
Recursion

Reading:
Savitch ch. 11

Introduction

- ♦ Sometimes it is useful to define a method in terms of itself.
- ♦ A method definition is *recursive* if it contains a call to itself.
- ♦ The method continues to call itself with ever simpler cases, until a *base case* is reached which can be resolved without any recursive calls.

Example – Searching a phone book

binary search 二分查找

- ◆ Open the book to the middle.
- ◆ If the name is on that page, you're done.
- ◆ If the name comes before the names on the page, use the same approach to search for the name in the first half of the phone book.
- ◆ Otherwise use the same approach to search for the name in the second half of the phone book.

Case Study – Digits to Words

Savitch p 783

- ♦ Write a method definition **displayAsWords** that accepts a single **int** and produces words representing its digits.
- ♦ Example:
Input: **223**
Output: **two two three**
- ♦ Recursive algorithm
 - output all but the last digit as words
 - output the word for the last digit

Case Study – Digits to Words

- ♦ Use a helper method **getWordFromDigit** to get the word for a number < 10 (“one”, “two”, ...).
- ♦ To “chop off” the last digit, use integer division by 10
 $(327 / 10) // 32$
- ♦ To get just the last digit, use $\% 10$
 $(327 \% 10) // 7$
- ♦ See **RecursionDemo.java** under SavitchSrc on the course website

Case Study – Digits to Words

- ♦ The **base case** is when number is a single digit (**number < 10**).
- ♦ In this case, we just print the String returned by **getWordFromDigit**

```
System.out.print(getWordFromDigit(number) + " ");
```

Case Study – Digits to Words

- ◆ If (**number** **>= 10**) we call **displayAsWords** with all except the last digit, then print the last digit.

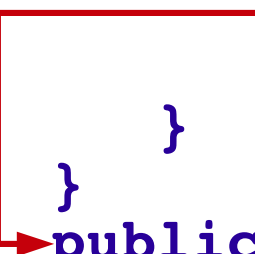
```
displayAsWords(number/10); // last digit removed  
System.out.print(getWordFromDigit(number%10) + " ");
```

How Recursion Works

- ◆ Nothing special is required to handle a call to a recursive method.
- ◆ At each call, the needed arguments are provided and the code is executed.
- ◆ When the method completes, control returns to the statement following the call to the method.
在每一次递归调用结束后，控制权会返回到调用该递归的那一行的后续代码上，逐级回退，直到回到最开始的调用处。
- ◆ See example (987) on the following slides


```
public void displayAsWords(int 987) {  
    if (987 < 10) {  
        System.out.print(getWordFromDigit(987) + " ");  
    } else {  
        98  
        displayAsWords(987/10);  
        System.out.print(getWordFromDigit(987%10) + " ");  
    }  
}
```

```
public void displayAsWords(int 987) {  
    if (987 < 10) {  
        System.out.print(getWordFromDigit(987) + " ");  
    } else {  
        98  
        displayAsWords(987/10);  
        System.out.print(getWordFromDigit(987%10) + " ");  
    }  
}  
→ public void displayAsWords(int 98) {  
    if (98 < 10) {  
        System.out.print(getWordFromDigit(98) + " ");  
    } else {  
        9  
        displayAsWords(98/10);  
        System.out.print(getWordFromDigit(98%10) + " ");  
    }  
}
```



```
public void displayAsWords(int 987) {
    if (987 < 10) {
        System.out.print(getWordFromDigit(987) + " ");
    } else {
        98
        displayAsWords(987/10);
        System.out.print(getWordFromDigit(987%10) + " ");
    }
}
→ public void displayAsWords(int 98) {
    if (98 < 10) {
        System.out.print(getWordFromDigit(98) + " ");
    } else {
        9
        displayAsWords(98/10);
        System.out.print(getWordFromDigit(98%10) + " ");
    }
}
→ public void displayAsWords(int 9) {
    if (9 < 10) {
        System.out.print(getWordFromDigit(9) + " ");
    } else {
        displayAsWords(9/10);    nine
        System.out.print(getWordFromDigit(9%10) + " ");
    }
}
```

```

public void displayAsWords(int 987) {
    if (987 < 10) {
        System.out.print(getWordFromDigit(987) + " ");
    } else {
        98
        displayAsWords(987/10);
        System.out.print(getWordFromDigit(987%10) + " ");
    }
}
→ public void displayAsWords(int 98) {
    if (98 < 10) {
        System.out.print(getWordFromDigit(98) + " ");
    } else {
        9
        displayAsWords(98/10);
        System.out.print(getWordFromDigit(98%10) + " ");
    }
}
→ public void displayAsWords(int 9) {
    if (9 < 10) {
        System.out.print(getWordFromDigit(9) + " ");
    } else {
        displayAsWords(9/10);
        System.out.print(getWordFromDigit(9%10) + " ");
    }
}

```

Diagram illustrating the recursive calls for the `displayAsWords` method with input 987. Red arrows show the sequence of calls: `displayAsWords(987)` calls `displayAsWords(98)`, which calls `displayAsWords(9)`. Red annotations and brackets highlight the return values and the words associated with the base cases:

- For `displayAsWords(987)`, the recursive call returns 98, and the digit 987%10 is 7, which corresponds to the word "seven".
- For `displayAsWords(98)`, the recursive call returns 9, and the digit 98%10 is 8, which corresponds to the word "eight".
- For `displayAsWords(9)`, the digit 9%10 is 9, which corresponds to the word "nine".

```
public void displayAsWords(int 987) {  
    if (987 < 10) {  
        System.out.print(getWordFromDigit(987) + " ");  
    } else {  
        98  
        displayAsWords(987/10);  
        7  
        System.out.print(getWordFromDigit(987%10) + " ");  
    }  
}  
→ public void displayAsWords(int 98) {  
    if (98 < 10) {  
        System.out.print(getWordFromDigit(98) + " ");  
    } else {  
        9  
        displayAsWords(98/10);  
        8  
        System.out.print(getWordFromDigit(98%10) + " ");  
    }  
}  
→ public void displayAsWords(int 9) {  
    if (9 < 10) {  
        System.out.print(getWordFromDigit(9) + " ");  
    } else {  
        displayAsWords(9/10);  
        nine  
        System.out.print(getWordFromDigit(9%10) + " ");  
    }  
}
```

The diagram illustrates the recursive process of converting the number 987 into words. Red arrows trace the sequence of recursive calls from the initial call to the base case. Brackets and labels indicate the return values of the recursive calls: 'seven' for the call with 987, 'eight' for the call with 98, and 'nine' for the call with 9.

Recursion Guidelines

- ♦ The definition of a recursive method typically includes an **if-else** statement.
 - ♦ One branch represents a **base case** which can be solved directly – without recursion.
 - ♦ Another branch includes a **recursive call** to the method, but with simpler or smaller arguments.
- ♦ The base case must be reached eventually.

Recursion Guidelines

- ♦ If the recursive call inside the method does not use a smaller or simpler argument, the base case may never be reached.
- ♦ The method then calls itself forever (or until resources run out).
- ♦ This is called *infinite recursion*.

Recursion vs. Iteration

- ♦ Any recursive method can be written without using recursion.
- ♦ Typically this is done with a loop.
- ♦ The resulting method is called the *iterative version*.
- ♦ See **RecursionDemo.java** and **IterativeDemo.java** under SavitchSrc on the course website

Recursion vs. Iteration

- ♦ A recursive version of a method typically executes less efficiently than the iterative version.
- ♦ This is because the computer must keep track of the recursive calls and the suspended computations.
- ♦ However, sometimes it is much easier to write a method recursively than iteratively.

