



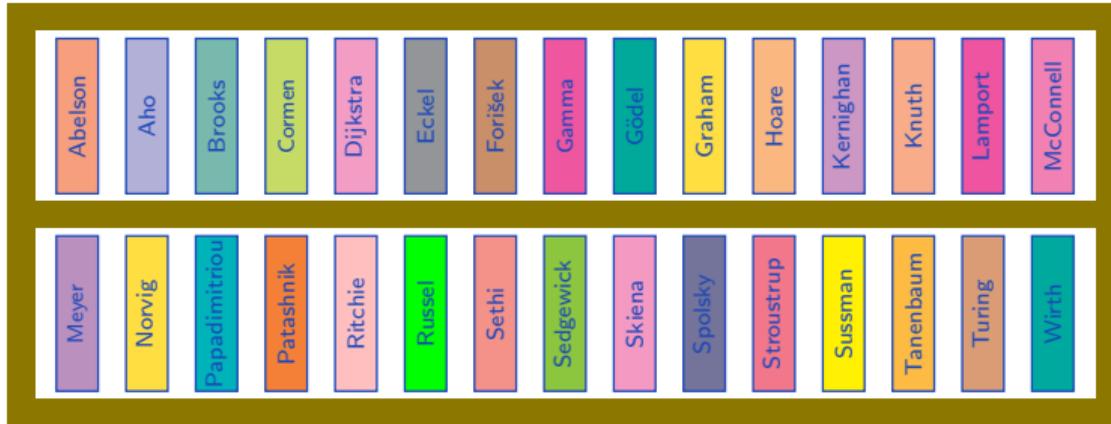
**ITMO UNIVERSITY**

# **How to Win Coding Competitions: Secrets of Champions**

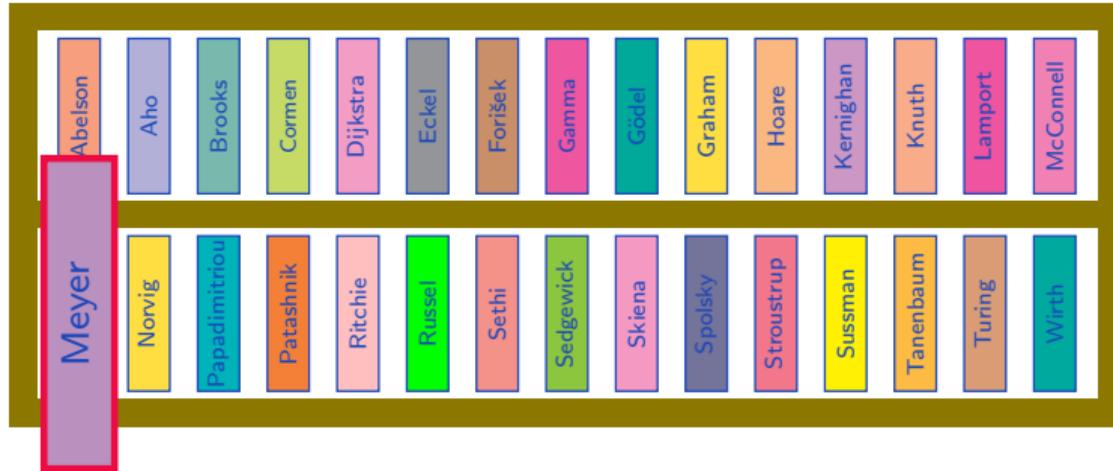
**Week 3: Sorting and Search Algorithms**  
**Lecture 10: Introduction to binary search**

