Sorting

David Croft

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Sorting algorithms

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Sorting is one of the classic problems for learning algorithms.

- Requirement for everything.
- Obvious applications like sorting text, statistics (median calculations).
- Less obvious, sorting objects in games for FOV (Field Of View) calculations.
- Route planning.





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- Compares each item to the next in the sequence.
 - Swap items if in wrong order.





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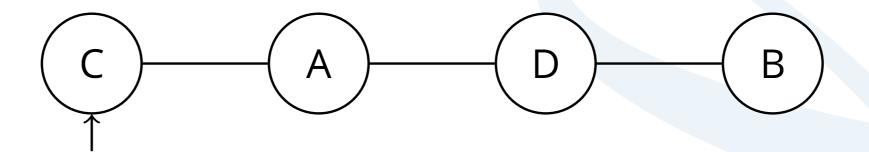
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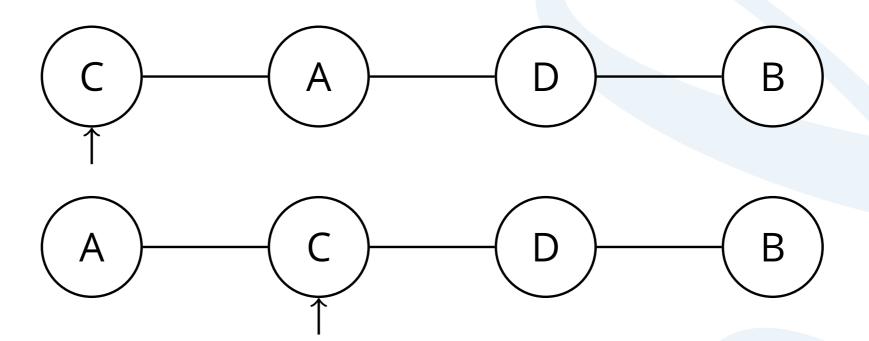
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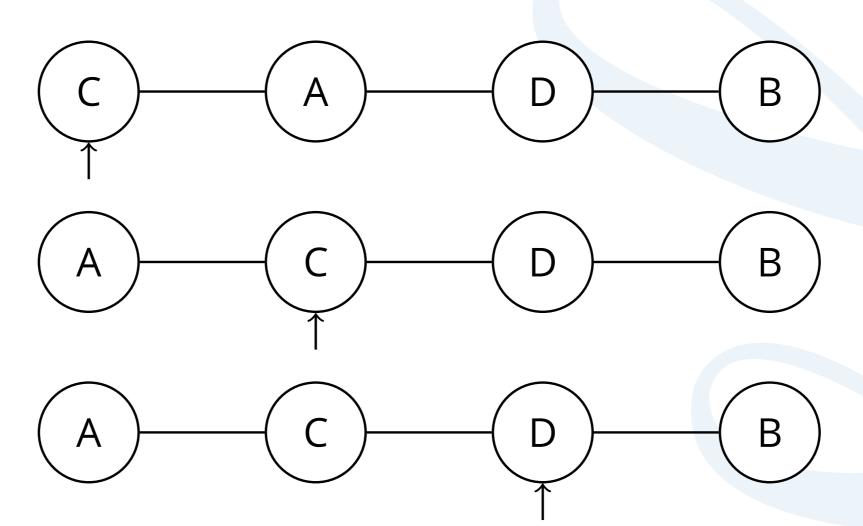
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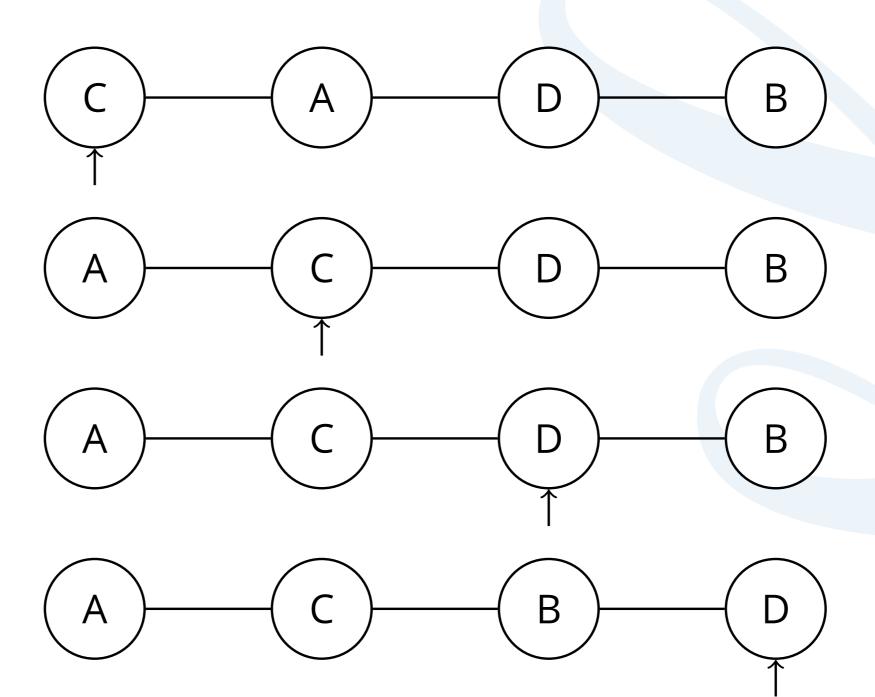
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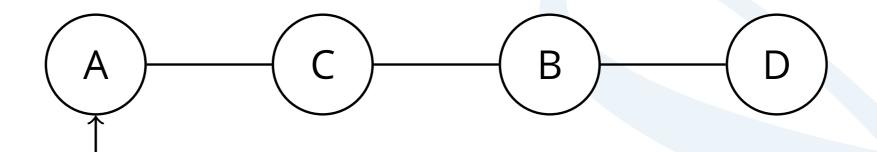
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Iterating over the sequence once isn't typically enough.







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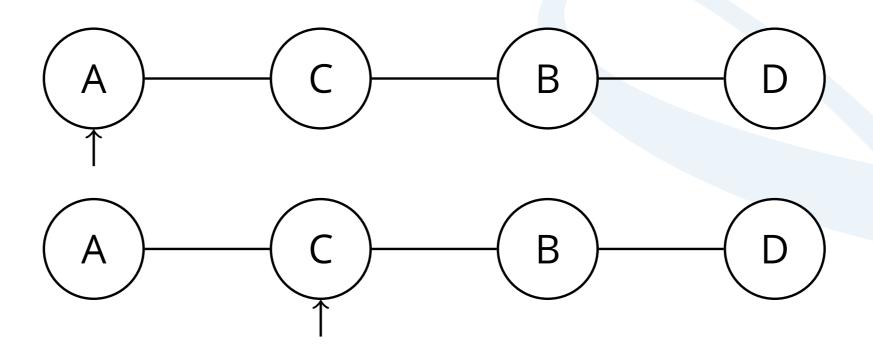
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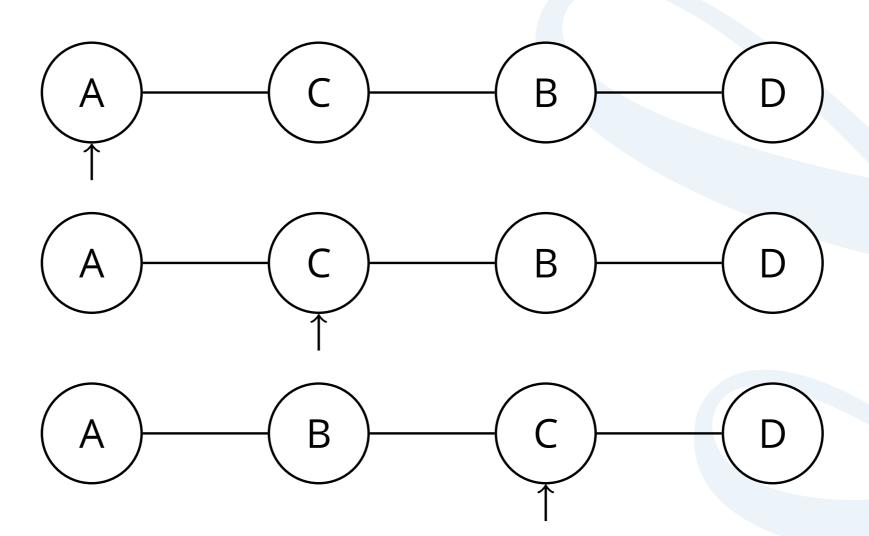
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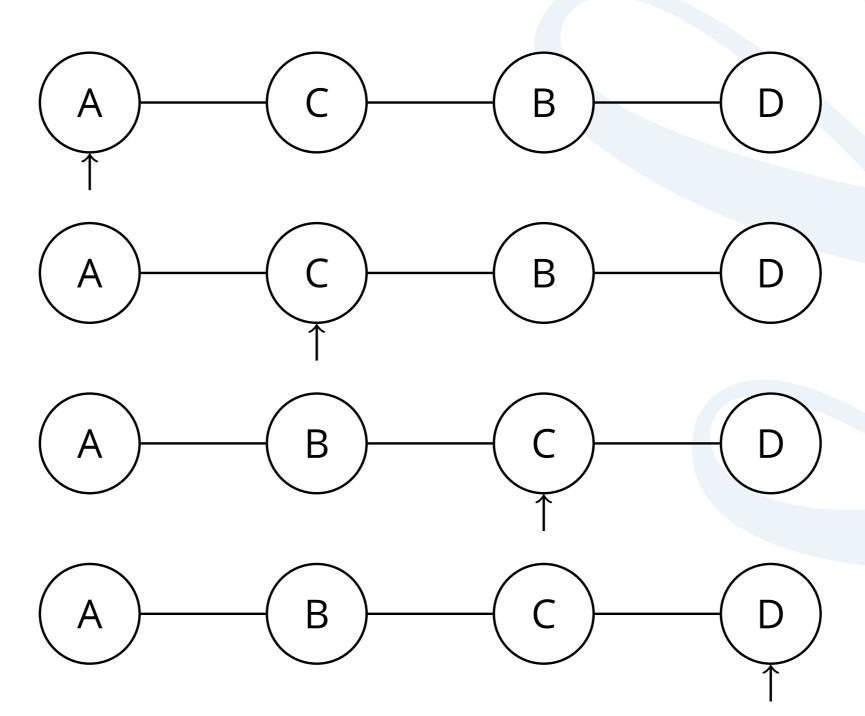
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Bubble sort is what's known as a stable in-place sort.





