

# Data Structures & Algorithms

Instructor:

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## Agenda

- Data Structures
- Collections
- Analyzing an Algorithm
- Non-primitive data structures
  - Arrays
  - Linked Lists
  - Binary Tree
  - General Tree
  - Heaps
  - Queues
  - Stacks
- Sorting Algorithms
- Searching Algorithms

## Data Structures

- "Once you succeed in writing the programs for complicated algorithms, they usually run extremely fast. The computer doesn't need to understand the algorithm, its task is only to run the programs."
- There are a number of facets to good programs, they must
  - run correctly
  - run efficiently
  - be easy to read and understand
  - be easy to debug *and*
  - be easy to modify.

## Data Structures (Cont.)

What is Data Structure ?

- A scheme for organizing related pieces of information
- A way in which sets of data are organized in a particular system
- An organized aggregate of data items
- A computer interpretable format used for storing, accessing, transferring and archiving data
- The way data is organized to ensure efficient processing:  
this may be in lists, arrays, stacks, queues or trees

Data structure is a specialized format for organizing and storing data so that it can be accessed and worked with in appropriate ways to make a program efficient

## Data Structures (Cont.)

- Data structures can be classified into:
  - Primitive data structures
  - Non primitive data structures.
- *Primitive data structure:*
  - These are data structures that can be manipulated directly by machine instructions.
  - In C language, the different primitive data structures are int, float, char, double.
- *Non primitive data structures:*
  - These are data structures that can not be manipulated directly by machine instructions. Arrays, linked lists, files etc., are some of non-primitive data structures and are classified into *linear data structures* and *non-linear data structures*.

## Data Structures (Cont.)

Data Structure = Organized Data + Allowed Operations

**There are two design aspects to every data structure:**  
**the interface part**

The publicly accessible functions of the type.

Functions like creation and destruction of the object, inserting and removing elements (if it is a container), assigning values etc.

**the implementation part :**

Internal implementation should be independent of the interface. Therefore, the details of the implementation aspect should be hidden out from the users.

## Collections

- Programs often deal with collections of items.
- These collections may be organized in many ways and use many different program structures to represent them, yet, from an abstract point of view, there will be a few common operations on any collection.

<b>create</b>	Create a new collection
<b>add</b>	Add an item to a collection
<b>delete</b>	Delete an item from a collection
<b>find</b>	Find an item matching some criterion in the collection
<b>destroy</b>	Destroy the collection

## Analyzing an Algorithm

- **Simple statement sequence**  
 $s_1; s_2; \dots; s_k$   
– Complexity is  $O(1)$  as long as  $k$  is constant
- **Simple loops**  
`for(i = 0; i < n; i++) { s; }` where  $s$  is  $O(1)$   
– Complexity is  $n O(1)$  or  $O(n)$
- **Loop index doesn't vary linearly**  
 $h = 1;$   
`while (h <= n) { s; h = 2 * h; }`  
– Complexity  $O(\log n)$
- **Nested loops (loop index depends on outer loop index)**  
`for(i = 0; i < n; i++) f  
 for(j = 0; j < n; j++) { s; }`  
– Complexity is  $n O(n)$  or  $O(n^2)$

## Arrays

### An Array is the simplest form of implementing a collection

- Each object in an array is called an *array element*
- Each element has the same data type (although they may have different values)
- Individual elements are accessed by index using a consecutive range of integers

#### One Dimensional Array or vector

```
int A[10];
for ( i = 0; i < 10; i++)
A[i] = i +1;
```

A[0]	A[1]	A[2]				A[n-2]	A[n-1]
1	2	3				N-1	N

## Arrays (Cont.)

### Multi-dimensional Array

A *multi-dimensional array* of dimension  $n$  (i.e., an  $n$ -dimensional array or simply  $n$ -D array) is a collection of items which is accessed via  $n$  subscript expressions. For example, in a language that supports it, the  $(i,j)$  th element of the two-dimensional array  $x$  is accessed by writing  $x[i,j]$ .

