

2.2 MERGESORT

- mergesort
- bottom-up mergesort
- sorting complexity
- comparators
- stability

Two classic sorting algorithms: mergesort and quicksort

Critical components in the world's computational infrastructure.

- Full scientific understanding of their properties has enabled us to develop them into practical system sorts.
- Quicksort honored as one of top 10 algorithms of 20th century in science and engineering.

Mergesort. [this lecture]

















Quicksort. [next lecture]



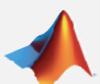














Algorithms

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2.2 MERGESORT

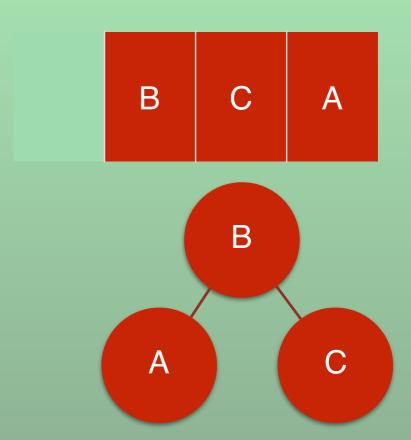
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How to improve sorting?

- Q. what's the easiest non-empty list to sort?
 - A. a list of length one!
- Q. What is the magic secret of binary search?
 - A. divide-and-conquer
- Q. Why does divide-and-conquer work?
 - A. it folds a list into a tree, thus converting a twodimensional problem (quadratic) into a one-anda-half-dimensional problem (linearithmic).

Quadratic vs. Linearithmic

	В	С	Α
Α	?	?	?
В	?	?	?
С	?	?	?



3x3=9 potential comparisons

3x2=6 potential comparisons

Divide and Conquer

- Think of an algorithm that takes time t for N elements where:
 - t = polynomial in N
- Suppose we can divide this problem into r sub-problems (each of approximately the same size: N/r).
- We will have to merge those r sub-solutions into the (one) solution to our original problem.
- If each sub-problem can be implemented:
 - **Either** in <u>linear</u> time;
 - Or by recursion...
- And if our merge process is also <u>linear</u>...
- **Then**, the total time for our process will be $c_2 N \log_r N$.

Mergesort

Basic plan.

- Divide array into two halves.
- Recursively sort each half.
- Merge two halves.

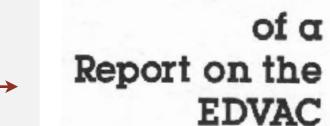
```
        input
        M
        E
        R
        G
        E
        S
        O
        R
        T
        E
        X
        A
        M
        P
        L
        E

        sort left half
        E
        E
        G
        M
        O
        R
        R
        S
        T
        E
        X
        A
        M
        P
        L
        E

        sort right half
        E
        E
        G
        M
        O
        R
        R
        S
        A
        E
        E
        L
        M
        P
        T
        X

        merge results
        A
        E
        E
        E
        E
        G
        L
        M
        M
        O
        P
        R
        R
        S
        T
        X

Mergesort overview
```



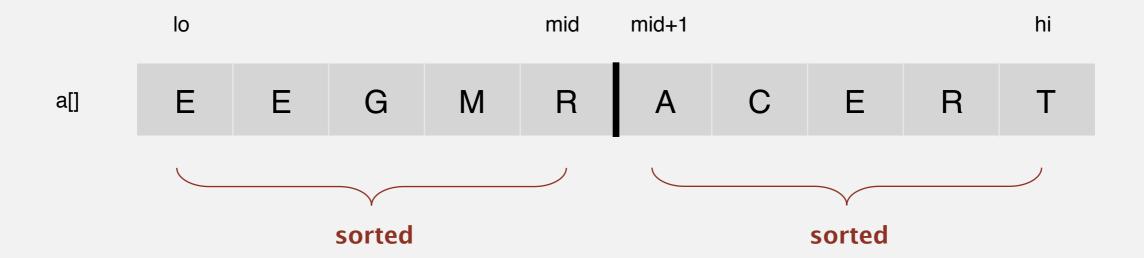
John von Neumann

First Draft

1945: →

Abstract in-place merge demo

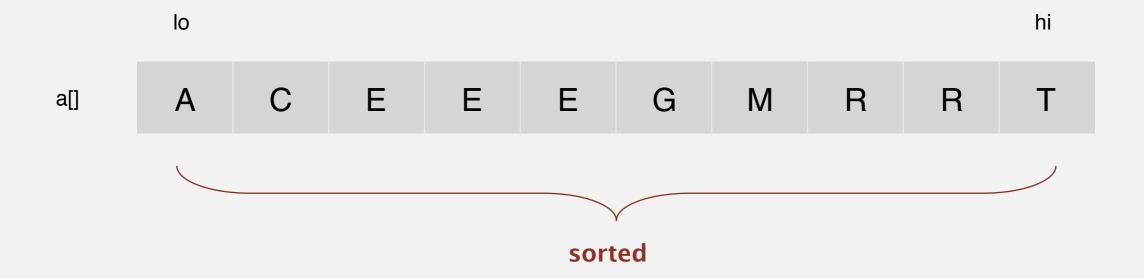
Goal. Given two sorted subarrays a[lo] to a[mid] and a[mid+1] to a[hi], replace with sorted subarray a[lo] to a[hi].





Abstract in-place merge demo

Goal. Given two sorted subarrays a[lo] to a[mid] and a[mid+1] to a[hi], replace with sorted subarray a[lo] to a[hi].



Merging: Java implementation

```
private static void merge(Comparable[] a, Comparable[] aux, int lo, int mid, int hi)
                                                                                               copy a to aux
 for (int k = lo; k \le hi; k++)
   aux[k] = a[k];
                                                                                Four cases:
                                                   merge aux into a
 int i = lo, j = mid+1;
                                                                                (1) Nothing left on left;
 for (int k = lo; k \le hi; k++)
                                                                                (2) Nothing left on right;
 {
                                                                                (3) Right element is smaller;
        (i > mid) 	 a[k] = aux[j++];
                                                                                (4) Left element is smaller.
   else if (j > hi) a[k] = aux[i++];
   else if (less(aux[j], aux[i])) a[k] = aux[j++];
                         a[k] = aux[i++];
   else
```

Mergesort: Java implementation

```
public class Merge
  private static void merge(...)
 { /* as before */ }
  private static void sort(Comparable[] a, Comparable[] aux, int lo, int hi)
   if (hi <= lo) return;
   int mid = lo + (hi - lo) / 2;
   sort(a, aux, lo, mid);
   sort(a, aux, mid+1, hi);
   merge(a, aux, lo, mid, hi);
  public static void sort(Comparable[] a)
   Comparable[] aux = new Comparable[a.length];
   sort(a, aux, 0, a.length - 1);
```

