

Given k sorted lists, each with n elements

$n=15$

3	16	17	30	35	37	53	60	61	81	96	161	172	199	214
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1	2	6	10	12	13	14	26	33	90	99	102	140	150	160
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5	7	11	15	23	24	25	77	88	100	121	157	180	213	216
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4	8	16	32	64	76	83	89	95	101	112	113	156	200	201
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$k=4$ lists
no assumption that $k=O(1)$
or $k < n$

Given k sorted lists, each with n elements

we want to search for x in each list // output = {YES or NO} per list

time? $O()$
 $\Omega()$

$n=15$

3	16	17	30	35	37	53	60	61	81	96	161	172	199	214
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1	2	6	10	12	13	14	26	33	90	99	102	140	150	160
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5	7	11	15	23	24	25	77	88	100	121	157	180	213	216
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4	8	16	32	64	76	83	89	95	101	112	113	156	200	201
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$k=4$ lists
no assumption that $k=O(1)$
or $k < n$

Given k sorted lists, each with n elements
we want to search for x in each list

For $k=1$, $\Omega(\log n)$ time.
To report output, $\Omega(k)$ time } $\Omega(k + \log n)$

Easy to do $O(k \cdot \log n)$

$n=15$

3	16	17	30	35	37	53	60	61	81	96	161	172	199	214
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1	2	6	10	12	13	14	26	33	90	99	102	140	150	160
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5	7	11	15	23	24	25	77	88	100	121	157	180	213	216
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4	8	16	32	64	76	83	89	95	101	112	113	156	200	201
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$k=4$ lists

no assumption that $k = O(1)$
or $k < n$

$\Omega(k + \log n)$ Easy $O(k \cdot \log n)$

Make one sorted array?

$\Omega(k + \log n)$ Easy $O(k \cdot \log n)$ |

Make one sorted array? binary search : $O(\log nk) = O(\log n) + O(\log k)$

$\Omega(k + \log n)$ Easy $O(k \cdot \log n)$

[Make one sorted array? binary search : $O(\log nk) = O(\log n) + O(\log k)$
↳ if every element points to its original list: handle duplicates in $O(k)$
→ got $O(k + \log n)$

$\Omega(k + \log n)$ Easy $O(k \cdot \log n)$

[Make one sorted array? binary search : $O(\log nk) = O(\log n) + O(\log k)$
↳ if every element points to its original list: handle duplicates in $O(k)$
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...but... Merge: k objects, divide & conquer $\log k$ levels $O(nk \cdot \log k)$
preprocessing

$\Omega(k + \log n)$ Easy $O(k \cdot \log n)$

[Make one sorted array? binary search : $O(\log nk) = O(\log n) + O(\log k)$
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...but... Merge: k objects, divide & conquer $\log k$ levels $O(nk \cdot \log k)$
preprocessing

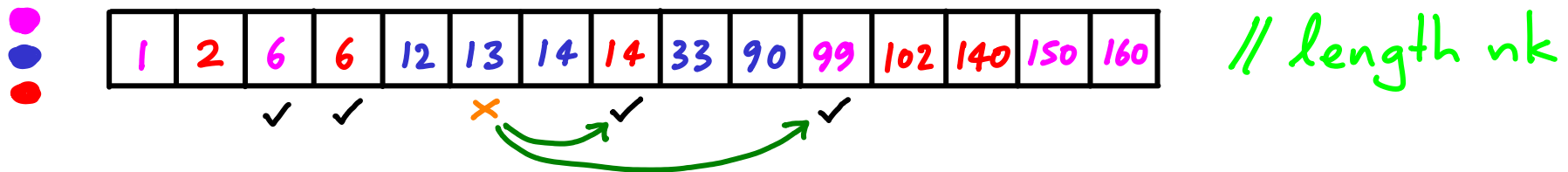
Extra requirement: report predecessor & successor in each list

$\Omega(k + \log n)$ Easy $O(k \cdot \log n)$

Make one sorted array? binary search: $O(\log nk) = O(\log n) + O(\log k)$
↳ if every element points to its original list: handle duplicates in $O(k)$
→ got $O(k + \log n)$

...but... Merge: k objects, divide & conquer $\log k$ levels $O(nk \cdot \log k)$
preprocessing

Extra requirement: report predecessor & successor in each list



Store pointer from every position to k elements? → $O(nk^2)$ space

Given k sorted lists, each with n elements
we want to search for x in each list & report pred./succ.

For $k=1$, $\Omega(\log n)$ time.
To report output, $\Omega(k)$ time } $\Omega(k + \log n)$ Easy to do $O(k \cdot \log n)$

Sort all: $O(nk \log k)$ preprocess
 $O(nk^2)$ space
 $O(k + \log n)$ search

3	16	17	30	35	37	53	60	61	81	96	161	172	199	214
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1	2	6	10	12	13	14	26	33	90	99	102	140	150	160
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5	7	11	15	23	24	25	77	88	100	121	157	180	213	216
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4	8	16	32	64	76	83	89	95	101	112	113	156	200	201
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Given k sorted lists, each with n elements
we want to search for x in each list & report pred./succ.

For $k=1$, $\Omega(\log n)$ time.
To report output, $\Omega(k)$ time } $\Omega(k + \log n)$ Easy to do $O(k \cdot \log n)$

Sort all: $O(nk \log k)$ preprocess
 $O(nk^2)$ space
 $O(k + \log n)$ search

Fractional cascading

! $O(nk)$ preprocess
! $O(nk)$ space
✓ $O(k + \log n)$ search

3	16	17	30	35	37	53	60	61	81	96	161	172	199	214
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1	2	6	10	12	13	14	26	33	90	99	102	140	150	160
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list k-1

list k

Every other element
from list k gets mapped
to list k-1

3	16	17	30	35	37	53	60	61	81	96	161	172	199	214
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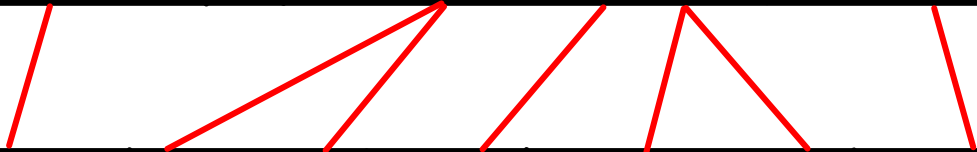
1	2	6	10	12	13	14	26	33	90	99	102	140	150	160
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4	8	16	32	64	76	83	89	95	101	112	113	156	200	201
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Insert mapped
elements



3	16	17	30	35	37	53	60	61	81	96	161	172	199	214
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4	8	16	32	64	76	83	89	95	101	112	113	156	200	201
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Map from list k-1
to list k-2

3	16	17	30	35	37	53	60	61	81	96	161	172	199	214
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Insert

1	2	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	23	25	26	33	76	88	90	99	100	102	113	140	150	157	160	200	216
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1	2	6	10	12	13	14	26	33	90	99	102	140	150	160
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5	7	8	11	15	23	24	25	32	76	77	88	89	100	101	113	121	157	180	200	213	216
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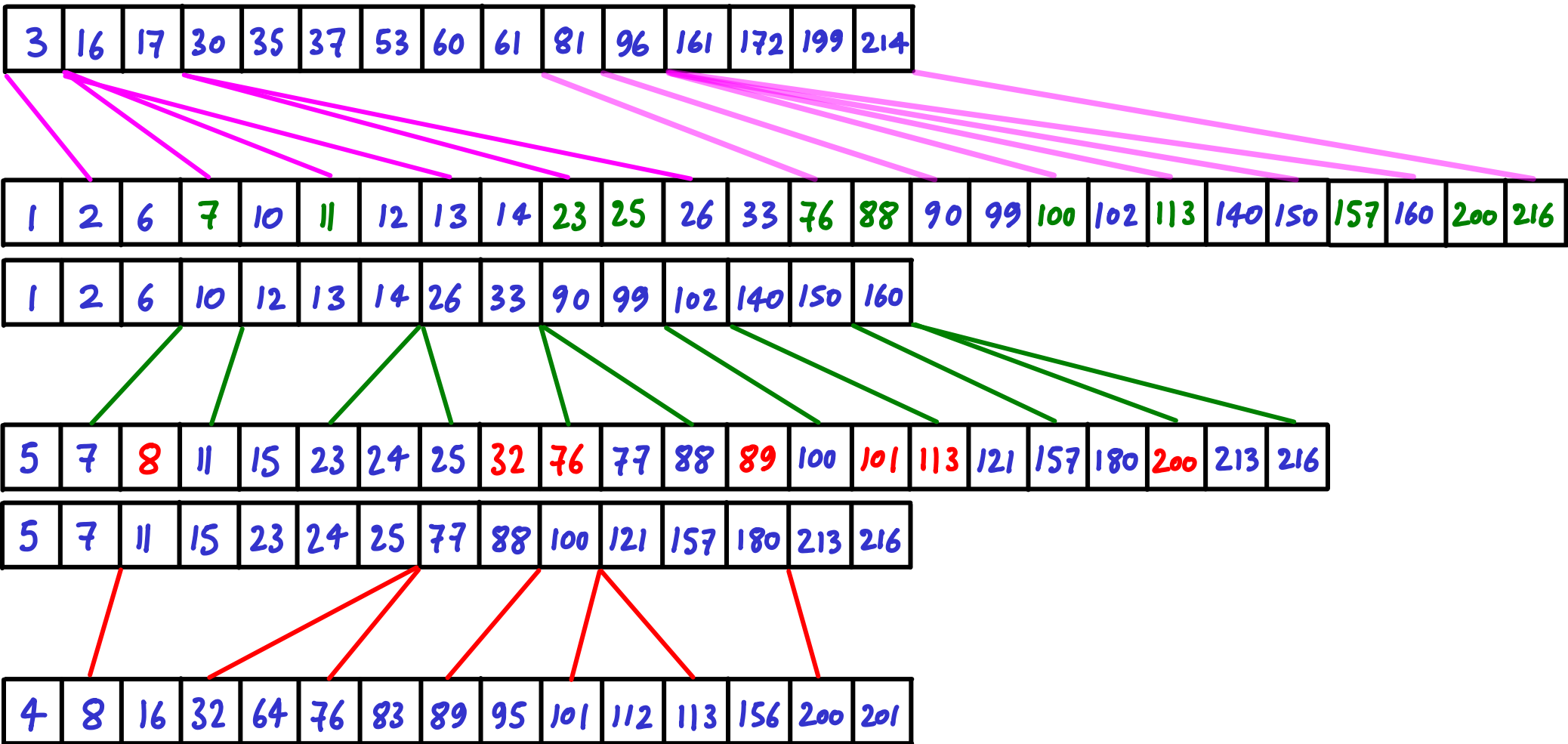
1	2	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	23	25	26	33	76	88	90	99	100	102	113	140	150	157	160	200	216
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↑ etc ↑

2	3	7	11	13	16	17	23	26	30	35	37	53	60	61	76	81	90	96	100	113	150	160	161	172	199	214	216
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How large can
the new lists
become?

