

# Decrease-and-Conquer

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CPE 212 Algorithm Design

# Topics

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## ■ Decrease-by-a-constant

- Insertion sort
- Topological sorting
- Generating permutations

## ■ Decrease-by-a-constant-factor

- Binary search
- Fake-coin problem

## ■ Variable-size decrease

- Selection problem

Decrease by a  
constant

Decrease by a  
constant factor

Variable-size  
decrease

Insertion sort  
Topological sorting  
Generating permutations

Binary search  
Exponentiation  
Multiplication

Euclid's  
Selection by partition

# Insertion Sort

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89 | **45** 68 90 29 34 17

- Take the leftmost item as already sorted
- Successively put the leftmost item of the remaining portion to the sorted portion.
- So, size of an instance decreased by a constant in each iteration.

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**Algorithm** InsertionSort

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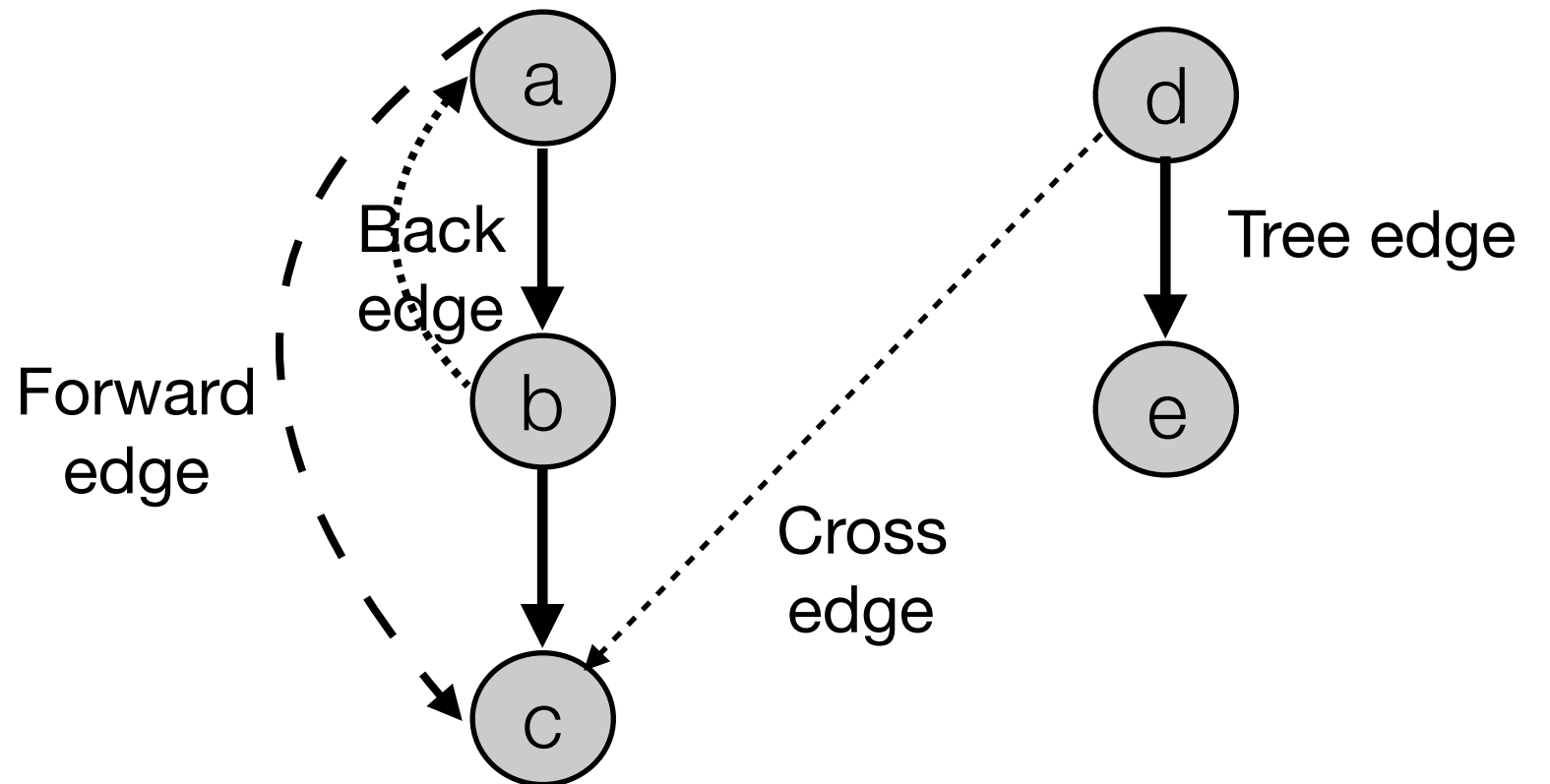
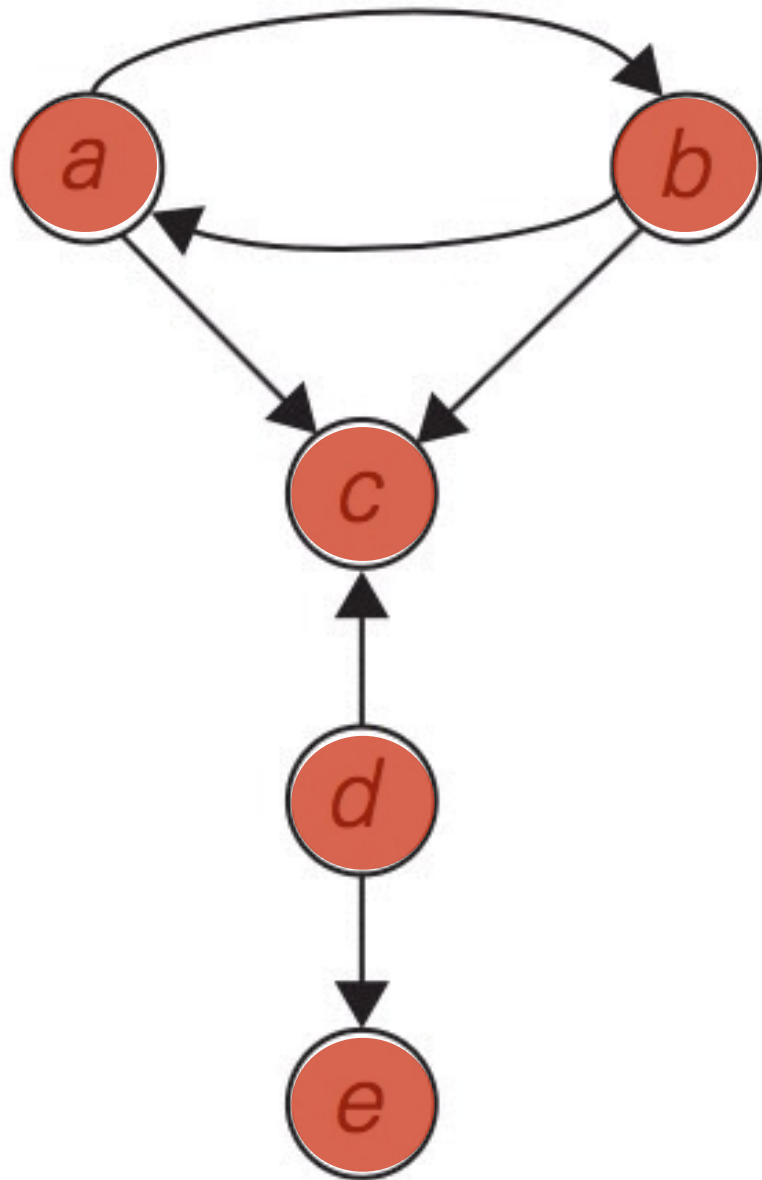
```
1: Input: An array  $A[0 \dots n - 1]$ 
2: Output: An array  $A[0 \dots n - 1]$  sorted in ascending order
3:
4: for  $i = 1$  to  $n - 1$  do
5:      $v \leftarrow A[i]$ 
6:      $j \leftarrow i - 1$ 
7:     while  $j \geq 0$  and  $A[j] > v$  do
8:          $A[j + 1] \leftarrow A[j]$ 
9:          $j \leftarrow j - 1$ 
10:     $A[j + 1] \leftarrow v$ 
```

