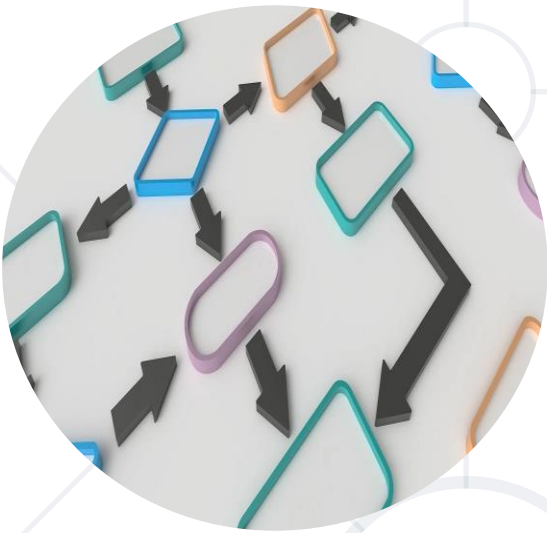


# Algorithms Introduction



**SoftUni Team**  
**Technical Trainers**



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**#python-advanced**

1. Algorithmic **Complexity**
2. **Recursion** and **Recursive** Algorithms
3. **Brute-Force** Algorithms
4. **Greedy** Algorithms and **Greedy** Failure Cases
5. **Searching** Algorithms
  - Linear Search and Binary Search
6. Simple **Sorting** Algorithms
  - Selection Sort, Bubble Sort, Insertion Sort



A background network diagram consisting of several light gray circles of varying sizes connected by thin gray lines. The circles are arranged in a non-uniform pattern, with some having more connections than others, creating a web-like structure.

$O(n)$

**Algorithmic Complexity**

Asymptotic Notation

- Why should we **analyze algorithms**?
  - Predict the **resources** the algorithm will need
    - Computational time (**CPU** consumption)
    - Memory space (**RAM** consumption)
    - Communication **bandwidth** consumption
    - **Hard disk** operations

- Calculate the maximum steps to find the result

```
def get_operations_count(n):  
    counter = 0  
  
    for i in range(n):  
        for j in range(n):  
            counter += 1  
  
    return counter
```

$O(n^2)$

- The input(**n**) of the function is the main source of steps growth

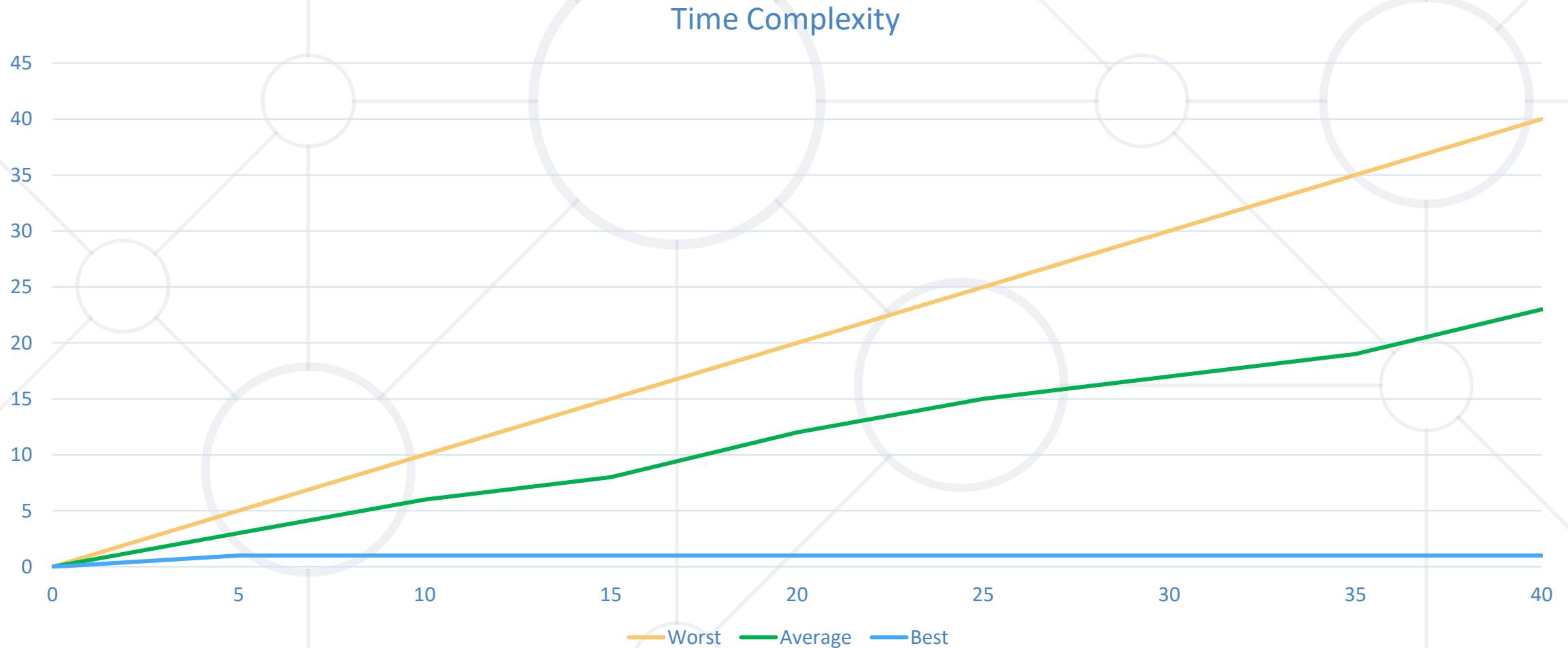
# Simplifying Step Count

- Initialization of counter: **1 time**
- Creating range( $n$ ) for the outer loop: **1 time**
- Outer loop comparison:  **$n + 1$  times**
- Creating range( $n$ ) for the inner loop:  **$n$  times**
- Inner loop comparison:  **$n * (n + 1)$  times**
- Incrementing counter:  **$n * n$  times**
- Return statement: **1 time**

- **Worst-case**
  - An **upper** bound on the running time
- **Average-case**
  - **Average** running time
- **Best-case**
  - The **lower** bound on the running time (the optimal case)



- Therefore, we need to measure **all** the possibilities:



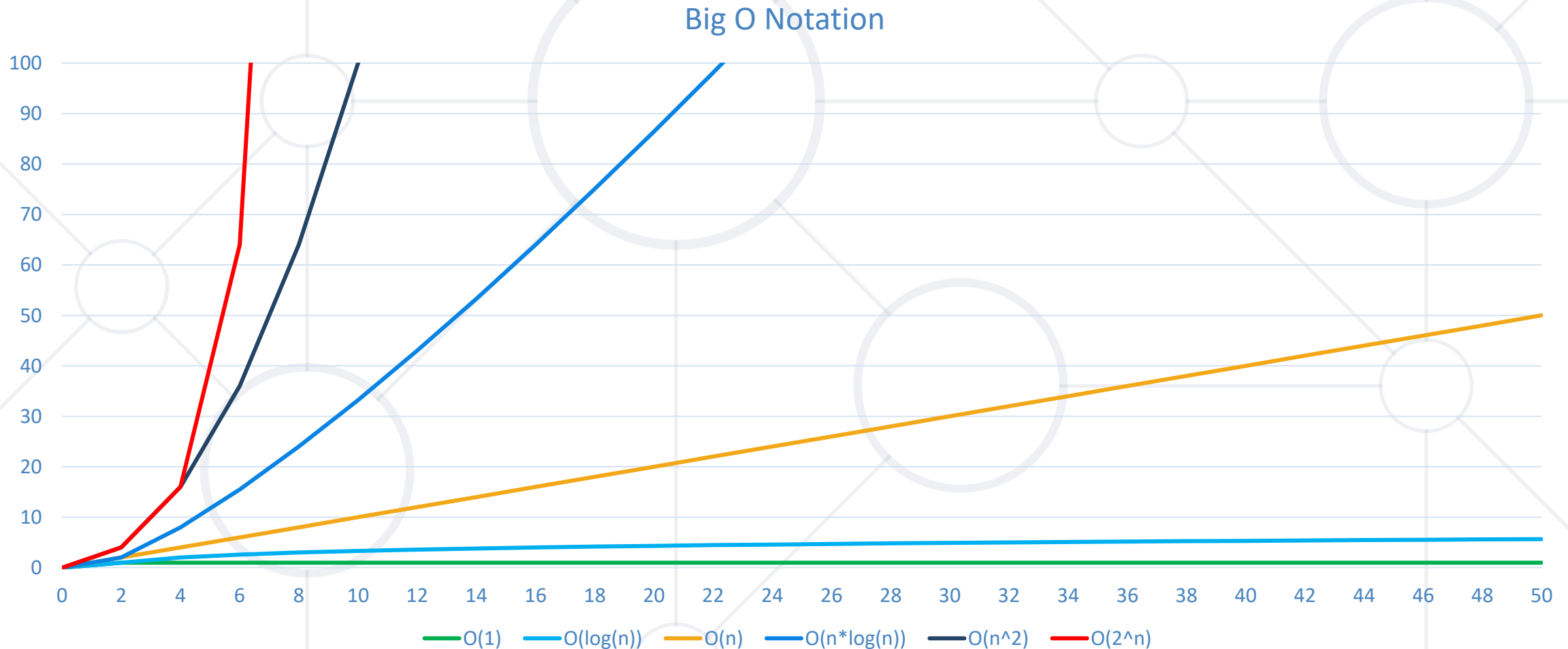
- From the previous chart we can deduce:
  - For smaller size of the input ( $n$ ) we **don't care much for the runtime**
  - So we measure the time as  $n$  approaches **infinity**
  - If an algorithm **must scale**, it **should compute** the result within a **finite and practical time**
  - We're concerned about the **order of an algorithm's complexity**, not the actual time in terms of **milliseconds**

# Asymptotic Notations

- Descriptions that allow us to examine an algorithm's running time
- There are **three** common asymptotic notations:
  - Big **O** –  $O(f(n))$
  - Big **Theta** –  $\Theta(f(n))$
  - Big **Omega** –  $\Omega(f(n))$



- Below are some examples of **common algorithmic** grow:



# Typical Complexities

Complexity	Notation	Description
constant	$O(1)$	$n = 1\ 000 \rightarrow 1\text{-}2$ operations
logarithmic	$O(\log n)$	$n = 1\ 000 \rightarrow 10$ operations
linear	$O(n)$	$n = 1\ 000 \rightarrow 1\ 000$ operations
linearithmic	$O(n \cdot \log n)$	$n = 1\ 000 \rightarrow 10\ 000$ operations
quadratic	$O(n^2)$	$n = 1\ 000 \rightarrow 1\ 000\ 000$ operations
cubic	$O(n^3)$	$n = 1\ 000 \rightarrow 1\ 000\ 000\ 000$ operations
exponential	$O(n^n)$	$n = 10 \rightarrow 10\ 000\ 000\ 000$ operations



# Recursion

# What is Recursion?

- **Method** of solving a problem where the solution depends on solutions to smaller instances of the same problem
- A common **computer programming tactic** is to **divide** a problem into **sub-problems** of the same type as the original, **solve** those sub-problems, and **combine** the **results**



# What is Recursion?

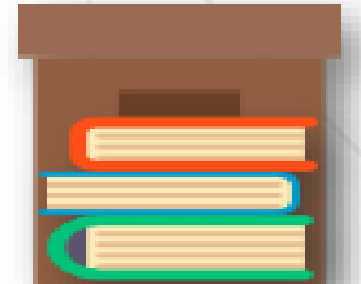
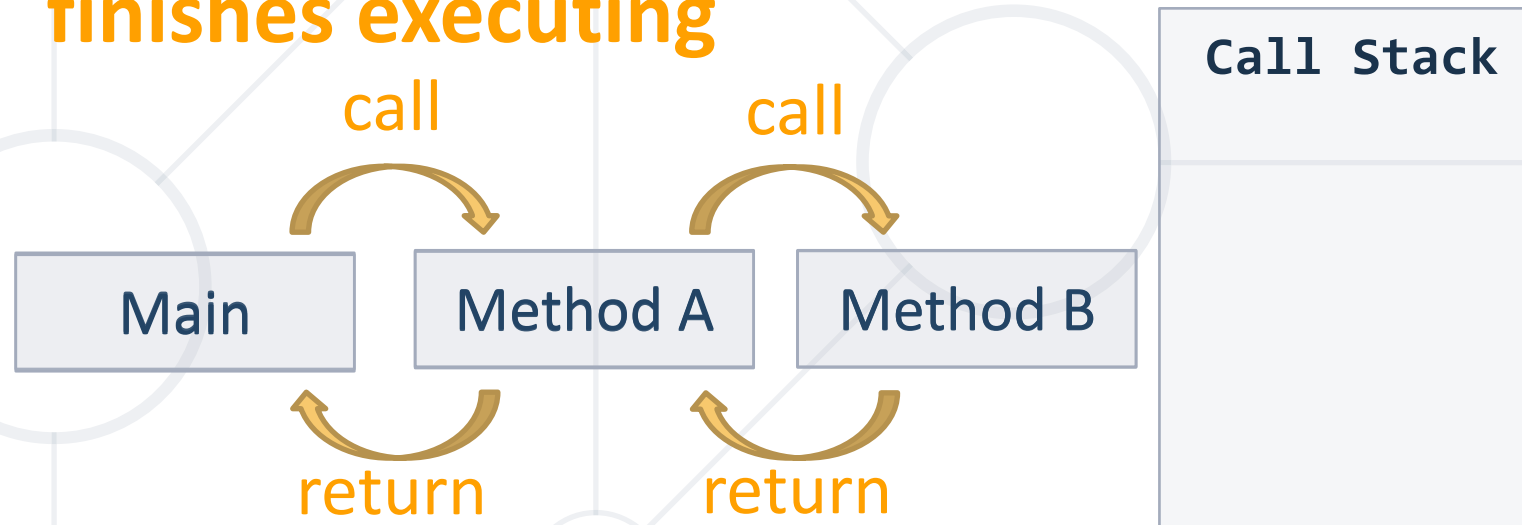
- A function or a method that **calls itself one or more** times until a specified **condition is met**
  - After the recursive call the rest code is processed **from the last one called to the first**



