-Dial '1' & Then 800 638-1673
Carter Richard
1079 Commwlth Av Brighton 02215 ..... 617 987-0836
Richard A 97 Mt Vernon Bos 02108 ..... 617 566-7293
Carter Richard A MD
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Carter Richard K
15 Mercer S Bos 02127 ..... 617 268-0448
Robert L 175 Richdale Av Cam 02140 ..... 617 864-1535
Roger 150 St Botolph Bos 02115 ..... 617 424-6148
Roy 44 Concord Av Cam 02138 ..... 617 491-6115
Royce 18 Seminary Cha 02129 ..... 617 241-0418

The Manhatten phone book has 1,000,000+ entries. But it does not take 100 x longer to look something up. Why?

Key Idea: Repeated Halving

To find Derek Jeter's number…

```
B = phone book
while (B is longer than 1 page):
    1. P = middle page of B
    2. Let Q be the first name on P
    3. if  'Jeter" comes before Q:
           Rip away the 2nd half of B
       else:
           Rip away the 1st half of B.

Scan remaining page P line-by-line for 'Jeter'
```

What Happens to Phone Book Length?

```
Original:       3000 pages
After 1 rip:    1500 pages
After 2 rips:    750 pages
After 3 rips:    375 pages
After 4 rips:    188 pages
After 5 rips:     94 pages

After 12 rips:     1 page
```

Binary Search

The idea of repeatedly halving the size of the "search space" is the main idea behind the method of binary search.

An item in a sorted array of length n can be located with approximately $\log_2 n$ comparisons.

$\log_2 8 = 3$ $\log_2 64 = 7$ $\log_2 2^{**}k = k$

What is $\log_2(n)$?

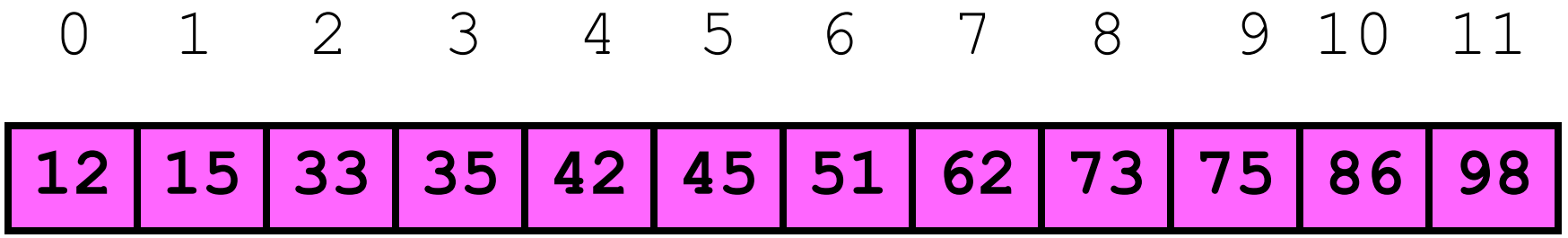
n	ceil($\log_2(n)$)
10	4
100	7
1000	10
10000	14
100000	17
1000000	20

BinSearch: The Spec

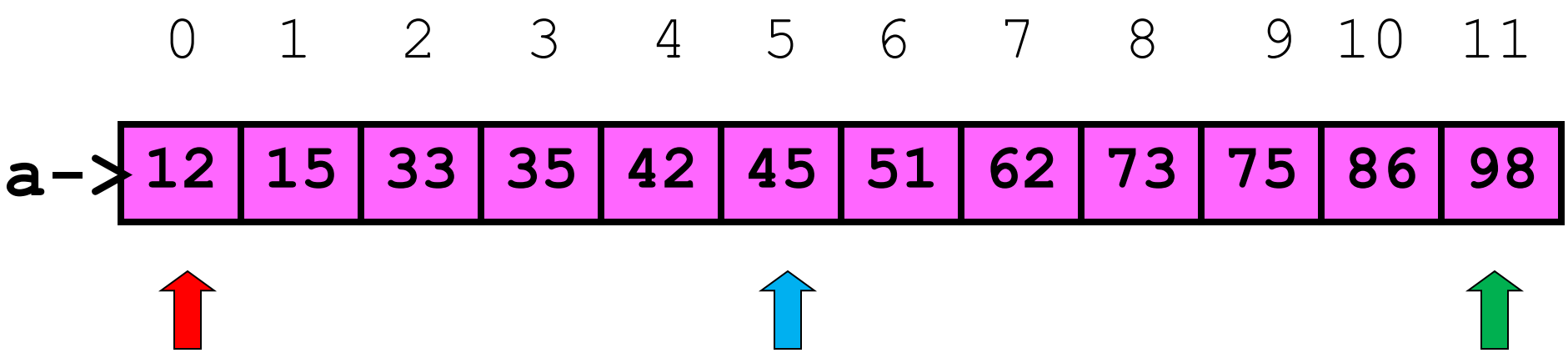
```
def BinSearch(x,a):
    """ Returns an int k with the
    property that a[k]==x is True.
    If no such k exists, then
    k==-1.

    PreC: a is a nonempty list of
    ints that is sorted from smallest
    to largest. x is an int.
    """
```

