procedure mergesort( var a as array )

if ( n == 1 ) return a

var l1 as array = a[0] ... a[n/2]

var l2 as array = a[n/2+1] ... a[n]

l1 = mergesort( l1 )

l2 = mergesort( l2 )

return merge( l1, l2 )

end procedure

procedure merge( var a as array, var b as array )

var c as array

while ( a and b have elements )

if ( a[0] > b[0] )

add b[0] to the end of c

remove b[0] from b

else

add a[0] to the end of c

remove a[0] from a

end if

end while

while ( a has elements )

add a[0] to the end of c

remove a[0] from a

end while

while ( b has elements )

add b[0] to the end of c

remove b[0] from b

end while

return c

end procedure

Algorithm

Merge sort keeps on dividing the list into equal halves until it can no more be divided. By definition, if it is only one element in the list, it is sorted. Then, merge sort combines the smaller sorted lists keeping the new list sorted too.

**Step 1** − if it is only one element in the list it is already sorted, return.

**Step 2** − divide the list recursively into two halves until it can no more be divided.

**Step 3** − merge the smaller lists into new list in sorted order.