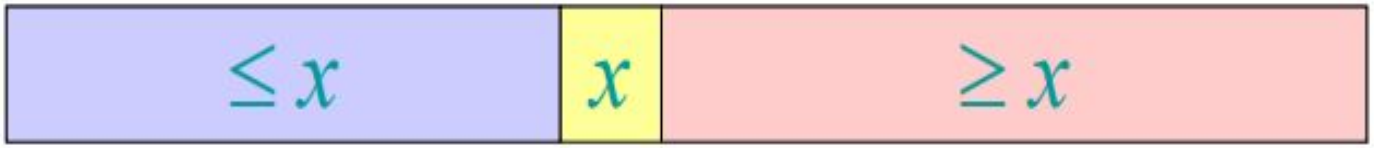
Quicksort

Quicksort: Divide and conquer

Quicksort an n-element array:

1. ***Divide:*** Partition the array into two subarrays around a ***pivot*** x such that elements in lower subarray $\leq x \leq$ elements in upper subarray.



2. ***Conquer:*** Recursively sort the two subarrays.
3. ***Combine:*** Trivial.

Key: *Linear-time partitioning subroutine.*

Quicksort Algorithm

Given an array of *n* elements (e.g., integers):

- If array only contains one element, return
- Else
  - pick one element to use as *pivot.*
  - Partition elements into two sub-arrays:
    - Elements less than or equal to pivot
    - Elements greater than pivot
  - Quicksort two sub-arrays
  - Return results

Example

We are given array of n integers to sort:

40	20	10	80	60	50	7	30	100

Pick Pivot Element

There are a number of ways to pick the pivot element. In this example, we will use the first element in the array:

40	20	10	80	60	50	7	30	100

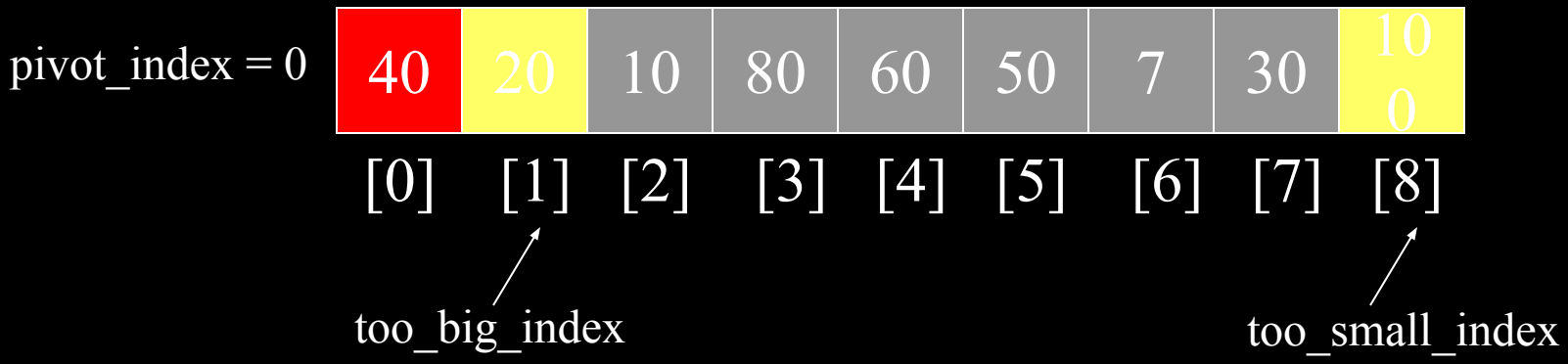
Partitioning Array

Given a pivot, partition the elements of the array such that the resulting array consists of:

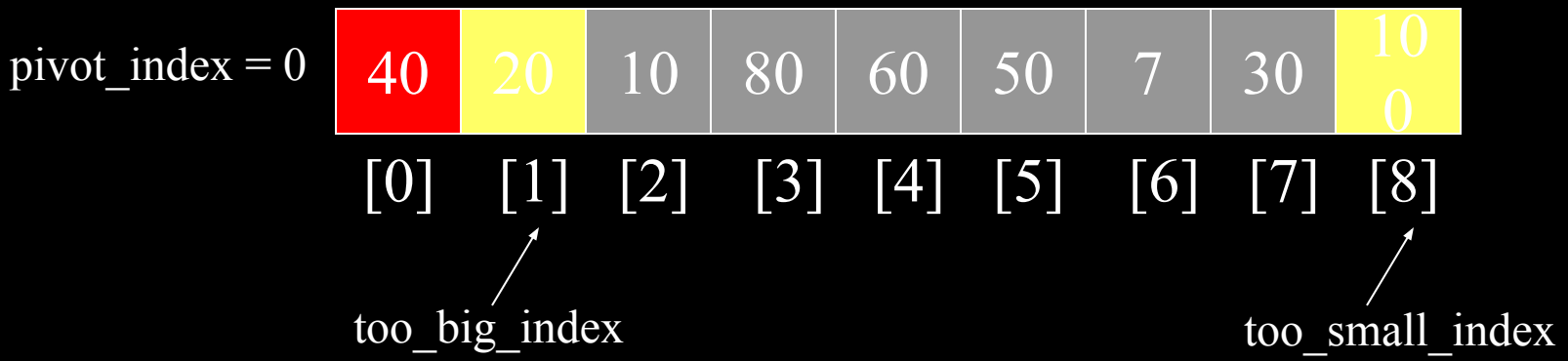
1. One sub-array that contains elements >= pivot
2. Another sub-array that contains elements < pivot

The sub-arrays are stored in the original data array.

Partitioning loops through, swapping elements below/above pivot.


pivot_index = 0
40
20
10
80
60
50
7
30
100
[0]
[1]
[2]
[3]
[4]
[5]
[6]
[7]
[8]
too_big_index
too_small_index

1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index



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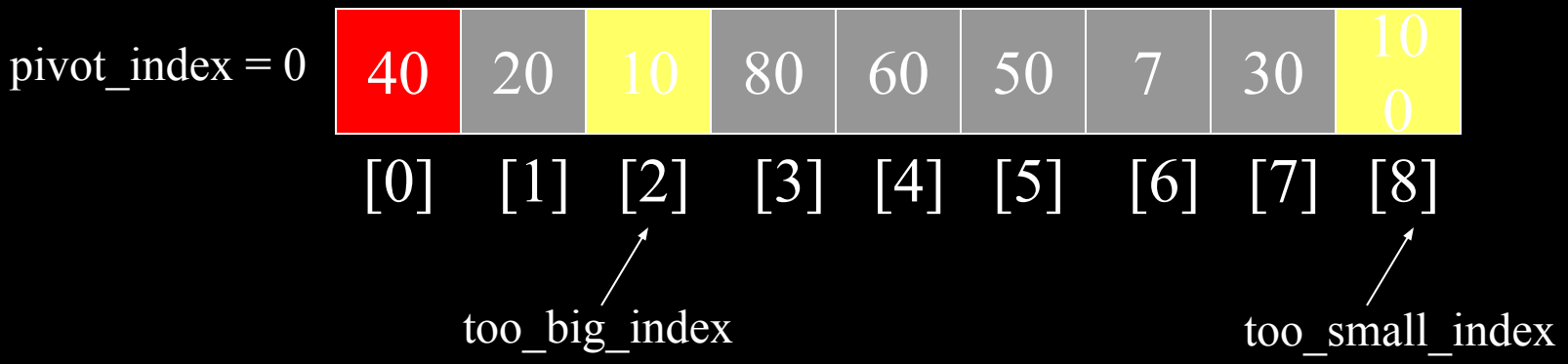

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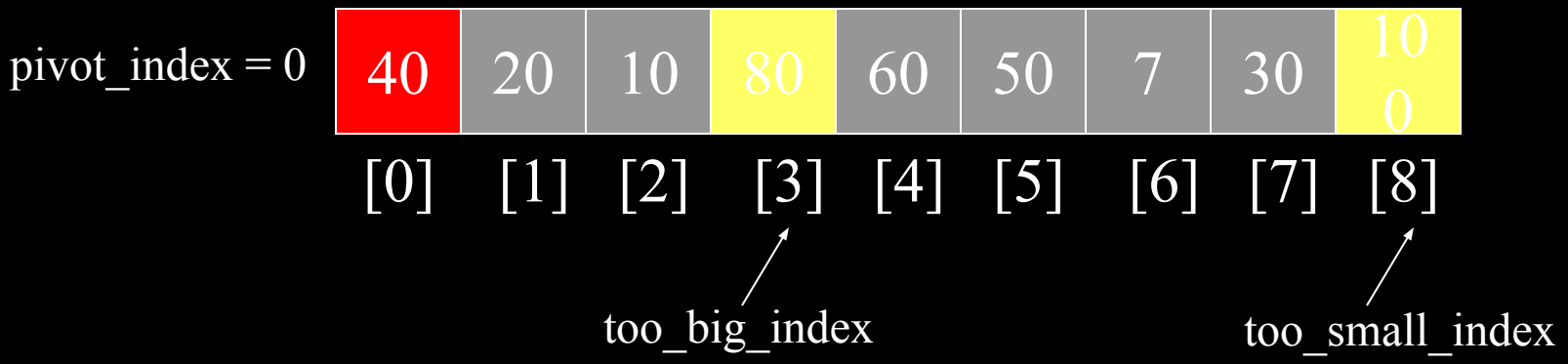