Example:
Does this List have an Element With Value Equal to 70?



Let's Look For x in a



L: 0

Mid: 5

R: 11

x: 70

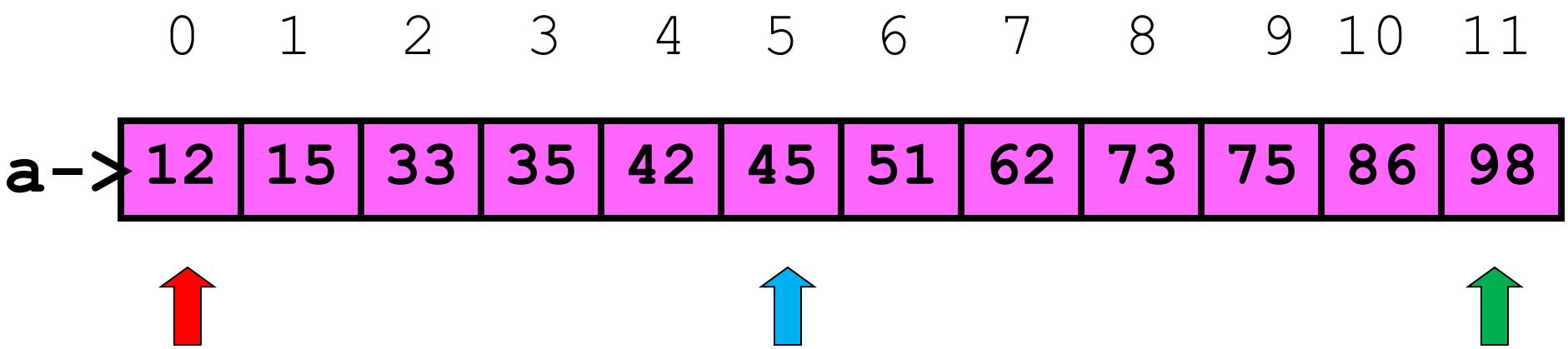
a[Mid] <= x ????

Mid = (L+R)/2

The Midpoint Computations

L	R	(L+R)/2
0	11	5
2	6	4
1	100	50

Let's Look For x in a



L: 0

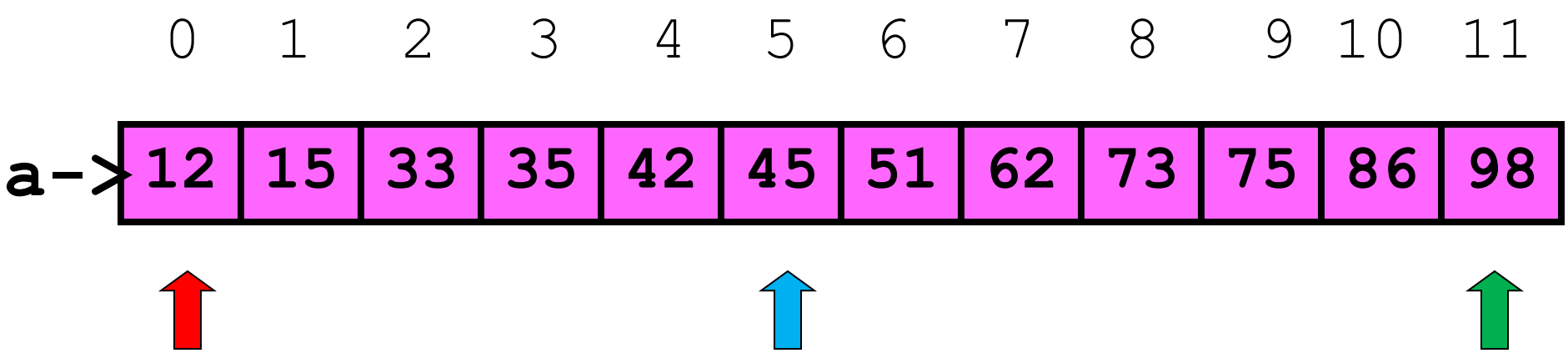
Mid: 5

R: 11

x: 70

a[Mid] <= x ????