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Bubble sort is what's known as a stable in-place sort.

Stable meaning that equivalent elements do not change their relative orders.

Not important if e.g. sorting people by height.





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Bubble sort is what's known as a stable in-place sort.

- Not important if e.g. sorting people by height.
- Important if e.g. priority queues.
 - Imagine a queue in an emergency room.





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Bubble sort is what's known as a stable in-place sort.

- Not important if e.g. sorting people by height.
- Important if e.g. priority queues.
 - Imagine a queue in an emergency room.
 - Treat the most serious conditions first, sort people on how bad injury is.





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Bubble sort is what's known as a stable in-place sort.

- Not important if e.g. sorting people by height.
- Important if e.g. priority queues.
 - Imagine a queue in an emergency room.
 - Treat the most serious conditions first, sort people on how bad injury is.
 - If many people have same injury then should be seen based on when entered queue.





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Bubble sort is what's known as a stable in-place sort.

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- Not important if e.g. sorting people by height.
- Important if e.g. priority queues.
 - Imagine a queue in an emergency room.
 - Treat the most serious conditions first, sort people on how bad injury is.
 - If many people have same injury then should be seen based on when entered queue.

With unstable sorting algorithm the relative orders of equivalent elements can be changed.





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In-place meaning that it only needs a small amount of additional memory in order to work.

- More memory efficient than the alternative.
- Can be important if...
 - ...dealing with large amounts of data.
 - ...have limited resources (i.e. embedded systems).
- Bubble sort only needs a few extra variables to swap the elements and to step through the sequence.





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- Explained here to introduce you to sorting concepts.
 - In-place, stable.



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- Explained here to introduce you to sorting concepts.
 - In-place, stable.
- Is rubbish.





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- Explained here to introduce you to sorting concepts.
 - In-place, stable.
- Is rubbish.
 - Horrible performance, average is $O(n^2)$.





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- Explained here to introduce you to sorting concepts.
 - In-place, stable.
- Is rubbish.
 - Horrible performance, average is $O(n^2)$.
 - But best case is only O(n).



Order



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The time taken to sort a sequence depends on:

■ The starting order of the sequence.

For example, Bubblesorting a 100 elements:



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The time taken to sort a sequence depends on:

■ The starting order of the sequence.

For example, Bubblesorting a 100 elements:

- Best case, are already sorted.
 - Iterate over sequence once.
 - 100 comparisons.



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The time taken to sort a sequence depends on:

■ The starting order of the sequence.

For example, Bubblesorting a 100 elements:

- Best case, are already sorted.
 - Iterate over sequence once.
 - 100 comparisons.
- Worst case, in reverse order.
 - Iterate over sequence 100 times.
 - 10,000 comparisons.





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The time taken to sort a sequence depends on:

■ The starting order of the sequence.

For example, Bubblesorting a 100 elements:

- Best case, are already sorted.
 - Iterate over sequence once.
 - 100 comparisons.
- Worst case, in reverse order.
 - Iterate over sequence 100 times.
 - 10,000 comparisons.
- Average case, random order.
 - Somewhere in between.





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- Divides sequence into sorted and unsorted regions.
- Stable/Unstable, depends on implementation.
- In place.
- 1 Iterate over sequence.
- 2 For each element search the remaining elements on its right for the smallest value.
- 3 Swap smallest element with current element.



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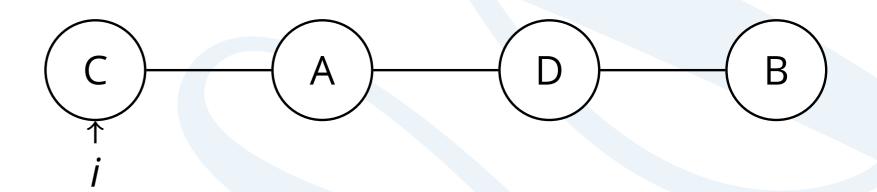
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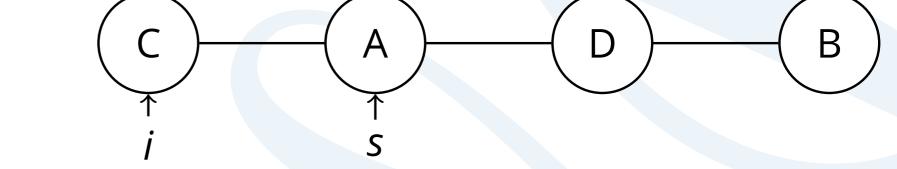
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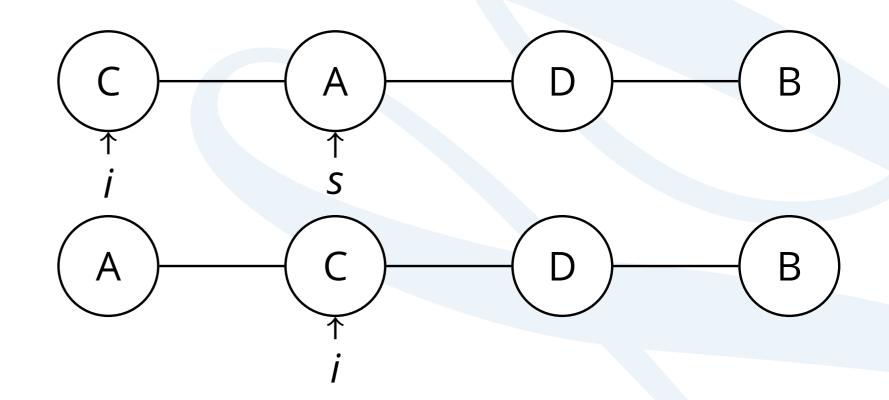
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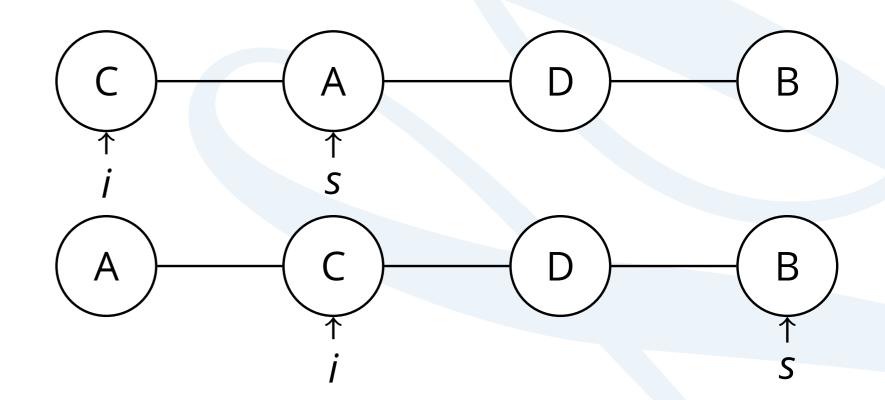
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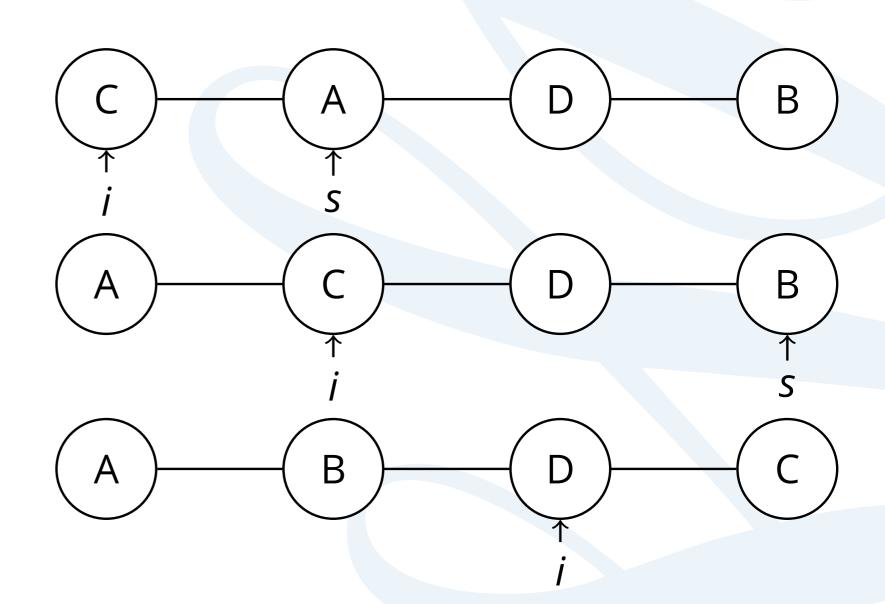
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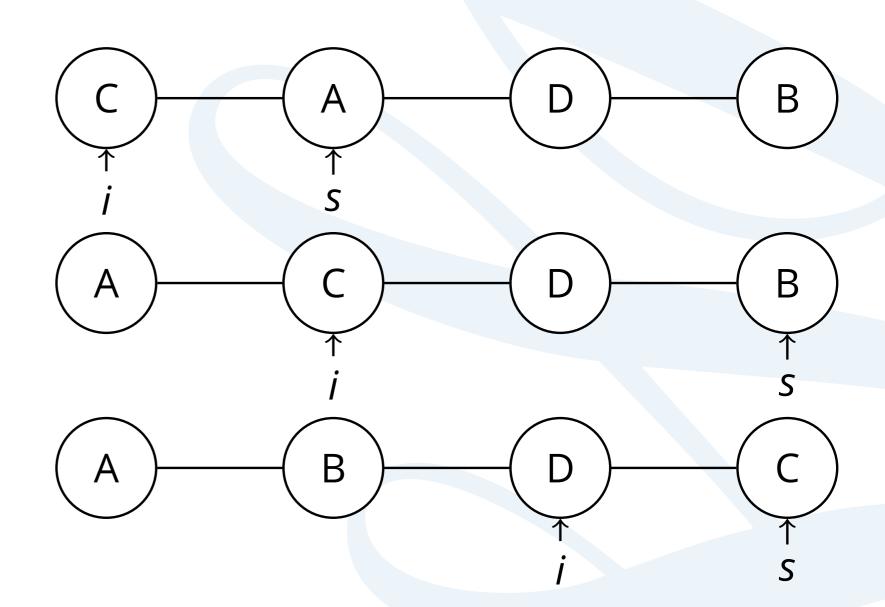
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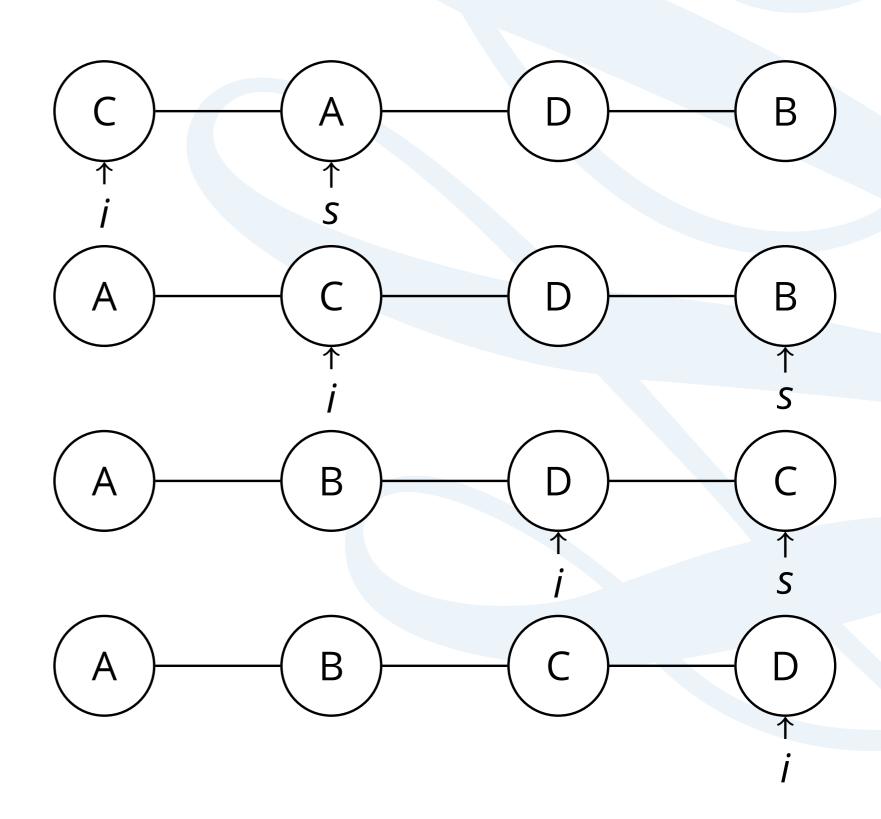
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Bubblesort is $O(n^2)$ worst and average case. Selection sort is $O(n^2)$ worst and average case.

