

CS11313 - Fall 2023

Design & Analysis *of* Algorithms

Selection

Ibrahim Albluwi

Warmup Quiz

How can we find the **maximum** m elements in an array of size n ?

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Answer 1. Perform m iterations of selection sort.

Running time: $\Theta(mn)$.



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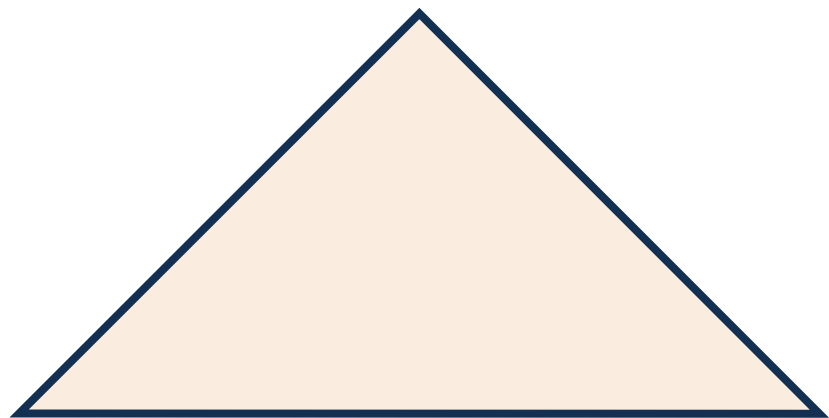
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Answer 5.

