ID1020: Mergesort

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kap 2.2



Slides adapted from Algoritms 4th Edition, Sedgewick.

Two classical algorithms: mergesort och quicksort

- Key components in the world's IT-infrastructure.
 - Full scientific understanding of their properties has enabled their development into practical system sorts
 - Quicksort honored as one the top 10 algorithms of the 20th century.
- Mergesort.

















• Quicksort.

















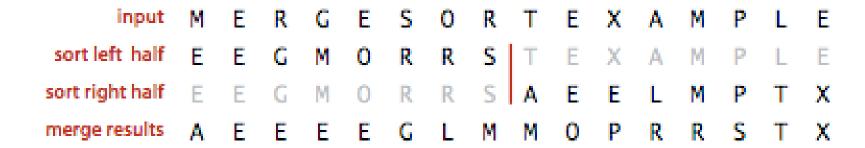
Divide-and-Conquer algorithms

- Principle Divide-and-Conquer in algorithm design:
 - Divide: divide up the problem into smaller, independent subproblems.
 Subproblems are of the same type as the original problem. Continue dividing until the problem is broken down into many trivial miniproblems.
 - **Conquer**: solve the trivial subproblems. Then construct partial solutions from solved subproblems until full solution can be constructed
- Often done by recursion
- The order-of-growth can usually be solved by analysis of the recursion relation.

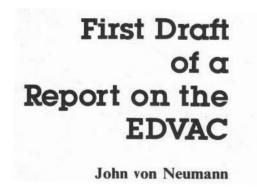
Mergesort

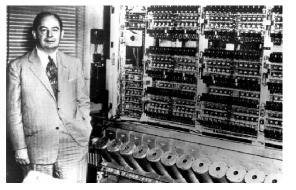
Mergesort

- Method.
 - Divide the array into two halves.
 - Sort the two halves recursively.
 - Merge the two halves.



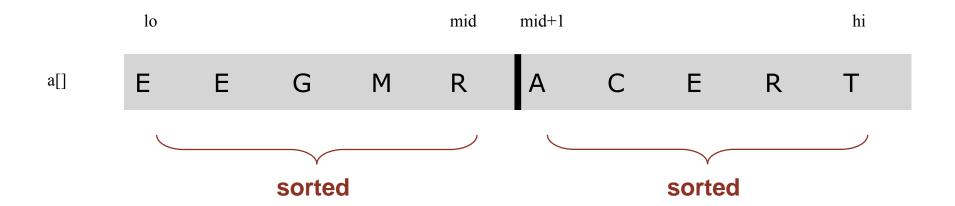
Mergesort overview





Abstract in-place merge demo

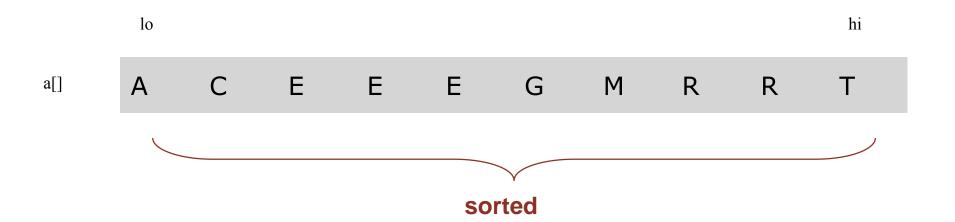
Goal. Given two sorted subarrayer a[lo] to a[mid] and a[mid+1] to a[hi], replace this with a sorted subarray a[lo] till a[hi].





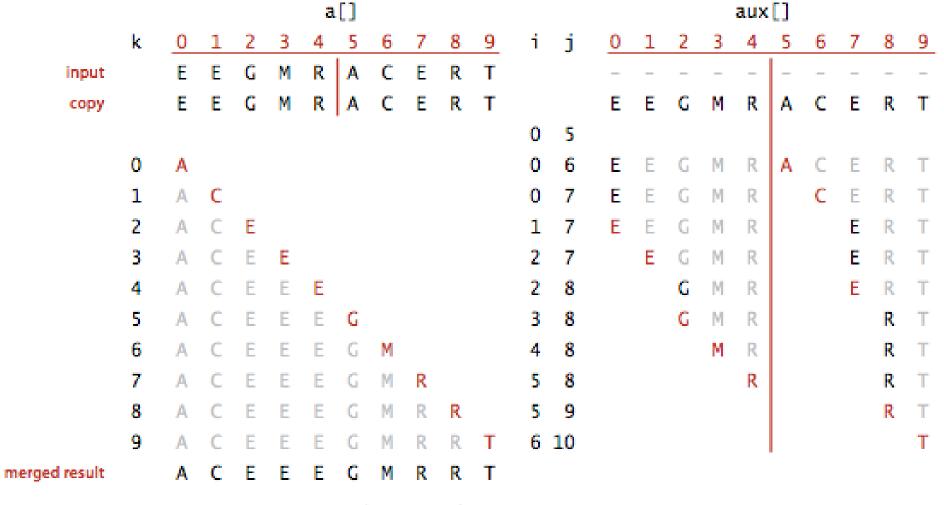
Abstract in-place merge demo

Goal. Given two sorted subarrays a[lo] to a[mid] and a[mid+1] to a[hi], replace this with a sorted subarray a[lo] till a[hi].



Merging

- How can we merge two sorted subarrays into one sorted array?
- Use an auxiliary array.