- Selection sort is generally faster than bubble.
 - \blacksquare But have same O() complexity.
 - What?





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Recap

Bubblesort is $O(n^2)$ worst and average case. Selection sort is $O(n^2)$ worst and average case.

- Selection sort is generally faster than bubble.
 - But have same *O*() complexity.
 - What?
- O() notation describes how an algorithm will grow.
- Not good at absolute performances.
- Selection sort typically does fewer comparisons and swaps than bubblesort.
 - Therefore typically faster.
- Best case bubblesort is O(n), selection is $O(n^2)$.
 - Occasionally faster.





Sorting Algorithms



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Recap

Many sorting algorithms

- Different trade-offs, performances. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZuD6iUe3Pc
- Some are just jokes.
- Bead
- 2 Bogo
- 3 Bubble
- 4 Circle
- 5 Cocktail
- 6 Comb
- 7 Counting
- 8 Cycle

- g Gnome
- 10 Heap
- 11 Insert
- 12 Merge
- 13 Pancake
- 14 Patience
- 15 Permutation
- 16 Quick

- 17 Radix
- 18 Selection
- 19 Shell
- 20 Sleep
- 21 Stooge
- 22 Strand
- 23 Tree



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Recap

Neither bubble or selection sort are very good.

- Simple algorithms but slow.
- Not used in real life.

One of the fastest sorting algorithms.

- Used in real life.
- Recursively breaks the sequence in half.
 - Divide & Conquer.



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- Select a value from the sequence, this is the pivot.
- 2 Put all values < pivot in one group.
- Put all values > pivot in another group.
- Treat each group as a new sequence and repeat from step 1.



