Algorithms ROBERT SEDGEWICK | KEVIN WAYNE http://algs4.cs.princeton.edu

2.1 ELEMENTARY SORTS

- rules of the game
- selection sort
- insertion sort
- shellsort
- shuffling

Sorting problem

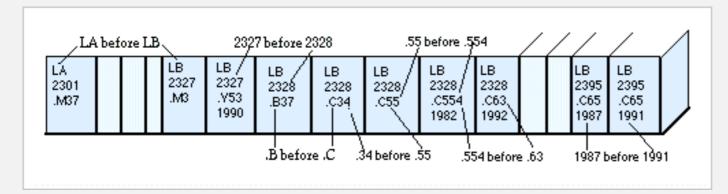
Ex. Student records in a university.



Sort. Rearrange array of *N* items into ascending order.

Andrews	3	А	664-480-0023	097 Little
Battle	4	С	874-088-1212	121 Whitman
Chen	3	Α	991-878-4944	308 Blair
Furia	1	А	766-093-9873	101 Brown
Gazsi	4	В	766-093-9873	101 Brown
Kanaga	3	В	898-122-9643	22 Brown
Rohde	2	Α	232-343-5555	343 Forbes

Sorting applications



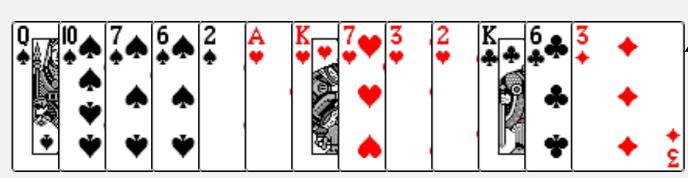
Library of Congress numbers



FedEx packages



contacts



playing cards



Hogwarts houses

Sample sort client 1

Goal. Sort any type of data.

Ex 1. Sort random real numbers in ascending order.

seems artificial (stay tuned for an application)

```
public class Experiment
  public static void main(String[] args)
    int N = Integer.parseInt(args[0]);
    Double[] a = new Double[N];
   for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
      a[i] = StdRandom.uniform();
    Insertion.sort(a);
   for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
      StdOut.println(a[i]);
```

% java Experiment 10

0.08614716385210452

0.09054270895414829

0.10708746304898642

0.21166190071646818

0.363292849257276

0.460954145685913

0.5340026311350087

0.7216129793703496

0.9003500354411443

0.9293994908845686

Sample sort client 2

- Goal. Sort any type of data.
- Ex 2. Sort strings in alphabetical order.

```
public class StringSorter
  public static void main(String[] args)
    String[] a = StdIn.readAllStrings();
    Insertion.sort(a);
    for (int i = 0; i < a.length; i++)
      StdOut.println(a[i]);
          % more words3.txt
           bed bug dad yet zoo ... all bad yes
           % java StringSorter < words3.txt
          all bad bed bug dad ... yes yet zoo
           [suppressing newlines]
```

Sample sort client 3

- Goal. Sort any type of data.
- Ex 3. Sort the files in a given directory by filename.

```
import java.io.File;
public class FileSorter
  public static void main(String[] args)
    File directory = new File(args[0]);
    File[] files = directory.listFiles();
    Insertion.sort(files);
    for (int i = 0; i < files.length; <math>i++)
      StdOut.println(files[i].getName());
```

% java FileSorter.

Insertion.class

Insertion.java

InsertionX.class

InsertionX.java

Selection.class

Selection.java

Shell.class

Shell.java

ShellX.class

ShellX.java

Total order

Goal. Sort any type of data (for which sorting is well defined).

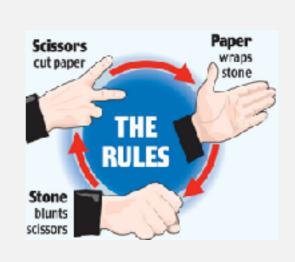
A total order is a binary relation ≤ that satisfies:

- Antisymmetry: if both $v \le w$ and $w \le v$, then v = w.
- Transitivity: if both $v \le w$ and $w \le x$, then $v \le x$.
- Totality: either $v \le w$ or $w \le v$ or both.

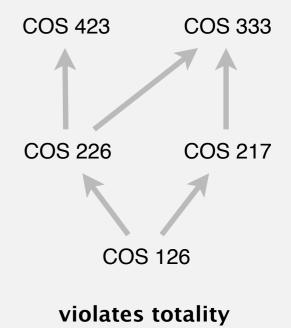
Ex.

- Standard order for natural and real numbers.
- Chronological order for dates or times.
- Alphabetical order for strings.

No transitivity. Rock-paper-scissors. No totality. PU course prerequisites.



violates transitivity



Callbacks and/or higher-order functions.

Goal. Sort any type of data (for which sorting is well defined).

Q. How can sort() know how to compare data of type Double, String, and java.io. File without any information about the type of an item's key?

Callback: reference to executable code via interface (Java)

- Client passes array of objects to sort() function.
- The sort() function calls object's class' compareTo() method as needed.

Higher-order function: pass comparison function into sort method

Implementing callbacks.

 Java (interfaces), C: function pointers, C++: class-type functors, C#: delegates.

Implementing higher-order functions.

Java8, Scala (may be implicit), Python, Perl, ML, Javascript.

Callbacks: roadmap

client

Comparable interface (built in to Java)

```
public interface Comparable<Item>
{
   public int compareTo(Item that);
}
```

key point: no dependence on String data type

data-type implementation

```
public class String
implements Comparable<String>
{
    ...
    public int compareTo(String b)
    {
        ...
        return -1;
        ...
        return +1;
        ...
        return 0;
}
```

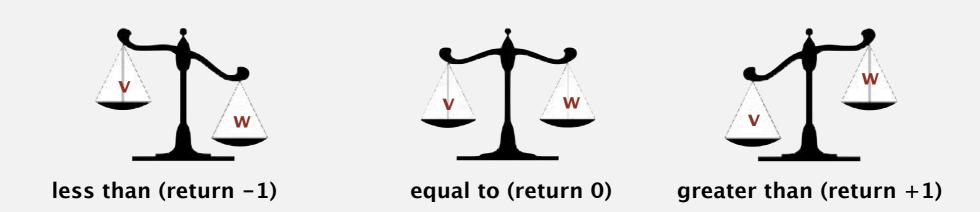
sort implementation

```
public static void sort(Comparable[] a)
{
  int N = a.length;
  for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
    for (int j = i; j > 0; j--)
    if (a[j].compareTo(a[j-1]) < 0)
        swap(a, j, j-1);
    else break;
}</pre>
```

Comparable API

Implement compareTo() so that v.compareTo(w)

- Defines a total order.
- Returns a negative integer, zero, or positive integer
 if v is less than, equal to, or greater than w, respectively.
- Throws an exception if incompatible types (or either is null).



Built-in comparable types. Integer, Double, String, Date, File, ...

User-defined comparable types. Implement the Comparable interface.