Example. $m = 4$

$a[] = 1\ 5\ 9\ 8\ 4\ 11\ 3\ 0\ 7\ 8\ 6\ 10\ 2$



min-PQ

```
for each element  $k$  in  $a[]$ :  
    minPQ.INSERT( $k$ )  
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Answer 4. Insert all elements into a min-PQ. Remove the minimum element whenever the size of the min-PQ exceeds m .

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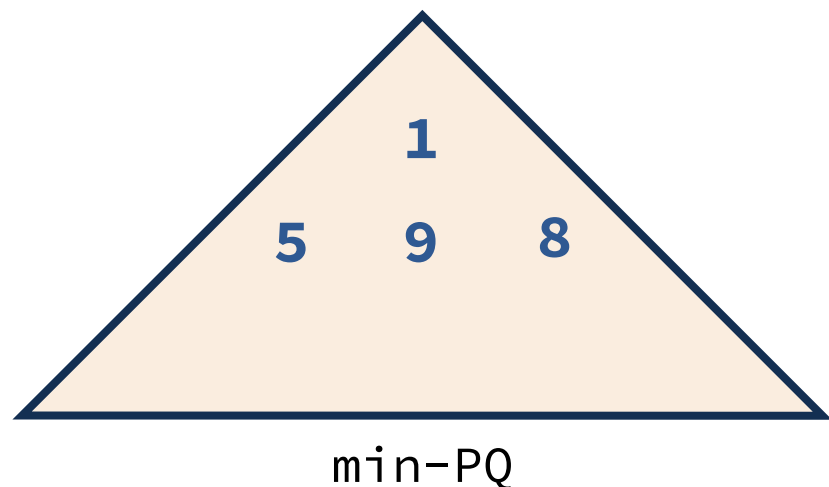
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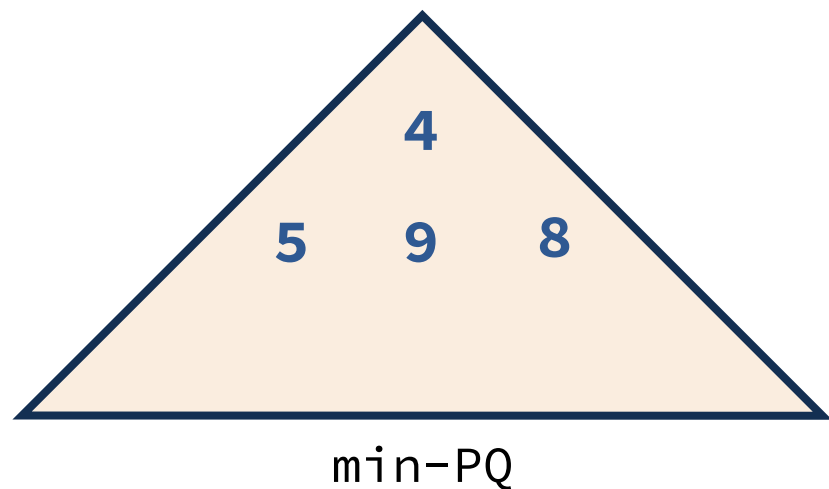
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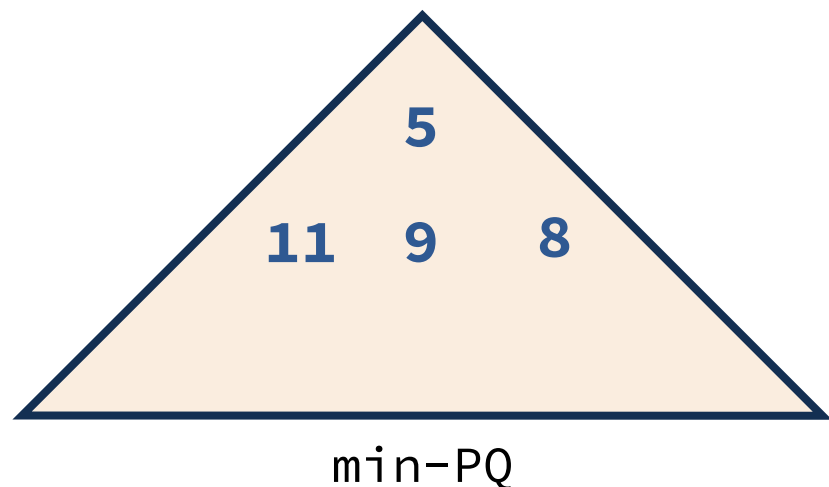
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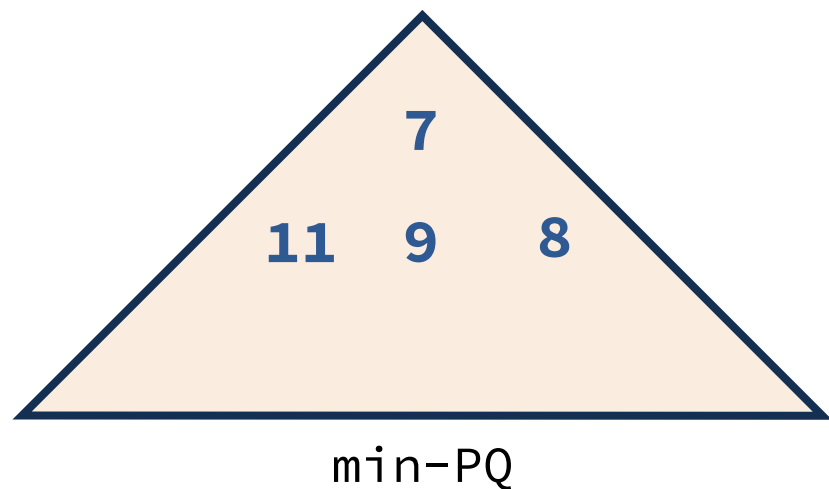