2	3	7	11	13	16	17	23	26	30	35	37	53	60	61	76	81	90	96	100	113	150	160	161	172	199	214	216
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4	8	16	32	64	76	83	89	95	101	112	113	156	200	201
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How large can
the new lists
become?

$\leq 2n$

(geometric series)

... suppose list size $\rightarrow 2n$.
Next will also be $2n$

2	3	7	11	13	16	17	23	26	30	35	37	53	60	61	76	81	90	96	100	113	150	160	161	172	199	214	216
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1	2	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	23	25	26	33	76	88	90	99	100	102	113	140	150	157	160	200	216
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1	2	6	10	12	13	14	26	33	90	99	102	140	150	160
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time to build?

5	7	8	11	15	23	24	25	32	76	77	88	89	100	101	113	121	157	180	200	213	216
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2	3	7	11	13	16	17	23	26	30	35	37	53	60	61	76	81	90	96	100	113	150	160	161	172	199	214	216
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4	8	16	32	64	76	83	89	95	101	112	113	156	200	201
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time to build ?

each level =
merge $O(n)$

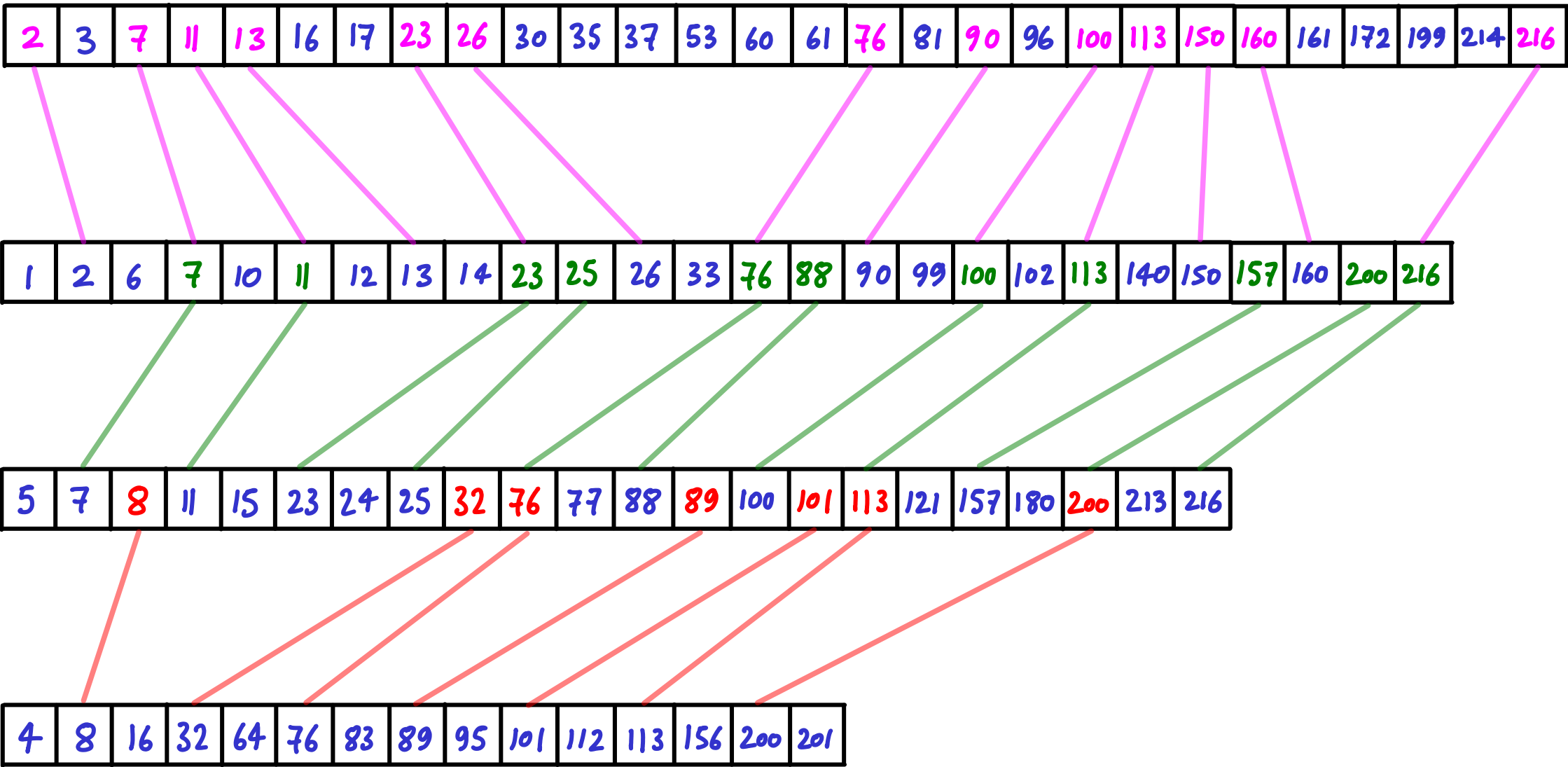
TOTAL = $O(kn)$

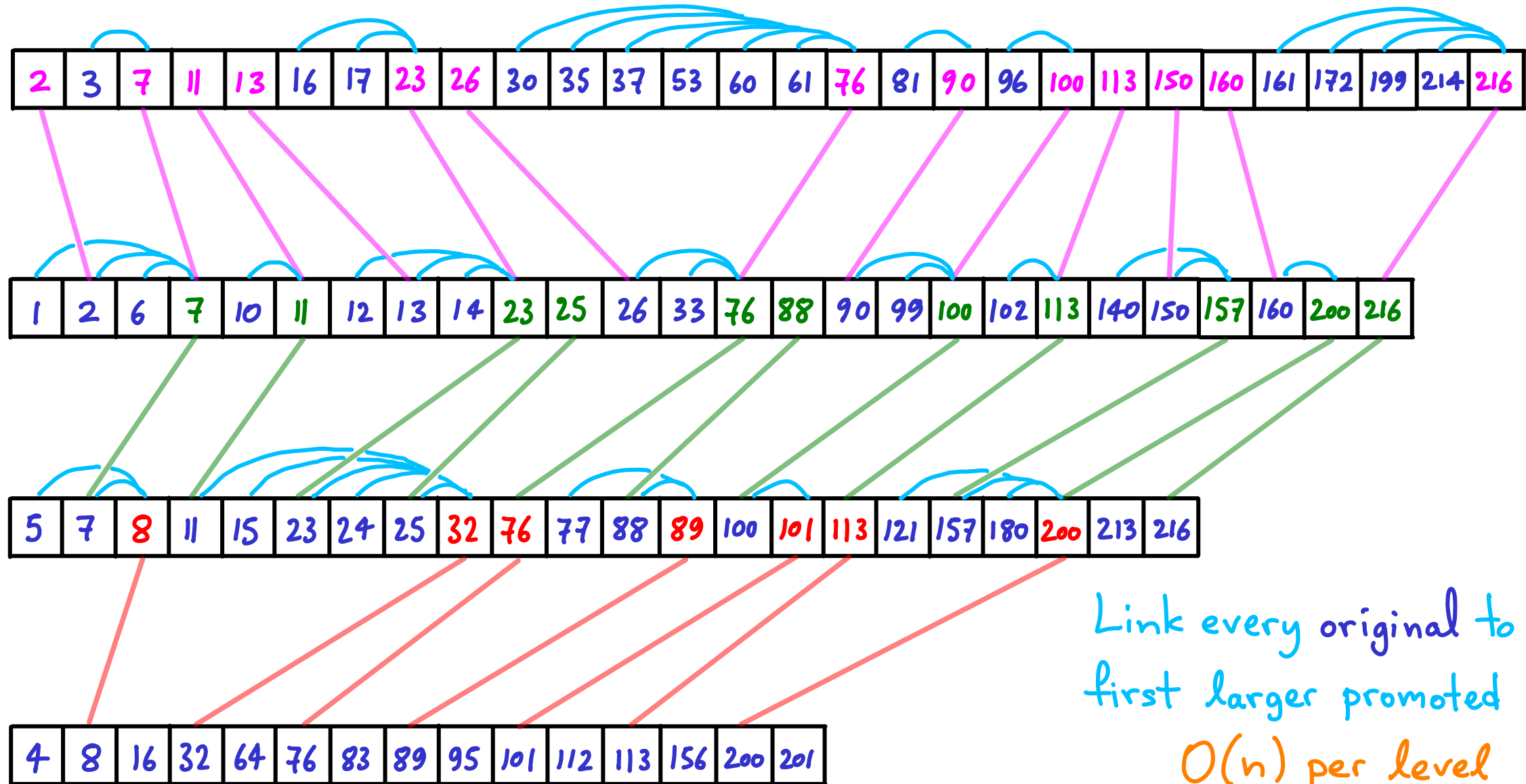
2	3	7	11	13	16	17	23	26	30	35	37	53	60	61	76	81	90	96	100	113	150	160	161	172	199	214	216
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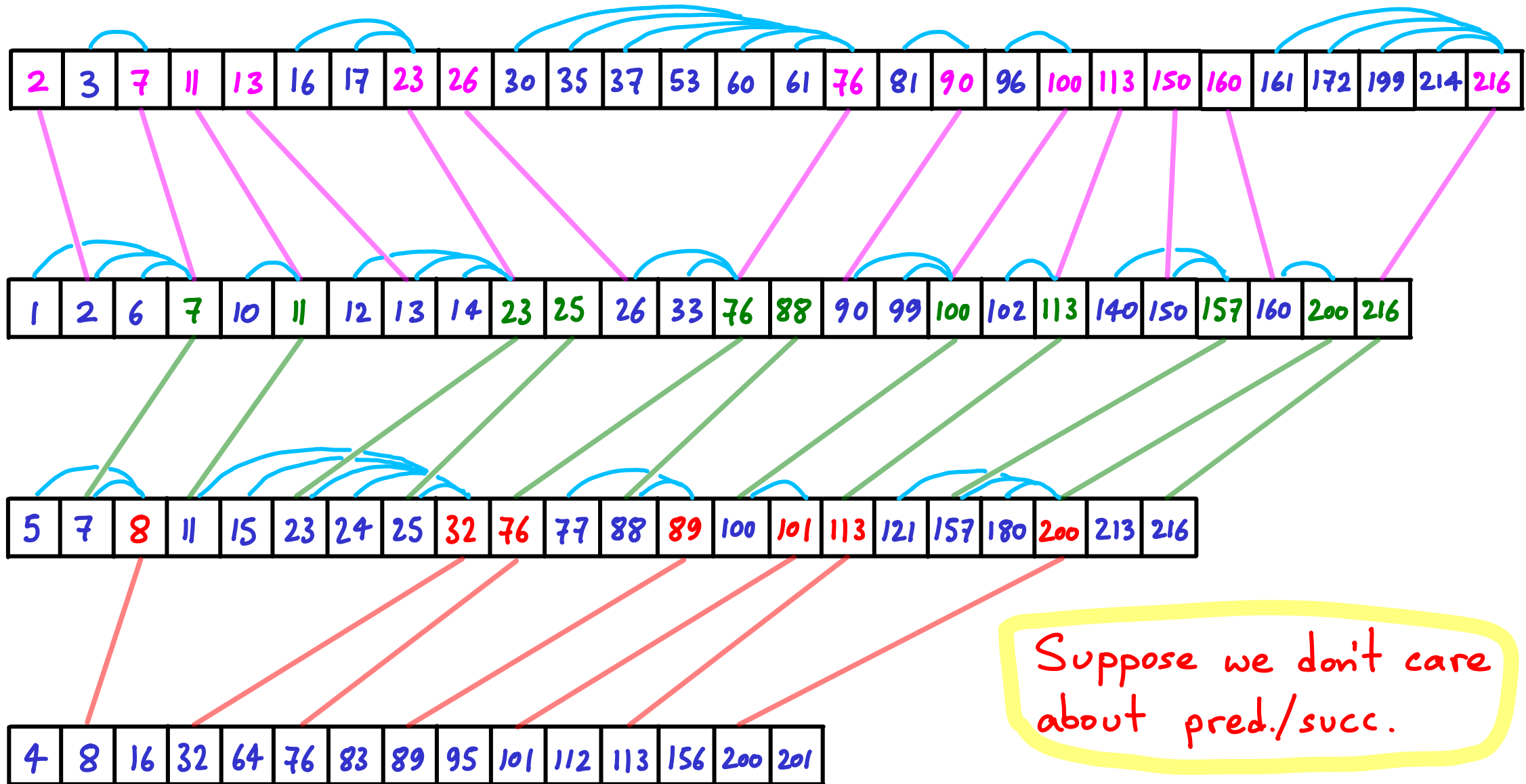
1	2	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	23	25	26	33	76	88	90	99	100	102	113	140	150	157	160	200	216
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4	8	16	32	64	76	83	89	95	101	112	113	156	200	201
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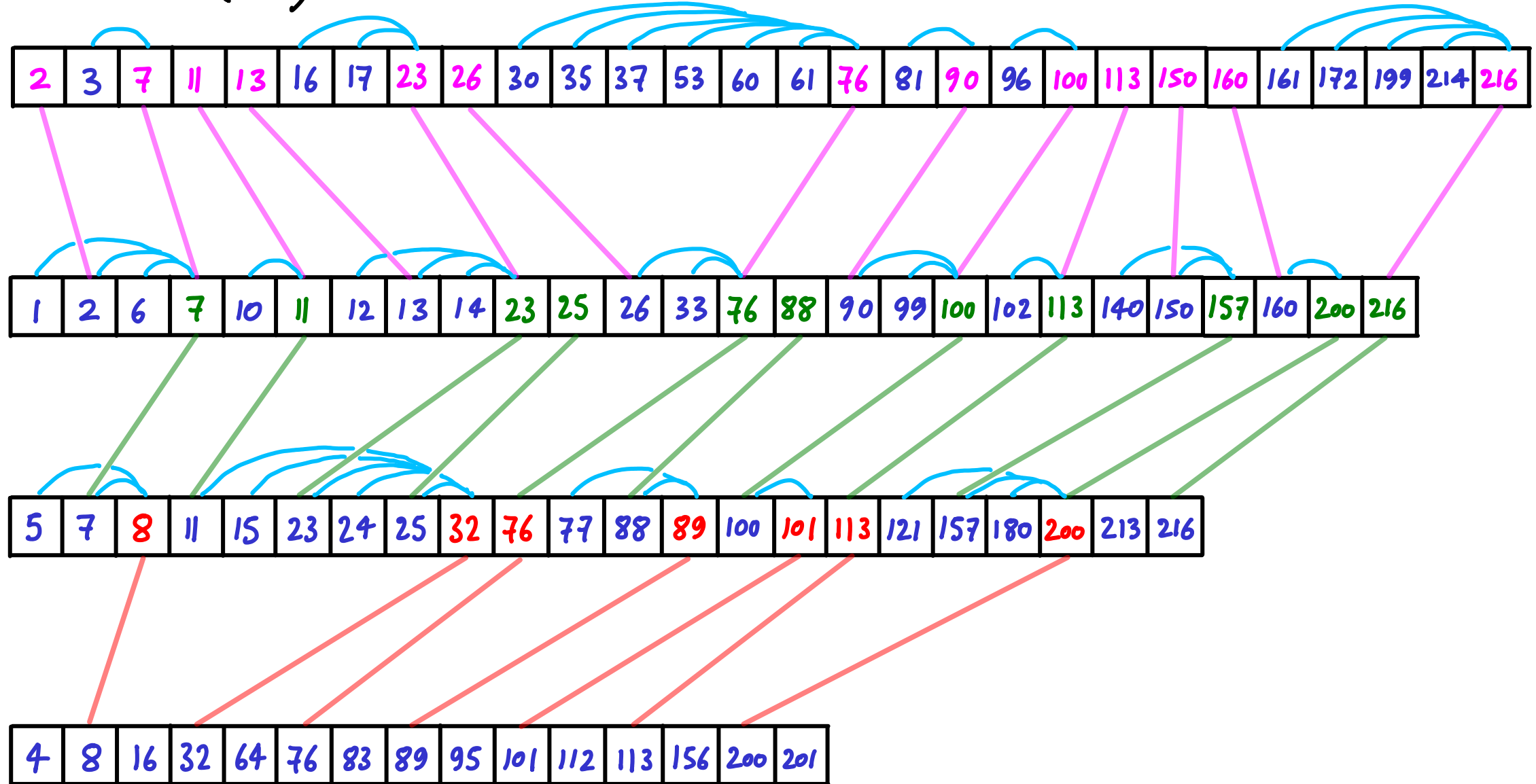