Implementing the Comparable interface

MyDate data type. Simplified version of java.util.Date.

```
public class MyDate implements Comparable<MyDate> {
    public MyDate(int year, int month, int day) {
        this.year = year;
        this.month = month;
        this.day = day;
                                                                      only compare dates
    }
                                                                        to other dates
   public int compareTo(MyDate that) {
        int cfy = Integer.compare(this.year, that.year);
        if (cfy!=0) return cfy;
        int cfm = Integer.compare(this.month, that.month);
        if (cfm!=0) return cfm;
        int cfd = Integer.compare(this.day, that.day);
        return cfd;
    }
    private final int year;
    private final int month;
                                                        don't need @override
    private final int day;
                                                            annotation
}
```

An intransitive order

Q. Why doesn't the following compareTo() implement a total order?

```
public class Double implements Comparable<Double>
 private double x;
 public int compareTo(Double that) {
         (this.x < that.x) return -1;
    else if (this.x > that.x) return +1;
                      return 0;
    else
```

A. Not transitive! Need to properly handle -0.0 vs. 0.0 and Double.NaN. That's because, although with (double) primitives, -0.0 = +0.0, that is not true for Double objects. In that case -0.0 < +0.0.

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2.1 ELEMENTARY SORTS

- rules of the game
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 - insertion sort
 - shellsort
 - shuffling

The four possibilities (review)

	Work then solve	Solve then work	Growth (~)
Equi-	Quick	Merge	N log N
partition	sort	sort	
Head-tail	Selection	Insertion	N ² /2
partition	Sort	Sort*	

^{*} The number of cams for Insertion Sort is $min(N+X, N^2/2)$ where X is # of inversions

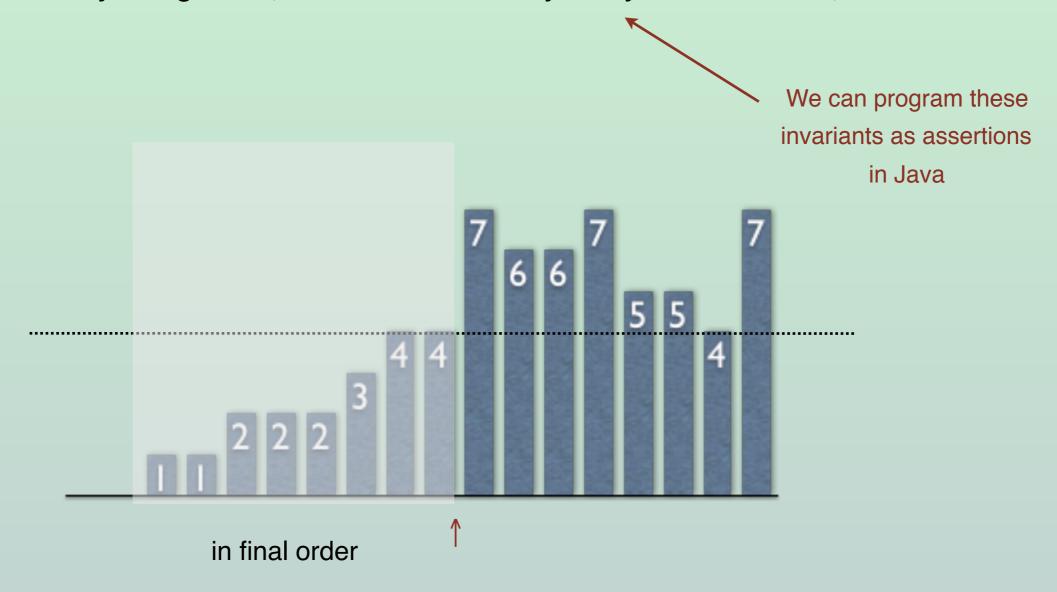
Selection sort

Algorithm. ↑ scans from left to right (iterate on *i* from 0…*N*-1)

Iterate on j from i+1...N-1 to find smallest item.

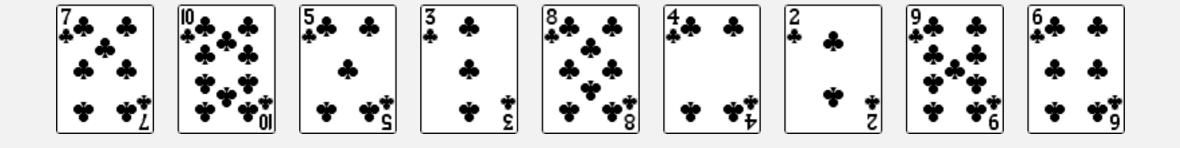
Invariants (applied after each iteration completes)

- Entries to the left of
 † are fixed and in ascending order.
- No entry to right of ↑ is smaller than any entry to the left of ↑.



Selection sort demo

- In iteration i, find index min of smallest remaining entry.
- Swap a[i] and a[min].



initial



Two useful sorting abstractions

Helper functions. Refer to data through compares and exchanges.

Less. Is item v less than w?

```
private static boolean less(Comparable v, Comparable w)
{ return v.compareTo(w) < 0; }
```

Exchange. Swap item in array a[] at index i with the one at index j.

```
private static void swap(Comparable[] a, int i, int j)
{
   Comparable swap = a[i];
   a[i] = a[j];
   a[j] = swap;
}
```

Selection sort inner loop

To maintain algorithm invariants:

Move the pointer to the right.

```
i++;
```

Identify index of minimum entry on right.

```
int min = i;

for (int j = i+1; j < N; j++)

if (less(a[j], a[min]))

min = j;
```

Exchange into position.

```
swap(a, i, min);
```







Selection sort: Java implementation

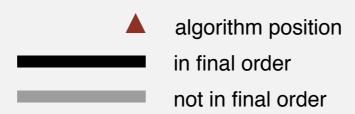
```
public class Selection
  public static void sort(Comparable[] a)
   int N = a.length;
   for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
      int min = i;
     for (int j = i+1; j < N; j++)
       if (less(a[j], a[min]))
         min = j;
      swap(a, i, min);
  private static boolean less(Comparable v, Comparable w)
 { /* as before */ }
  private static void swap(Comparable[] a, int i, int j)
 { /* as before */ }
```

Selection sort: animations

20 random items



11.2 secs



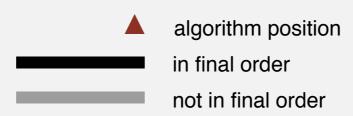
http://www.sorting-algorithms.com/selection-sort

Selection sort: animations

20 partially-sorted items



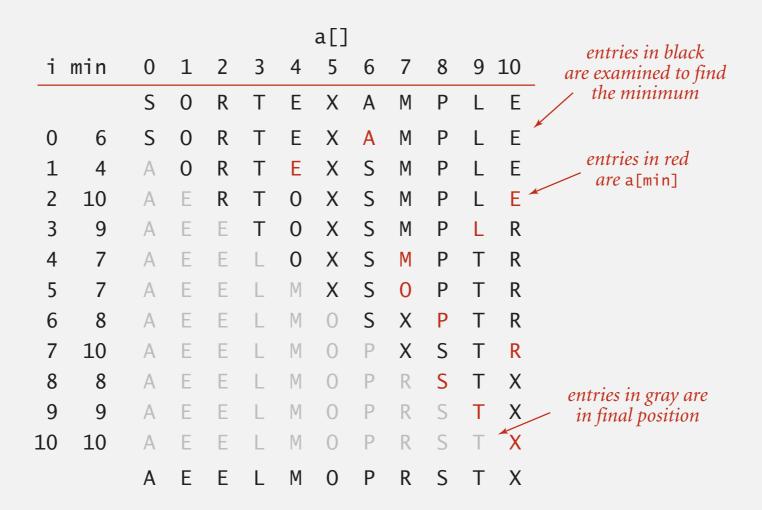
11.0 secs



http://www.sorting-algorithms.com/selection-sort

Selection sort: mathematical analysis

Proposition. Selection sort uses $(N-1)+(N-2)+...+1+0 \sim N^2/2$ compares and N exchanges.