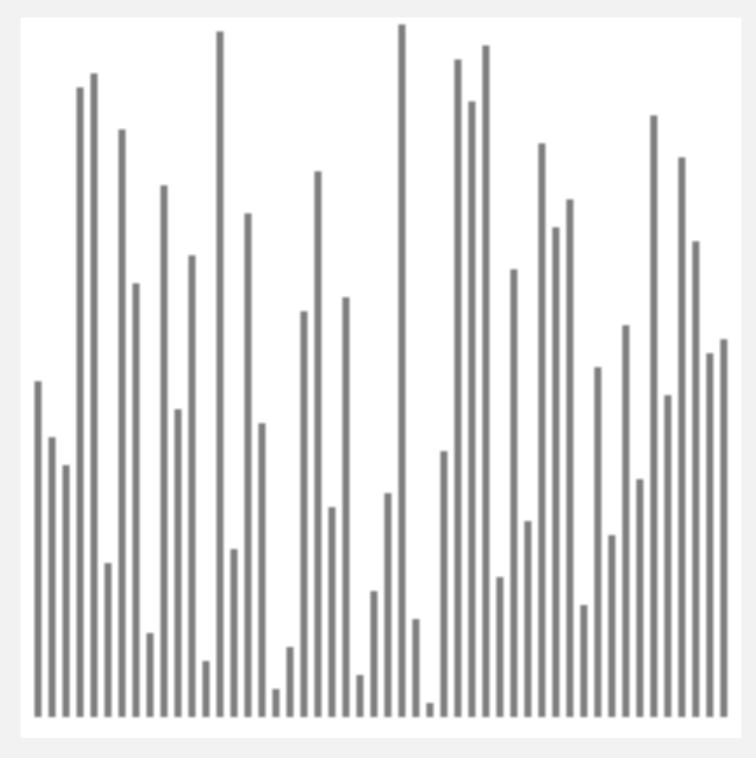
Mergesort: trace

```
a[]
                  10
                            hi
                                               5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15
                                               S
                                                 0
     merge(a, aux,
                           3)
     merge(a, aux,
                         3)
   merge(a, aux, 0, 1,
     merge(a, aux, 4,
                        4,
                           5)
     merge(a, aux, 6,
   merge(a, aux, 4, 5, 7)
 merge(a, aux, 0, 3,
                       7)
     merge(a, aux, 8,
                        8,
                          9)
     merge(a, aux, 10, 10, 11)
   merge(a, aux, 8, 9, 11)
     merge(a, aux, 12, 12, 13)
     merge(a, aux, 14, 14, 15)
   merge(a, aux, 12, 13, 15)
 merge(a, aux, 8, 11, 15)
merge(a, aux, 0, 7, 15)
                                                       M
```

result after recursive call

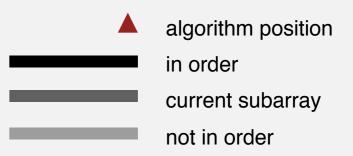
Mergesort: animation

50 random items



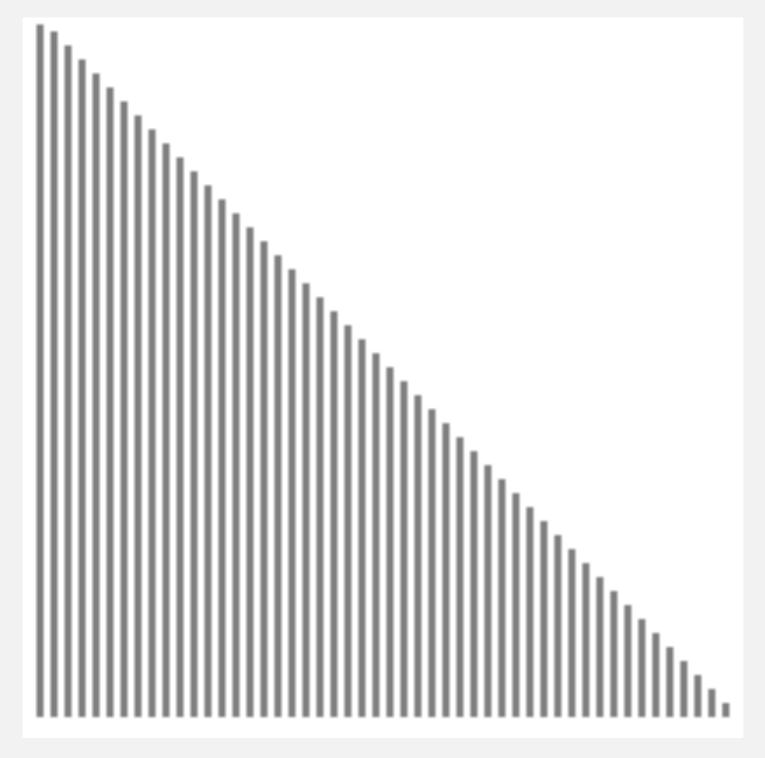
http://www.sorting-algorithms.com/merge-sort

14.5 secs



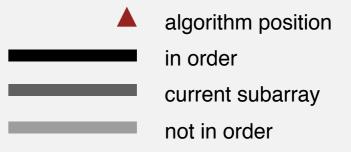
Mergesort: animation

50 reverse-sorted items



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

14.5 secs



Mergesort: empirical analysis

Running time estimates:

- Laptop executes 108 compares/second.
- Supercomputer executes 10¹² compares/second.

	in	sertion sort (N	J 2)	mergesort (N log N)				
computer	thousand	million	billion	thousand	million	billion		
home	instant	2.8 hours	317 years	instant	1 second	18 min		
super	instant	1 second	1 week	instant	instant	instant		

Bottom line. Good algorithms are better than supercomputers.

Mergesort: number of compares

Proposition. Mergesort uses $\leq N \lg N$ compares to sort an array of length N.