R O W		C o l u m n												
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	j	n
	0													
	1													
	2													
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
	i												X	
	m													

## Arrays (Cont.)

$$\begin{bmatrix} A[0][0] & A[0][1] & A[0][2] & A[0][3] \\ A[1][0] & A[1][1] & A[1][2] & A[1][3] \\ A[2][0] & A[2][1] & A[2][2] & A[2][3] \end{bmatrix}$$

Matrix A (3 rows x 4 columns)

$A[0][0] \rightarrow A[0][1] \rightarrow A[0][2] \rightarrow A[0][3]$   
 $\downarrow$   
 $A[1][0] \rightarrow A[1][1] \rightarrow A[1][2] \rightarrow A[1][3]$   
 $\downarrow$   
 $A[2][0] \rightarrow A[2][1] \rightarrow A[2][2] \rightarrow A[2][3]$

Matrix A (Row Major Order)

$A[0][0]$        $A[0][1]$        $A[0][2]$        $A[0][3]$   
 $\downarrow$              $\downarrow$              $\downarrow$              $\downarrow$   
 $A[1][0]$        $A[1][1]$        $A[1][2]$        $A[1][3]$   
 $\downarrow$              $\downarrow$              $\downarrow$              $\downarrow$   
 $A[2][0]$        $A[2][1]$        $A[2][2]$        $A[2][3]$

Matrix A (Column Major Order)

## Array : Limitations

- Simple and Fast but must specify size during construction
- If you want to insert/ remove an element to/ from a fixed position in the list, then you must move elements already in the list to make room for the subsequent elements in the list.
- Thus, on an average, you probably copy half the elements.
- In the worst case, inserting into position 1 requires to move all the elements.
- Copying elements can result in longer running times for a program if insert/ remove operations are frequent, especially when you consider the cost of copying is huge (like when we copy strings)
- An array cannot be extended dynamically, one have to allocate a new array of the appropriate size and copy the old array to the new array

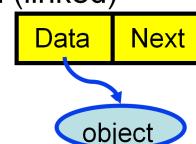
## Linked Lists

- **The linked list is a very flexible dynamic data structure: items may be added to it or deleted from it at will**
  - Dynamically allocate space for each element as needed
  - Include a pointer to the next item
  - the number of items that may be added to a list is limited only by the amount of memory available

Linked list can be perceived as connected (linked) nodes

Each node of the list contains

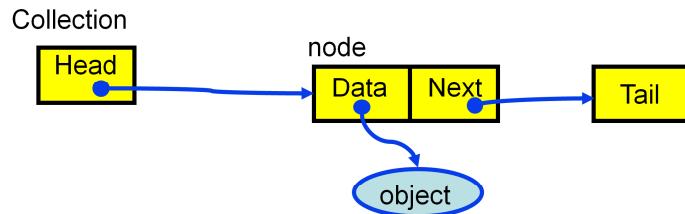
- the data item
- a pointer to the next node
- The last node in the list contains a NULL pointer to indicate that it is the end or *tail* of the list.



## Linked Lists (Cont.)

- Collection structure has a pointer to the list **head**
  - Initially NULL
- Add first item
  - Allocate space for node
  - Set its data pointer to object
  - Set Next to NULL
  - Set Head to point to new node

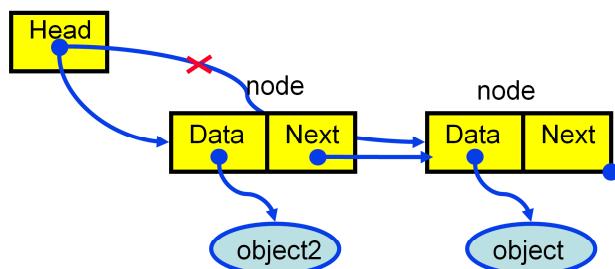
The variable (or handle) which represents the list is simply a pointer to the node at the *head* of the list.



## Linked Lists (Cont.)

- Add a node
  - Allocate space for node
  - Set its data pointer to object
  - Set Next to current Head
  - Set Head to point to new node

Collection



## Linked Lists - Add implementation

- **Implementation**

```
struct t_node {  
    void *item;  
    struct t_node *next;  
} node;  
typedef struct t_node *Node;  
struct collection {  
    Node head;  
    .....  
};  
int AddToCollection( Collection c, void *item ) {  
    Node new = malloc( sizeof( struct t_node ) );  
    new->item = item;  
    new->next = c->head;  
    c->head = new;  
    return TRUE;  
}
```

Recursive type definition -  
C allows it!

Error checking, asserts  
omitted for clarity!