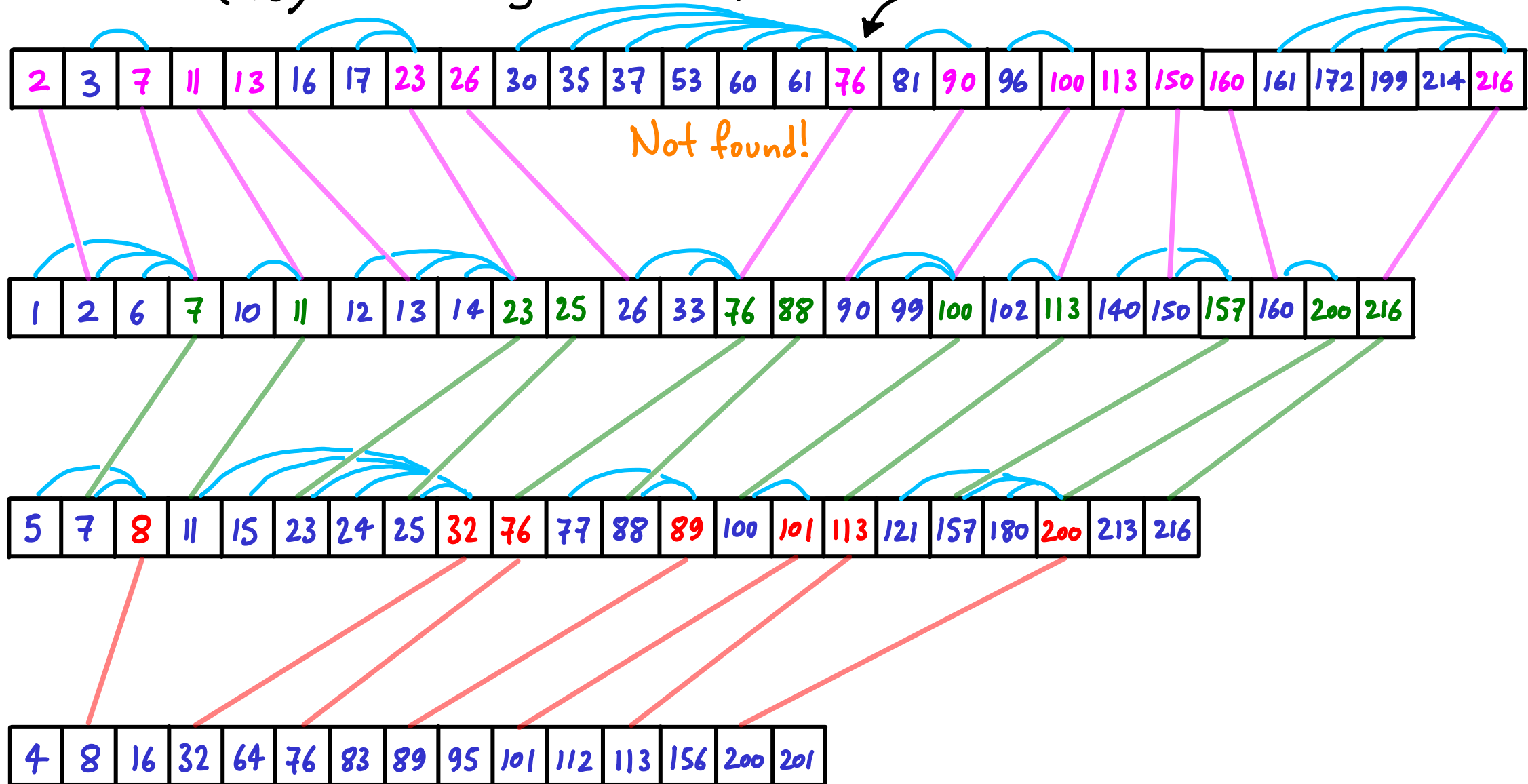


Suppose we don't care
about pred./succ.

Search(76)



Search(76) → Binary search top level?



Search(76) → Binary search top level?