Trace of selection sort (array contents just after each exchange)

Running time insensitive to input. Quadratic time, even if input is sorted.

Data movement is minimal. Linear number of exchanges.

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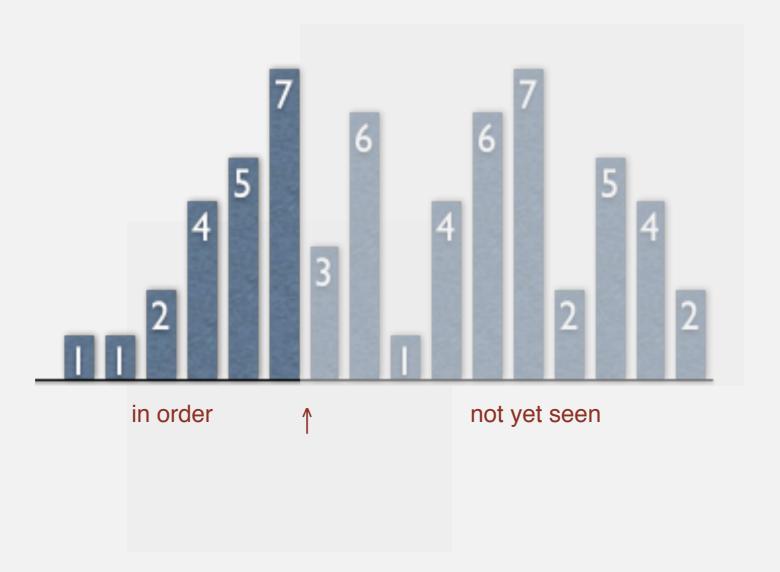
^{*} The number of cams for Insertion Sort is $min(N+X, N^2/2)$ where X is # of inversions

Insertion sort

Algorithm. ↑ scans from left to right.

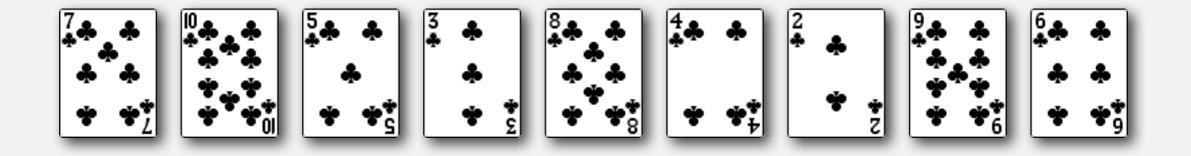
Invariants.

- Entries to the left of ↑ are in ascending order.
- Entries to the right of ↑ have not yet been seen.



Insertion sort demo

• In iteration i, swap a[i] with each larger entry to its left.





Insertion sort inner loop

To maintain algorithm invariants:

Move the pointer to the right.

```
i++;
```



Moving from right to left, exchange
 a[i] with each larger entry to its left.

```
for (int j = i; j > 0; j--)

if (less(a[j], a[j-1]))

swap(a, j, j-1);

else break;
```

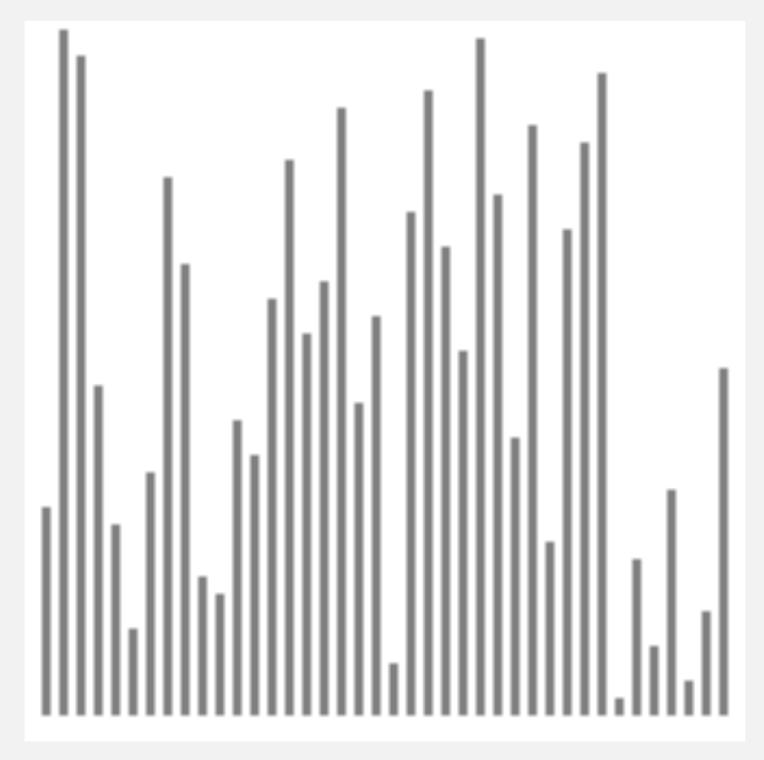


Insertion sort: Java implementation

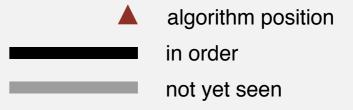
```
public class Insertion
  public static void sort(Comparable[] a)
    int N = a.length;
   for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
     for (int j = i; j > 0; j--)
        if (less(a[j], a[j-1]))
          swap(a, j, j-1);
        else break;
  private static boolean less(Comparable v, Comparable w)
 { /* as before */ }
  private static void swap(Comparable[] a, int i, int j)
 { /* as before */ }
```

Insertion sort: animation

40 random items



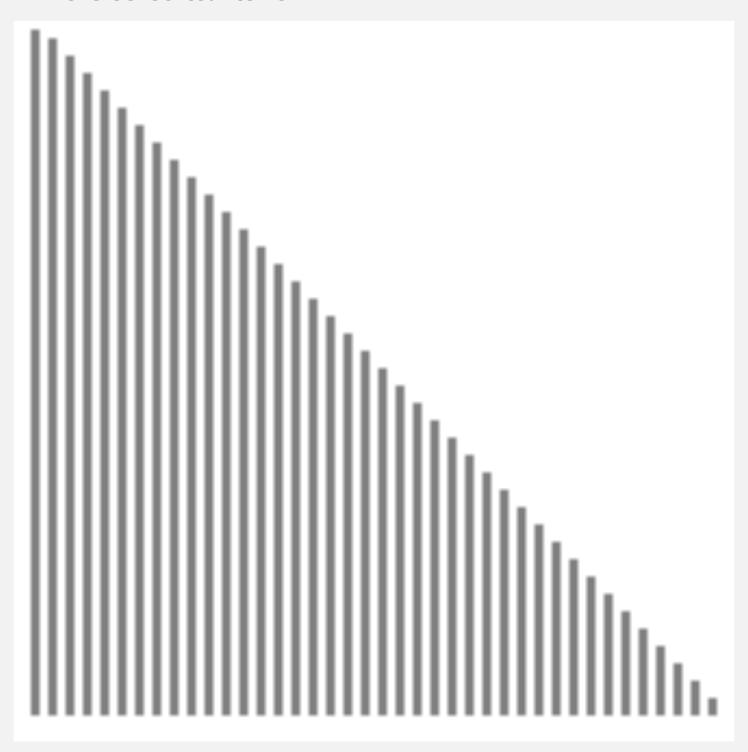
23.2 secs



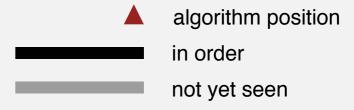
http://www.sorting-algorithms.com/insertion-sort