Let's Look For x in a



L: 0

Mid: 5

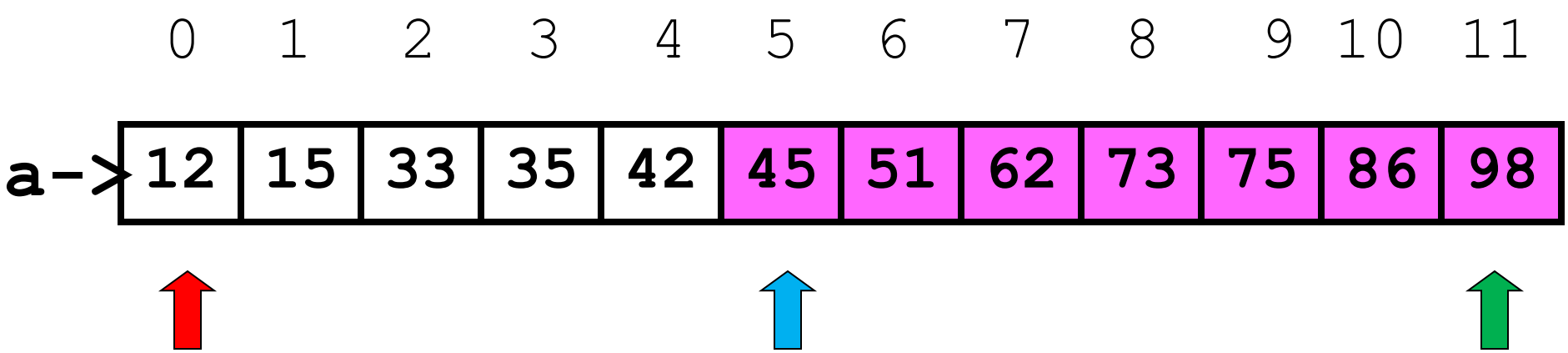
R: 11

x: 70

a[Mid] <= x

Yes!
So throw away
The "left half"

Let's Look For x in a



L: 0

Mid: 5

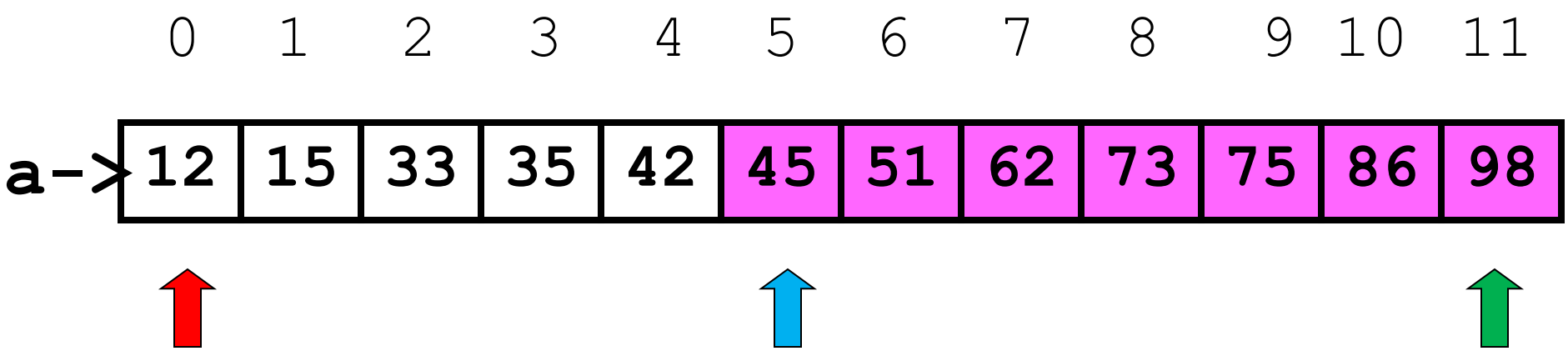
R: 11

x: 70

a[Mid] <= x

Yes!
So throw away
The "left half"