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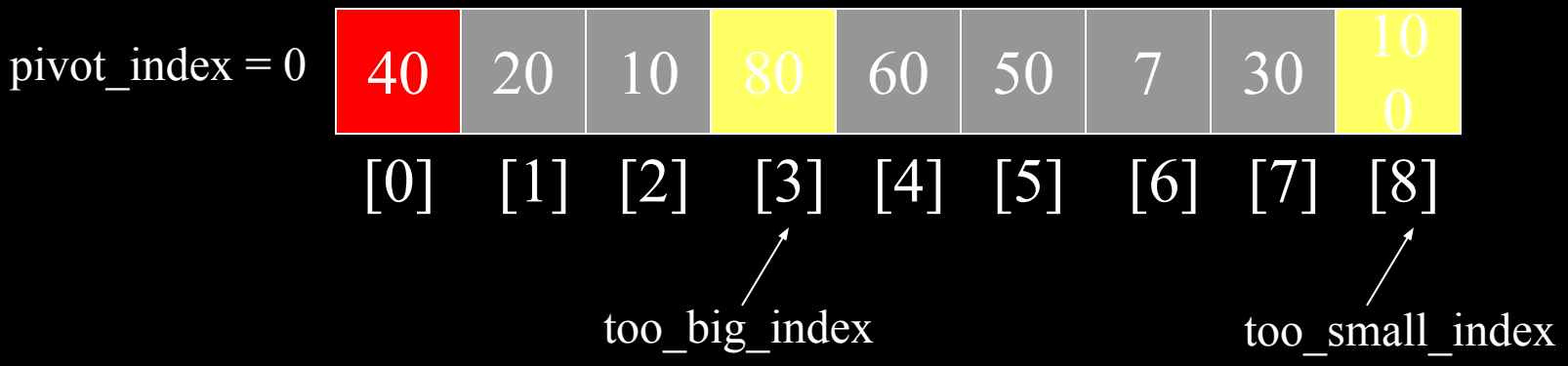

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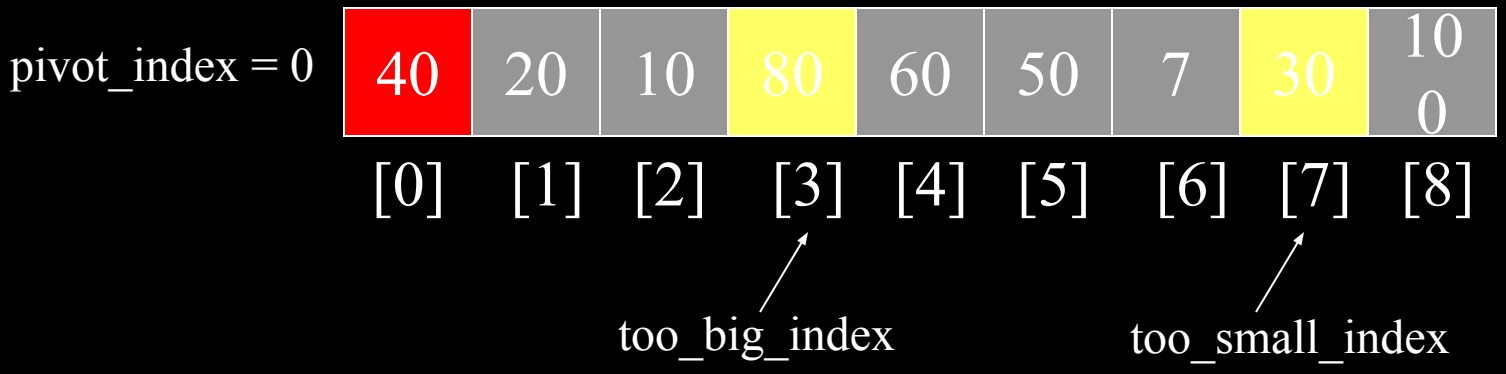

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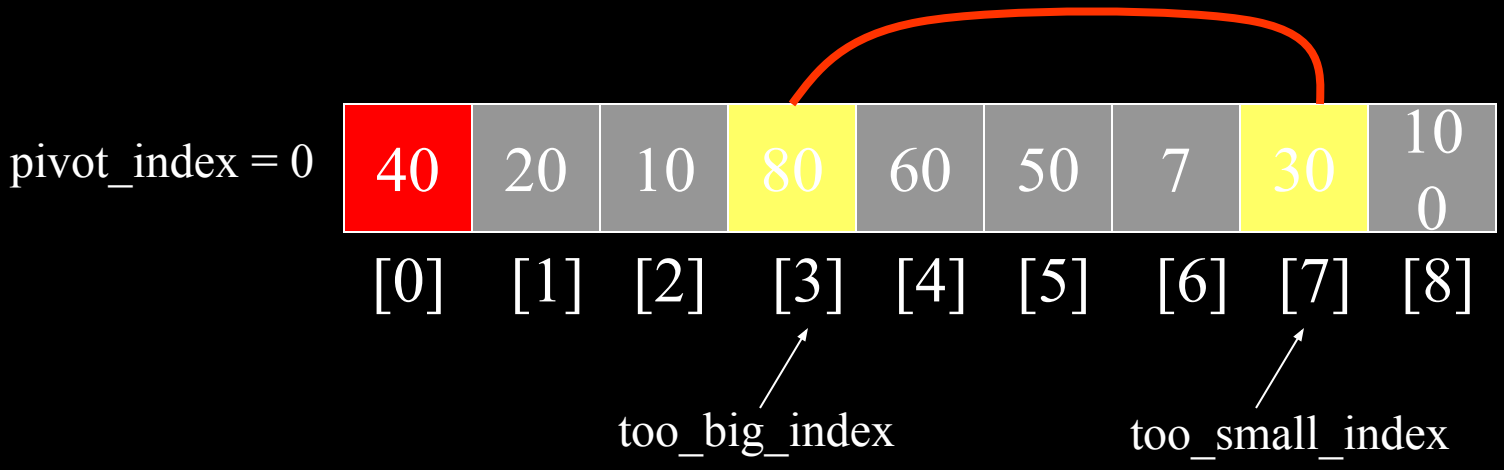

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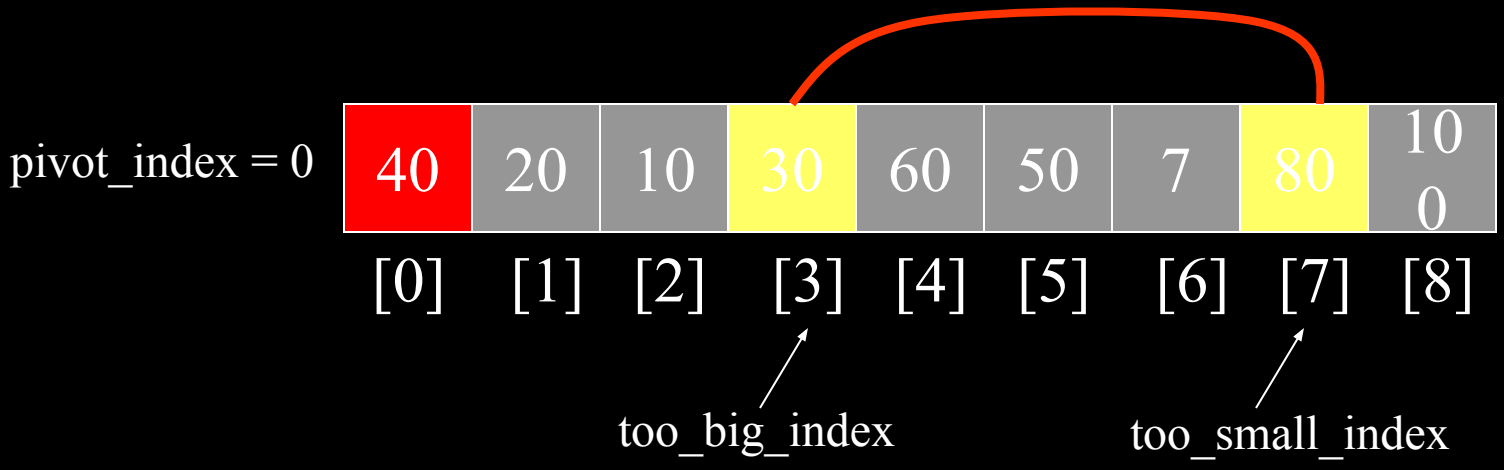