Insertion sort: animation

40 reverse-sorted items



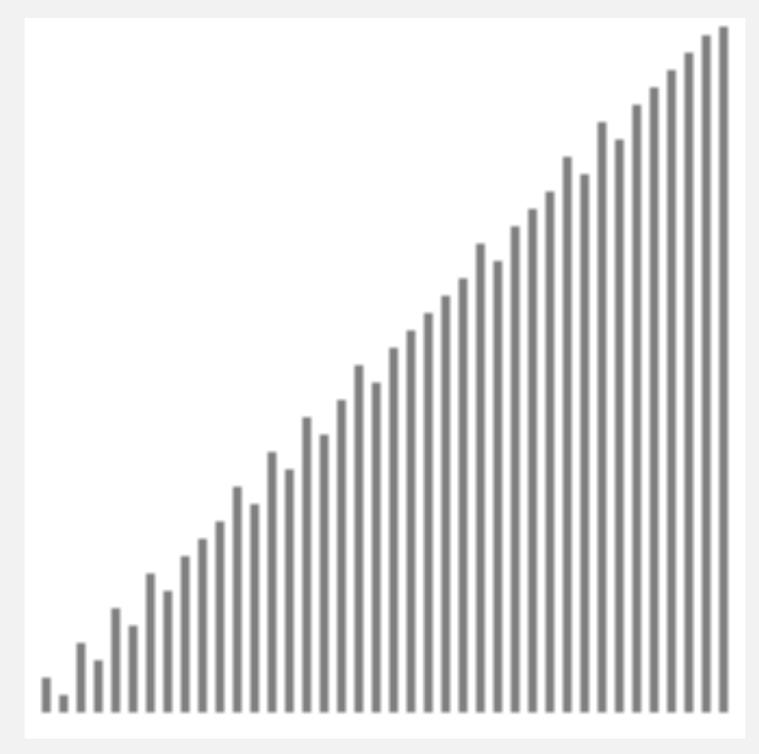
39.5 secs



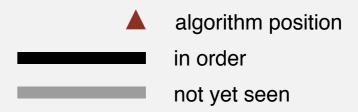
http://www.sorting-algorithms.com/insertion-sort

Insertion sort: animation

40 partially-sorted items



2.8 secs



http://www.sorting-algorithms.com/insertion-sort

Insertion sort: mathematical analysis

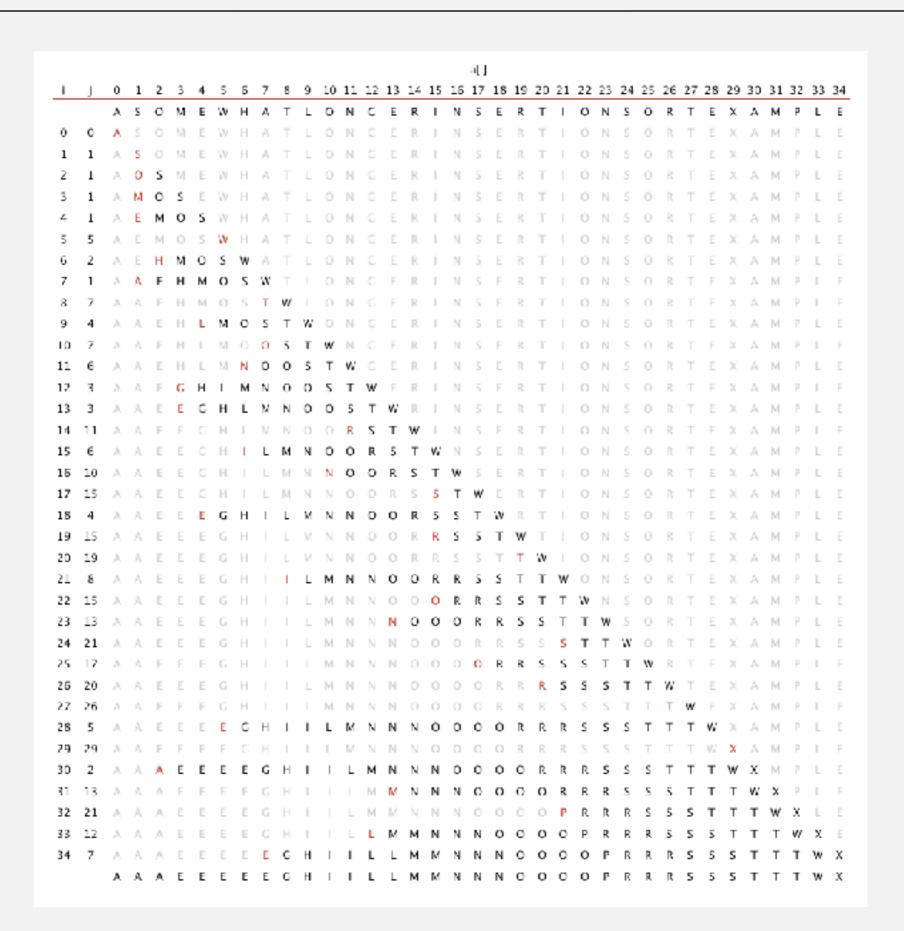
Proposition. To sort a randomly-ordered array with distinct keys, insertion sort uses $\sim \frac{1}{4} N^2$ compares and $\sim \frac{1}{4} N^2$ exchanges on average.

Pf. Expect each entry to move halfway back.

							a[]						
i	j	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
		S	0	R	Т	Ε	Χ	Α	М	Р	L	Е	entries in gray
1	0	0	S	R	Т	Ε	X	Α	M	Р	L	Ε	do not move
2	1	0	R	S	Т	Е	X	Α	M	Р	L	Ε	
3	3	0	R	S	Т	Е	X	Α	M	Р	L	Ε	
4	0	Ε	0	R	S	Т	X	Α	M	Р	L	Ε	entry in red is a[j]
5	5	Е	0	R	S	Т	X	Α	M	Р	L	Ε	<i>13</i> u [j]
6	0	Α	Ε	0	R	S	Τ	Χ	M	Р	L	Ε	
7	2	Α	Е	M	0	R	S	Τ	Χ	Р	L	Ε	entries in black
8	4	Α	Е	M	0	P	R	S	Τ	Χ	L	E	moved one position
9	2	Α	Е	L	М	0	Р	R	S	Т	Χ	E	right for insertion
10	2	A	Е	Ε	L	M	0	Р	R	S	Т	Χ	
		Α	Ε	Ε	L	M	0	Р	R	S	Т	Χ	

Trace of insertion sort (array contents just after each insertion)

Insertion sort: trace



Insertion sort: analysis

Best case. If the array is in ascending order, insertion sort makes N-1 compares and 0 exchanges.