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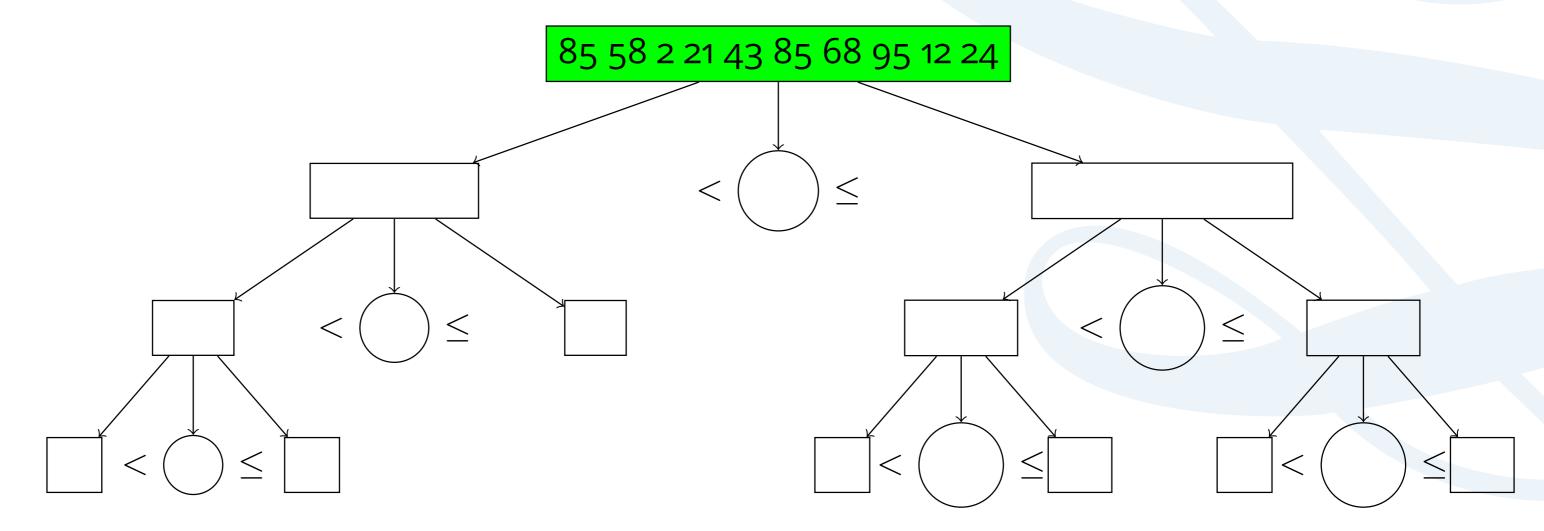
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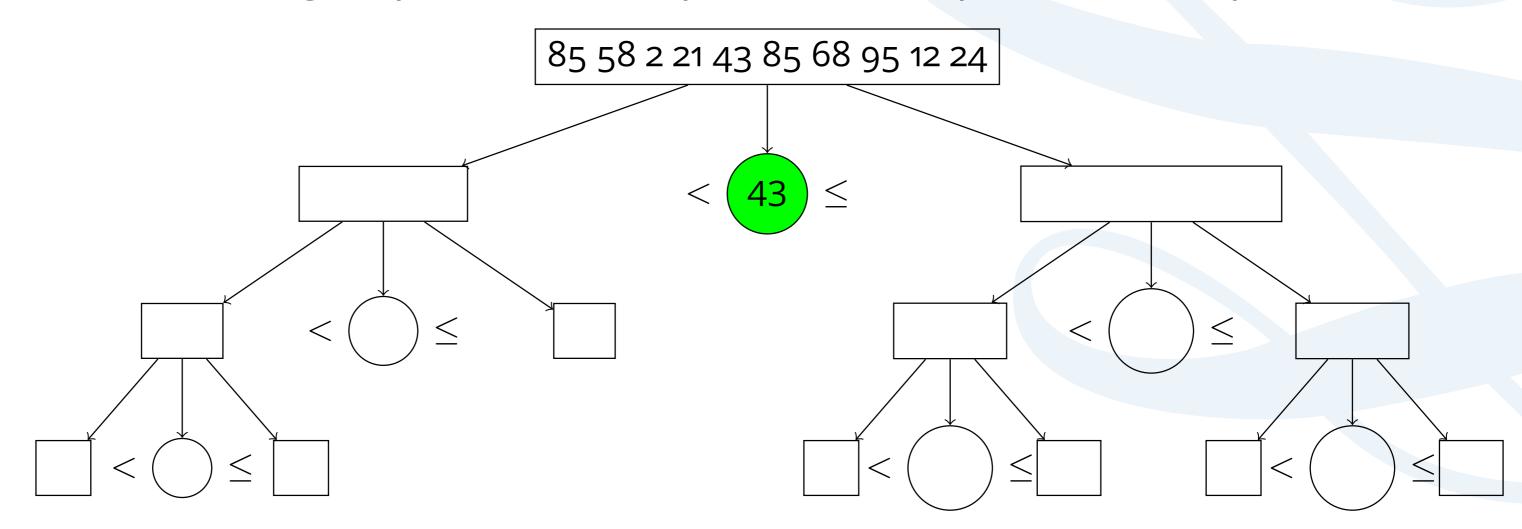
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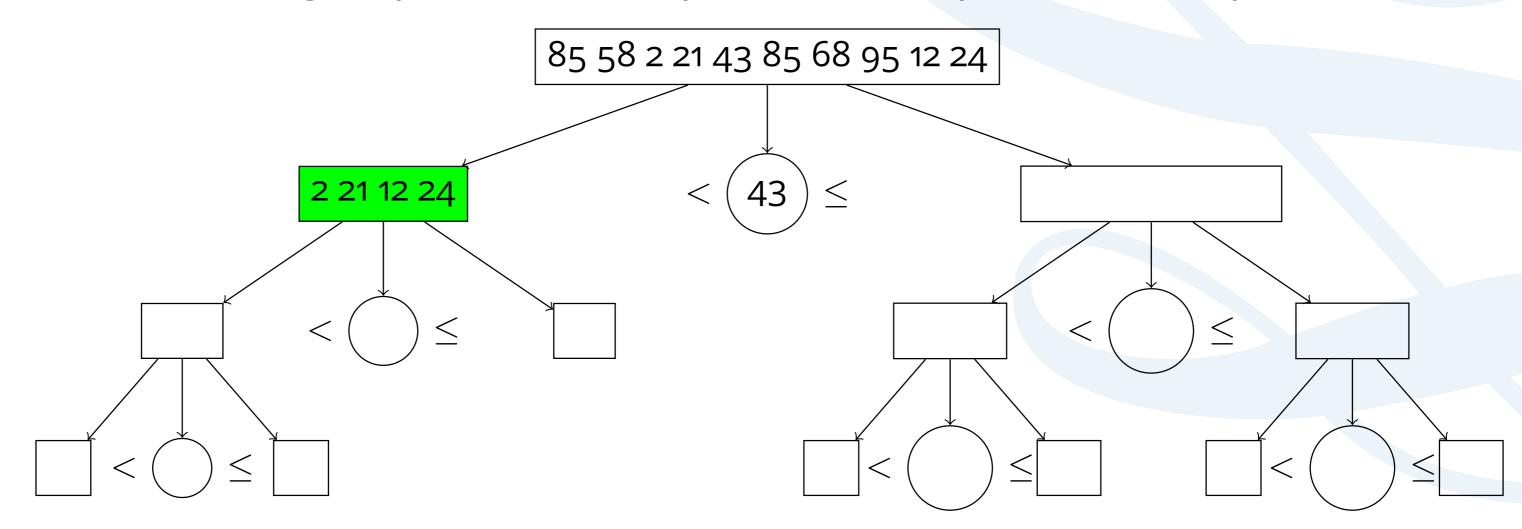
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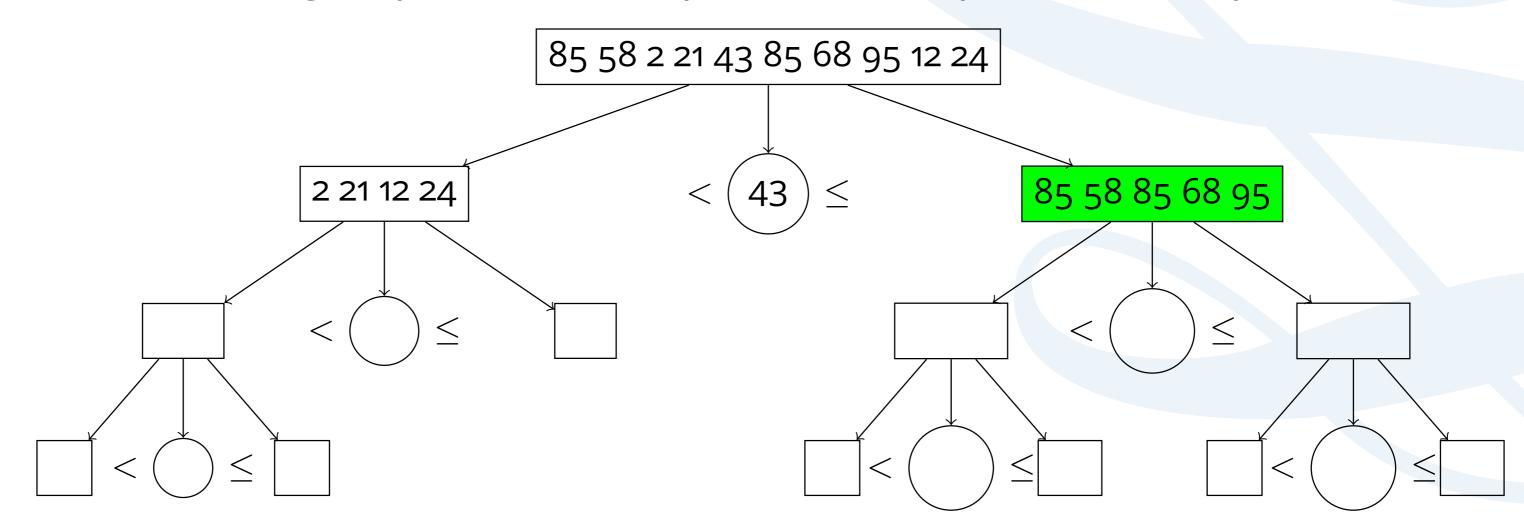
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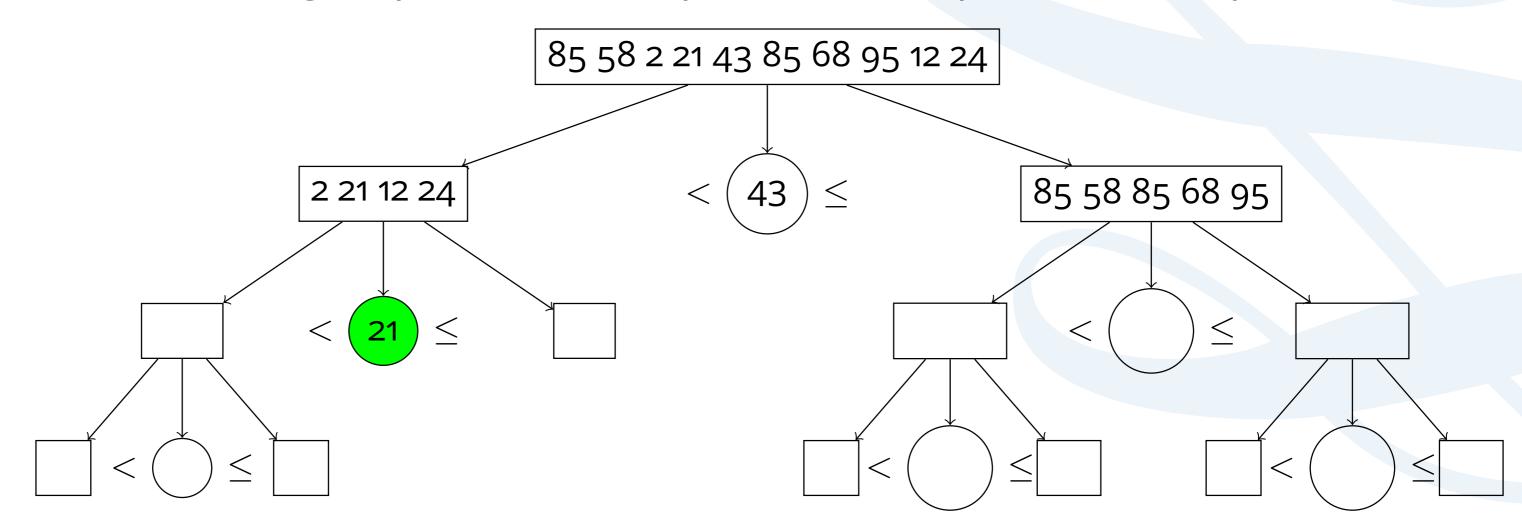