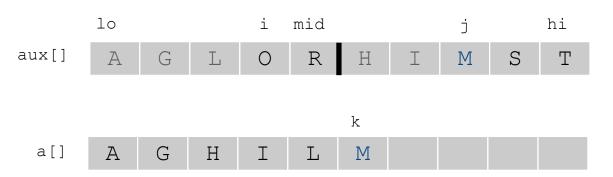


Merging: Java implementation

```
private static void merge(Comparable[] a, Comparable[] aux, int lo, int mid, int hi)
{

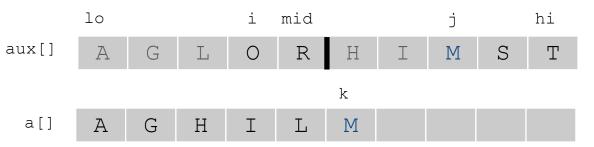
   for (int k = lo; k <= hi; k++) {
      aux[k] = a[k];
      copy
}

   int i = lo, j = mid+1;
   for (int k = lo; k <= hi; k++) {
      if (i > mid) a[k] = aux[j++];
      else if (j > hi) a[k] = aux[j++];
      else if (less(aux[j], aux[i])) a[k] = aux[j++];
      else a[k] = aux[i++];
}
}
```



Merging: Java implementation

```
private static void merge(Comparable[] a, Comparable[] aux, int lo, int mid,
 int hi) {
  assert isSorted(a, lo, mid); // precondition: a[lo..mid] sorted
  assert isSorted(a, mid+1, hi); // precondition: a[mid+1..hi] sorted
  for (int k = lo; k \le hi; k++)
     aux[k] = a[k];
                                                             copy
  int i = lo, j = mid+1;
  for (int k = lo; k \le hi; k++)
     if (i > mid)
                          a[k] = aux[j++];
                                                             merge
     else if (i > hi) a[k] = aux[i++];
     else if (less(aux[j], aux[i])) a[k] = aux[j++];
                                   a[k] = aux[i++];
     else
  assert isSorted(a, lo, hi); // postcondition: a[lo..hi] sorted
```



Assertions

- Assertion. A statement to check assumptions about program.
 - Assertions can be used to find bugs.
 - Assertions also serve as good documentation.
- Java assert statement. Throws an exception if the condition is false.

```
assert isSorted(a, lo, hi);
```

 Can be enabled or disabled during execution. ⇒ No extra overhead in production code.

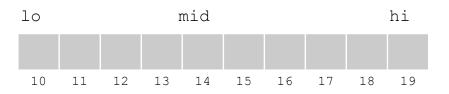
```
% java -ea MyProgram // enable assertions
% java -da MyProgram // disable assertions
(default)
```

 Best practice. Use assertions to check invariants, preconditions and postconditons, for example, to an API or method.
 Assume that assertions are disabled in produktion code.

Unit tests on the other hand check the external behavior of an API or method

Mergesort: Java implementation

```
public class Merge {
  private static void merge(...)
   {    /* as before */ }
  private static void sort(Comparable[] a, Comparable[] aux, int lo, int
hi)
      if (hi <= lo) return;
      int mid = lo + (hi - lo) / 2;
      sort(a, aux, lo, mid);
      sort(a, aux, mid+1, hi);
      merge(a, aux, lo, mid, hi);
   public static void sort(Comparable[] a) {
      Comparable[] aux = new Comparable[a.length];
      sort(a, aux, 0, a.length - 1);
```



Mergesort: trace

```
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15
    merge(a,
    merge(a, 2, 2, 3)
                         M G R E
   merge(a, 0, 1, 3) E
    merge(a, 4, 4, 5) E G
    merge(a, 6, 6, 7) E
   merge(a, 4, 5, 7)
 merge(a, 0, 3, 7)
    merge(a, 8, 8, 9) E
    merge(a, 10, 10, 11) E
   merge(a, 8, 9, 11)
    merge(a, 12, 12, 13) E
    merge(a, 14, 14, 15)
   merge(a, 12, 13, 15)
 merge(a, 8, 11, 15) E E
merge(a, 0, 7, 15)
                                          М
```

Trace of merge results for top-down mergesort

Mergesort: empirical analysis

• Running times:

- A laptop executes 10⁸ comparisons/second.
- A supercomputer executes 10¹² comparisons/second.

	insertion sort (N ²)			mergesort (N log N)		
computer	thousand	million	billion	thousand	million	billion
home	instant	2.8 hours	317 years	instant	1 second	18 min
super	instant	1 second	1 week	instant	instant	instant

Conclusion. Good algorithms are better than supercomputers.

Mergesort: comparisons

- Theorem. Mergesort compares $\leq N \lg N$ to sort an array of length N.
- Proof. The number of comparisons C(N) to run mergesort on an array of length N satisfies the recurrence relation:

$$C(N) \le C(\lceil N/2 \rceil) + C(\lfloor N/2 \rfloor) + N \quad \text{där } N > 1, \text{ med } C(1) = 0.$$

$$\uparrow \qquad \qquad \uparrow \qquad \qquad \uparrow$$
Left half
$$\downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow$$