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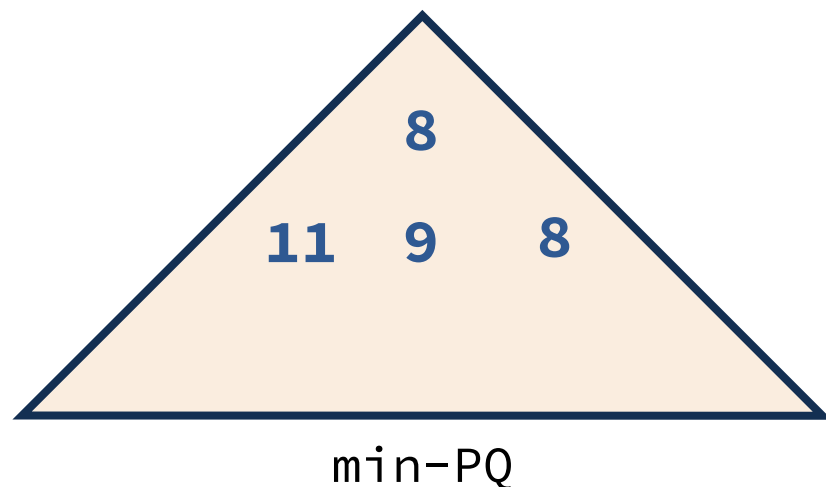
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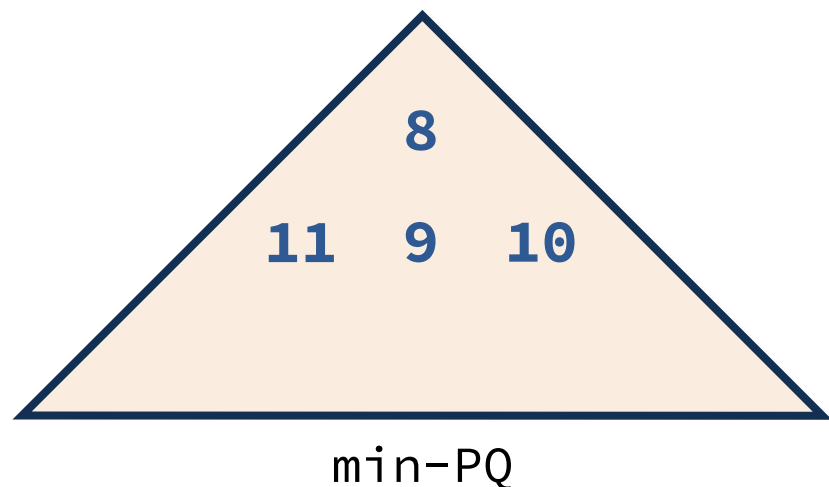
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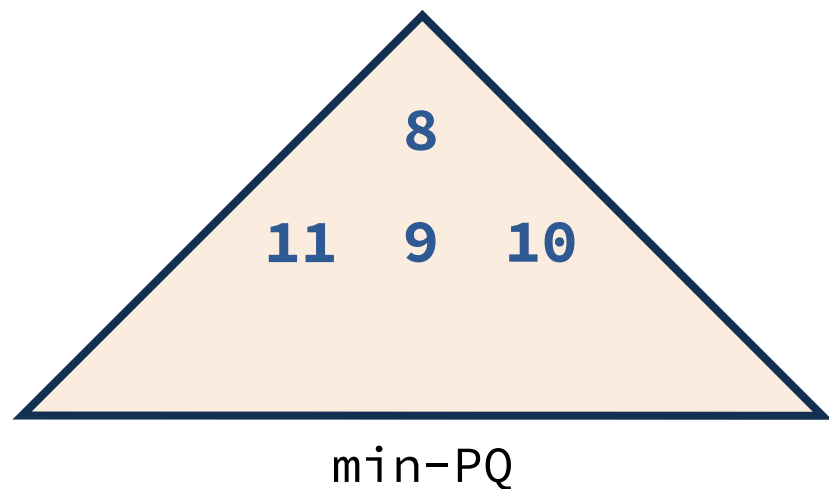
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Running time: $\Theta(mn)$.

Answer 2. Sort the array using Merge Sort and take the last m elements.

Running time: $\Theta(n \log n)$.

Answer 3. Insert all elements into a max-PQ and then remove m elements.

Running time: $\Theta(n \log n)$ to insert + $O(m \log n)$ to remove = $\Theta(n \log n)$