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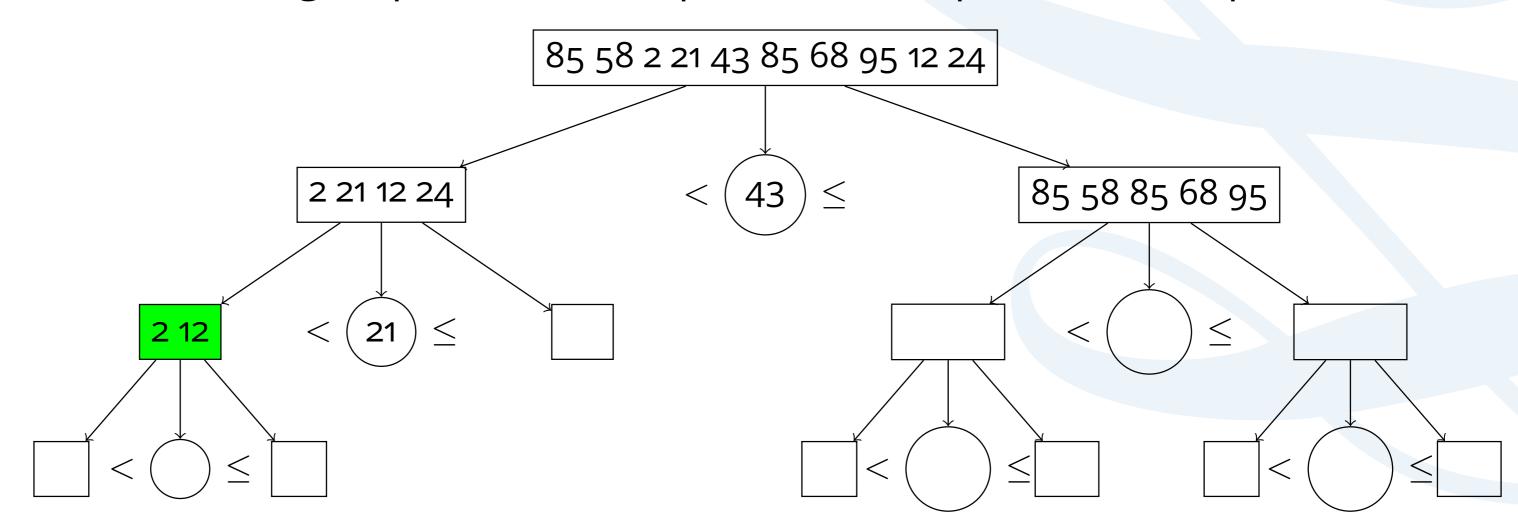
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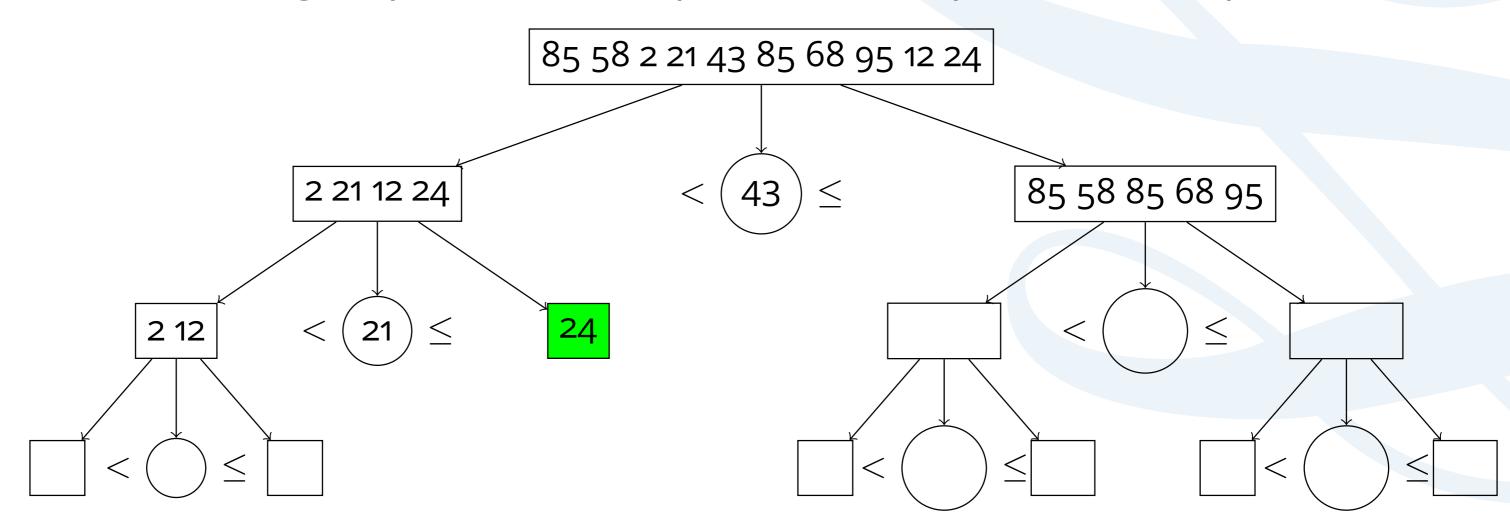
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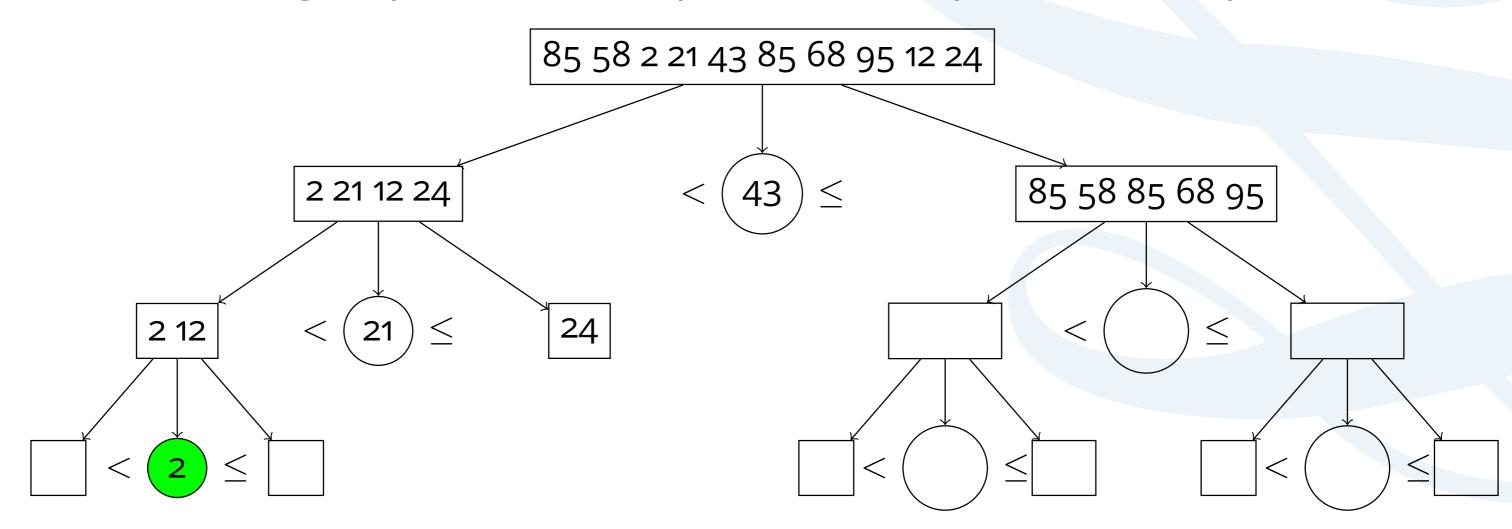
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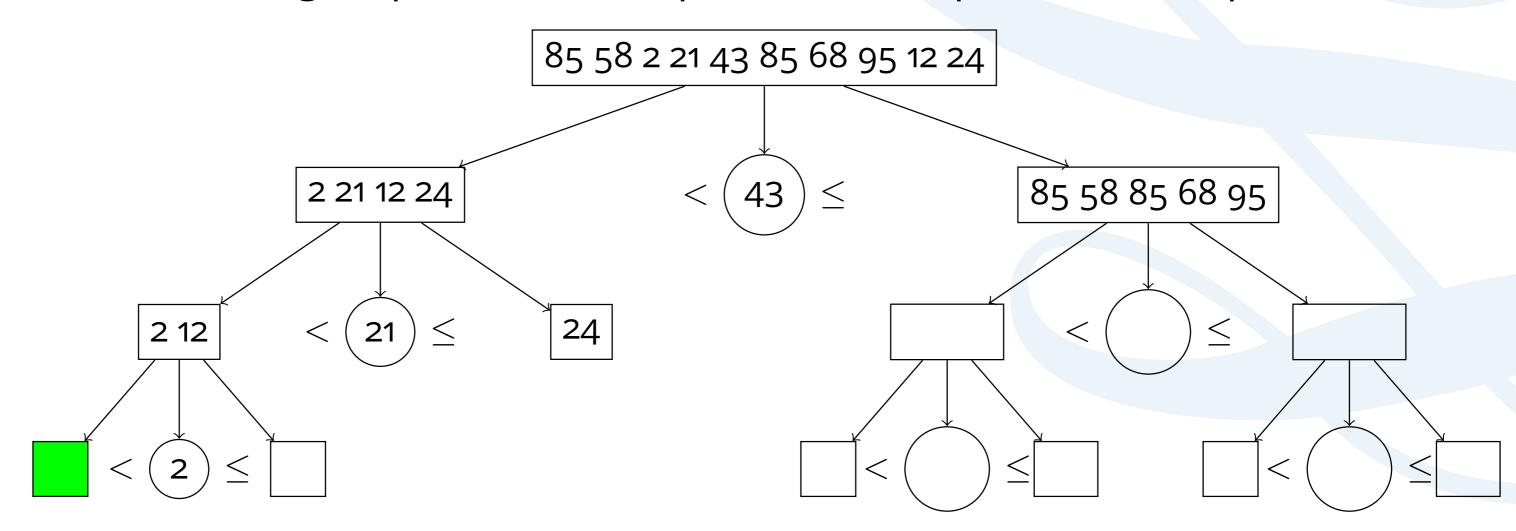
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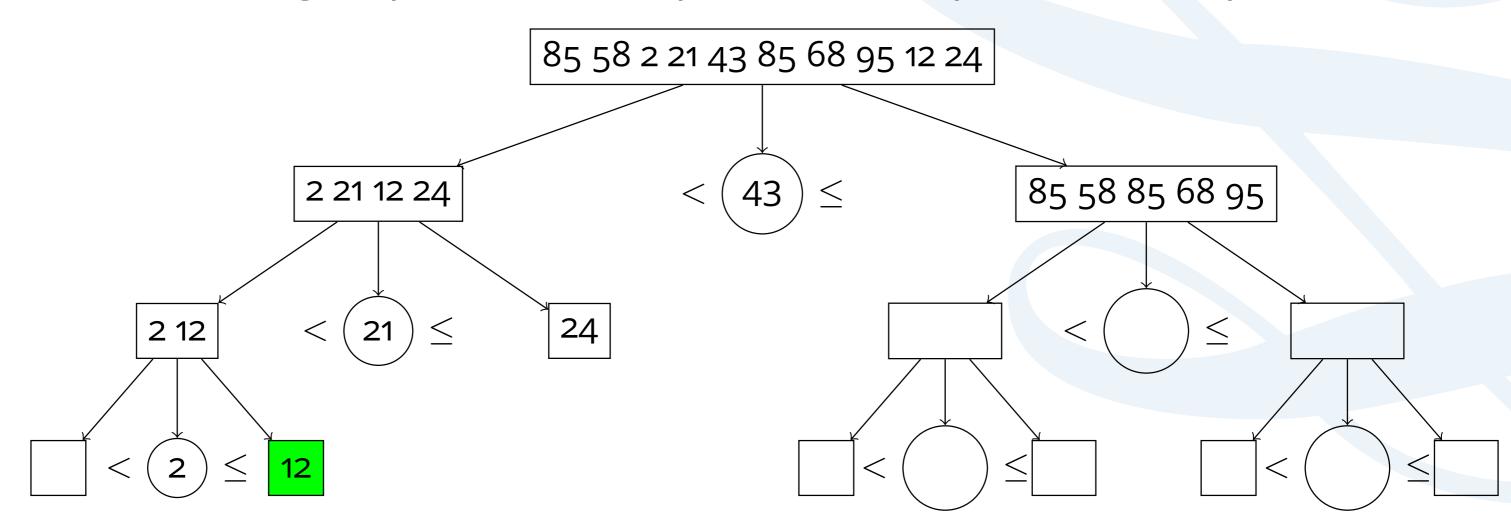
