

SELECTION SORT

1. Definition

Selection Sort is a comparison-based sorting algorithm that repeatedly selects the **minimum element** from the unsorted portion of the array and places it in its correct position in the sorted portion.

2. Key Idea

1. Divide the array into **sorted** and **unsorted** regions.
2. Find the **minimum** element in the unsorted region.
3. Swap it with the **first element** of the unsorted region.
4. Expand the sorted region by one and reduce the unsorted region.
5. Repeat until the entire array is sorted.

3. Example

Array: [5, 4, 3, 2, 1]

Pass 1

Unsorted part: [5, 4, 3, 2, 1]

Minimum = 1 → swap with 5

Array → [1, 4, 3, 2, 5]

Pass 2

Unsorted part: [4, 3, 2, 5]

Minimum = 2 → swap with 4

Array → [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

Pass 3

Minimum = 3 → swap with 3

Array unchanged

Pass 4

Minimum = 4 → swap with 4

4. Algorithm (Pseudocode)

```

SelectionSort(arr, n)
  for i = 0 to n-2
    minIndex = i
    for j = i+1 to n-1
      if arr[j] < arr[minIndex]
        minIndex = j
    swap arr[i], arr[minIndex]

```

5. Properties

Property	Value
Algorithm Type	Comparison-based
Technique	Selection
In-place	Yes
Stable	✗ No (can be made stable with extra work)
Adaptive	✗ No (does the same work even if the array is sorted)

8. Advantages

- Easy to understand
- Fewer swaps than bubble sort
- Good when the swap cost is expensive
- Works well for small datasets

9. Disadvantages

- Very slow for large inputs
- Always $O(n^2)$, even if the array is sorted
- Not stable
- Not adaptive

10. Real-Life Analogy

Imagine selecting the **smallest shirt** from a pile of clothes, placing it on top, then selecting the next smallest, and so on.

11. Exam Notes

- Selection sort repeatedly selects minimum from unsorted region.
- Always makes $n(n - 1)/2$ comparisons.
- Worst, best, average = $O(n^2)$.
- Only $n - 1$ swaps, making it efficient for costly swaps.
- Not stable, not adaptive, in-place algorithm.

12. EFFICIENCY ANALYSIS IS THE SAME AS BUBBLE SORT

Q17 Selection sort

{ 8, 7, 6, 1, 3, 9, 12, 2 }

— unsorted

— sorted

8	7	6	1	3	9	12	2	—	①
1	7	6	8	3	9	12	2	—	②
1	2	6	8	3	9	12	7	—	③
1	3	3	8	6	9	12	7	—	④
1	2	3	6	8	9	12	7	—	⑤
1	2	3	6	7	9	12	8	—	⑥
1	2	3	6	7	8	12	9	—	⑦
1	2	3	6	7	8	9	12	—	⑧

Ans: 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12.