Answer 4. Insert all elements into a min-PQ. Remove the minimum element whenever the size of the min-PQ exceeds m .

Running time: $\Theta(n \log m)$

Selection

Problem. Find the element with rank k in an arbitrary array of size n .

Examples. $k = 0$ (minimum), $k = n - 1$ (maximum), $k = \frac{n}{2}$ (median).

Relation to Sorting.

- Repeated selection leads to sorting.
- If the array is sorted, selection is easy!

Candidate Solutions.

- Perform k iterations of selection **sort**. $\leftarrow \Theta(kn)$
- **Sort** in ascending order and then get the element at index k . $\leftarrow O(n \log n)$
- Insert the elements into a binary **heap**, keep the min $k+1$ elements. $\leftarrow O(n \log k)$



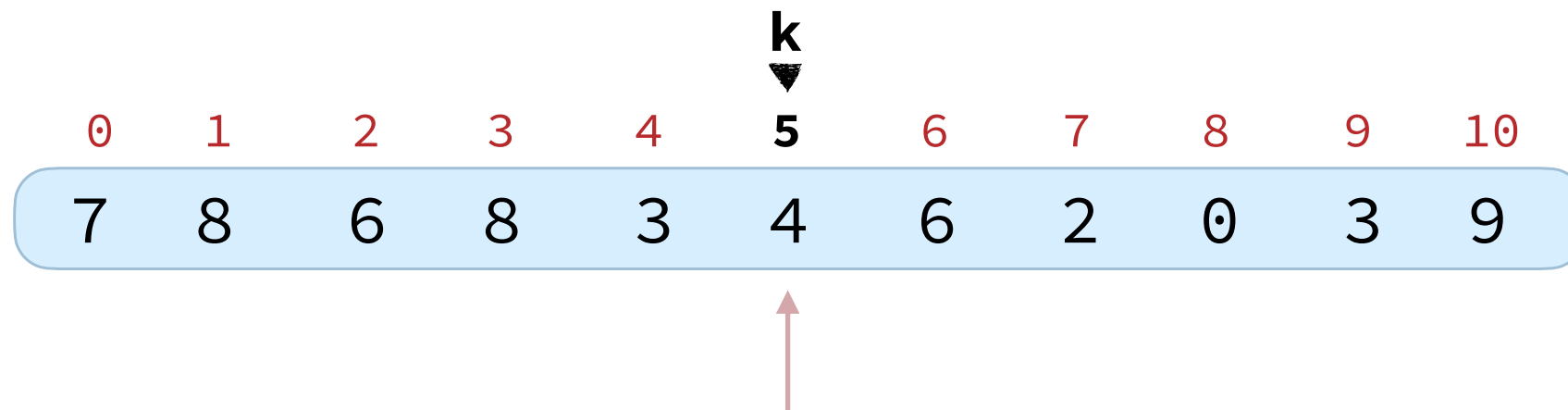
Can we do better?

Is selection as hard as sorting?

(requires $\sim n \log n$ compares
in the worst case if $k = \frac{n}{2}$)

Quickselect Demo

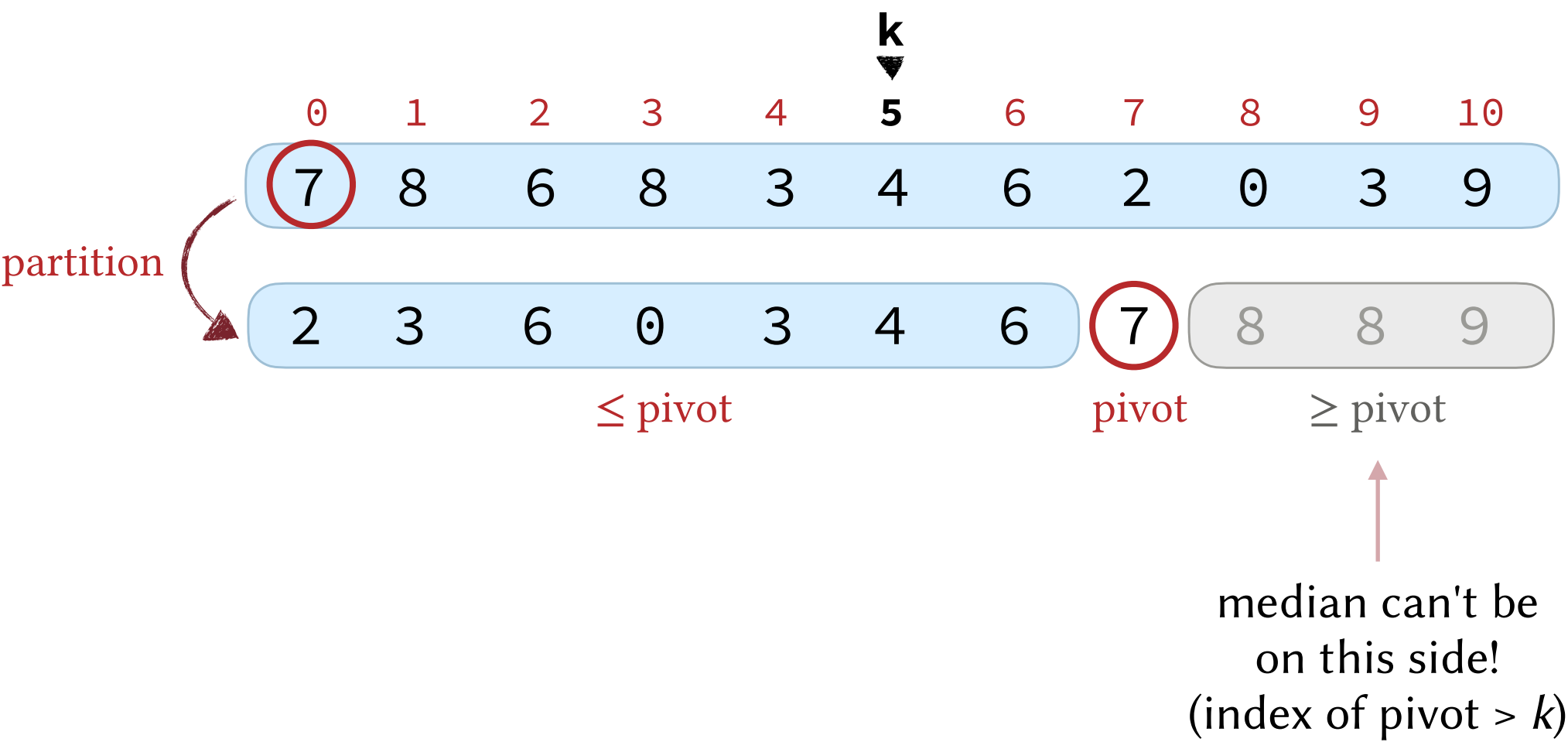
Assume $k = \frac{n}{2}$ (5 in the example below).



which element should be at this
index if the elements were sorted?

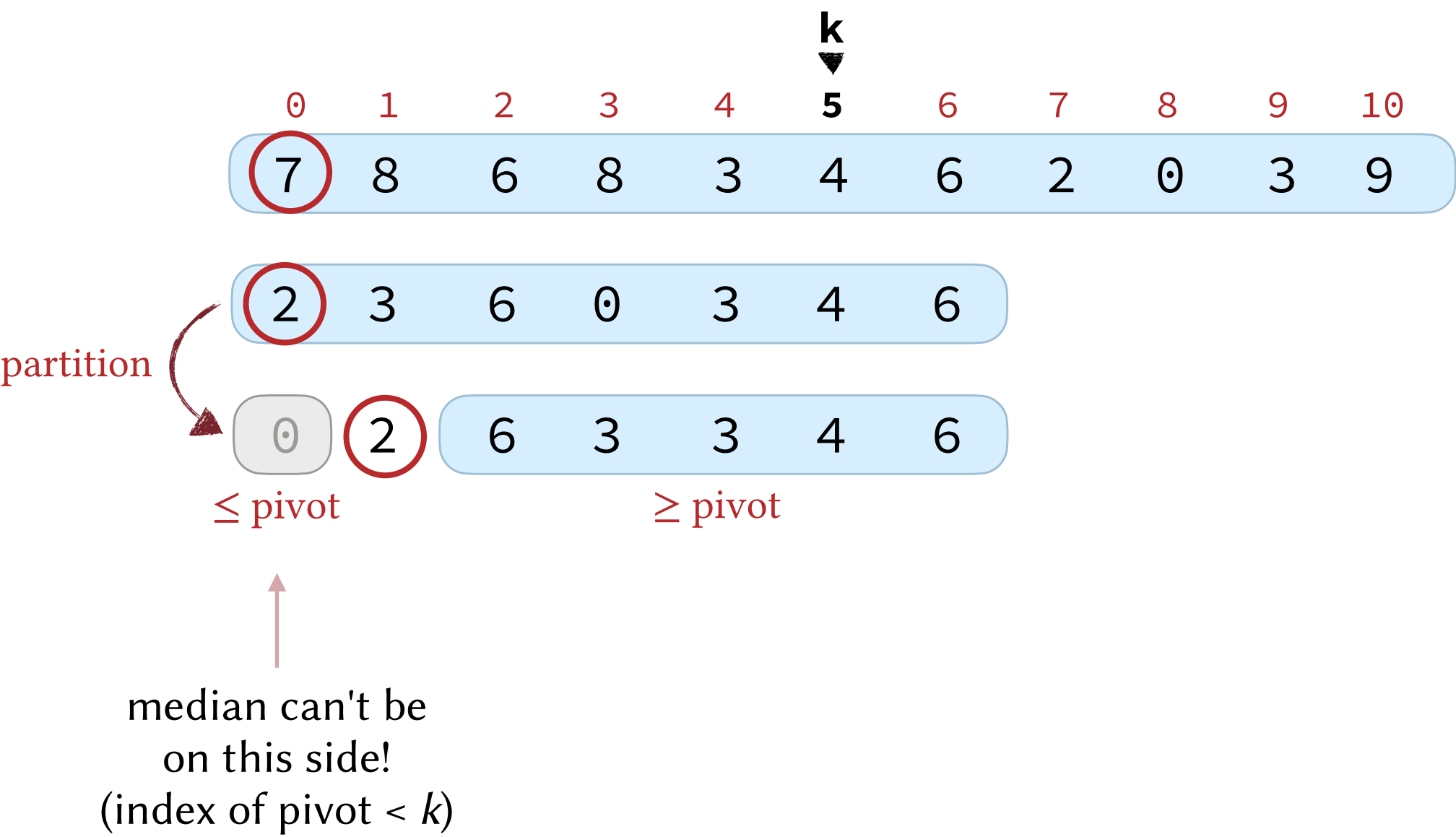
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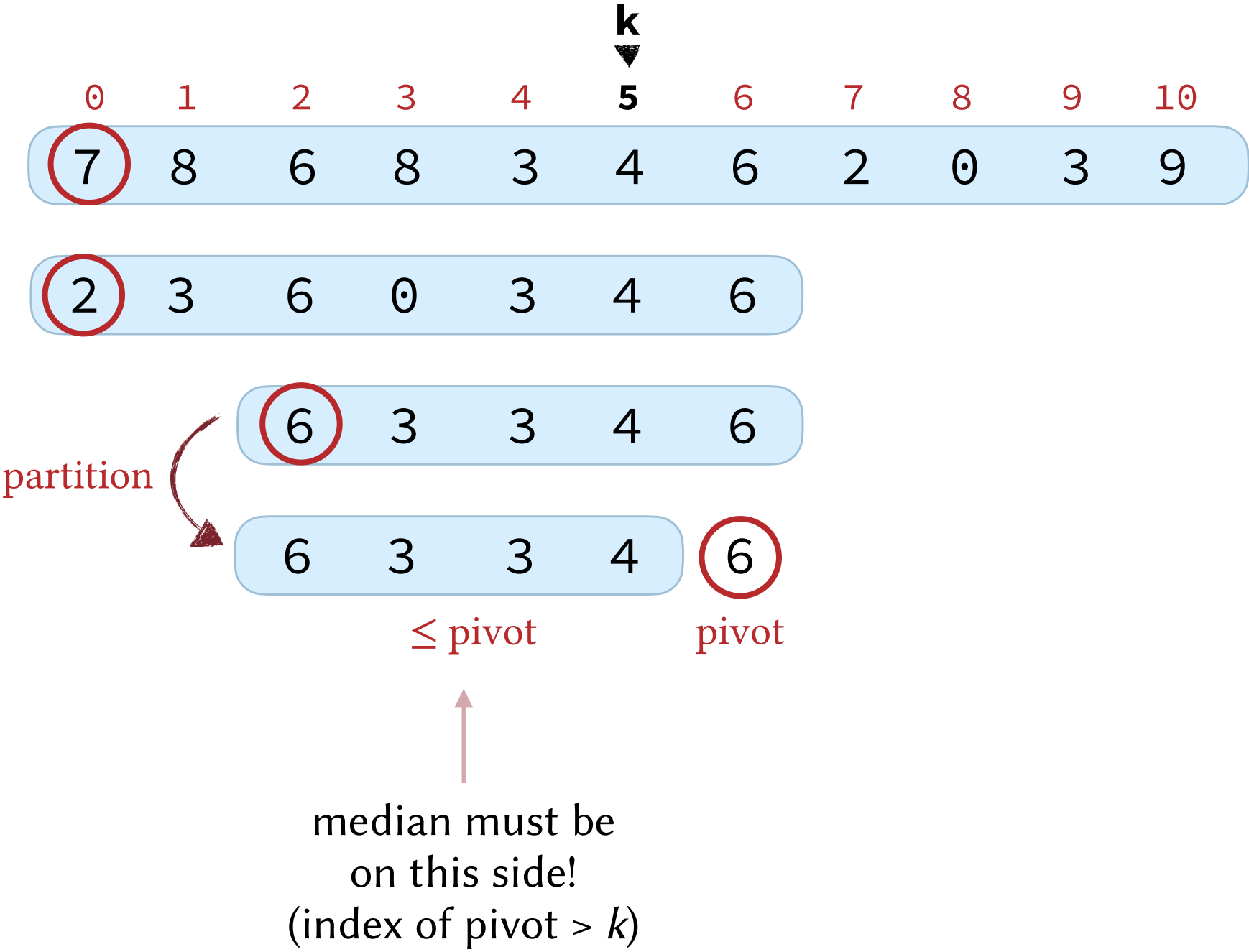
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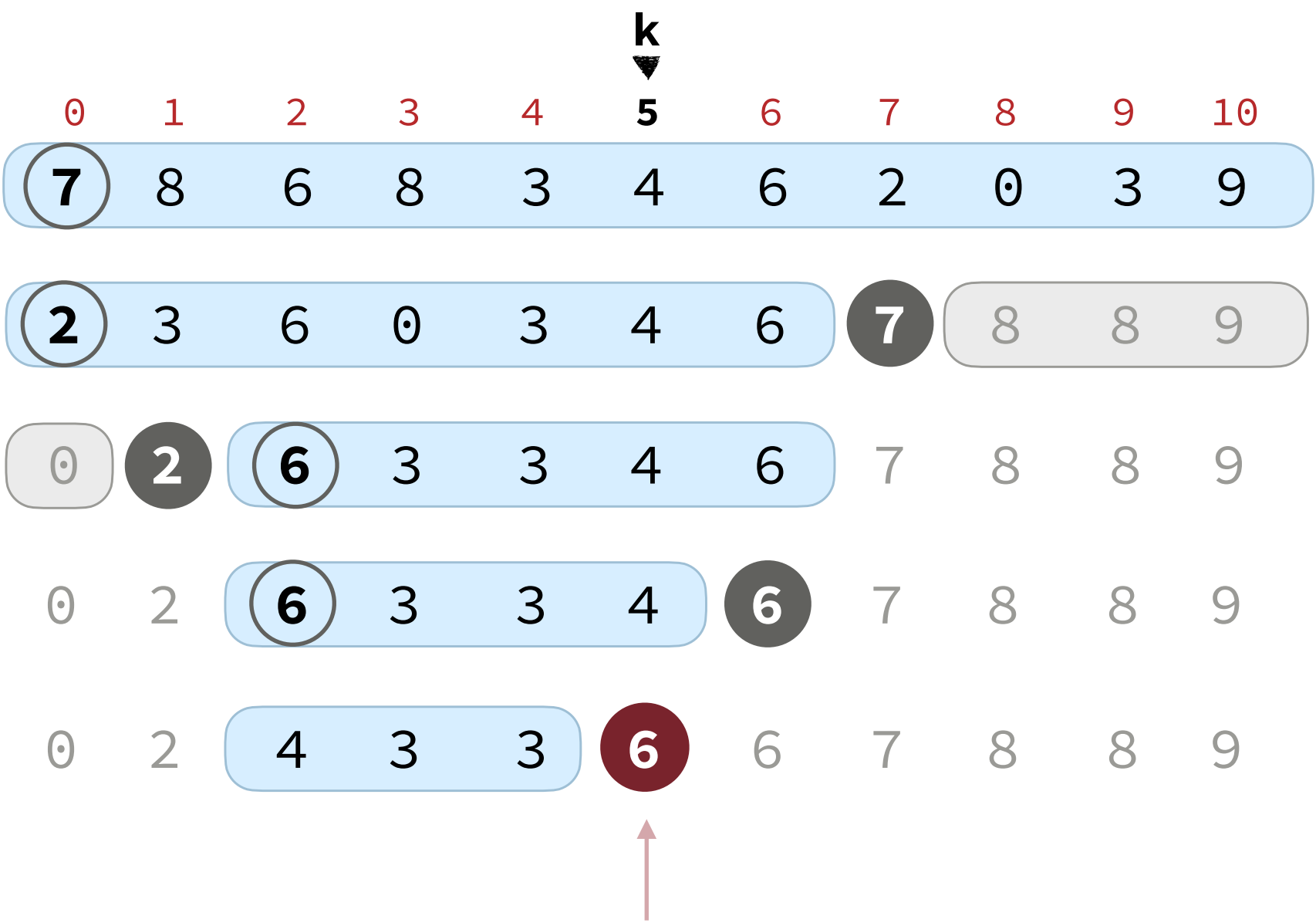
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median found!
(index of pivot = k)

Quickselect Algorithm

