

Packages for Christmas

Packing parcels correctly - a pre-Christmas sorting problem

The scenario

- As Santa, you bring the presents (packed in cuboids) to their recipients.
- You are now thinking about how to get the parcels to their destination
 - flat and light ones by post
 - more voluminous ones by shipping company
 - You drive out particularly large and heavy ones yourself.
- There are so many that you first make a list of all the parcels with their key facts.

The problem

- In order to redistribute the parcels as quickly as possible, you have to sort them!
 - According to the height (-> letter post)
 - According to volume (-> forwarding)
 - According to the weight (-> self-delivery).
- Write a programme that models parcels and which sorts a list of parcels according to different the listed criteria.

Key topics involved:

- Create and manage arrays
- Sort arrays of packages by criteria but try it without the predefined Java sorting algorithms.
 - Sorting based on comparison of objects
 - State "sorted in ascending order" = each element is "smaller" than the following one
 - If the state is not given, objects must be (swapped) into a different order
- Two core problems:
 - How do I swap objects in an array?
 - How do I compare objects against each other

Hope these sorting algorithm descriptions help you:

- Selection Sort: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Selection_sort
 - Search for the next smallest one and add it to the end of the sorted list (or swap the positions accordingly)
- Insertion Sort: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Insertion_sort
 - Take the next element and find the right place and insert (or exchange)
- Bubble Sort: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bubble_sort
 - Elements "bubble" upwards until they are in the right position.