**Maxim Buzdalov**  
**Saint Petersburg 2016**

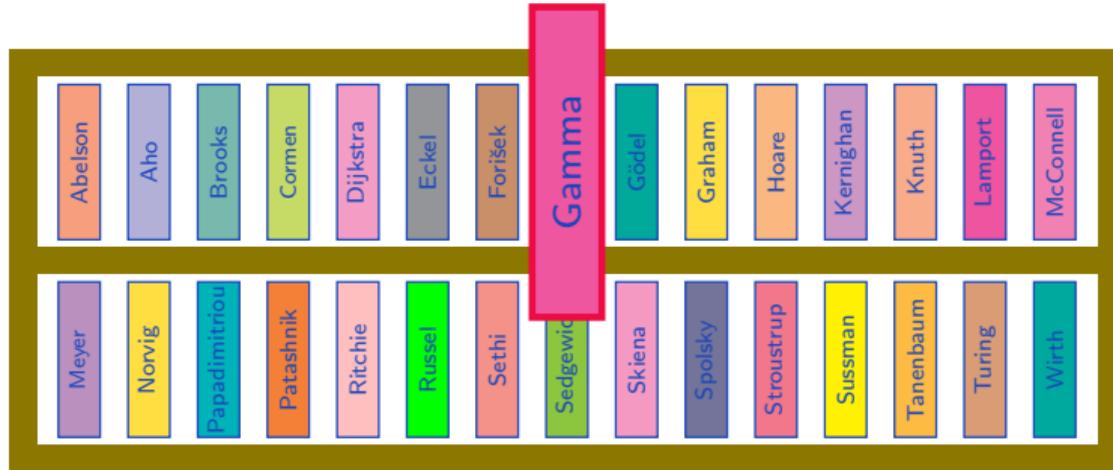
Recall the example from Lecture 1: how to search in sorted data



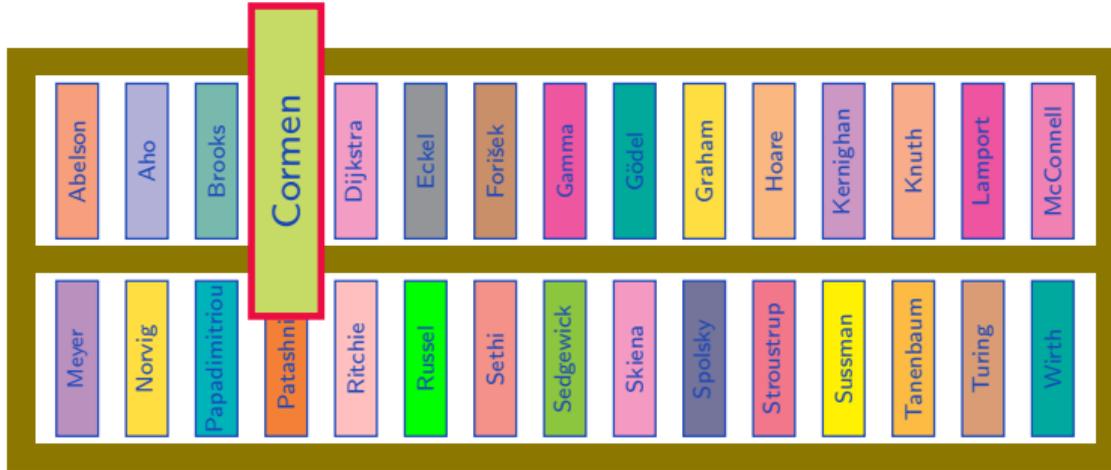
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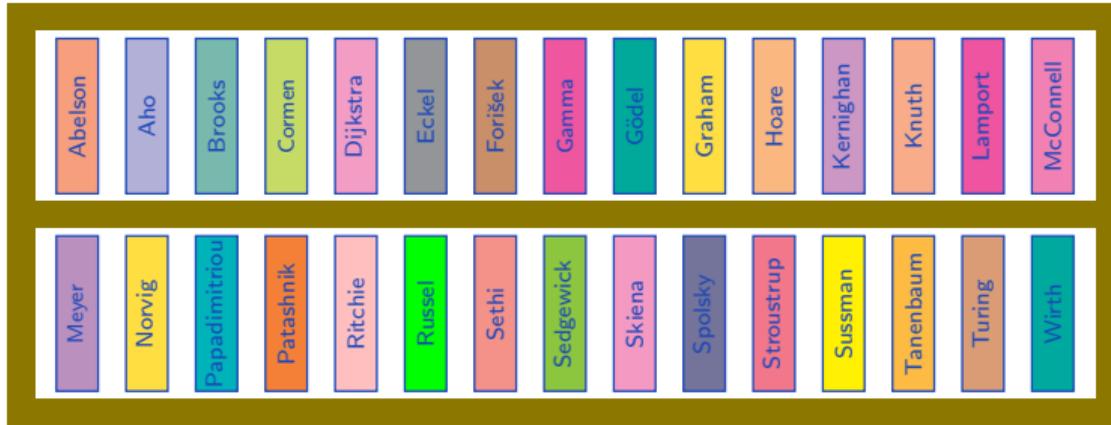
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This is an example of **binary search**. We will have more in this video

