FUnctions

Big O

- Big O describes how the time taken, or memory used, by a program scales with the amount of data it has to work on
- Big O describes the ‘complexity’ of a program
- Common sense tells us that a program takes longer when there is more data to work on…

Big O

- Big O describes how the time taken, or memory used, by a program scales with the amount of data it has to work on
- Big O describes the ‘complexity’ of a program
- Common sense tells us that a program takes longer when there is more data to work on… But not necessarily

Big O Complexities

- Linear search
- Stack
- Bubble sort
- Binary search
- Merge sort

Linear Search

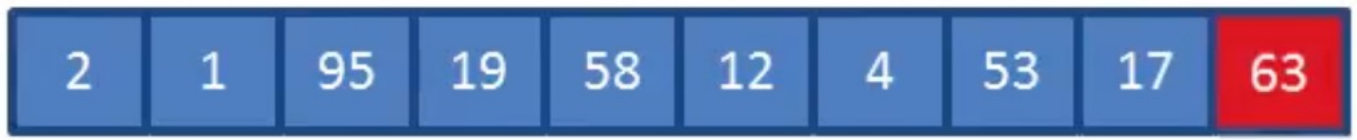
- Sometimes referred to as a sequential search
- An unordered list is searched for a particular value
- Each value in the list is compared with the target value
- Linear search implemented with a simple loop

Pseudocode

```
FOR i = 0 TO n - 1
    IF ArrayToSearch(i) = Target THEN
        bFound = True
        EXIT FOR
    END IF
NEXT i
```