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## Linked Lists - *Find* implementation

- **Implementation**

```
void *FindinCollection( Collection c, void *key ) {  
    Node n = c->head;  
    while ( n != NULL ) {  
        if ( KeyCmp( ItemKey( n->item ), key ) == 0 )  
        {  
            return n->item;  
            n = n->next;  
        }  
        return NULL;  
    }
```

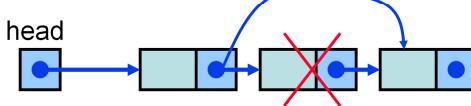
Add time Constant - independent of n  
Search time Worst case - n

- *A recursive implementation is also possible!*

## Linked Lists - Delete implementation

- Implementation

```
void *DeleteFromCollection( Collection c, void *key ) {  
    Node n, prev;  
    n = prev = c->head;  
    while ( n != NULL ) {  
        if ( KeyCmp( ItemKey( n->item ), key ) == 0 ) {  
            prev->next = n->next;  
            return n;  
        }  
        prev = n;  
        n = n->next;  
    }  
    return NULL;  
}
```



## Linked Lists - Variations

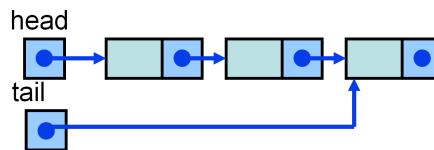
- Simplest implementation
  - Add to head
  - Last-In-First-Out (LIFO) semantics
- Modifications
  - First-In-First-Out (FIFO)
  - Keep a tail pointer

```
struct t_node {  
    void *item;  
    struct t_node *next;  
} node;  
typedef struct t_node *Node;  
struct collection {  
    Node head, tail;  
};
```

By ensuring that the tail of the list is always pointing to the head, we can build a **circularly linked list**

head is tail->next

LIFO or FIFO using ONE pointer



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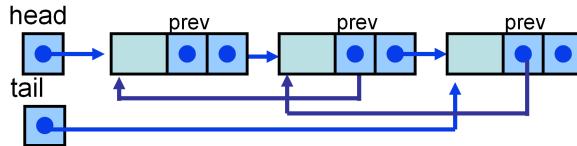
## Linked Lists - Doubly linked

- **Doubly linked lists**
  - Can be scanned in both directions

```
struct t_node {  
    void *item;  
    struct t_node *prev,  
                  *next;  
} node;
```

```
typedef struct t_node *Node;  
struct collection {
```

```
    Node head, tail;  
};
```



Applications requiring  
both way search

Eg. Name search in  
telephone directory

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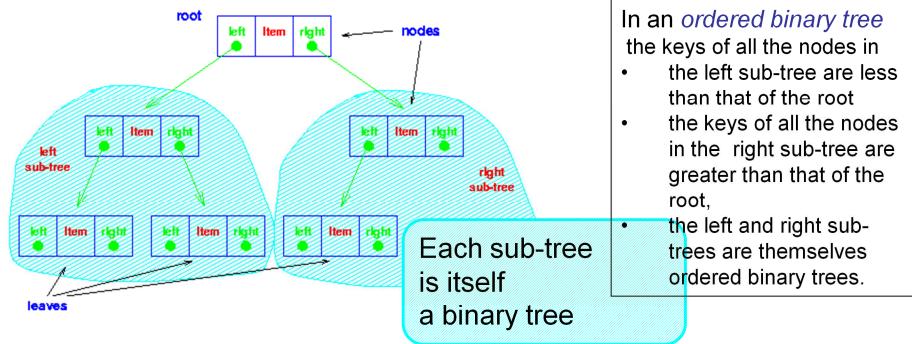
## Binary Tree

- The simplest form of Tree is a **Binary Tree**

- Binary Tree Consists of

- Node (called the **ROOT node**)
- Left and Right sub-trees
- Both sub-trees are binary trees**

Note the recursive definition!

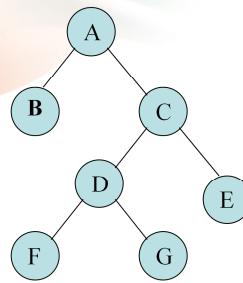


In an *ordered binary tree* the keys of all the nodes in

- the left sub-tree are less than that of the root
- the keys of all the nodes in the right sub-tree are greater than that of the root,
- the left and right sub-trees are themselves ordered binary trees.