Exercise 1

Self-Test Question 1, page 792. What is the output?

```
public class RecursionExercise {  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        methodA(3);  
    }  
  
    public static void methodA(int n) {  
        if (n < 1)  
            System.out.println("B");  
        else {  
            methodA(n - 1);  
            System.out.println("R");  
        }  
    }  
}
```

```
public static void methodA(int 3) {  
    if (3 < 1) System.out.println("B");  
    else {  
        methodA(3 - 1);  
        System.out.println("R");  
    }  
}  
→ public static void methodA(int 2) {  
    if (2 < 1) System.out.println("B");  
    else {  
        methodA(2 - 1);  
        System.out.println("R");  
    }  
}  
→ public static void methodA(int 1) {  
    if (1 < 1) System.out.println("B");  
    else {  
        methodA(1 - 1);  
        System.out.println("R");  
    }  
}  
→ public static void methodA(int 0) {  
    if (0 < 1) System.out.println("B"); → B  
    else {  
        methodA(0 - 1);  
        System.out.println("R");  
    }  
}
```

**Output:
B**

recursion

```
public static void methodA(int 3) {  
    if (3 < 1) System.out.println("B");  
    else {  
        methodA(3 - 1);  
        System.out.println("R");  
    }  
}
```

```
public static void methodA(int 2) {  
    if (2 < 1) System.out.println("B");  
    else {  
        methodA(2 - 1);  
        System.out.println("R");  
    }  
}
```

```
public static void methodA(int 1) {  
    if (1 < 1) System.out.println("B");  
    else {  
        methodA(1 - 1);  
        System.out.println("R");  
    }  
}
```

```
public static void methodA(int 0) {  
    if (0 < 1) System.out.println("B");  
    else {  
        methodA(0 - 1);  
        System.out.println("R");  
    }  
}
```

Output:
B
R

unwing

```
public static void methodA(int 3) {  
    if (3 < 1) System.out.println("B");  
    else {  
        methodA(3 - 1);  
        System.out.println("R");  
    }  
}  
→ public static void methodA(int 2) {  
    if (2 < 1) System.out.println("B");  
    else {  
        methodA(2 - 1);  
        System.out.println("R"); → R  
    }  
}  
→ public static void methodA(int 1) {  
    if (1 < 1) System.out.println("B");  
    else {  
        methodA(1 - 1);  
        System.out.println("R"); → R  
    }  
}  
→ public static void methodA(int 0) {  
    if (0 < 1) System.out.println("B"); → B  
    else {  
        methodA(0 - 1);  
        System.out.println("R");  
    }  
}
```

Output:

**B
R
R**

unwing

```
public static void methodA(int 3) {  
    if (3 < 1) System.out.println("B");  
    else {  
        methodA(3 - 1);  
        System.out.println("R");  
    }  
}  
public static void methodA(int 2) {  
    if (2 < 1) System.out.println("B");  
    else {  
        methodA(2 - 1);  
        System.out.println("R");  
    }  
}  
public static void methodA(int 1) {  
    if (1 < 1) System.out.println("B");  
    else {  
        methodA(1 - 1);  
        System.out.println("R");  
    }  
}  
public static void methodA(int 0) {  
    if (0 < 1) System.out.println("B");  
    else {  
        methodA(0 - 1);  
        System.out.println("R");  
    }  
}
```

Diagram illustrating the execution of the recursive method `methodA` with initial value 3. The method calls itself with decreasing values (3, 2, 1, 0) until it reaches the base case (0), then returns values ('R' for recursive calls, 'B' for the base case) as it unwinds.


Output:
B
R
R
R

unwing

Exercise 2

What is the output?

```
public class RecursionExercise2 {  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        methodB(3);  
    }  
  
    public static void methodB(int n) {  
        if (n < 1)  
            System.out.println("done");  
        else {  
            System.out.println(n);  
            methodB(n - 1);  
        }  
    }  
}
```

A diagram consisting of two red curved arrows. The first arrow starts at the 'methodB(n - 1);' line and points to the 'System.out.println(n);' line above it. The second arrow starts at the 'System.out.println(n);' line and points to the 'methodB(n - 1);' line below it, illustrating the recursive call and return sequence.

```
public static void methodB(int 3) {  
    if (3 < 1) System.out.println("done");  
    else {
```

```
        System.out.println(3); —————> 3
```

```
        methodB(3 - 1);
```

```
    }
```

```
}
```

```
public static void methodB(int 2) {  
    if (2 < 1) System.out.println("done");  
    else {
```

```
        System.out.println(2); —————> 2
```

```
        methodB(2 - 1);
```

```
    }
```

```
}
```

```
public static void methodB(int 1) {  
    if (1 < 1) System.out.println("done");  
    else {
```

```
        System.out.println(1); —————> 1
```

```
        methodB(1 - 1);
```

```
    }
```

```
}
```

```
public static void methodB(int 0) {  
    if (0 < 1) System.out.println("done"); —————> done  
    else {
```

```
        System.out.println(0);
```

```
        methodB(0 - 1);
```

```
    }
```

```
}
```

在这个递归过程中，
没有需要在递归返回后执行的代码，

因此每次递归调用完成后就直接返回到上一层调用，而不会执行额外的步骤。

Output:

3

2

1

done

only recursion.
no unwinding.

Returning a Value

- ◆ So far, our recursive methods have been void methods.
- ◆ Recursive methods can also return a value.
- ◆ The value returned by the recursive method call is typically used to compute the return value of the method.
- ◆ Example: Consider a method that takes an **int** argument and returns the number of zeros in the argument. 获取输入的int有多少个0

Returning a Value

- ♦ Do this by getting the number of zeros contained in all but the last digit, then add 1 if the last digit is a zero.
- ♦ For example, the number of zeros in 50020 is the number of zeros in 5002 plus 1 for the last zero.
- ♦ The number of zeros in 50022 is the number of zeros in 5002 without adding 1 because the last digit is not zero.

Returning a Value

- ♦ Algorithm for determining the number of zeros in an int
 - ♦ If **$n < 10$** , return the number of zeros in n (base case)
 - ♦ if **$n == 0$** , return **1**
 - ♦ Otherwise return **0**
 - ♦ Otherwise (recursive invocation)
 - ♦ Get the number of zeros in n with the last digit removed (**$\text{numberOfZeros}(n/10)$**)
 - ♦ Determine if the last digit is zero (**$n \% 10 == 0$**)
 - ♦ If yes, return **$\text{numberOfZeros}(n/10) + 1$**
 - ♦ If no, return **$\text{numberOfZeros}(n/10)$**

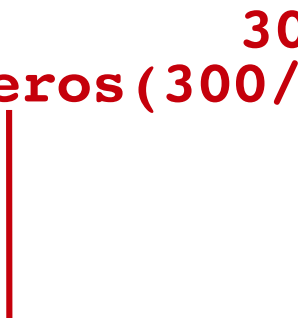
Returning a Value

```
public static int numZeros(int n) {  
    if (n == 0) {  
        //n has one digit that is 0 (base case)  
        return 1;  
    } else if (n < 10) {  
        //n has one digit that is not 0 (base case)  
        return 0;  
    } else if (n%10 == 0) {  
        //last digit is 0 (recursive call)  
        return (numZeros(n/10) + 1);  
    } else {  
        //last digit is not 0 (recursive call)  
        return (numZeros(n/10));  
    }  
}
```

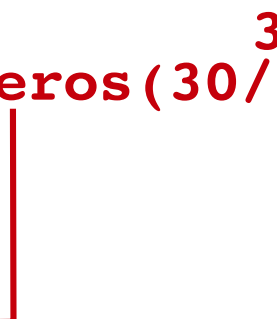
- See example $n = 300$ on the following slides

Returning a Value

```
public static int numZeros(int 300) {  
    if (300 == 0) return 1;  
    else if (300 < 10) return 0;  
    else if (300%10 == 0) return (numZeros(300/10) + 1);  
    else return (numZeros(300/10));  
}
```




```
public static int numZeros(int 30) {  
    if (30 == 0) return 1;  
    else if (30 < 10) return 0;  
    else if (30%10 == 0) return (numZeros(30/10) + 1);  
    else return (numZeros(30/10));  
}
```