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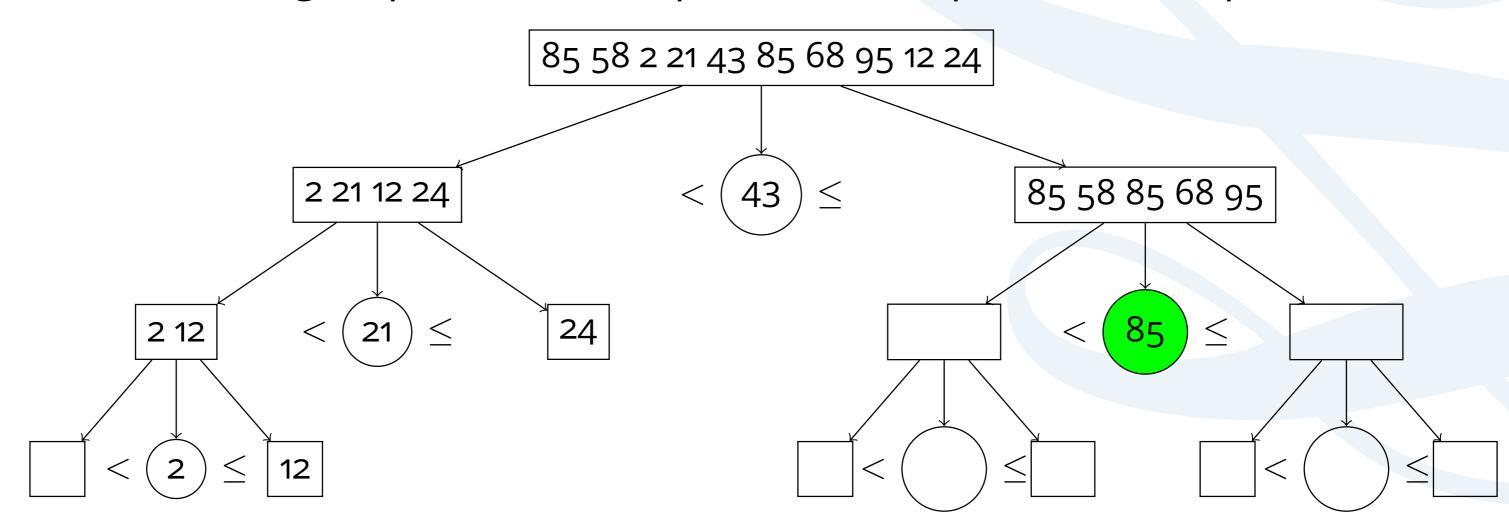
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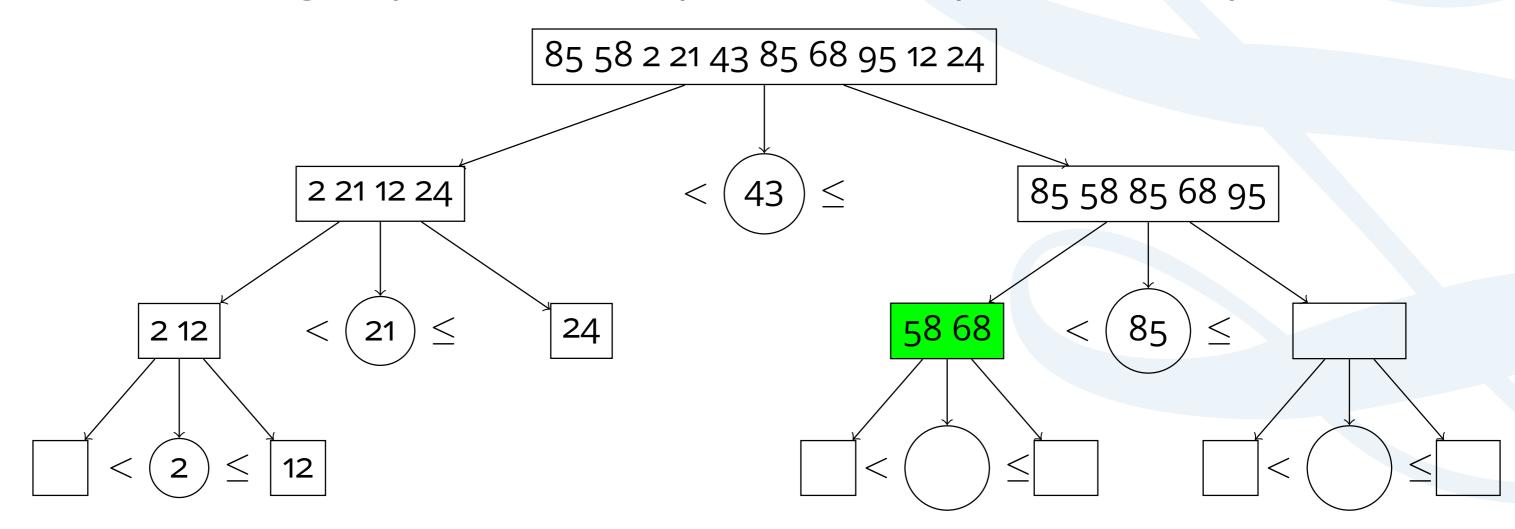
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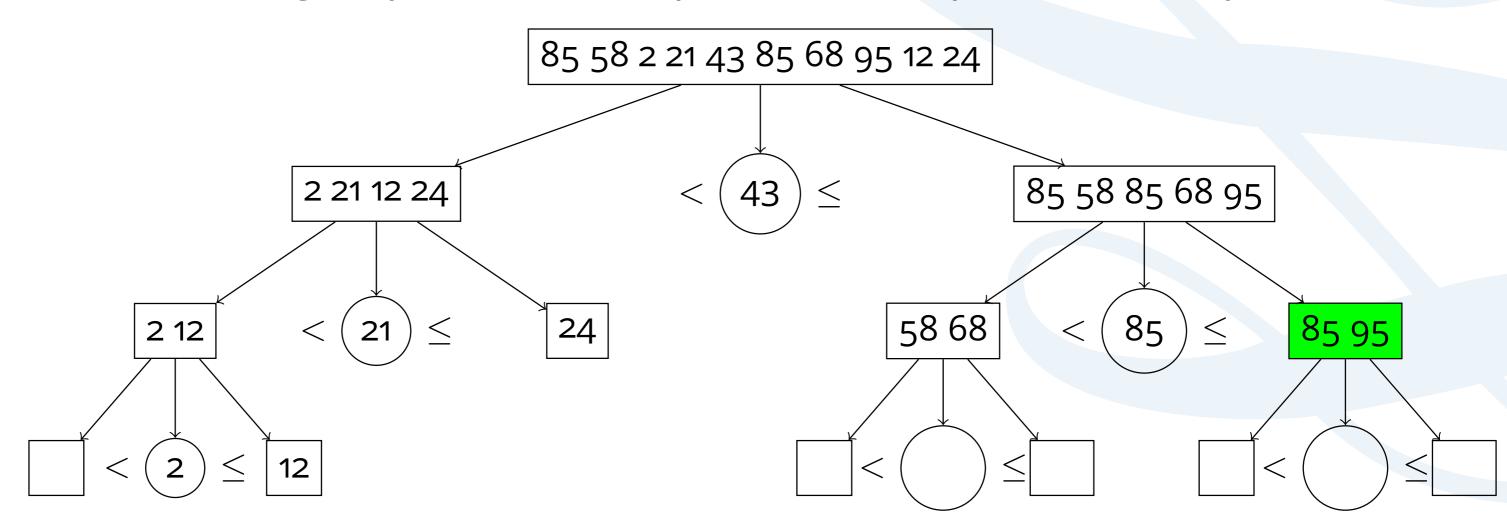
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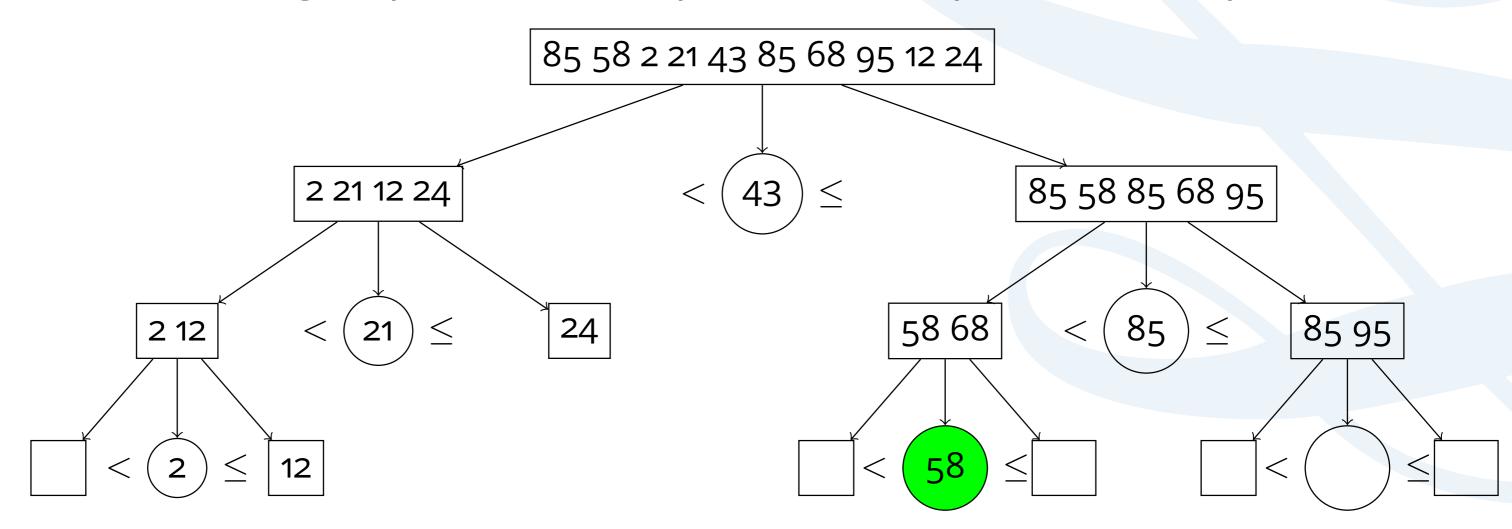
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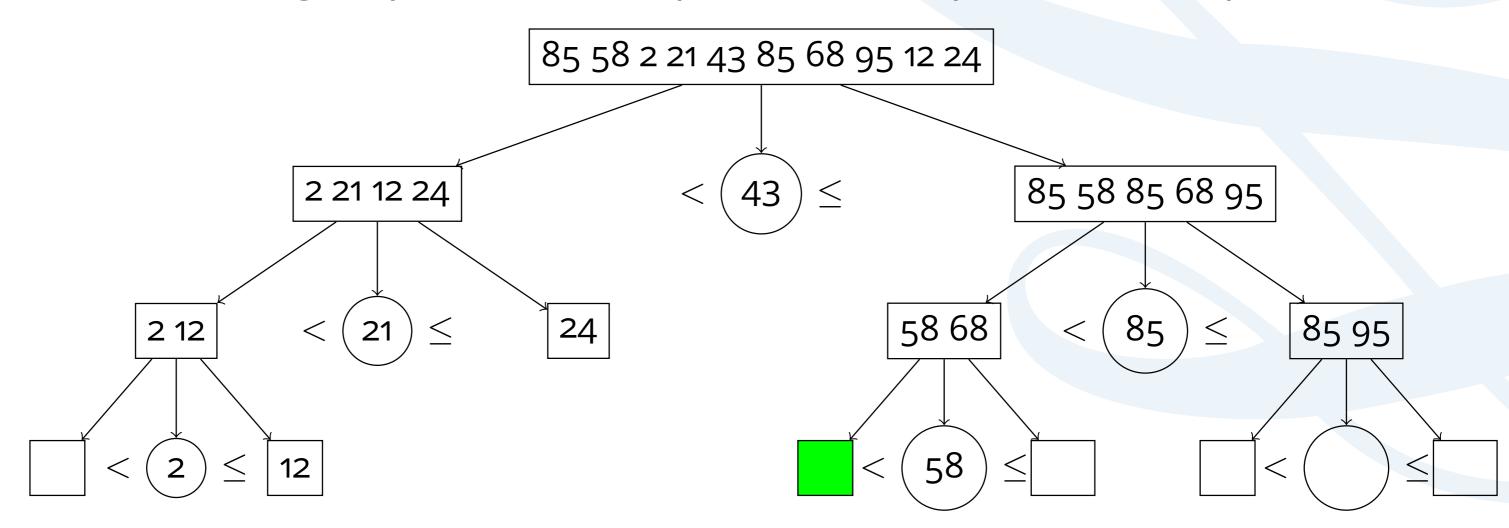