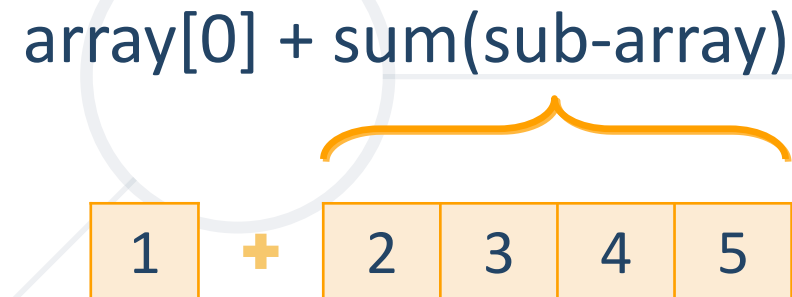
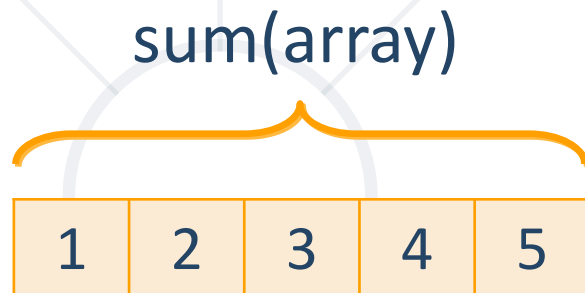


# Call Stack

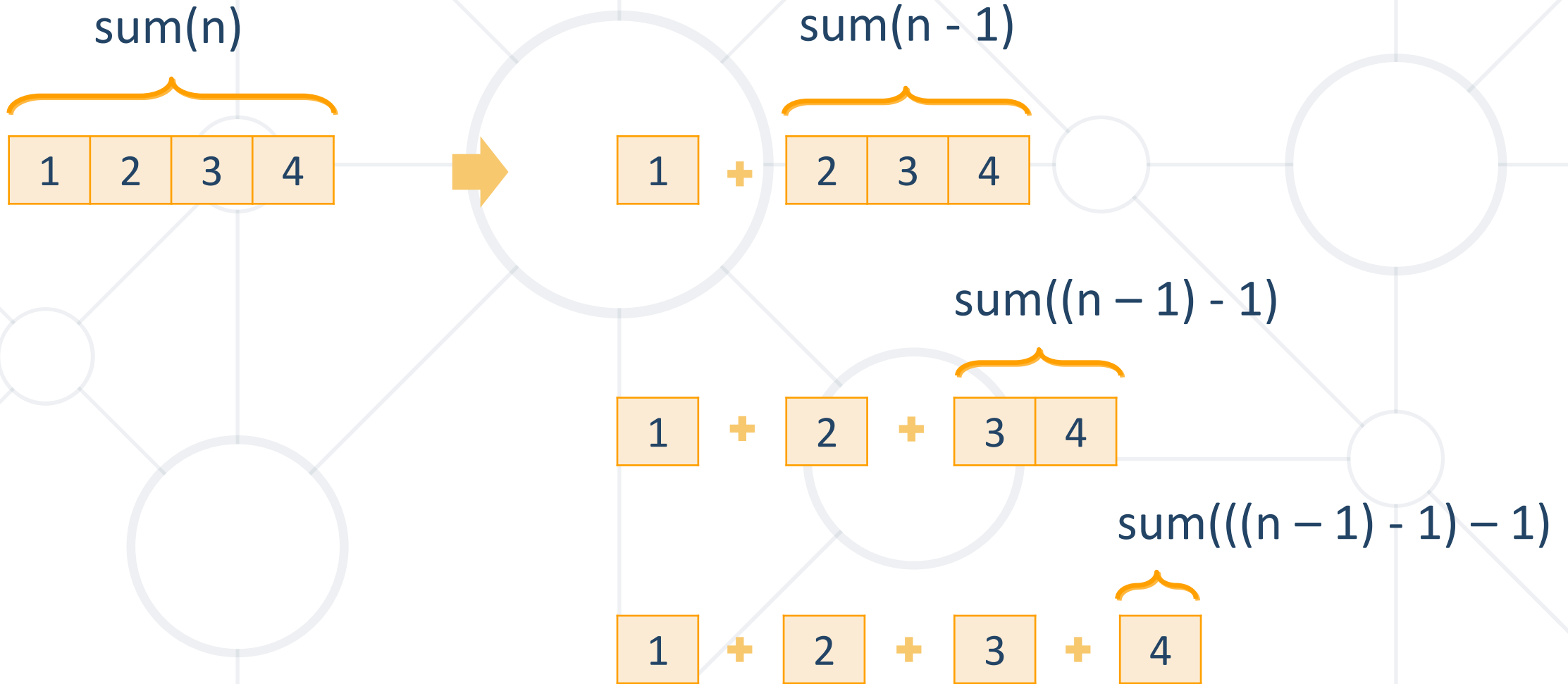
- "The stack" is a small **fixed-size** chunk of memory (e.g. 1MB)
- Keeps track of **the point** to which each active subroutine should **return control** when it **finishes executing**



- Problem solving technique (In CS)
  - Involves a **function calling itself**
  - The function should have a **base case**
  - **Each step** of the recursion should **move towards** the **base case**



# Array Sum – Example



# Problem: Recursive Array Sum

- Create a **recursive method** that
  - Finds the sum of all numbers stored in an **array**
  - Read numbers from the console

1 2 3 4 → 10

-1 0 1 → 0

# Solution: Recursive Array Sum

```
def calc_sum(numbers, idx):  
    if idx == len(numbers) - 1:  
        return numbers[idx]  
  
    return numbers[idx] + calc_sum(numbers, idx + 1)
```

Base case

Recursive call

# Problem: Recursive Factorial

- Create a **recursive method** that calculates  **$n!$** 
  - Read  **$n$**  from the console

5 → 120

10 → 3628800

# Recursive Factorial – Example

- Recursive definition of **n!** (n factorial):

$$\begin{aligned} n! &= n * (n-1)! \text{ for } n > 0 \\ 0! &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$3! = 3 * 2!$$

$$2! = 2 * 1!$$

$$1! = 1 * 0!$$

$$0! = 1$$

# Solution: Recursive Factorial

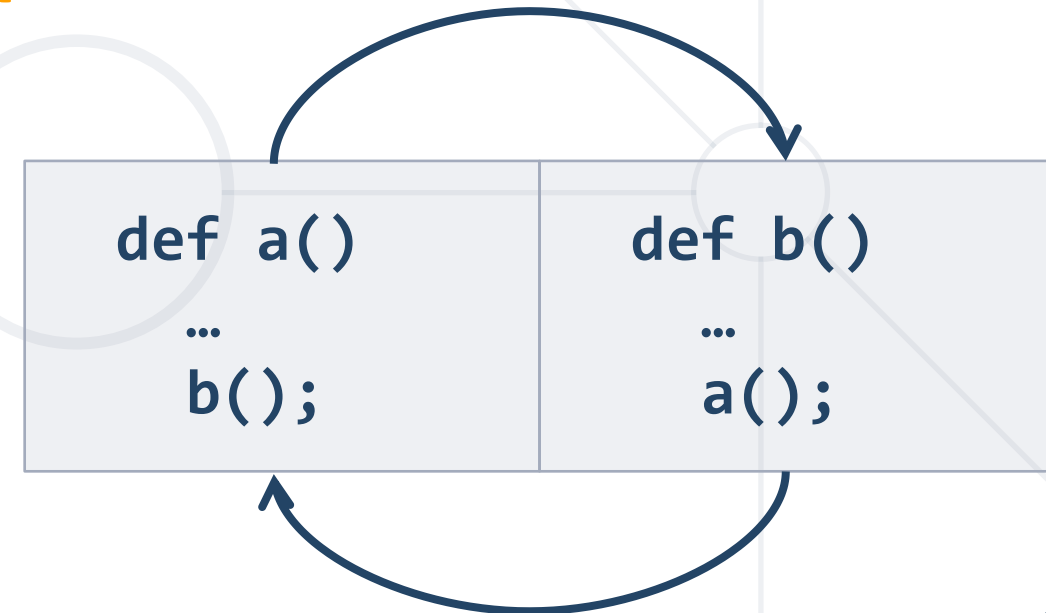
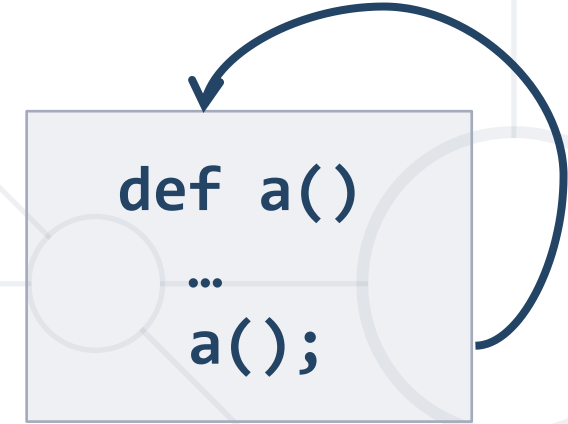
```
def get_factorial(num):  
    if num == 0:  
        return 1  
  
    return num * get_factorial(num - 1)
```

Base case

Recursive call



- **Direct recursion**
  - A method directly calls itself
- **Indirect recursion**
  - Method **A** calls **B**, method **B** calls **A**
  - Or even **A** → **B** → **C** → **A**



- Recursive methods have **three** parts:
  - **Pre-actions** (before calling the recursion)
  - **Recursive calls** (step-in)
  - **Post-actions** (after returning from recursion)

```
def recursion()  
    # Pre-actions  
    recursion()  
    # Post-actions
```

# Problem: Recursive Drawing

- Create a **recursive method** that draws the following figure

5



```
*****  
*****  
***  
**  
*  
#  
##  
###  
####  
#####  
#####
```

# Pre-Actions and Post-Actions – Example

```
def print_figure(n):  
    if n <= 0:  
        return
```

```
    # TODO: Pre-action: print n asterisks
```

```
    # Recursive call  
    print_figure(n - 1)
```

```
    # TODO: Post-action: print n hashtags
```

# Performance: Recursion vs. Iteration

- Recursive calls are **slower**
- Parameters and return values **travel** through the stack
- Good for branching problems

```
def fact(n):  
    if n == 0:  
        return 1  
    return n * fact(n - 1)
```

- No function call **cost**
- Creates **local** variables
- Good for linear problems (no branching)

```
def fact(n):  
    result = 1  
    for i in range(1, n + 1):  
        result *= i  
    return result
```





# **Brute-Force Algorithms**

# Brute-Force Algorithms

- Trying all possible combinations
- Picking the best solution
- Usually slow and inefficient

00000

# Brute-Force Algorithms

00000



# Brute-Force Algorithms

00001

# Brute-Force Algorithms

00002

9 9 9 9 9

$10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10 = 100,000$  combinations



# Greedy Algorithms

# Greedy Algorithms

- Used for solving optimization problems
- Usually more efficient than the other algorithms
- Can produce a **non-optimal** (incorrect) result
- Pick the **best local** solution
  - The optimum for a **current** position and point of view
- Greedy algorithms assume that always choosing a **local** optimum leads to the **global** optimum



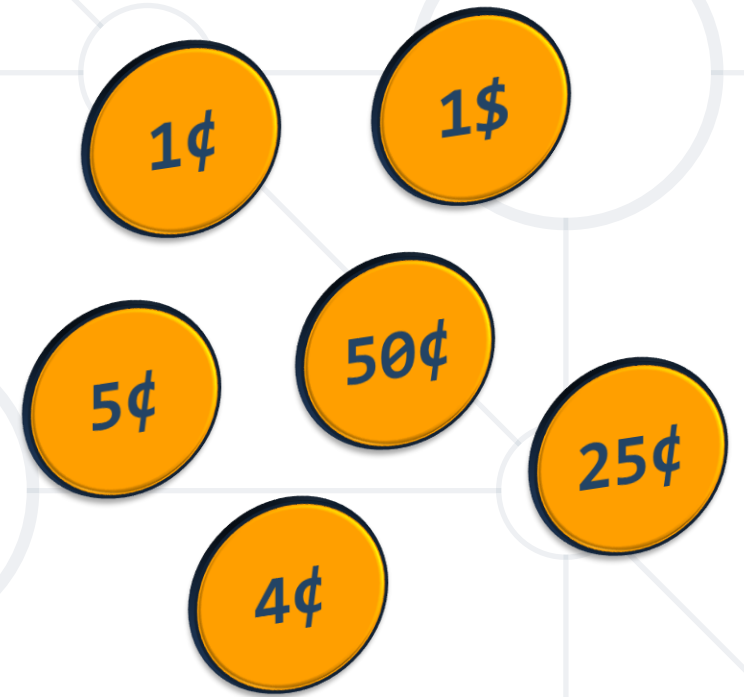
# Optimization Problems

- Finding the best solution from all possible solutions
- Examples:
  - Find the **shortest** path from Sofia to Varna
  - Find the **maximum increasing subsequence**
  - Find the shortest route that visits each city and returns to the origin city