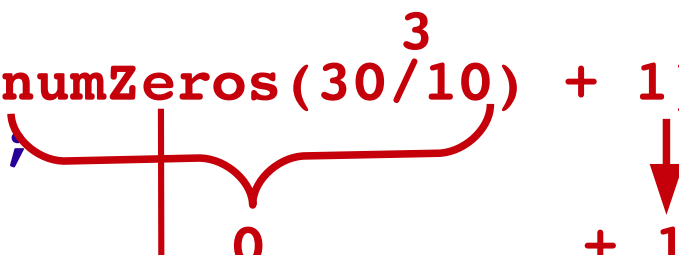
```
public static int numZeros(int 3) {  
    if (3 == 0) return 1;  
    else if (3 < 10) return 0;  
    else if (3%10 == 0) return (numZeros(3/10) + 1);  
    else return (numZeros(3/10));  
}
```

Returning a Value

```
public static int numZeros(int 300) {  
    if (300 == 0) return 1;  
    else if (300 < 10) return 0;  
    else if (300%10 == 0) return (numZeros(300/10) + 1);  
    else return (numZeros(300/10));  
}
```



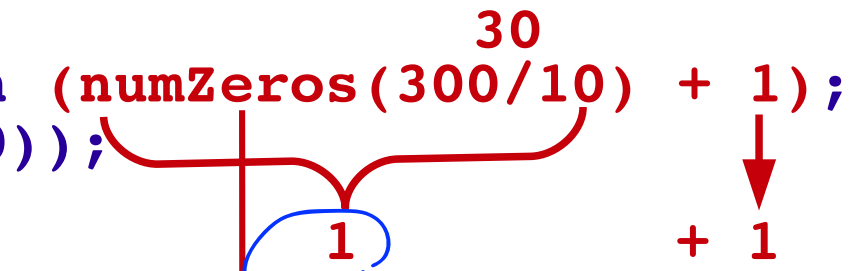
```
public static int numZeros(int 30) {  
    if (30 == 0) return 1;  
    else if (30 < 10) return 0;  
    else if (30%10 == 0) return (numZeros(30/10) + 1);  
    else return (numZeros(30/10));  
}
```



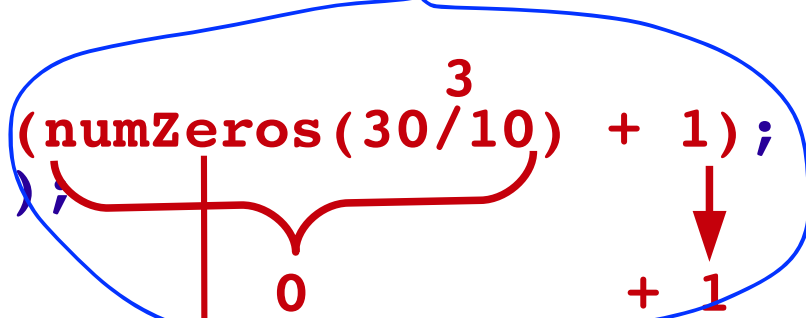
```
public static int numZeros(int 3) {  
    if (3 == 0) return 1;  
    else if (3 < 10) return 0;  
    else if (3%10 == 0) return (numZeros(3/10) + 1);  
    else return (numZeros(3/10));  
}
```

Returning a Value

```
public static int numZeros(int 300) {  
    if (300 == 0) return 1;  
    else if (300 < 10) return 0;  
    else if (300%10 == 0) return (numZeros(300/10) + 1);  
    else return (numZeros(300/10));  
}
```



```
public static int numZeros(int 30) {  
    if (30 == 0) return 1;  
    else if (30 < 10) return 0;  
    else if (30%10 == 0) return (numZeros(30/10) + 1);  
    else return (numZeros(30/10));  
}
```



```
public static int numZeros(int 3) {  
    if (3 == 0) return 1;  
    else if (3 < 10) return 0;  
    else if (3%10 == 0) return (numZeros(3/10) + 1);  
    else return (numZeros(3/10));  
}
```

Exercise 3

Write a recursive method to reverse the input string:

```
public static String reverse(String s) {  
    // base case: string is length 0 or 1  
    if (s.length() <= 1)  
        return s;  
  
    // reverse all but the first character  
    // then add the first character to the end  
    return reverse(s.substring(1))  
        + s.charAt(0);  
}
```

substring(int start)
substring(int start, int end)

- See example s = "step" on the following slides


```
public static String reverse(String "step") {  
    if ("step".length() <= 1)  
        return "step";  
    return reverse("step".substring(1)) + "step".charAt(0);  
}
```

"tep"

```
public static String reverse(String "tep") {  
    if ("tep".length() <= 1)  
        return "tep";  
    return reverse("tep".substring(1)) + "tep".charAt(0);  
}
```


"ep"

```
public static String reverse(String "ep") {  
    if ("ep".length() <= 1)  
        return "ep";  
    return reverse("ep".substring(1)) + "ep".charAt(0);  
}
```


"p"

```
public static String reverse(String "p") {  
    if ("p".length() <= 1)  
        return "p";  
    return reverse("p".substring(1)) + "p".charAt(0);  
}
```

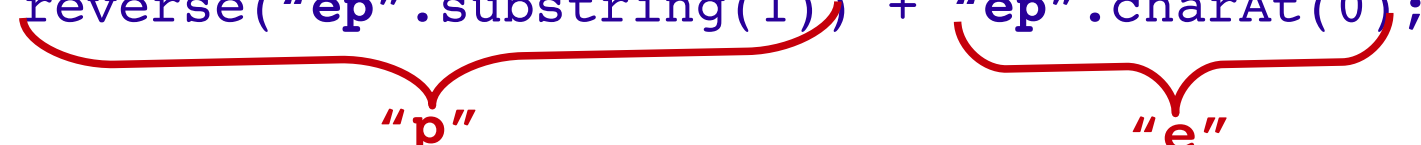
```
public static String reverse(String "step") {  
    if ("step".length() <= 1)  
        return "step";  
    return reverse("step".substring(1)) + "step".charAt(0);  
}
```


"pet" "s"

```
public static String reverse(String "tep") {  
    if ("tep".length() <= 1)  
        return "tep";  
    return reverse("tep".substring(1)) + "tep".charAt(0);  
}
```



"pe" "t"

```
public static String reverse(String "ep") {  
    if ("ep".length() <= 1)  
        return "ep";  
    return reverse("ep".substring(1)) + "ep".charAt(0);  
}
```


"p" "e"

```
public static String reverse(String "p") {  
    if ("p".length() <= 1)  
        return "p";  
    return reverse("p".substring(1)) + "p".charAt(0);  
}
```

unwinding



Binary Search

Savitch p 800 (case study)

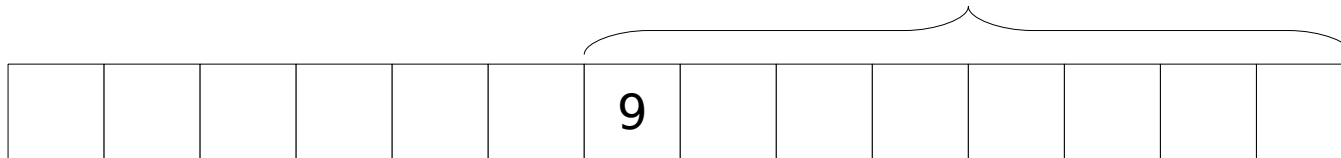
- ♦ Let's design a recursive method that determines if a given number is in a sorted array of ints.

看int是否在(int)list中:
- 在, 返回index in the list
- 不在, 返回-1
- ♦ If the number is in the array, return the index of the number in the array.
- ♦ If the number is not in the array, return -1
- ♦ Instead of searching the array linearly/sequentially (starting at index 0, comparing each element to number), we will search for the number recursively.

Binary Search

- ◆ Since the array is **sorted**, we can rule out entire sections of the array as we search.
- ◆ For example, if we are looking for a 7 and we encounter an element of the array containing a 9, we know that the 7 will not be at any index \geq to the location of the 9.