Let's Look For x in a



L: 0

Mid: 5

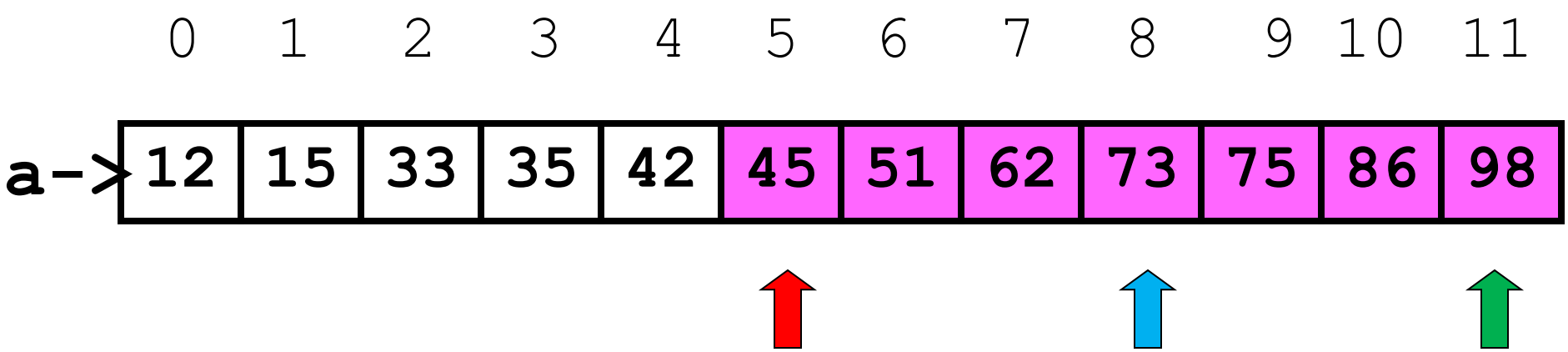
R: 11

x: 70

a[Mid] <= x

Revise L and Mid

Let's Look For x in a



L: 5

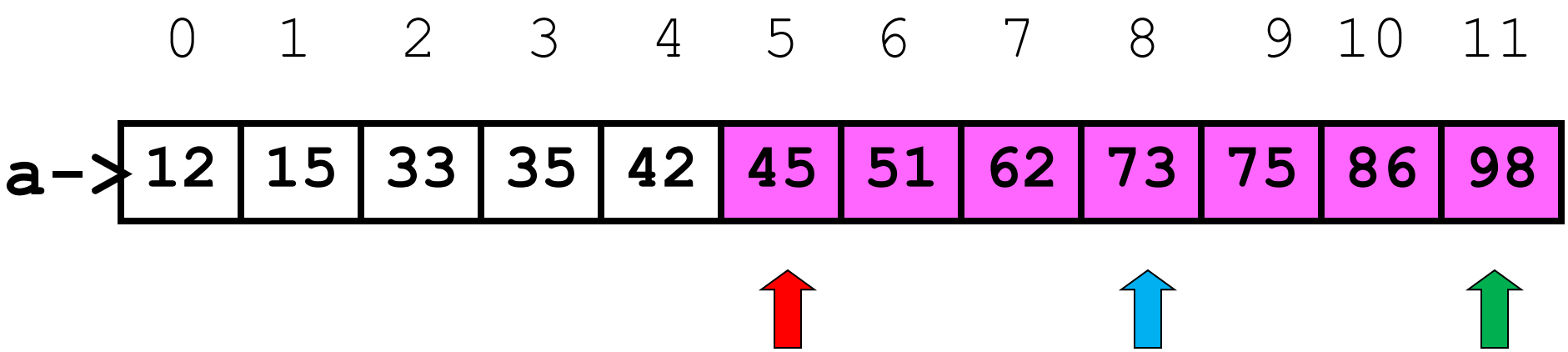
Mid: 8

R: 11

x: 70

a[Mid] <= x ???