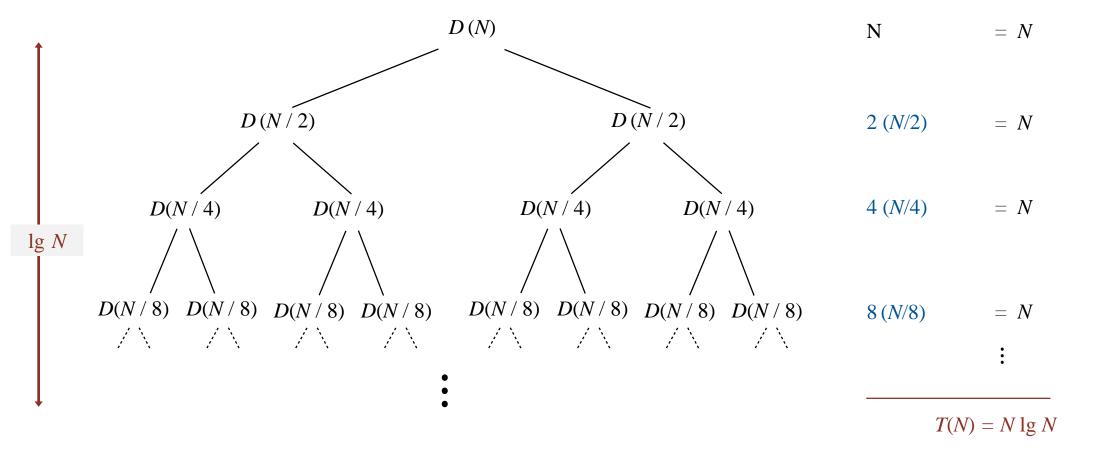
$$A(N) \le A(\lceil N/2 \rceil) + A(\lfloor N/2 \rfloor) + 6N \quad \text{där } N > 1, \text{ med } A(1) = 0.$$

We solve the recurrence relation when N is a power of two:

$$D(N) = 2D(N/2) + N$$
, för $N > 1$, med $D(1) = 0$.

Divide-och-conquer recurrence: picture proof

- Theorem. IF D(N) satisfies D(N) = 2D(N/2) + N for N > 1, with D(1) = 0, THEN $D(N) = N \lg N$.
- Proof 1.



Divide-och-conquer recurrence: proof with expansion

• Theorem. IF D(N) satisfierar D(N) = 2D(N/2) + N för N > 1, med D(1) = 0, THEN $D(N) = N \lg N$.

Proof 2

$$D(N) = 2D(N/2) + N$$
 given
$$D(N)/N = 2D(N/2)/N + 1$$
 divide both sides by N
$$= D(N/2)/(N/2) + 1$$
 algebra
$$= D(N/4)/(N/4) + 1 + 1$$
 apply to first term
$$= D(N/8)/(N/8) + 1 + 1 + 1$$
 apply to first term again
$$\cdots$$

$$= D(N/N)/(N/N) + 1 + 1 + \dots + 1$$
 stop applying, D(1) = 0
$$= \lg N$$

Divide-och-conquer recurrence: proof by induction

• Sats. IF D(N) satisfierar D(N) = 2D(N/2) + N för N > 1, med D(1) = 0, THEN $D(N) = N \lg N$.

Proof 3.

- Base case: N = 1.
- Induktion hypothesis : $D(N) = N \lg N$.
- Goal: show that $D(2N) = (2N) \lg (2N)$.

$$D(2N) = 2 D(N) + 2N$$
 given
 $= 2 N \lg N + 2N$ inductive hypothesis
 $= 2 N (\lg (2N) - 1) + 2N$ algebra
 $= 2 N \lg (2N)$ QED

Mergesort: array accesses

- Theorem. Mergesort access the array $\leq 6 N \lg N$ times to sort an array of length N.
- Proof. Array accesses A(N) satisfies the recurrence-relation:

$$A(N) \le A([N/2]) + A([N/2]) + 6N \text{ för } N > 1, \text{ with } A(1) = 0$$

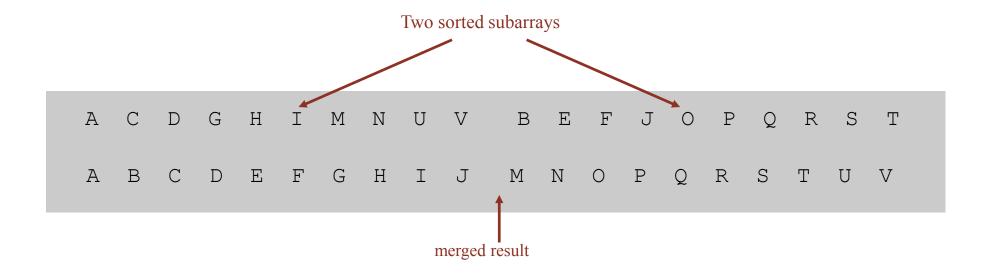
• Note. All algorithms with the following struture take $N \log N$ time:

```
public static void linearithmic(int N) {
    if (N == 0) {
        return;
        Solve two
    }
    linearithmic(N/2);
    linearithmic(N/2);
    linear(N);
    Linear amount
    of work
```

Exceptions. FFT, m.m., ...

Mergesort analysis: memory usage

- Theorem: Mergesort uses extra memory proportional to N.
- Proof . The array aux[] needs to be of length N for the last merge.



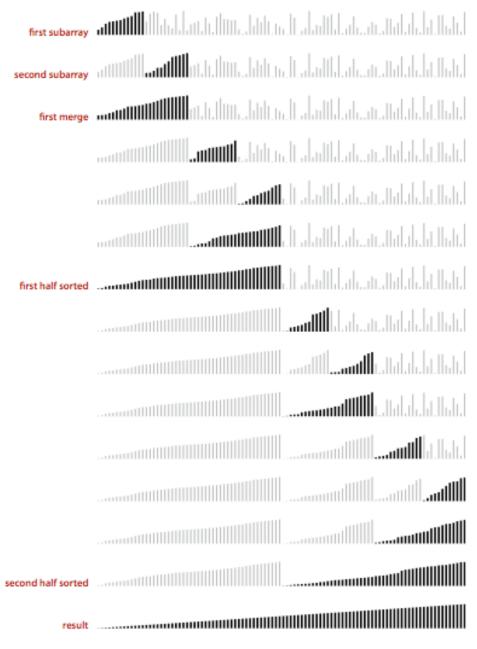
- Def. A sorting algorithm is "in-place" if it uses $\leq c \log N$ extra memory
- T.ex. Insertion sort, selection sort, shellsort. Not this mergesort !!
- Challenge 1 (not difficult). Use aux[] array of length ~ ½ N instead of N.
- Challenge 2 (extremely difficult). *In-place merge*. [Kronrod 1969]