Pf sketch. The number of compares $\mathbf{C}(N)$ to mergesort an array of length N satisfies the recurrence:

$$\mathbf{C}(N) \leq \mathbf{C}(\lceil N/2 \rceil) + \mathbf{C}(\lceil N/2 \rceil) + N \text{ for } N > 1, \text{ with } \mathbf{C}(1) = 0.$$

$$\uparrow \qquad \uparrow \qquad \uparrow$$
left half right half merge

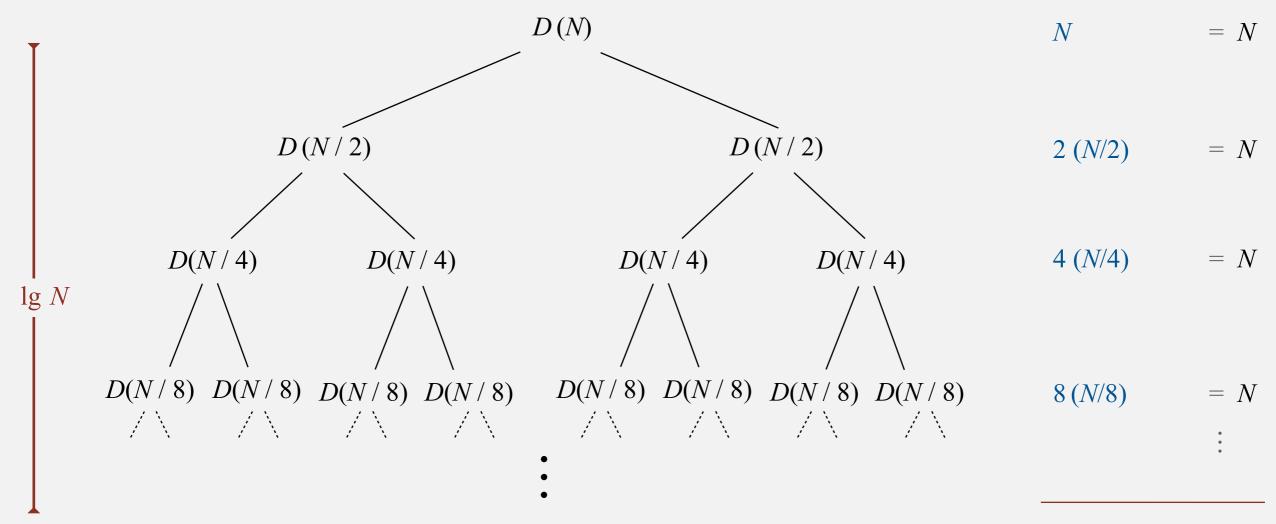
We solve the recurrence when N is a power of 2:

$$m{D}(N) = 2 \ m{D}(N/2) + N$$
, for $N > 1$, with $m{D}(1) = 0$. result holds for *all* N (but analysis cleaner in this case)

Divide-and-conquer: proof by visualization

Proposition. If $\mathbf{D}(N)$ satisfies $\mathbf{D}(N) = 2 \mathbf{D}(N/2) + N$ for N > 1, with $\mathbf{D}(1) = 0$, then $\mathbf{D}(N) = N \lg N$.

Pf 1. [assuming N is a power of 2] The number of elements involved at each level is still N. But the number of levels is $\log N$ (not N as in the case of a N^2 algorithm).



Total merge compares $D(N) = N \lg N$

Divide-and-conquer recurrence: proof by induction

Proposition. If $\mathbf{D}(N)$ satisfies $\mathbf{D}(N) = 2 \mathbf{D}(N/2) + N$ for N > 1, with $\mathbf{D}(1) = 0$, then $\mathbf{D}(N) = N \lg N$.

Pf 2. [assuming *N* is a power of 2]

- Base case: N = 1.
- Inductive hypothesis: $\mathbf{D}(N) = N \lg N$.
- Goal: show that $D(2N) = (2N) \lg (2N)$.

$$D(2N) = 2 D(N) + 2N$$

$$= 2 N \lg N + 2N$$

$$= 2 N (\lg (2N) - 1) + 2N$$

$$= 2 N \lg (2N)$$

given

inductive hypothesis: $D(N) = N \lg N$

algebra: lg 2N = lg N + 1

QED

Mergesort: number of array accesses

Proposition. Mergesort uses $\leq 6 N \lg N$ array accesses to sort an array of length N.

where does this factor of 6 come from?

Look again at the merge algorithm itself.

Pf sketch. The number of array accesses $\mathbf{A}(N)$ satisfies the recurrence:

$$A(N) \le A([N/2]) + A([N/2]) + 6N \text{ for } N > 1, \text{ with } A(1) = 0.$$

Key point. Any algorithm with the following structure takes $c N \log_k N$ time:

```
public static void linearithmic(int N)

{
    if (done(N)) return;
    linearithmic(N/k);
        // ...
    linearithmic(N/k);
    linearithmic(N/k);
}

terminating condition
    solve k problems, each
    of 1/kth the size
    do a linear amount of work cN

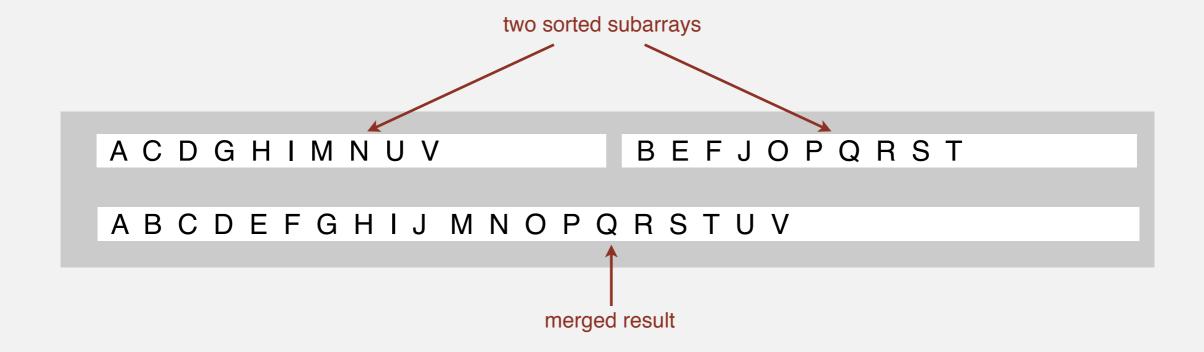
linear(N);
}
```

Notable examples. FFT, hidden-line removal, Kendall-tau distance, ...

Mergesort analysis: memory

Proposition. Mergesort uses extra space proportional to *N*.

Pf. The array aux[] needs to be of length N for the last merge.



Def. A sorting algorithm is in-place if it uses $\leq c \log N$ extra memory.

Ex. Insertion sort, selection sort, shellsort.

Peer discussion: How can we improve upon mergesort? Come up with some ideas between yourselves (no books or internet!!). 5 minutes.

Ideas?

- Merge sort has three logical components:
 - Test for termination:
 - Can we terminate on an array length greater than one and use a different sort method for those arrays?
 - Copying the array into the sub-arrays:
 - Is there any way we could avoid this copying operation
 —even while still using the extra space?
 - The merge process itself:
 - Are there any circumstances where we could skip the merge entirely?