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$$C_{worst}(n) = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=0}^{i-1} 1 = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} i = \frac{(n-1)n}{2} \in \Theta(n^2).$$

# Directed Graph (Digraph)

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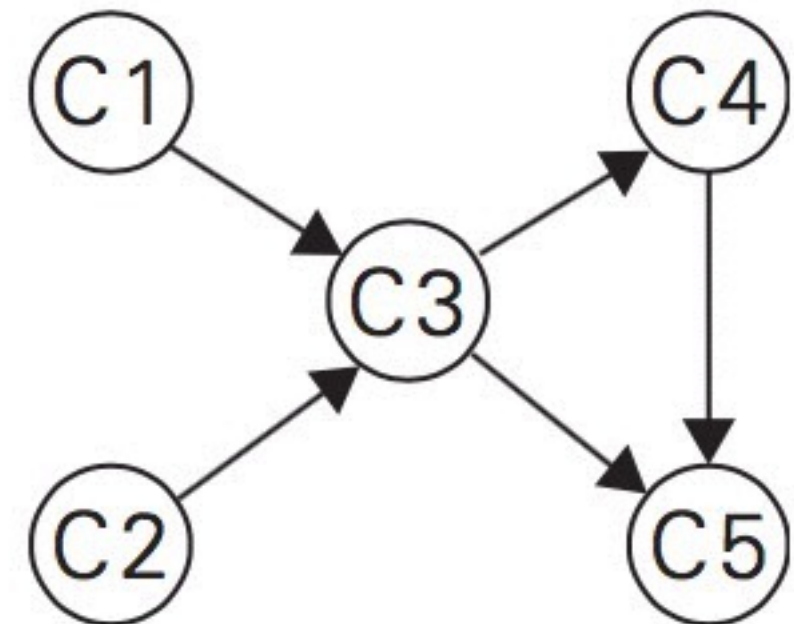


Result from DFS traversal  
Not **Directed Acyclic Graph** (DAG)

# Topological Sorting Problem

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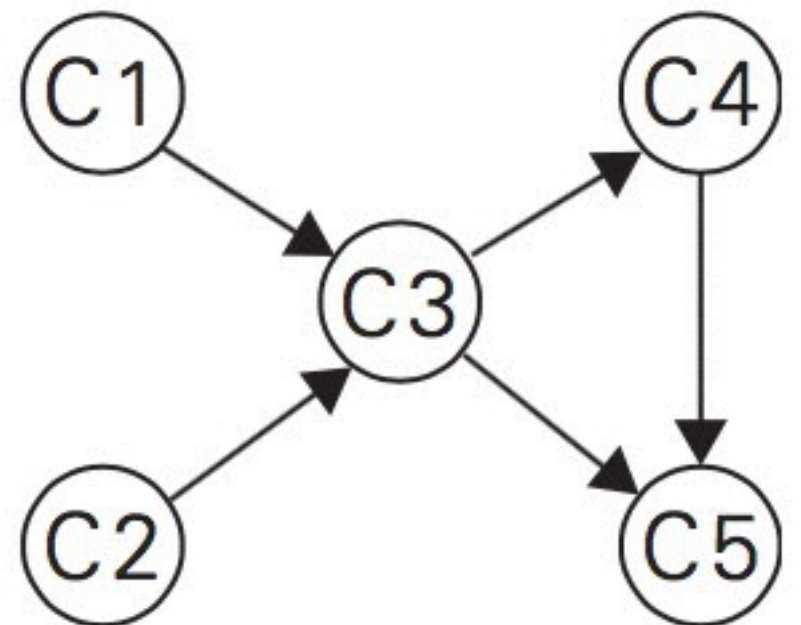
- Five courses {C1, C2, C3, C4, C5}
  - C3 requires C1 and C2 as prerequisites
  - C4 requires C3 as prerequisite
  - C5 requires C3 and C4 as prerequisites
- Student can only take one course per semester.
- What is the order to take the courses?