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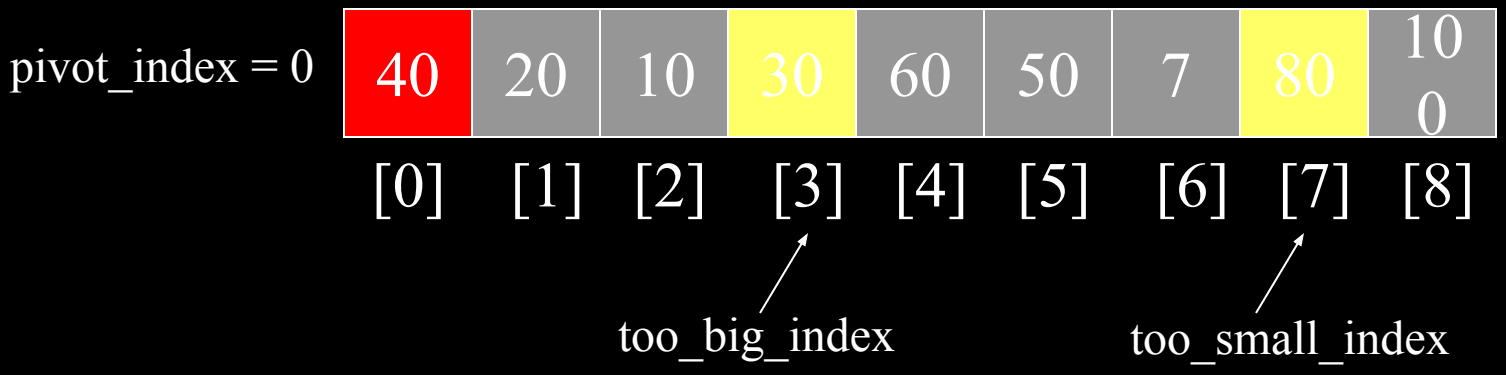

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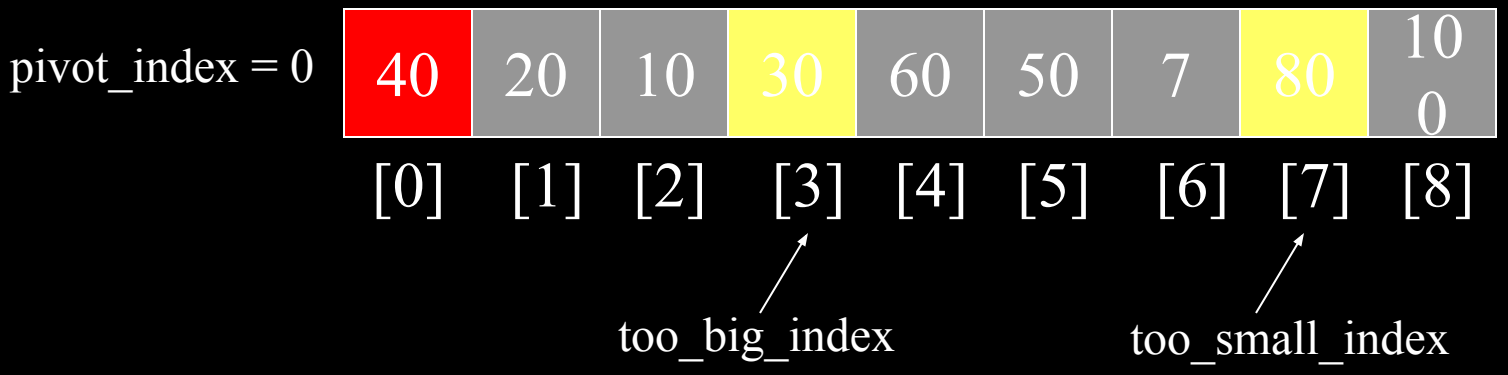

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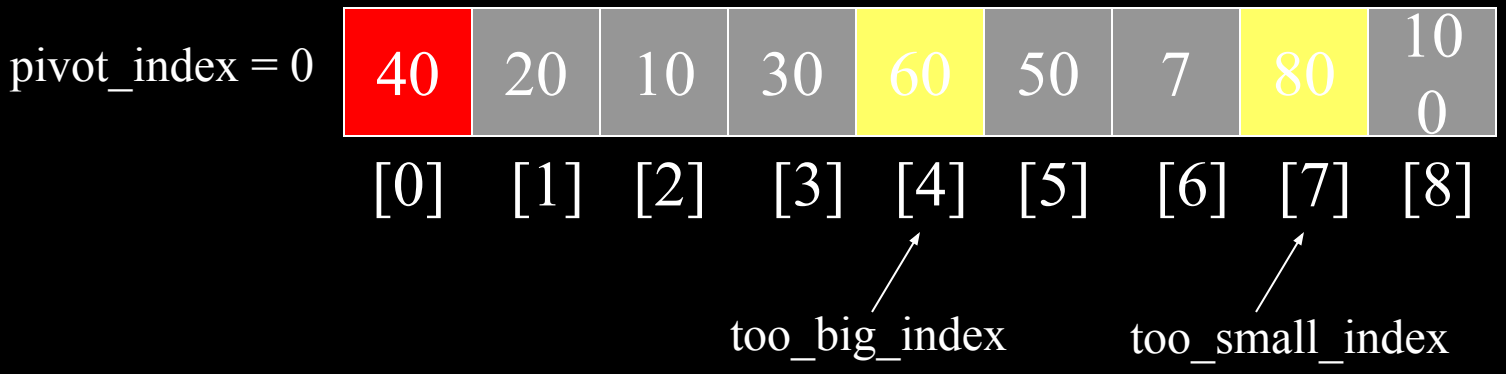

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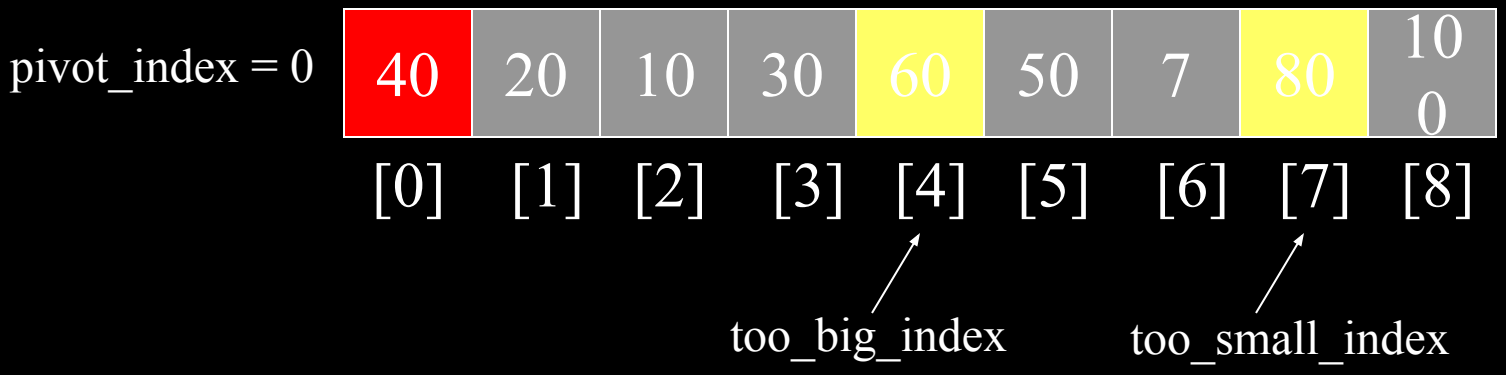

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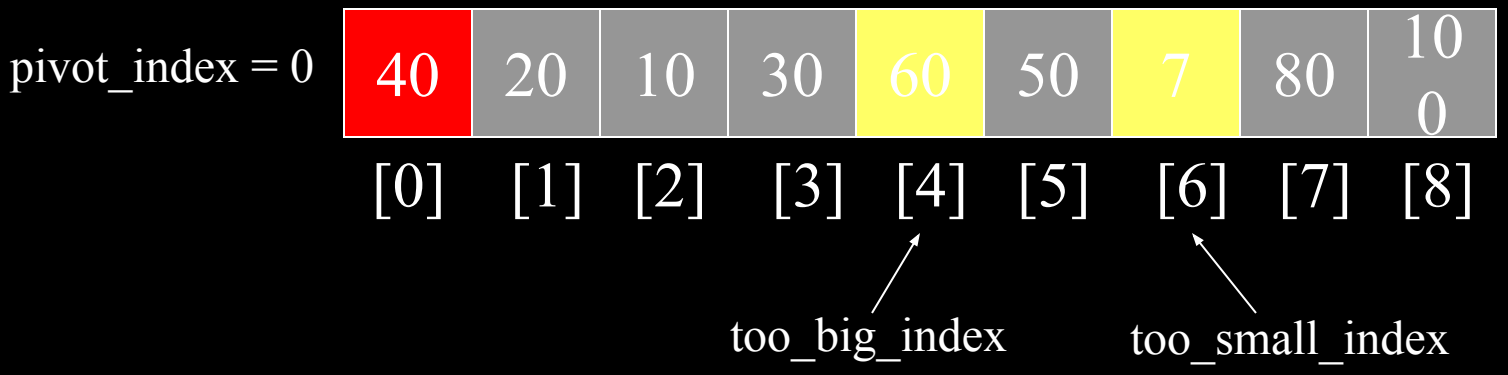