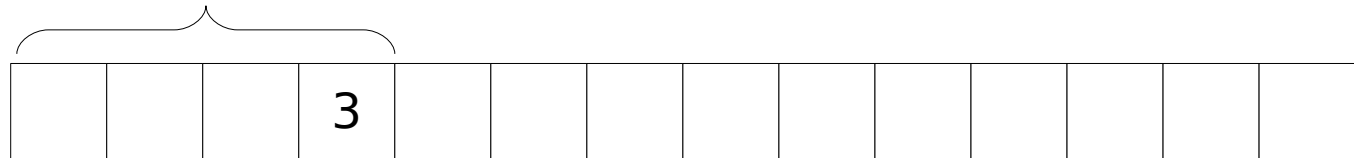
7 can't be here



Binary Search

- ♦ Similarly, if we are looking for a 7 and we encounter an element of the array containing a 3, we know that the 7 will not be at any index \leq to the location of the 3.

7 can't be here



- ♦ Of course, if we are looking for a 7 and find it, then we stop searching.

Binary Search

- ♦ Binary search is an example of a *divide and conquer* algorithm.
- ♦ We divide the problem into smaller and smaller problems until it can be solved.
- ♦ We use a binary search algorithm when looking up a number in the phone book.
- ♦ Flip open the phone book to a page near the middle.
- ♦ To find the middle of our array, use integer division: $\text{mid} = (\text{first} + \text{last}) / 2$

Binary Search

与在中间index的数字 进行比较

- ♦ **Base case**: If our number is at index **mid** we are done
- ♦ **Recursive case**: If our number is smaller than the number at index **mid**, search the first half (from **first** to **mid-1**).
- ♦ **Recursive case**: If our number is greater than the number at index **mid**, search the second half (from **mid+1** to **last**).
- ♦ See **ArraySearcher.java** under SavitchSrc on the course website

Binary Search – Number Found

当用整数做除法时, Java 默认舍弃小数部分, 而不是四舍五入。
即Truncating, not rounding

- Example: search target 33 in sorted array of length 10 (index 0-9)

search(33, 0, 9) mid=4

33>32, so 5 (mid+1) ~ 9

5	7	9	13	32	33	42	54	56	88
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

search(33, 5, 9) mid=7

33<54, so 4 ~ 6 (mid-1)

5	7	9	13	32	33	42	54	56	88
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

search(33, 5, 6) mid=5
found at index 5
return 5;

5	7	9	13	32	33	42	54	56	88
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

5	7	9	13	32	33	42	54	56	88
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
first				mid				last	

$$(0+9)/2=4$$

```

private int search(target 33, first 0, last 9) {
    int mid, result=-1;
    if (first <= last) {
        mid = (first + last)/2;  → mid = (0+9)/2 = 4
        if (target == a[mid]) {
            result = mid;
        } else if (target < a[mid]) {
            result = search(target, first, mid-1);
        } else {
            result = search(target, mid+1, last);
                           33,      5,      9
        }
    }
    return result;
}

```

5	7	9	13	32	33	42	54	56	88
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
					first		mid		last
					$(5+9)/2=7$				

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
					first		mid		last
					$(5+9)/2=7$				

```
private int search(target 33, first 5, last 9) {
    int mid, result=-1;
    if (first <= last) {
        mid = (first + last)/2;  → mid = (5+9)/2 = 7
        if (target == a[mid]) {
            result = mid;
        } else if (target < a[mid]) {
            result = search(target, first, mid-1);
        } else {
            result = search(target, mid+1, last);
        }
    }
    return result;
}
```

5	7	9	13	32	33	42	54	56	88
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

mid
 $(5+6)/2=5$

```

private int search(target 33, first 5, last 6) {
    int mid, result=-1;
    if (first <= last) {
        mid = (first + last)/2;  —————> mid = (5+6)/2 = 5
        if (target == a[mid]) { //base case
            result = mid;
        } else if (target < a[mid]) {
            result = search(target, first, mid-1);
        } else {
            result = search(target, mid+1, last);
        }
    }
    return result;
}

```

Binary Search – Number Not Found

- ♦ What if the number is not in the array?
- ♦ Eventually, **first** will become greater than **last**.
- ♦ **-1** is returned, indicating that the number was not found.

Binary Search – Number Not Found

- Example: search target 35 in sorted array of length 10 (index 0-9)

search(35, 0, 9) **mid=4**

5	7	9	13	32	33	42	54	56	88
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

search(35, 5, 9) **mid=7**

5	7	9	13	32	33	42	54	56	88
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

search(35, 5, 6) **mid=5**

5	7	9	13	32	33	42	54	56	88
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

search(35, 6, 6) **mid=6**

5	7	9	13	32	33	42	54	56	88
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

search(35, 6, 5)
first>last, return -1

5	7	9	13	32	33	42	54	56	88
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

5	7	9	13	32	33	42	54	56	88
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

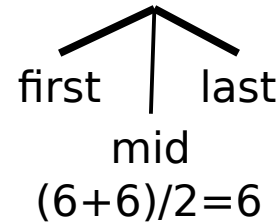
$$\text{mid} = (5+6)/2 = 5$$

```

private int search(target 35, first 5, last 6) {
    int mid, result=-1;
    if (first <= last) {
        mid = (first + last)/2;  → mid = (5+6)/2 = 5
        if (target == a[mid]) {
            result = mid;
        } else if (target < a[mid]) {
            result = search(target, first, mid-1);
        } else {
            result = search(target, 35, 6, 6, last);
        }
    }
    return result;
}

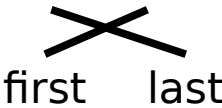
```

5	7	9	13	32	33	42	54	56	88
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9



```
private int search(target 35, first 6, last 6) {
    int mid, result=-1;
    if (first <= last) {
        mid = (first + last)/2;  → mid = (6+6)/2 = 6
        if (target == a[mid]) {
            result = mid;
        } else if (target < a[mid]) {
            result = search(target, first, mid-1);
                        35,           6,           5
        } else {
            result = search(target, mid+1, last);
        }
    }
    return result;
}
```

5	7	9	13	32	33	42	54	56	88
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9


first last

```
private int search(target 35, first 6, last 5) {  
    int mid, result=-1;  
    if (first <= last) {  
        mid = (first + last)/2;  
        if (target == a[mid]) {  
            result = mid;  
        } else if (target < a[mid]) {  
            result = search(target, first, mid-1);  
        } else {  
            result = search(target, mid+1, last);  
        }  
    }  
    return result;  
}
```


Binary Search - Code

- ◆ Notice that the recursive search method is private.
- ◆ A non-recursive, public method **find** is used to get the recursion going.
- ◆ **find** calls search with the first (**0**) and last (**a.length-1**) index of the array.
- ◆ Subsequent recursive calls to search are made with ever smaller portions of the array.

Binary Search - Efficiency

- ♦ With each recursive call, about half of the array is eliminated from consideration.
- ♦ The number of recursive calls required to find an element or determine that it is not in the array is $\log_2 n$ for an array of length n .
- ♦ We say that the binary search algorithm has order $\log_2 n$, written $O(\log_2 n)$.
- ♦ This is also known as **big O notation**.

Binary Search - Efficiency

- ♦ For example, an array with 1024 elements will need to do only 10 comparisons.
 - ♦ $\log_2(1024) = 10$
 - ♦ $2^{10} = 1024$

Binary Search - Efficiency

- ♦ An array with 100,000 elements would only need to make about 17 comparisons.
- ♦ This is much better than a linear/sequential search, which would need to make 50,000 comparisons (on average).

Merge Sort

Savitch p 808 (case study)

- ♦ The binary search algorithm **works only if the array is sorted**.
- ♦ **Merge sort** is a very efficient, recursive algorithm to sort an array.
- ♦ Like binary search, merge sort also takes a “divide and conquer” approach.
 - ♦ The array is divided in halves and the halves are sorted recursively.
 - ♦ Sorted subarrays are merged to form a larger sorted array.