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    - ▶  $AVG(a, b)$  should be between  $a$  and  $b$  and should not be equal to neither  $a$  nor  $b$ , unless there is no element of  $S$  between  $a$  and  $b$

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- ▶ If no such element, "0" is infeasible: then you will find where to insert  $q$

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- ▶ But first check if  $F(y) = q \dots$

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- ▶ **Warning**: you are unlikely to find the root **exactly**...

```
function BINARYSEARCH( $F$ ,  $AVG$ ,  $D_{\min}$ ,  $D_{\max}$ )  
   $L \leftarrow D_{\min}$ ,  $R \leftarrow D_{\max}$ ,  $V_{\min} \leftarrow F(L)$ ,  $V_{\max} \leftarrow F(R)$   
  if  $V_{\min} = 1$  then return  $\langle \text{NULL}, D_{\min} \rangle$  end if  
  if  $V_{\max} = -1$  then return  $\langle D_{\max}, \text{NULL} \rangle$  end if  
  if  $V_{\min} = 0$  then return  $\langle D_{\min}, D_{\min} \rangle$  end if  
  if  $V_{\max} = 0$  then return  $\langle D_{\max}, D_{\max} \rangle$  end if  
  for ever do  
     $M \leftarrow \text{AVG}(L, R)$   
    if  $M = L$  or  $M = R$  then return  $\langle L, R \rangle$  end if  
     $v \leftarrow F(M)$   
    if  $v = 0$  then return  $\langle M, M \rangle$  end if  
    if  $v = -1$  then  $L \leftarrow M$  else  $R \leftarrow M$  end if  
  end for  
end function
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▷ First evaluate endpoints

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- ▷ If true, no zeros at all

```

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  if  $V_{\min} = 1$  then return  $\langle \text{NULL}, D_{\min} \rangle$  end if
  if  $V_{\max} = -1$  then return  $\langle D_{\max}, \text{NULL} \rangle$  end if
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     $M \leftarrow AVG(L, R)$ 
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- ▷ First evaluate endpoints
- ▷ If true, no zeros at all
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- ▷ **Invariant:**  $F(L) = -1$ ,  $F(R) = 1$

**function** BINARYSEARCH( $F, \text{AVG}, D_{\min}, D_{\max}$ )

$L \leftarrow D_{\min}, R \leftarrow D_{\max}, V_{\min} \leftarrow F(L), V_{\max} \leftarrow F(R)$

**if**  $V_{\min} = 1$  **then return**  $\langle \text{NULL}, D_{\min} \rangle$  **end if**

**if**  $V_{\max} = -1$  **then return**  $\langle D_{\max}, \text{NULL} \rangle$  **end if**

**if**  $V_{\min} = 0$  **then return**  $\langle D_{\min}, D_{\min} \rangle$  **end if**

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**for ever do**

$M \leftarrow \text{AVG}(L, R)$

**if**  $M = L$  **or**  $M = R$  **then return**  $\langle L, R \rangle$  **end if**

$v \leftarrow F(M)$

**if**  $v = 0$  **then return**  $\langle M, M \rangle$  **end if**

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▷ Getting new query point

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▷ “Too early”: use right part

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## Running time

- ▶ Strongly depends on properties of  $AVG$
- ▶ If  $AVG$  is a “real” average, the running time is  $O(\log D)$ 
  - ▶ the size of  $[L; R]$  range is divided by two on every iteration