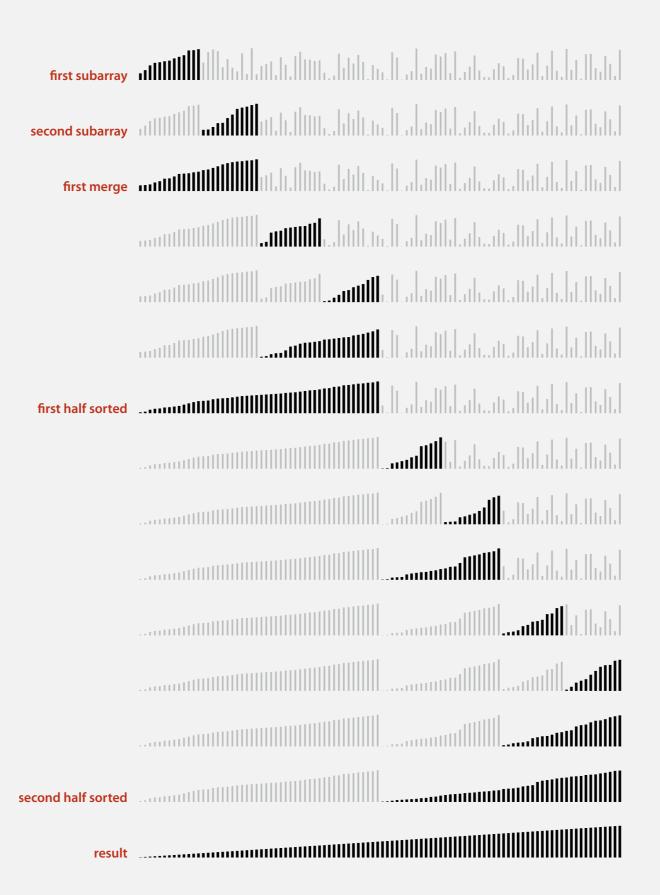
Mergesort: practical improvements (1)

Use insertion sort for small subarrays.

- Mergesort has too much overhead for tiny subarrays.
- Cutoff to insertion sort for ≈ 7 items.

```
private static void sort(Comparable[] a, Comparable[] aux, int lo, int hi)
 if (hi <= lo + CUTOFF - 1)
    Insertion.sort(a, lo, hi);
    return;
 int mid = lo + (hi - lo) / 2;
 sort (a, aux, lo, mid);
 sort (a, aux, mid+1, hi);
 merge(a, aux, lo, mid, hi);
```

Mergesort with cutoff to insertion sort: visualization



Mergesort: practical improvements (2)

Skip merge if already in order.

- Is largest item in first half ≤ smallest item in second half?
- Helps for partially-ordered arrays.

```
ABCDEFGHIJ MNOPQRSTUV
ABCDEFGHIJ MNOPQRSTUV
```

```
private static void sort(Comparable[] a, Comparable[] aux, int lo, int hi)
{
   if (hi <= lo) return;
   int mid = lo + (hi - lo) / 2;
   sort (a, aux, lo, mid);
   sort (a, aux, mid+1, hi);
   if (!less(a[mid+1], a[mid])) return;
   merge(a, aux, lo, mid, hi);
}</pre>
```

Mergesort: practical improvements (3)

Eliminate the copy to the auxiliary array. Save time (but not space) by switching the role of the input and auxiliary array in each recursive call.

```
private static void merge(Comparable[] a, Comparable[] aux, int lo, int mid, int hi)
 int i = lo, j = mid+1;
 for (int k = lo; k \le hi; k++)
        (i > mid) \qquad \qquad aux[k] = a[i++];
   else if (i > hi) aux[k] = a[i++];
   else if (less(a[j], a[i])) aux[k] = a[j++];
                                                                                      merge from a[] to aux[]
                       aux[k] = a[i++];
   else
private static void sort(Comparable[] a, Comparable[] aux, int lo, int hi)
 if (hi <= lo) return;
                                                                    assumes aux[] is initialized to a[] once,
 int mid = lo + (hi - lo) / 2;
                                                                             before recursive calls
 sort (aux, a, lo, mid);
                                switch roles of aux[] and a[]
 sort (aux, a, mid+1, hi);
 merge(a, aux, lo, mid, hi);
```

Java 6 system sort

Basic algorithm for sorting objects = mergesort.

- Cutoff to insertion sort = 7.
- Stop-if-already-sorted test.
- Eliminate-the-copy-to-the-auxiliary-array trick.

•

Arrays.sort(a)



http://hg.openjdk.java.net/jdk8u/jdk8u/jdk/file/be44bff34df4/src/share/classes/java/util/Arrays.java

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Bottom-up mergesort

Basic plan.

- Pass through array, merging subarrays of size 1.
- Repeat for subarrays of size 2, 4, 8,

```
a[i]
                                                  8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15
                                            0
                                                 Τ
                                                    Ε
                                                       X
     sz = 1
     merge(a, aux, 0, 0, 1)
     merge(a, aux, 2, 2,
                        3) E
                               M
     merge(a, aux, 4, 4,
                         5) E
     merge(a, aux, 6, 6, 7)
     merge(a, aux, 8, 8,
                        9)
     merge(a, aux, 10, 10, 11)
     merge(a, aux, 12, 12, 13)
     merge(a, aux, 14, 14, 15)
                                            0
   sz = 2
   merge(a, aux, 0, 1, 3)
   merge(a, aux, 4, 5, 7)
   merge(a, aux, 8, 9, 11)
   merge(a, aux, 12, 13, 15)
 sz = 4
 merge(a, aux, 0, 3, 7)
                                          R
                                            R S
                                                 A E E
                                          R
                                            R S
 merge(a, aux, 8, 11, 15)
                               E G M O
sz = 8
merge(a, aux, 0, 7, 15) A E E E E G L M M O P R R S T X
```

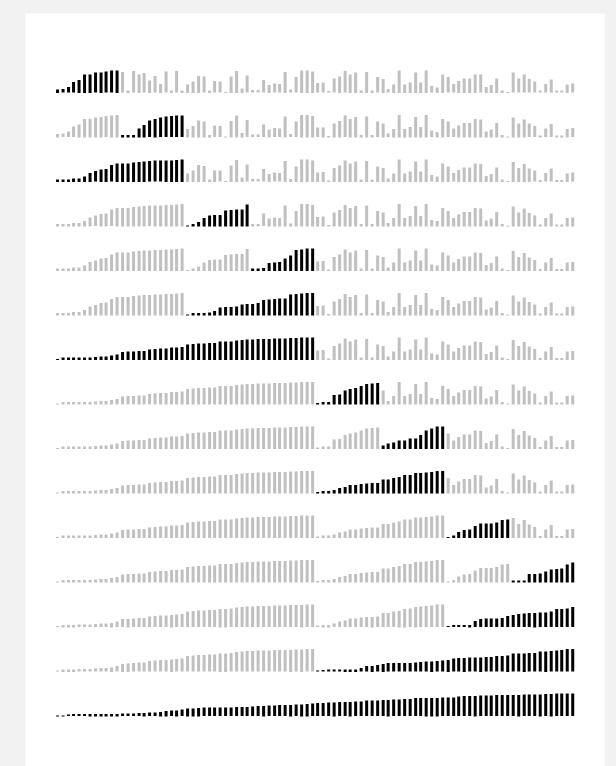
Bottom-up mergesort: Java implementation