Merge Sort - Pseudocode

Base case: If the array **a** has only 1 element (**a.length == 1**)

stop, **a** is of length 1, so it is already sorted

Otherwise (**recursive case**):

Divide the input array **a** into two halves

- copy the first half of the elements into an array called **front**
- copy the second half of the elements into an array called **tail**

Sort array **front** recursively

Sort array **tail** recursively

Merge the arrays **front** and **tail** into **a**

Merging Sorted Arrays - Pseudocode

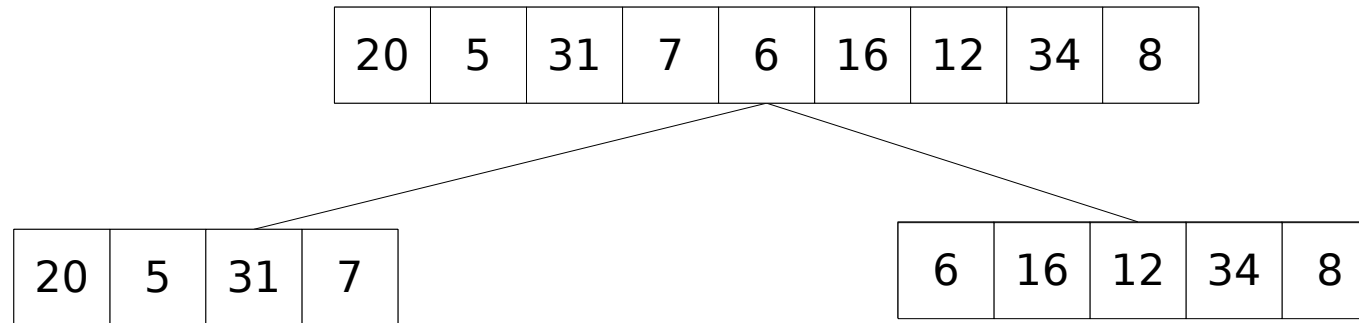
- ♦ **front** and **tail** are both sorted
- ♦ Initialize **frontIndex=0**, **tailIndex=0**, and **aIndex=0**
- ♦ while we haven't reached the end of either list {
 - ♦ copy the smaller of **front** and **tail** to **a**
 - ♦ increment **aIndex**
 - ♦ increment index of array copied from
- ♦ }
- ♦ copy remaining elements from **front**, if any
- ♦ copy remaining elements from **tail**, if any

Merge Sort Visualization

- ♦ Array to sort:

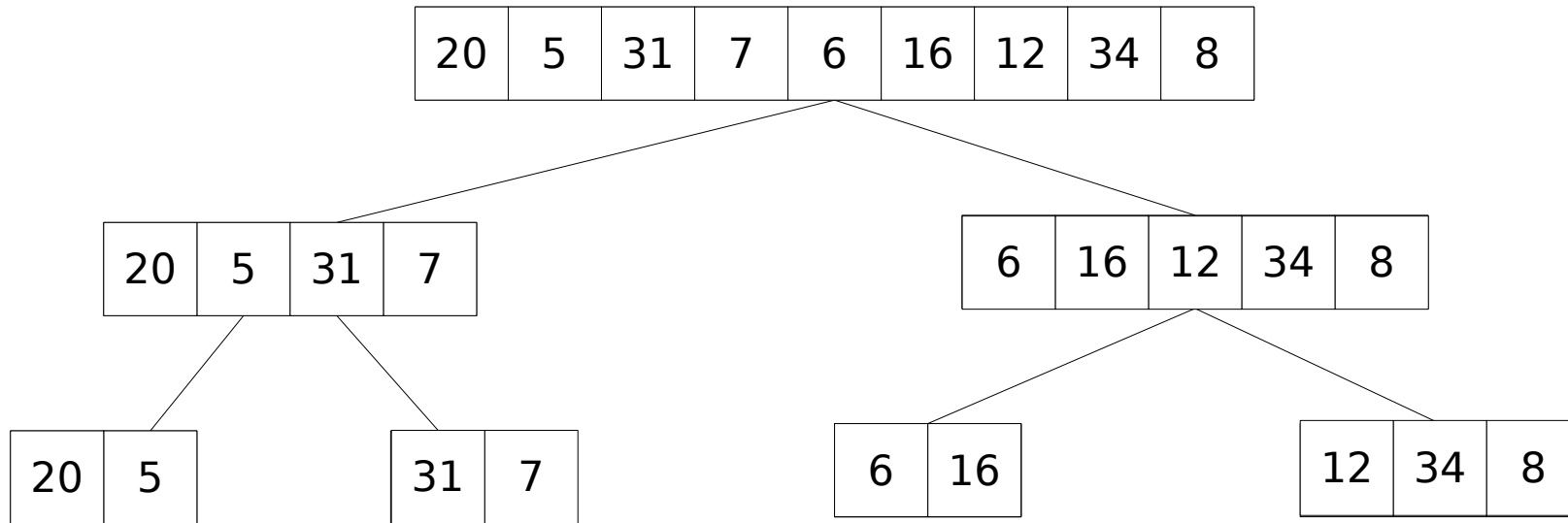
20	5	31	7	6	16	12	34	8
----	---	----	---	---	----	----	----	---

Merge Sort Visualization



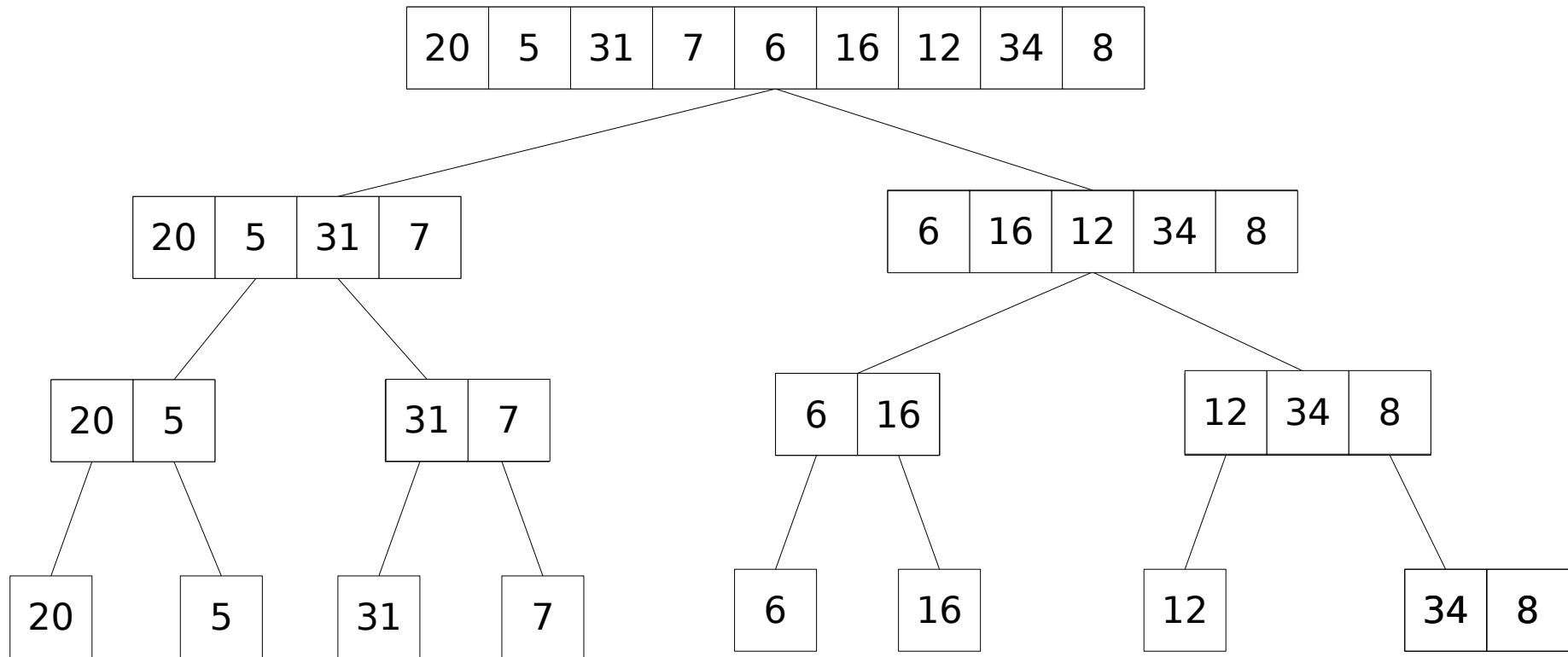
- First, split array(s) recursively into two halves