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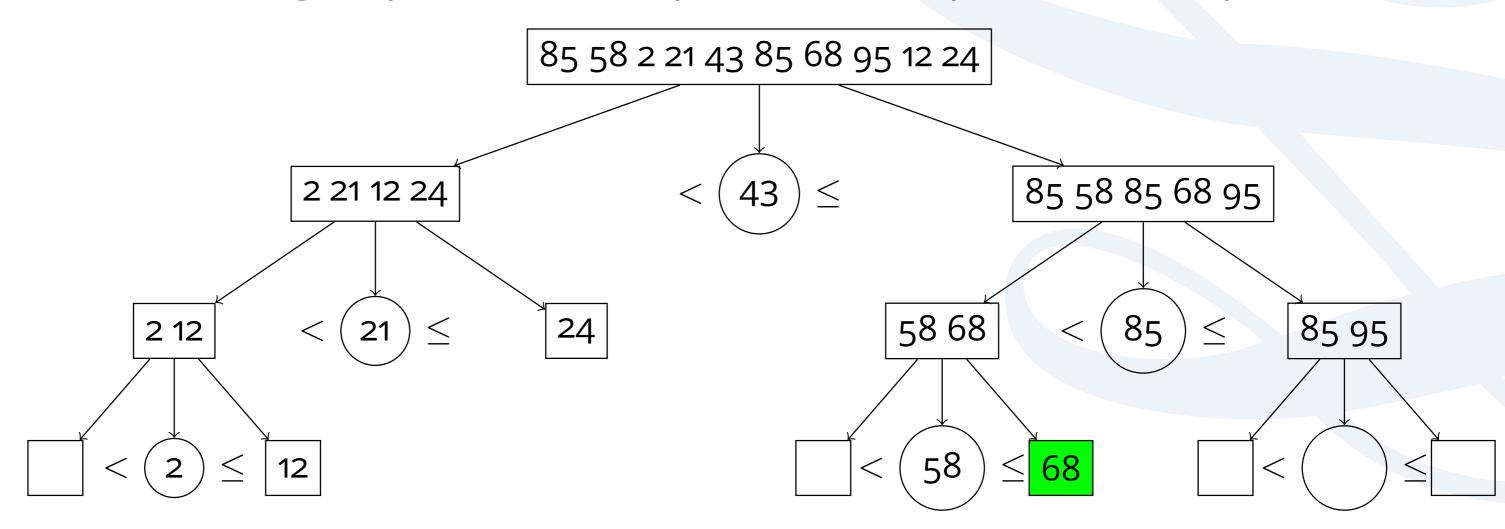
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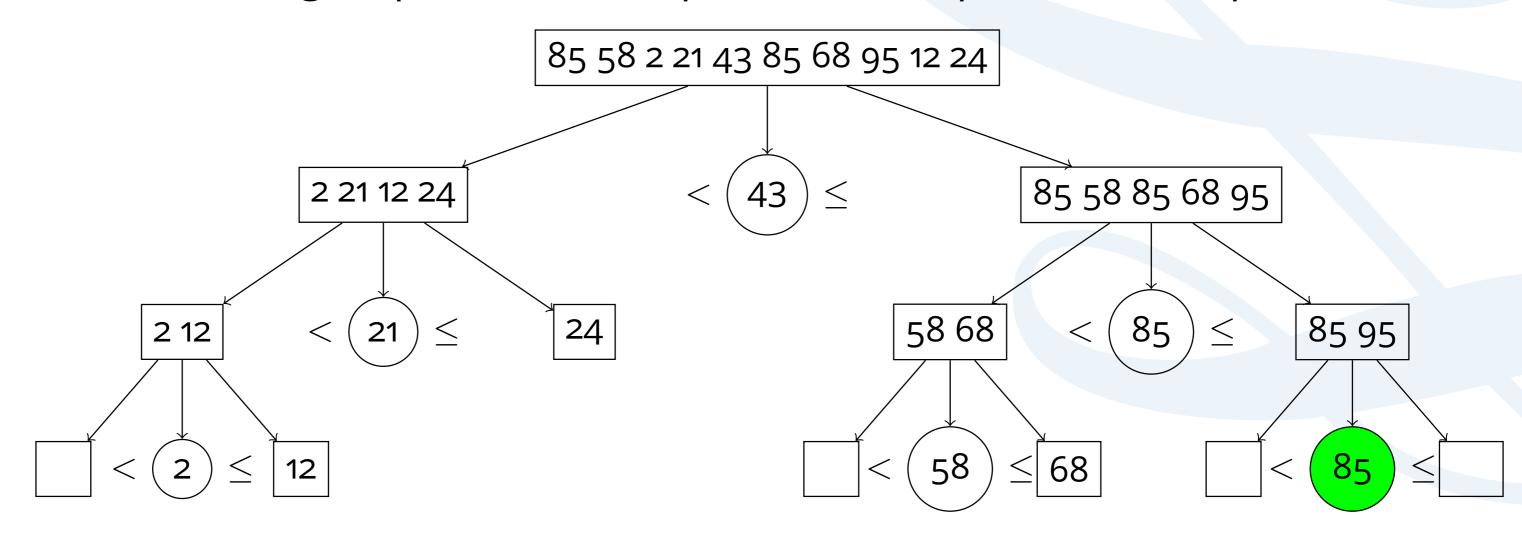
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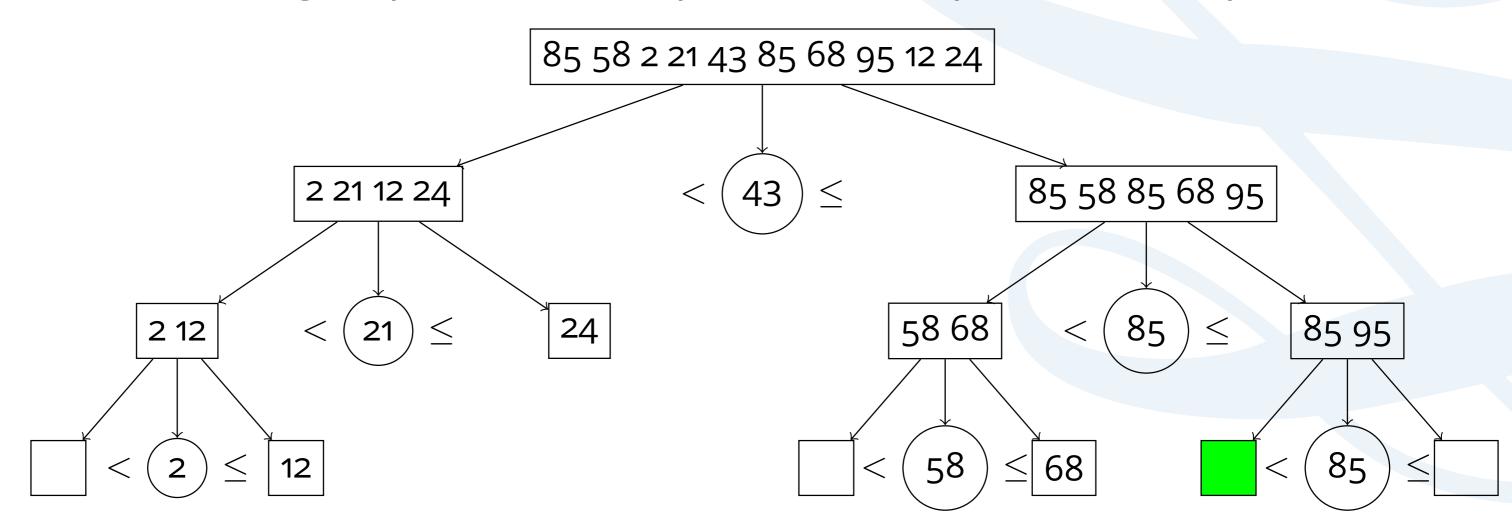
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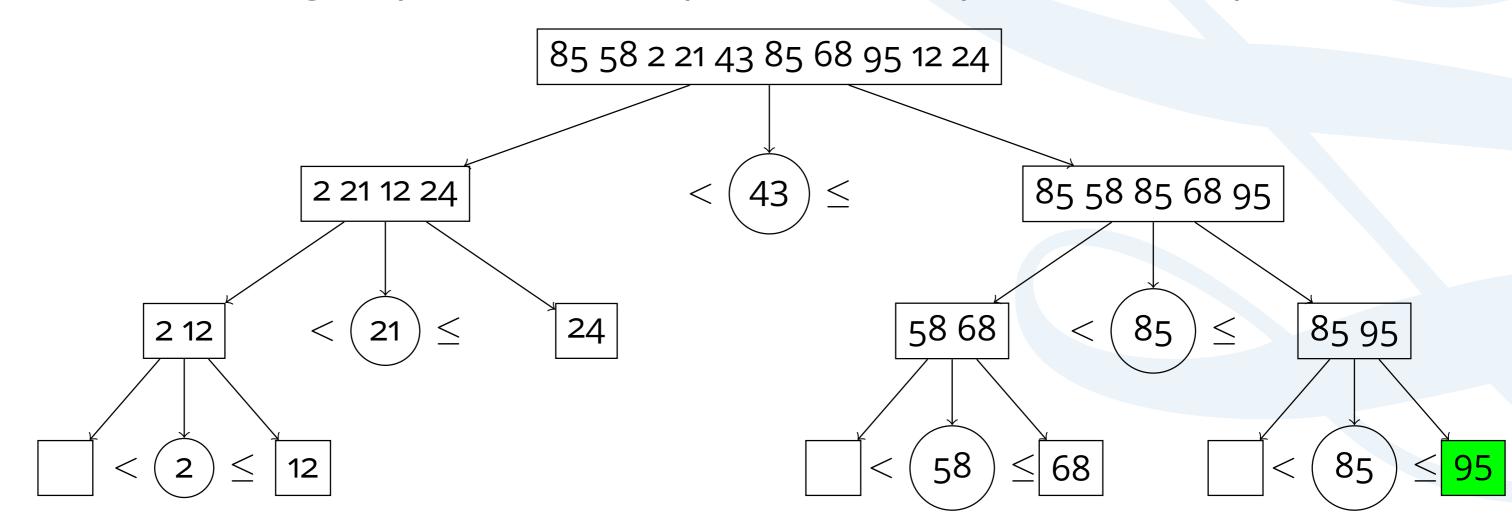
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Quicksort III