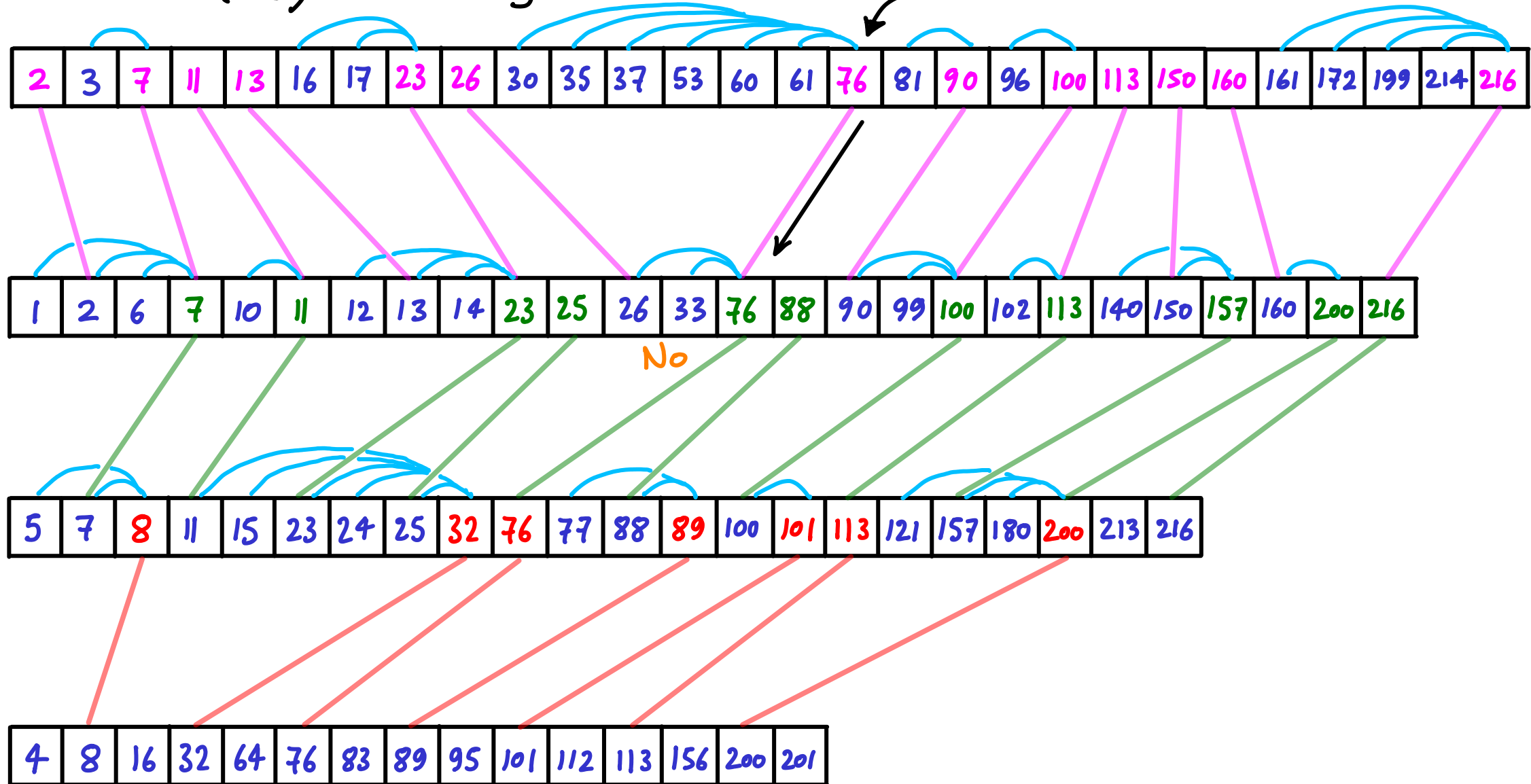


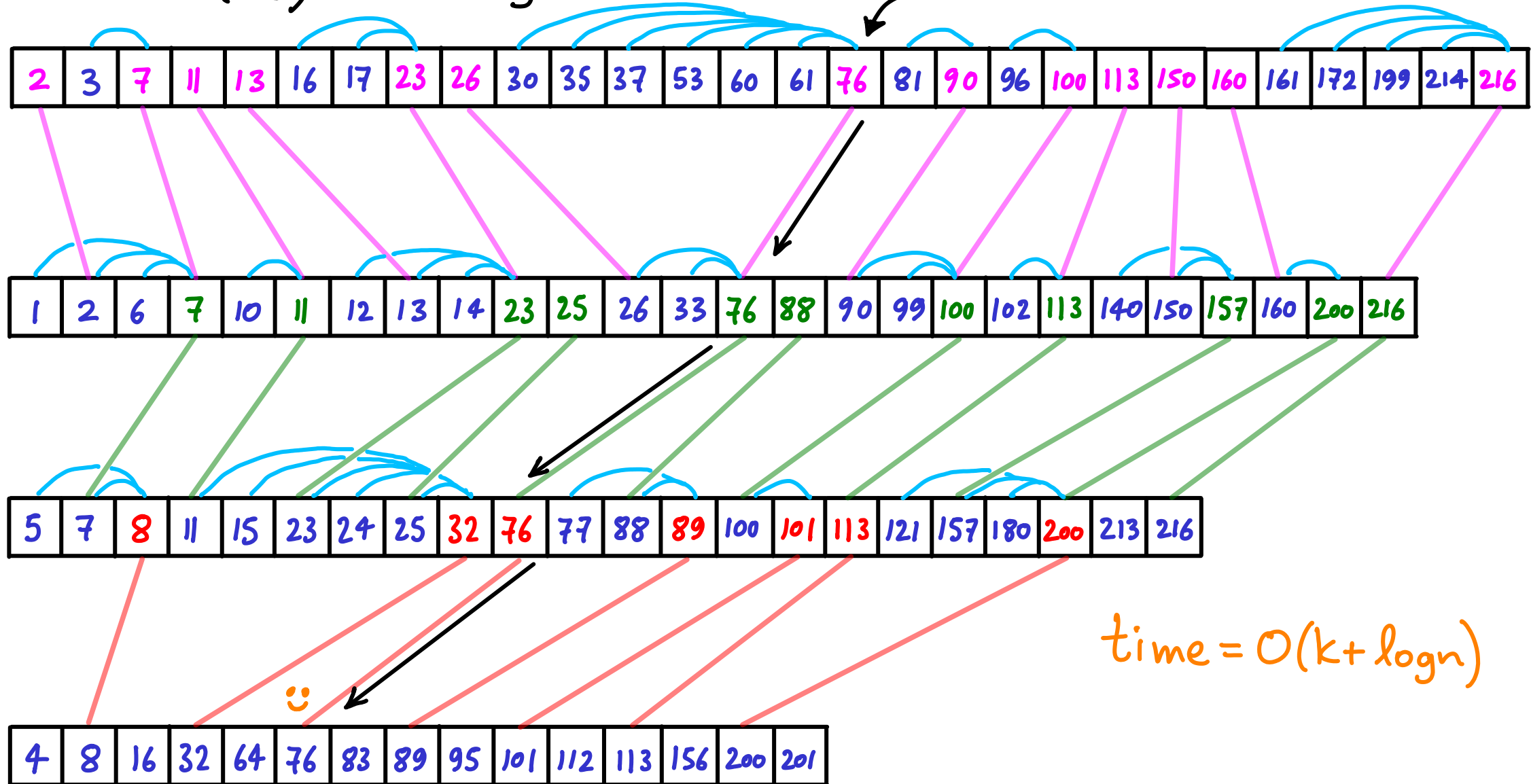
Diagram illustrating the merge sort algorithm. The arrays are shown in four rows, with elements color-coded to track their origin:

- Row 1 (Top): 2, 3, 7, 11, 13, 16, 17, 23, 26, 30, 35, 37, 53, 60, 61, 76, 81, 90, 96, 100, 113, 150, 160, 161, 172, 199, 214, 216. (Magenta elements: 2, 3, 7, 11, 13, 16, 17, 23, 26, 76, 90, 100, 113, 150, 160, 161, 172, 199, 214, 216)
- Row 2: 1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, 25, 26, 33, 76, 88, 90, 99, 100, 102, 113, 140, 150, 157, 160, 200, 216. (Green elements: 7, 11, 23, 25, 76, 88, 90, 99, 100, 113, 157, 160, 200, 216)
- Row 3: 5, 7, 8, 11, 15, 23, 24, 25, 32, 76, 77, 88, 89, 100, 101, 113, 121, 157, 180, 200, 213, 216. (Red elements: 8, 32, 76, 89, 101, 113, 200)
- Row 4 (Bottom): 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 76, 83, 89, 95, 101, 112, 113, 156, 200, 201. (Blue elements: 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 76, 83, 89, 95, 101, 112, 113, 156, 200, 201)

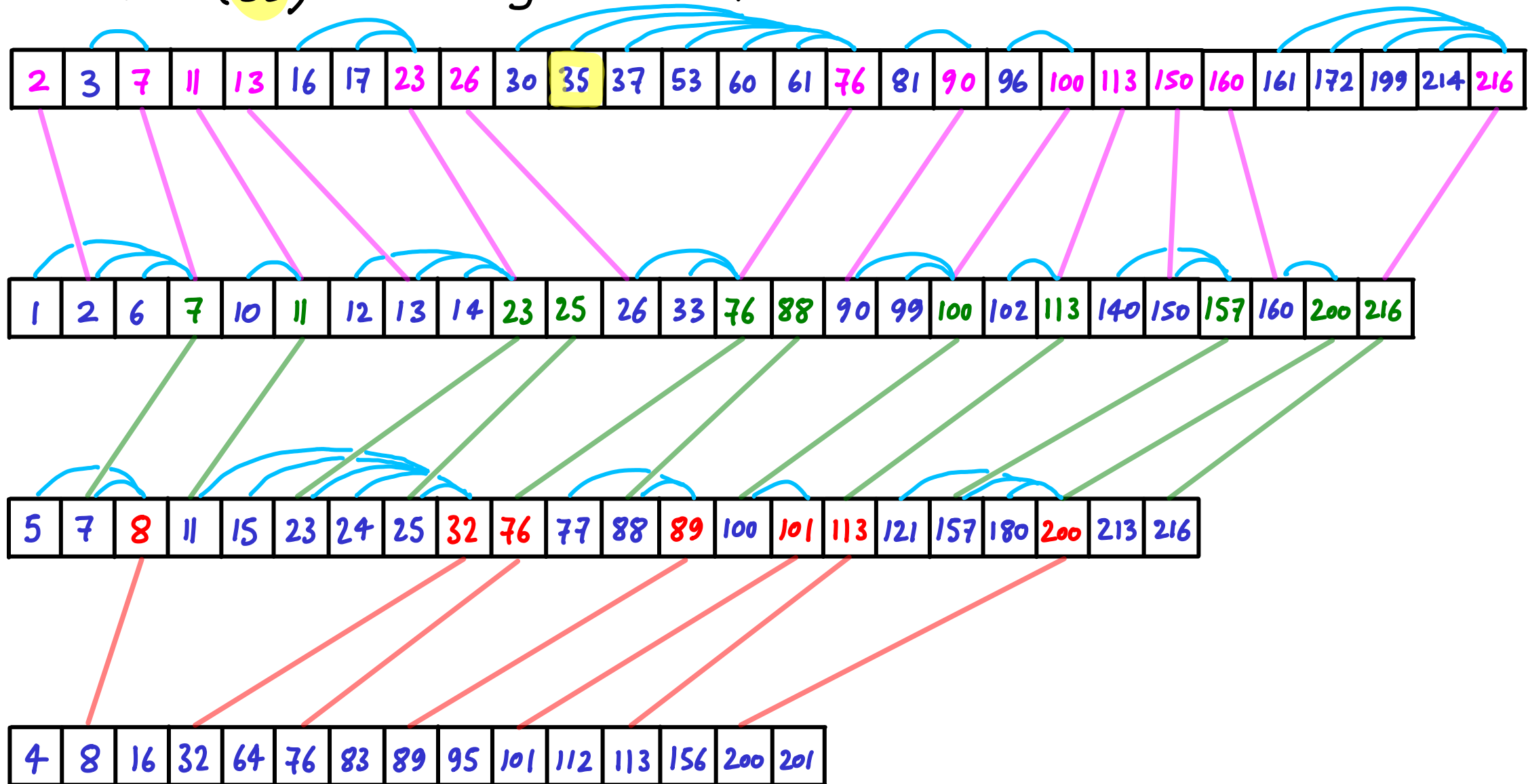
Connections and flow:

- Blue arcs connect adjacent elements in each row.
- Magenta lines connect elements from Row 1 to Row 2.
- Green lines connect elements from Row 2 to Row 3.
- Red lines connect elements from Row 3 to Row 4.
- Black arrows indicate the flow of the merge process from top to bottom.
- The word "No" is written in orange below the third row.