Merge Sort Visualization



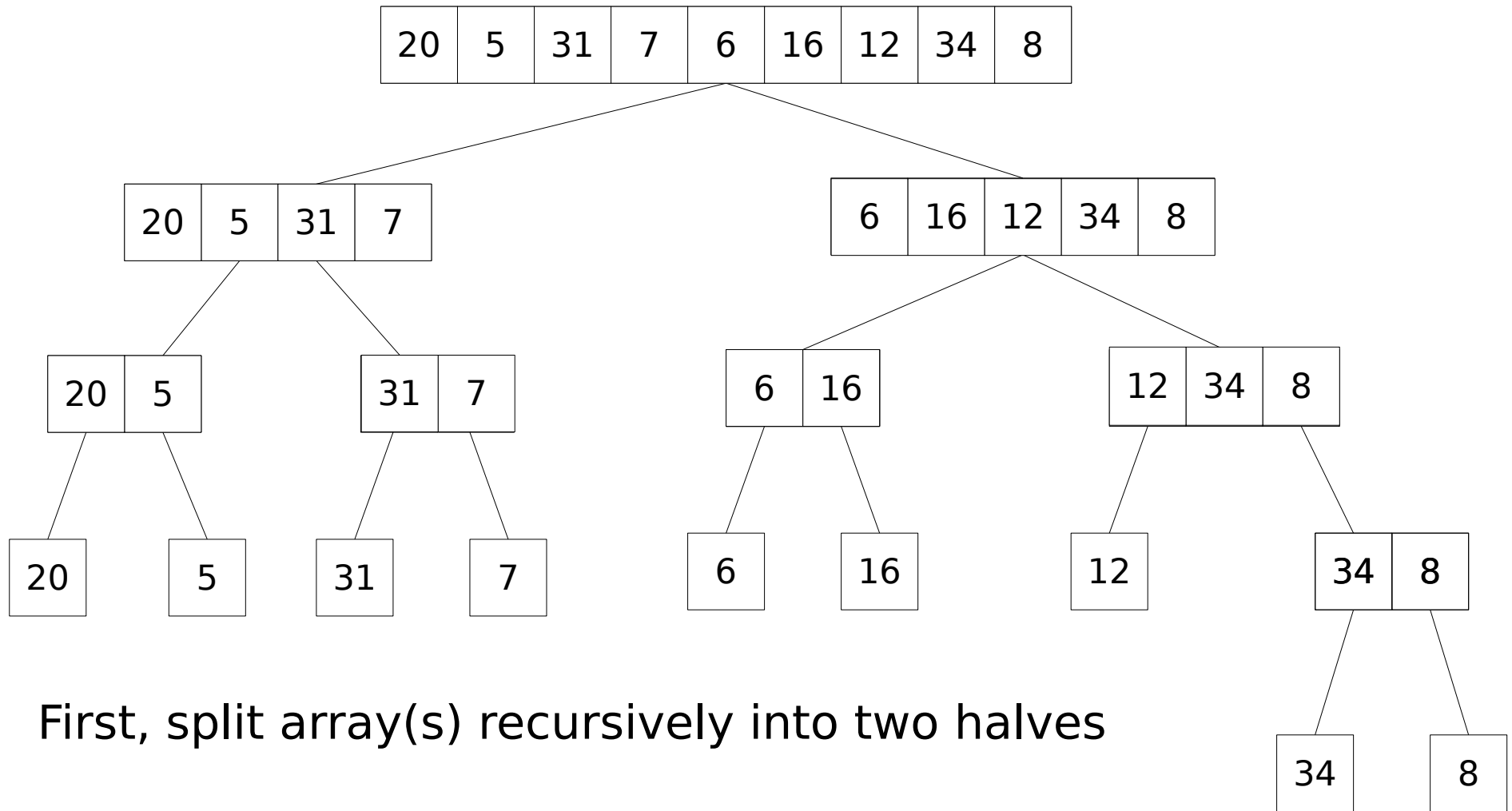
- First, split array(s) recursively into two halves