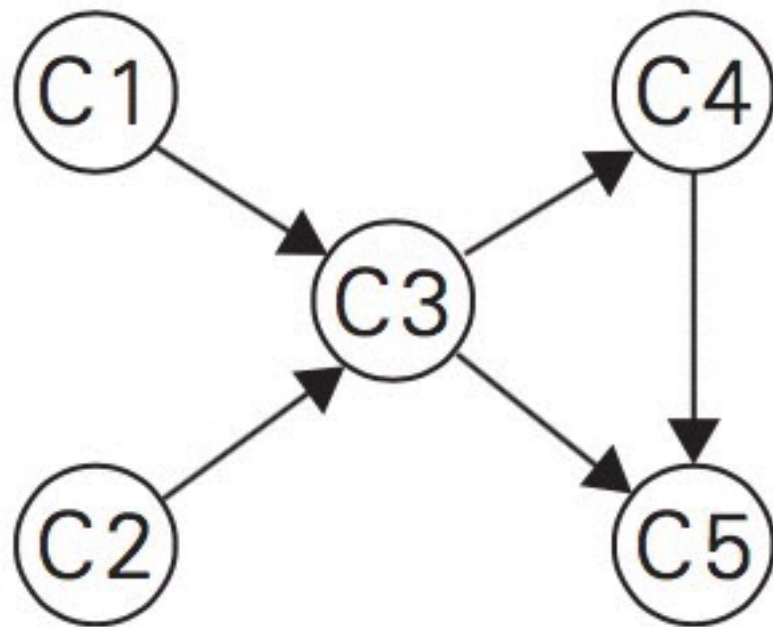
# Solution to Topological Sorting

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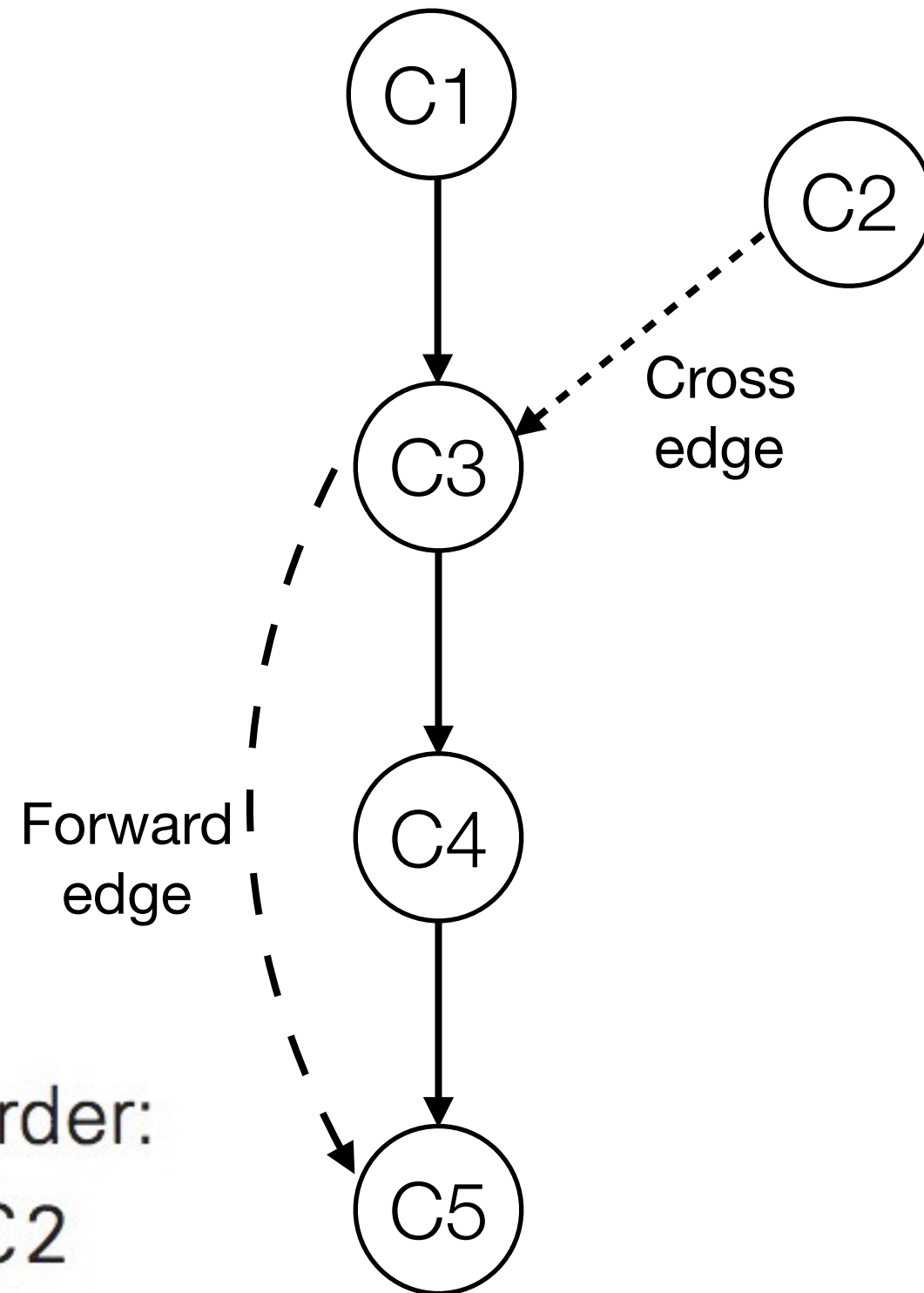
- Can we list all the vertices such that, for every edge, the vertex where the edge starts is listed before the vertex where the edge ends?
- First solution: Amount to checking if DFS traversal yields DAG (No back edge).







The popping-off order:  
C5, C4, C3, C1, C2

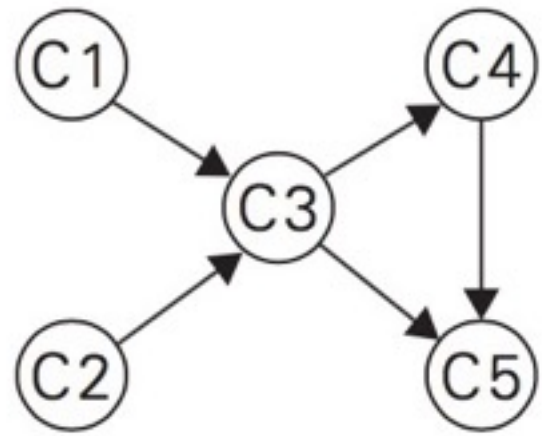


DFS traversal  
**Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG)**

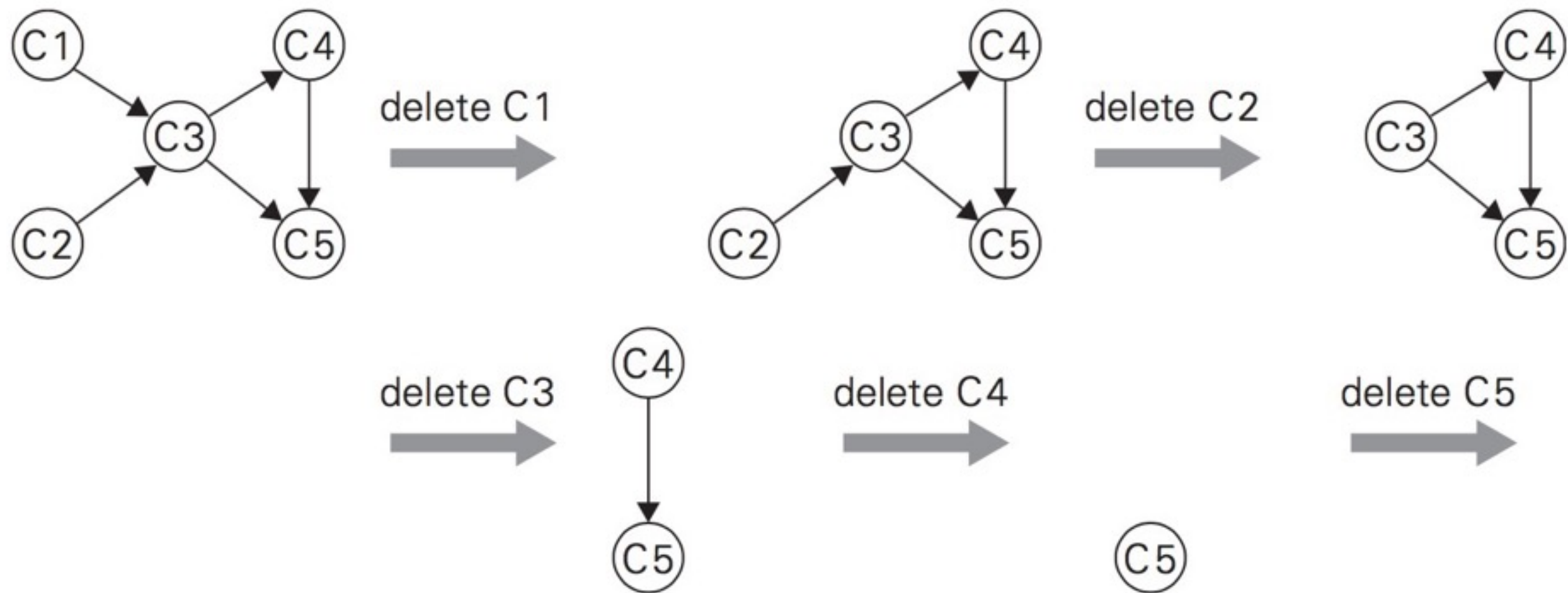
# Source Removal Algorithm

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- Decrease (by one)-and-Conquer approach
  - Repeatedly delete a vertex with no incoming edge and its outgoing edges.
  - The order in which the vertices are deleted yields a solution to the problem.
- May yield different solution than DFS.



The solution obtained is C 1, C 2, C 3, C 4, C 5



The solution obtained is C1, C2, C3, C4, C5

# Generating Combinatorial Objects

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- Mostly used for brute-force and exhaustive search algorithms.
  - All sequences of cities in TSP
  - All combinations of objects in knapsack problem.
- Three types
  - Permutations
  - Combinations
  - Subsets

# Permutation

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■ Ex:

- How many ways to arrange letters a, b, c ?
- How many ways to arrange six books on a shelf ?

■ Number of orders (sequences) of a selection of  $n$  distinct objects.

■ Called “Sampling without Replacement”

# k-Permutation

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■ Ex:

- Select three cards in succession from a deck of  $N$  cards. Each card is removed after being selected.
- How many possible outcomes (a sequence of 3 distinct cards) ?