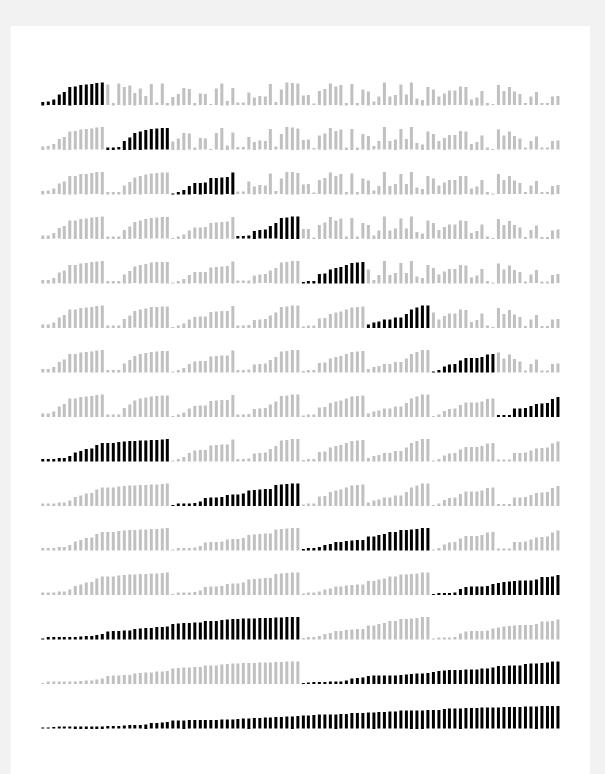
```
public class MergeBU
 private static void merge(...)
 { /* as before */ }
 public static void sort(Comparable[] a)
   int N = a.length;
   Comparable[] aux = new Comparable[N];
   for (int sz = 1; sz < N; sz = sz+sz)
     for (int lo = 0; lo < N-sz; lo += sz+sz)
       merge(a, aux, lo, lo+sz-1, Math.min(lo+sz+sz-1, N-1));
                                                but about 10% slower than recursive,
```

Bottom line. Simple and non-recursive version of mergesort.

top-down mergesort on typical systems

Mergesort: visualizations





Natural mergesort

Idea. Exploit pre-existing order by identifying naturally-occurring runs.

input

1	5	10	16	3	4	23	9	13	2	7	8	12	14
				_									

first run

1	5	10	16	3	4	23	9	13	2	7	8	12	14
---	---	----	----	---	---	----	---	----	---	---	---	----	----

second run

merge two runs



Tradeoff. Fewer passes vs. extra compares per pass to identify runs.

Timsort

- Natural mergesort.
- Use binary insertion sort to make initial runs (if needed).
- A few more clever optimizations.

Well, maybe—but it uses ideas that were originally published 9 years earlier by Peter McIlroy

Intro

This describes an adaptive, stable, natural mergesort, modestly called timsort (hey, I earned it <wink>). It has supernatural performance on many kinds of partially ordered arrays (less than Ig(N!) comparisons needed, and as few as N-1), yet as fast as Python's previous highly tuned samplesort hybrid on random arrays.

In a nutshell, the main routine marches over the array once, left to right, alternately identifying the next run, then merging it into the previous runs "intelligently". Everything else is complication for speed, and some hard-won measure of memory efficiency.

Consequence. Linear time on many arrays with pre-existing order. Now widely used. Python, Java 7, GNU Octave, Android,



Tim Peters

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Complexity of sorting

Computational complexity. Framework to study efficiency of algorithms for solving a particular problem *X*.

Model of computation. Allowable operations.

Cost model. Operation count(s).

Upper bound. Cost guarantee provided by some algorithm for *X*.

Lower bound. Proven limit on cost guarantee of all algorithms for *X*.

Optimal algorithm. Algorithm with best possible cost guarantee for *X*.

lower bound ~ upper bound

Example: sorting.

Model of computation: decision tree. ←

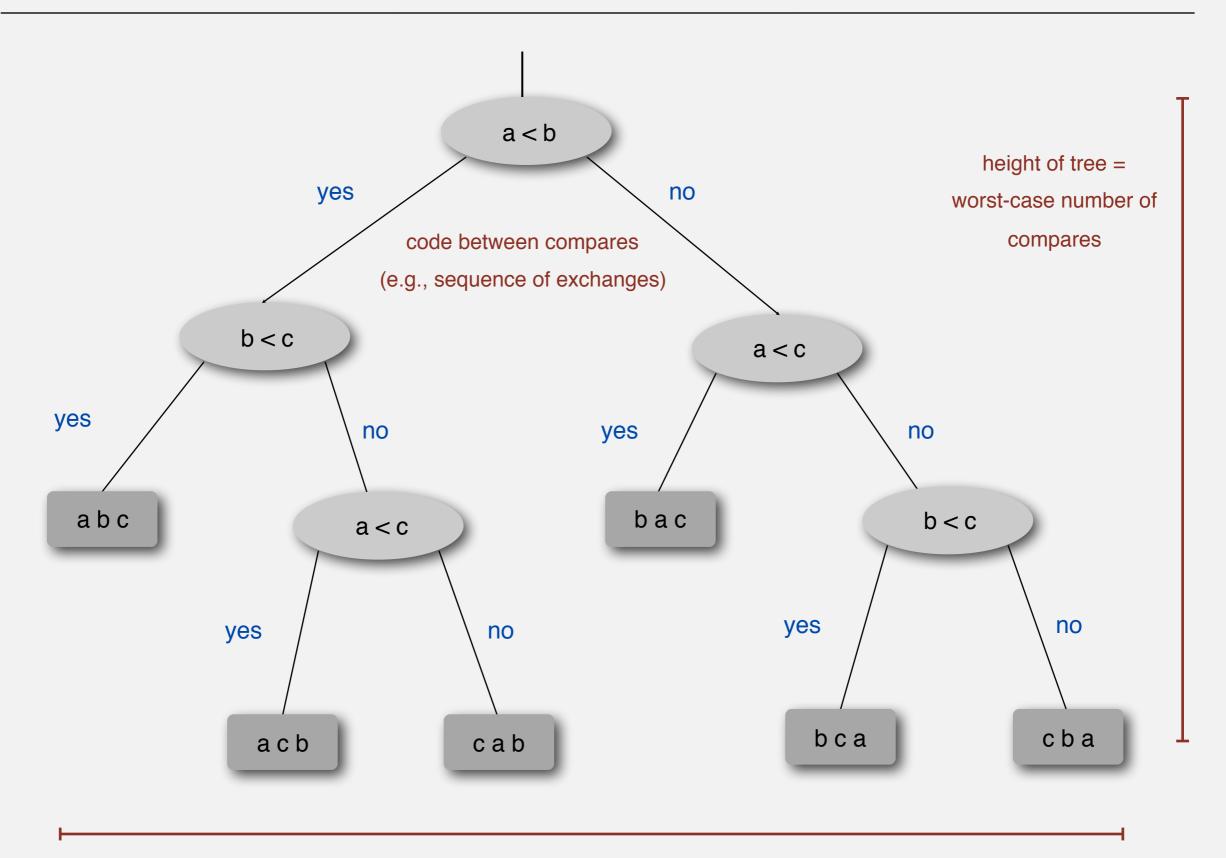
can access information only through compares

Cost model: # compares.