Mergesort: improvements

- Use insertion sort for small subarrays.
 - Mergesort has too much overhead for small subarrays.
 - Cutoff less than approx. 10 elements use insertion sort.

```
private static void sort(Comparable[] a, Comparable[] aux, int lo, int hi){
   if (hi <= lo + CUTOFF - 1) {
      Insertion.sort(a, lo, hi);
      return;
   }
   int mid = lo + (hi - lo) / 2;
   sort (a, aux, lo, mid);
   sort (a, aux, mid+1, hi);
   merge(a, aux, lo, mid, hi);
}</pre>
```

Mergesort cutoff for insertion sort: visualization



Mergesort: further improvement

- Stop if already sorted.
 - Stop if the largest element in first half ≤ smallest element in second half?
 - Helpful for partially ordered arrays.

```
ABCDEFGHI<mark>J M</mark> NOPQRSTUV
ABCDEFGHIJ M NOPQRSTUV
```

```
private static void sort(Comparable[] a, Comparable[] aux, int lo, int hi)
{
   if (hi <= lo) return;
   int mid = lo + (hi - lo) / 2;
   sort (a, aux, lo, mid);
   sort (a, aux, mid+1, hi);
   if (!less(a[mid+1], a[mid])) return;
   merge(a, aux, lo, mid, hi);
}</pre>
```

Mergesort: further improvement

- Eliminate copying to auxiliary array. Save time but not memory.
- Exchange the role of the input and auxiliary array in each recursive call.

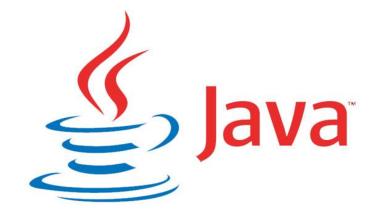
```
private static void merge(Comparable[] a, Comparable[] aux, int lo, int
mid, int hi)
   int i = lo, j = mid+1;
   for (int k = lo; k \le hi; k++) {
      if (i > mid) aux[k] = a[j++];
      else if (i > hi) aux[k] = a[i++];
                                                             merge from a [] to aux[]
      else if (less(a[\dot{j}], a[\dot{i}])) aux[k] = a[\dot{j}++];
      else
                                  aux[k] = a[i++];
private static void sort(Comparable[] a, Comparable[] aux, int lo, int hi)
   if (hi <= lo) return;
   int mid = lo + (hi - lo) / 2;
                                           assumes aux[] is initialized to a[] once.
   sort (aux, a, lo, mid);
                                                 before recursive calls
   sort (aux, a, mid+1, hi);
   merge(a, aux, lo, mid, hi);
```

switch roles of aux[] och a[]

Java 6 systemsort

- The chosen algorithm for sorting objects = mergesort.
 - Cutoff to insertion sort = 7.
 - Stop if already sorted test.
 - Use the no copying to auxillary array trick.

Arrays.sort(a)



http://www.java2s.com/Open-Source/Java/6.0-JDK-Modules/j2me/java/util/Arrays.java.html

Bottom-up Mergesort

Bottom-up mergesort

Basic method

- Pass through the array, merging subarrays of size 1.
- Repeat for subarrays av size 2, 4, 8,

```
a[i]
                                                        9 10 11 12 13 14
     4x = 1
     merge(a, aux, 0, 0, 1)
     merge(a, aux, 2, 2, 3) E M
     merge(a, aux, 4, 4, 5) E M
     merge(a, aux, 6, 6, 7) E M
     merge(a, aux, 8, 8, 9) \to \mathbb{N}
     merge(a, aux, 10, 10, 11) ∈ M
     merge(a, aux, 12, 12, 13) ∈ M
     merge(a, aux, 14, 14, 15)
   s_0 = 2
   merge(a, aux, 0, 1, 3)
   merge(a, aux, 4, 5, 7) E \subseteq M R E
                                             O R S E T A X M
   merge(a, aux, 8, 9, 11)
   merge(a, aux, 12, 13, 15)
 gg = 4
 merge(a, aux, 0, 3, 7)
                                               R S
                                            R R S
                                                     A E E
                                         0
 merge(a, aux, 8, 11, 15)
gz = 8.
merge(a, aux, 0, 7, 15)
```