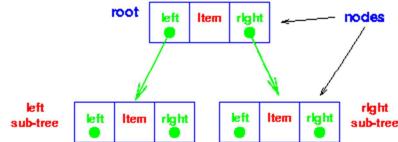
## Binary Tree (Cont.)

- If A is the root of a binary tree and B is the root of its left/right subtree then
  - A is the *father* of B
  - B is the *left/right son* of A
- Two nodes are *brothers* if they are left and right sons of the same father
- Node n1 is an *ancestor* of n2 (and n2 is *descendant* of n1) if n1 is either the father of n2 or the father of some ancestor of n2
- *Strictly Binary Tree*: If every nonleaf node in a binary tree has non empty left and right subtrees
- *Level* of a node: Root has level 0. Level of any node is one more than the level of its father
- *Depth*: Maximum level of any leaf in the tree  
A binary tree can contain at most  $2^l$  nodes at level l  
Total nodes for a binary tree with depth d =  $2^{d+1} - 1$



## Binary Tree - Implementation

```
struct t_node {  
    void *item;  
    struct t_node *left;  
    struct t_node *right;  
};  
  
typedef struct t_node *Node;  
  
struct t_collection {  
    Node root;  
    .....  
};
```



## Binary Tree - Implementation

- Find

```
extern int KeyCmp( void *a, void *b );
/* Returns -1, 0, 1 for a < b, a == b, a > b */

void *FindInTree( Node t, void *key ) {
    if ( t == (Node)0 ) return NULL;
    switch( KeyCmp( key, ItemKey(t->item) ) ) {
        case -1 : return FindInTree( t->left, key );
        case 0:   return t->item;
        case +1 : return FindInTree( t->right, key );
    }
}

void *FindInCollection( collection c, void *key ) {
    return FindInTree( c->root, key );
}
```

Less,  
search  
left

Greater,  
search right

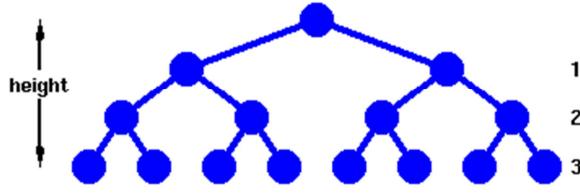
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## Binary Tree - Performance

- **Find**

- Complete Tree



- Height,  $h$

- Nodes traversed in a path from the root to a leaf

- Number of nodes,  $h$

- $n = 1 + 2^1 + 2^2 + \dots + 2^h = 2^{h+1} - 1$

- $h = \text{floor}(\log_2 n)$

- Since we need at most  $h+1$  comparisons,  
find in  $O(h+1)$  or  $O(\log n)$

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## Binary Tree - Traversing

Traverse: Pass through the tree, enumerating each node once

- **PreOrder (also known as depth-first order)**
  1. Visit the root
  2. Traverse the left subtree in preorder
  3. Traverse the right subtree in preorder
- **InOrder (also known as symmetric order)**
  1. Traverse the left subtree in inorder
  2. Visit the root
  3. Traverse the right subtree in inorder
- **PostOrder (also known as symmetric order)**
  1. Traverse the left subtree in postorder
  2. Traverse the right subtree in postorder
  3. Visit the root

## Binary Tree - Applications

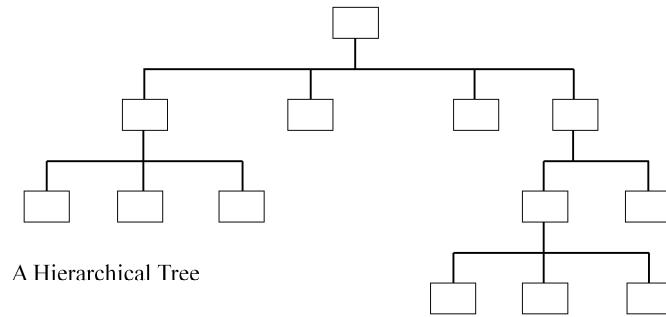
- A binary tree is a useful data structure when two-way decisions must be made at each point in a process
  - Example: Finding duplicates in a list of numbers
- A binary tree can be used for representing an expression containing operands (leaf) and operators (nonleaf node).