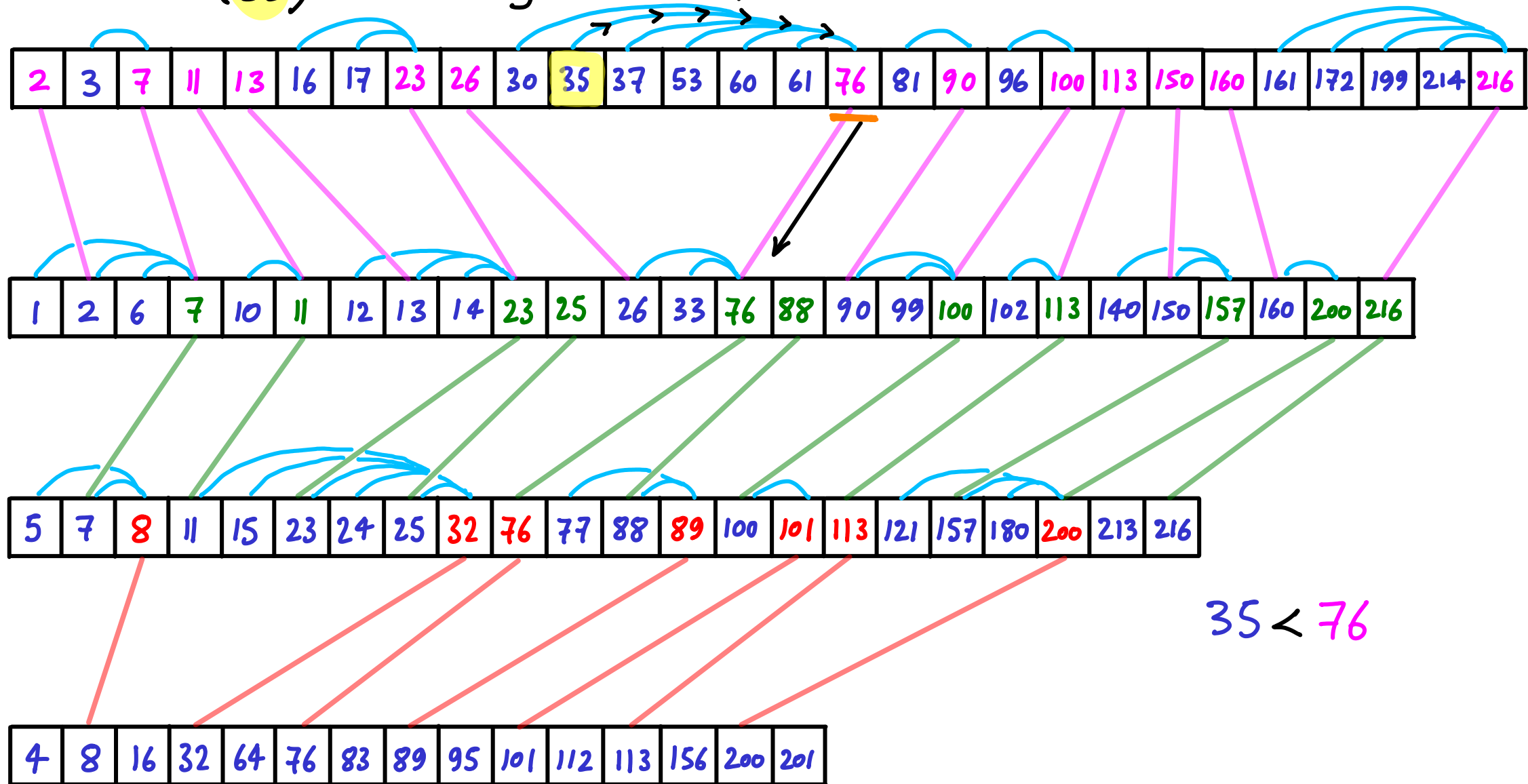
Search(76) → Binary search top level?