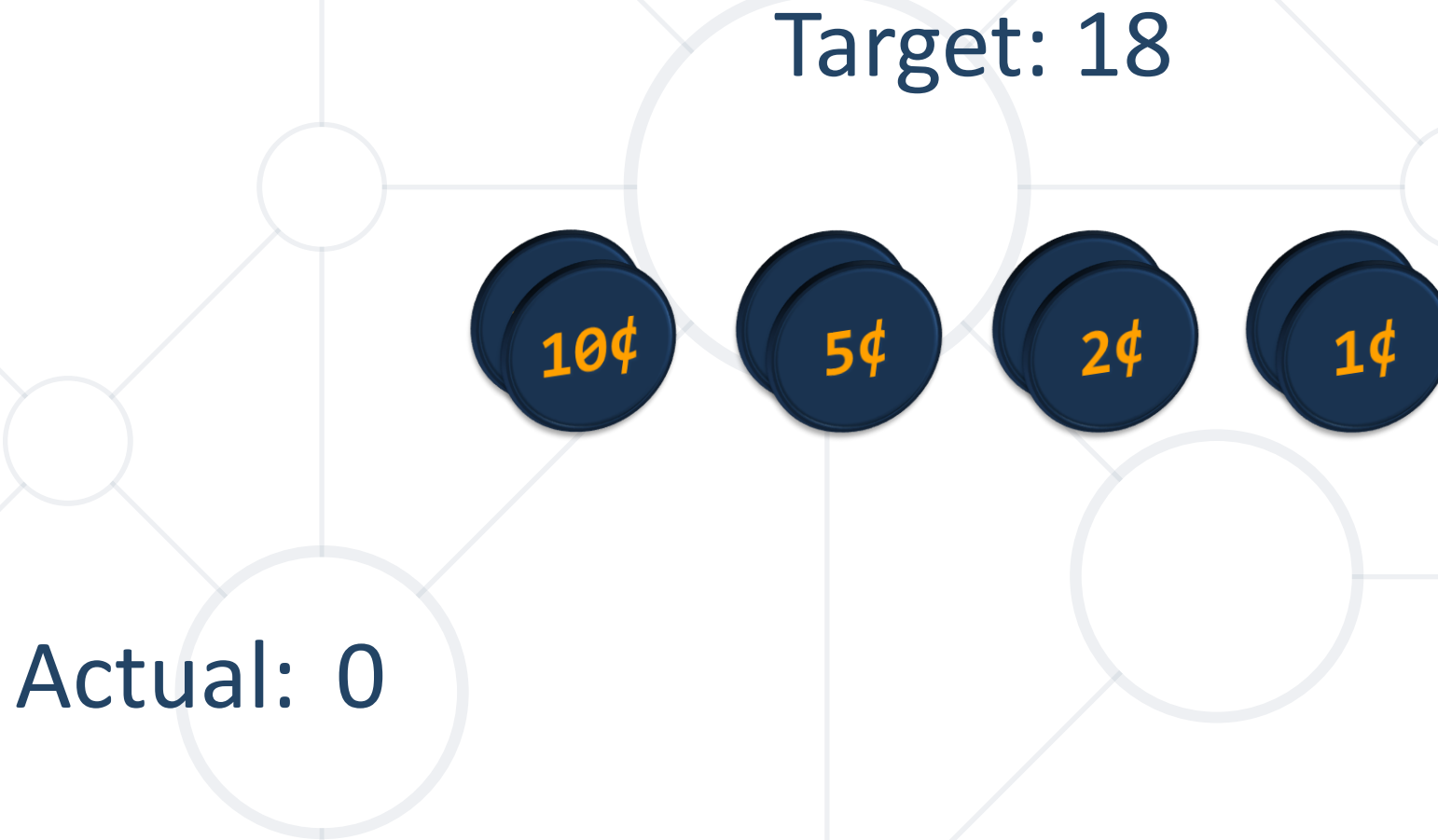


# Problem: Sum of Coins

- Write a program, which gathers a sum of money, using the least possible number of coins
- Consider the US **currency coins**
  - **0.01, 0.02, 0.05, 0.10**
- **Greedy algorithm** for "Sum of Coins":
  - Take the largest coin while possible
  - Then take the second largest
  - etc.



# Sum of Coins Visualization





# Sum of Coins Visualization



# Sum of Coins Visualization



# Sum of Coins Visualization



# Sum of Coins Visualization





**Greedy Failure Cases**

# Sum of Coins Failure Visualization



# Sum of Coins Failure Visualization

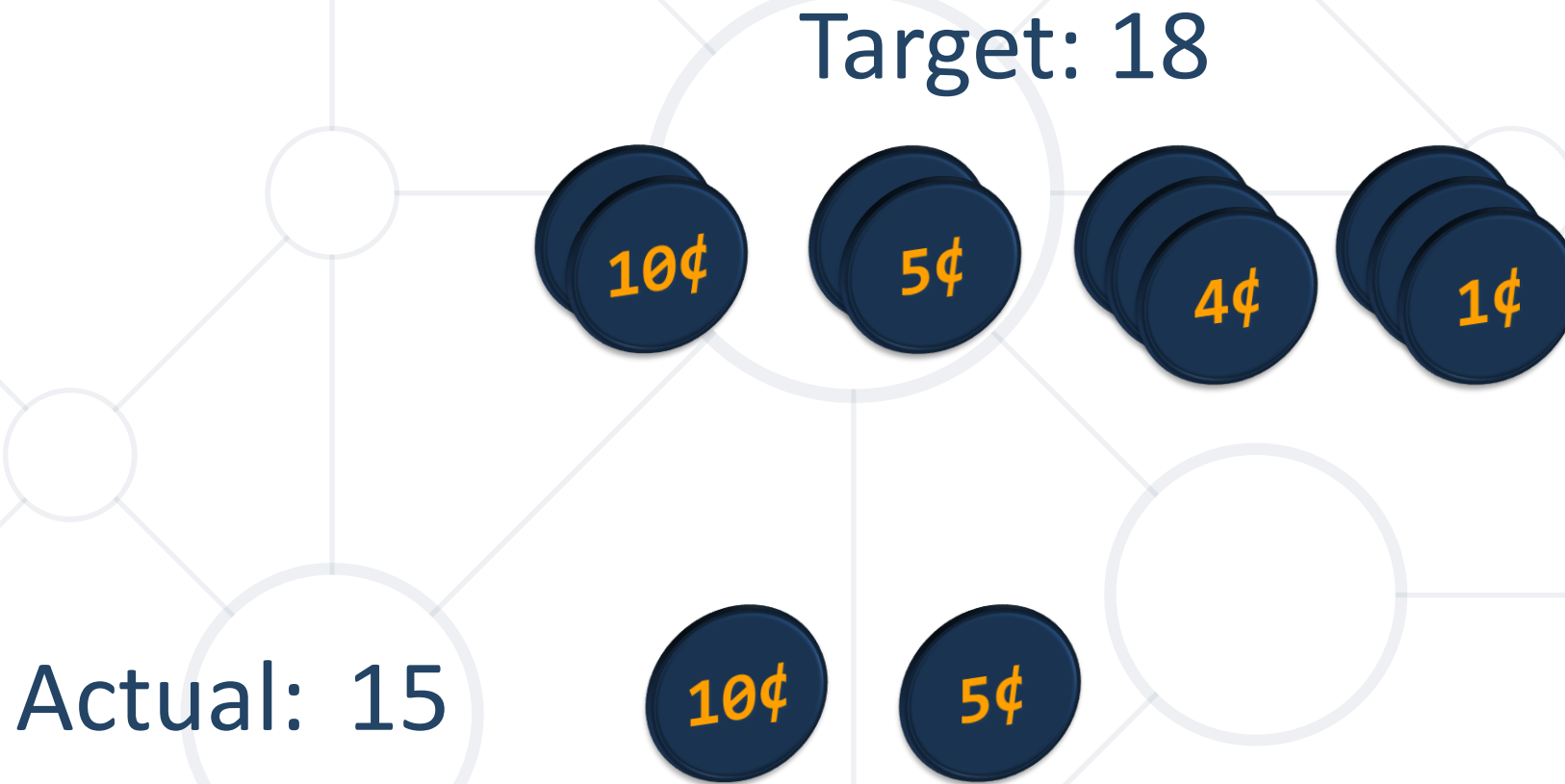


# Sum of Coins Failure Visualization





# Sum of Coins Failure Visualization



# Sum of Coins Failure Visualization



# Sum of Coins Failure Visualization



# Sum of Coins Failure Visualization



# Sum of Coins Failure Visualization



# Solution: Sum of Coins

```
def choose_coins(coins, target_sum):
    coins.sort(reverse=True)
    index = 0
    used_coins = {}

    while target_sum != 0 and index < len(coins):
        # Next slide

coin_input = input()
coins = list(map(int, coin_input.split(", ")))
target_sum = int(input())
print(choose_coins(coins, target_sum))
```

# Solution: Sum of Coins

```
while target_sum != 0 and index < len(coins):
    count_coins = target_sum // coins[index]
    target_sum %= coins[index]
    if count_coins > 0:
        used_coins[coins[index]] = count_coins
    index += 1

if target_sum != 0:
    return "Error"
else:
    # Sum found
```

# Problem: Set Cover

- Write a program that finds the smallest subset of **S**, the union of which = **U** (if it exists)
- You will be given a **set** of integers **U** called "**the Universe**"
- And a set **S** of **n** integer sets whose union = **U**

Universe: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

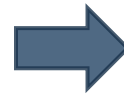
Number of sets: 4

1

2, 4

5

3



Sets to take (4):

{ 2, 4 }

{ 1 }

{ 5 }

{ 3 }



```
def set_cover(universe, sets):  
    universe_set = set(universe)  
    chosen_sets = []  
    remaining_sets = sets.copy()  
  
    while universe_set and remaining_sets:  
        // Next slide  
  
universe = list(map(int, input().split(", ")))  
n = int(input())  
sets = []
```

```
while universe_set and remaining_sets:
    best_set = max(remaining_sets, key=lambda s:
len(universe_set.intersection(s)))
    if not universe_set.intersection(best_set):
        break
    chosen_sets.append(best_set)
    universe_set -= set(best_set)
    remaining_sets.remove(best_set)

if universe_set:
    return None
return chosen_sets
```

```
for _ in range(n):  
    set_elements = list(map(int, input().split(", ")))  
    sets.append(set_elements)  
  
result = set_cover(universe, sets)
```

```
if result is None:
    print("No solution exists")
else:
    for i in range(len(result)):
        result[i] = sorted(result[i])

    print(f"\nSets to take ({len(result)}): ")
    for s in result:
        print("{", ", ".join(map(str, s)), "}")
```



# Searching Algorithms

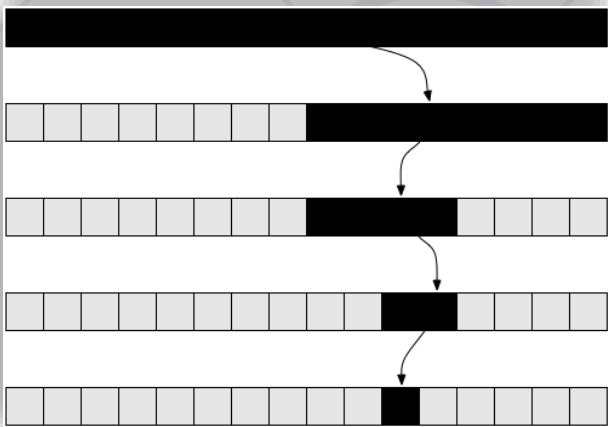
## Linear and Binary Search

- **Search algorithm** - an algorithm for finding an item with specified properties among a collection of items
- Different types of searching algorithms:
  - For sub-structures of a given structure
    - A graph, a string, a finite group
  - Search for the **min / max** of a function, etc.

- **Linear search** finds a particular value in a list
  - Checking every one of the elements
  - One at a time, in sequence
  - Until the desired one is found
- Worst & average performance:  **$O(n)$**

```
for each item in the list:  
    if that item has the desired value,  
        return the item's location  
return nothing
```

- Binary search finds an item within an ordered data structure
- At each step, compare the input with the middle element
  - The algorithm repeats its action to the left or right sub-structure
- Average performance:  $O(\log(n))$
- See the visualization





# Binary Search (Iterative)

```
def binary_search(numbers, target):  
    left = 0  
    right = len(numbers) - 1  
    while left <= right:  
        mid_idx = (left + right) // 2  
        mid_el = numbers[mid_idx]  
        if mid_el == target:  
            return mid_idx  
        if mid_el < target:  
            left = mid_idx + 1  
        else:  
            right = mid_idx - 1  
    return -1
```



# **Simple Sorting Algorithms**

Selection, Bubble and Insertion Sort

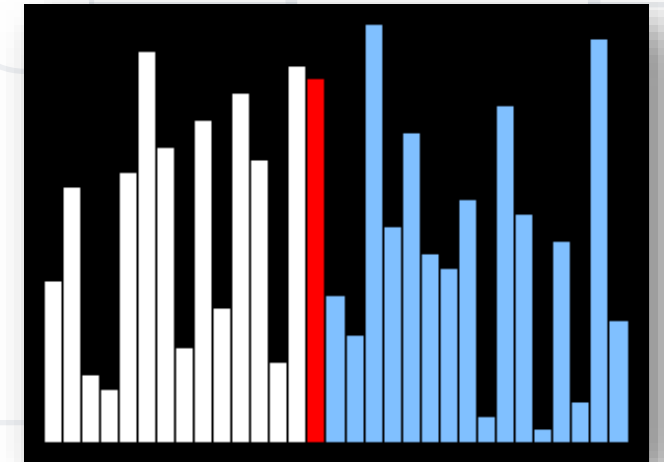
# What is a Sorting Algorithm?