Bottom-up mergesort: Java implementation

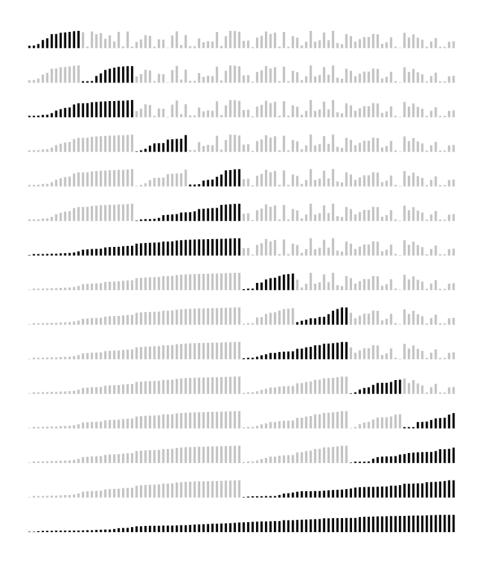
```
public class MergeBU
{
   private static void merge(...)
   { /* as before */ }

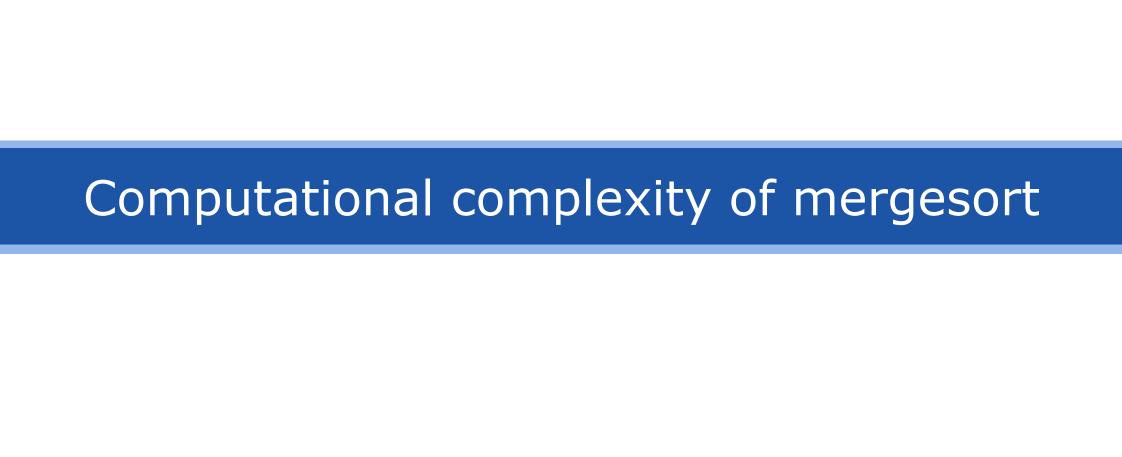
   public static void sort(Comparable[] a)
   {
     int N = a.length;
        Comparable[] aux = new Comparable[N];
        for (int sz = 1; sz < N; sz = sz+sz)
             for (int lo = 0; lo < N-sz; lo += sz+sz)
              merge(a, aux, lo, lo+sz-1, Math.min(lo+sz+sz-1, N-1));
    }
}</pre>
```

approximately 10% slower than, top-down mergesort on most systems

Conclusion. Simple non recursive version of mergesort.

Mergesort: visualization





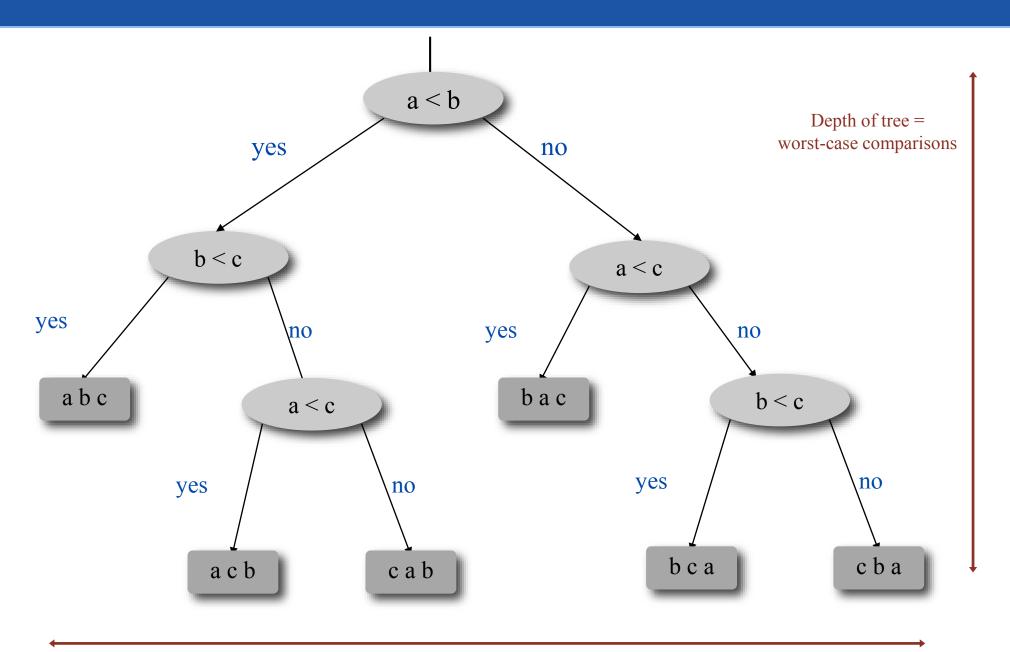
Computational complexity

- Cost model. Number of operations
- Upped bound. Cost guarantee given by some algorithm X.
- Lower bound. No algorithm can cost less than the lower bound.
- Optimal algoritm. Algorithm with best cost guarantee f
 ör X.

Lower bound ~ upper bound

- Exempel: sortng.
 - Model of computation: decision tree: Can only access by comparisons (e.g. Java Comparable framework)
 - Cost model: # compares
 - Upper bound: ~ N lg N från mergesort.
 - Lower bound: ?
 - Optimal algoritm: ?

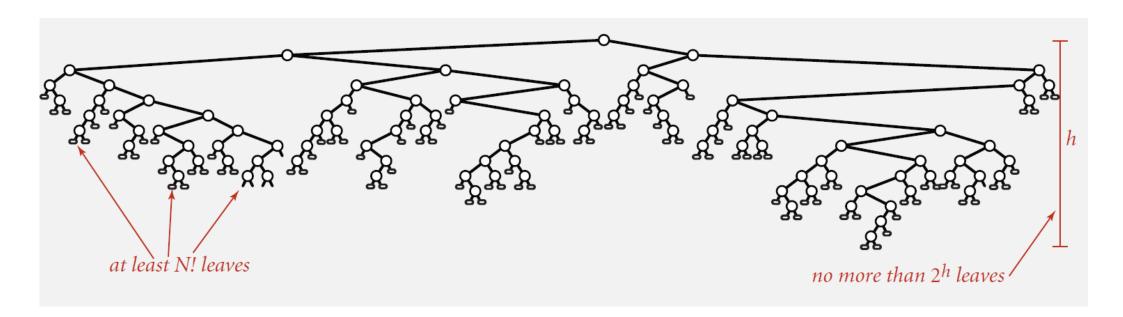
Decision tree (for 3 distinct keys a, b, och c)



Every leaf corresponds to one distinct order, need a leaf for every possible order.