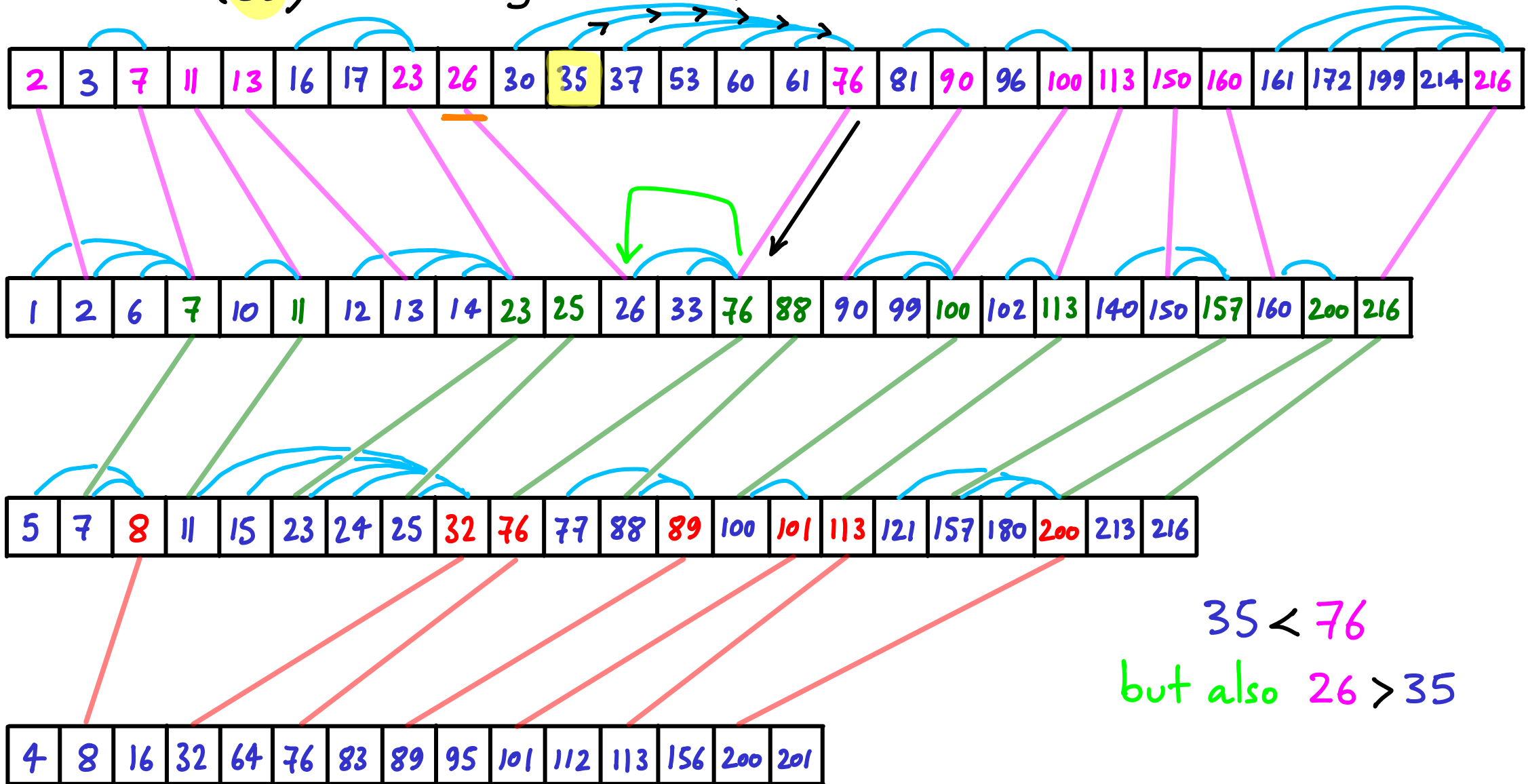
Search(35) → Binary search top level



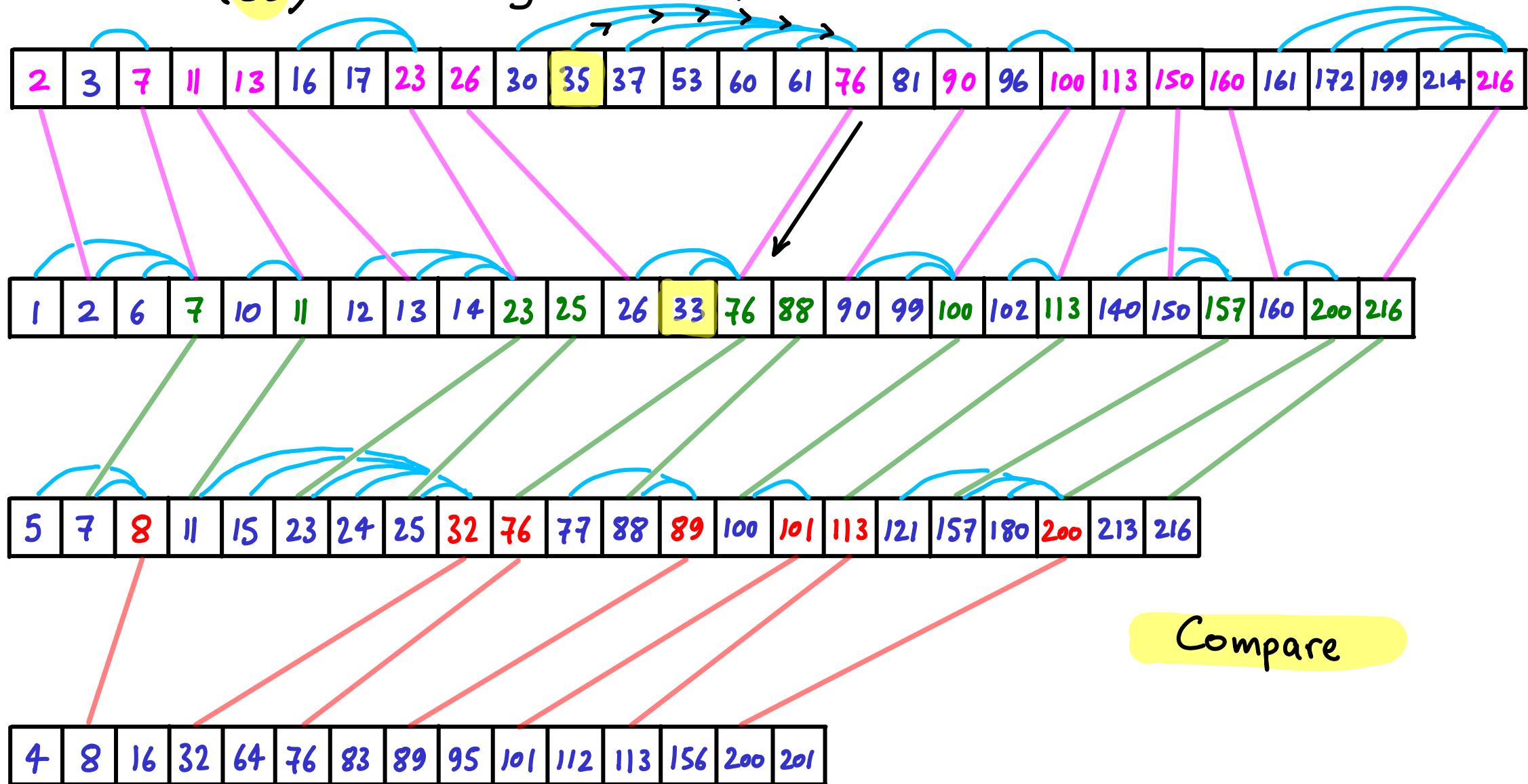
Search (35) → Binary search top level



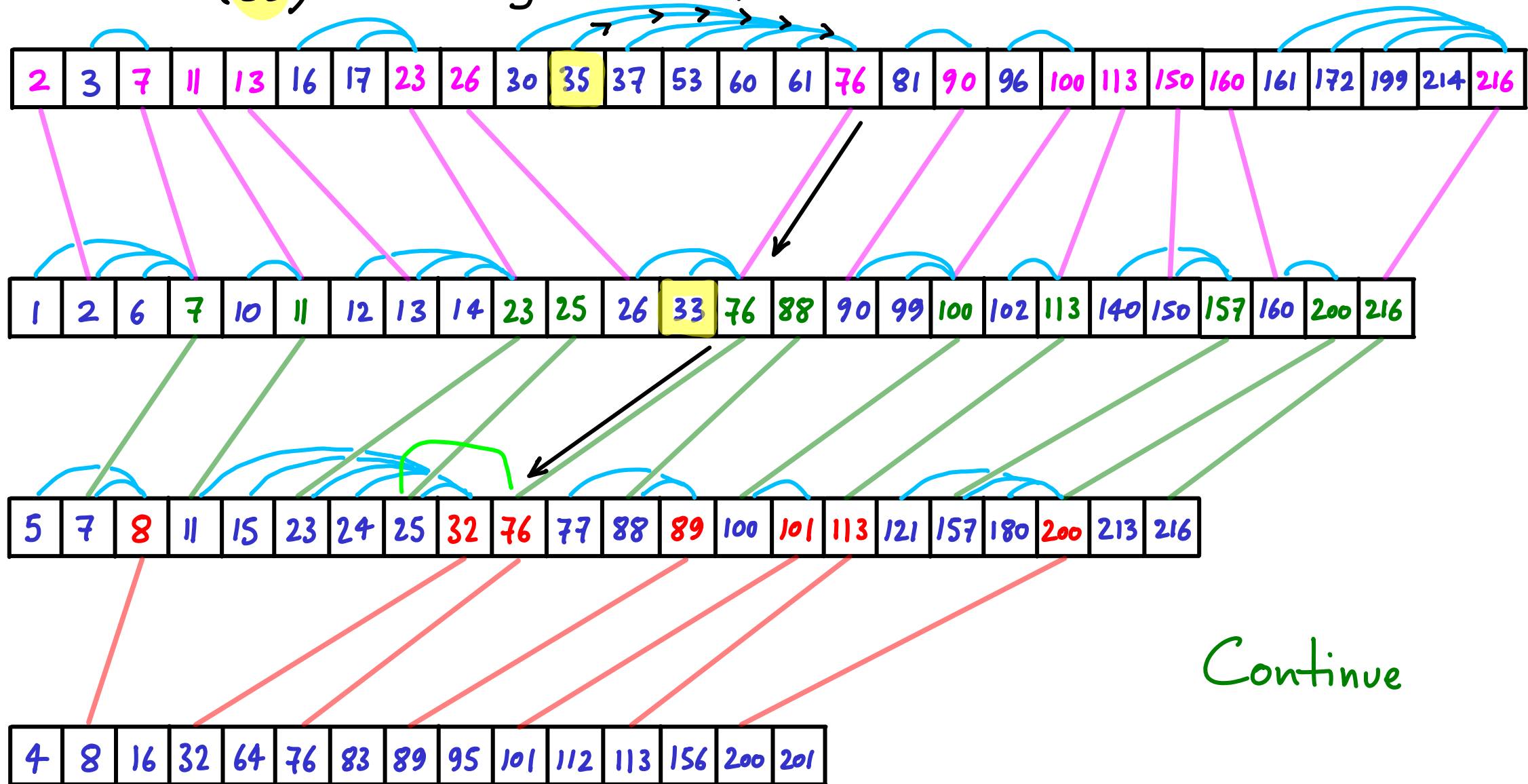
Search(35) → Binary search top level



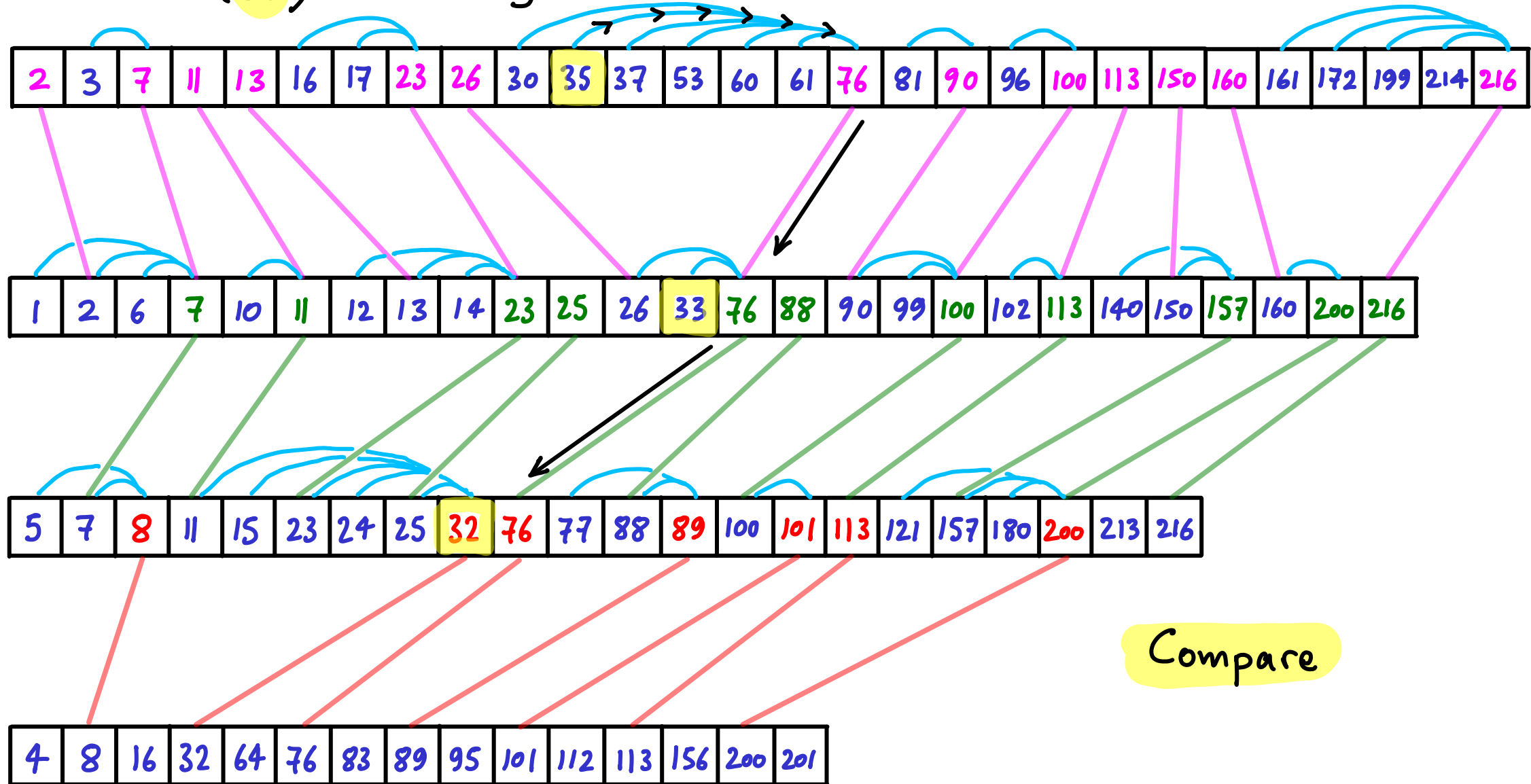
Search (35) → Binary search top level



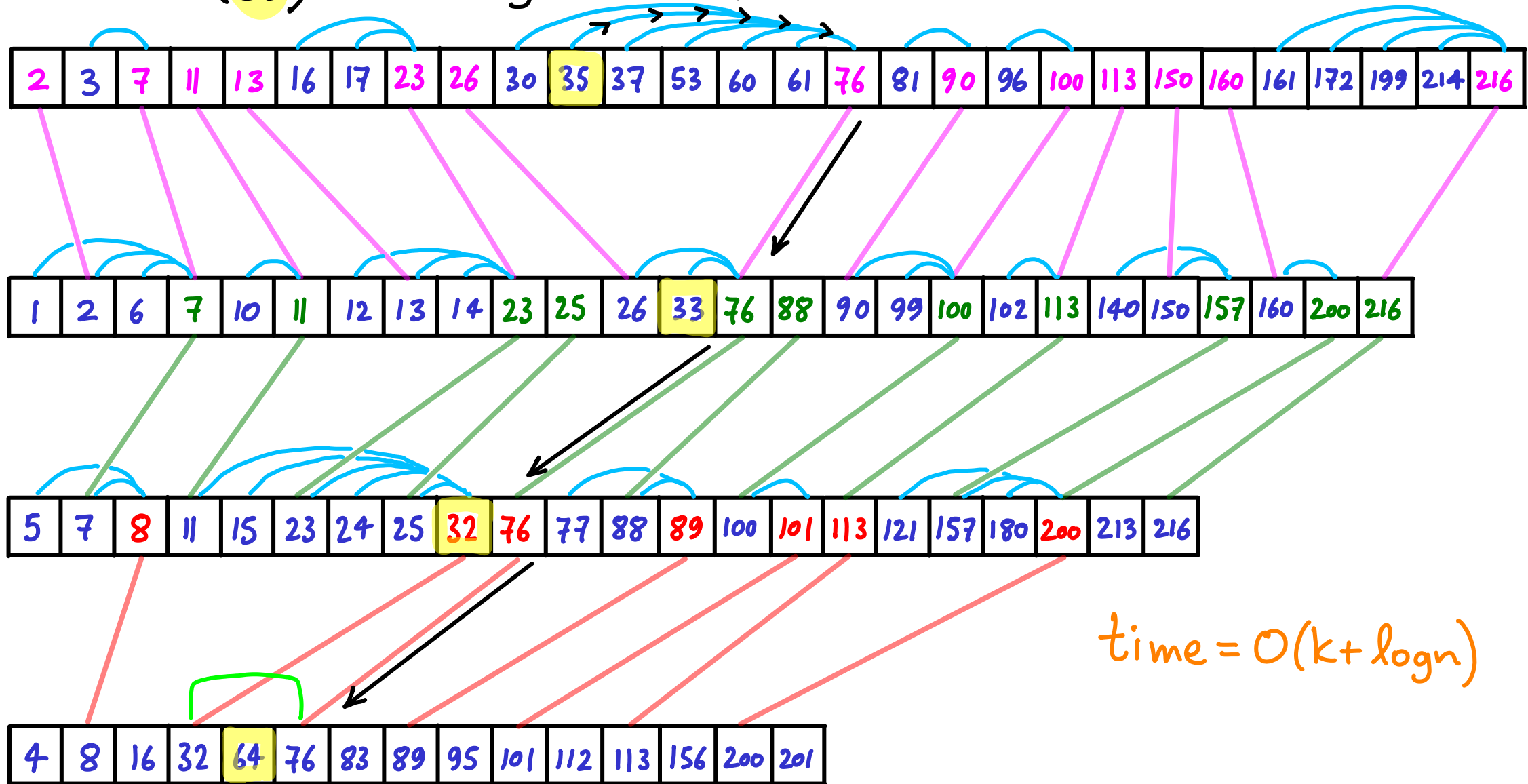
Search (35) → Binary search top level

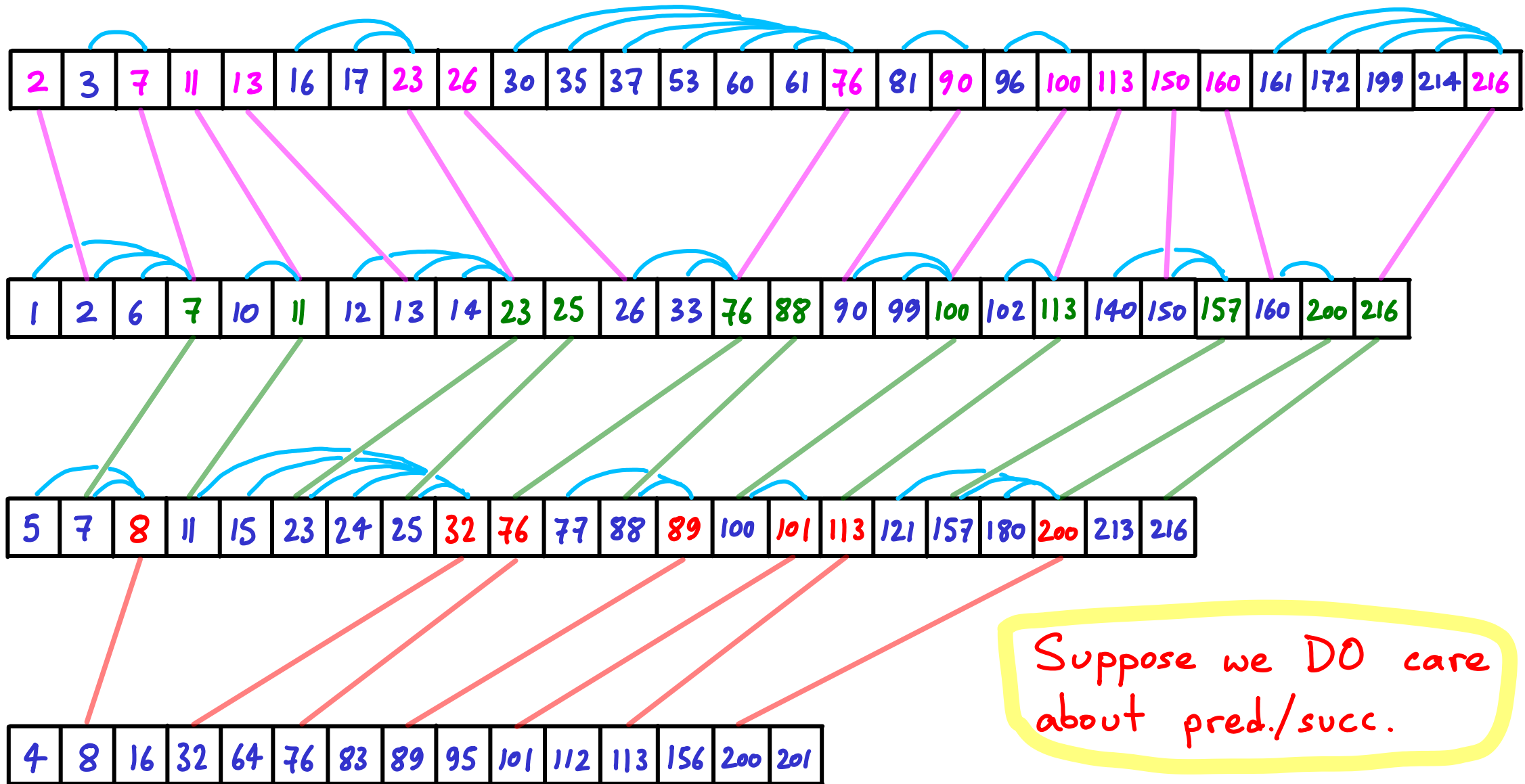