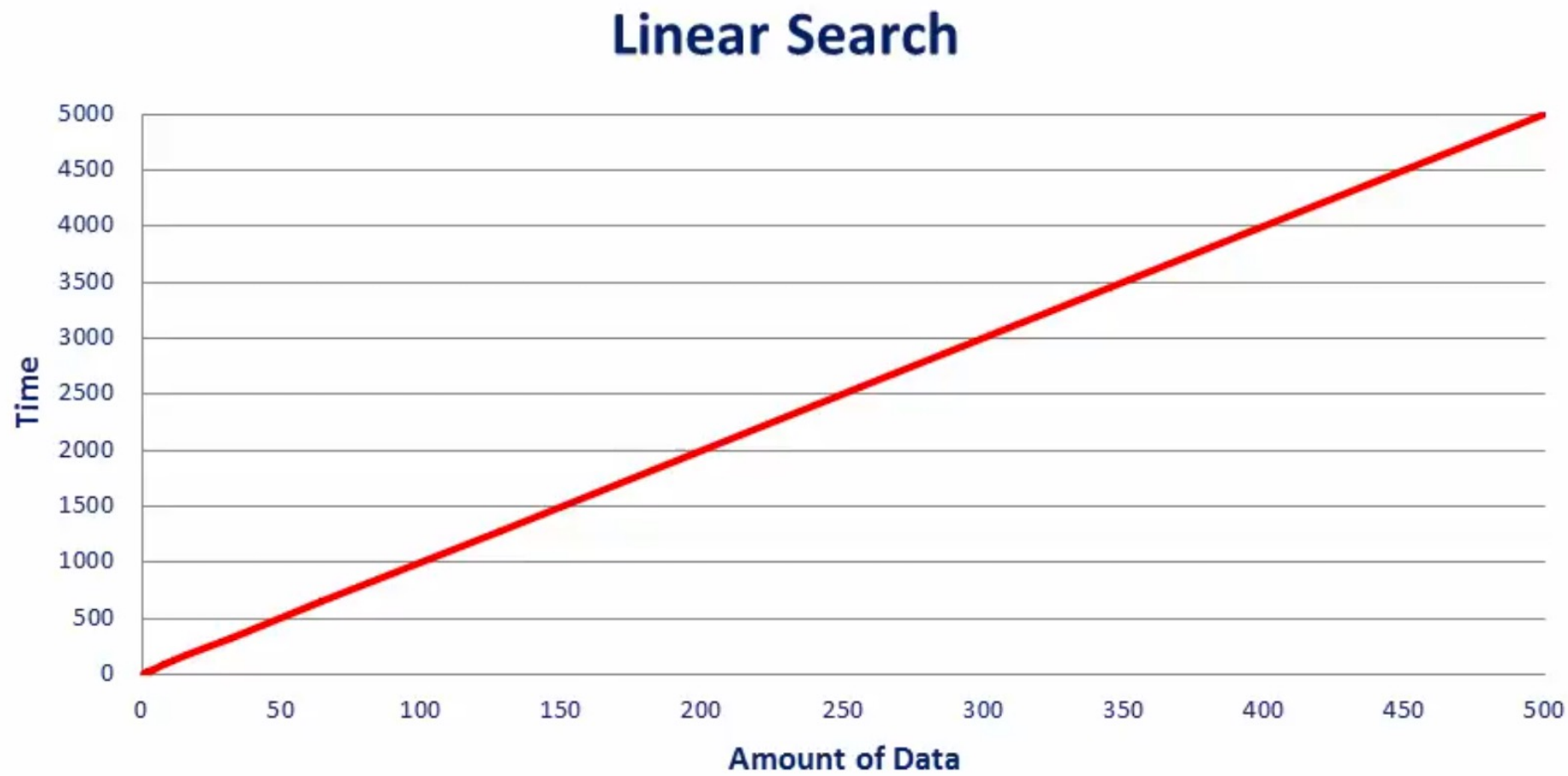

Target
63
2
1
95
19
63
Target
63
2
1
95
19
63

Target 63



Target 63

Data	Time
1	10
2	20
4	40
8	80
16	160
32	320
64	640
128	1280
256	2560
512	5120

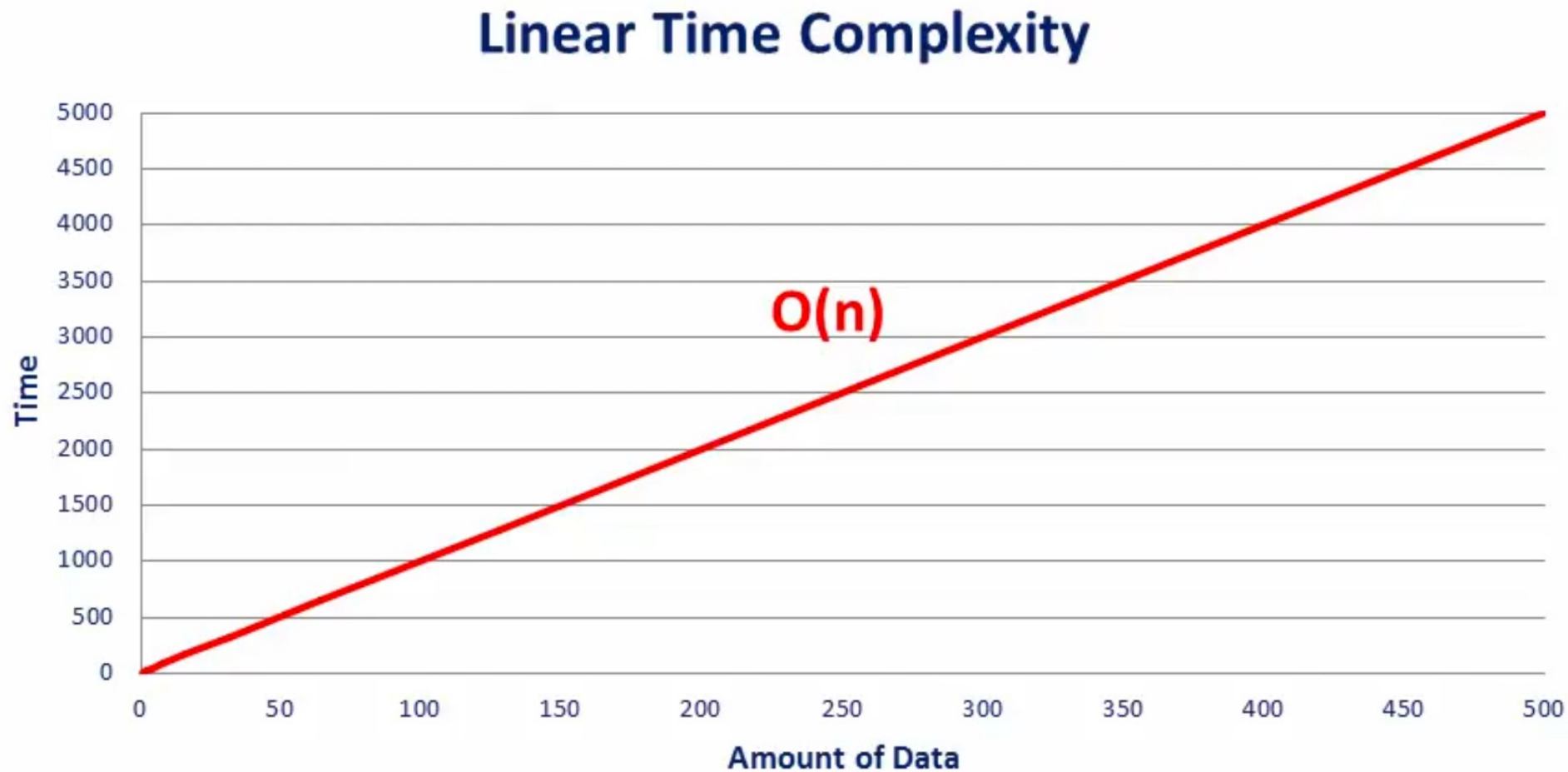


Linear Search Complexity

- For n data items, the time taken is equal to some constant multiplied by n
- The Big O time complexity is **Linear**

O(n)

Data	Time
1	10
2	20
4	40
8	80
16	160
32	320
64	640
128	1280
256	2560
512	5120



Stack

- Items are pushed onto and popped off the top of a stack
- Peek examines top item without removing it
- Last in first out data structure (LIFO)
- Implemented with an array and a pointer to the top item

```
Procedure Push
    IF Top = MaximumSize THEN
        OUTPUT “Stack overflow”
    ELSE
        Top = Top + 1
        ArrayStack(Top) = new item
    END IF
END Procedure
```

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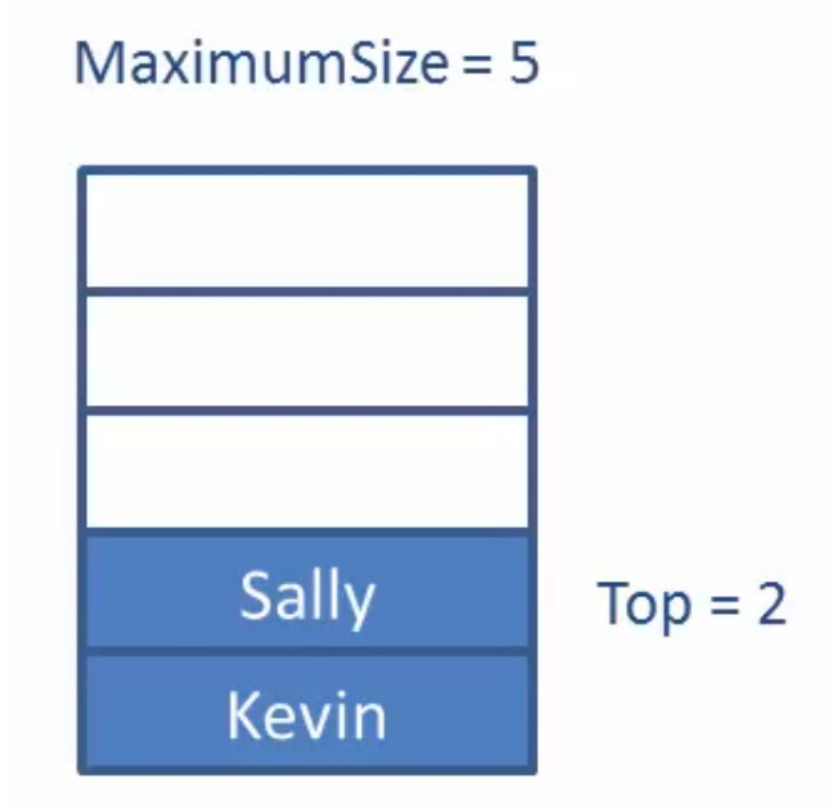
Procedure Push
    IF Top = MaximumSize THEN
        OUTPUT “Stack overflow”
    ELSE
        Top = Top + 1
        ArrayStack(Top) = new item
    END IF
END Procedure
```