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In-place

Selection sort

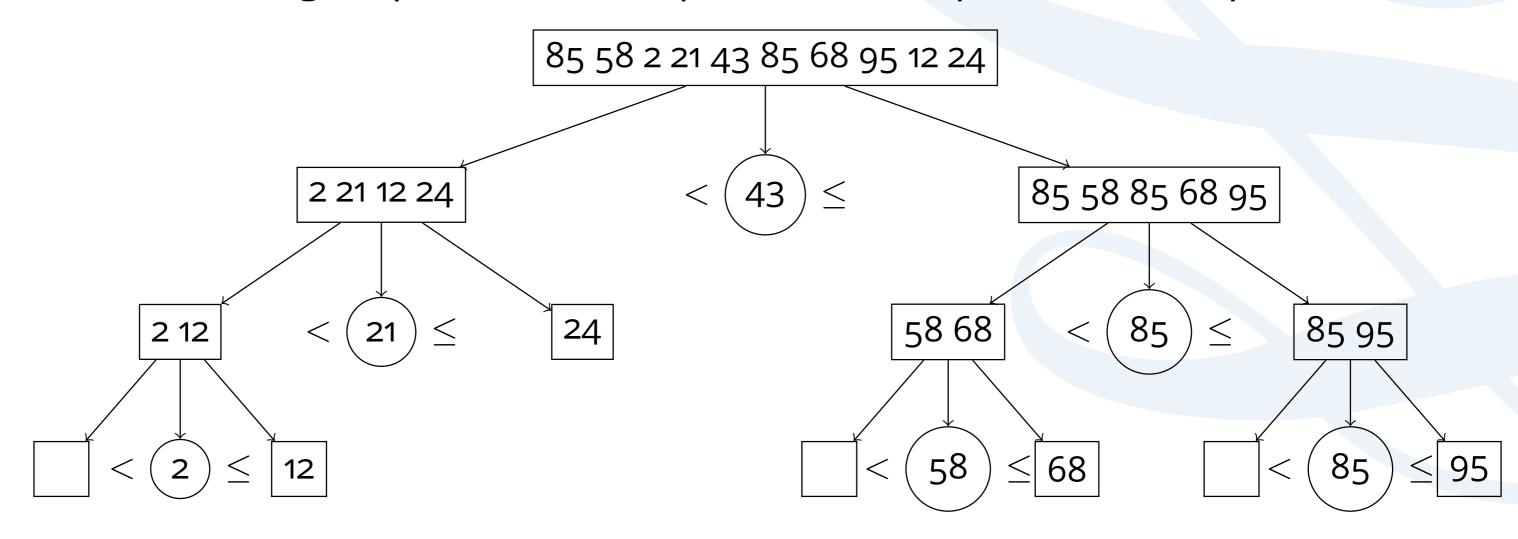
Other algorithms

Quicksort

Divide & Conquer

Comparing

- Select a value from the sequence, this is the pivot.
- Put all values < pivot in one group.</p>
- Put all values > pivot in another group.
- Treat each group as a new sequence and repeat from step 1.





Bubblesort

Stable sort
In-place

Selection sort

Other algorithms

Quicksort

Divide & Conquei

Comparing

Recap

Quicksort is...

- ...sometimes in-place.
 - Depends on implementation.
- ...sometimes stable.
 - Depends on implementation.

Some issues with the original algorithms (1959).

- Choosing the pivot.
 - First element.
 - Middle element.
 - Average of first, middle and last.
- Repeated elements.
 - Fat partition.



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Divide and Conquer



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Recap

Quicksort is a divide and conquer algorithm.

- Too hard to sort the whole sequence?
- Divide the problem.
 - Still too hard?
 - Divide the problem.
 - Still too hard?
 - Divide the problem.
 - Etc, etc, etc.

Naturally suited for parallelism.



Comparing algorithms

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Recap

- Best sorting algorithm depends on multiple factors.
- Good in one situation is bad in another.



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- Best sorting algorithm depends on multiple factors.
- Good in one situation is bad in another.
- Stability? In place?



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- Best sorting algorithm depends on multiple factors.
- Good in one situation is bad in another.
- Stability? In place?
- What are you sorting?
 - Linked lists?
 - Sequential memory (arrays)?



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- Best sorting algorithm depends on multiple factors.
- Good in one situation is bad in another.
- Stability? In place?
- What are you sorting?
 - Linked lists?
 - Sequential memory (arrays)?
- Where are you sorting?
 - RAM?
 - EEPROM? cheap to read, expensive to write.



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- Stability? In place?
- What are you sorting?
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 - Sequential memory (arrays)?
- Where are you sorting?
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 - EEPROM? cheap to read, expensive to write.
- lacksquare Size of n.
 - Insertion sort with small *n*.



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- $lue{}$ Size of n.
 - Insertion sort with small *n*.
- Consistent performance.
 - Selection sort.





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- Best sorting algorithm depends on multiple factors.
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Sorting

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Recap

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Comparing

- Many sorting algorithms.
- Bubblesort.
- Selection sort.
- Quicksort
- Advantages/disadvantages.
 - In place.
 - Stable.
 - Divide and Conquer.
- Performance
 - **O**()
 - Sequence type.
 - Read/writes.
 - \bigcirc Size of n.





Sorting

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The End