(e.g., Java Comparable framework)

- Upper bound: $\sim N \lg N$ from mergesort.
- Lower bound:
- Optimal algorithm:

Decision tree (for 3 distinct keys a, b, and c)



Generalizing the Decision Tree for N keys

- Total number of leaves (as expected) is N!;
- The total number of compare nodes is *N!-1*;
- The total number of tree nodes is 2 N! − 1
- The *minimum* number of comparisons is *N-1*;
- The maximum number of comparisons is N(N-1)/2,
 - i.e. every pair of keys must be compared;
- The average number of comparisons is Ig (N!);

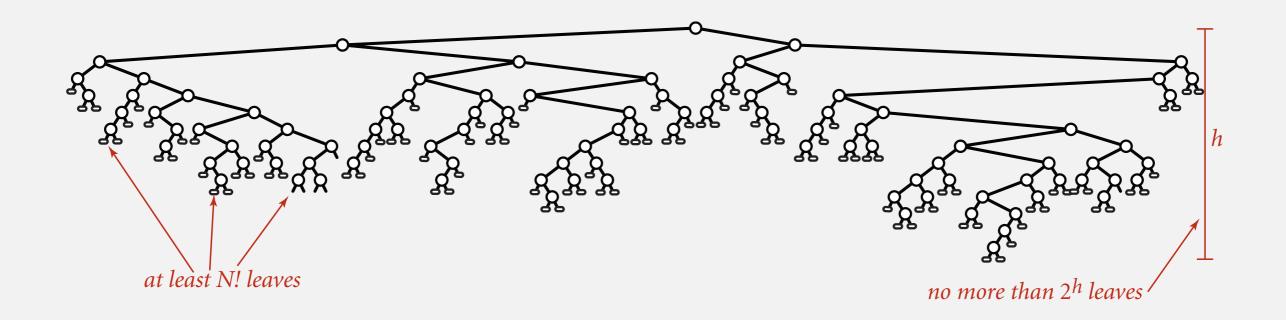
Compare-based lower bound for sorting

Proposition. Any compare-based sorting algorithm must use at least $\lg(N!) \sim N \lg N$ compares in the worst-case.

module on entropy.

Pf.

- Assume array consists of N distinct values a_1 through a_N .
- Worst case dictated by height h of decision tree.
- Binary tree of height h has at most 2^h leaves.
- N! different orderings \Rightarrow at least N! leaves.

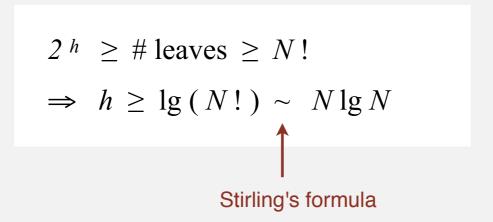


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Complexity results in context

Compares? Mergesort is optimal with respect to number compares.

Space? Mergesort is not optimal with respect to space usage.



Lessons. Use theory as a guide.

- Ex. Design sorting algorithm that guarantees $\frac{1}{2}N \lg N$ compares??
- Ex. Design sorting algorithm that is both time- and space-optimal??

Complexity results in context (continued)

Lower bound may not hold if the algorithm can take advantage of:

The initial order of the input.

Ex: insertion sort requires only a linear number of compares on partiallysorted arrays.

The distribution of key values.

Ex: 3-way quicksort requires only a linear number of compares on arrays with a constant number of distinct keys. [stay tuned]

The representation of the keys.

Ex: radix sort requires no key compares — it accesses the data via character/digit compares.

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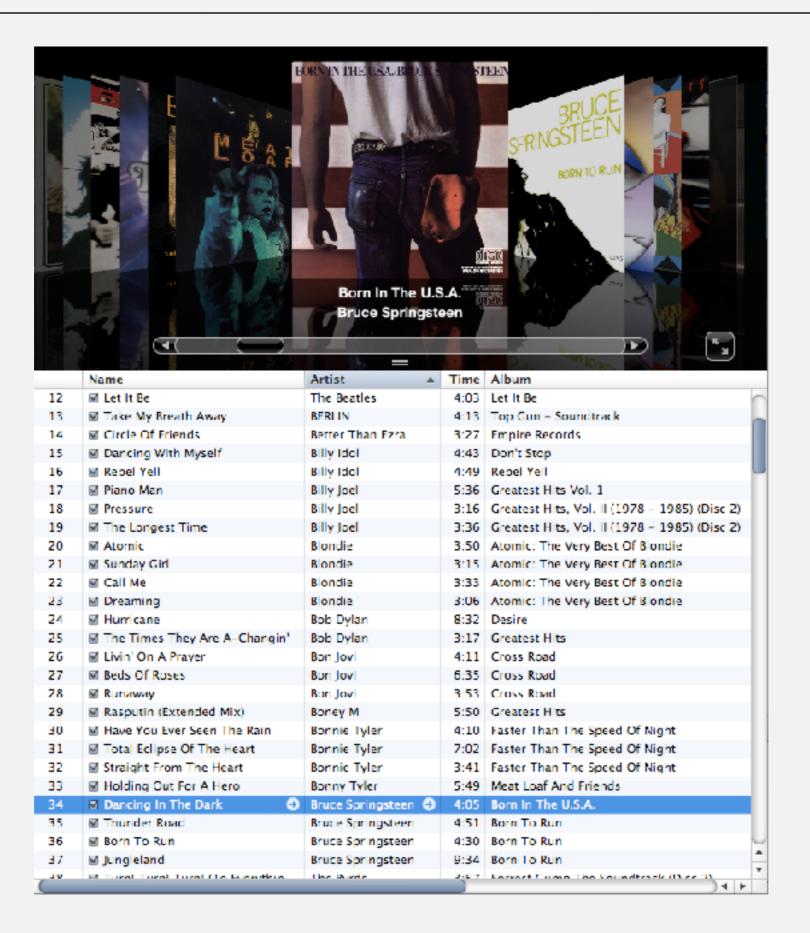
Sort countries by gold medals