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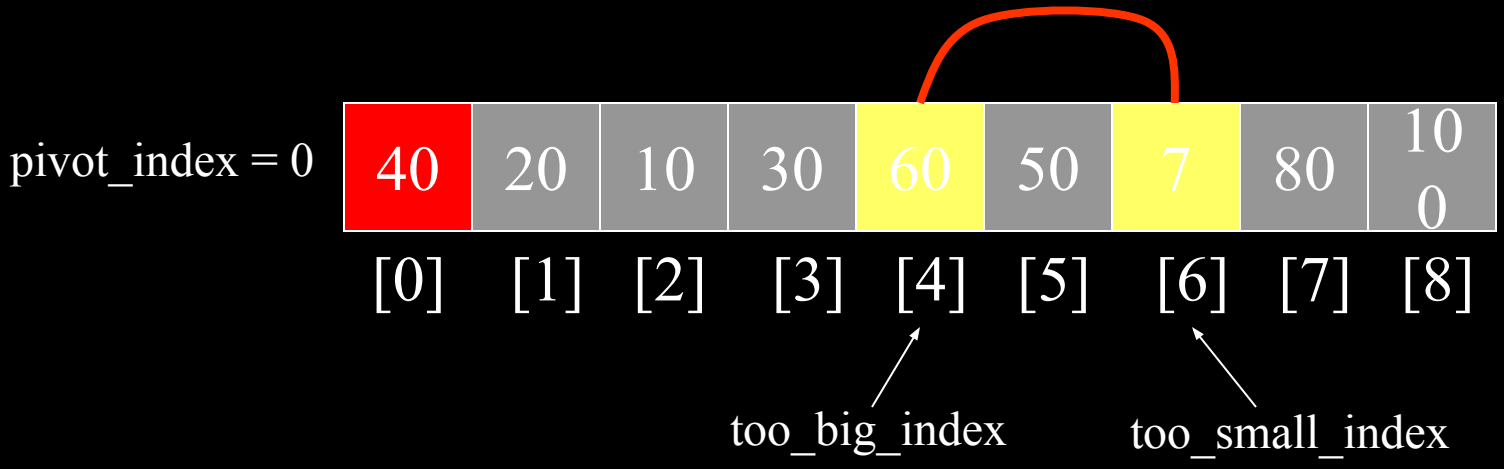

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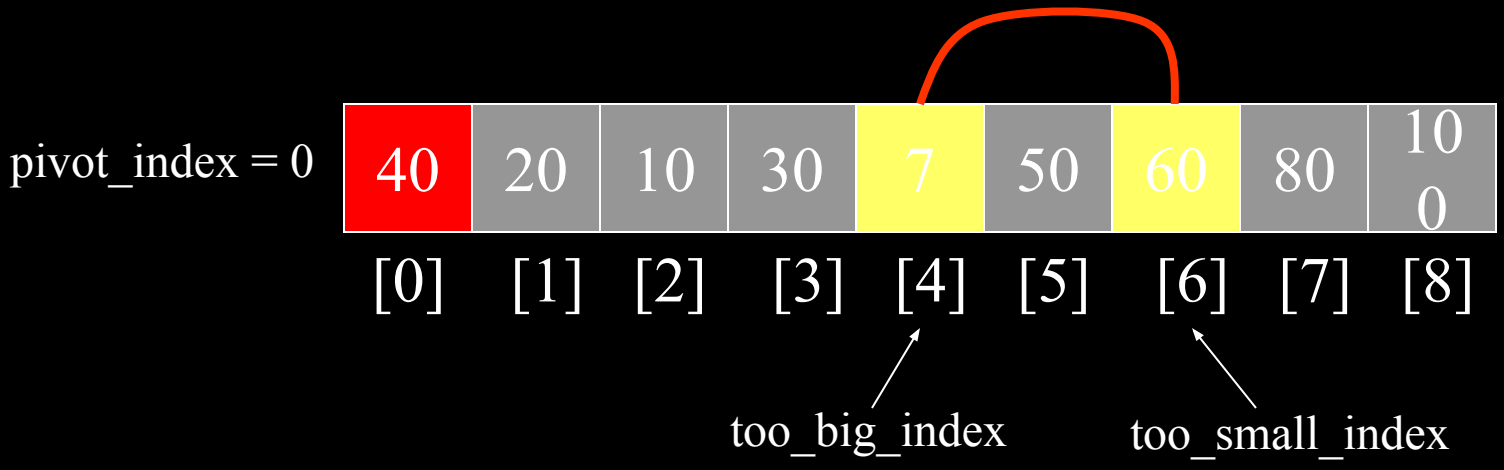

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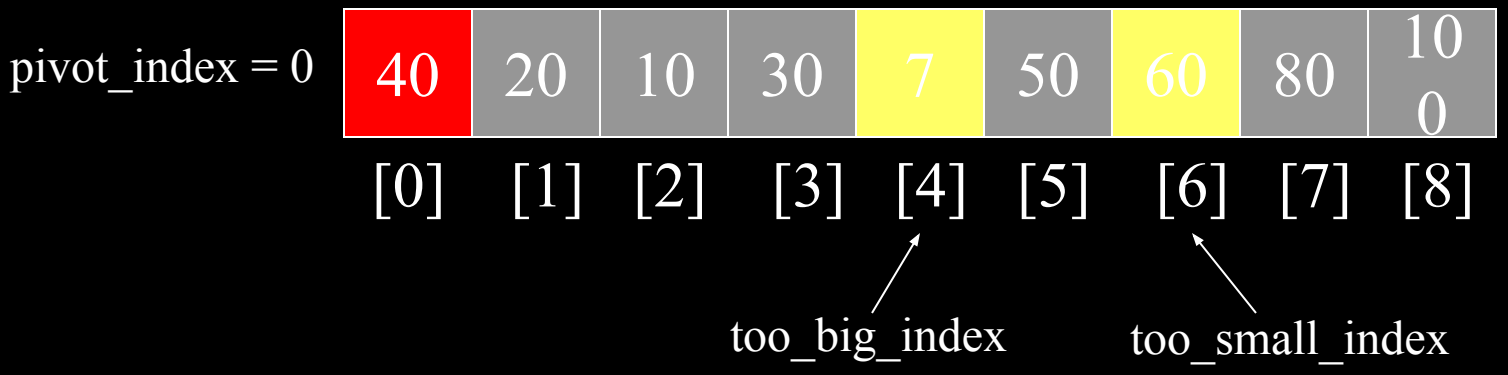

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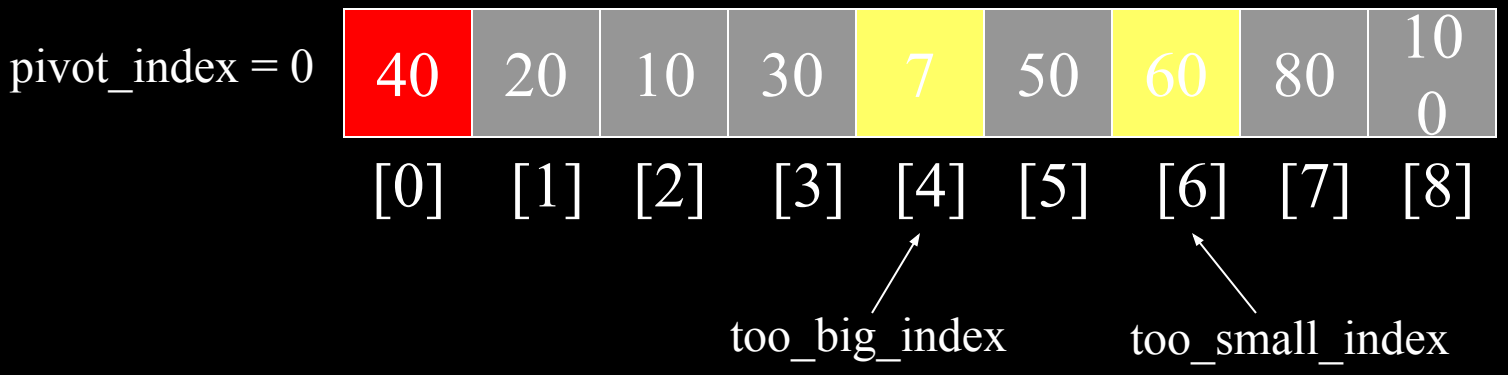