Let's Look For x in a



L: 5

Mid: 8

R: 11

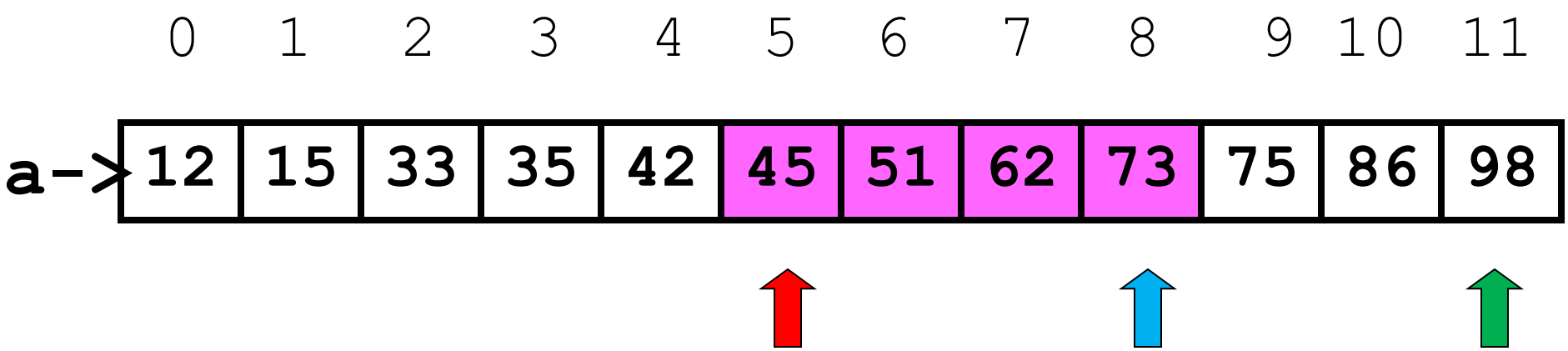
x: 70

a[Mid] <= x

No

So throw away the "right half"