```
Procedure Pop
    IF Top = 0 THEN
        OUTPUT “Stack is empty”
    ELSE
        copy item = ArrayStack(Top)
        Top = Top - 1
    END IF
END Procedure
```


MaximumSize = 5
Sally
Kevin
Top = 2


Push
Beatrix
MaximumSize = 5
Sally
Kevin
Top = 2

Push

MaximumSize = 5

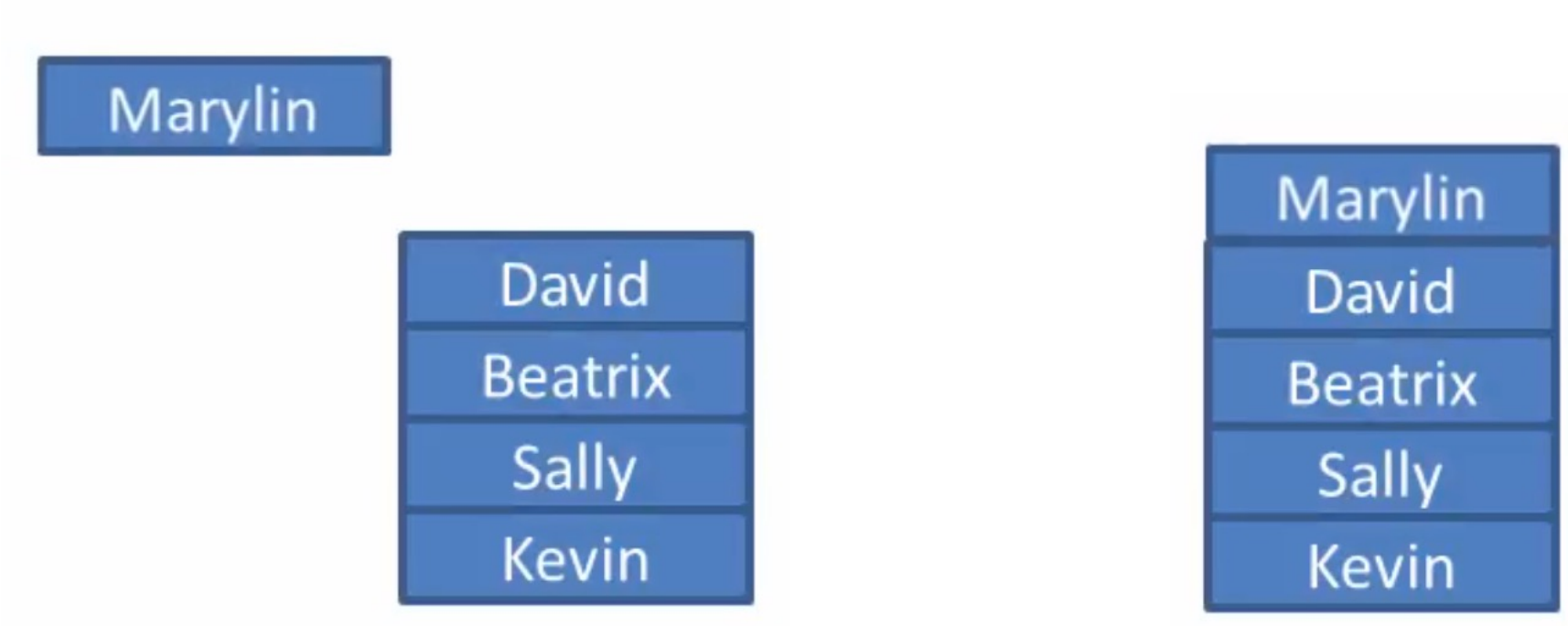
Top = 3

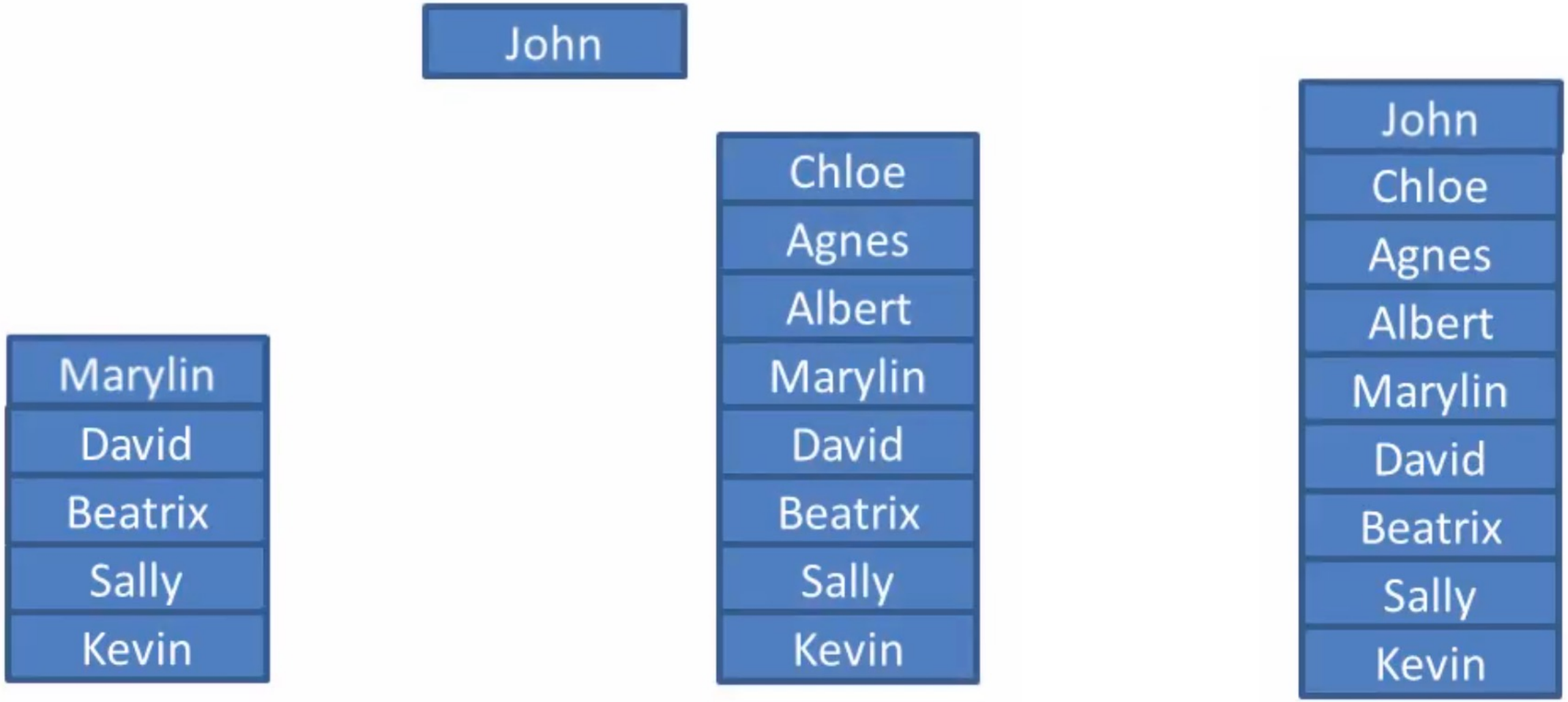
Pop

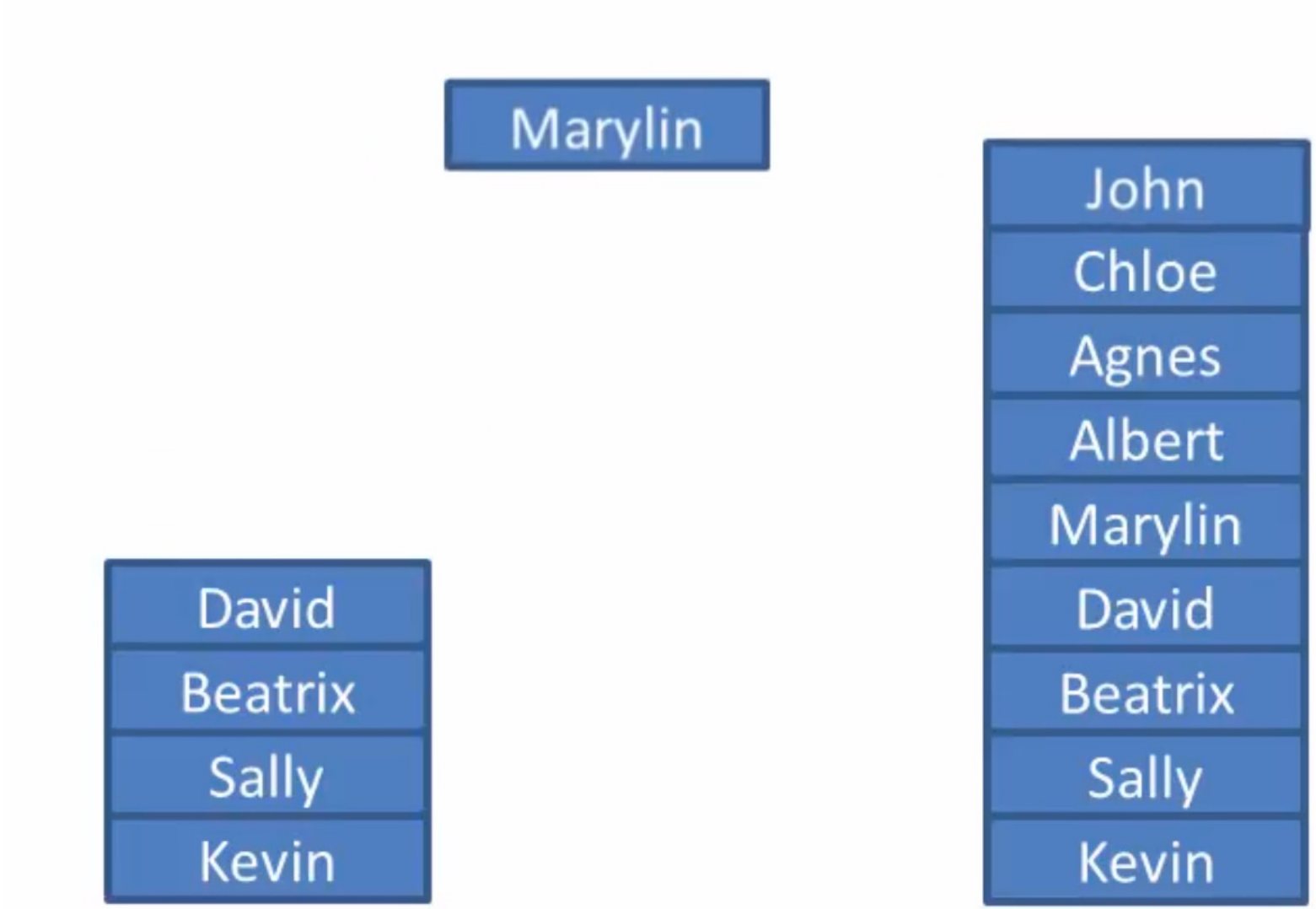
MaximumSize = 5

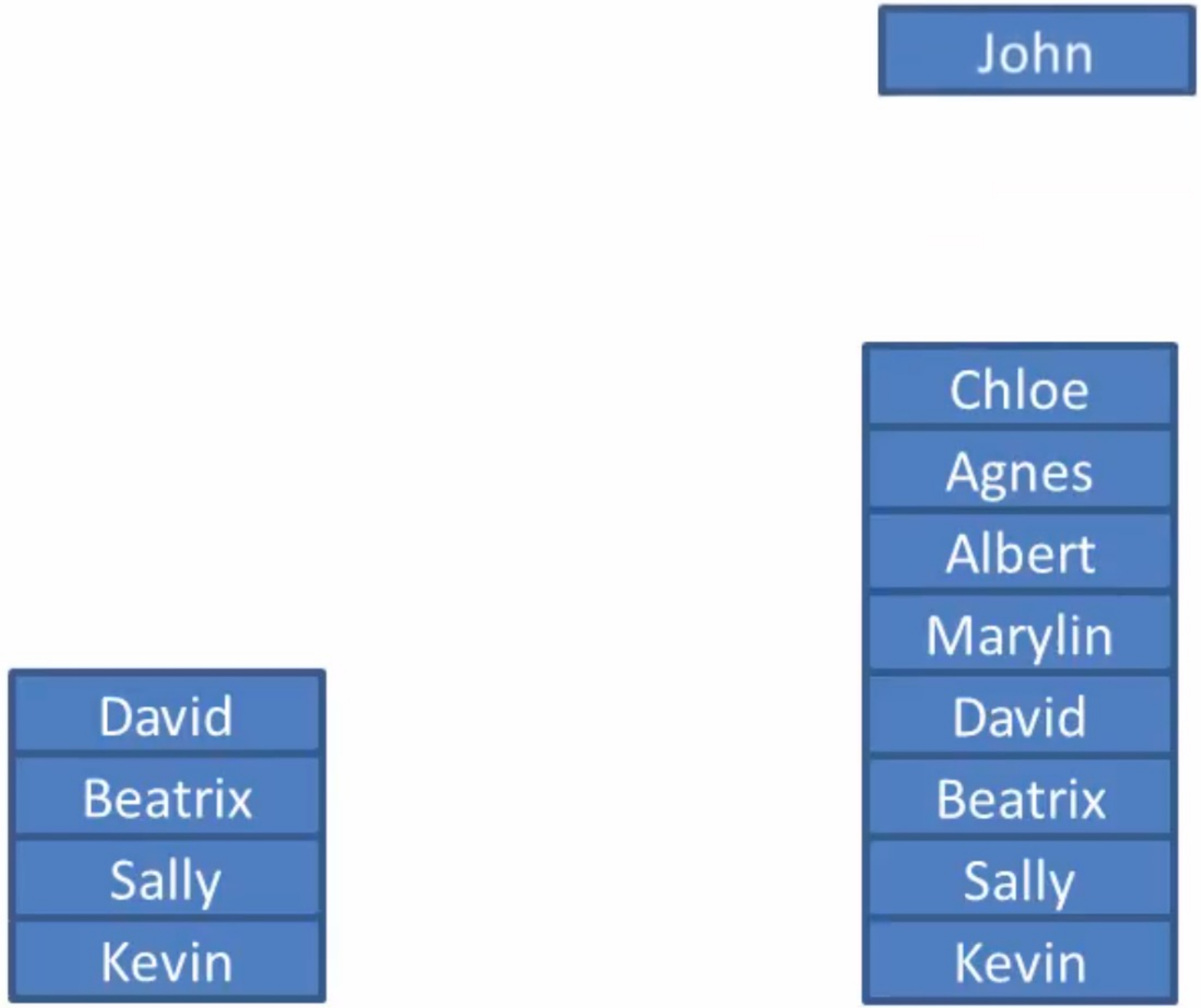
Top = 3


Pop
Beatrix
MaximumSize = 5
Beatrix
Sally
Kevin
Top = 2

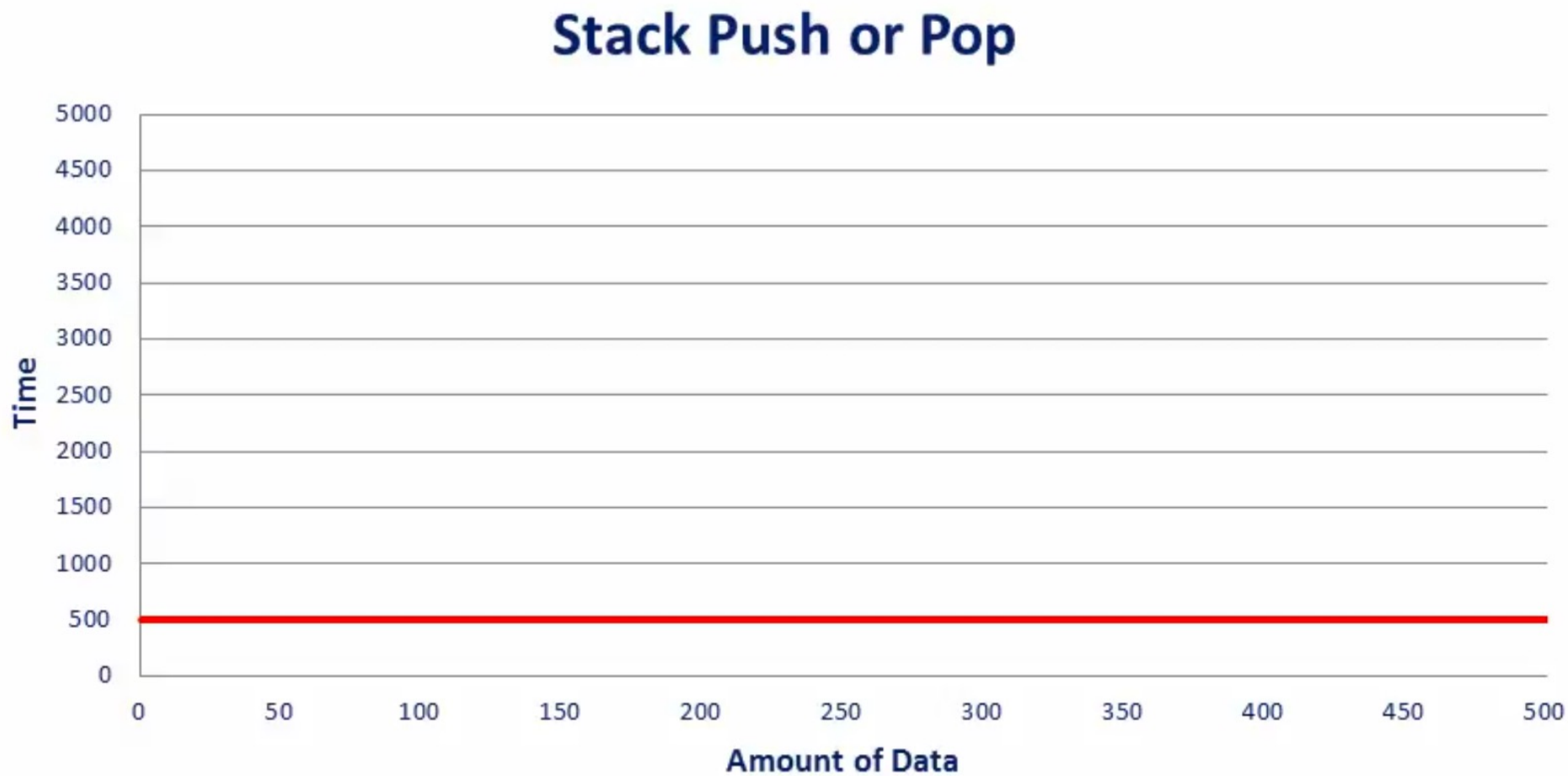

Marylin