■ Number of sequences of  $k$  out of  $n$  distinct objects ( $1 \cdot k \cdot n$ ).

■ Called “**Ordered Sampling with Replacement**”

# Examples

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- A club has 25 members. The president and the secretary are to be chosen from the members. What is the total number of ways these two positions can be filled ?
- Three awards (research, teaching, service) will be given one year for a class of 30 students. Each student can receive at most one award. How many possible selections ?



# Combination

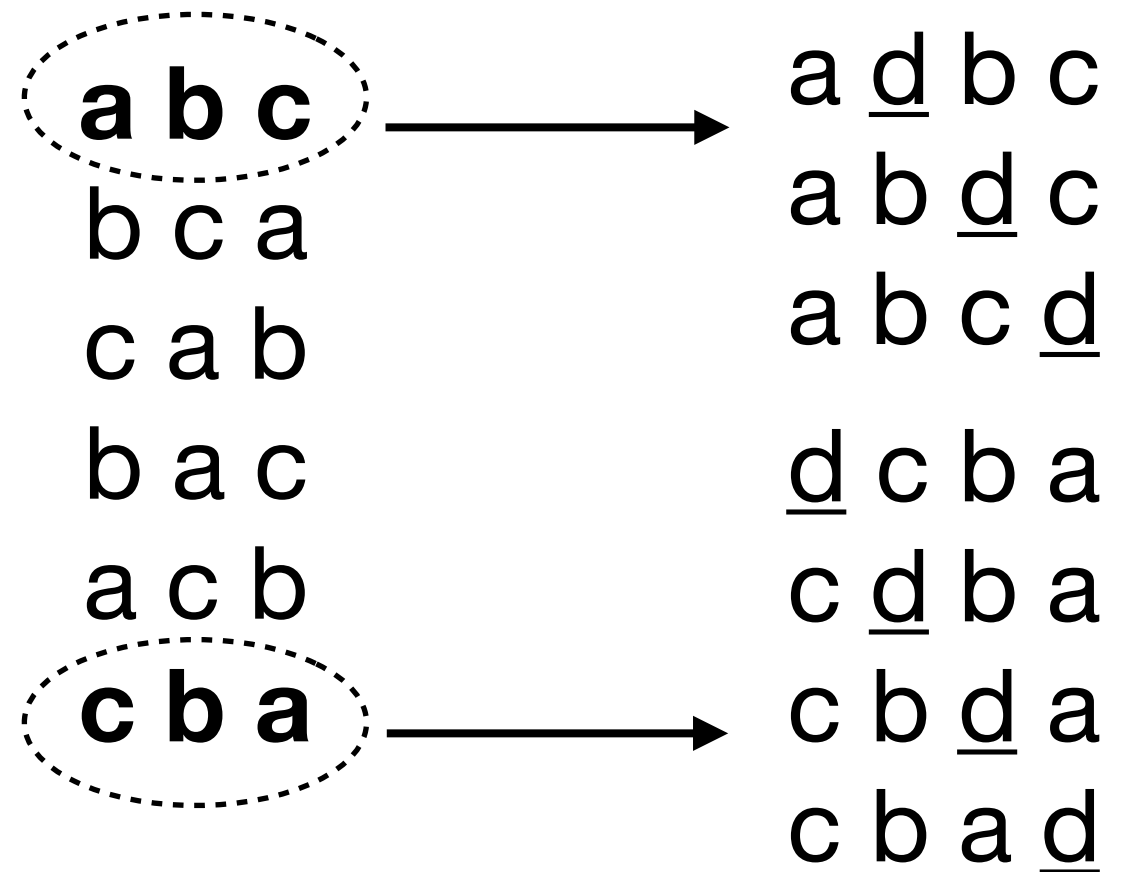
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- How many ways to choose two letters from  $\{a,b,c,d\}$  (order doesn't matter) ?
- # different selections (groups) of  $k$  objects from a set of  $n$  distinct objects
- Called “Unordered sampling without replacement”
- Form a group of 8 committees from 20 people. How many different groups can be formed ?

# Generating Permutations

■ Ex: Consider a set of {a, b, c, d}

- Generate all permutations of {a, b, c}
- For each pattern, insert d at different positions to obtain the required patterns.



- Assume a set of integers  $\{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\}$ 
  - Can be interpreted as indices of an  $n$ -element set  $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$
  - Totally  $n!$  permutations
- Suppose we already have a pattern of single element  $\{1\}$ 
  - How do we generate patterns with two elements 1 and 2?
- Suppose we already have patterns of two elements  $\{1, 2\}, \{2, 1\}$ .
  - How do we generate patterns with three elements 1, 2, 3 ?

# Decrease-by-One Technique

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- Remove one element and generate  $(n-1)!$  permutations
- Inserting the removed element in all  $n$  possible positions of every permutations of  $n-1$  elements.
- Total permutations =  $n * (n-1)! = n!$
- $(n-1)!$  permutations can be generated from  $(n-1) * (n-2)!$  and so on.

|                               |                 |                  |                  |                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Start                         | 1               |                  |                  |                 |
| Insert 2 into 1 right to left | 1, <b>2</b>     | <b>2</b> ,1      |                  |                 |
| Insert 3 into 1,2             | 1,2, <b>3</b>   | 1, <b>3</b> ,2   | <b>3</b> ,1,2    |                 |
| Insert 3 into 2,1             | 2,1, <b>3</b>   | 2, <b>3</b> ,1   | <b>3</b> ,2,1    |                 |
| Insert 4 into 1,2,3           | 1,2,3, <b>4</b> | 1,2, <b>4</b> ,3 | 1, <b>4</b> ,2,3 | <b>4</b> ,1,2,3 |
| Insert 4 into 1,3,2           | 1,3,2, <b>4</b> |                  |                  |                 |
| Insert 4 into 3,1,2           | 3,1,2, <b>4</b> |                  |                  |                 |
| Insert 4 into 3,2,1           | 2,1,3, <b>4</b> |                  |                  |                 |
| Insert 4 into 2,3,1           | 2,3,1, <b>4</b> |                  |                  |                 |
| Insert 4 into 2,1,3           | 3,2,1, <b>4</b> |                  |                  |                 |

- Possible to generate n-element permutations without explicitly generating permutations for smaller values of n.
- Consider one of the 4-element permutations:

$$\overleftarrow{3}, \overrightarrow{2}, \overleftarrow{4}, \overrightarrow{1}$$

- An element said to be "mobile" if its arrow points to a smaller number adjacent to it.
- 4 is mobile while 3, 2, 1 are not.

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## Algorithm JohnsonTrotter

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- 1: Input: A positive integer  $n$
  - 2: Output: All permutations of  $\{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\}$
  - 3:
  - 4: Initialize the first permutation with  $\overleftarrow{1}, \overleftarrow{2}, \dots, \overleftarrow{n}$
  - 5: **while** The last permutation has a mobile element **do**
  - 6:     Find its largest mobile element  $k$
  - 7:     Swap  $k$  with element that the arrow of  $k$  points to
  - 8:     Reverse the direction of all elements larger than  $k$
  - 9:     Add the new permutation to the list
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$\overleftarrow{1} \overleftarrow{2} \overleftarrow{3}$

# Generating All Subsets (Power Set)

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- Want to find all subsets of  $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$ , e.g., knapsack problem.
- Subset of  $A$  = Set of whose all its members are also elements of  $A$ .
- What are the subsets of  $A = \{x, y, z\}$  ?