AEELMOPRSTX

Worst case. If the array is in descending order (and no duplicates), insertion sort makes $\sim \frac{1}{2} N^2$ compares and $\sim \frac{1}{2} N^2$ exchanges.

XTSRPOMLFEA

Insertion sort: partially-sorted arrays

Def. An inversion is a pair of keys that are out of order.

AEELMOTRXPS

T-RT-PT-S R-P X-P X-S

(6 inversions)

Def. An array is partially sorted if the number of inversions is $\leq c N$.

- Ex 1. A sorted array has 0 inversions.
- Ex 2. A subarray of size 10 appended to a sorted subarray of size N.

Proposition. For partially-sorted arrays, insertion sort runs in linear time.

Pf. Number of exchanges equals the number of inversions (X).

Note: Number of compares equals X + (N-1)

Insertion sort: practical improvements

Half exchanges. Shift items over (instead of exchanging).

- Eliminates unnecessary data movement.
- No longer uses only less() and exch() to access data.

ACHHI MNNPQXY KBINARY

Binary insertion sort. Use binary search to find insertion point.

- Number of compares $\sim N \lg N$.
- But still a quadratic number of array accesses.



binary search for first key > K

Insertion sort: practical improvements

Half exchanges. Shift items over (instead of exchanging).

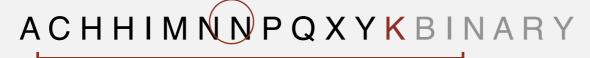
- Eliminates unnecessary data movement.
- No longer uses only less() and swap() to access data.

ACHHI MNNPQXY KBINARY

```
X x = xs[i];
int j = i;
while (j > 0 && less(x, xs[j - 1])) {
    xs[j] = xs[j - 1];
    j--;
}
xs[j] = x;
```

Binary insertion sort. Use binary search to find insertion point.

- Number of compares $\sim N \lg N$.
- But still a quadratic number of array accesses.



binary search for first key > K

Comparison of simple sorts

Algorithm applied to random data	Comparisons	Swaps	Copies	Total Array Accesses (primitives)
Bubble*	N ² /2	N ² /4		2 N ²
Selection	N ² /2	Ν		N 2
Insertion*	N ² /4	N ² /4		3/2 N ²
Insertion with half-swaps	N ² /4		N ² /4	N ²
Insertion with binary search	N Ig N		N ² /4	1/2 N ²

 $^{^*}$ Bubble and Insertion sorts are O(N) when the data is already sorted

Link to sorting animations: https://www.toptal.com/developers/sorting-algorithms

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Shell sort

- Funny, I always assumed that the term "shell" had something to do with the way the algorithm works. No, it simply refers to the name of the originator, D. L. Shell, General Electric Company, Cincinnati, Ohio. (1959)
- Before we jump into shellsort, let's think back to insertion sort. What, if anything, seems inefficient?
- Well, continuously swapping with the element to the left until our new element is in the right place.
- OK, but we kind of fixed that by using binary search on the sorted elements and then we tried a block move of all elements that need to move one to the right.
- And what caused insertion sort to be really efficient?
- Having the elements already in order, or close to being in order.
- What if we could try to get things closer to being in their proper order, distant swaps (fix many possible inversions), before starting on the insertion sort. This is the essence of shellsort.

Let's take another look at insertion sort and generalize it

- I'm going to introduce a new type of insertion sort called an "h-sort."
- It works the same as insertion sort, except that it only looks at each hth element of the array at a time.
- So, if *N* is, say, 31 and *h* is 3, we would sort the 1st, 4th, 7th, ... 28th, 31st elements as if the others didn't exist.
- Then, we'd sort the 2nd, 5th, 8th, ... 29th elements as if the others didn't exist.
- Then, we'd sort the 3rd, 6th, 9th, ... 30th elements as if the others didn't exist.
- Or, we can interleave these sorts.

Shellsort overview

Idea. Move entries more than one position at a time by h-sorting the array.

an h-sorted array is h interleaved sorted subsequences

Shellsort. [Shell 1959] h-sort array for decreasing sequence of values of h.

```
        input
        S
        H
        E
        L
        L
        S
        O
        R
        T
        E
        X
        A
        M
        P
        L
        E

        13-sort
        P
        H
        E
        L
        L
        S
        O
        R
        T
        E
        X
        A
        M
        S
        L
        E

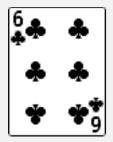
        4-sort
        L
        E
        E
        A
        M
        H
        L
        E
        P
        S
        O
        L
        T
        S
        X
        R

        1-sort
        A
        E
        E
        E
        H
        L
        L
        L
        M
        O
        P
        R
        S
        S
        T
        X
```

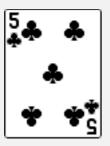
h-sorting demo

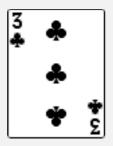
In iteration i, swap a[i] with each larger entry h positions to its left.

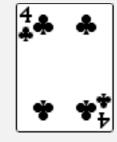


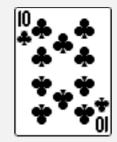




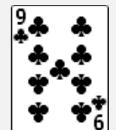


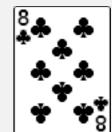












Shellsort example: increments 7, 3, 1

input

SORTEXAMPLE

7-sort

SORTEXAMPLE
MORTEXASPLE
MORTEXASPLE
MOLTEXASPRE
MOLEEXASPRT

3-sort

MOLEEXASPRT
EOLMEXASPRT
EELMOXASPRT
EELMOXASPRT
AELEOXMSPRT
AELEOPMSXRT
AELEOPMSXRT

1-sort

A E L E O P M S X R T
A E L E O P M S X R T
A E L E O P M S X R T
A E E L O P M S X R T
A E E L O P M S X R T
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A E E L M O P S X T X