Traversal of the tree will result in infix, prefix or postfix forms of expression

Two binary trees are MIRROR SIMILAR if they are both empty or if they are nonempty, the left subtree of each is mirror similar to the right subtree

## General Tree

- A tree is a finite nonempty set of elements in which one element is called the ROOT and remaining element partitioned into  $m \geq 0$  disjoint subsets, each of which is itself a tree
- Different types of trees – binary tree, n-ary tree, red-black tree, AVL tree



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## Heaps

Heaps are based on the notion of a **complete tree**

A binary tree is **completely full** if it is of height,  $h$ , and has  $2h+1-1$  nodes.

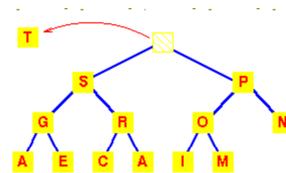
- A binary tree of height,  $h$ , is **complete iff**
  - it is empty *or*
  - its left subtree is complete of height  $h-1$  and its right subtree is completely full of height  $h-2$  *or*
  - its left subtree is completely full of height  $h-1$  and its right subtree is complete of height  $h-1$ .
- A complete tree is filled from the left:
  - all the leaves are on
  - the same level *or* two adjacent ones *and*
  - all nodes at the lowest level are as far to the left as possible.
- A binary tree has the **heap property iff**
  - it is empty *or*
  - the key in the root is larger than that in either child and both subtrees have the heap property.

## Heaps (Cont.)

- A heap can be used as a priority queue:
- the highest priority item is at the root and is trivially extracted. But if the root is deleted, we are left with two sub-trees and we must *efficiently* re-create a single tree with the heap property.
- The value of the heap structure is that we can both extract the highest priority item and insert a new one in  $O(\log n)$  time.

**Example:**

A deletion will remove the  
T at the root



## Heaps (Cont.)

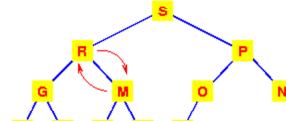
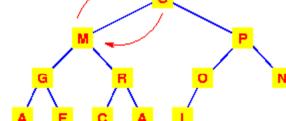
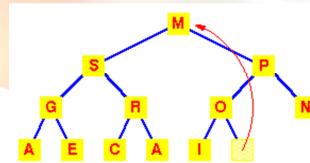
To work out how we're going to maintain the heap property, use the fact that a complete tree is filled from the left. So that the position which must become empty is the one occupied by the M. Put it in the vacant root position.

This has violated the condition that the root must be greater than each of its children. So interchange the M with the larger of its children.

The left subtree has now lost the heap property. So again interchange the M with the larger of its children.

We need to make at most  $h$  interchanges of a root of a subtree with one of its children to fully restore the heap property.

$O(h)$  or  $O(\log n)$



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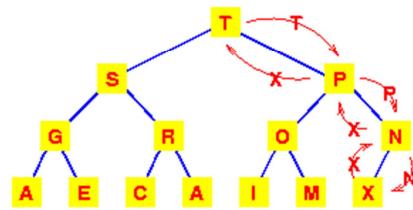
## Heaps (Cont.)

### Addition to a Heap

To add an item to a heap, we follow the reverse procedure.

Place it in the next leaf position and move it up.

Again, we require  $O(h)$  or  $O(\log n)$  exchanges.



## Data Structure Comparisons

	Arrays	Linked List	Trees
	Simple, fast Inflexible	Simple Flexible	Still Simple Flexible
Add	O(1) O(n) inc sort	O(1) <i>sort -&gt; no adv</i>	O(log n)
Delete	O(n)	O(1) - any O(n) - specific	O(log n)
Find	O(n) O(logn) <i>binary search</i>	O(n) <i>(no bin search)</i>	O(log n)

## Queues

Queues are dynamic collections which have some concept of order

- **FIFO queue**

- A queue in which the first item added is always the first one out.

- **LIFO queue**

- A queue in which the item most recently added is always the first one out.

- **Priority queue**

- A queue in which the items are sorted so that the highest priority item is always the next one to be extracted.