David
Beatrix
Sally
Kevin
Marylin
David
Beatrix
Sally
Kevin


John
Marylin
David
Beatrix
Sally
Kevin
Chloe
Agnes
Albert
Marylin
David
Beatrix
Sally
Kevin
John
Chloe
Agnes
Albert
Marylin
David
Beatrix
Sally
Kevin


Marylin
David
Beatrix
Sally
Kevin
John
Chloe
Agnes
Albert
Marylin
David
Beatrix
Sally
Kevin


John
Chloe
Agnes
Albert
Marylin
David
Beatrix
Sally
Kevin
David
Beatrix
Sally
Kevin

Data	Time
1	500
2	500
4	500
8	500
16	500
32	500
64	500
128	500
256	500
512	500

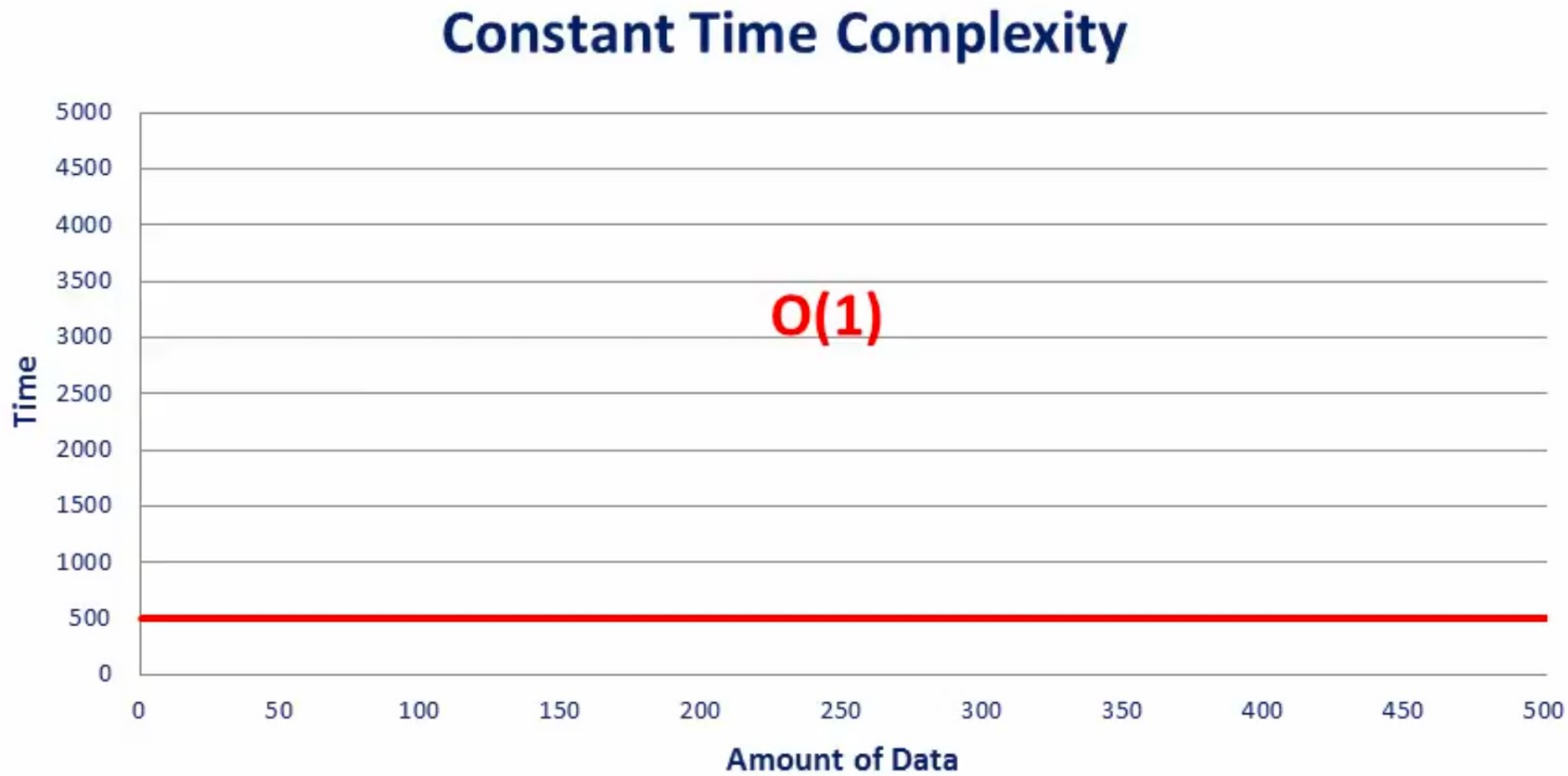


Stack Operations Complexity