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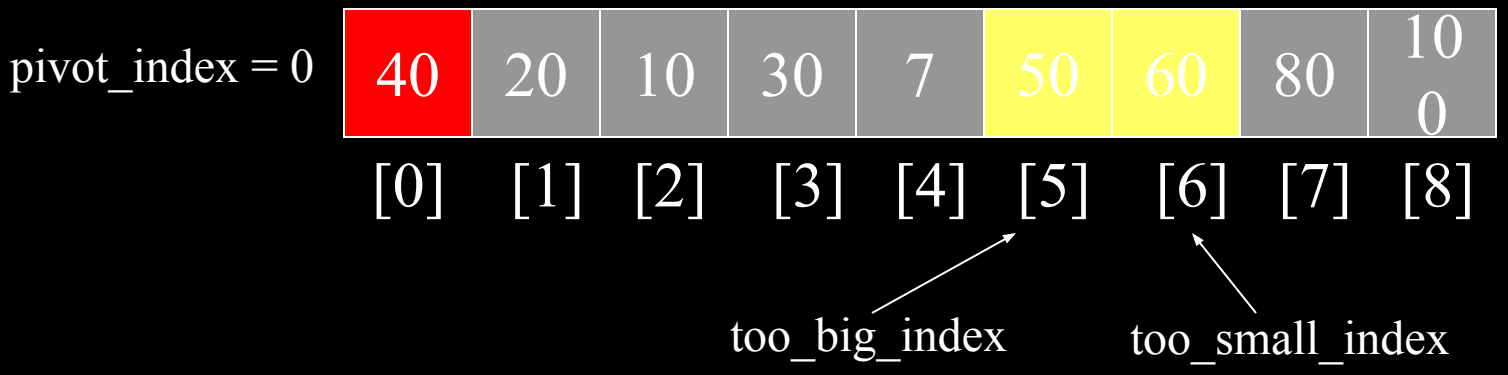

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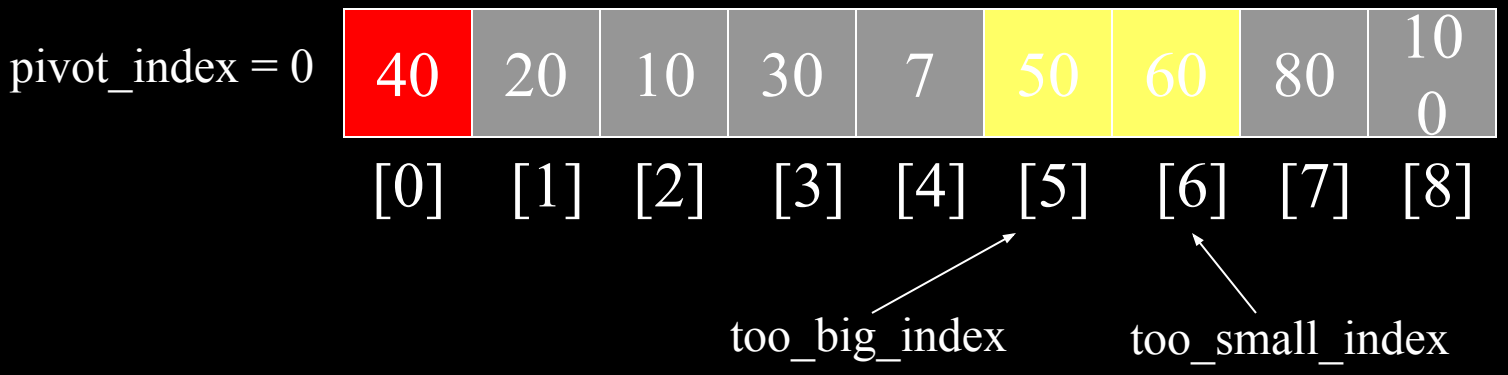

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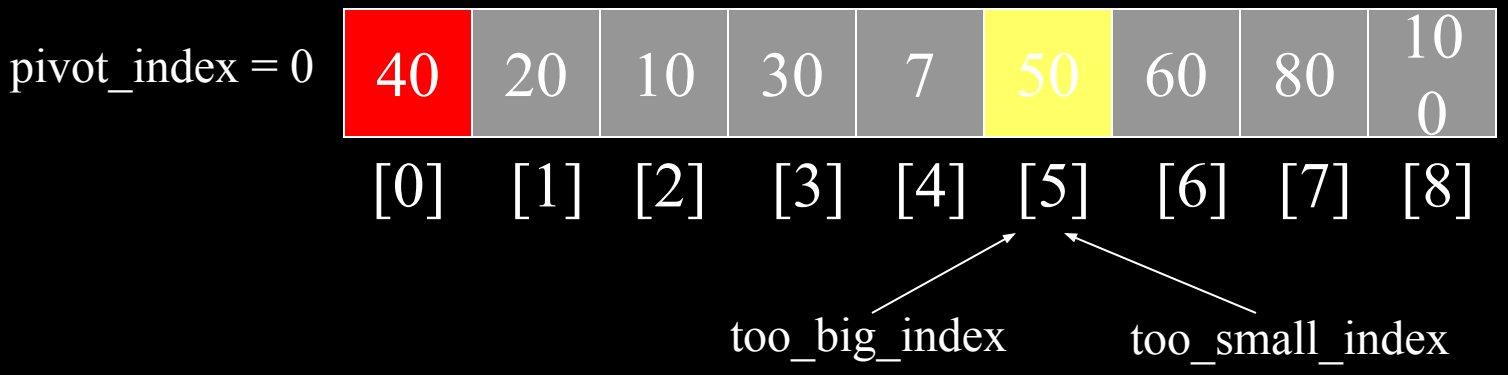

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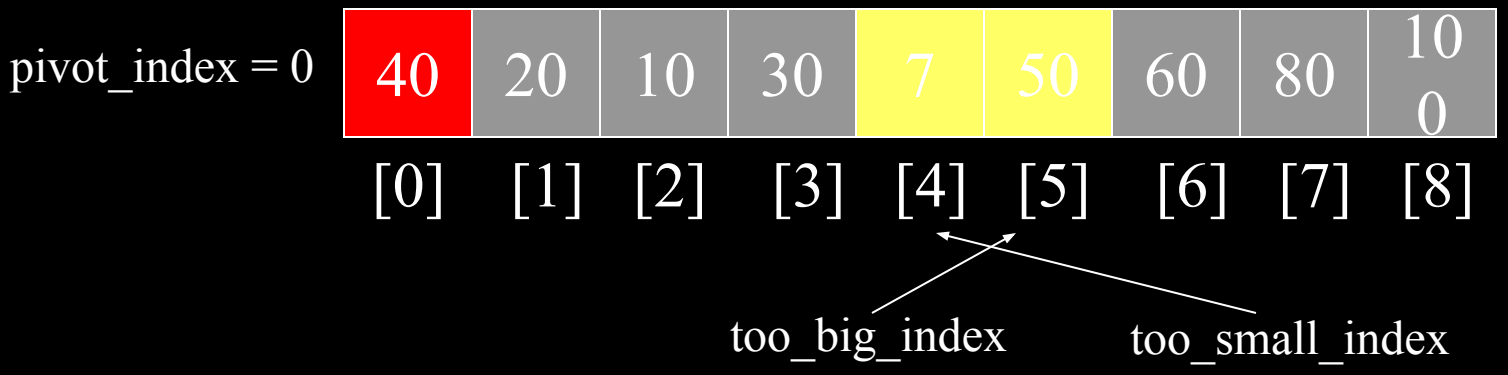

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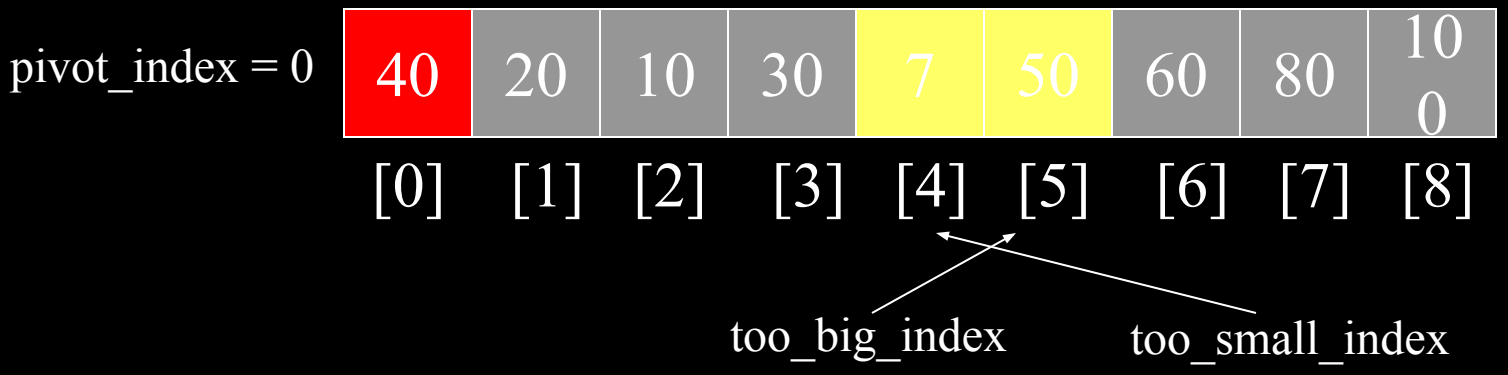

