

# Quicksort Algorithm For Linked-Lists, Reading

Applying quicksort to linked lists differs from its application to arrays in that it uses pointers instead of indexes. And it's easier and more straight-forward if it's a **doubly-linked** list.

Here's how the algorithm changes for a list whose start and end pointers are named START and END. Note that lowercase "start" and "end" are used for "sub lists" within the full list.

```
define a struct with two Node**'s to store start and end pointers
create a stack of Node*-Node* objects using the struct
create a Node*-Node* object with START and END, and push onto stack
while the stack is not empty
    create and set start pointer = stack top's start
    create and set end pointer = stack top's end
    pop the top of the stack
    if start == end, "continue;"
    if start's prev == end, "continue;"
    calculate the pivot pointer = start

    create and set a left pointer = start
    create and set a right pointer = end
    start a loop

        while left != pivot && value at left <= value at pivot
            left = left's next

        while pivot != right && value at pivot <= value at right
            right = right's prev

        if left == right
            create an object with start=start, end=pivot's prev; push
            create an object with start=pivot's next, end=end; push
            break out of the loop
        else if left == pivot
            swap value at right with value at pivot
            set pivot to right
            left = left's next
        else if right == pivot
            swap value at left with value at pivot
            set pivot to left
            right = right's prev
        else
            swap value at left with value at right
            left = left's next
            right = right's prev
```

Also note that the pivot is the *first* value in the list instead of the middle, simply because the middle is not easy to find.