Let's Look For x = 70



L: 5

Mid: 8

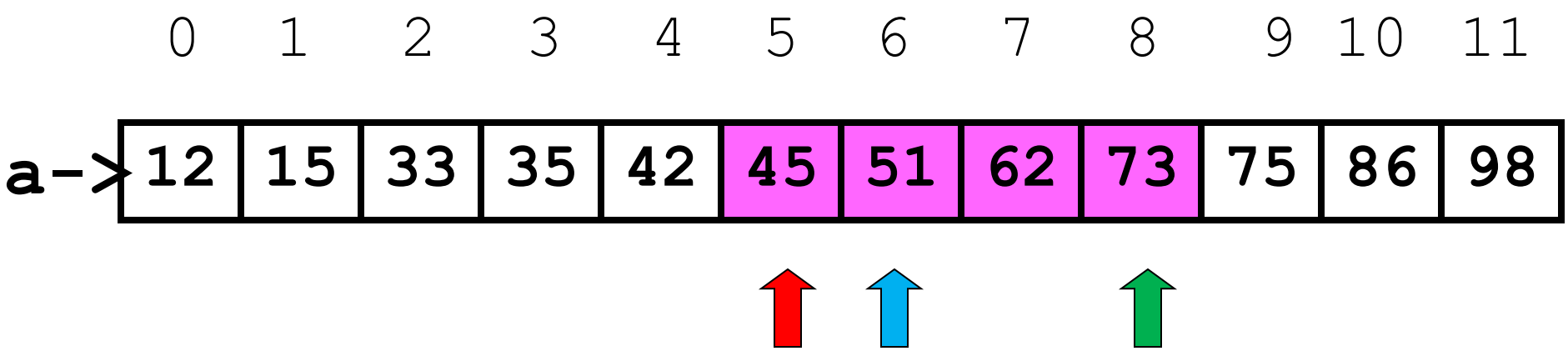
R: 11

x: 70

a[Mid] <= x

Revise R and Mid

Let's Look For x = 70



L: 5

Mid: 6

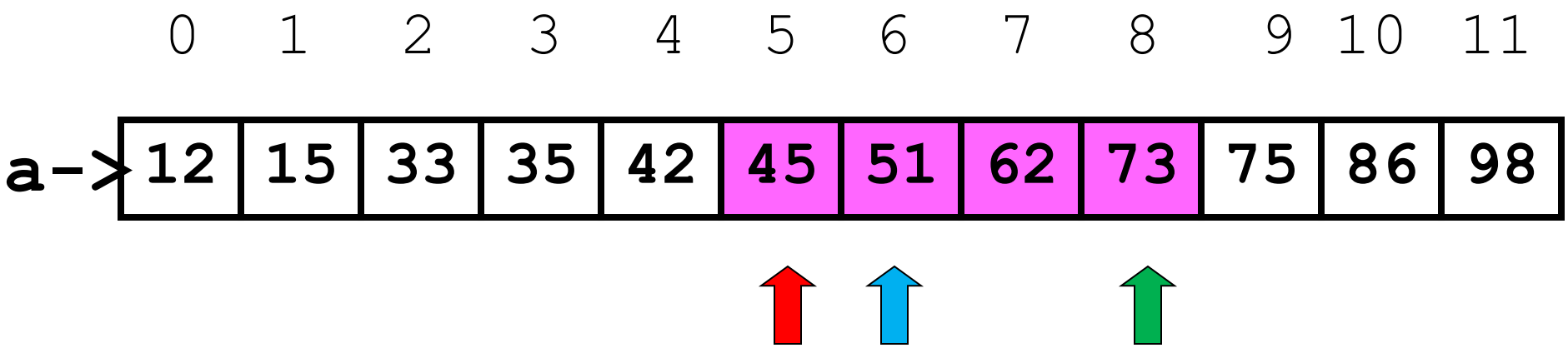
R: 8

x: 70

a[Mid] <= x

Revise R and Mid

Let's Look For x in a



L: 5

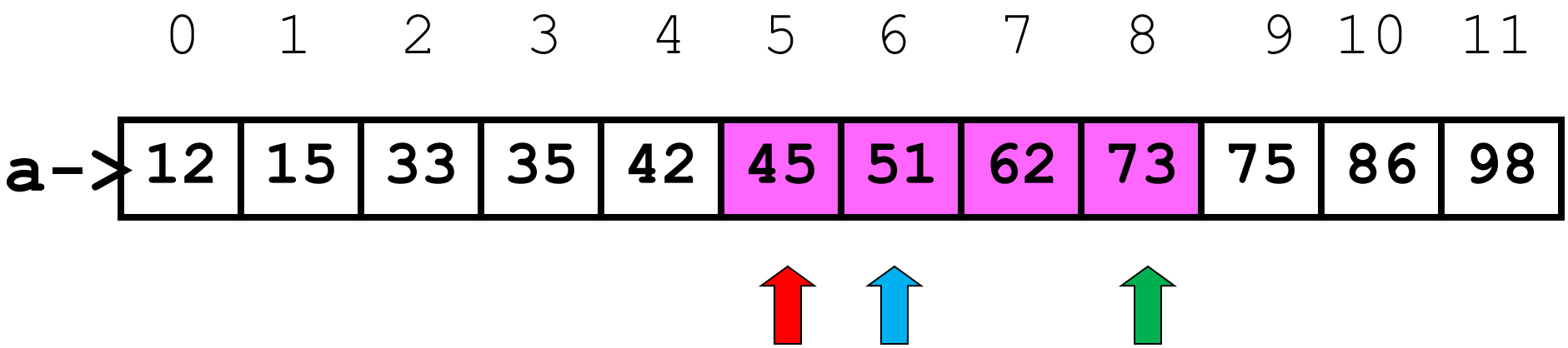
Mid: 6

R: 8

x: 70

a[Mid] <= x ????

