

# Recursion

## Reduce and Conquer

## Divide (Evenly) and Conquer

## Sorting

# Recursive algorithms - Divide and Conquer

- General idea:
  - **Divide** a large problem into **smaller** ones
  - Solve each **smaller one** *recursively*
  - **Combine** the solutions of smaller ones to form a solution for the original problem
- Examples:
  - Tower of Hanoi (Reduced and Conquer)
  - Fibonacci sequence (Reduced and Conquer, Dynamic Programming)
  - Euclidean's Algorithm (GCD) (Reduced and Conquer)
  - Merge Sort, Quick Sort (Divide and Conquer)

# The Recursive Factorial Function

- The factorial function:

$$n! = n * (n-1) * (n-2) * \dots * 3 * 2 * 1 \text{ if } n > 0$$

$$n! = 1 \text{ if } n = 0$$

- Can compute factorial of  $n$  if the factorial of  $(n-1)$  is known:

$$n! = n * (n-1) !$$

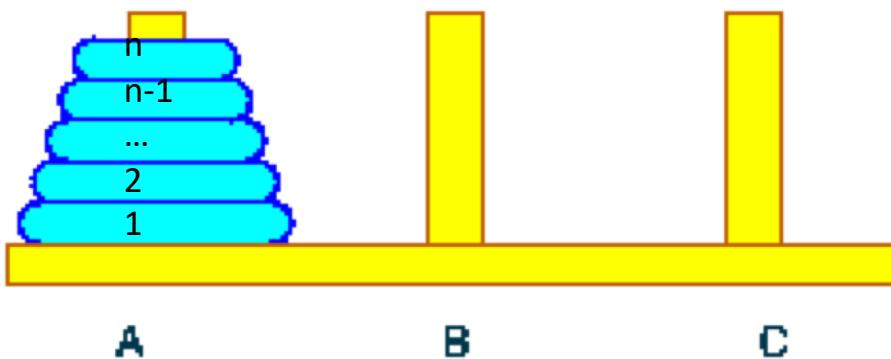
- $n = 0$  is the base case

# The Recursive Factorial Function

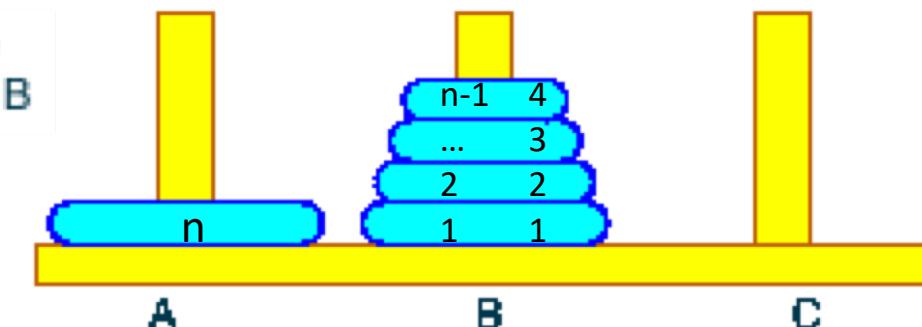
```
def factorial (num):  
{  
    if (num > 0)  
        return num * factorial(num - 1)  
    else  
        return 1  
}
```

- To move  $n$  discs from peg A to peg C:

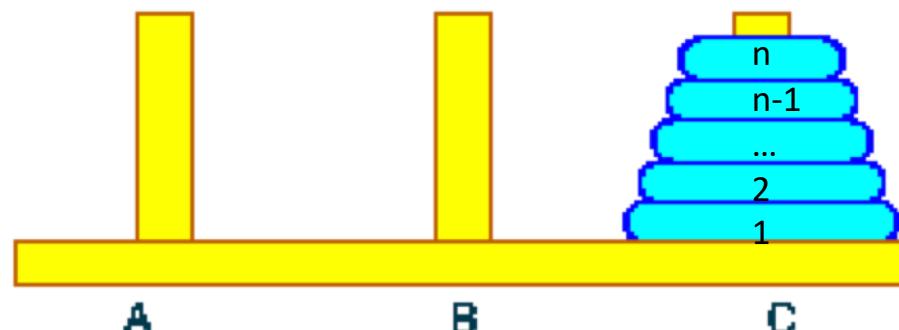
- move  $n-1$  discs from A to B. This leaves disc  $n$  alone on peg A
- move disc  $n$  from A to C
- move  $n-1$  discs from B to C so they sit on disc  $n$



