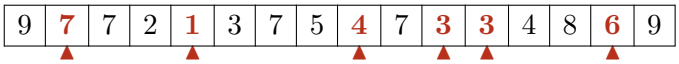
Here are several problems that are easy to solve in $O(n)$ time, essentially by brute force. Your task is to design algorithms for these problems that are significantly faster.

1 Suppose we are given an array $A[1..n]$ of n distinct integers, which could be positive, negative, or zero, sorted in increasing order so that $A[1] < A[2] < \cdots < A[n]$.

1.A. Describe a fast algorithm that either computes an index i such that $A[i] = i$ or correctly reports that no such index exists.

1.B. Suppose we know in advance that $A[1] > 0$. Describe an even faster algorithm that either computes an index i such that $A[i] = i$ or correctly reports that no such index exists. (**Hint:** This is **really** easy.)

2 Suppose we are given an array $A[1..n]$ such that $A[1] \geq A[2]$ and $A[n-1] \leq A[n]$. We say that an element $A[x]$ is a ***local minimum*** if both $A[x-1] \geq A[x]$ and $A[x] \leq A[x+1]$. For example, there are exactly six local minima in the following array:



Describe and analyze a fast algorithm that returns the index of one local minimum. For example, given the array above, your algorithm could return the integer 9, because $A[9]$ is a local minimum. (**Hint:** With the given boundary conditions, any array **must** contain at least one local minimum. Why?)

3 Suppose you are given two **sorted** arrays $A[1..n]$ and $B[1..n]$ containing distinct integers. Describe a fast algorithm to find the median (meaning the nth smallest element) of the union $A \cup B$. For example, given the input

$$A[1..8] = [0, 1, 6, 9, 12, 13, 18, 20] \qquad B[1..8] = [2, 4, 5, 8, 17, 19, 21, 23]$$

your algorithm should return the integer 9. (**Hint:** What can you learn by comparing one element of A with one element of B?)

To think about later:

4 Now suppose you are given two sorted arrays $A[1..m]$ and $B[1..n]$ and an integer k. Describe a fast algorithm to find the kth smallest element in the union $A \cup B$. For example, given the input

$$A[1..8] = [0, 1, 6, 9, 12, 13, 18, 20] \qquad B[1..5] = [2, 5, 7, 17, 19] \qquad k = 6$$

your algorithm should return the integer 7.