- Increasing the amount of data makes no difference to the time taken by push or pop
- The Big O time complexity is **Constant**

O(1)

Data	Time
1	500
2	500
4	500
8	500
16	500
32	500
64	500
128	500
256	500
512	500



The Dominant Term

- An algorithm working on a data structure of size n might take $\mathbf{5n^3 + n^2 + 4n + 3}$ steps

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- The larger n becomes, the less significant the smaller terms become, so we ignore everything except $5n^3$

The Dominant Term

- An algorithm working on a data structure of size n might take $5n^3 + n^2 + 4n + 3$ steps
- The larger n becomes, the less significant the smaller terms become, so we ignore everything except $5n^3$
- We can also ignore any constants, so the Big O time complexity of this algorithm is **$O(n^3)$**

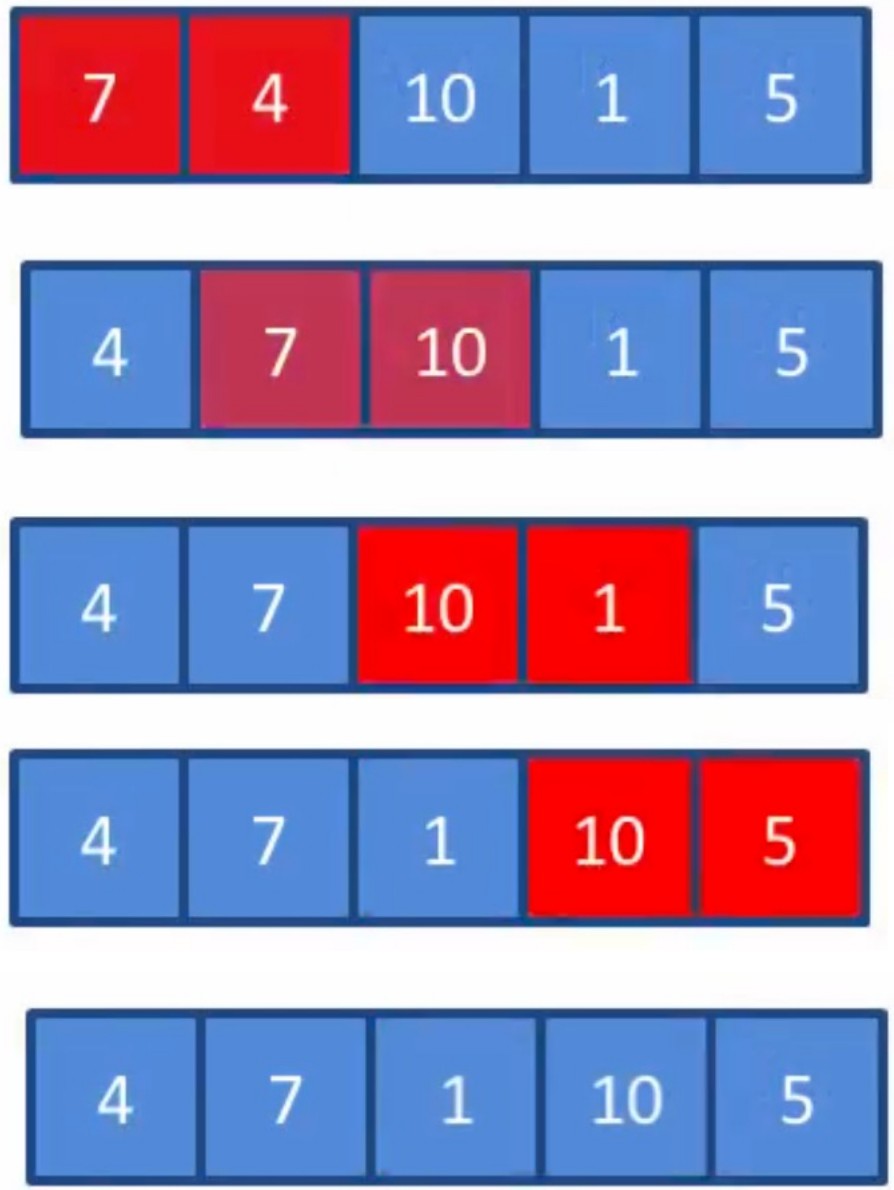
Bubble Sort

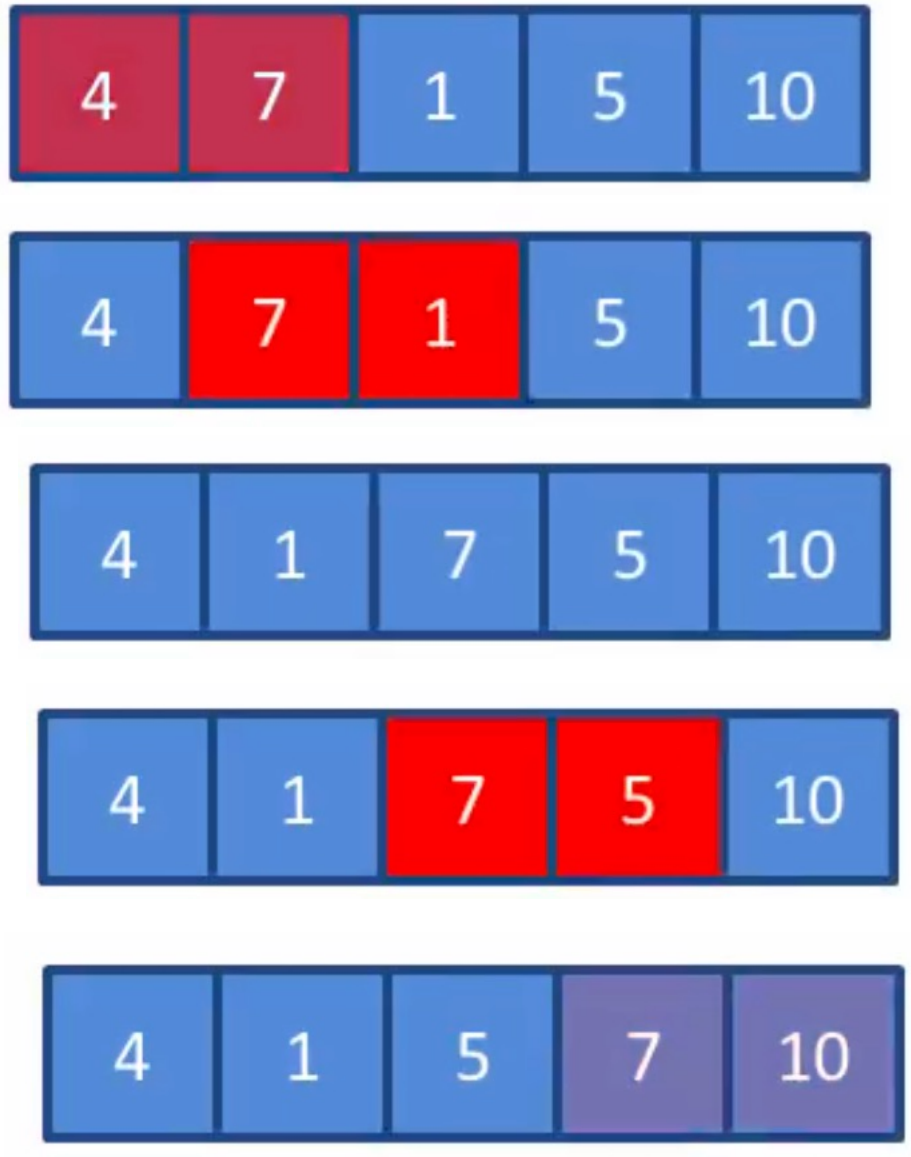
Bubble Sort

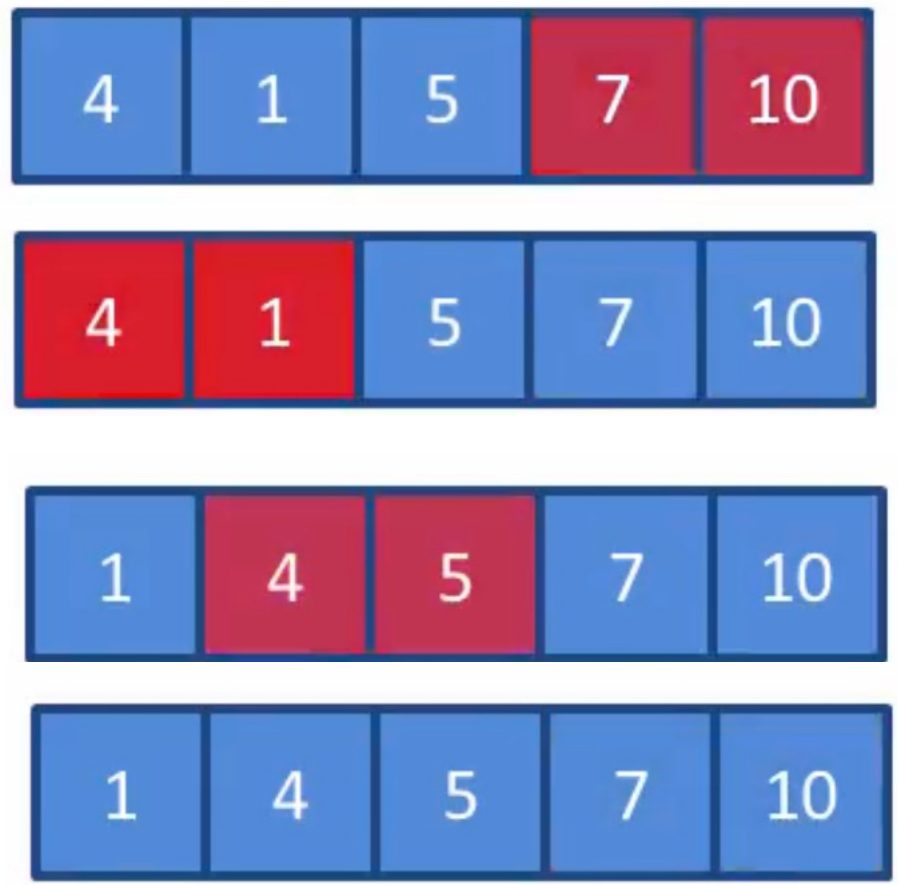
- Sorts a list of items into numeric or alphabetical order
- Scans a list comparing pairs of values and swapping their positions if necessary
- For n data items, the list is scanned like this n-1 times
- Various enhancements possible

Pseudocode