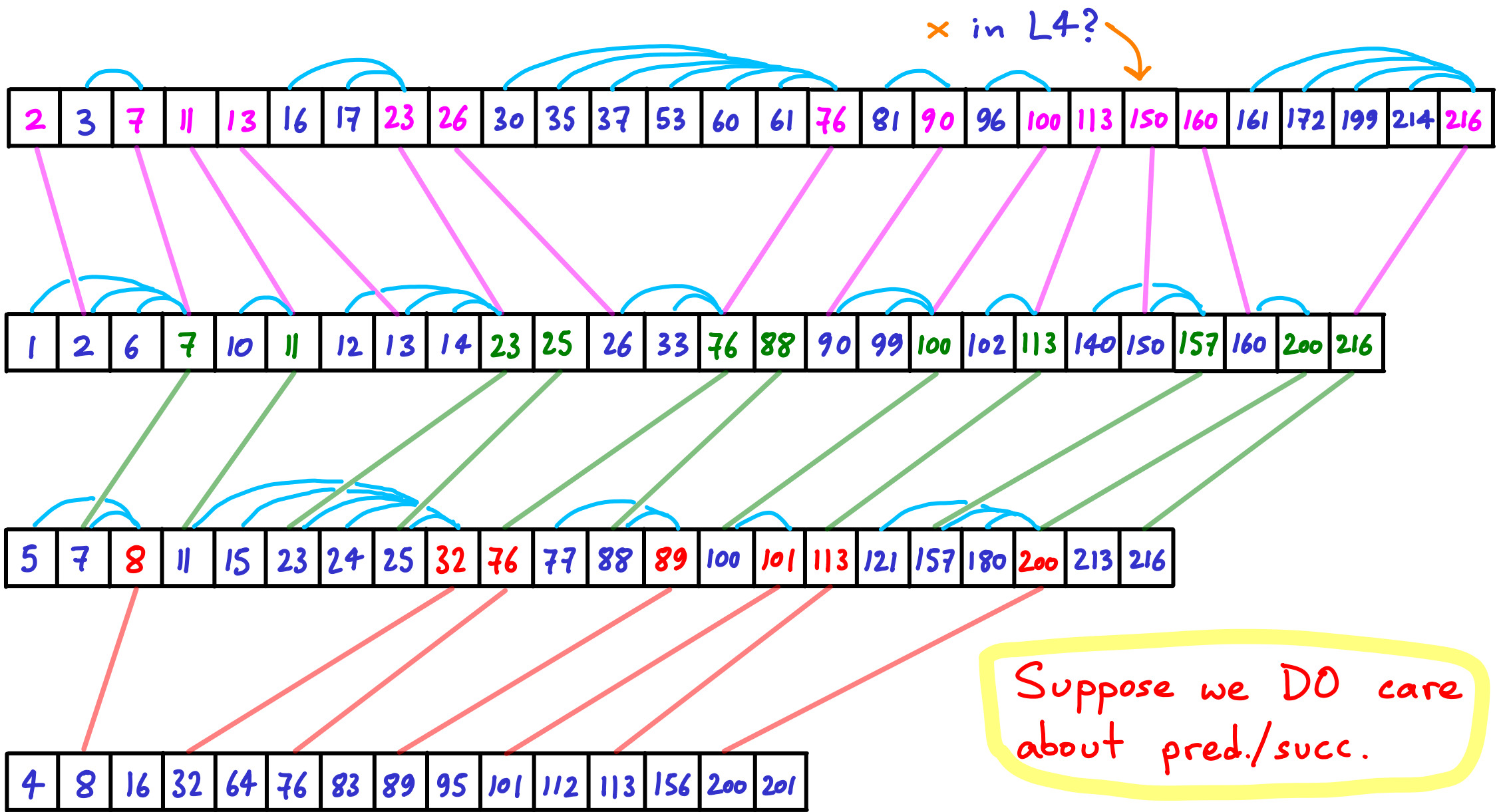
Search (35) → Binary search top level

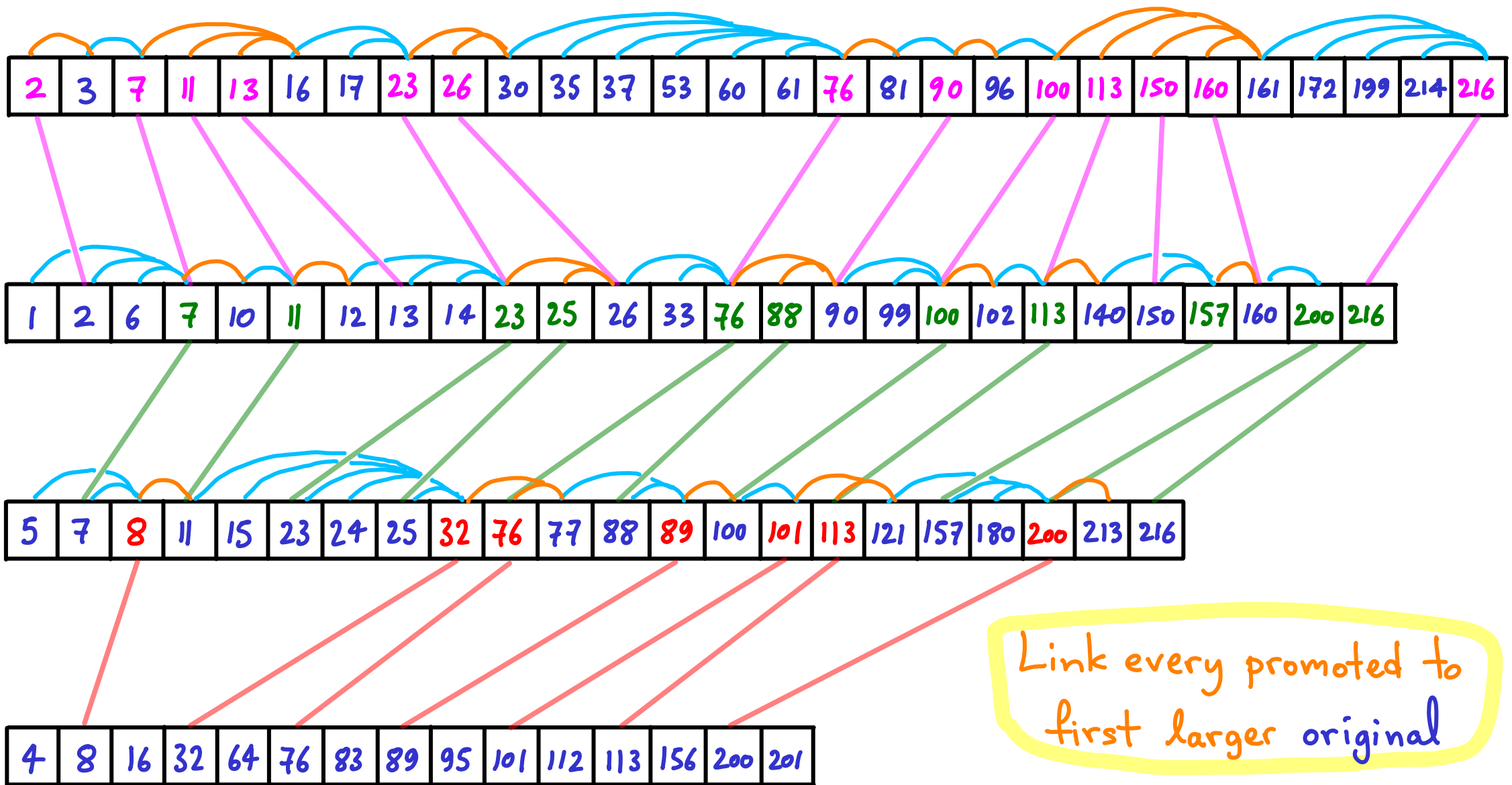


Search(35) → Binary search top level



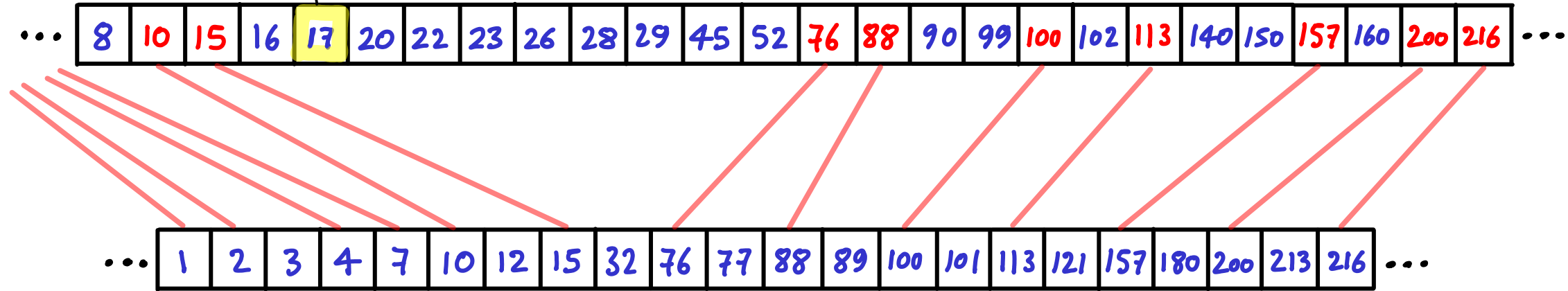






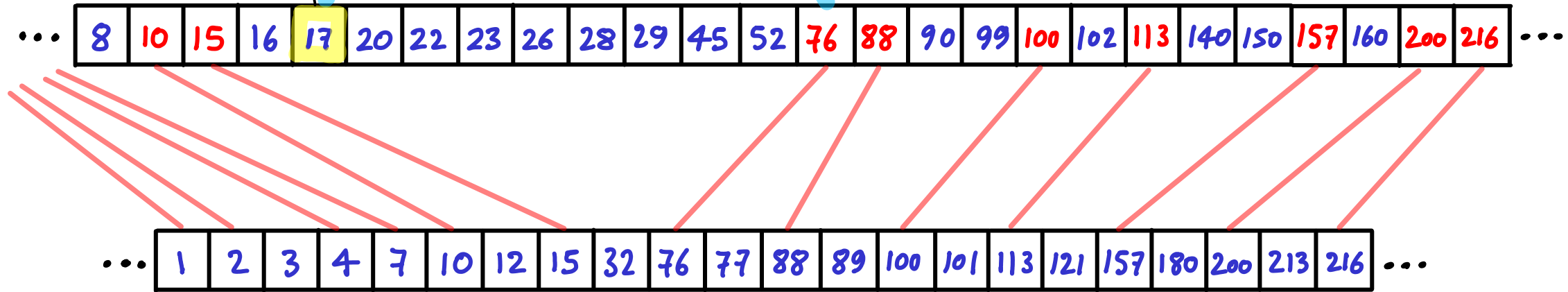
Link every promoted to first larger original

Always binary search at top



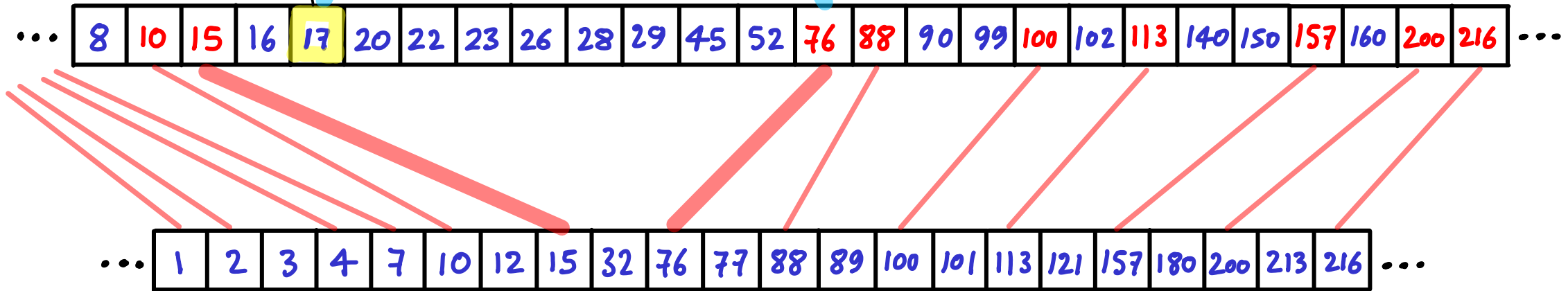
Always binary search at top

Find next element promoted from below



