

binary application to search In the lecture the following procedure was discussed: given a secret number, positive integer, on 8 bits (0:255), one can identify the number with 8 questions by asking a question about each bit. The only questions allowed have two answers Yes and No.

The obvious question to ask for the k-th bit is

"Is the k-th bit 1?"

The answer would identify the k-th bit as 1 or 0, and with all 8 questions answered all bits are revealed.

Now suppose these questions are not allowed, but instead only questions allowed are like

"is the number at least $\langle v \rangle$?"

where $\langle v \rangle$ can be any value the questioner chooses. It is also allowed to design the next question *dynamically* from the result of the previous questions. So one can ask "is the number at least 25?"; if Yes comes back one can ask "is the number at least 75?", but if No comes back one can change the second question to "is the number at least 10?"

Exercise. Describe a procedure that assigns the values $\langle v \rangle$ for each of the eight questions dynamically (using the responses to previous questions) so that with all 8 responses the number is always identified.

Discuss at recitation. For Extra Credit, write up the explanation/solution (1 page max) to this exercise, submit on paper with your name and date on it.

Exercise. Write a program in your favorite language (Python, Perl, Java, Scheme, Matlab, C, etc) that implements this procedure. For Extra Credit, demo it live to a TA.