```
FOR iPass = 1 to n - 1
    FOR i = 0 TO n - 2
        IF ArrayToSort(i) > ArrayToSort(i + 1) THEN
            Swap ArrayToSort(i) with ArrayToSort(i + 1)
        END IF
    NEXT i
NEXT iPass
```

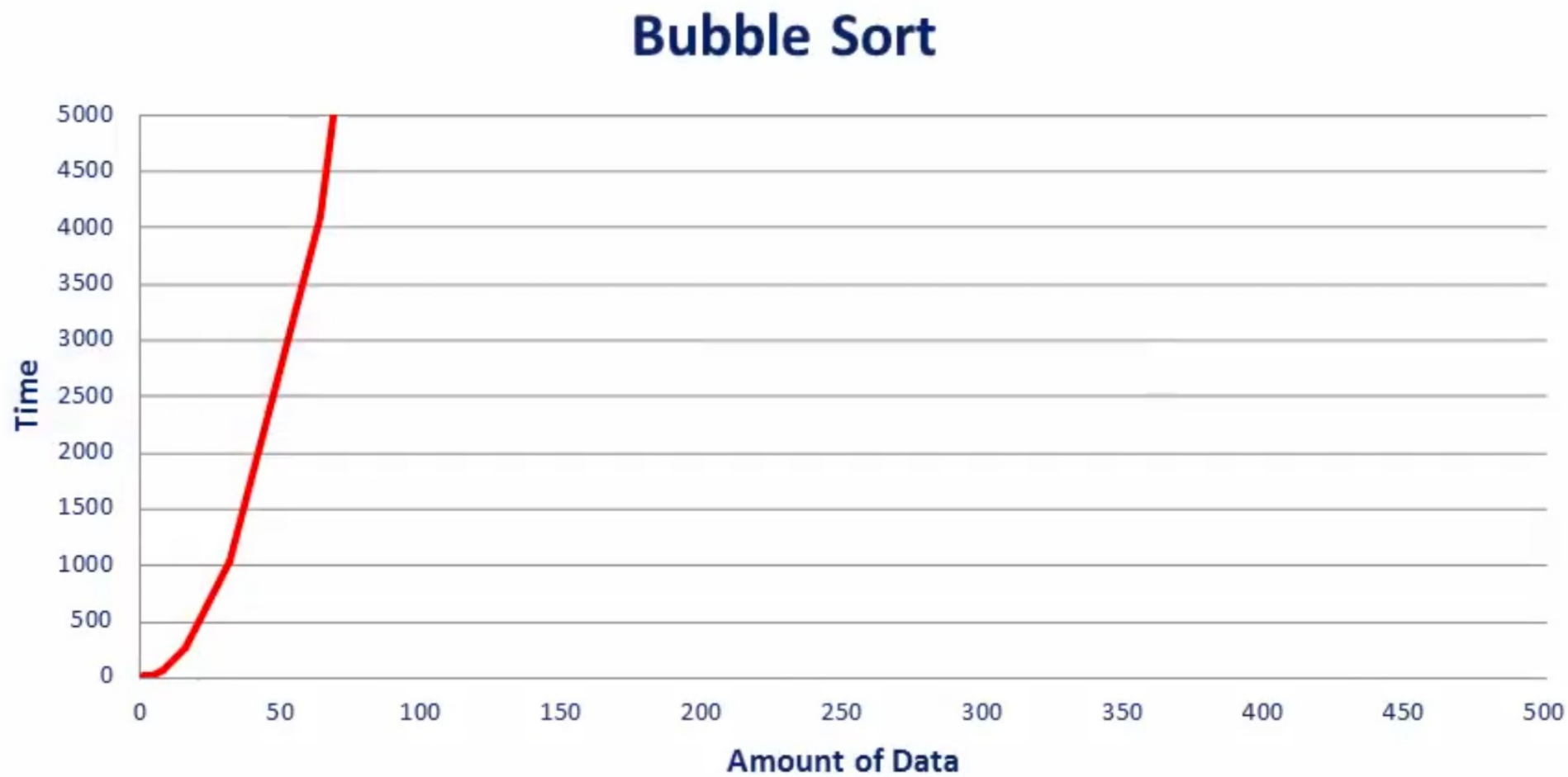

7 4 10 1 5
4 7 10 1 5
4 7 10 1 5
4 7 1 10 5
4 7 1 10 5


4 7 1 5 10
4 7 1 5 10
4 1 7 5 10
4 1 7 5 10
4 1 5 7 10


4 1 5 7 10
4 1 5 7 10
1 4 5 7 10
1 4 5 7 10


10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 10
8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Data	Time
1	1
2	4
4	16
8	64
16	256
32	1024
64	4096
128	16384
256	65536
512	262144



Bubble Sort Complexity

- For n data items, a simple implementation performs (n - 1) * (n - 1) operations
- This can be written n^2 - 2n + 1, and the dominant term is n^2
- The Big O time complexity is **Quadratic**

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$O(n^2)$

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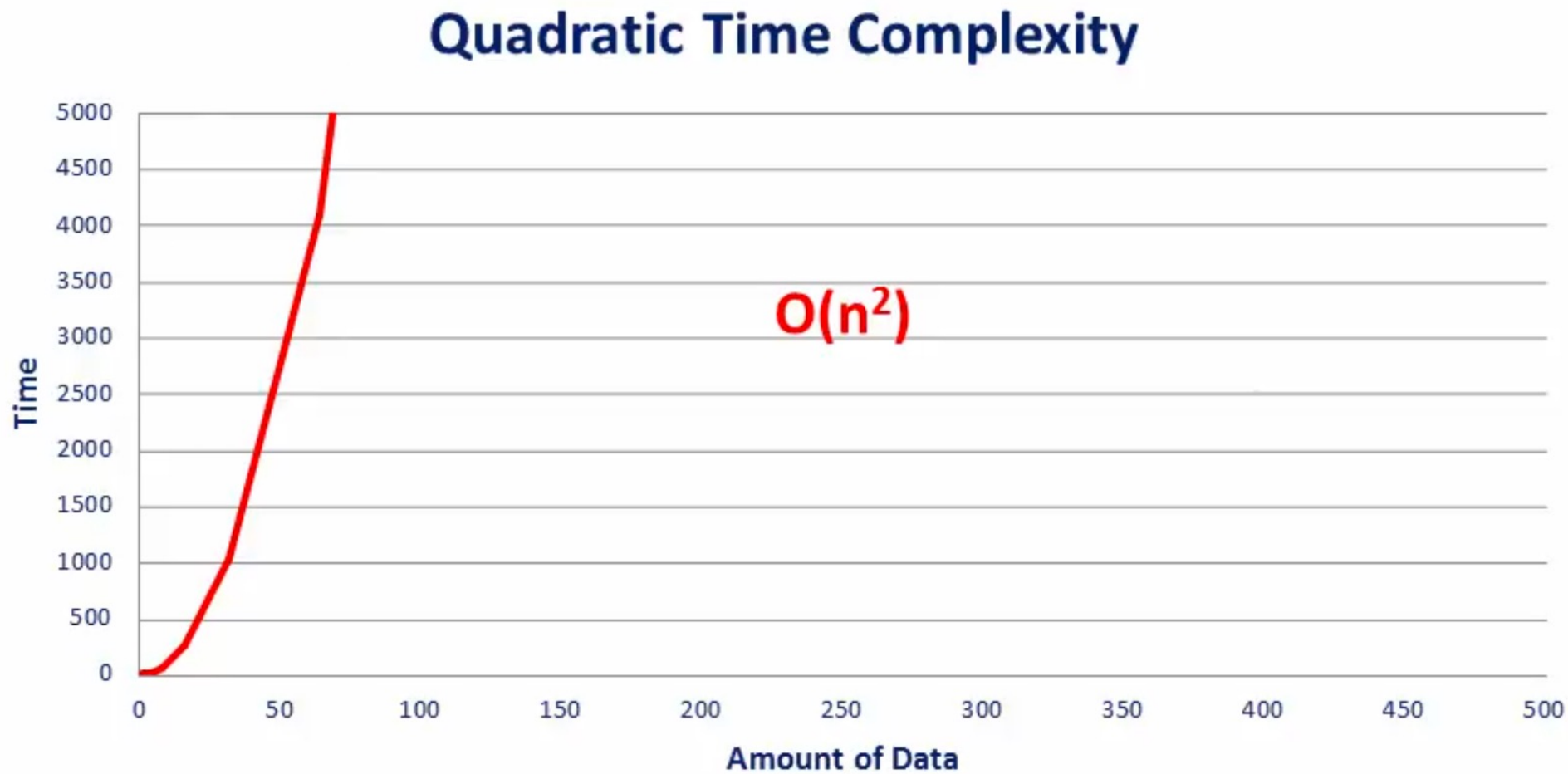
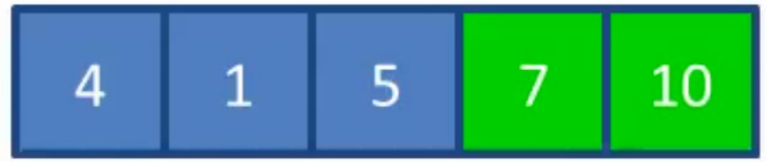


Enhanced Bubble Sort



- Largest item is in the correct position after the first pass
- Second largest item is in the correct place after the next pass
- and so on…
- The inner loop can run one less time with each pass of the outer loop