- **Sorting algorithm**

- An algorithm that rearranges elements in a list
  - In non-decreasing order
- Elements must be **comparable**

- More formally

- The **input** is a sequence / list of elements
- The **output** is a rearrangement / **permutation** of elements
  - In non-decreasing order

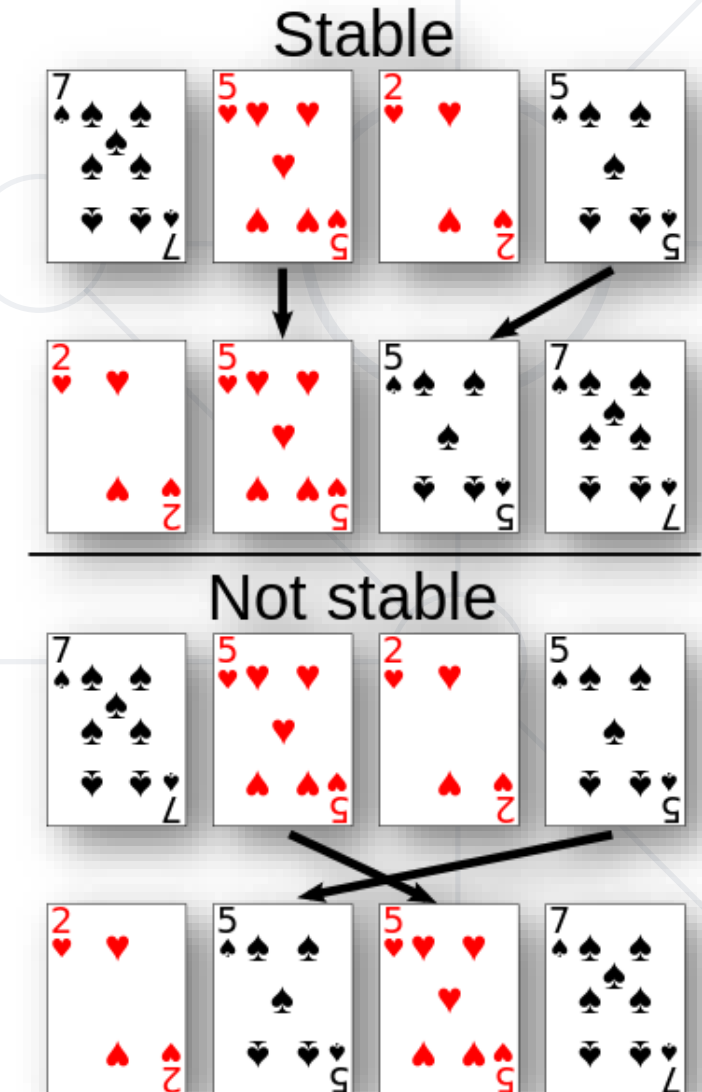


- Efficient sorting algorithms are important for:
  - Producing human-readable output
  - Canonicalizing data – making data uniquely arranged
  - In conjunction with other algorithms, like binary searching
- Example of sorting:



- Sorting algorithms are often classified by:
  - Computational **complexity** and memory usage
    - Worst, average and best-case behavior
  - **Recursive** / non-recursive
  - **Stability** – stable / unstable
  - **Comparison-based** sort / non-comparison based

- **Stable** sorting algorithms
  - Maintain the order of equal elements
  - If two items compare as equal, their relative order is preserved
- **Unstable** sorting algorithms
  - Rearrange the equal elements in unpredictable order
- Often **different elements** have the **same key** used for equality comparing

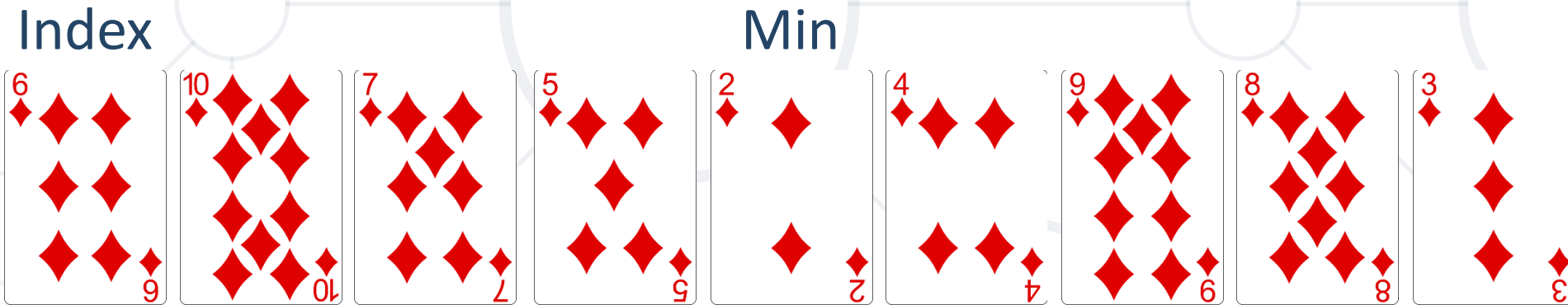


# Selection Sort

- **Selection sort** – simple, but inefficient algorithm
  - Swap the first with the min element on the right, then the second, etc.
  - Memory:  **$O(1)$**
  - Time:  **$O(n^2)$**
  - Stable: No
  - Method: Selection