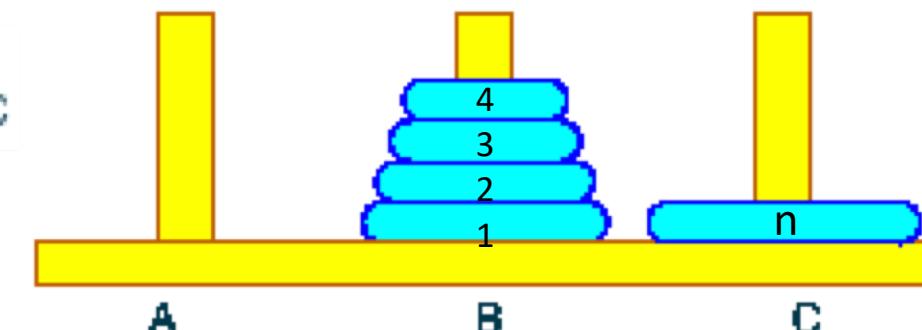
Recursively move  
four rings from A to B

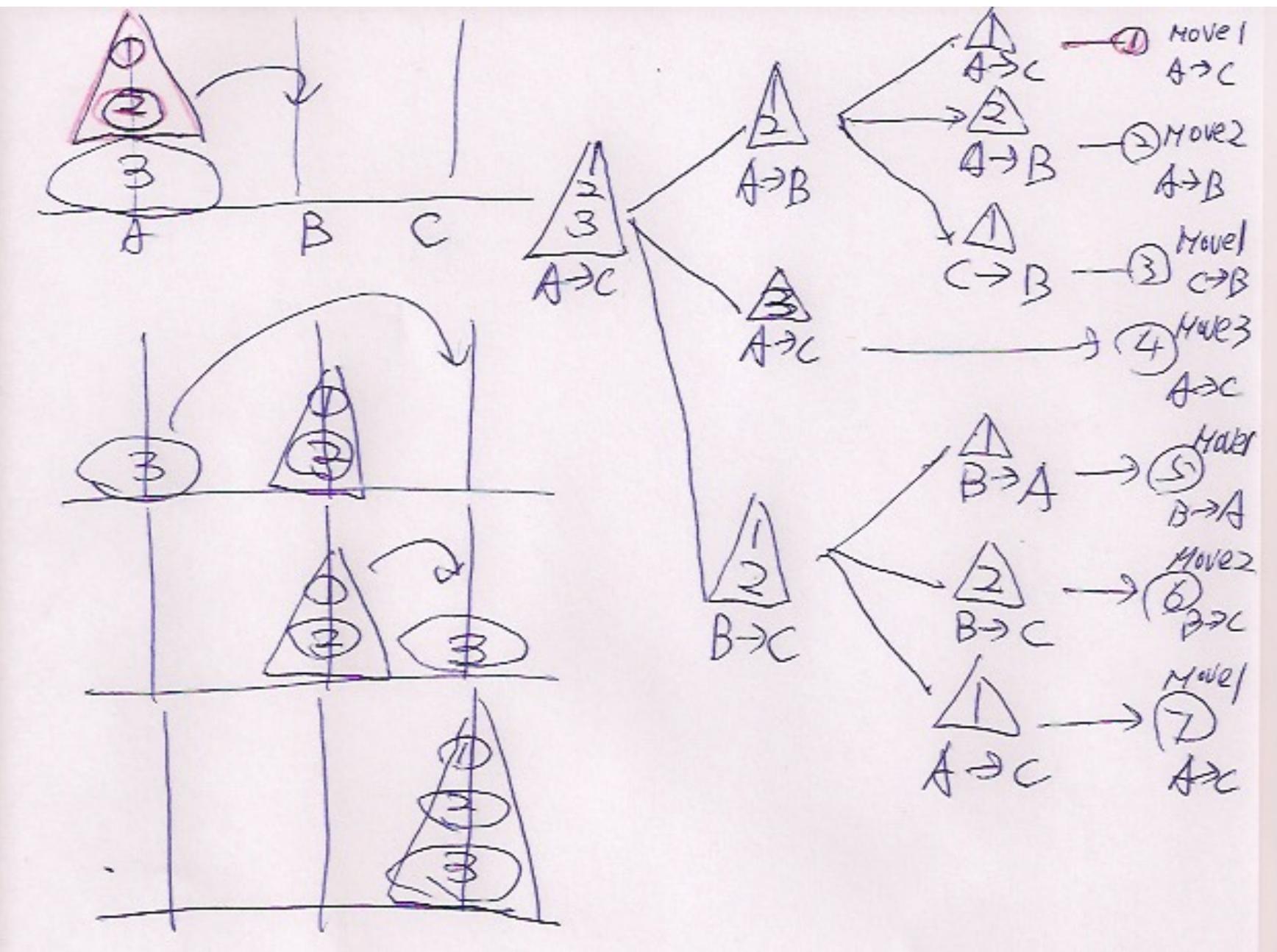


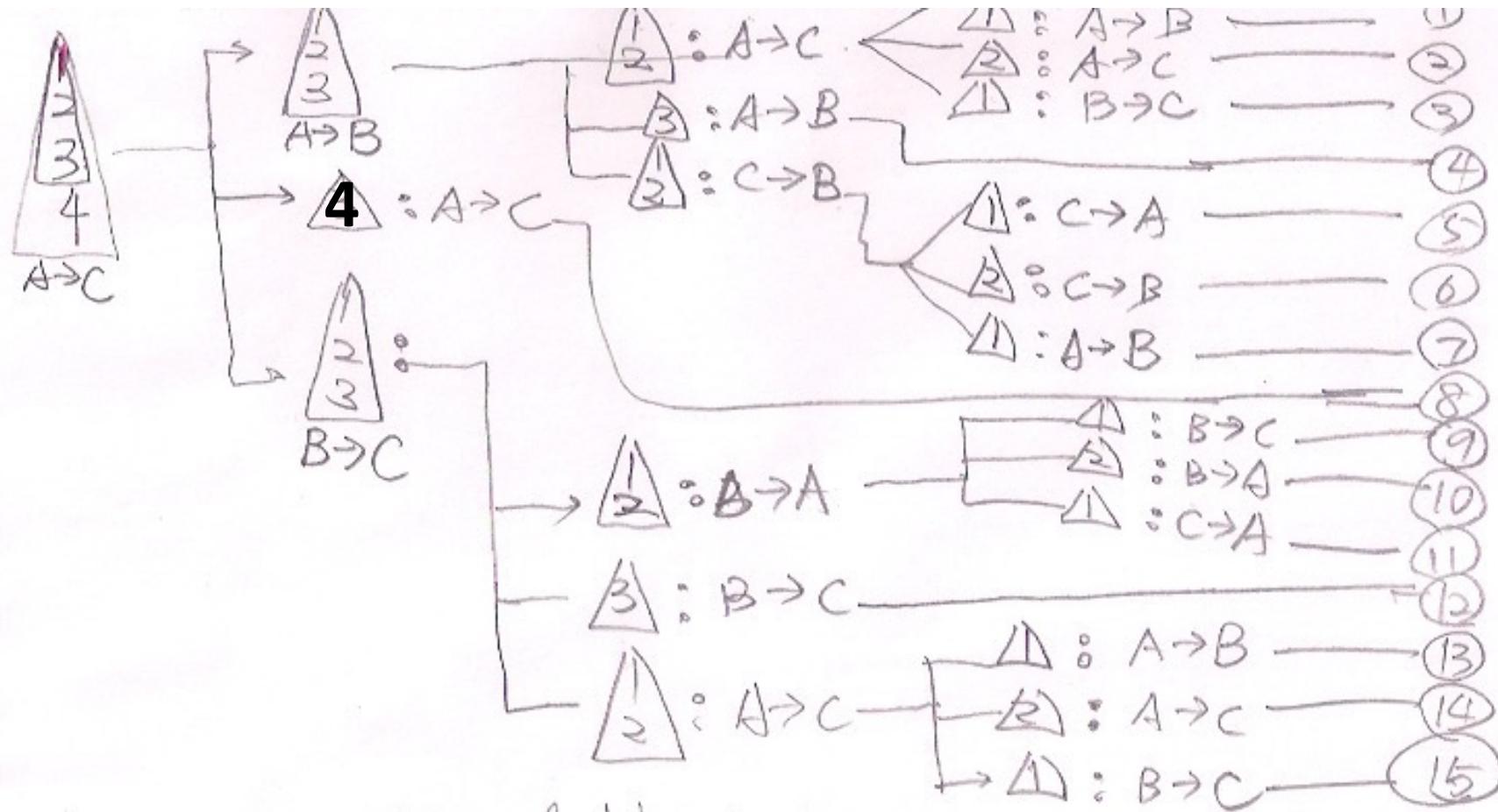
move one ring



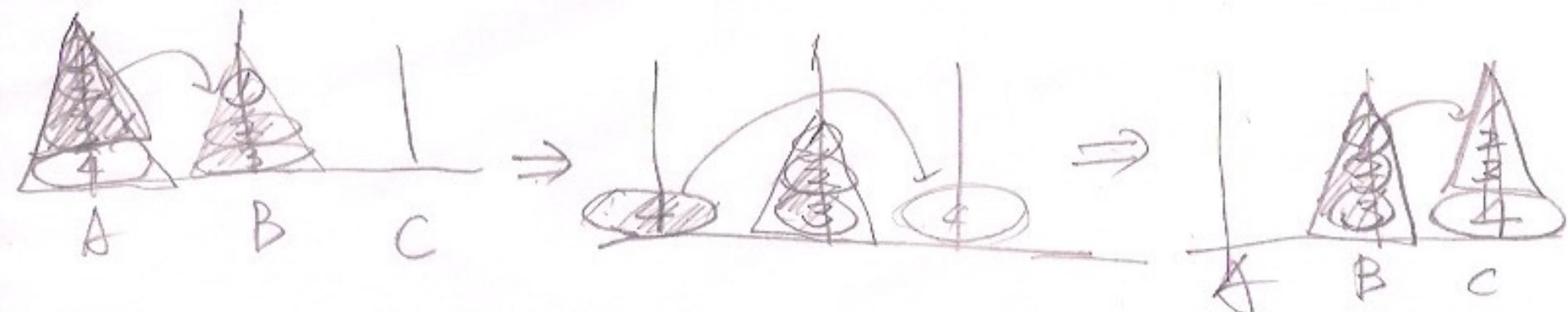
Recursively move  
four rings from B to C







Tower of Hanoi



# Recursive Algorithms for Tower of Hanoi

```
def TowerOfHanoi(n , from_rod, to_rod, aux_rod):  
    if n == 0:  
        return  