Let's Look For x in a



L: 5

Mid: 6

R: 8

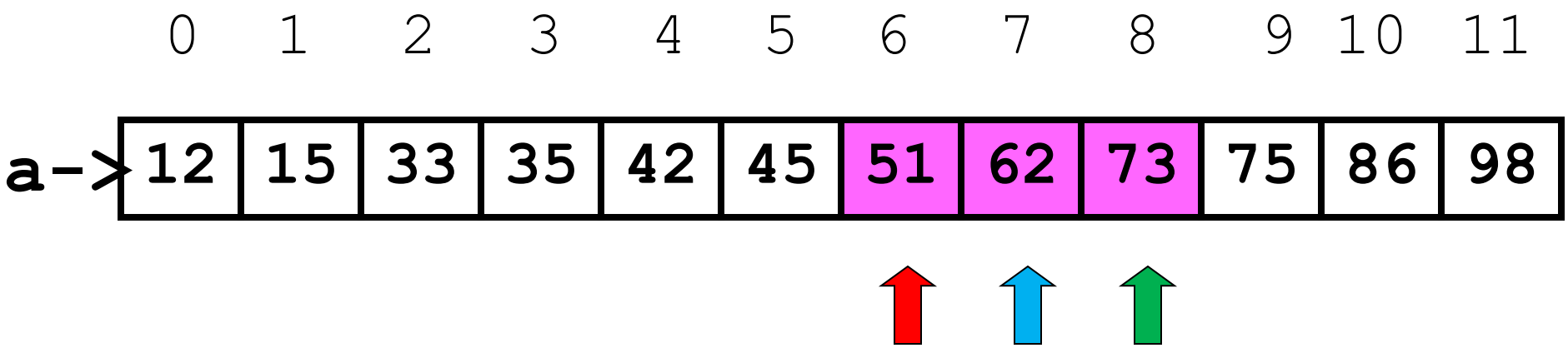
x: 70

a[Mid] <= x

Yes

Throw away the Left half

Let's Look For x in a



L: 6

Mid: 7

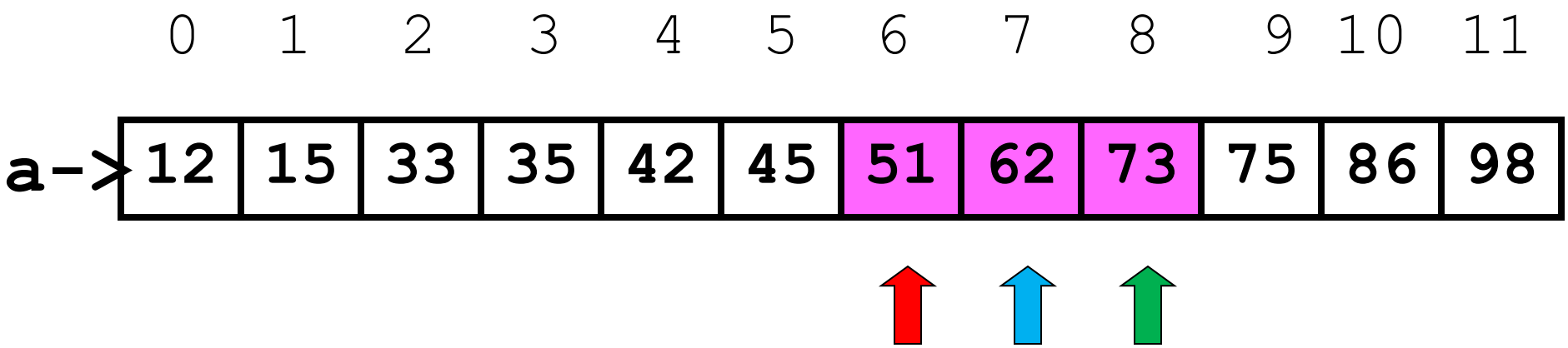
R: 8

x: 70

a[Mid] <= x

Yes

Let's Look For x in a



L: 6

Mid: 7

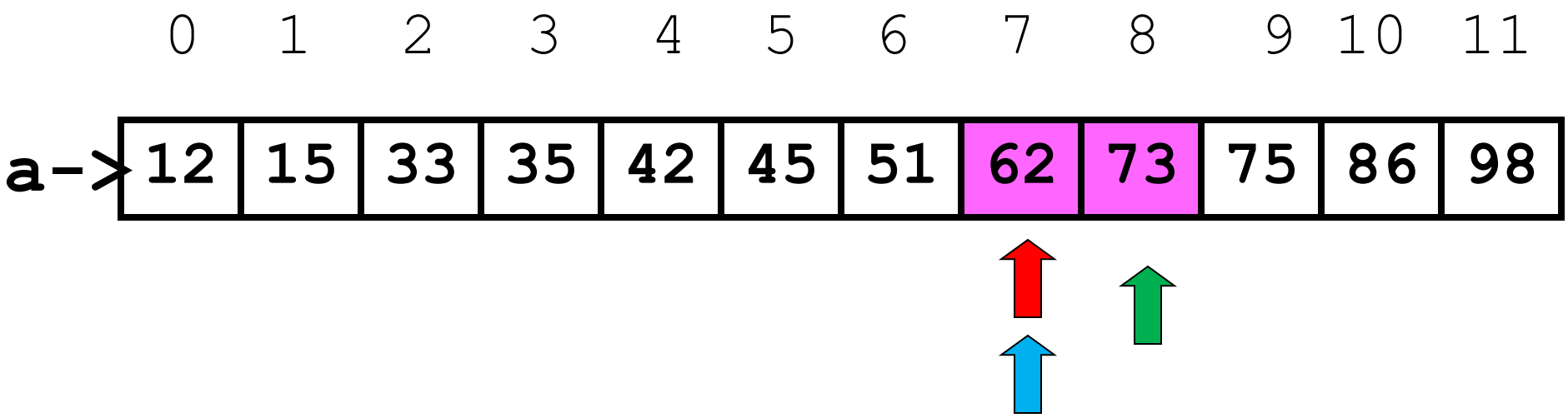
R: 8

x: 70

a[Mid] <= x

Throw away the left half

Let's Look For x in a



L: 6

Mid: 7

R: 8

x: 70

Done! At this point we just compare **x** with **a[L]** and **a[L+1]**.