Merge Sort Visualization

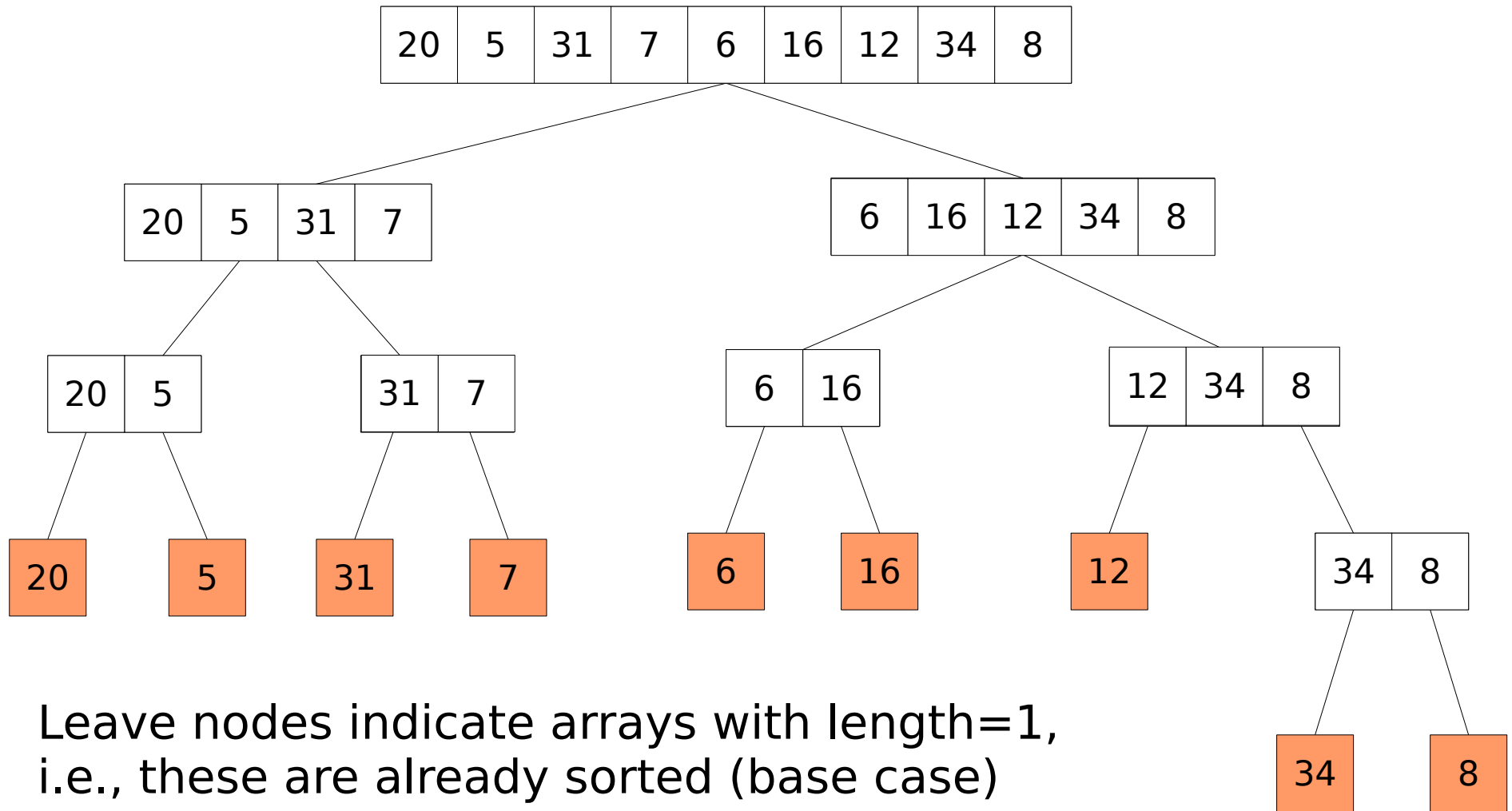


- First, split array(s) recursively into two halves

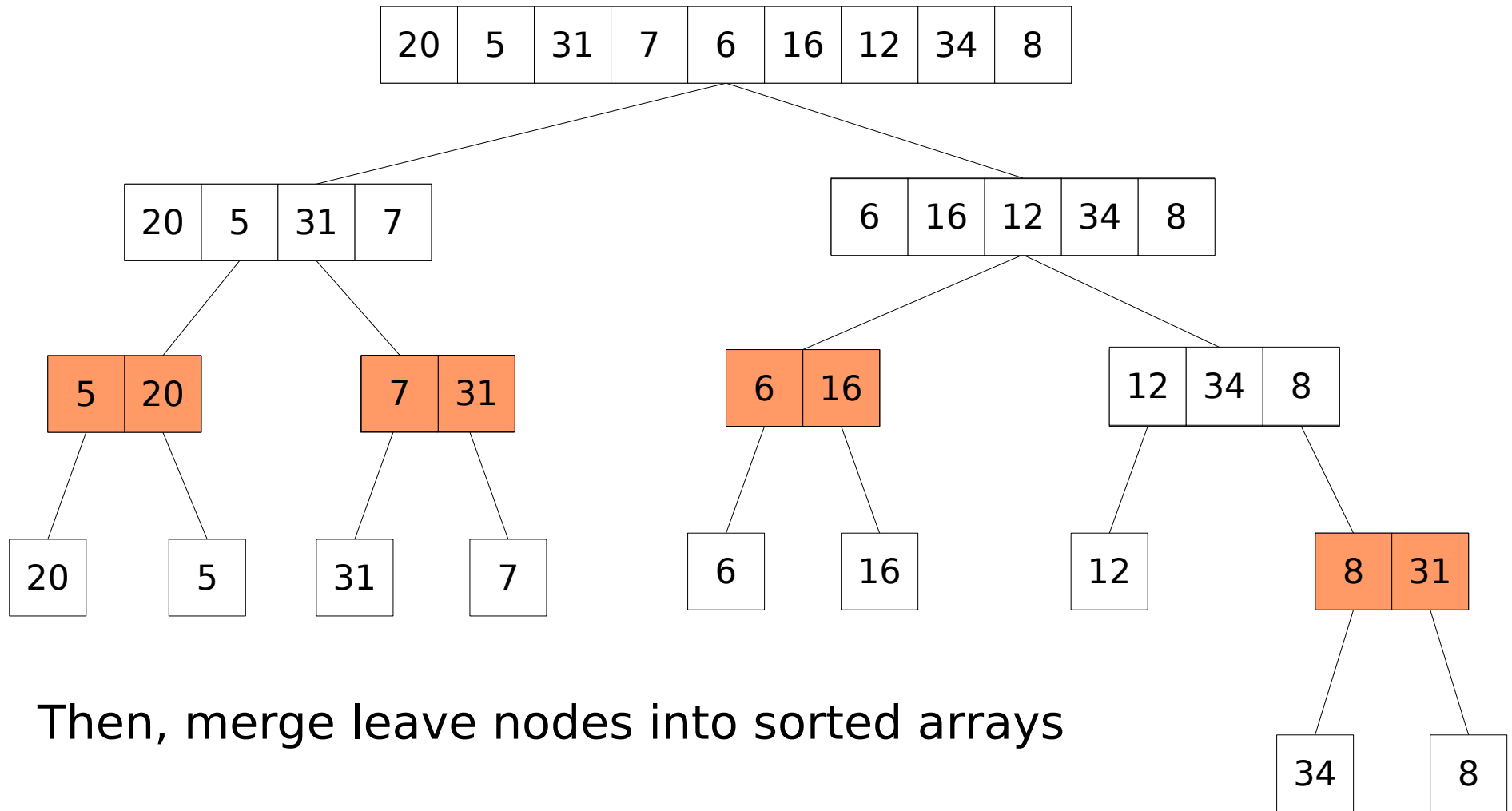
Merge Sort Visualization



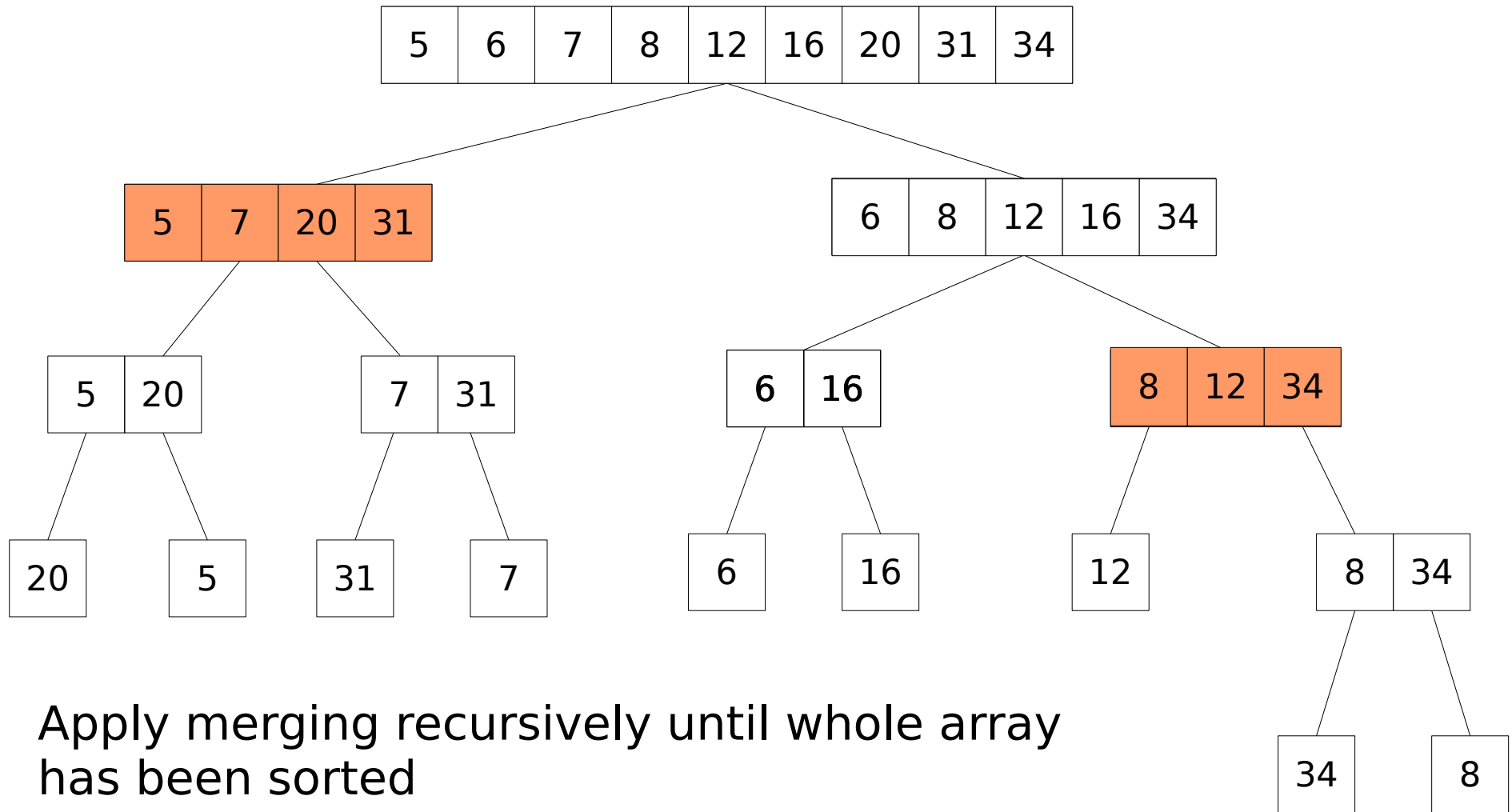
Merge Sort Visualization



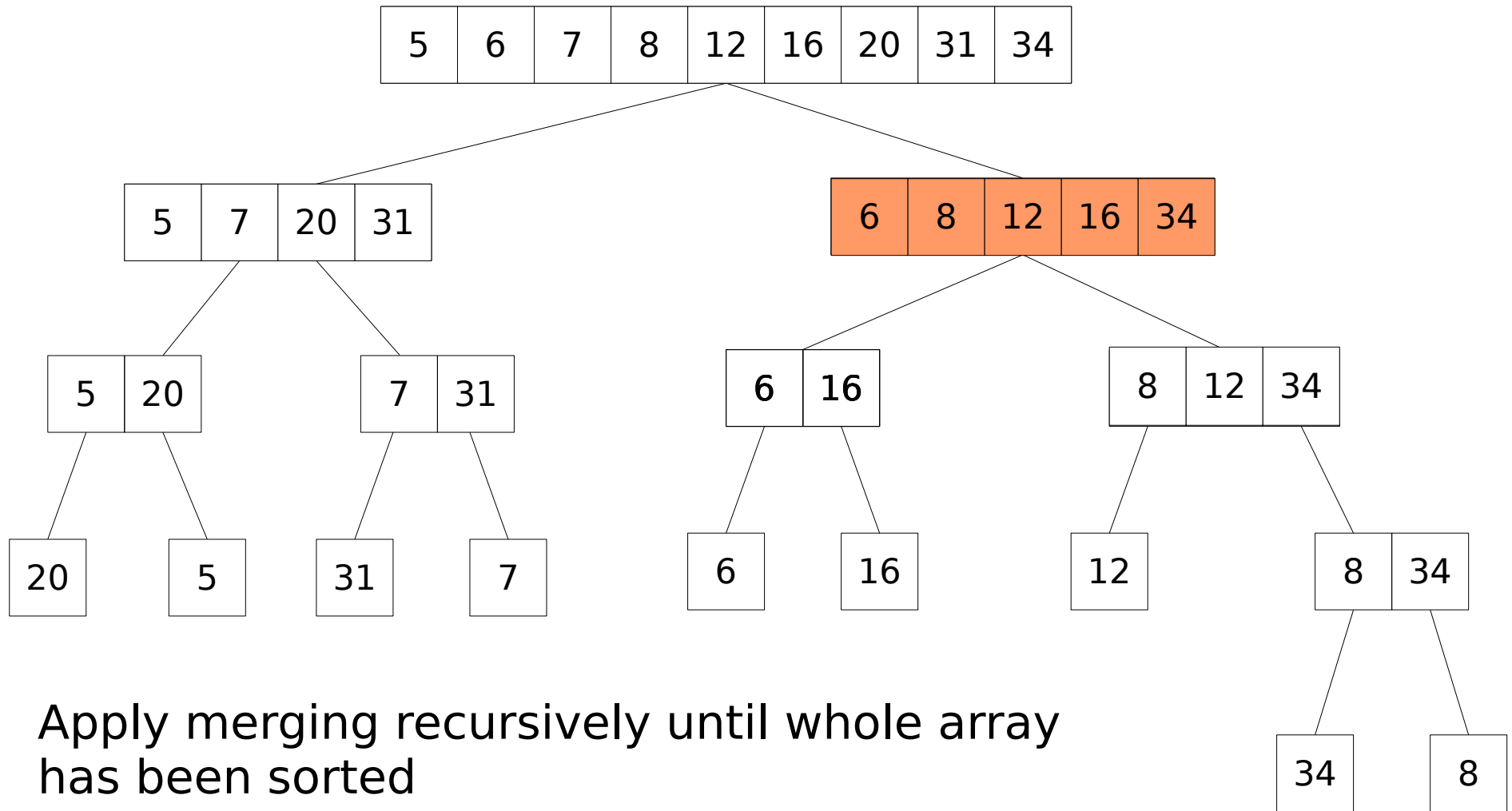