**Queues can be implemented by Linked Lists**

## Stacks

- **Stacks are a special form of collection with LIFO semantics**

- Two methods

- `int push( Stack s, void *item );`

- **add item to the top of the stack**

- `void *pop( Stack s );`

- **remove most recently pushed item from the top of the stack**

- Like a plate stacker

- Other methods

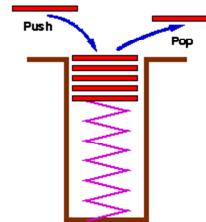
- `int IsEmpty( Stack s );`

- **Determines whether the stack has anything in it**

- `void *Top( Stack s );`

- **Return the item at the top without deleting it**

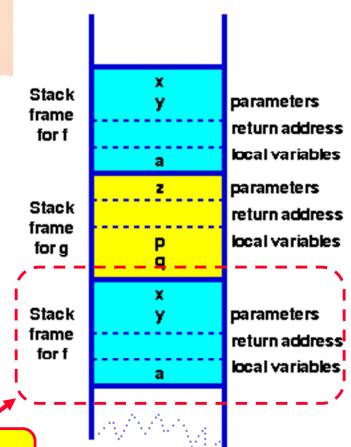
- **\* Stacks are implemented by Arrays or Linked List**



## Stacks (Cont.)

- Stack very useful for Recursions
- Key to call / return in functions & procedures

```
function f( int x, int y) {  
    int a;  
    if ( term_cond ) return ...;  
    a = ...;  
    return g( a );  
}  
  
function g( int z ) {  
    int p, q;  
    p = ... ; q = .... ;  
    return f(p,q);  
}
```



## Sorting Algorithms

A file is said to be SORTED on the key if  $i < j$  implies that  $k[i]$  precedes  $k[j]$  in some ordering of the keys

### Different types of Sorting

- Exchange Sorts
  - Bubble Sort
  - Quick Sort
- Insertion Sorts
- Selection Sorts
  - Heap Sort
  - Binary Tree Sort
- Merge and Radix Sorts

## Insertion Sort

First card is already sorted

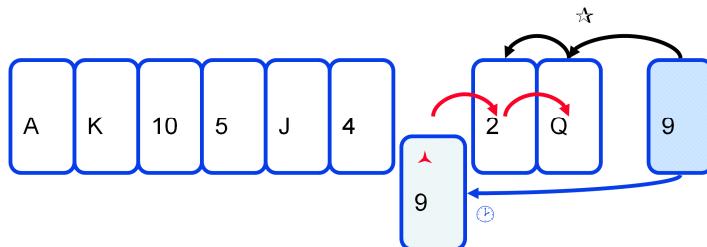
With all the rest,

★ Scan back from the end until you find the first card larger than the new one  $O(n)$

☒ Move all the lower ones up one slot  $O(n)$

⌚ Insert it  $O(1)$

For n cards Complexity  $O(n^2)$



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### Algorithm\*:

Start with the result being the first element of the input;

Loop over the input array until it is empty, "removing" the first remaining (leftmost) element;

Compare the removed element against the current result, starting from the highest (rightmost) element, and working left towards the lowest element;

If the removed input element is lower than the current result element, copy that value into the following element to make room for the new element below, and repeat with the next lowest result element;

Otherwise, the new element is in the correct location; save it in the cell left by copying the last examined result up, and start

## Bubble Sort

### Bubble Sort

- From the first element
  - Exchange pairs if they're out of order
  - Repeat from the first to n-1
  - Stop when you have only one element to check

```
/* Bubble sort for integers */  
#define SWAP(a,b) { int t; t=a; a=b; b=t; }  
  
void bubble( int a[], int n ) {  
    int i, j;  
    for(i=0;i<n;i++) { /* n passes thru the array */  
        /* From start to the end of unsorted part */  
        for(j=1;j<(n-i);j++) {  
            /* If adjacent items out of order, swap */  
            if( a[j-1]>a[j] ) SWAP(a[j-1],a[j]);  
        }  
    }  
}  
Overall O(n2)
```

Outer loop  $n$  iterations

Inner loop  
 $n-1, n-2, n-3, \dots, 1$  iterations

O(1) statement

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Sorting takes an unordered collection and makes it an ordered one.

Bubble sort algorithm\*:

Compare adjacent elements. If the first is greater than the second, swap them.

Do this for each pair of adjacent elements, starting with the first two and ending with the last two. At this point the last element should be the greatest.

Repeat the steps for all elements except the last one.