```
FOR iPass = 1 to n - 1
    FOR i = 0 to n - 1 - iPass
        IF ArrayToSort(i) > ArrayToSort(i + 1) THEN
            Temp = ArrayToSort(i)
            ArrayToSort(i) = ArrayToSort(i + 1)
            ArrayToSort(i + 1) = Temp
        END IF
    NEXT i
NEXT iPass
```

Enhanced Algorithm Complexity

- For n items of data, the enhanced bubble sort algorithm performs $(n - 1) + (n - 2) + (n - 3) + \ldots + 3 + 2 + 1$ operations
- This can be shown to be $(n^2 – n)/2$
- This is a 50% reduction in the time taken, but…
- The dominant term is still n^2
- The complexity is still **Quadratic** **$O(n^2)$**

Alternative Enhanced Bubble Sort

- If the inner loop performs no swaps, the data must now be in the correct order
- Check for swaps with a Boolean variable
- Force an early exit when there's no more work to do

Pseudocode

```
REPEAT
    Swapped = False
    FOR i = 0 TO Length(ArrayToSort) – 2
        IF ArrayToSort(i) > ArrayToSort(i + 1) THEN
            Swap ArrayToSort(i) with  ArrayToSort(i + 1)
            Swapped = True
        END IF
    NEXT i
UNTIL Swapped = False
```

Best versus Worst Case Scenario

- Best case scenario
  - Data is already sorted, the inner loop will run only once

    Linear O(n)

- Worst case scenario
  - Data is in reverse order, every item has to be moved

    Quadratic $O(n^2)$