## ■ Decrease-by-one approach

- All subsets of  $A = \{\text{those without } a_n\} \cup \{\text{those with } a_n\}$
- The former group is all subsets of  $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{n-1}\}$
- The latter group is the former added by  $\{a_n\}$

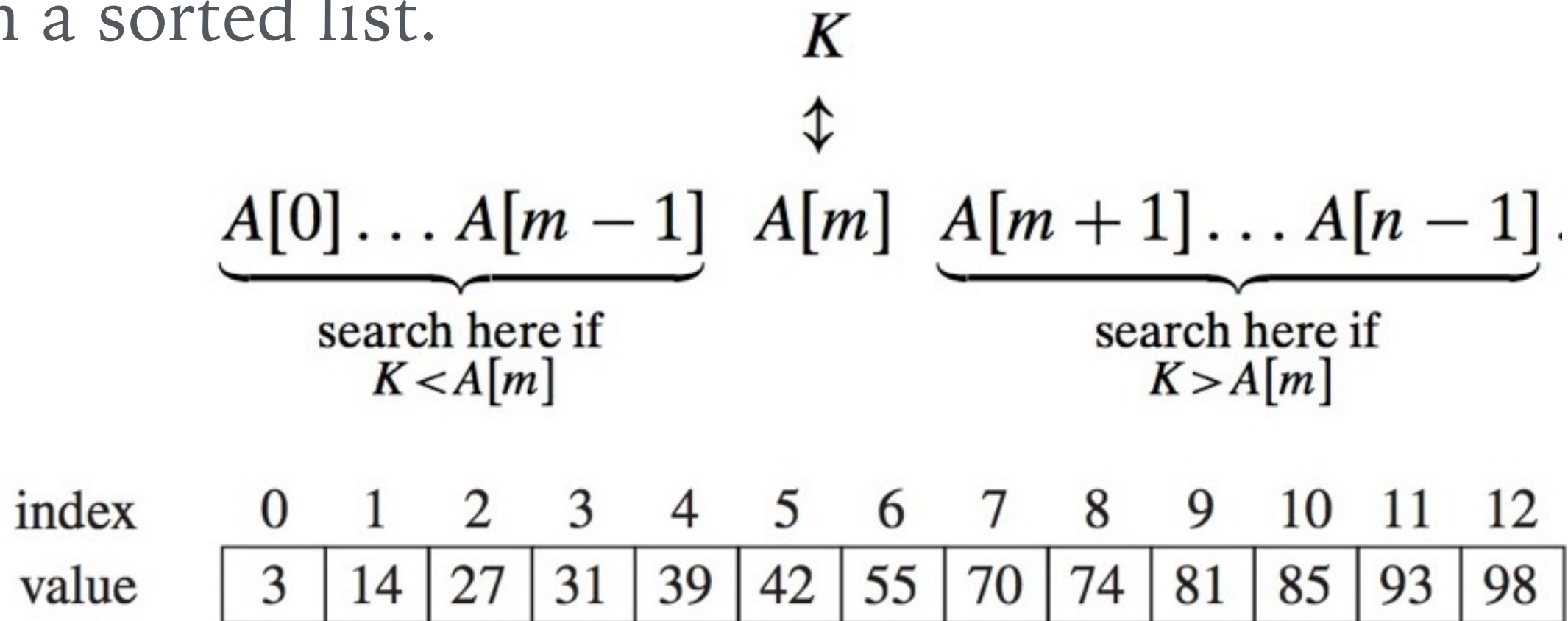
| $n$ |             | subsets |
|-----|-------------|---------|
| 0   | $\emptyset$ |         |
| 1   |             |         |
| 2   |             |         |
| 3   |             |         |

- Easier way is to use an n-bit bit string to represent presence or absence of individual elements

|             |             |           |           |                |           |                |                |                     |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|
| bit strings | 000         | 001       | 010       | 011            | 100       | 101            | 110            | 111                 |
| subsets     | $\emptyset$ | $\{a_3\}$ | $\{a_2\}$ | $\{a_2, a_3\}$ | $\{a_1\}$ | $\{a_1, a_3\}$ | $\{a_1, a_2\}$ | $\{a_1, a_2, a_3\}$ |

# Binary Search

- Decrease-by-a-constant factor search algorithm operated on a sorted list.



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**Algorithm** BinarySearch

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- 1: Input: A sequence of numbers  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$ ; A search key  $K$
  - 2: Output: Return the index of element if  $K$  is in the sequence, and -1 otherwise.
  - 3:
  - 4:  $l \leftarrow 0$
  - 5:  $r \leftarrow n - 1$
  - 6: **while**  $l \leq r$  **do**
  - 7:      $m \leftarrow \lfloor (l + r) / 2 \rfloor$
  - 8:     **if**  $K = A[m]$  **then**
  - 9:         Return  $m$
  - 10:    **else if**  $K < A[m]$  **then**
  - 11:          $r \leftarrow m - 1$
  - 12:    **else**
  - 13:          $l \leftarrow m + 1$
  - 14: Return -1
-

# Efficiency of Binary Search

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- Worst case when the search key is not in the list.
- After one comparison, the array size to search is reduced by half. So,

$$C_{worst}(n) = C_{worst}(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor) + 1 \quad \text{for } n > 1, \quad C_{worst}(1) = 1$$

- Assume that  $n = 2^k$ , solving the above recurrence equation with backward substitution results in

$$C_{worst}(2^k) = k + 1 = \log_2 n + 1.$$

# Fake-Coin Problem

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- A set of  $n$  identical-looking coins, one of which is fake.
- How to find it?
  - Assume the fake one is lighter.
  - Fake coin has unknown weight for the harder version



- Inefficient solution: Compare two coins one by one.
- More efficient solution
  - Divide  $n$  coin into two halves (leave extra one aside if not even)
  - Put two piles on the balance scale. The lighter one contains the fake coin. What if two piles weight equal?
  - Repeat the division into half like binary search.

- Number of weightings  $W(n)$  needed by the algorithm is

$$W(n) = W(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor) + 1, \quad \text{for } n > 1, \text{ and } W(1) = 0$$

- What is the efficiency of this algorithm?
- Can we do it by dividing into three piles instead of two
  - What if Pile 1 = Pile 2?
  - What if Pile 1 > Pile 2?
  - What if Pile 1 < Pile 2?