NOC \$	Gold	\$	Silver	\$	Bronze	+	Total	\$
United States (USA)	46		29		29		104	
China (CHN)§	38		28		22		88	
Great Britain (GBR)*	29		17		19		65	
Russia (RUS)§	24		25		32		81	
South Korea (KOR)	13		8		7		28	
Germany (GER)	11		19		14		44	
France (FRA)	11		11		12		34	
Italy (ITA)	8		9		11		28	
Hungary (HUN)§	8		4		6		18	
Australia (AUS)	7		16		12		35	

Sort countries by total medals

NOC \$	Gold	Silver 4	Bronze +	Total ▼
United States (USA)	46	29	29	104
China (CHN)§	38	28	22	88
Russia (RUS)§	24	25	32	81
Great Britain (GBR)*	29	17	19	65
Germany (GER)	11	19	14	44
Japan (JPN)	7	14	17	38
Australia (AUS)	7	16	12	35
France (FRA)	11	1 1	12	34
South Korea (KOR)	13	8	7	28
Italy (ITA)	8	9	11	28

Sort music library by artist



Sort music library by song name



Comparable interface: review

Comparable interface: sort using a type's natural order.

```
public class Date implements Comparable<Date>
 private final int month, day, year;
 public Date(int m, int d, int y)
   month = m;
   day = d;
   year = y;
                                                                              natural order
 public int compareTo(Date 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;
   return Integer.compare(this.day, that.day);
```

Comparator interface

Comparator interface: sort using an alternate order.

public interface Comparator<Key>
int compare(Key v, Key w) compare keys v and w

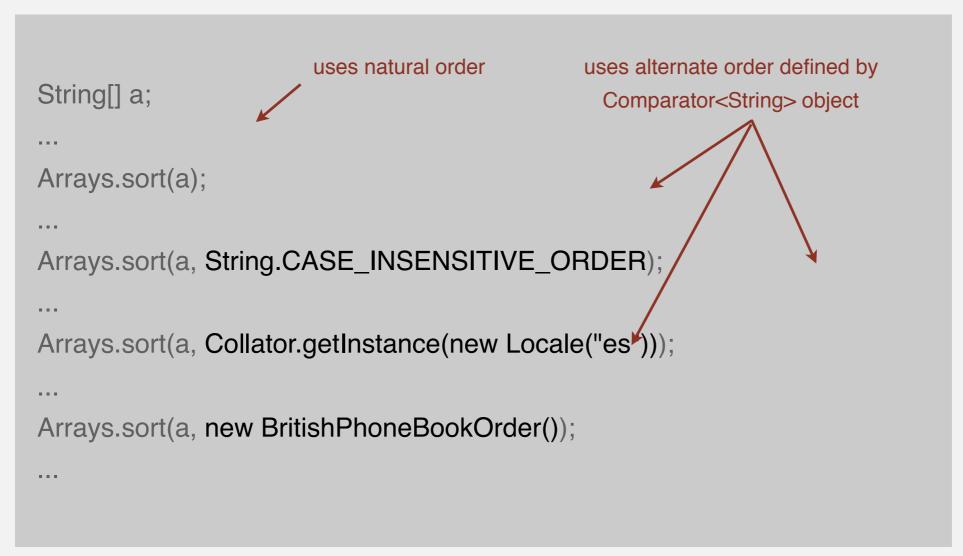
Required property. Must be a total order.

string order	example			
natural order	Now is the time	pre-1994 order for		
case insensitive	is Now the time	digraphs ch and II and rr		
Spanish language	café cafetero cuarto ch	urro nube ñoño		
British phone book	McKinley Mackintosh			

Comparator interface: system sort

To use with Java system sort:

- Create Comparator object.
- Pass as second argument to Arrays.sort().



Bottom line. Decouples the definition of the data type from the definition of what it means to compare two objects of that type.

Comparator interface: using with our sorting libraries

To support comparators in our sort implementations:

- Use Object instead of Comparable.
- Pass Comparator to sort() and less() and use it in less().

insertion sort using a Comparator

```
public static void sort(Object[] a, Comparator comparator)
                                                                       Which sort is this?
  int N = a.length;
  for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
   for (int j = i; j > 0 && less(comparator, a[j], a[j-1]); j--)
      swap(a, j, j-1);
}
private static boolean less(Comparator c, Object v, Object w)
{ return c.compare(v, w) < 0; }
private static void swap(Object[] a, int i, int j)
{ Object swap = a[i]; a[i] = a[j]; a[j] = swap; }
```

Comparator interface: implementing

To implement a comparator:

- Define a (nested) class that implements the Comparator interface.
- Implement the compare() method.

```
public class Student
 private final String name;
 private final int section;
 public static class ByName implements Comparator<Student>
   public int compare(Student v, Student w)
   { return v.name.compareTo(w.name); }
 public static class BySection implements Comparator<Student>
   public int compare(Student v, Student w)
                                                 this trick works here
                                              since no danger of overflow
   { return v.section - w.section; }
```

Comparator interface: implementing

To implement a comparator:

- Define a (inner) class that implements the Comparator interface.
- Implement the compare() method.

Arrays.sort(a, new Student.ByName());

Andrews	3	Α	664-480-0023	097 Little
Battle	4	С	874-088-1212	121 Whitman
Chen	3	А	991-878-4944	308 Blair
Fox	3	А	884-232-5341	11 Dickinson
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

Arrays.sort(a, new Student.BySection());

Furia	1	А	766-093-9873	101 Brown
Rohde	2	А	232-343-5555	343 Forbes
Andrews	3	А	664-480-0023	097 Little
Chen	3	А	991-878-4944	308 Blair
Fox	3	А	884-232-5341	11 Dickinson
Kanaga	3	В	898-122-9643	22 Brown
Battle	4	С	874-088-1212	121 Whitman
Gazsi	4	В	766-093-9873	101 Brown

Algorithms

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2.2 MERGESORT

- mergesort
- bottom-up mergesort
- sorting complexity
- comparators
- stability

Stability

A typical application. First, sort by name; then sort by section.