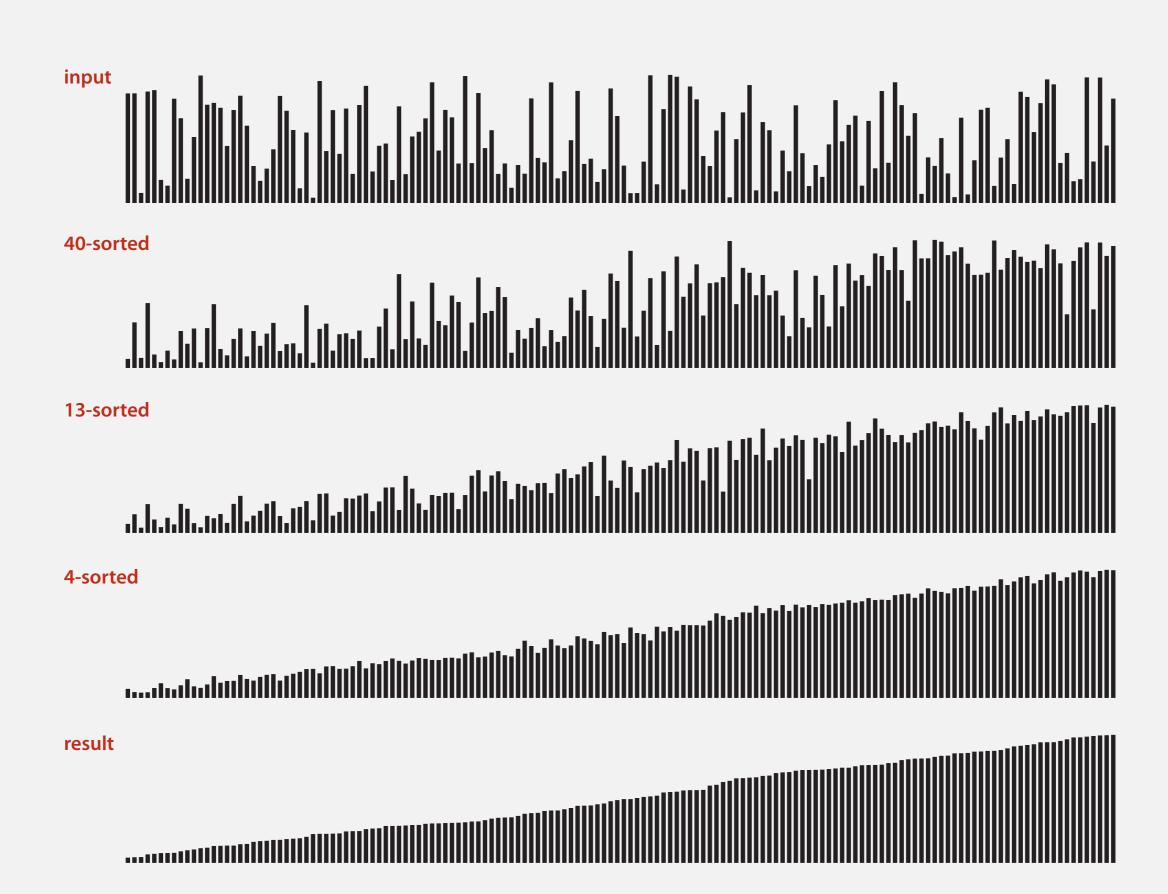
result

AEELMOPRSTX

Shellsort: Java implementation

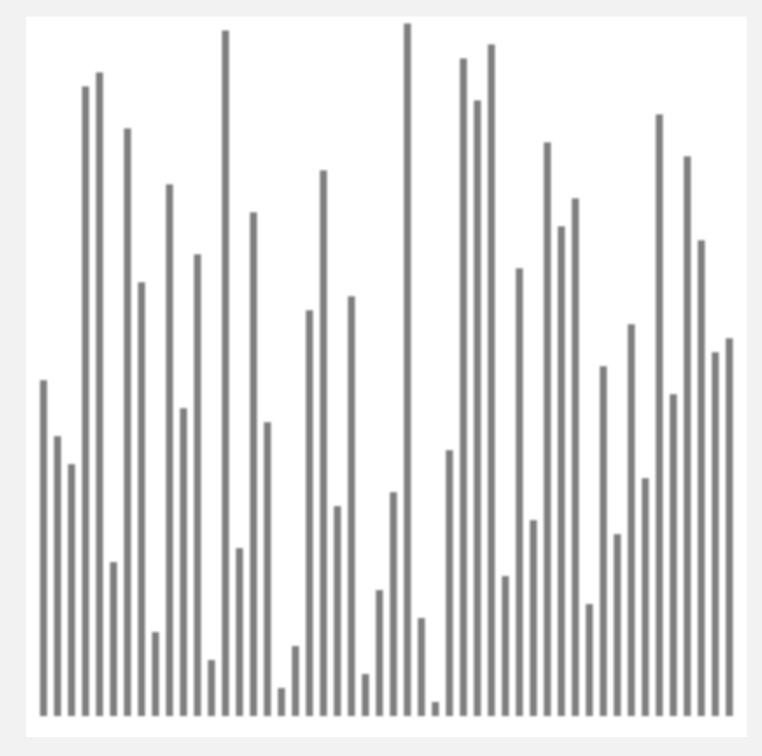
```
public class Shell
  public static void sort(Comparable[] a)
    int N = a.length;
                                                                                                             3x+1 increment
    int h = 1;
                                                                                                             sequence
    while (h < N/3) h = 3*h + 1; // 1, 4, 13, 40, 121, 364, ...
    while (h >= 1)
                                                                                                             insertion sort
   { // h-sort the array.
      for (int i = h; i < N; i++)
       for (int j = i; j >= h && less(a[j], a[j-h]); <math>j -= h)
                                                                                                             move to next
          swap(a, j, j-h);
                                                                                                             increment
      h = h/3;
  private static boolean less(Comparable v, Comparable w)
  [ /* as before */]
```

45



Shellsort: animation

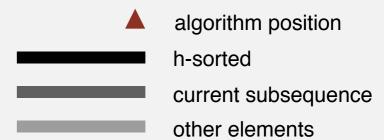
50 random items



http://www.sorting-algorithms.com/shell-sort

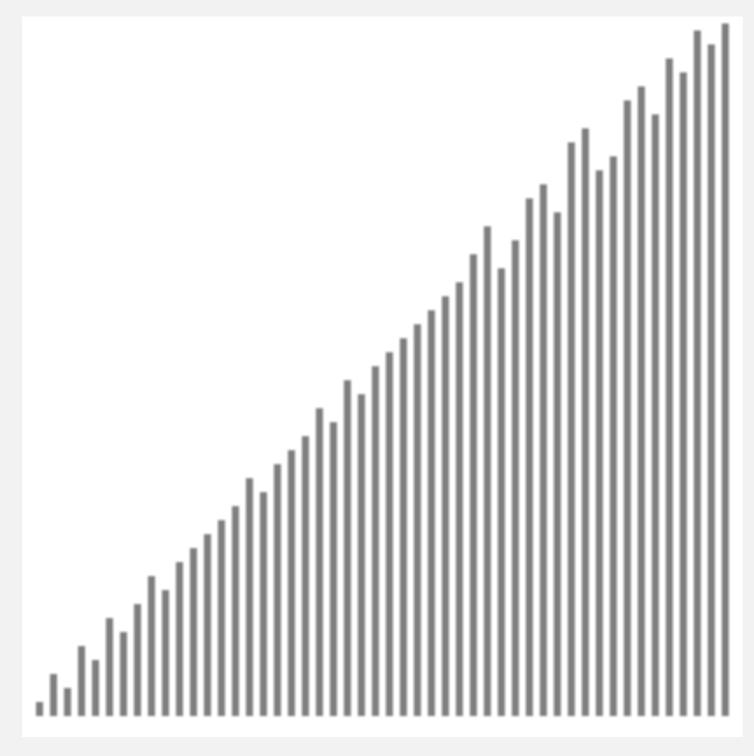
13.9 secs

Strides (gaps): 40, 13, 4, 1



Shellsort: animation

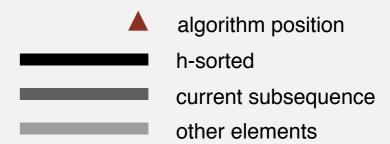
50 partially-sorted items



http://www.sorting-algorithms.com/shell-sort

8.3 secs

Strides (gaps): 40, 13, 4, 1



Shellsort: which increment sequence to use?