What We Just Did

```
L = 0
R = len(a)-1
while R-L > 1:
      # a[L]<=x<=a[R]
       Mid = (L+R)/2
       if x <= a[mid]:
            R = Mid
       else:
            L = Mid
```

A Loop Invariant

Note that a[L]<=x<=a[R] remains True throughout the loop

What We Just Did

```
L = 0
R = len(a)-1
while R-L > 1:
     # a[L]<=x<=a[R]
      Mid = (L+R)/2
      if x <= a[mid]:
           R = Mid
      else:
           L = Mid
```

What is the situation when the loop terminates?

What We Just Did

```
L = 0
R = len(a)-1
while R-L > 1:
     # a[L]<=x<=a[R]
      Mid = (L+R)/2
      if x <= a[mid]:
           R = Mid
      else:
           L = Mid
```

R-L<=1 implies R = L+1

After the Loop Ends

This is True: `a[L]<=x<=a[L+1]`

After the Loop Ends


```
if x==a[L]:
    return L
elif x==a[L+1]:
    return L+1
else:
    return -1
```

Measuring Execution Time

We now have two ways to search a list:

```
LinSearch(x,a)
BinSearch(x,a)
```

Intuition: BinSearch much faster.

Can we quantify this with a "stop watch"?

The `timeit` Module

This module can be used to time how long it takes to execute a chunk of code.

Typical chunk = some function of interest.

This is called benchmarking.

Benchmarking

Let's benchmark **`LinSearch(x,a)`** and **`BinSearch(x,a)`**.

Compare how long it takes when **`len(a)`** equals 1000, 10000, 100000, and 1000000.

Our intuition tells us that as **`len(a)`** increases, **`BinSearch`** will be dramatically faster.

BinSearch vs LinSearch

n	tBin	tLin	tLinW
1000	0.0007	0.0064	0.0119
10000	0.0009	0.0668	0.1203
100000	0.0011	0.8296	1.2082
1000000	0.0015	17.7388	13.9341

tBin = time for BinSearch
tLin = time for LinSearch (for loop version)
tLinW = time for LinSearch (while-loop version)

BinSearch vs LinSearch

n	tLin/tBin
1000	9
10000	74
100000	754
1000000	7095

Reporting ratios is more illuminating since we do not really care about the time units in this informal comparison

Using the `timeit` Module

We show how this module was use to
get the results on the previous slides.

Our LinSearch vs BinSearch example is very
typical: is one function faster than another?

A Benchmarking Framework

```
from timeit import *
S = """
    Set-up code
"""
B = """
    Code to Benchmark
"""
p = 10; m = 100
t = min(Timer(B,setup=S).repeat(p,m))
```

Yes, these are doc strings.

The Set-Up and Bench Codes

```
from random import randint as randi
from ShowSearch import BinSearch
n = 10000
s = [randi(0,10*n) for i in range(n)]
s.sort()
x = s[n/2]
```

```
k=BinSearch(x,s)
```

The set-up code is run once.

It is not timed.

It just sets up the code to be timed.

A Benchmarking Framework

```
from timeit import *
S = """
    Set-up code
"""
B = """
    Code to Benchmark
"""
p = 10; m = 100
t = min(Timer(B,setup=S).repeat(p,m))
```

An "experiment" consists of running the blue code m times.

The stopwatch will time how long it takes to do one experiment

Larger values necessary if the blue code executes very quickly

A Benchmarking Framework

```
from timeit import *
S = """
    Set-up code
"""
B = """
    Code to Benchmark
"""
p = 10; m = 100
t = min(Timer(B,setup=S).repeat(p,m))
```

Timer returns a length-p list. Each element is the stopwatch time for 1 experiment

This helps control for other stuff that may be running on your computer.

A Benchmarking Framework

```
from timeit import *
S = """
    Set-up code
"""
B = """
    Code to Benchmark
"""
p = 10; m = 100
t = min(Timer(B,setup=S).repeat(p,m))
```

In general, it is best to take the mininum as the most reliable. The benchmark time is assigned to t

This helps control for other stuff that may be running on your computer.

Why Benchmarking is Important

Confirms/refutes what our intuition might say about efficiency.

Makes us sensitive to the various issues that affect efficiency.

Steers us away from simplistic comparisons of different methods that can be used on the same problem.