Selection.sort(a, new Student.ByName());

Andrews	3	Α	664-480-0023	097 Little
Battle	4	С	874-088-1212	121 Whitman
Chen	3	Α	991-878-4944	308 Blair
Fox	3	А	884-232-5341	11 Dickinson
Furia	1	Α	766-093-9873	101 Brown
Gazsi	4	В	766-093-9873	101 Brown
Kanaga	3	В	898-122-9643	22 Brown
Rohde	2	А	232-343-5555	343 Forbes

Selection.sort(a, new Student.BySection());

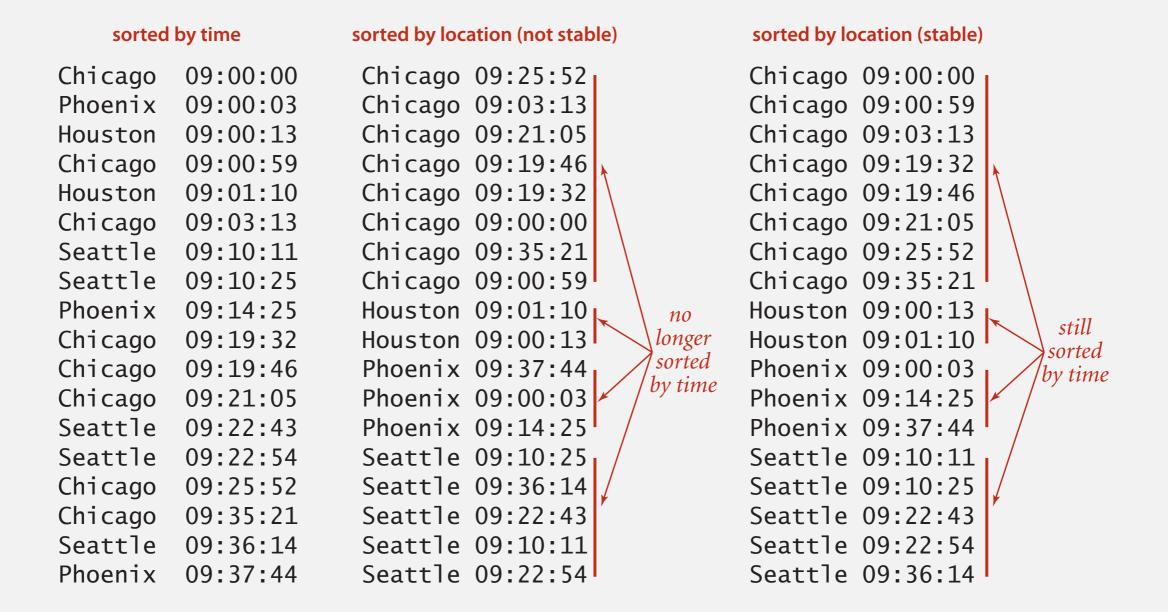
Furia	1	А	766-093-9873	101 Brown
Rohde	2	А	232-343-5555	343 Forbes
Chen	3	А	991-878-4944	308 Blair
Fox	3	А	884-232-5341	11 Dickinson
Andrews	3	А	664-480-0023	097 Little
Kanaga	3	В	898-122-9643	22 Brown
Gazsi	4	В	766-093-9873	101 Brown
Battle	4	С	874-088-1212	121 Whitman

@#%&@! Students in section 3 no longer sorted by name.

A stable sort preserves the relative order of items with equal keys.

Stability

- Q. Which sorts are stable?
- A. Need to check algorithm (and implementation).



Stability: insertion sort

Proposition. Insertion sort is stable.

```
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 && less(a[j], a[j-1]); j--)
         swap(a, j, j-1);
                                               0 \quad B_1 \quad A_1 \quad A_2 \quad A_3 \quad B_2
                                       0
                                               0
                                                      A_1 B_1 A_2 A_3
                                        1
                                               1 A<sub>1</sub> A<sub>2</sub> B<sub>1</sub> A<sub>3</sub> B<sub>2</sub>
                                       3
                                               2 A_1 A_2 A_3 B_1 B_2
                                               4
                                                      A_1 A_2 A_3 B_1 B_2
                                                      A_1 \quad A_2 \quad A_3 \quad B_1 \quad B_2
```

Pf. Equal items never move past each other.

Stability: selection sort

Proposition. Selection sort is not stable.

```
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);
```

```
      i
      min
      0
      1
      2

      0
      2
      B<sub>1</sub>
      B<sub>2</sub>
      A

      1
      1
      A
      B<sub>2</sub>
      B<sub>1</sub>

      2
      2
      A
      B<sub>2</sub>
      B<sub>1</sub>

      A
      B<sub>2</sub>
      B<sub>1</sub>
```

Pf by counterexample. Long-distance exchange can move one equal item past another one.

Stability: shellsort

Proposition. Shellsort sort is not stable.

```
public class Shell
  public static void sort(Comparable[] a)
    int N = a.length;
    int h = 1;
    while (h < N/3) h = 3*h + 1;
    while (h >= 1)
      for (int i = h; i < N; i++)
        for (int j = i; j > h && less(a[j], a[j-h]); j -= h)
                                                                                         h
                                                                                                            2
                                                                                                                  3
                                                                                                    1
          swap(a, j, j-h);
                                                                                                B_1 \quad B_2 \quad B_3 \quad B_4 \quad A_1
      }
                                                                                                h = h/3;
                                                                                                A_1 \quad B_2 \quad B_3 \quad B_4 \quad B_1
                                                                                                A_1 \quad B_2 \quad B_3 \quad B_4 \quad B_1
```

Stability: mergesort

Proposition. Mergesort is stable.

```
public class Merge
  private static void merge(...)
 { /* as before */ }
  private static void sort(Comparable[] a, Comparable[] aux, int lo, int hi)
   if (hi <= lo) return;
   int mid = lo + (hi - lo) / 2;
   sort(a, aux, lo, mid);
   sort(a, aux, mid+1, hi);
   merge(a, aux, lo, mid, hi);
 public static void sort(Comparable[] a)
 { /* as before */ }
```

Pf. Suffices to verify that merge operation is stable.

Stability: mergesort

Proposition. Merge operation is stable.

```
private static void merge(...)
 for (int k = lo; k \le hi; k++)
   aux[k] = a[k];
 int i = lo, j = mid+1;
 for (int k = lo; k \le hi; k++)
        (i > mid) 	 a[k] = aux[j++];
   else if (j > hi) a[k] = aux[i++];
   else if (less(aux[j], aux[i])) a[k] = aux[j++];
   else
                        a[k] = aux[i++];
        0
                                                      8
                                                               10
                           4
        A_1 A_2 A_3 B D
                                       A_4 A_5 C E F
                                                               G
```

Pf. Takes from left subarray if equal keys.

Sorting summary

	inplace?	stable?	best	average	worst	remarks
selection	~		½ N ²	½ N 2	½ N 2	N exchanges
insertion	✓	~	N	½ N ²	½ N ²	use for small N or partially ordered
shell	✓		$N \log_3 N$?	$c N^{3/2}$	tight code; subquadratic
merge		~	½ N lg N	$N \lg N$	$N \lg N$	$N \log N$ guarantee; stable
timsort		~	N	$N \lg N$	N lg N	improves mergesort when preexisting order
?	✓	~	N	$N \lg N$	$N \lg N$	holy grail of sorting

The five possibilities

	Work then solve	Solve then work	Growth (~)
Equi*- partition	?	Merge sort	N log N
Slice	?	Shell sort	~ N1.5
Head-tail partition	Selection Sort	Insertion Sort	N ² /2

^{*} Does it have to be an exact equal partition?