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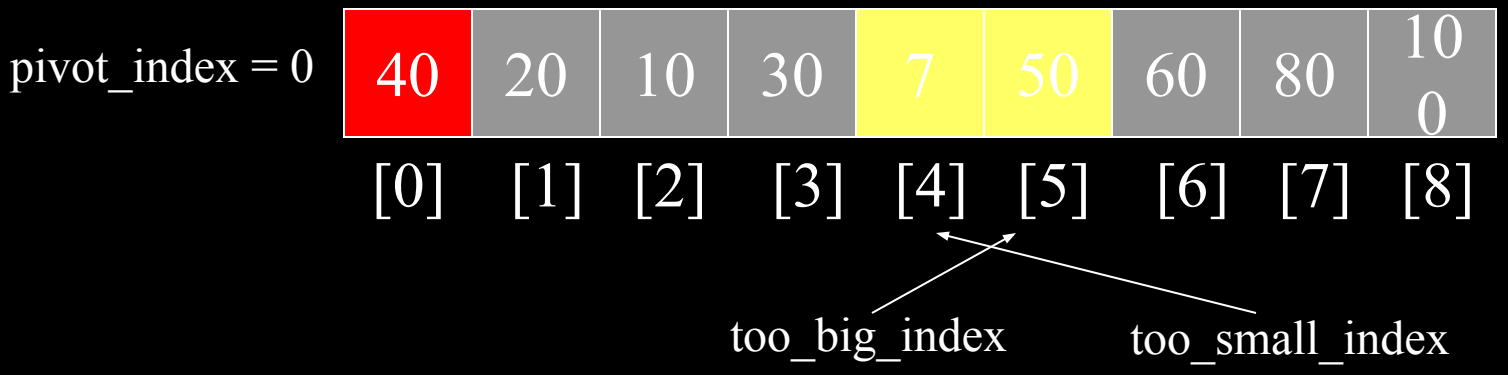

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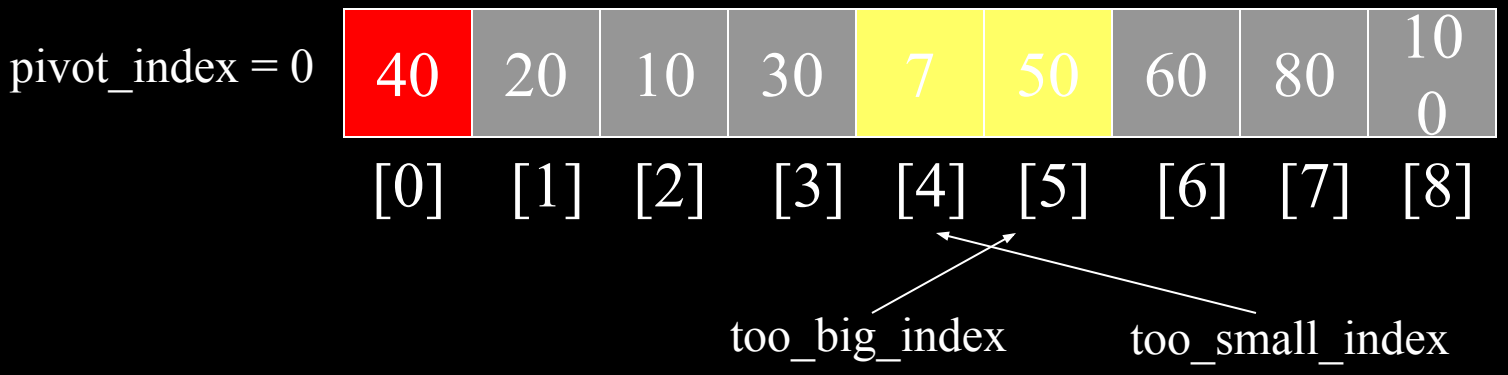

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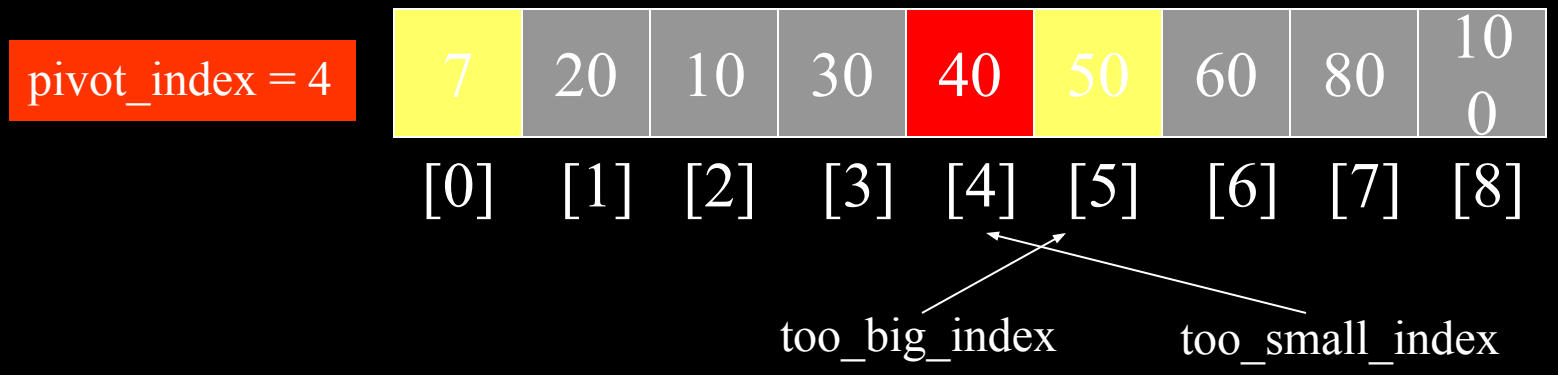
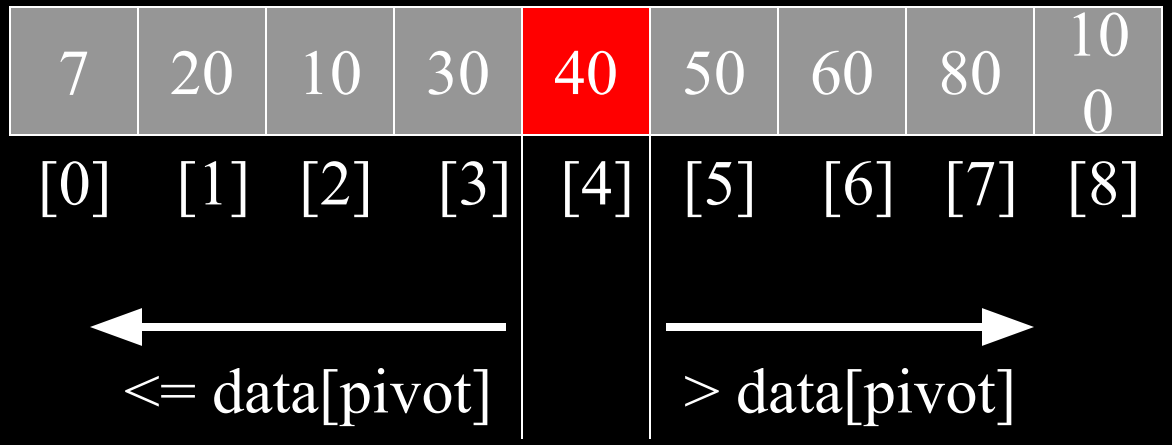
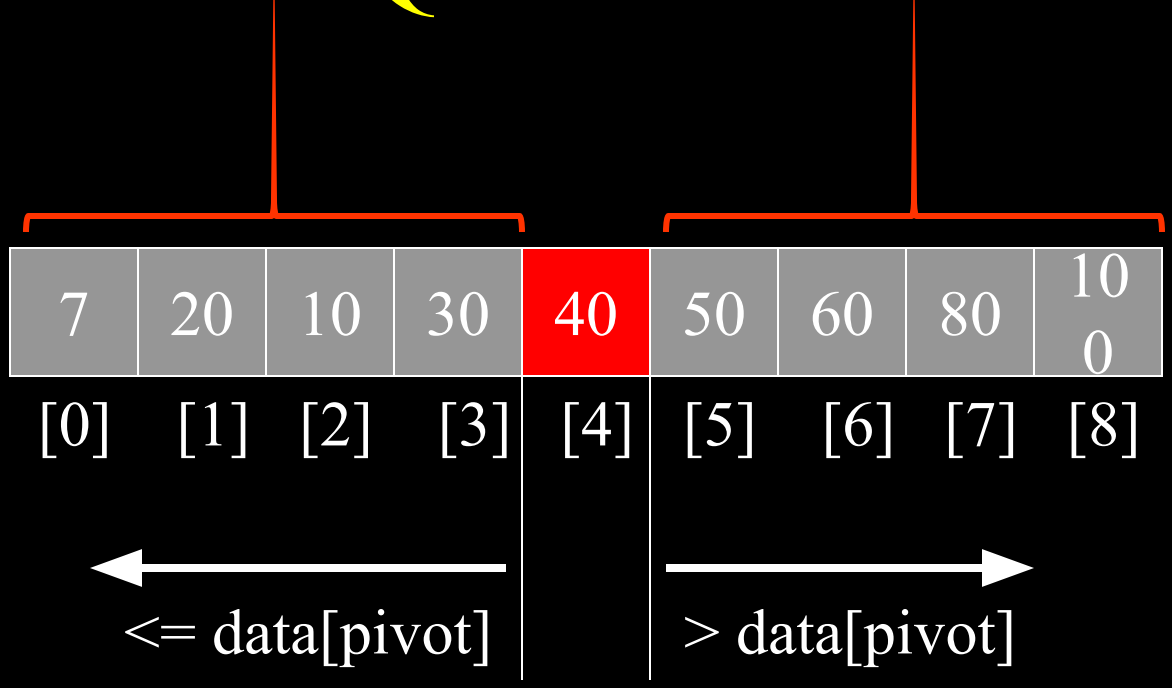