Comparison - based lower bound for sorting

- Theorem. Alla comparison-based sorting algorithmer must compare at least $lg(N!) \sim N lg N$ times in the worst-case
- Proof.
 - We assume that the array consists of N distinct values a_1 to a_N .
 - Worst case is determined by the depth (height) h of the decision tree...
 - A binary tree of depth h has at most 2^h leaves.
 - N! different orders ⇒ at least N! leaves.



Comparison - based lower bound for sorting

• Theorem. All comparison-based sorting algorithms must compare $lg(N!) \sim N lg N$ times in the worst-case.

Proof.

- We assume that the array consists of N distinct values a_1 to a_N .
- Worst case is determined by the height h of the decision tree.
- A binary tree av height h has at most 2^h leaves.
- *N*! Different possible orderings ⇒ at least *N*! leaves.

$$2^{h} \ge \# \text{ leaves } \ge N!$$

 $\Rightarrow h \ge \lg (N!) \sim N \lg N$
Stirlings formel

Time complexity for sorting

- Cost model. Number of operations.
- Upper bound. Guarantee provided by some algorithm.
- Lower bound. Proof that no algorithm X can have a lower cost than the limit.
- Optimal algorithm. Upper bound ~lower bound.

- Example: sorting
 - Model: decision tree.
 - Cost model: # comparisons.
 - Upper bound ~ N lg N fom mergesort.
 - Lower bound: ~ N lg N.
 - Optimal algorithm = mergesort.
- Primary goal of algorithm design: optimal algorithms.

Context

- Comparisons? Mergesort is optimal with respect to comparisons
 - Time complexity
- Space? Mergesort is not optimal with respect to memory
 - Auxillary array



Lesson. Theory helps us find solutions - and stops us from attempting the impossible.

Question: Is there an optimal sorting algorithm with respect to both time and space?

Time complexity in context

- Faster sorting might be achieved if the algorithmen can take advantage of:
 - Invariants in the input.

Ex.: insertion sort need only a linear number of comparions on partially sorted array.

Covered in previous lecture

- Key distribution.

Ex.: When the array contains many duplicates (i.e. if the number of distinct keys is limited). More on this later

Mergesort comparators

Need for comparators

- Forst step to generalize sorting
 - Comparable and compareTo
 - To be able to compare and sort user-defined
 - To implement generic sorting functions
- Second step
 - Work with multiple order relations on the same objects
 - Very common
 - Complex records

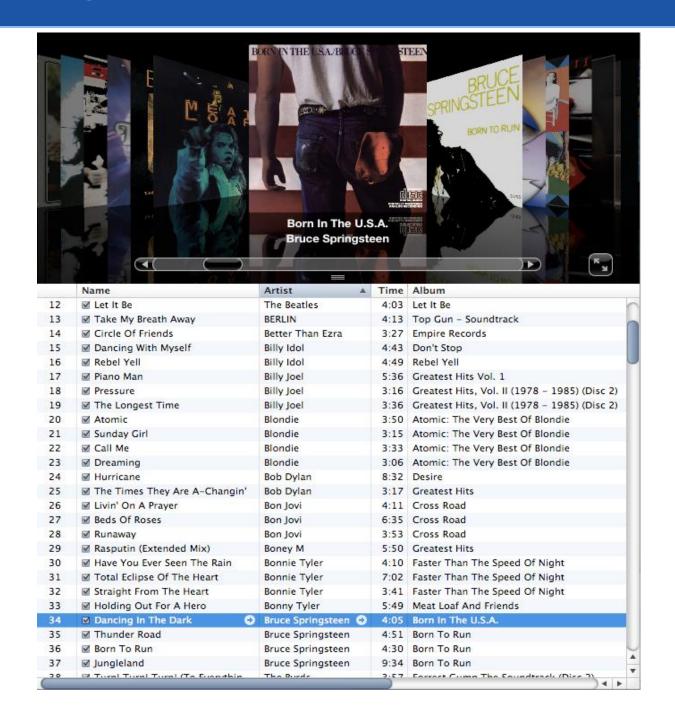
Sorting countries by number of gold medals

NOC \$	Gold ≑	Silver +	Bronze \$	Total ≑
United States (USA)	46	29	29	104
China (CHN)§	38	28	22	88
Great Britain (GBR)*	29	17	19	65
Russia (RUS)§	24	25	32	81
South Korea (KOR)	13	8	7	28
Germany (GER)	11	19	14	44
France (FRA)	11	11	12	34
Italy (ITA)	8	9	11	28
Hungary (HUN)§	8	4	6	18
Australia (AUS)	7	16	12	35

Sorting countries by the total number of medals

NOC \$	Gold +	Silver +	Bronze \$	Total -
United States (USA)	46	29	29	104
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Germany (GER)	11	19	14	44
Japan (JPN)	7	14	17	38
Australia (AUS)	7	16	12	35
France (FRA)	11	11	12	34
South Korea (KOR)	13	8	7	28
Italy (ITA)	8	9	11	28

Sorting music by the name of the artist



Sorting music by the name of the song



Comparable interface: repetition

Comparable interface: sorting with the natural order of a data type.

