

# Sorting Strategies

## I. SELECTION SORT

find lowest value, put it in position 1  
then find next-lowest value, put it in position 2  
and so on...

$$O(n^2)$$

15, 8, 2, 3, 13

2, 8, 15, 3, 13

2, 3, 15, 8, 13

2, 3, 8, 15, 13

2, 3, 8, 13, 15

## II. BUBBLE SORT

go through the list comparing adjacent values,  
swapping them if out-of-order. do this  $n-1$  times,  
making one less comparison at the end each time.  
"bubble up large values"

$$O(n^2)$$

15, 8, 2, 3, 13

8, 15, 2, 3, 13

8, 2, 15, 3, 13

8, 2, 3, 15, 13

8, 2, 3, 13, 15

2, 8, 3, 13, 15

2, 3, 8, 13, 15

## III. INSERTION SORT

go from left to right, inserting every new  
value into its correct position in the ordered  
collection of values you've already seen.  
"like ordering a hand of cards"

$$O(n^2)$$

15, 8, 2, 3, 13  
8, 15, 2, 3, 13  
2, 8, 15, 3, 13  
2, 3, 8, 15, 13  
2, 3, 8, 13, 15

#### IV. BUCKET SORT

stratify into buckets (e.g. 0-9, 10-19, ...),  
then sort within buckets, and finally  
concatenate all buckets' values in order

15, 8, 2, 3, 13  $O(n^2)$   

|      |   |        |
|------|---|--------|
| 2, 3 | 8 | 15, 13 |
| 2, 3 | 8 | 13, 15 |

  
 2, 3, 8, 13, 15

#### V. MERGE SORT

sort each adjacent 2, then each  
adjacent 4 (via linear merging process),  
then each adjacent 8 (via linear merging  
process) and so on...

$O(n \log n)$

15, 8, 2, 3, 13  
8, 15, 2, 3, 13  
8, 15, 2, 3, 13  
2, 3, 8, 13, 15

#### VI. BOGOSORT

no.