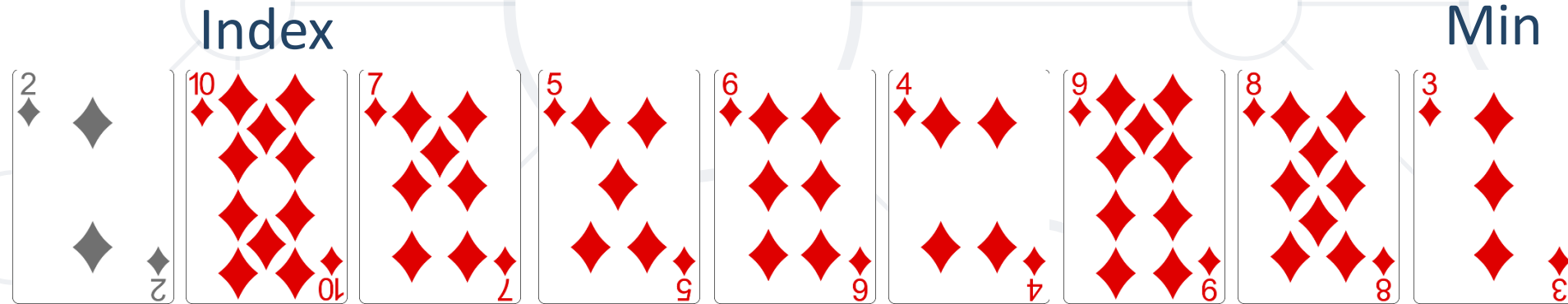


# Selection Sort Visualization

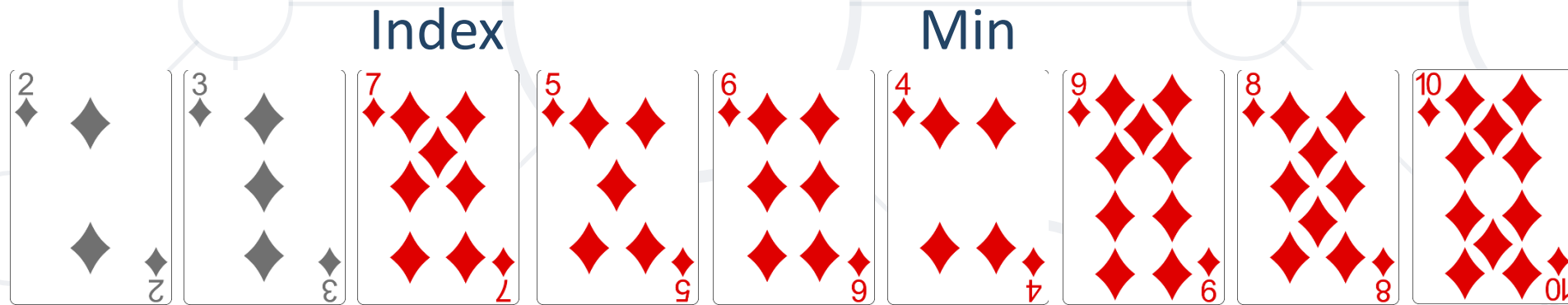




# Selection Sort Visualization



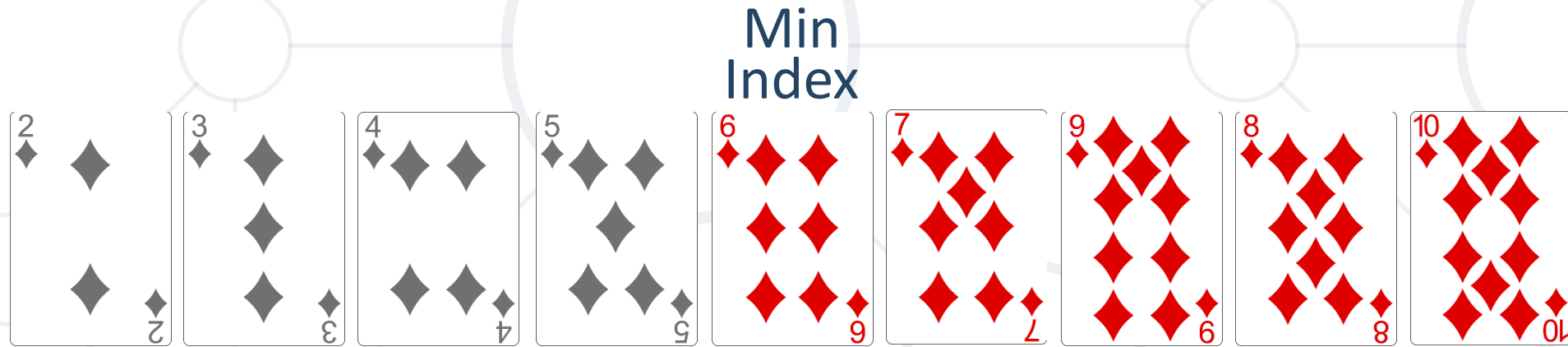
# Selection Sort Visualization



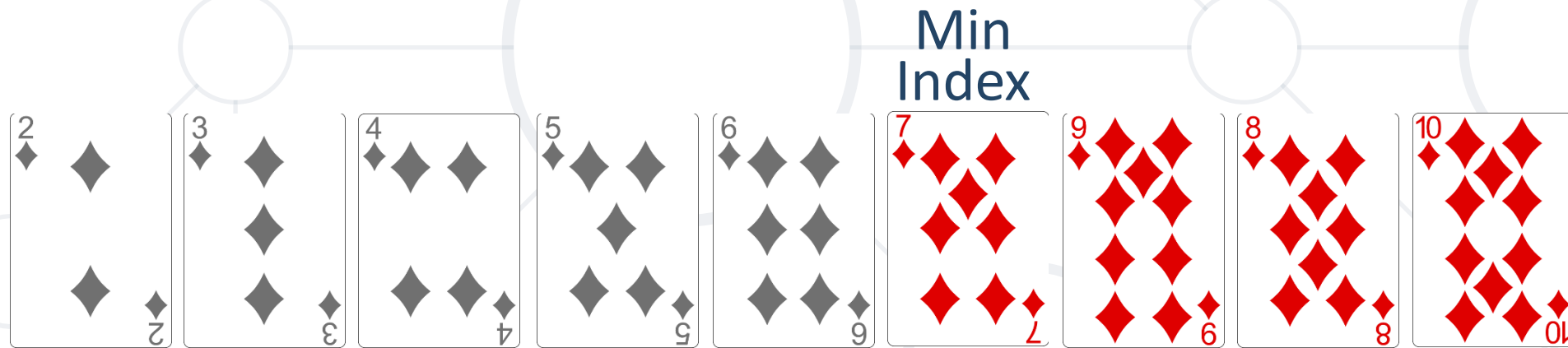
# Selection Sort Visualization



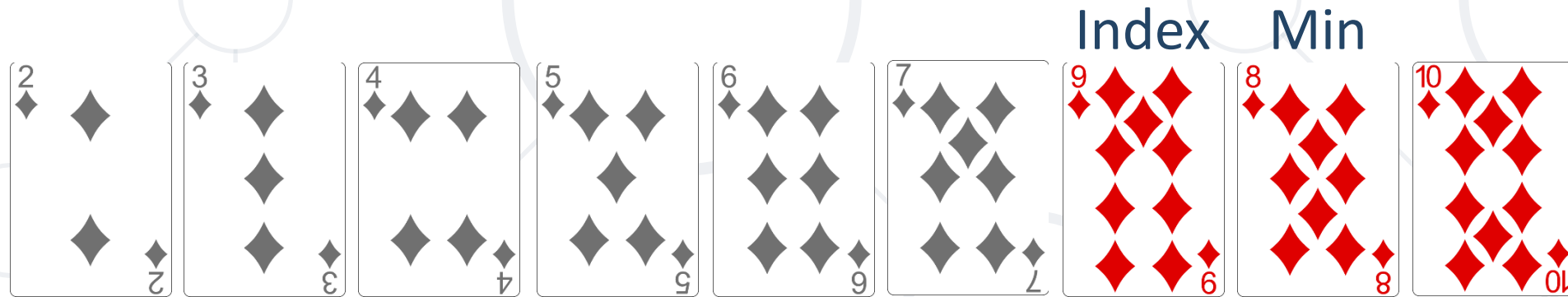
# Selection Sort Visualization



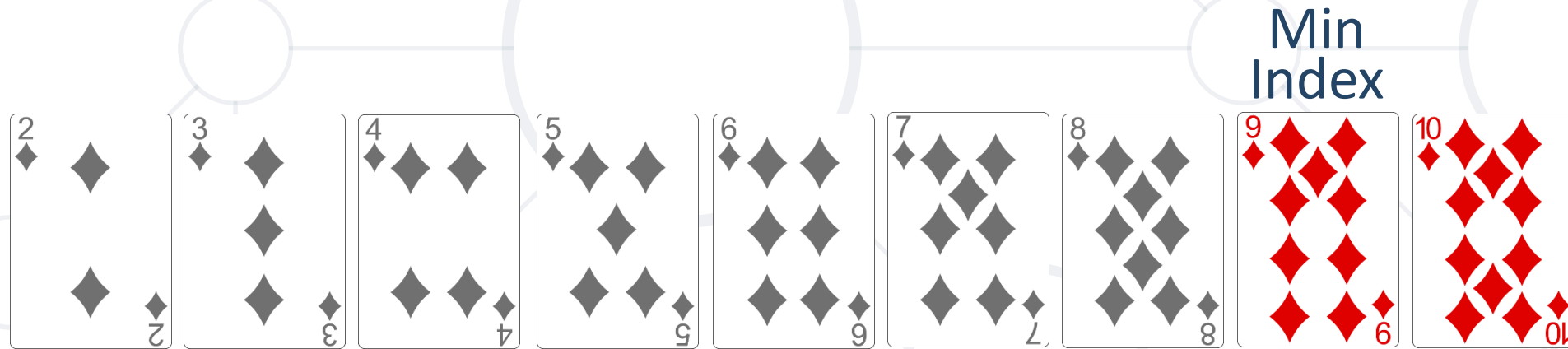
# Selection Sort Visualization



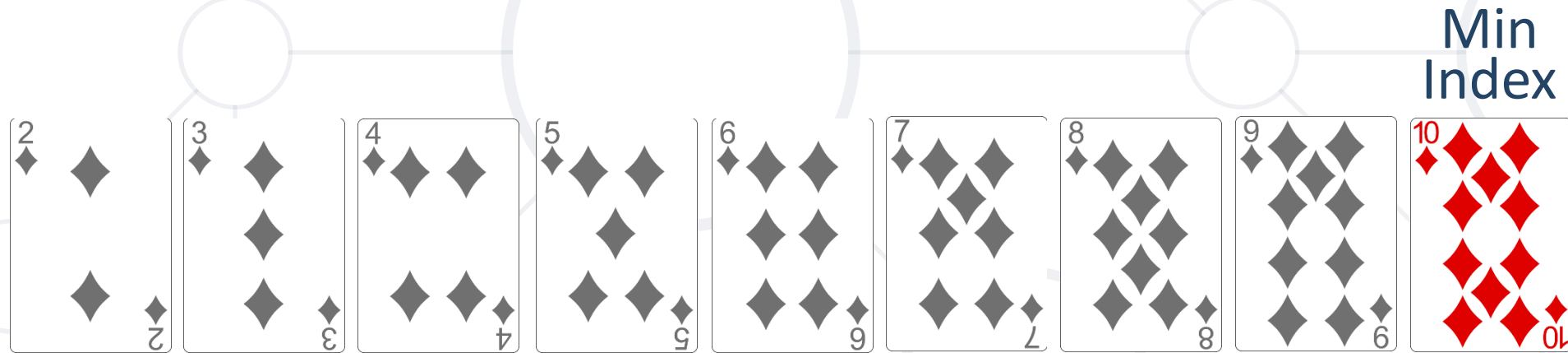
# Selection Sort Visualization



# Selection Sort Visualization

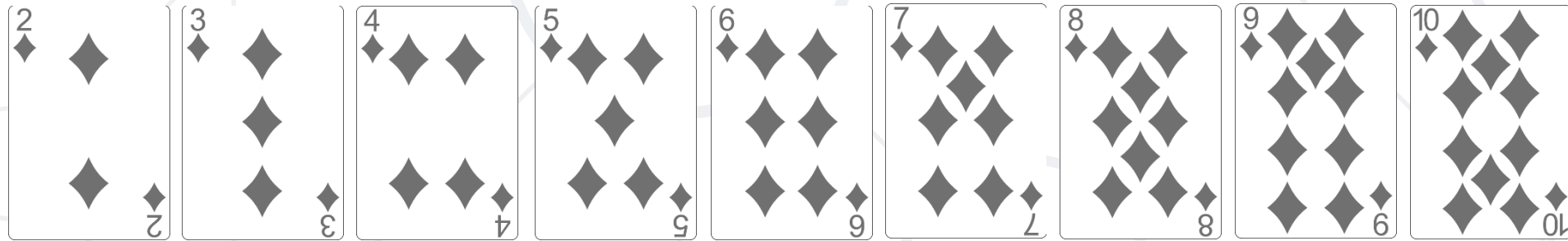


# Selection Sort Visualization

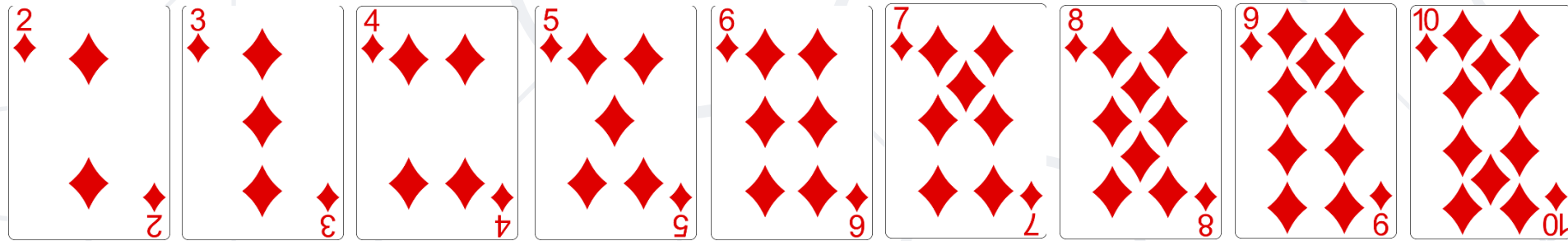




# Selection Sort Visualization



# Selection Sort Visualization



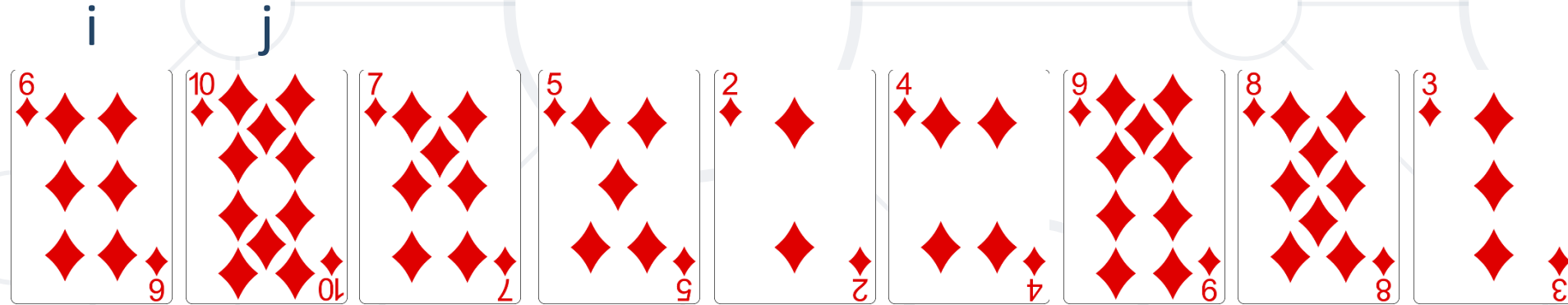
```
def selection_sort(nums):  
    for idx in range(len(nums)):  
        min_idx = idx  
        for curr_idx in range(idx + 1, len(nums)):  
            if nums[curr_idx] < nums[min_idx]:  
                min_idx = curr_idx  
  
        nums[idx], nums[min_idx] = nums[min_idx], nums[idx]
```

# Bubble Sort

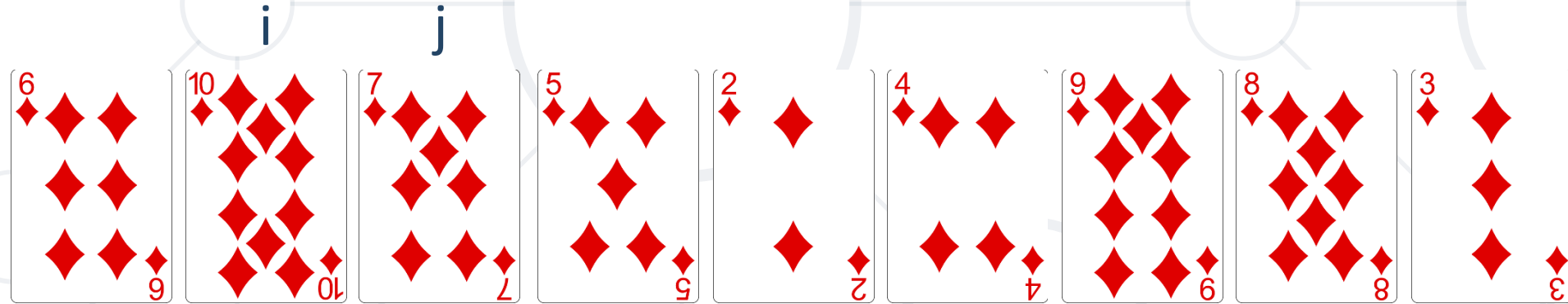
- **Bubble sort** – simple, but inefficient algorithm
- Swaps to neighbor elements when not in order until sorted
  - Memory:  **$O(1)$**
  - Time:  **$O(n^2)$**
  - Stable: Yes
  - Method: Exchanging