    TowerOfHanoi(n-1, from_rod, aux_rod, to_rod)  
    print ("Move disk",n,"from",from_rod,"to",to_rod )  
    TowerOfHanoi(n-1, aux_rod, to_rod, from_rod)
```

```
TowerOfHanoi(6, "A","B","C")
```

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n = 0; \\ 2T(n-1) + 1 & \text{if } n > 1. \end{cases}$$

# Recurrence Function

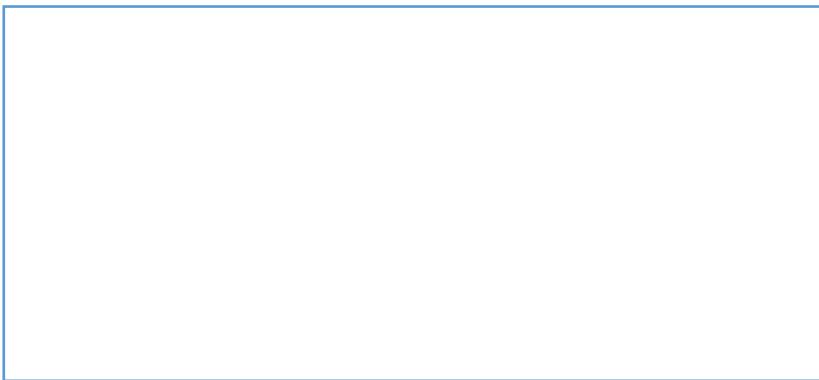
$$T(n) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n = 0; \\ 2T(n-1) + 1 & \text{if } n > 1. \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= 2 * T(n-1) + 1 \\ &= 2 * (2 * T(n-2) + 1) + 1 = 4 * T(n-2) + 3 = 2^2 * T(n-2) + 2^2 - 1 \\ &= 4 * (2 * T(n-3) + 1) + 3 = 8 * T(n-3) + 7 = 2^3 * T(n-3) + 2^3 - 1 \\ &= 8 * (2 * T(n-4) + 1) + 7 = 16 * T(n-4) + 15 = 2^4 * T(n-4) + 2^4 - 1 \\ &\dots &= \dots &= \dots \\ &= &= &= 2^n * T(0) + 2^n - 1 \\ &= 2^n - 1 \end{aligned}$$

