# Merge Sort

*Recursively divides the list into halves until each sublist has one element, then merges the sorted sublists back together to form a fully sorted list.*

```python
def merge(left: list, right: list) → list:
    i = j = 0
    results = []
    while i < len(left) and j < len(right):
        if left[i] ≤ right[j]:
            results.append(left[i])
            i += 1
        else:
            results.append(right[j])
            j += 1
    results.extend(left[i:])
    results.extend(right[j:])
    return results


def merge_sort(arr: list) → list:
    if len(arr) < 2:
        return arr

    mid = len(arr) // 2

    return merge(merge_sort(arr[:mid]), merge_sort(arr[mid:]))
```

| Property | Details |
|---|---|
| How it works | Recursively splits the list into two halves until each sublist has one element (or is empty). A sublist of length 1 or 0 is already considered sorted. Then, the sorted sublists are merged from left to right to form a fully sorted list. The sorting happens during the merge step, where elements from both sublists are combined in order. |
| Time Complexity | O(n * log n) in all cases (Best, Average, Worst) |
| Space Complexity | O(n) |
| Stable | Yes |
| Type | creates copies, recursive |

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