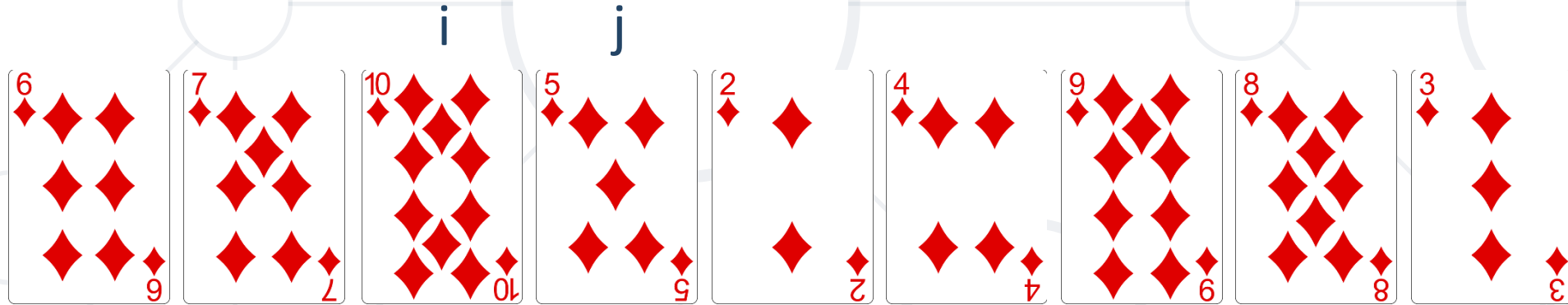
# Bubble Sort Visualization



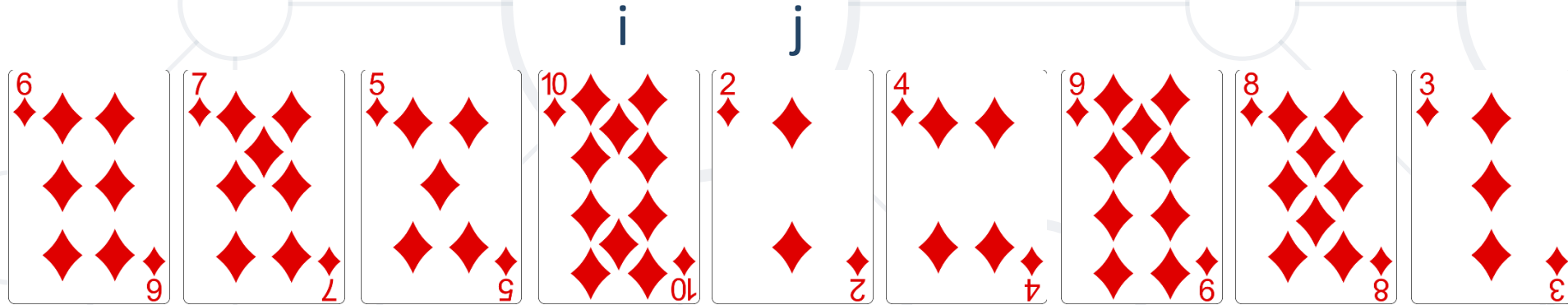
# Bubble Sort Visualization



# Bubble Sort Visualization

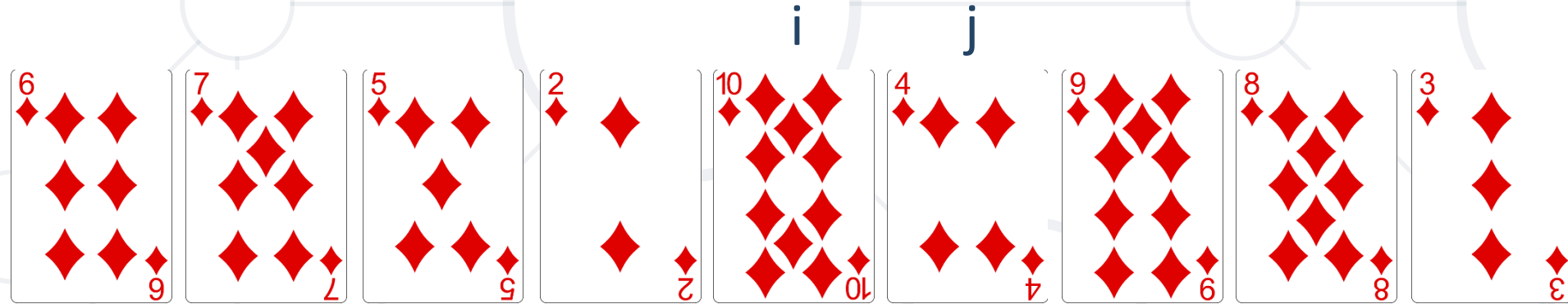


# Bubble Sort Visualization

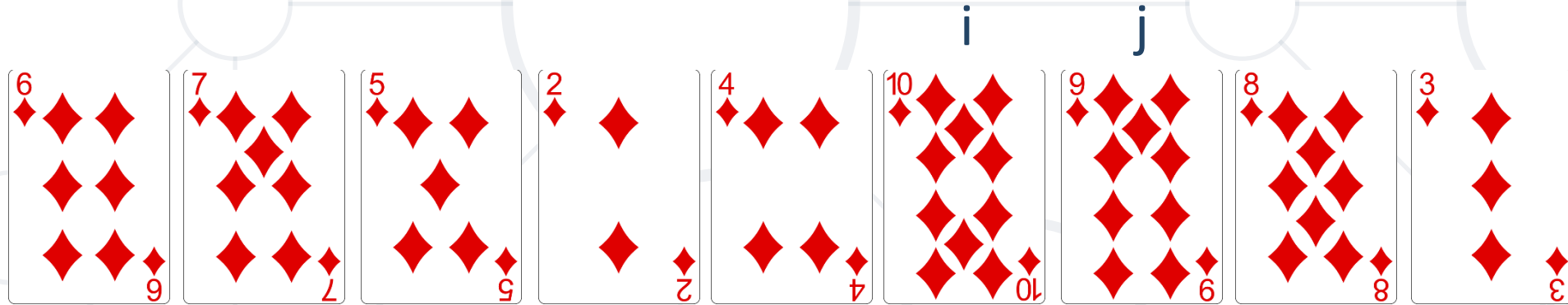




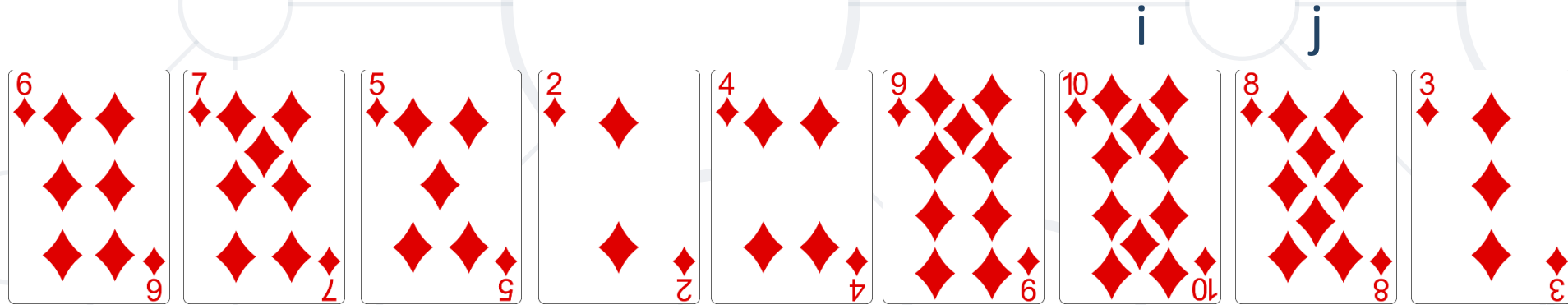
# Bubble Sort Visualization



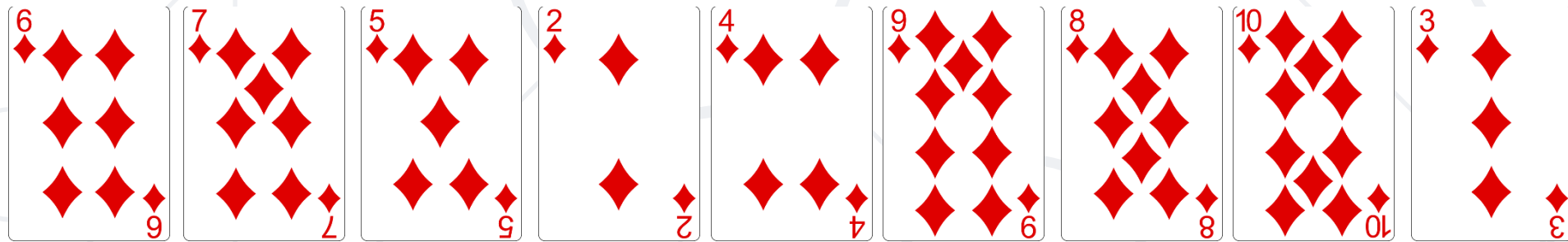
# Bubble Sort Visualization



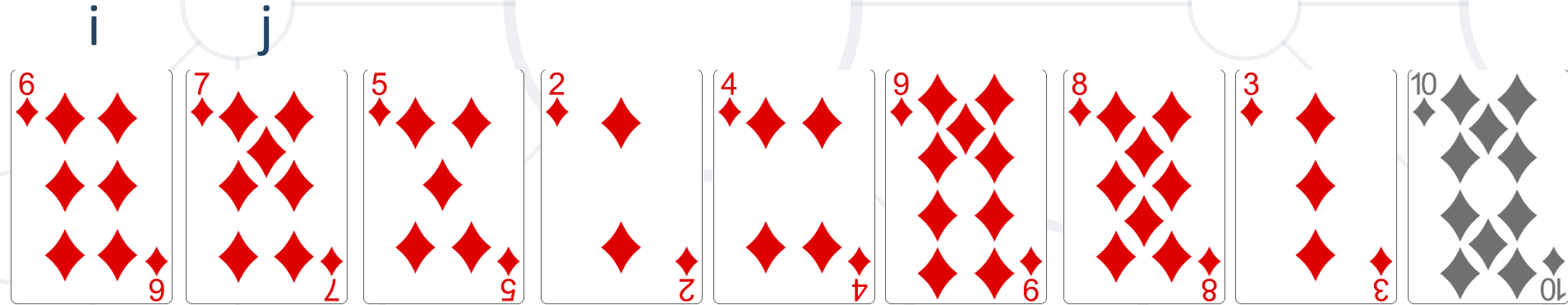
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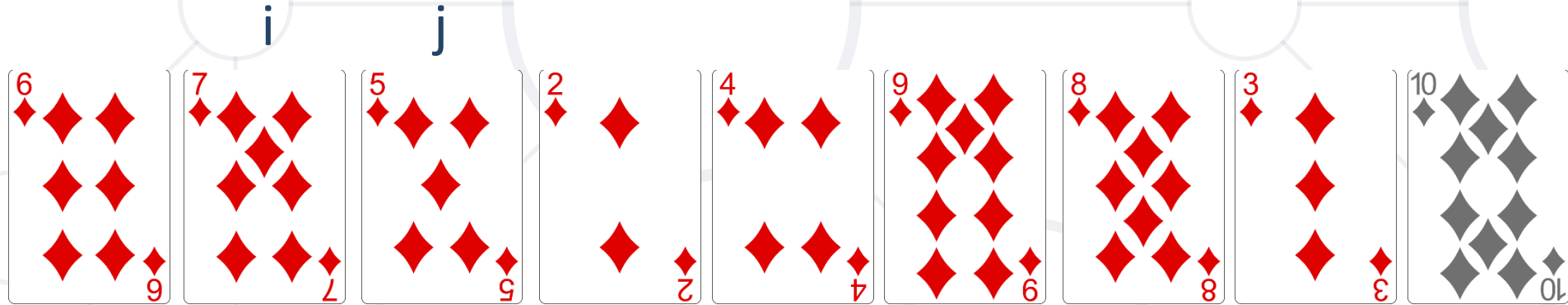
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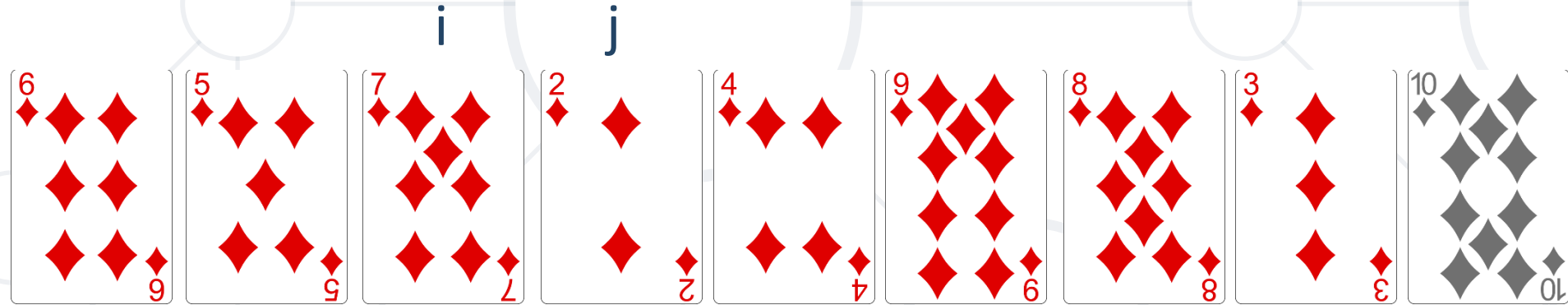
# Bubble Sort Visualization