## Fibonacci numbers

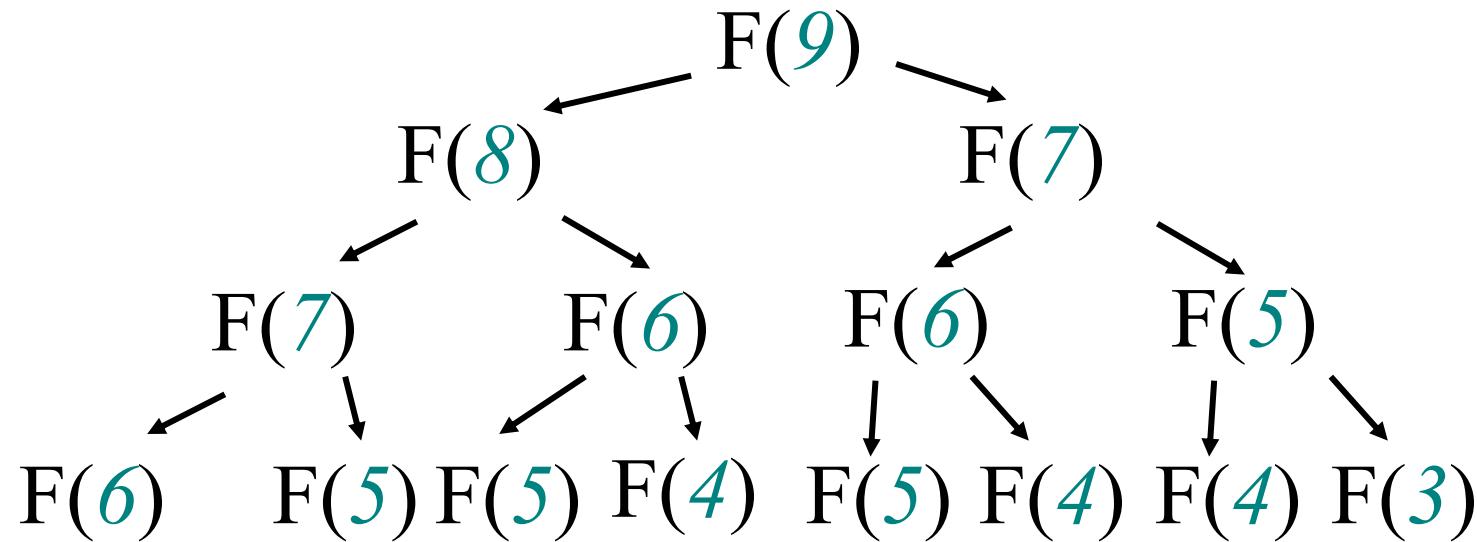
### An recursive algorithm

fib(n) // recursive



$$T(n) = T(n-1) + T(n-2) + 1$$

$$T(n) = \Theta(F_n) = \Theta(\phi^n)$$



## Fibonacci numbers

### An **iterative** algorithm

`fib(n): // iterative`

Time complexity?  $T(n)$

# The Recursive gcd Function

- Greatest common divisor (gcd) is the largest factor that two integers have in common
- Computed using Euclid's algorithm:

$\text{gcd}(x, y) = y$  if  $y$  divides  $x$  evenly

$\text{gcd}(x, y) = \text{gcd}(y, x \% y)$  otherwise

- $\text{gcd}(x, y) = y$  is the base case

# Iteration vs. Recursion

```
def gcd(x, y):  
    while y != 0:  
        (x, y) = (y, x % y)  
    return x
```

```
def gcd_recursive(a, b):  
    if b == 0:  
        return a  
    else:  
        return gcd_recursive(b, a % b)
```

# Recursion vs. Iteration

- Benefits (+), disadvantages(-) for recursion:
  - + Models certain algorithms most accurately
  - + Results in shorter, simpler functions
    - May not execute very efficiently
- Benefits (+), disadvantages(-) for iteration:
  - + Executes more efficiently than recursion
  - Often is harder to code or understand

# Binary Search

To find an element in a sorted array, we

1. Check the middle element
2. If ==, we've found it
3. else if less than wanted, search right half
4. else search left half