Keep repeating for one fewer element each time, until you have no more pairs to compare

Time complexity:  $O(n^2)$

Example: Sort the list {12, 5, 7, 9, 2, 6}

## Selection Sort

- Algorithm:
  - Pass through elements sequentially;
  - In the  $i^{th}$  pass, we select the element with the lowest value in  $A[i]$  through  $A[n]$ , then swap the lowest value with  $A[i]$ .
- Time complexity:  $O(n^2)$
- Example: Sort the list {25, 57, 48, 37, 12}

## Quick Sort 1/2

- Quick sort, also known as partition sort, sorts by employing a divide-and-conquer strategy.
- Algorithm:
  - Pick an pivot element from the input;
  - Partition all other input elements such that elements less than the pivot come before the pivot and those greater than the pivot come after it (equal values can go either way);
  - Recursively sort the list of elements before the pivot and the list of elements after the pivot.
  - The recursion terminates when a list contains zero or one element.
- Time complexity:  $O(n \log n)$  or  $O(n^2)$
- Demo: <http://pages.stern.nyu.edu/~panos/java/Quicksort/>
- Example: Sort the list {25, 57, 48, 37, 12}

## Quick Sort 2/2

- Example of Divide and Conquer algorithm
- Two phases
  - Partition phase
    - Divides the work into half

< pivot                      pivot                      > pivot

- Sort phase

- Conquers the halves!



```
quicksort( void *a, int low, int high ) {  
    int pivot;  
    if ( high > low ) /* Termination condition! */ {  
        pivot = partition( a, low, high );  
        quicksort( a, low, pivot-1 );  
        quicksort( a, pivot+1, high );  
    }  
}
```

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## Heap Sort

### Heaps also provide a means of sorting:

- construct a heap,
- add each item to it (maintaining the heap property!),
- when all items have been added, remove them one by one (restoring the heap property as each one is removed).
- Addition and deletion are both  $O(\log n)$  operations. We need to perform  $n$  additions and deletions, leading to an  $O(n \log n)$  algorithm
- Generally slower

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#### Heapify phase:

Create a descending heap

Add element to a binary tree from top to bottom and from left to right

When adding a new element, if the element is out of order, perform “sift-up” operations (a sequence of swap with parent)

Example: {25, 57, 48, 37, 12}

#### Sorting phase

Work backwards from bottom to top and from right to left

Swap current element with root

For the new root, perform “sift-down” operations (swap with the larger son).

#### Time complexity:

Heapify:  $O(n \log_2 n)$

Sorting:  $O(n \log_2 n)$

Overall:  $O(n \log_2 n) + O(n \log_2 n) = O(n \log_2 n)$

## Comparisons of Sorting

– Insertion	$O(n^2)$	<b>Guaranteed</b>
– Bubble	$O(n^2)$	<b>Guaranteed</b>
– Heap	$O(n \log n)$	<b>Guaranteed</b>
– Quick	$O(n \log n)$ $O(n^2)$	<b>Most of the time!</b>
– Bin	$O(n)$ $O(n+m)$	<b>Keys in small range</b>
– Radix	$O(n)$ $O(n \log n)$	<b>Bounded keys/duplicates</b>

## Searching Algorithms

- Fundamental operation
- Finding an element in a (huge) set of other elements
  - Each element in the set has a key
- Searching is the looking for an element with a given key
  - distinct elements may have (share) the same key
  - how to handle this situation?
    - first, last, any, listed, ...
- May use a specialized data structure
- Things to consider
  - the average time
  - the worst-case time and
  - the best possible time.

## Sequential Search

- Store elements in an array
  - Unordered

```
// return first element with key 'k' in 't[]';
// return 'NULL' if not found
// 't[]' is from 1 to 'N'
element find(element* t, int N, int k) {
    t[0].key = k; t[0].value = NULL; // sentinel
    int i = N;
    while (t[i--].key != k);
    // 'i' has been decreased!
    return t[i + 1];
}
```

## Sequential Search Analysis

- Generic simple algorithm
- Space complexity:  $O(1)$
- Time complexity
  - Time is proportional to  $n$
  - We call this **time complexity**  $O(n)$ 
    - Worst case:  $N + 1$  comparisons
    - Best case: 1 comparison
    - Average case (successfull):  $(1+2+\dots+N)/N = (N+1)/2$
- Both arrays (unsorted) and linked lists