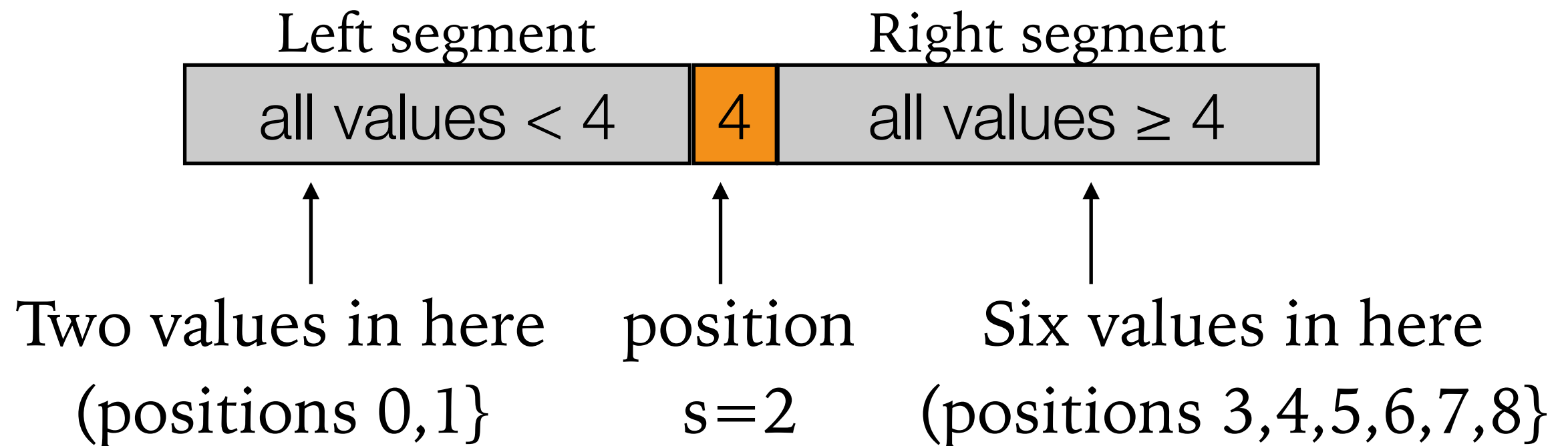


# The Selection Problem

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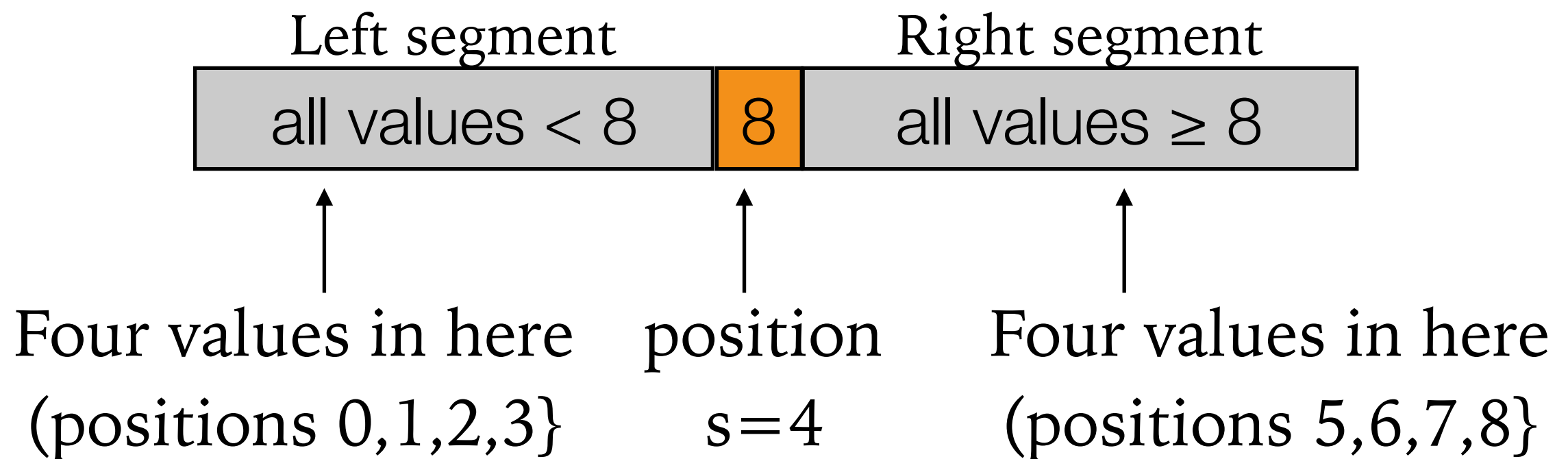
- Find  $k^{\text{th}}$  smallest element in a list of  $n$  numbers ( $k^{\text{th}}$  order statistic)
  - $k = 1$ : Smallest element
  - $k = n$ : Largest element
  - $k = \text{ceil}(n/2)$ : Median (most of interest)
- What is the median of the list  $\{4, 1, 10, 8, 7, 12, 9, 2, 15\}$ ?
- Straightforward approach with sorting but overkill

- Suppose we have a list  $\{4, 1, 10, 8, 7, 12, 9, 2, 15\}$  that we want to find the 5th-order statistic.
- Choose "4" as the pivot element to partition the list into three segments:



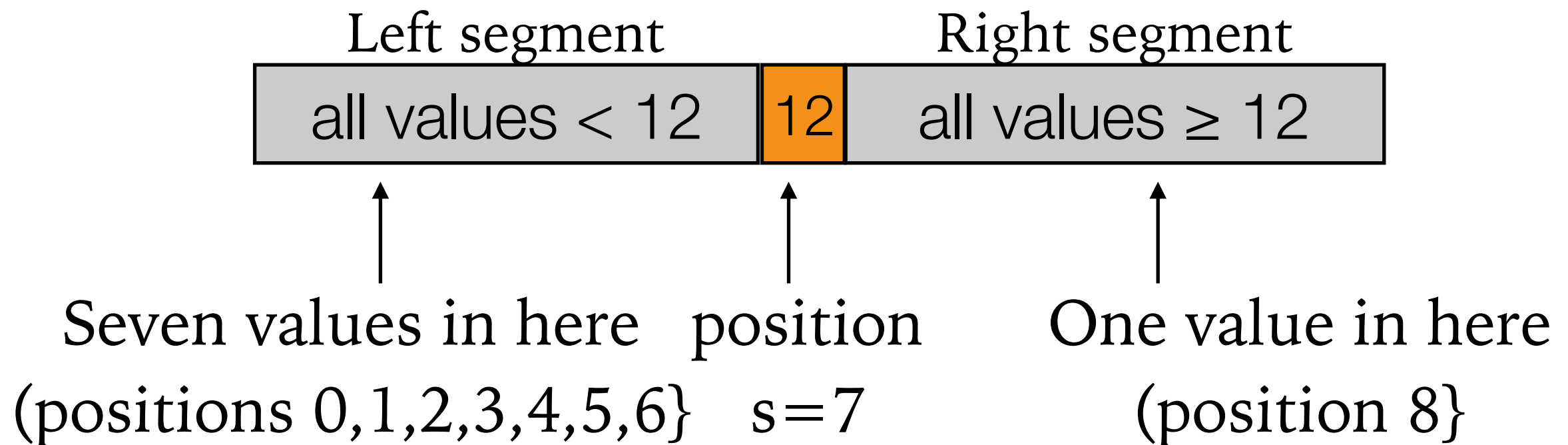
- The 5th-order statistic of the original list must be in the \_\_\_\_\_ segment as the \_\_\_\_\_-order statistic.

- Suppose we have a list  $\{8, 1, 10, 4, 7, 12, 9, 2, 15\}$  that we want to find the 5th-order statistic.
- Choose "8" as the pivot element to partition the list into three segments:



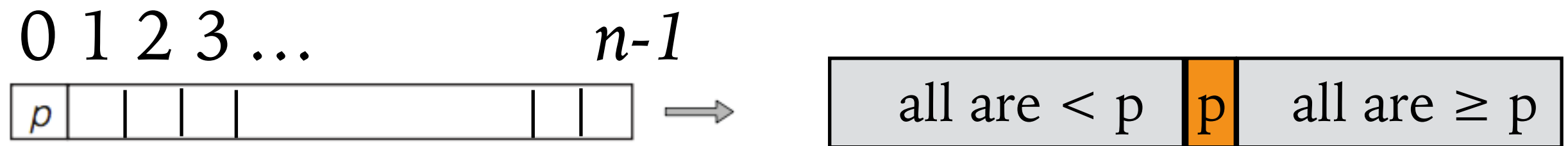
- The 5th-order statistic of the original list must be \_\_\_\_\_

- Suppose we have a list  $\{12, 1, 10, 8, 7, 4, 9, 2, 15\}$  that we want to find the 5th-order statistic.
- Choose "12" as the pivot element to partition the list into three segments:



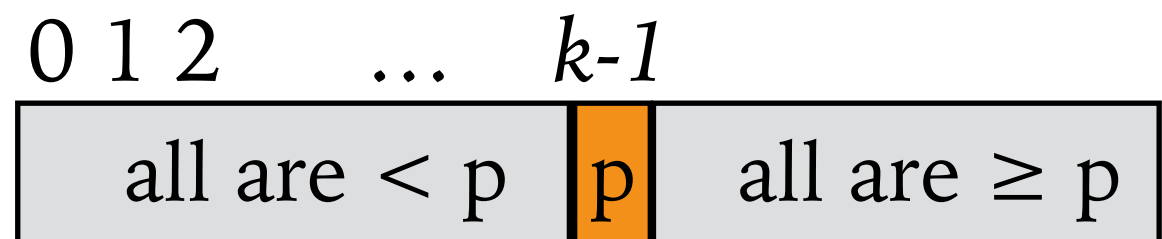
- The 5th-order statistic of the original list must in the \_\_\_\_\_ segment as the \_\_\_\_\_-order statistic.