Powers of two. 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, ... No.

Powers of two minus one. 1, 3, 7, 15, 31, 63, ... Maybe.

Shell's original idea.

3x + 1. 1, 4, 13, 40, 121, 364, ...

OK. Easy to compute.

Relatively prime

Sedgewick. 1, 5, 19, 41, 109, 209, 505, 929, 2161, 3905, ...

Good. Tough to beat in empirical studies.

merging of
$$(9 \times 4^{i}) - (9 \times 2^{i}) + 1$$

and $4^{i} - (3 \times 2^{i}) + 1$

Shellsort: intuition

Proposition. An *h*-sorted array remains *h*-sorted after *g*-sorting it.

```
3-sort
7-sort
SORTEXAMPLE
                        MOLEEXASPRT
                        EOLMEXASPRT
MORTEXASPLE
                        EELMOXASPRT
MORTEXASPLE
                        EELMOXASPRT
MOLTEXASPRE
                        AELEOXMSPRT
MOLEEXASPRT
                        AELEOXMSPRT
                        AELEOPMSXRT
                        AELEOPMSXRT
                        AELEOPMSXRT
                        AELGOPMSXRT
                                still 7-sorted
```

Challenge. Prove this fact—it's more subtle than you'd think!

An intuitive answer to whether or not h-sorts interfere

- If you *h*-sort an array and then *g*-sort it, how can we know that these operations are independent and the the *g*-sort isn't undoing the work of the *h*-sort?
- One way to look at this is to consider how these sorts compose:
- ▶ If you *h*-sort then *g*-sort, the result can be said to be (*ah* + *bg*)-sorted where:
- a, b >= 0.
- So, your array will be *h*-sorted *and g*-sorted (neither of these has been undone);
- Your array is also (h+g)-sorted, (h+2g)-sorted, and so on.
- An intuitive way to think of this is that once two elements have been placed in relative order, they will never be moved out of that order, even if they are revisited.

What about re-visiting previous compares?

- If you h-sort an array and then g-sort it, you will be re-visiting previous compares if there is an integer factor k such that h = kg or g = kh.
- ► Therefore, *h* and *g* should, if possible, be *relatively prime*, i.e. no such factor *k*.

Shellsort: analysis

Proposition. The order of growth of the worst-case number of compares used by shellsort with the 3x+1 increments is $N^{3/2}$.

Property. The expected number of compares to shellsort a randomly-ordered array using 3x+1 increments is....

N	compares	2.5 N ln N	0.25 N ln ² N	N 1.3
5,000	93K	106K	91K	64K
10,000	209K	230K	213K	158K
20,000	467K	495K	490K	390K
40,000	1022K	1059K	1122K	960K
80,000	2266K	2258K	2549K	2366K

Remark. Accurate model has not yet been discovered (!)

Why are we interested in shellsort?

Example of simple idea leading to substantial performance gains.

Useful in practice.

- Fast unless array size is huge (used for small subarrays).
- Tiny, fixed footprint for code (used in some embedded systems).

R, bzip2, /linux/kernel/groups.c

Hardware sort prototype.

uClibc

Simple algorithm, nontrivial performance, interesting questions.

- Asymptotic growth rate?
- Best sequence of increments? ← open problem: find a better increment sequence
- Average-case performance?

Lesson. Some good algorithms are still waiting discovery.

Elementary sorts summary

Today. Elementary sorting algorithms.

algorithm	best	average	worst
selection sort	<i>N</i> ²	N ²	N^2
insertion sort	N	N ²	N^2
Shellsort: (3k-1)/2	$N \log_p N$?	$N^{3/2}$
goal	N	$N \log N$	$N \log N$

order of growth of running time to sort an array of N items

best case for Shellsort is where p is the number of passes and is approximately 3

Next week. $N \log N$ sorting algorithms (in worst case).

More on Shellsort

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shellsort

Algorithms

ROBERT SEDGEWICK | KEVIN WAYNE

http://algs4.cs.princeton.edu

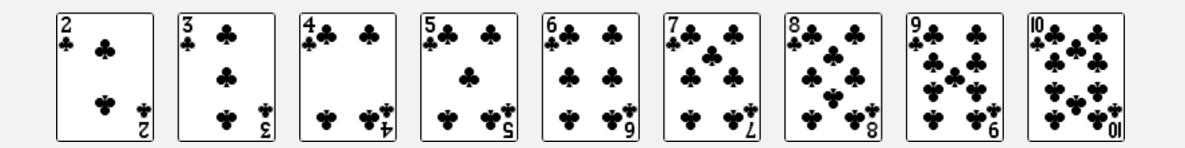
2.1 ELEMENTARY SORTS

- rules of the game
- · selection sort
- insertion sort
- shellsort
- shuffling

How to shuffle an array

Goal. Rearrange array so that result is a uniformly random permutation.

all permutations equally likely



How to shuffle? Shuffling is the inverse of sorting.

Shuffling requires an injection of entropy

- Where are you going to get that entropy from?
 - Pseudo-random number generator?
 - The user?
 - A real hardware random number generator?

Several ways to shuffle

Shuffle method	Time	Space	Random?
Select one of all possible permutations	O(1)	O(N!)	Y
Sort on random double	O(N IgN)	O(2N)	Y
Modified Fisher-Yates (Knuth Algorithm "P")	O(N)	O(N)	Y
Microsoft Browser Choice	O(N IgN)	O(N)	Ν

How not to shuffle...

Use a comparator function that looks like this:

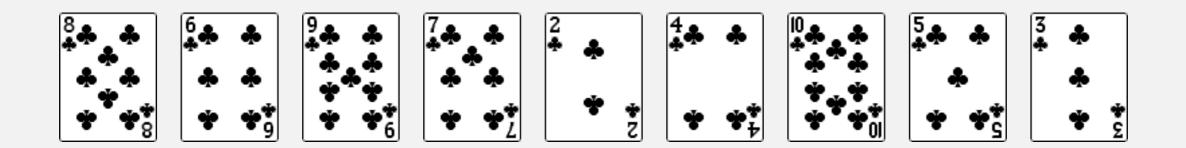
```
function RandomSort(Object a, Object b) {
  return 0.5 - Math.random();
}
```

- What's wrong with this?
 - Hint: we talked about the "rules" of sorting earlier in this module.

How to shuffle an array

Goal. Rearrange array so that result is a uniformly random permutation.

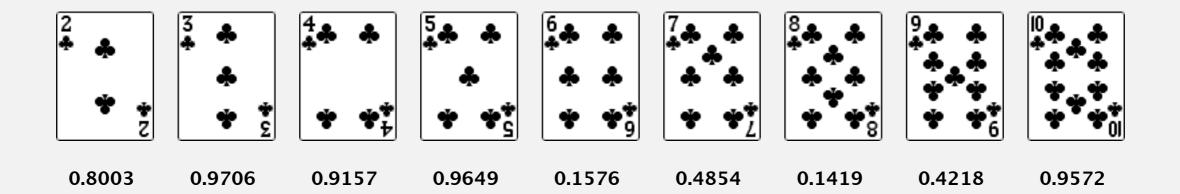
all permutations
equally likely



Shuffle sort

- Generate a random real number for each array entry.
- Sort the array.