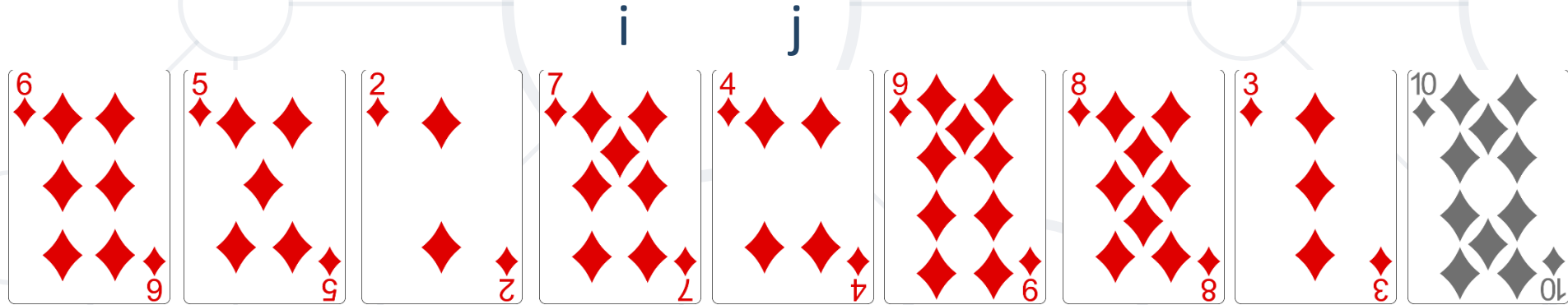
# Bubble Sort Visualization



# Bubble Sort Visualization

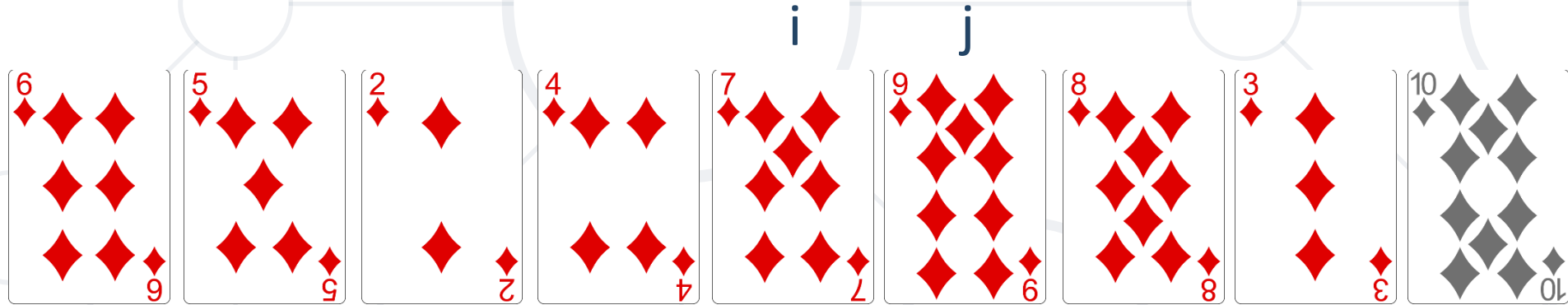


# Bubble Sort Visualization

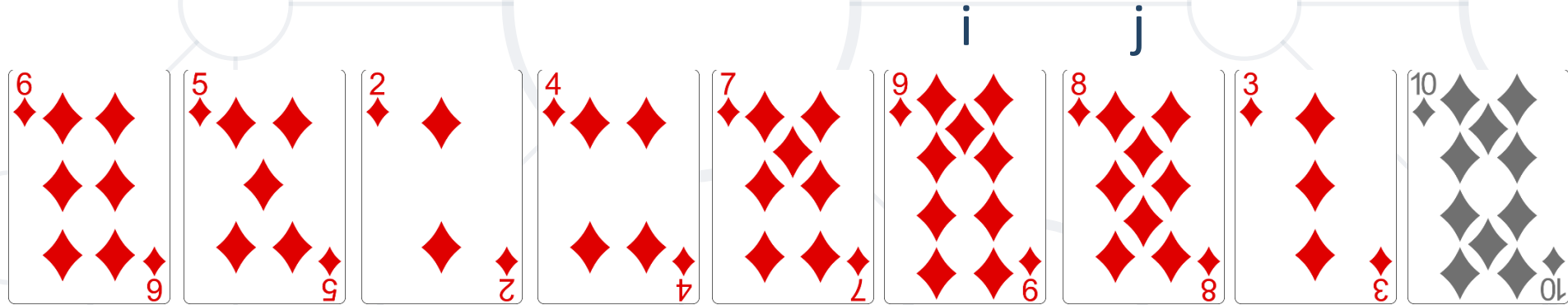




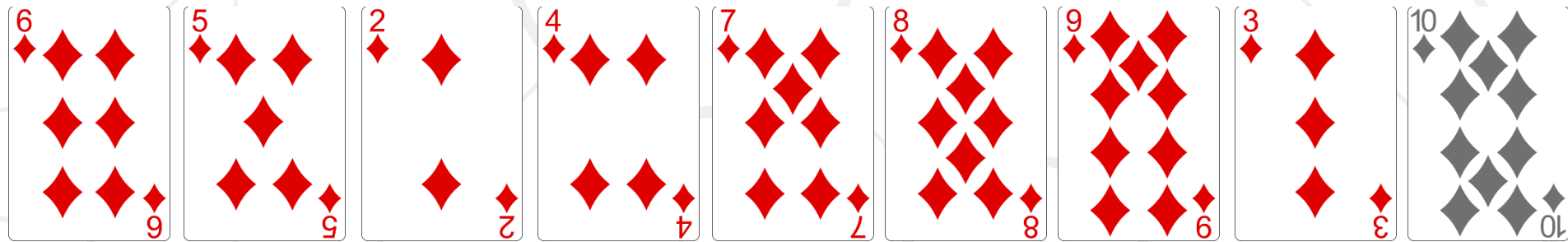
# Bubble Sort Visualization



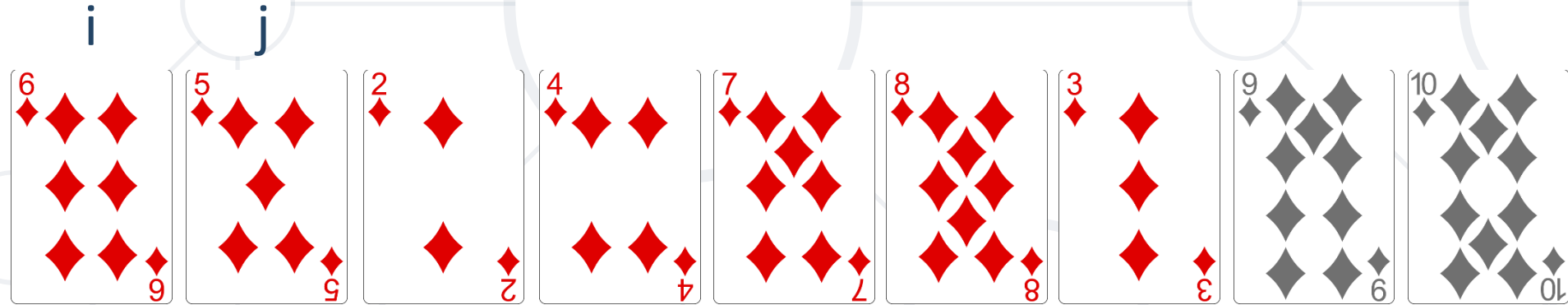
# Bubble Sort Visualization



# Bubble Sort Visualization



# Bubble Sort Visualization



# Bubble Sort

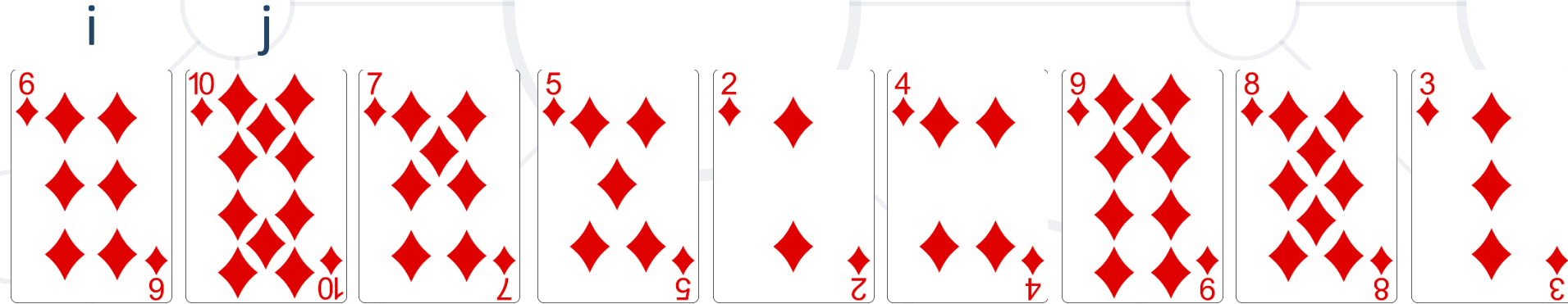
```
def bubble_sort(nums):  
    is_sorted = False  
    i = 0  
  
    while not is_sorted:  
        is_sorted = True  
        for j in range(1, len(nums) - i):  
            if nums[j - 1] > nums[j]:  
                nums[j], nums[j - 1] = nums[j - 1], nums[j]  
                is_sorted = False  
        i += 1
```

# Comparison of Sorting Algorithms

Name	Best	Average	Worst	Memory	Stable	Method
Selection	$n^2$	$n^2$	$n^2$	1	No	Selection
Bubble	$n$	$n^2$	$n^2$	1	Yes	Exchanging

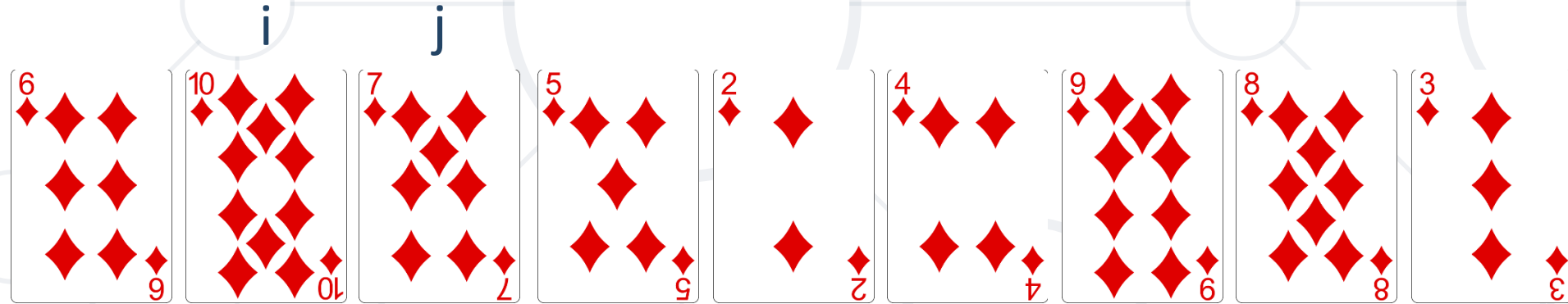
- **Insertion Sort** – simple, but inefficient algorithm
  - Move the first unsorted element left to its place
  - Memory:  **$O(1)$**
  - Time:  **$O(n^2)$**
  - Stable: **Yes**
  - Method: **Insertion**