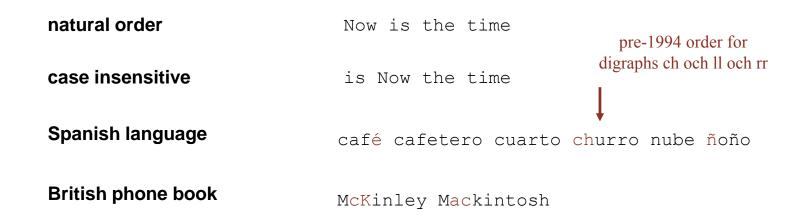
```
public class Date implements Comparable<Date> {
  private final int month, day, year;
  public Date(int m, int d, int y) {
     month = m;
      day = d;
     year = y;
  public int compareTo(Date that) {
      if (this.year < that.year ) return -1;
      if (this.year > that.year ) return +1;
                                                             natural order
      if (this.month < that.month) return -1;
      if (this.month > that.month) return +1;
      if (this.day < that.day ) return -1;
      if (this.day > that.day ) return +1;
      return 0;
```

Comparator interface

Comparator interface: sorting with an alternative order.

```
public interface Comparator<Key>
   int compare(Key v, Key w) jämför nycklar v och w
```

Requirement. Must define a total order.



Decouple comparator interface from the data type

- Can be used with Java system sort:
 - Create a Comparator object.
 - Send as a second argument to Arrays.sort().

```
String[] a; uses natural order given by Comparator String objekt

...

Arrays.sort(a);

Arrays.sort(a, String.CASE_INSENSITIVE_ORDER);

...

Arrays.sort(a, Collator.getInstance(new Locale("es")));

...

Arrays.sort(a, new BritishPhoneBookOrder());

...
```

Comparator interface:

- To used comparators in sorting:
 - Use Object instead of Comparable.
 - Send the Comparator to sort() and less() and use it in less().

insertion sort with a Comparator

```
public static void sort(Object[] a, Comparator comparator)
{
   int N = a.length;
   for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
        for (int j = i; j > 0 && less(comparator, a[j], a[j-1]); j--)
        exch(a, j, j-1);
}

private static boolean less(Comparator c, Object v, Object w) {
   return c.compare(v, w) < 0;
}

private static void exch(Object[] a, int i, int j) {
   Object swap = a[i]; a[i] = a[j]; a[j] = swap;
}</pre>
```

To implement a Comparator interface

- Define a nested class that implements the Comparator interface.
- Implement the compare() method.

```
public class Student {
private final String name;
   private final int section;
  public static class ByName implements Comparator<Student>
    public int compare(Student v, Student w)
         return v.name.compareTo(w.name);
   public static class BySection implements Comparator<Student>
      public int compare(Student v, Student w)
      { return v.section - w.section; }
```

To implement a Comparator interface

- Define a nested class with implement the Comparator interface.
- Implement the compare() method.

Arrays.sort(a, new Student.ByName());

Andrews	3	А	664-480-0023	097 Little
Battle	4	С	874-088-1212	121 Whitman
Chen	3	А	991-878-4944	308 Blair
Fox	3	А	884-232-5341	11 Dickinson
Furia	1	А	766-093-9873	101 Brown
Gazsi	4	В	766-093-9873	101 Brown
Kanaga	3	В	898-122-9643	22 Brown
Rohde	2	А	232-343-5555	343 Forbes

Arrays.sort(a, new Student.BySection());

Furia	1	А	766-093-9873	101 Brown
Rohde	2	А	232-343-5555	343 Forbes
Andrews	3	А	664-480-0023	097 Little
Chen	3	А	991-878-4944	308 Blair
Fox	3	А	884-232-5341	11 Dickinson
Kanaga	3	В	898-122-9643	22 Brown
Battle	4	С	874-088-1212	121 Whitman
Gazsi	4	В	766-093-9873	101 Brown

To implement a Comparator interface

- Definie a nested class with implement the Comparator interface.
- Implement the compare() method.

```
public class Student {
   public static final Comparator<Student> BY NAME = new ByName();
  public static final Comparator<Student> BY SECTION = new BySection();
   private final String name;
   private final int section;
  public static class ByName implements Comparator<Student>
    public int compare(Student v, Student w)
         return v.name.compareTo(w.name);
  public static class BySection implements Comparator<Student>
     public int compare(Student v, Student w)
      { return v.section - w.section; }
```

Mergesort and stability

A problem ?

Common application. First, sort by namn; thereafter by "Section".

Selection.sort(a, new Student.ByName());

Selection.sort(a, new Student.BySection());

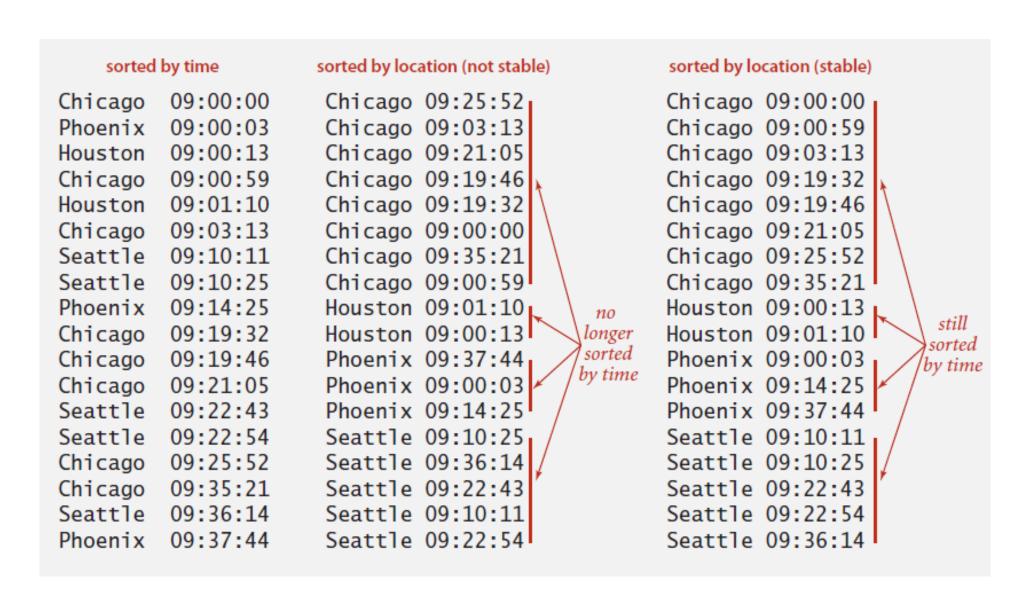
Andrews	3	А	664-480-0023	097 Little
Battle	4	С	874-088-1212	121 Whitman
Chen	3	А	991-878-4944	308 Blair
Fox	3	А	884-232-5341	11 Dickinson
Furia	1	Α	766-093-9873	101 Brown
Gazsi	4	В	766-093-9873	101 Brown
Kanaga	3	В	898-122-9643	22 Brown
Rohde	2	Α	232-343-5555	343 Forbes