*Example:* Find 9

3    5    7    8    9    12    15

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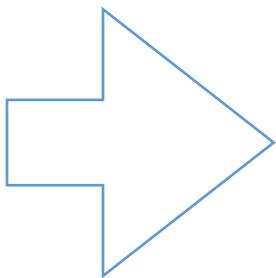
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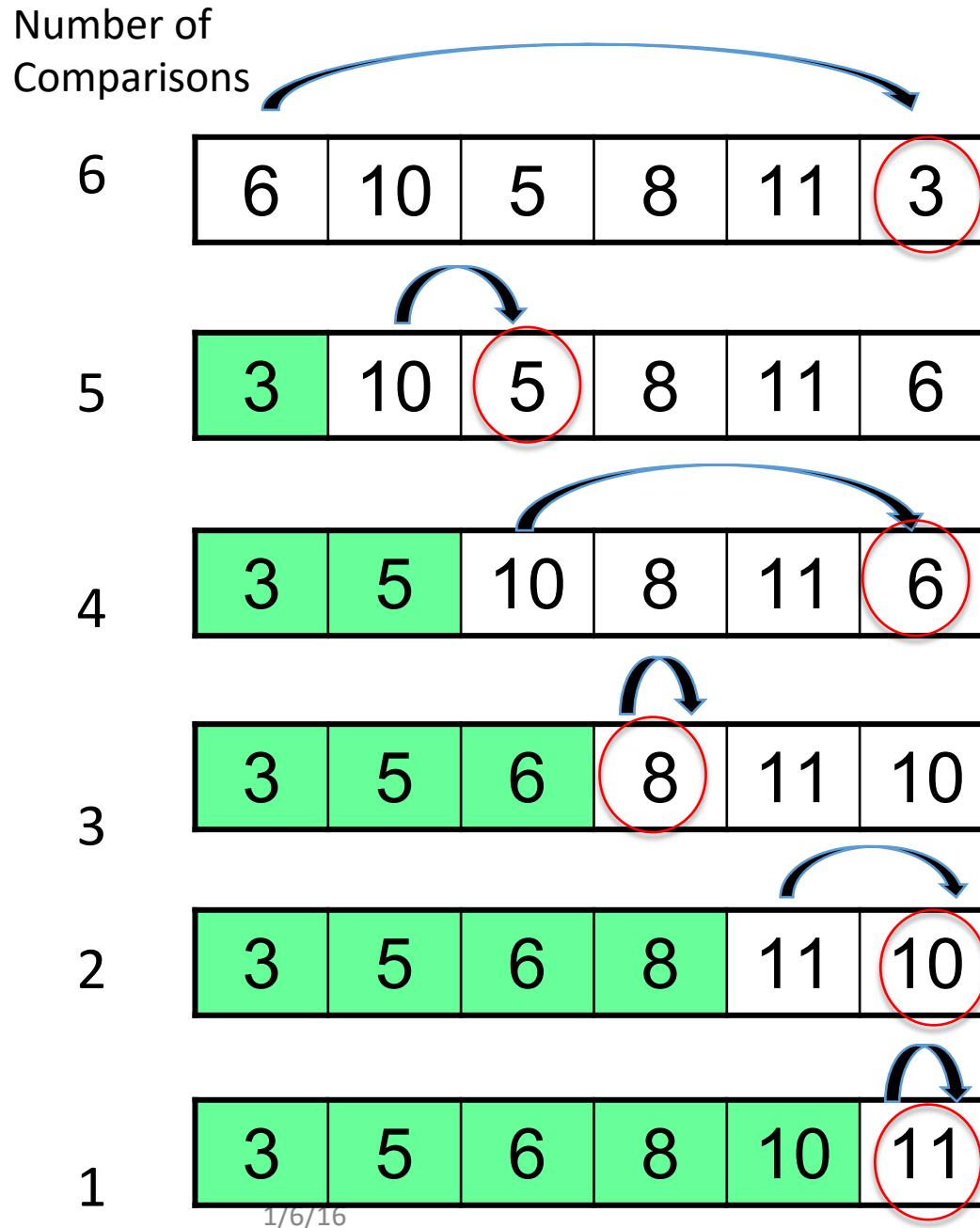
$$T(n) = T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + \Theta(1)$$