```
SELECT(a[], first, last, k)
```

```
  SHUFFLE(a, first, last)
```

```
  QUICK-SELECT(a, first, last, k)
```

to guard against the worst case
(or pick pivot randomly)

assuming k is a valid index

Quickselect Algorithm

```
SELECT(a[], first, last, k)
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    SHUFFLE(a, first, last)
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    QUICK-SELECT(a, first, last, k)
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```
QUICK-SELECT(a[], first, last, k)
```

```
    if (first >= last):
```

```
        return a[k]
```

```
    p = PARTITION(a, first, last)
```

```
    if p == k:
```

```
        return a[k]
```

```
    if k > p:
```

```
        return QUICK-SELECT(a, p+1, last, k)
```

```
    else:
```

```
        return QUICK-SELECT(a, first, p-1, k)
```

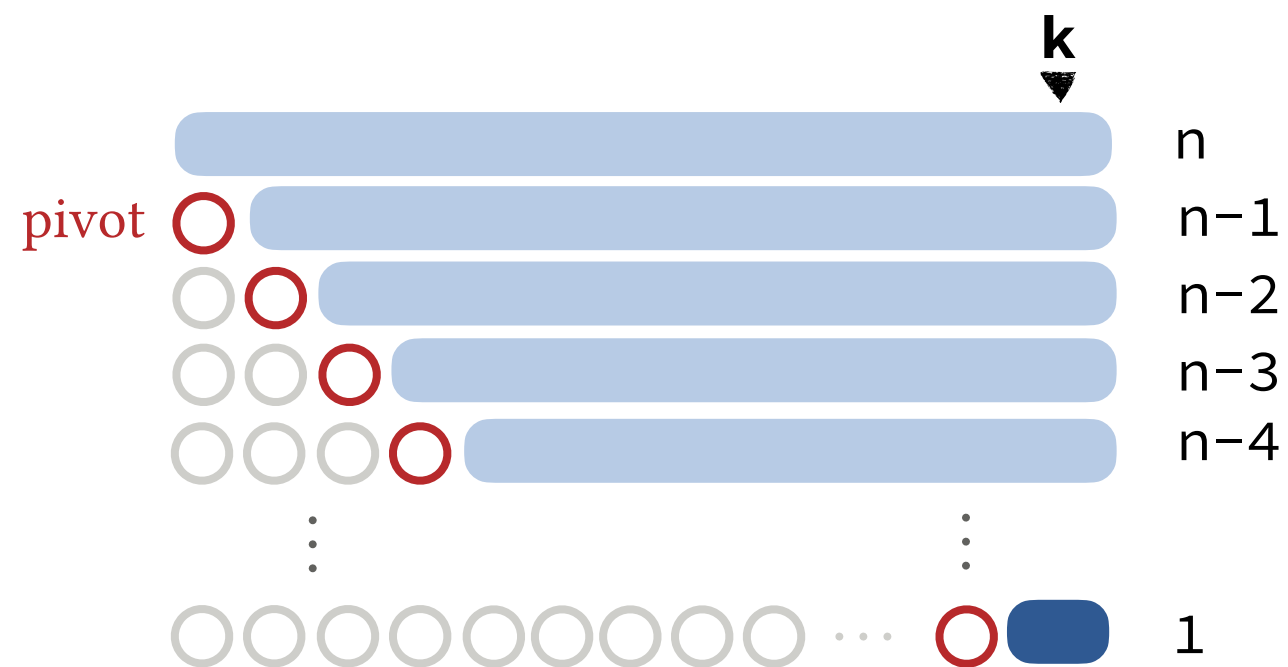
Quickselect Analysis

Best Case. Element at rank k found immediately after the first partitioning step: $\Theta(n)$.

Worst Case. Element at rank k found after $n - 1$ partitioning steps:

$$n + (n - 1) + (n - 2) + \dots + 1 = \Theta(n^2)$$

Example 1. $k = n - 1$



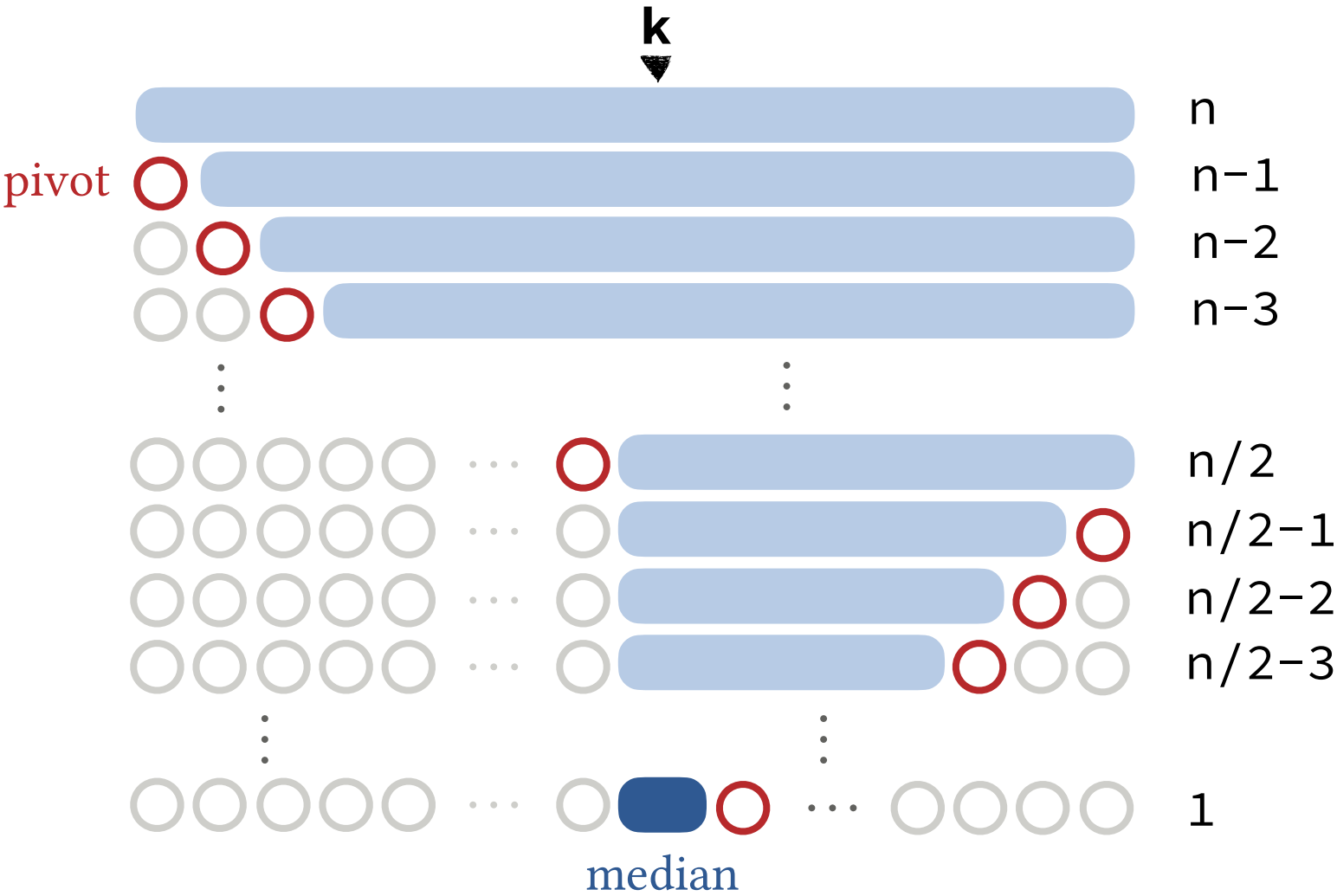
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Example 2. $k = \frac{n}{2}$



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probabilistically almost-
impossible if the array is
shuffled!

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Expected Case. $\Theta(n)$

Intuition. Partitioning always gets rid of around half of the remaining elements.

$$T(n) = T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + \sim n$$


time to **partition** an array of size n

time to **select** from an array of size n

time to **select** from an array of size $n/2$

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n



time to partition
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$$n + \frac{n}{2}$$



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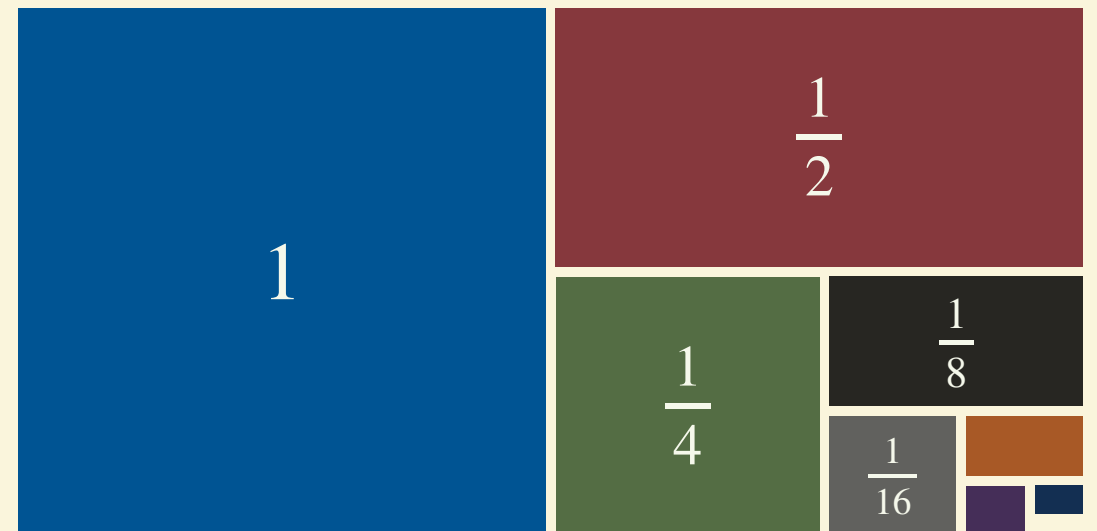
$$n + \frac{n}{2} + \frac{n}{4} + \dots + 1 = n\left(1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \dots + \frac{1}{n}\right) = \Theta(n)$$

Remember!

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\log_2 n} 2^i = 2^{\log_2 n + 1} - 1 = 2n - 1$$

$$1 + 2 + 4 + 8 + \dots + n$$

$$n + \frac{n}{2} + \frac{n}{4} + \dots + 4 + 2 + 1$$
$$n \times \left(1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \dots + \frac{1}{n}\right)$$



≤ 2

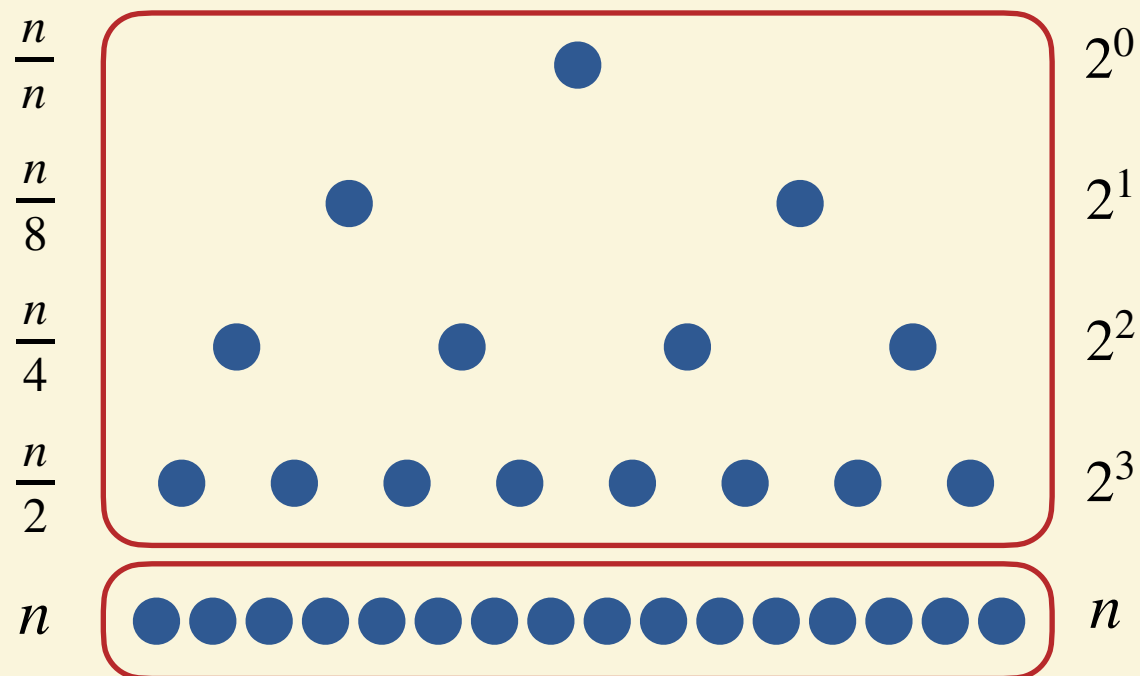
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$$1 + 2 + 4 + 8 + \dots + n$$

$$= 2^0 + 2^1 + 2^2 + 2^3 + \dots + 2^{\log_2 n}$$

$n-1$ internal nodes in a
complete tree of height $\log_2 n$



n leaves in a complete
tree of height $\log_2 n$

$$n + \frac{n}{2} + \frac{n}{4} + \dots + 4 + 2 + 1$$

$$n \times (1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \dots + \frac{1}{n})$$



Analysis Notes

Remember: Code that follows the pattern below has a running time of $\Theta(n \log n)$

foo(n)

if (n == 0): **return**

foo(n / 2)

foo(n / 2)

linear(n)

← solve *two* subproblems of half the size.

← do a *linear* amount of work.

Remember: Code that follows the pattern below has a running time of $\Theta(n)$

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Can we do better?

Theoretically. Selection can be done in linear time in the worst case using the **Median of Medians** algorithm. (Blum, Floyd, Pratt, Rivest, and Tarjan 1973).

Practically. Quickselect is faster in practice.

JOURNAL OF COMPUTER AND SYSTEM SCIENCES 7, 448–461 (1973)

Time Bounds for Selection*

MANUEL BLUM, ROBERT W. FLOYD, VAUGHAN PRATT,
RONALD L. RIVEST, AND ROBERT E. TARJAN