## Sequential Search in a (sorted) Linked List 1/2

- Keep the list sorted
  - Easy to implement with linked list (**exercice: do it!**)

```
// return first node with key 'k' in 'l';
// return 'NULL' if not found
// 'l' is sorted
node find(list l, int k) {
    node z = list_end(l);
    node_setKey(z, k); // sentinel
    for (node n = list_start(l);
        node_getKey(n) > k;
        n = node_next(n));
    if (node_getKey(n) != k) return NULL;
    return n;
}
```

## Sequential Search in a (sorted) Linked List 2/2

- Space complexity:  $O(1)$
- Time complexity
  - Best case: 1 comparison
  - Average case (successful): same as the sequential search in unordered list (array):  $(N+1)/2$
  - Worst case (unsuccessfull):
    - consider the sentinel as part of the list
    - then a search is always “successful” (finding the sentinel at least)
    - Hence:  $(N+2)/2$

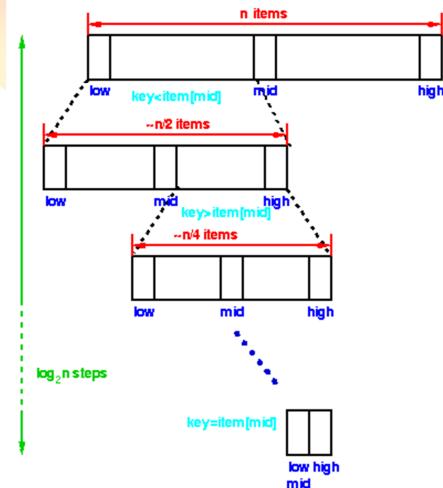
## Sequential Search Improvements

- Static caching
  - Use the *relative access frequency of elements*
    - store the *most often accessed elements at the first places*
- Dynamic caching
  - For each access, move the element to the first position
    - *Needs a linked list data structure to be efficient*
- Very difficult to analyze the complexity in theory: very efficient in practice

## Binary Search

- Sorted array on a key
- first compare the key with the item in the middle position of the array
- If there's a match, we can return immediately.
- If the key is less than the middle key, then the item sought must lie in the lower half of the array
- if it's greater then the item sought must lie in the upper half of the array
- Repeat the procedure on the lower (or upper) half of the array  
- **RECURSIVE**

Time complexity  $O(\log n)$



## Binary Search Implementation

```
static void *bin_search( collection c, int low, int high, void *key ) {
    int mid;
    if (low > high) return NULL; /* Termination check */
    mid = (high+low)/2;
    switch (memcmp(itemKey(c->items[mid]),key,c->size)) {
        case 0: return c->items[mid]; /* Match, return item found */
        case -1: return bin_search( c, low, mid-1, key ); /* search lower half */
        case 1: return bin_search( c, mid+1, high, key ); /* search upper half */
        default : return NULL;
    }
}
void *FindInCollection( collection c, void *key ) {
/* Find an item in a collection
   Pre-condition:
       c is a collection created by ConsCollection
       c is sorted in ascending order of the key
       key != NULL
   Post-condition: returns an item identified by key if one exists, otherwise returns NULL */

    int low, high;
    low = 0; high = c->item_cnt-1;
    return bin_search( c, low, high, key );
}
```

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## Binary Search vs Sequential Search

- **Find method**

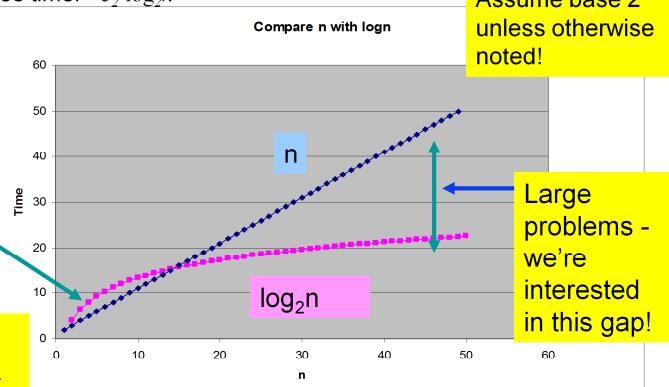
- **Sequential search**
  - Worst case time:  $c_1 n$
- **Binary search**
  - Worst case time:  $c_2 \log_2 n$

**Logs**

Base 2 is by far the most common in this course. Assume base 2 unless otherwise noted!

Small problems - we're not interested!

Binary search  
More complex  
Higher constant factor



Large problems - we're interested in this gap!

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