

Problem: Implement selection sort.

Constraints

- Is a naive solution sufficient (ie not stable, not based on a heap)?
 - Yes
- Are duplicates allowed?
 - Yes
- Can we assume the input is valid?
 - No
- Can we assume this fits memory?
 - Yes

Test Cases

- None -> Exception
- [] -> []
- One element -> [element]
- Two or more elements

Algorithm

	8
	5
	2
	6
	9
	3
	1
	4
	0
	7

Wikipedia's animation:

We can do this recursively or iteratively. Iteratively will be more efficient as it doesn't require the extra space overhead with the recursive calls.

- For each element
 - Check every element to the right to find the min
 - If $\text{min} < \text{current element}$, swap

Complexity:

- Time: $O(n^2)$ average, worst, best
- Space: $O(1)$ iterative, $O(m)$ recursive where m is the recursion depth (unless tail-call elimination is available, then $O(1)$)
 - Note: Tail call elimination is not inherently available in Python, see the following [StackOverflow post](#).

Misc:

- In-place
- Most implementations are not stable, due to swapping of values

Selection sort might be a good option if moving elements is more expensive than comparing them, as it requires at most $n-1$ swaps.

The finding of a minimum element can be done with a min heap, which would change the worst-case run time to $O(n \log(n))$ and increase the space to $O(n)$. This is called a heap sort.