Partition Result



Recursion: Quicksort Sub-arrays



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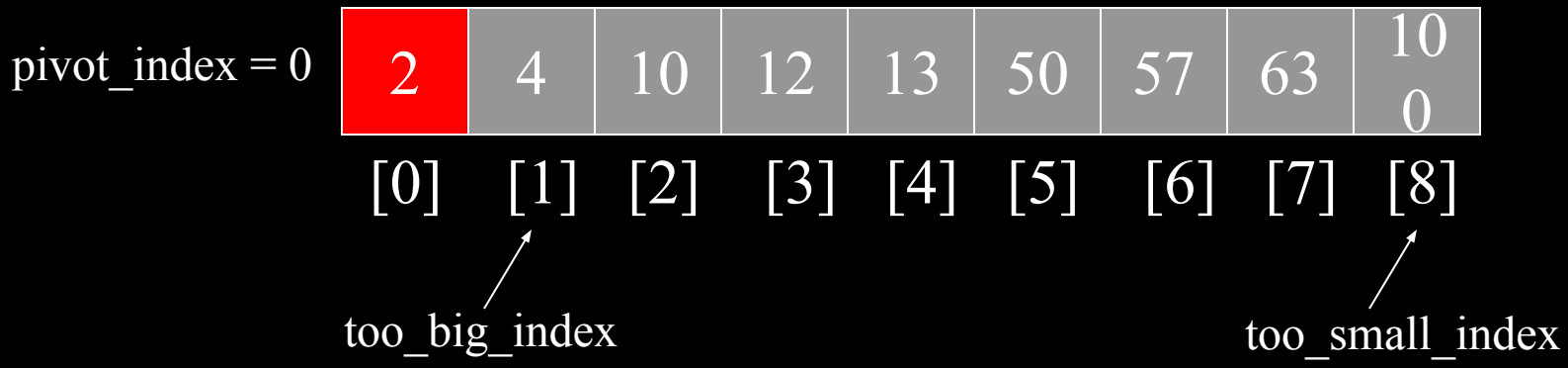
Quicksort: Worst Case

- Assume first element is chosen as pivot.
- Assume we get array that is already in order:



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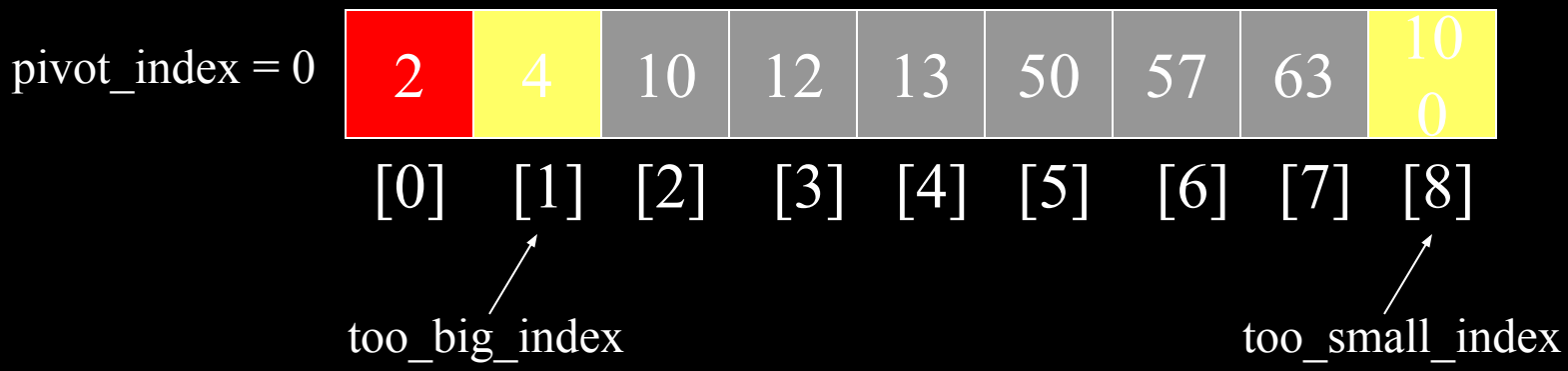

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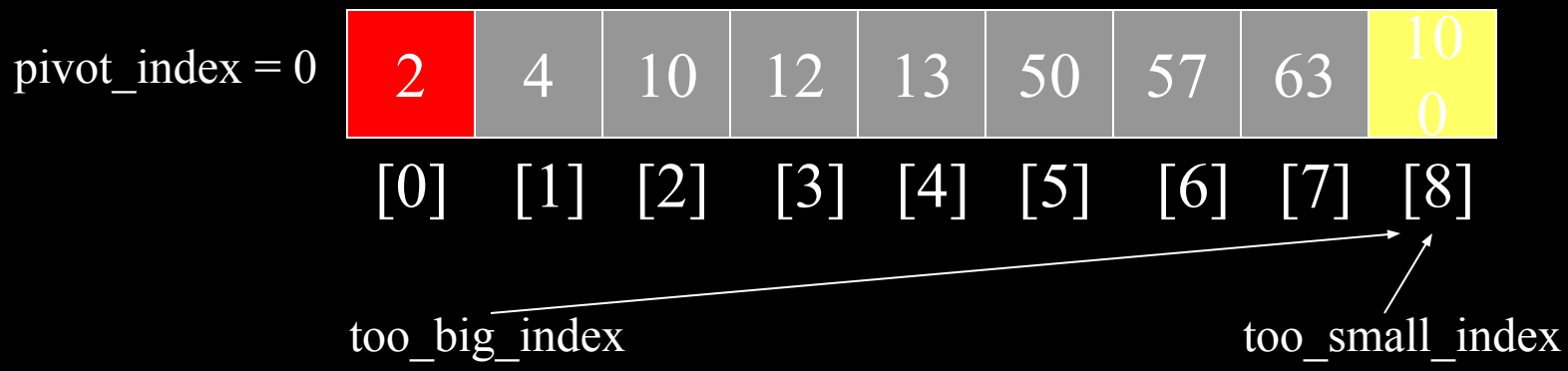

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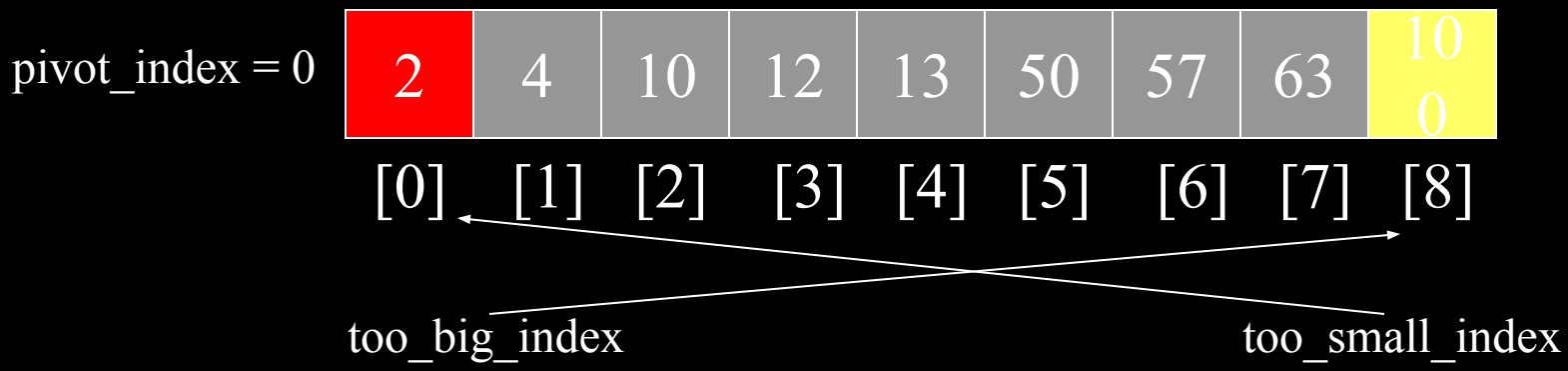

