



IIT Madras
ONLINE DEGREE

Pseudocode: Sorting lists

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 - Finding the top k values
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 - Grouping by percentiles — top quarter, next quarter, ...
- Many clever algorithms exist, we look at a simple one
- Insertion sort
 - Create a second sorted list
 - Start with an empty list
 - Repeatedly insert next value from first list into correct position in the second list

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- Insert `x` and copy the rest of `l`
- Be careful to handle boundary conditions
 - `l` is empty
 - `x` is smaller than everything in `l`
 - `x` is larger than everything in `l`

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Procedure SortedListInsert(`l`,`x`)

```
newList = []
inserted = False

foreach z in l {
    if (not(inserted)) {
        if (x < z) {
            newList = newList ++ [x]
            inserted = True
        }
    }
    newList = newList ++ [z]
}

if (not(inserted)) {
    newList = newList ++ [x]
}

return(newList)
```

End SortedListInsert

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Procedure InsertionSort(*l*)

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Procedure InsertionSort(l)

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sortedList = []
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- Create an empty list
- Insert each element from the original list into this second list

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sortedList = []  
foreach z in l {  
    sortedList =  
        SortedListInsert(sortedList,z)  
}
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- Return the second list

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}  
return(sortedList)
```

End InsertionSort

Insertion sort

- Once we know how to insert, sorting is easy
- Create an empty list
- Insert each element from the original list into this second list
- Return the second list
- **Invariant** — second list is always sorted
 - `[]` is sorted, since it is empty
 - Inserting into a sorted list returns a sorted list

Procedure InsertionSort(l)

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foreach z in l {  
    sortedList =  
        SortedListInsert(sortedList,z)  
}  
return(sortedList)
```

End InsertionSort

Summary

- Sorting is an important pre-processing step
- Insertion sort is a natural sorting algorithm
- Repeatedly insert each item of the original list into a new sorted list
- We assumed that the list is sorted in ascending order
- Reverse the comparisons to sort in descending order