Department of Computer Science, Stanford University, Stanford, California 94305

Received November 14, 1972

The number of comparisons required to select the i -th smallest of n numbers is shown to be at most a linear function of n by analysis of a new selection algorithm—PICK. Specifically, no more than $5.4305n$ comparisons are ever required. This bound is improved for extreme values of i , and a new lower bound on the requisite number of comparisons is also proved.

Introselect

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

In **computer science**, **introselect** (short for "introspective selection") is a **selection algorithm** that is a **hybrid** of **quickselect** and **median of medians** which has fast average performance and optimal worst-case performance. Introselect is related to the **introsort sorting algorithm**: these are analogous refinements of the basic quickselect and **quicksort** algorithms, in that they both start with the quick algorithm, which has good average performance and low overhead, but fall back to an optimal worst-case algorithm (with higher overhead) if the quick algorithm does not progress rapidly enough. Both algorithms were introduced by **David Musser** in (**Musser 1997**), with the purpose of providing **generic algorithms** for the **C++ Standard Library** that have both fast average performance and optimal worst-case performance, thus allowing the performance requirements to be tightened.^[1] However, in most C++ Standard Library implementations that use introselect, another "introselect" algorithm is used, which combines quickselect and heapselect, and has a worst-case running time of $O(n \log n)$ ^[2].

Introselect

| Class | Selection algorithm |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Data structure | Array |
| Worst-case performance | $O(n)$ |
| Best-case performance | $O(n)$ |

Quicksort Improvement

What is the order of growth of the running time of **quicksort** is if a linear time median finding algorithm is used to pick the pivot?

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What is the order of growth of the running time of **quicksort** is if a linear time median finding algorithm is used to pick the pivot?

Answer. If the pivot is always the median, the array is always split into almost equally-sized partitions. Therefore, the algorithm would run in $\Theta(n \log n)$.

However: the overhead for finding the pivot would be high and the algorithm would be slower in practice compared to just picking the pivot randomly.

optional

Streaming Median

Assume that you receive an arbitrary **stream of numbers**. How can we efficiently report the **median** at any point in time?

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Assume that you receive an arbitrary **stream of numbers**. How can we efficiently report the **median** at any point in time?

Solution 1. Maintain a **max-heap**:

insert(): $O(\log n)$

median(): $O(n \log n)$

Remove from the heap the first $\frac{n}{2}$ elements to reach the median and then insert them back.

Solution 2. Maintain an **unordered array**:

insert(): $\Theta(1)$

Add to the end of the list. Note that the array might resize, so the running time is amortized.

median(): $\Theta(n)$

Use Quickselect to find the median. Note that this is the expected case if the array is shuffled.

Solution 3. Maintain a **sorted array**:

insert(): $O(n)$

Search for the right position and then shift any elements that come after.

median(): $\Theta(1)$

The median is always at index $\frac{n}{2}$.

Streaming Median

Solution 4. Use a **max-heap** to store the **lower** half of the elements (\leq median) and a **min-heap** to store the **upper** half of the elements ($>$ median).