Always binary search at top

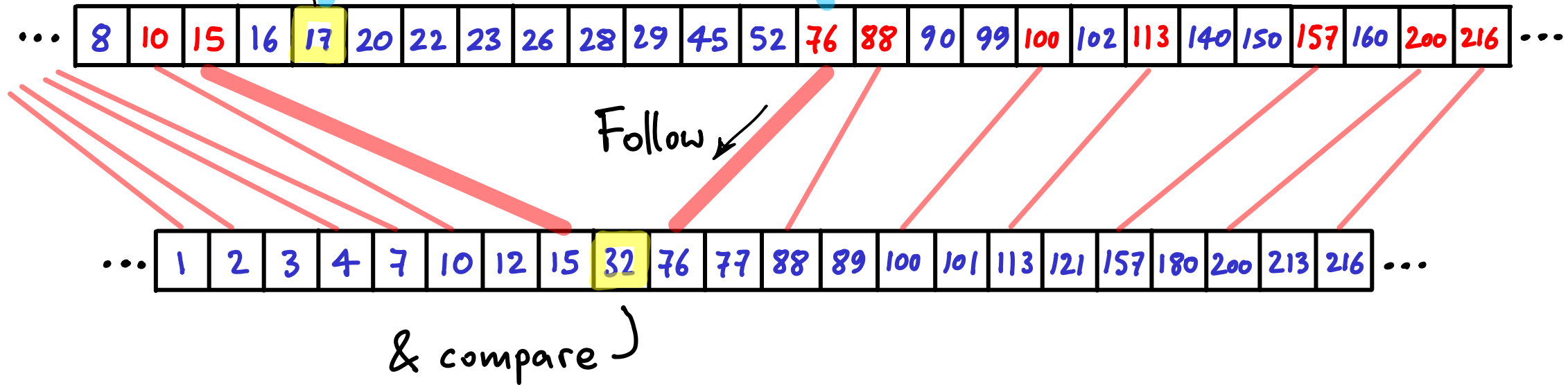
Find next element promoted from below



Now we know that 17 is between two elements in list below

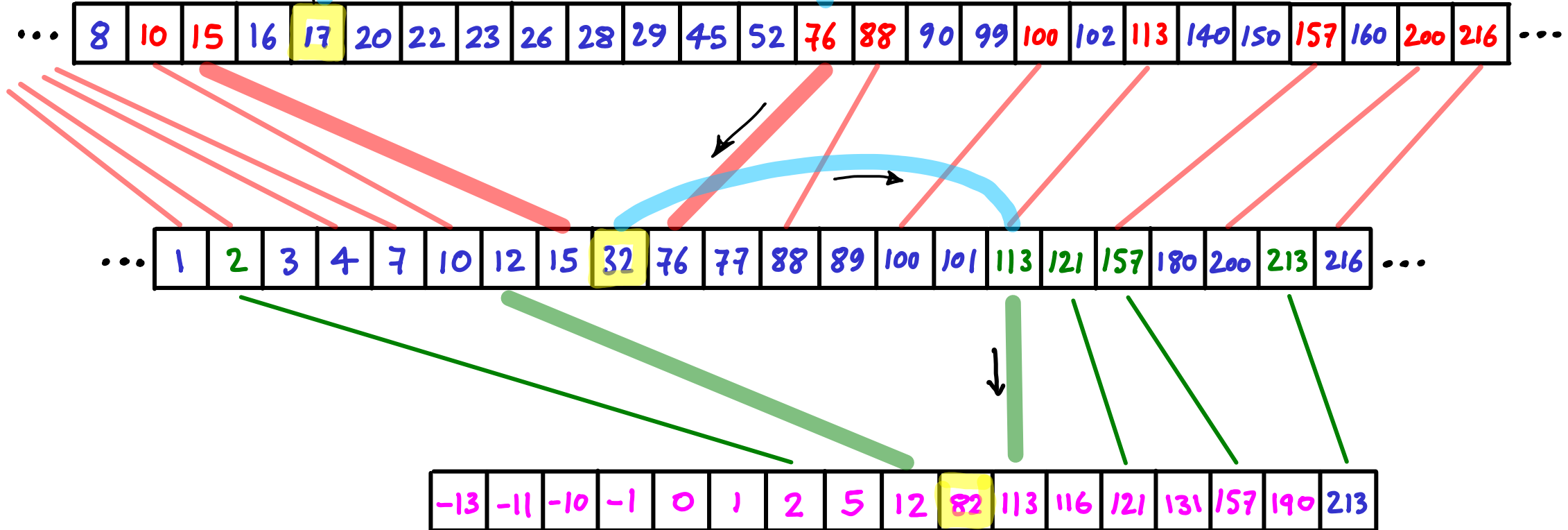
Always binary search at top

Find next element promoted from below



Always binary search at top

Find next element promoted from below



Always binary search at top

Find next element promoted from below