Merge Sort Visualization



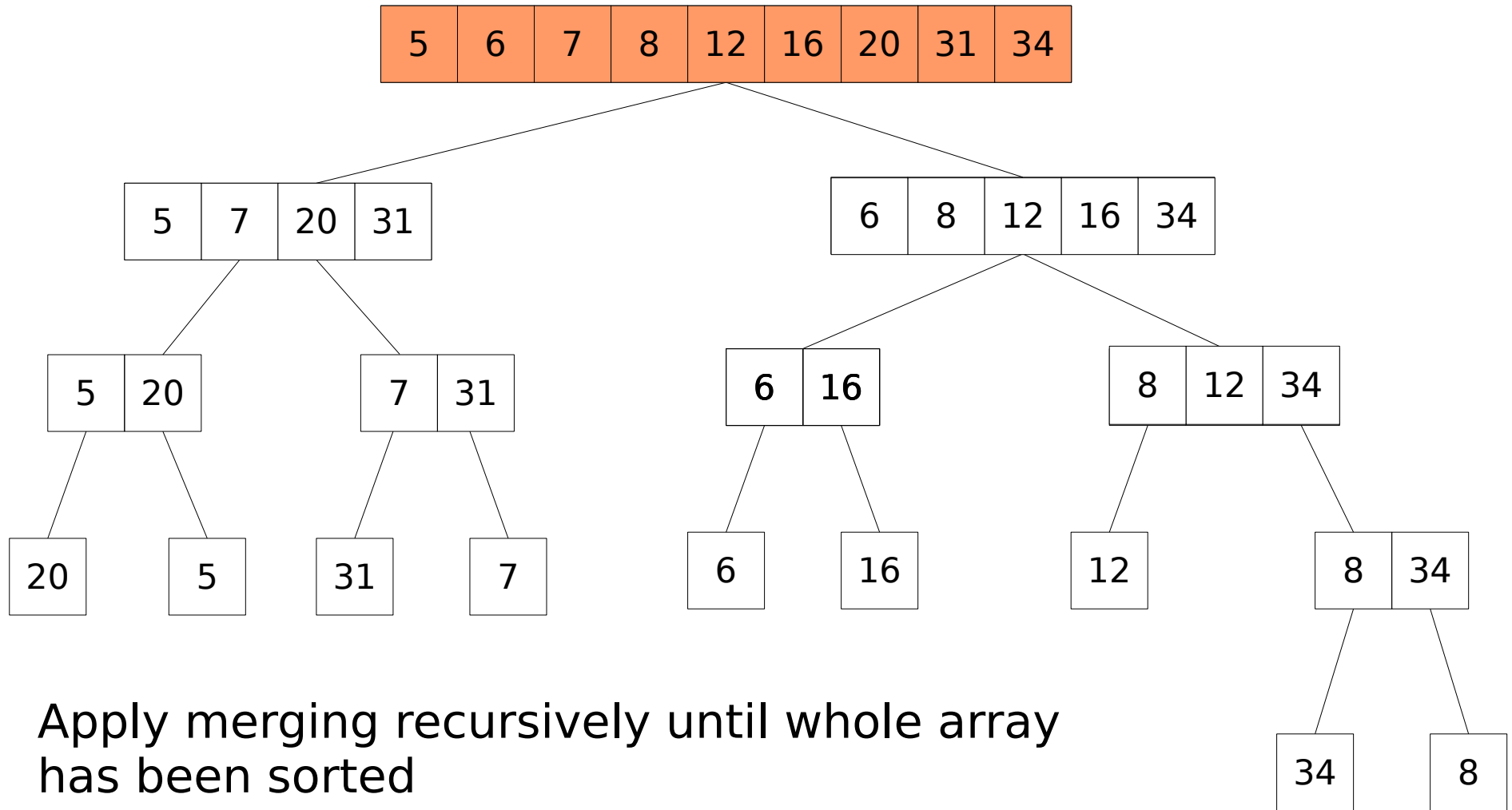
Merge Sort Visualization



Merge Sort Visualization



Merge Sort Visualization



- Apply merging recursively until whole array has been sorted
- See [MergeSort.java](#) under SavitchSrc on the course website