Furia	1	А	766-093-9873	101 Brown
Rohde	2	А	232-343-5555	343 Forbes
Chen	3	А	991-878-4944	308 Blair
Fox	3	А	884-232-5341	11 Dickinson
Andrews	3	А	664-480-0023	097 Little
Kanaga	3	В	898-122-9643	22 Brown
Gazsi	4	В	766-093-9873	101 Brown
Battle	4	С	874-088-1212	121 Whitman

- @#%&@! Students in section 3 are no longer sorted by name.
- A stable sorting maintains the relative order of records with equal keys
- The above sorting not stable.

Stability

Which sorting algorithms are stable?
 Need to check algorithm (and implementation) to check for stability.



Stability: insertion sort

Theorem. Insertion sort is stable.

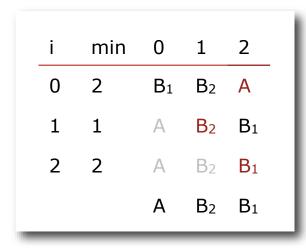
Proof. If keys are equal, then insertion sort will never move one key past the other.

i	j	0	1	2	3	4
0	0	B ₁	A_1	A_2	A ₃	B ₂
1	0	A_1	B ₁	A_2	A_3	B ₂
2	1	A_1	A_2	B ₁	A_3	B ₂
3	2	A_1	A_2	A 3	B ₁	B ₂
4	4	A_1	A_2	A ₃	B ₁	B ₂
		A_1	A_2	A ₃	B ₁	B ₂

Stability: selection sort

Theorem. Selection sort is not stable.

```
public class Selection
   public static void sort(Comparable[] a)
      int N = a.length;
      for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
         int min = i;
         for (int j = i+1; j < N; j++)
            if (less(a[j], a[min]))
               min = j;
         exch(a, i, min);
```



 Proof by counter-example: Long distance swapping kan move an item past an item with the same key.

Stability: shellsort

Sats. Shellsort sort is not stabile.

```
public class Shell {
    public static void sort(Comparable[] a)
        int N = a.length;
        int h = 1;
        while (h < N/3) h = 3*h + 1;
        while (h >= 1)
            for (int i = h; i < N; i++)
                 for (int j = i; j > h && less(a[j], a[j-h]); j -= h)
                     exch(a, j, j-h);
            h = h/3;
                                                                                B_1 B_2 B_3 B_4 A_1
                                                                                A<sub>1</sub> B<sub>2</sub> B<sub>3</sub> B<sub>4</sub> B<sub>1</sub>
                                                                                A<sub>1</sub> B<sub>2</sub> B<sub>3</sub> B<sub>4</sub> B<sub>1</sub>
                                                                                A_1 B_2 B_3 B_4 B_1
```

• Proof by counter-example. Long distance swapping can move an element past another with the same key.

Stability: mergesort

Theorm. Mergesort is stable!!

```
public class Merge
  private static void merge(...)
   {    /* as before */ }
   private static void sort(Comparable[] a, Comparable[] aux, int lo, int hi)
      if (hi <= lo) return;
      int mid = lo + (hi - lo) / 2;
      sort(a, aux, lo, mid);
      sort(a, aux, mid+1, hi);
      merge(a, aux, lo, mid, hi);
  public static void sort(Comparable[] a)
   {    /* as before */ }
```

Proof. It is enough to show that the merge operation is stable. Why?

Stability: mergesort

Theorem. Merging is stable

```
private static void merge(...)
{
    for (int k = lo; k <= hi; k++)
        aux[k] = a[k];

    int i = lo, j = mid+1;
    for (int k = lo; k <= hi; k++)
    {
        if (i > mid) a[k] = aux[j++];
        else if (j > hi) a[k] = aux[i++];
        else if (less(aux[j], aux[i])) a[k] = aux[j++];
        else a[k] = aux[i++];
}
}
```

```
      0
      1
      2
      3
      4

      A1
      A2
      A3
      B
      D

      5
      6
      7
      8
      9
      10

      A4
      A5
      C
      E
      F
      G
```

Proof. Take the value from the left subarray if the keys are equal.

Sorting summary

	inplace?	stable?	best	average	worst	remarks
selection	✓		½ N ²	½ N ²	½ N ²	N exchanges
insertion	✓	√	N	1/4 N ²	½ N ²	use for small <i>N</i> or partially ordered
shell	✓		N log₃ N	?	c N ^{3/2}	tight code; subquadratic
mergesort		✓	½ N lg N	N lg N	N lg N	N log N guarantee; stable
?	✓	✓	N	N lg N	N lg N	holy sorting grail