Assume that the max-heap is named **left** and the min-heap is named **right**. Ensure that:

- Any element in **left** is smaller than or equal to all the elements in **right**.
- **left.size() - right.size()** is 0 (equal) or 1 (**left** is larger by 1).

Therefore, **left** always has $\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$ elements and the **median** is always the **maximum** element in **left**.

Example:

| | | | | | |
|--|------|---|----------|-------|--------|
| | left | | | right | |
| | [1 | 2 | 3 | • | 4 5 6] |
| | | | ↑ | | |
| | | | median | | |

Example:

| | | | | | |
|--|------|---|--------|----------|----------|
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Example: [1 2 **3** • 4 5 6]

Example: [1 2 3 **4** • 5 6 7]

General Idea:

- **Insert** the new element into the left heap if it is less than or equal to the current median and to the right if it is greater than the current median.
- **Rebalance** the heaps by moving an element from the larger heap to the smaller heap if the size invariant is violated.

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insert(k):

If $k \leq \text{left.max()}: \text{left.insert}(k)$

Else: $\text{right.insert}(k)$

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↑
median

← insert k in **left** if $k \leq$ median

← insert k in **right** if $k >$ median

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Else: $\text{right.insert}(k)$

If $\text{left.size()} > \text{right.size()} + 1: \text{right.insert}(\text{left.delMax}())$.

 more than $\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$ elements are in **left**

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Solution 4. Use a **max-heap** to store the **lower** half of the elements (\leq median) and a **min-heap** to store the **upper** half of the elements ($>$ median).

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- Any element in **left** is smaller than or equal to all the elements in **right**.
- **left.size() - right.size()** is 0 (equal) or 1 (**left** is larger by 1).

Therefore, **left** always has $\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$ elements and the **median** is always the **maximum** element in **left**.

Example: [1 2 **3** • 4 5 6]

Example: [1 2 3 **4** • 5 6 7]

insert(k):

If $k \leq \mathbf{left.max()}: \mathbf{left.insert(k)}$
Else: $\mathbf{right.insert(k)}$

If $\mathbf{left.size()} > \mathbf{right.size()+1}: \mathbf{right.insert(left.delMax())}$.

remove the max from left
and insert it into right



Streaming Median

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If $k \leq \text{left.max}()$: **left.insert(k)**

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If **left.size() > right.size()+1**: **right.insert(left.delMax())**.

If **right.size() > left.size()**: **left.insert(right.delMin())**.

If **right** is larger than **left**

remove the min from **right** and insert it into **left**.

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Example: [1 2 **3** • 4 5 6]

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insert(k):

insert into
the correct heap

```
If k <= left.max(): left.insert(k)
Else:                right.insert(k)
```

rebalance the
heaps if necessary

```
If left.size() > right.size()+1: right.insert(left.delMax()).
If right.size() > left.size():   left.insert(right.delMin()).
```

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$O(\log n)$

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Running Time:

insert(): $O(\log n)$

Inserting into the left or the right heaps is $O(\log n)$ and rebalancing is $O(\log n)$.

median(): $\Theta(1)$

The median is always **left.max()**.