- Suppose we can partition an original list in three segments based on a pivot value  $p$  shown below:

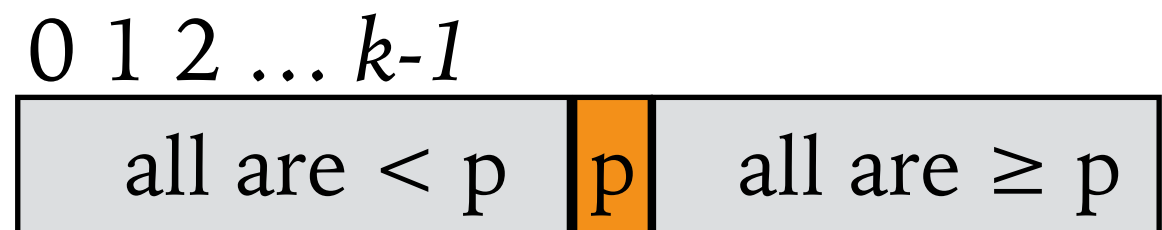


- Three scenarios can happen

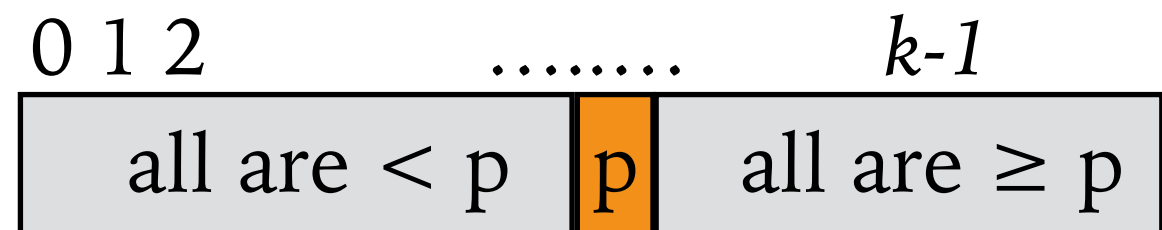
- $p$  is at position  $s = k-1$



- $p$  is in the position  $s > k-1$



- $p$  is in the position  $s < k-1$



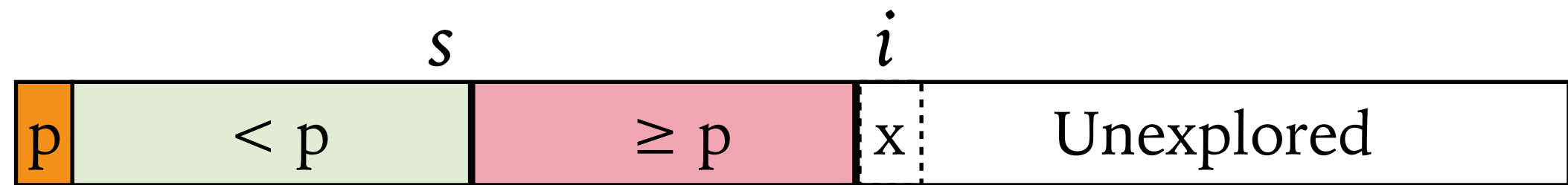
# Lomuto Partitioning

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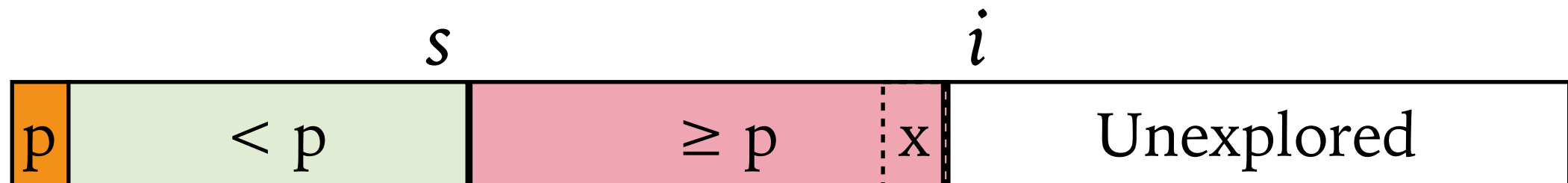
- Take a pivot value  $p$
- Partition the list so that
  - Left part contains all elements less than  $p$ .
  - Right part contains all elements greater than equal to  $p$ .



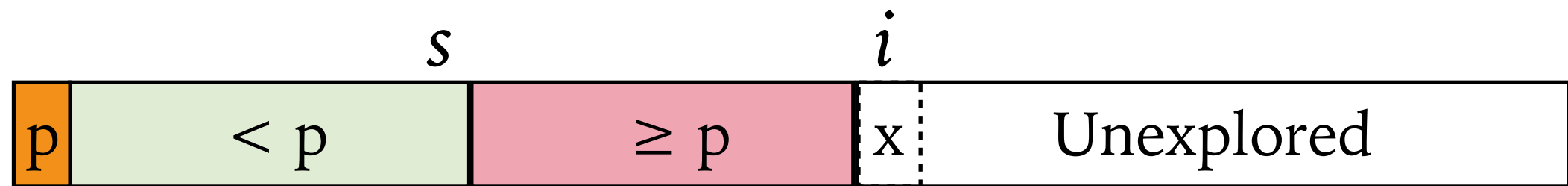
List explored from left to right



- If  $A[i] \geq p$ , just increment  $i$ , which will expand the  $\geq p$  segment.