# Insertion Sort Visualization

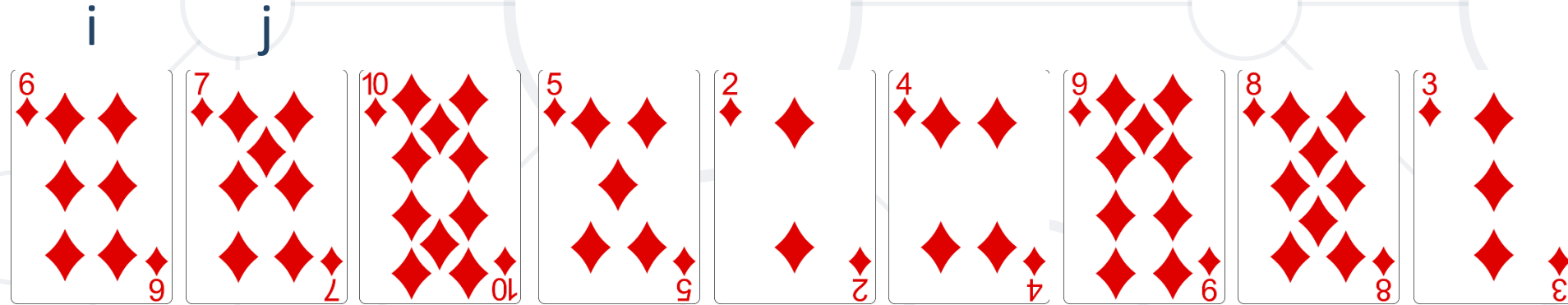




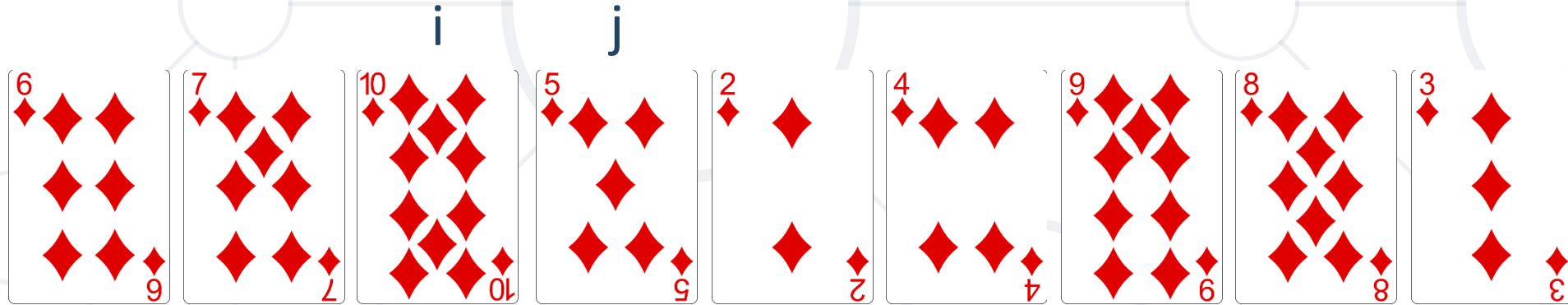
# Insertion Sort Visualization



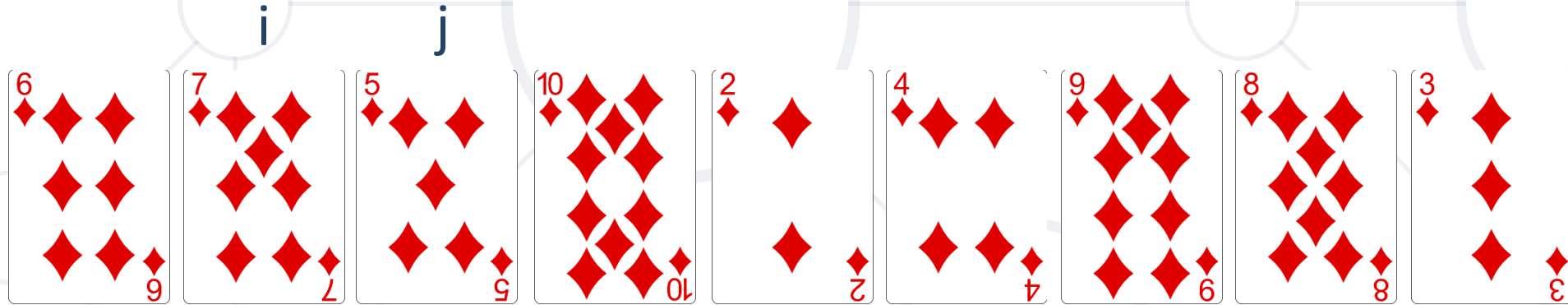
# Insertion Sort Visualization



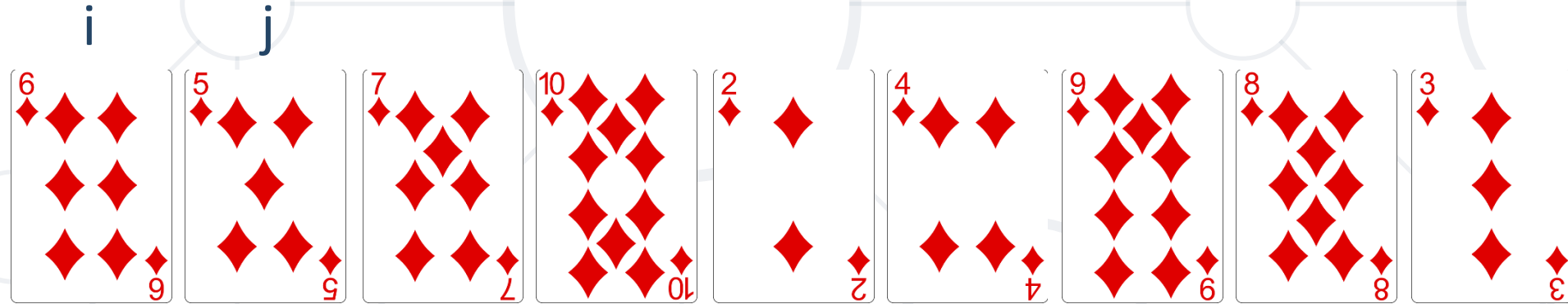
# Insertion Sort Visualization



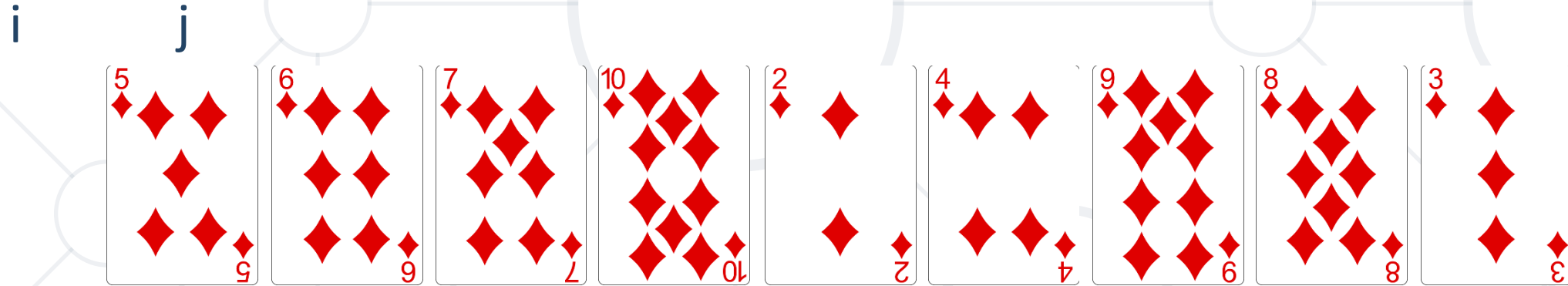
# Insertion Sort Visualization



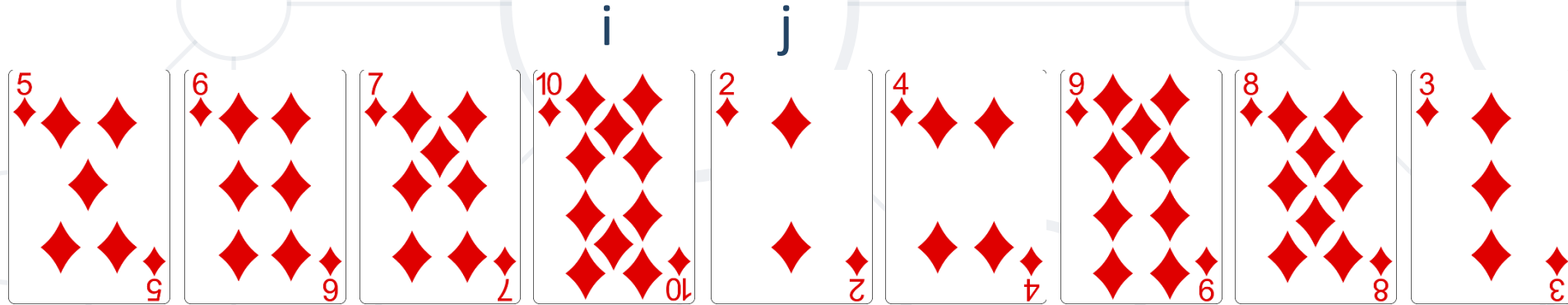
# Insertion Sort Visualization



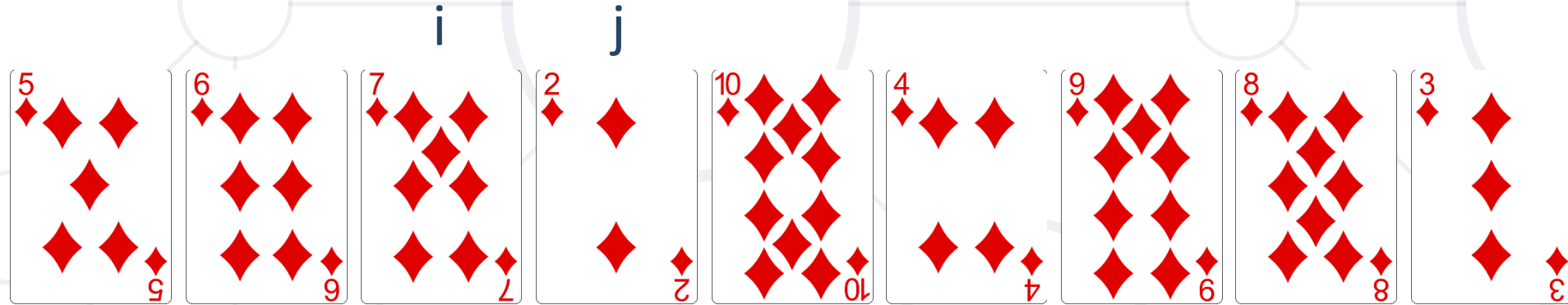
# Insertion Sort Visualization



# Insertion Sort Visualization

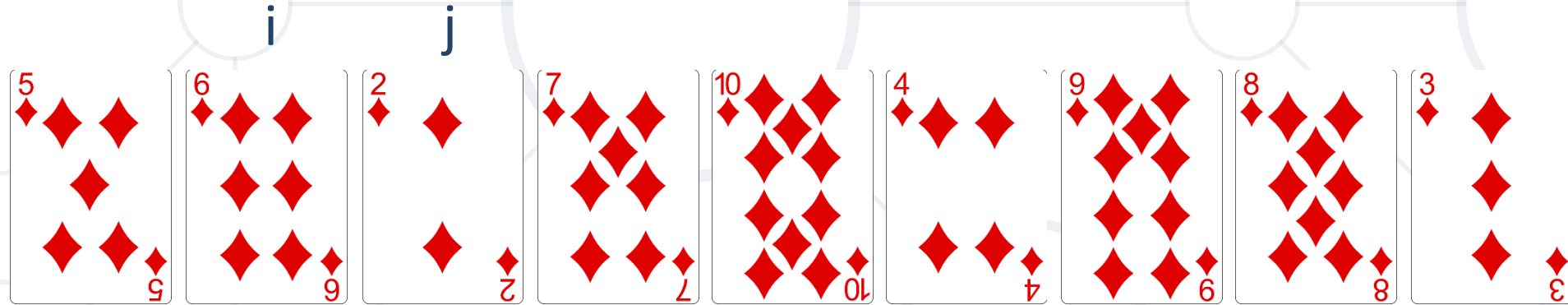


# Insertion Sort Visualization

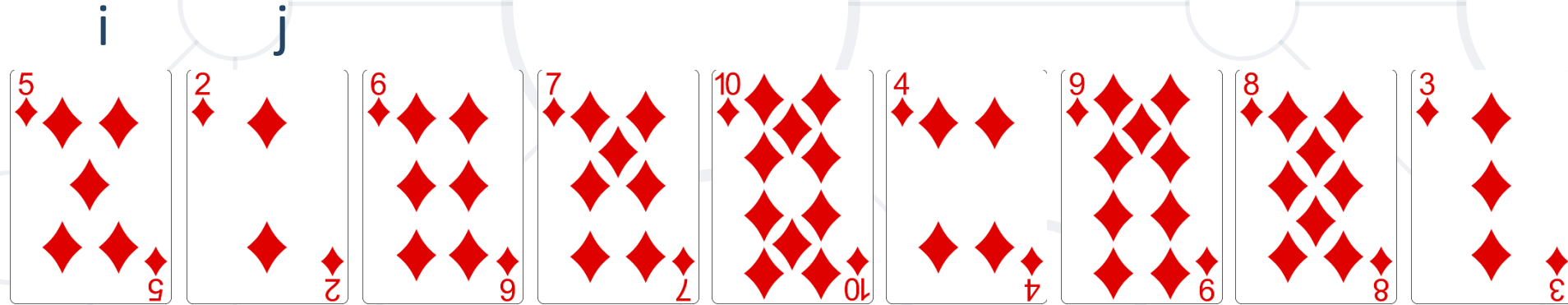




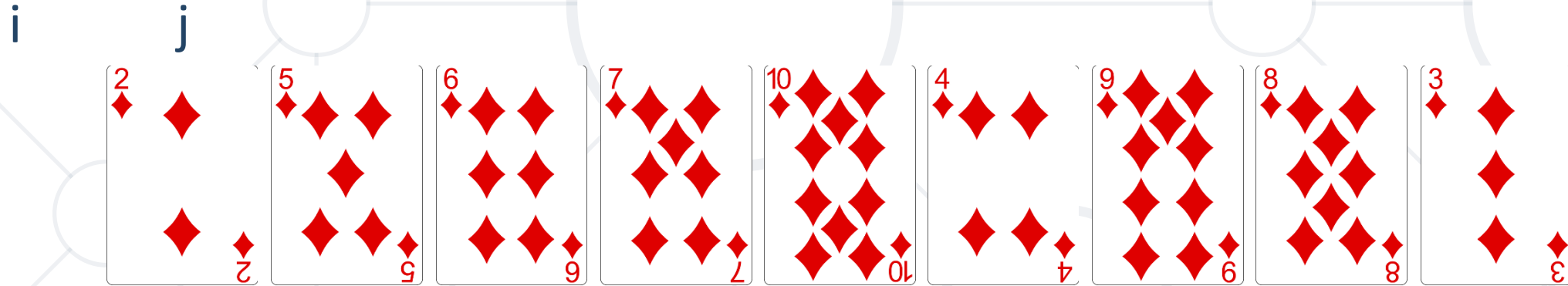
# Insertion Sort Visualization



# Insertion Sort Visualization



# Insertion Sort Visualization



```
def insertion_sort(nums):  
    for i in range(1, len(nums)):  
        key = nums[i]  
        j = i - 1  
  
        while j >= 0 and nums[j] > key:  
            nums[j + 1] = nums[j]  
            j -= 1  
  
        nums[j + 1] = key
```

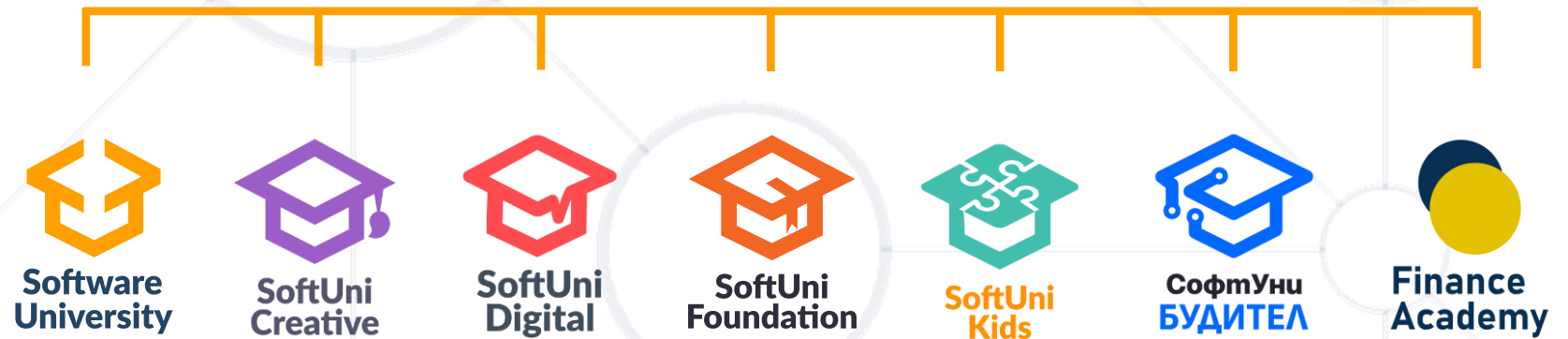
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Insertion	$n$	$n^2$	$n^2$	1	Yes	Insertion

- **Algorithmic Complexity**
- **Recursion** - a function calls itself
- **Brute-Force** - trying all the possible solutions
- **Greedy** - picking a locally optimal solution
- **Searching** algorithms:
  - Binary Search, Linear Search
- **Sorting** algorithms:
  - Selection sort, Bubble sort, Insertion sort



# Questions?



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