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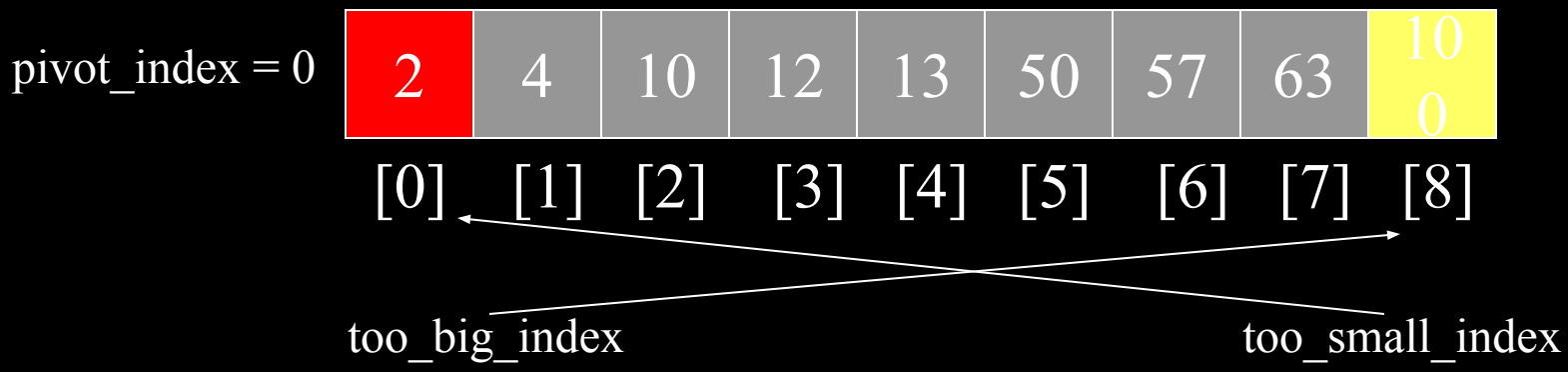

1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index
2. While data[too_small_index] > data[pivot]
   --too_small_index
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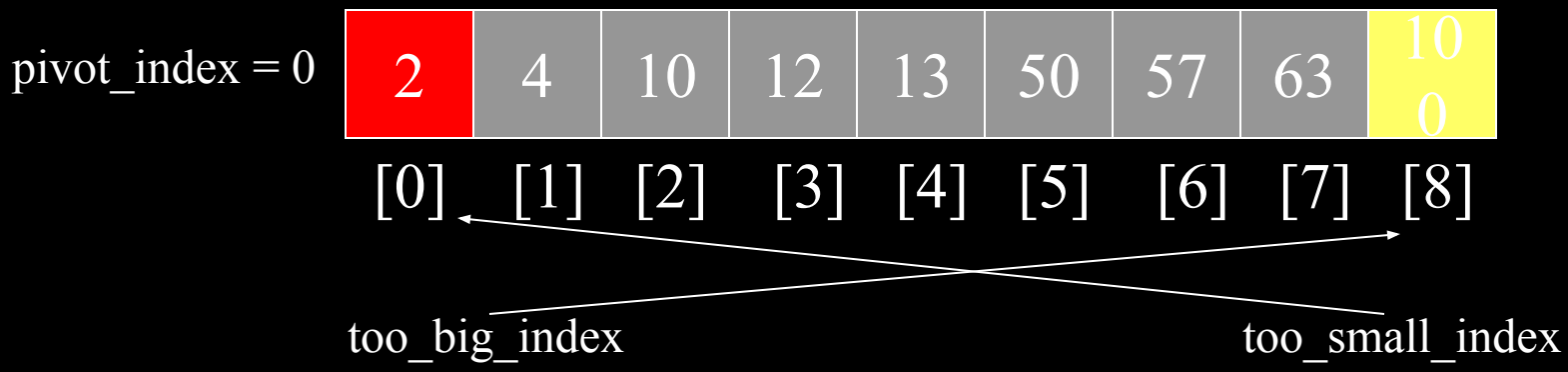

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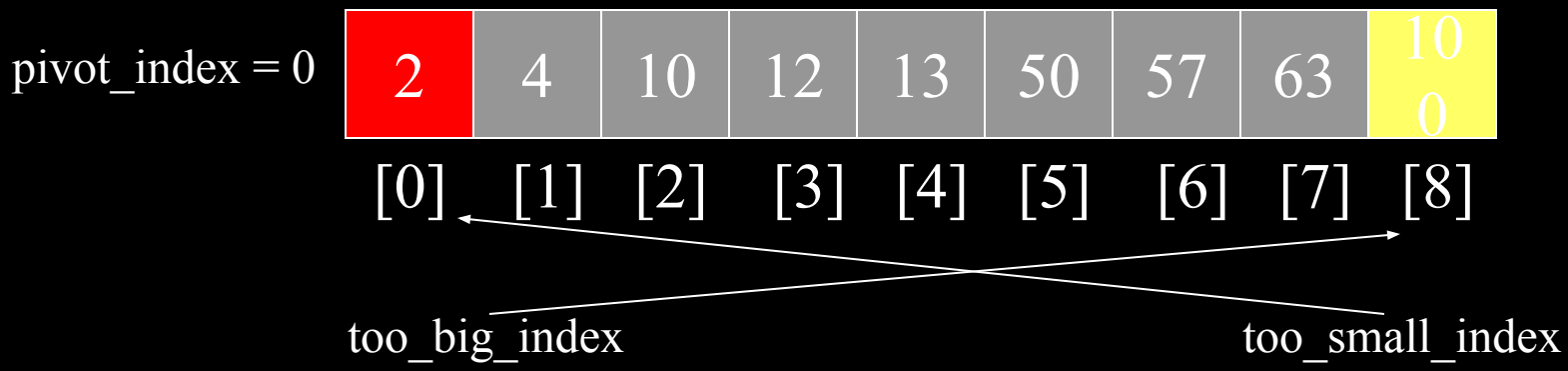

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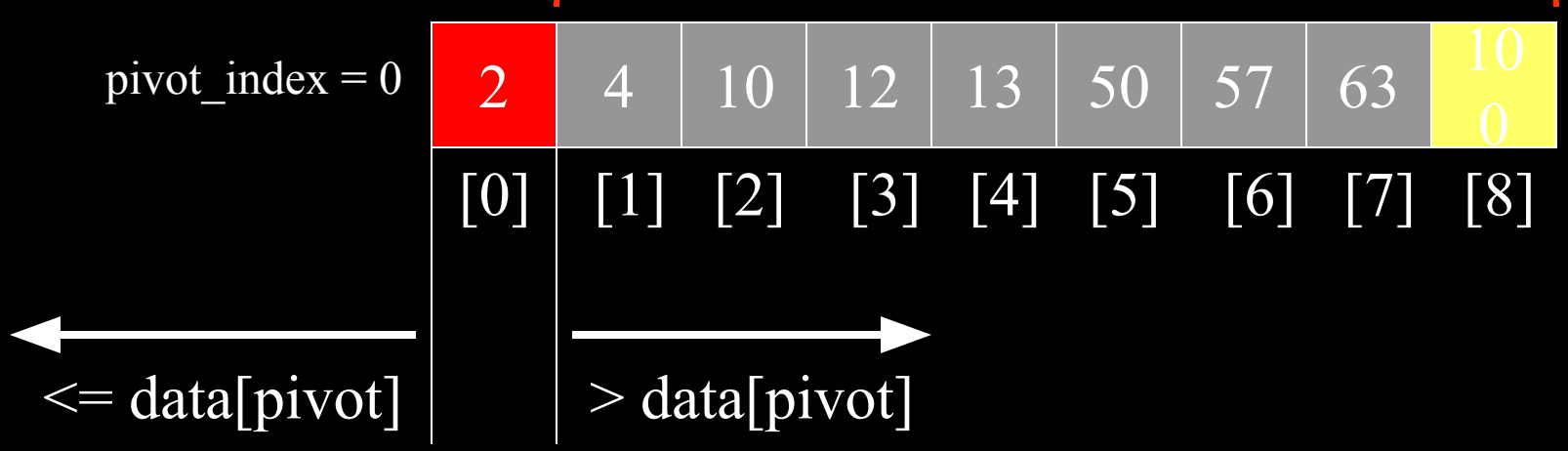

Quicksort Analysis

- Assume that keys are random, uniformly distributed.
- Best case running time: $O(n \log_2 n)$
- Worst case running time?
  - Recursion:
    1. Partition splits array in two sub-arrays:
       - one sub-array of size 0
       - the other sub-array of size n-1
    2. Quicksort each sub-array
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- What can we do to avoid worst case?

Improved Pivot Selection

Pick median value of three elements from data array:

data[0], data[n/2], and data[n-1].

Use this median value as pivot.