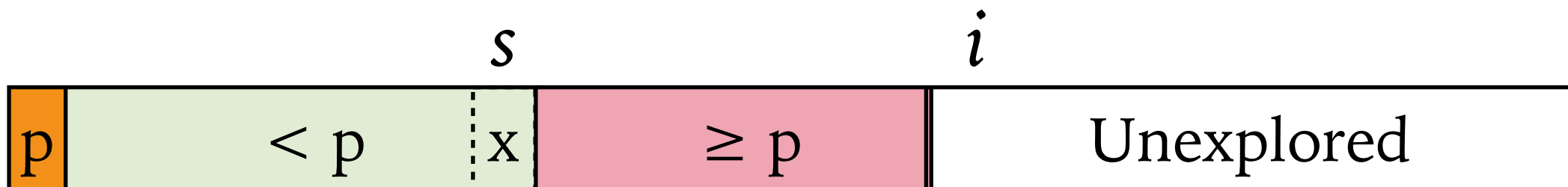
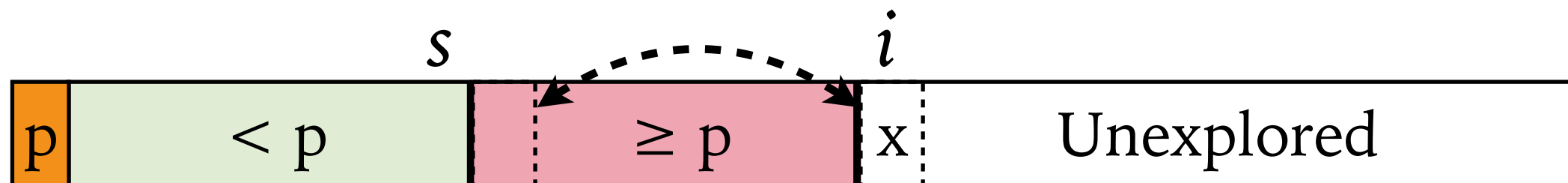


List explored from left to right



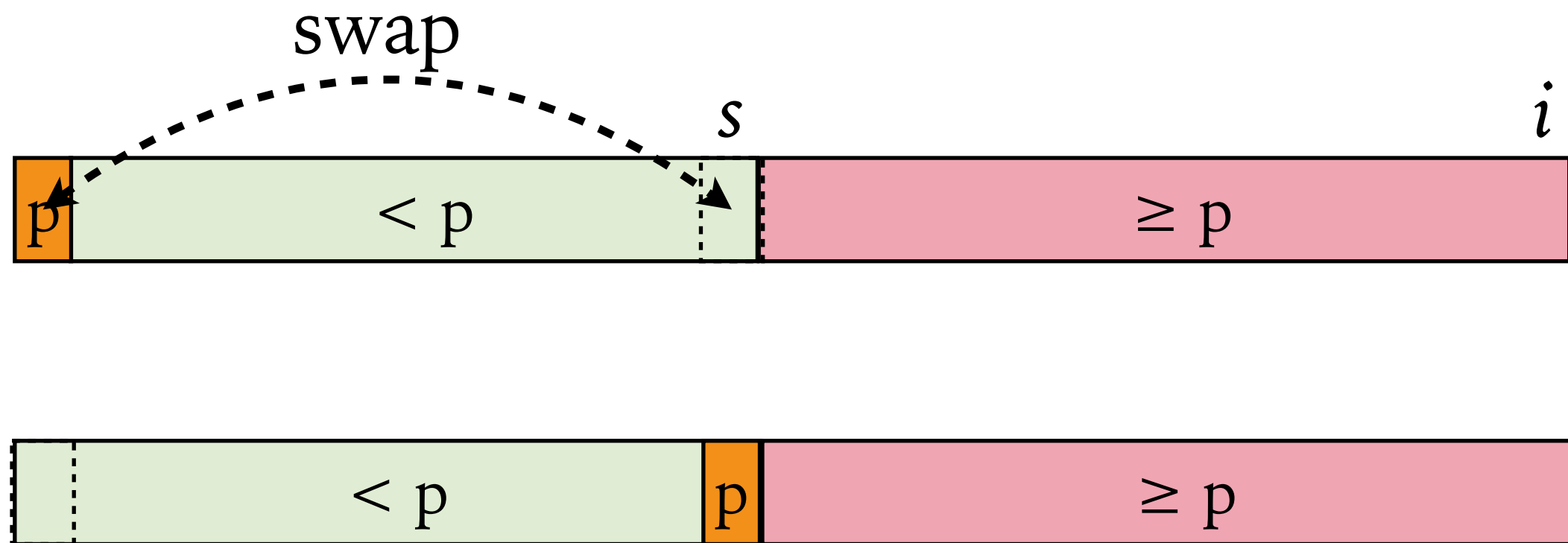
■ If  $A[i] < p$ ,

- increment  $s$  and swap  $A[s]$  with  $A[i]$ , which will expand the  $< p$  segment.
- increment  $i$





- When all elements are explored,



**ALGORITHM**    *LomutoPartition*( $A[l..r]$ )

//Partitions subarray by Lomuto's algorithm using first element as pivot  
//Input: A subarray  $A[l..r]$  of array  $A[0..n - 1]$ , defined by its left and right  
//        indices  $l$  and  $r$  ( $l \leq r$ )  
//Output: Partition of  $A[l..r]$  and the new position of the pivot  
 $p \leftarrow A[l]$   
 $s \leftarrow l$   
**for**  $i \leftarrow l + 1$  **to**  $r$  **do**  
    **if**  $A[i] < p$   
         $s \leftarrow s + 1$ ;     $\text{swap}(A[s], A[i])$   
 $\text{swap}(A[l], A[s])$   
**return**  $s$

Find the 5th order statistic

| 0        | 1        | 2  | 3 | 4 | 5  | 6 | 7 | 8  |
|----------|----------|----|---|---|----|---|---|----|
| <hr/>    |          |    |   |   |    |   |   |    |
| <i>s</i> | <i>i</i> |    |   |   |    |   |   |    |
| <b>4</b> | 1        | 10 | 8 | 7 | 12 | 9 | 2 | 15 |
| <b>4</b> |          |    |   |   |    |   |   |    |
| <b>4</b> |          |    |   |   |    |   |   |    |
| <b>4</b> |          |    |   |   |    |   |   |    |
| <b>4</b> |          |    |   |   |    |   |   |    |
| 2        |          |    |   |   |    |   |   |    |

New order is  $k - (s+1) = 5 - (2+1) = 2$

| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3        | 4        | 5  | 6 | 7  | 8  |
|---|---|---|----------|----------|----|---|----|----|
|   |   |   | <i>s</i> | <i>i</i> |    |   |    |    |
|   |   |   | <b>8</b> | 7        | 12 | 9 | 10 | 15 |

**ALGORITHM**    *Quickselect*( $A[l..r]$ ,  $k$ )

//Solves the selection problem by recursive partition-based algorithm  
//Input: Subarray  $A[l..r]$  of array  $A[0..n - 1]$  of orderable elements and  
//        integer  $k$  ( $1 \leq k \leq r - l + 1$ )  
//Output: The value of the  $k$ th smallest element in  $A[l..r]$   
 $s \leftarrow \text{LomutoPartition}(A[l..r])$  //or another partition algorithm  
**if**  $s = k - 1$  **return**  $A[s]$   
**else if**  $s > l + k - 1$  *Quickselect*( $A[l..s - 1]$ ,  $k$ )  
**else** *Quickselect*( $A[s + 1..r]$ ,  $k - 1 - s$ )

Also identify  $k$  smallest  
and  $n-k$  largest elements as by product.

# Efficiency of Quick Select

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- Partition an  $n$ -element array requires  $n-1$  key comparisons.
    - Best case if the split solves the problem or  $C_{best}(n) = n-1 \in \Theta(n)$
    - Worst-case if  $k = n$  and the array is strictly increasing
    - Ex: Finding 9th-order statistic in  $\{1,2,4,7,8,9,10,12,15\}$  needs  $n-1$  partitions
- $$C_{worst}(n) = (n-1) + (n-2) + \dots + 1 = (n-1)n/2 \in \Theta(n^2),$$
- Average case about  $\log_2(n)$  like binary search.

# Summary

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- Reduce problem instance to smaller instance of the same problem.
- Solve smaller instance
- Extend solution of smaller instance to obtain solution to original instance

# Summary

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- Find relationship between a solution to a problem instance and that of a smaller instance.
- Exploit the relationship top-down or bottom-up
- Three variations
  - Decrease-by-one
  - Decrease-by-constant-factor
  - Variable-size-decrease