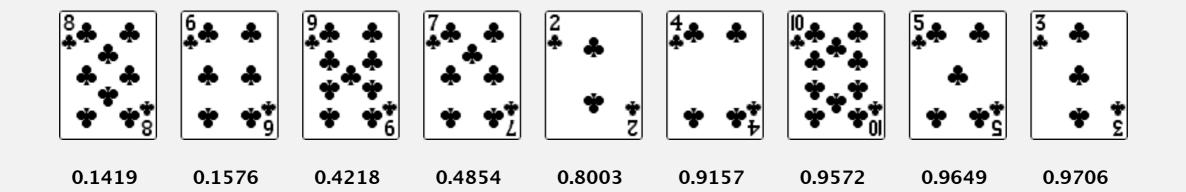
useful for shuffling columns in a spreadsheet



Shuffle sort

- Generate a random real number for each array entry.
- Sort the array.

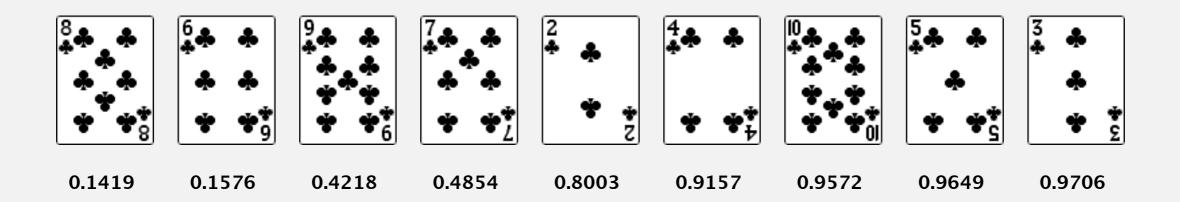
useful for shuffling columns in a spreadsheet



Shuffle sort

- Generate a random real number for each array entry.
- Sort the array.

useful for shuffling columns in a spreadsheet



Proposition. Shuffle sort produces a uniformly random permutation.

assuming real numbers
uniformly at random (and no ties)

War story (Microsoft)

Microsoft antitrust probe by EU. Microsoft agreed to provide a randomized ballot screen for users to select browser in Windows 7.

http://www.browserchoice.eu

Select your web browser(s)



A fast new browser from Google. Try it now!



Safari for Windows from Apple, the world's most innovative browser.



Your online security is Firefox's top priority. Firefox is free, and made to help you get the most out of the



The fastest browser on Earth. Secure, powerful and easy to use, with excellent privacy protection.



Designed to help you take control of your privacy and browse with confidence. Free from Microsoft.

appeared last 50% of the time

War story (Microsoft)

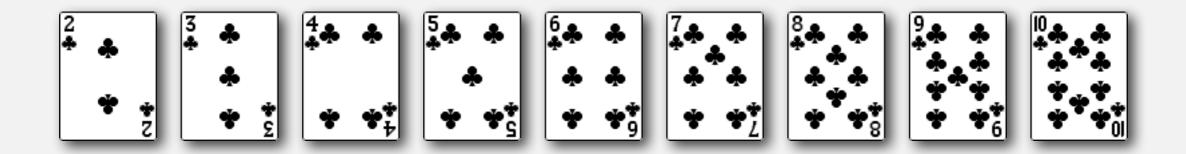
Microsoft antitrust probe by EU. Microsoft agreed to provide a randomized ballot screen for users to select browser in Windows 7.

Solution? Implement shuffle sort by making comparator always return a random answer.

```
public int compareTo(Browser that)
{
  double r = Math.random();
  if (r < 0.5) return -1;
  if (r > 0.5) return +1;
  return 0;
}
browser comparator
  (should implement a total order)
```

Knuth shuffle demo

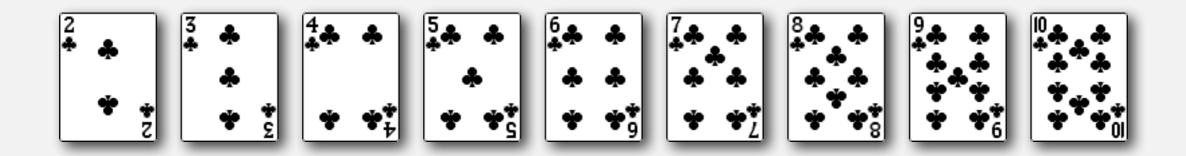
- In iteration i, pick integer r between 0 and i uniformly at random.
- Swap a[i] and a[r].





Knuth shuffle

- In iteration i, pick integer r between 0 and i uniformly at random.
- Swap a[i] and a[r].



Proposition. [Fisher-Yates 1938] Knuth shuffling algorithm produces a uniformly random permutation of the input array in linear time.

assuming integers uniformly at random

Knuth shuffle

- In iteration i, pick integer r between 0 and i uniformly at random.
- Swap a[i] and a[r].

common bug: between 0 and N-1

correct variant: between i and N-1

```
public class StdRandom
  public static void shuffle(Object[] a)
    int N = a.length;
    for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
                                                                               between 0 and i
      int r = StdRandom.uniform(i + 1);
      swap(a, i, r);
```

Broken Knuth shuffle

Q. What happens if integer is chosen between 0 and N-1?

A. Not uniformly random!

instead of 0 and i

permutation	Knuth shuffle	broken shuffle
ABC	1/6	4/27
ACB	1/6	5/27
BAC	1/6	5/27
ВСА	1/6	5/27
CAB	1/6	4/27
СВА	1/6	4/27

probability of each result when shuffling { A, B, C }

War story (online poker)

Texas hold'em poker. Software must shuffle electronic cards.



How We Learned to Cheat at Online Poker: A Study in Software Security http://www.datamation.com/entdev/article.php/616221

War story (online poker)

Shuffling algorithm in FAQ at www.planetpoker.com

```
for i := 1 to 52 do begin
  r := random(51) + 1;
  swap := card[r];
  card[r] := card[i];
  card[i] := swap;
end;
```

- Bug 1. Random number r never $52 \Rightarrow 52^{nd}$ card can't end up in 52^{nd} place.
- Bug 2. Shuffle not uniform (should be between 1 and i).
- Bug 3. random() uses 32-bit seed \Rightarrow 2³² possible shuffles.
- Bug 4. Seed = milliseconds since midnight \Rightarrow 86.4 million shuffles.

— Robert R. Coveyou

[&]quot;The generation of random numbers is too important to be left to chance."

War story (online poker)

Best practices for shuffling (if your business depends on it).

- Use a hardware random-number generator that has passed both the FIPS 140-2 and the NIST statistical test suites.
- Continuously monitor statistic properties:
 hardware random-number generators are fragile and fail silently.
- Use an unbiased shuffling algorithm.





RANDOM.ORG

Bottom line. Shuffling a deck of cards is hard!