# Sorting Algorithms



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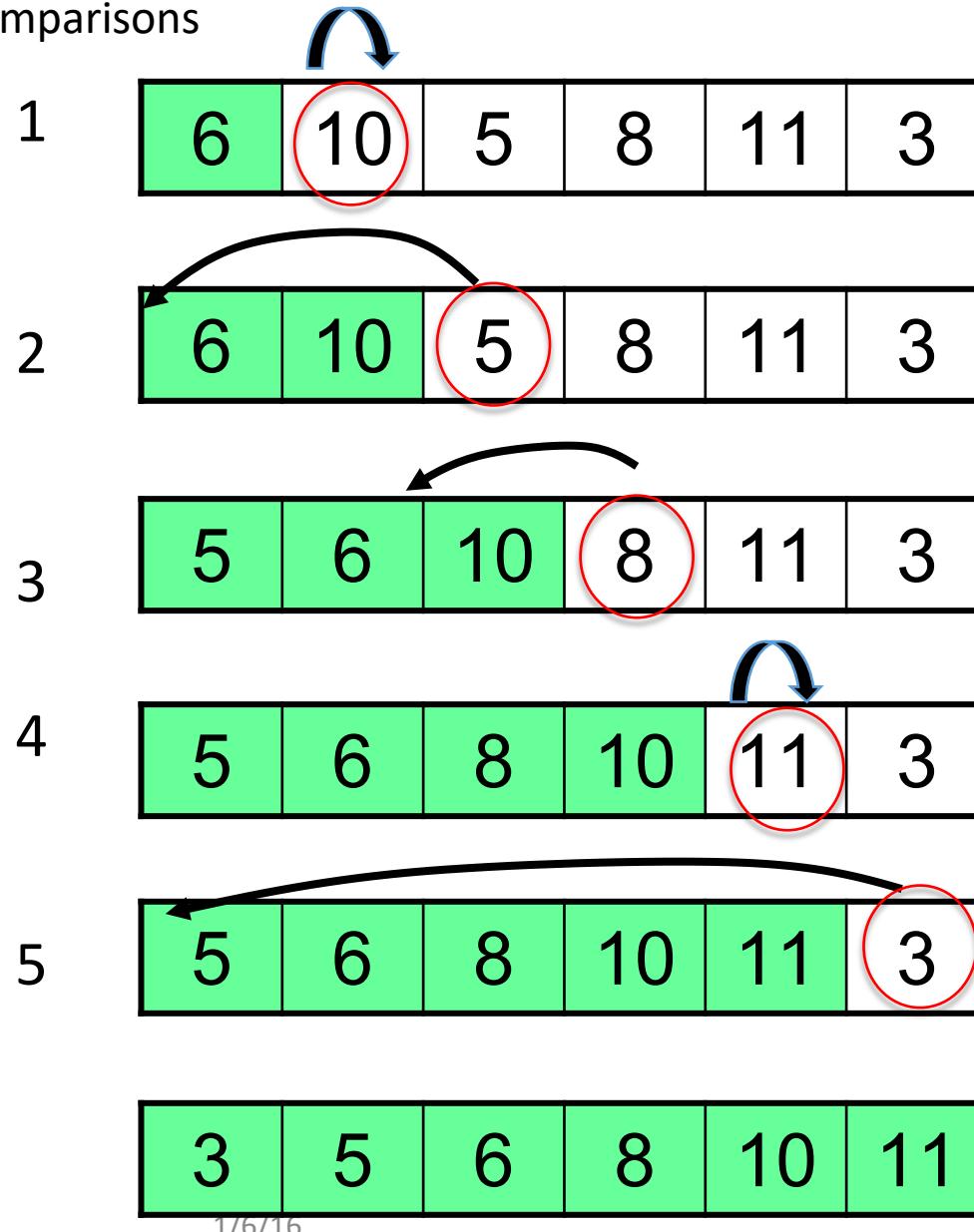
- Selection and Insertion Sort:
  - Incremental approach (Reduced and Conquer)
  - Simple but slow
- Merge and Quick Sort
  - Divide and Conquer



# Selection Sort (Incremental)

- Find smallest item, move to 1<sup>st</sup> location ( $n$  comparisons).
- Find next smallest item, move to 2<sup>nd</sup> location ( $n-1$  comparisons).
- ...
- Repeat until the final location is reached.
- Time complexity:  $n+(n-1)+(n-2)+\dots+1 = (n^2+n)/2 = O(n^2)$

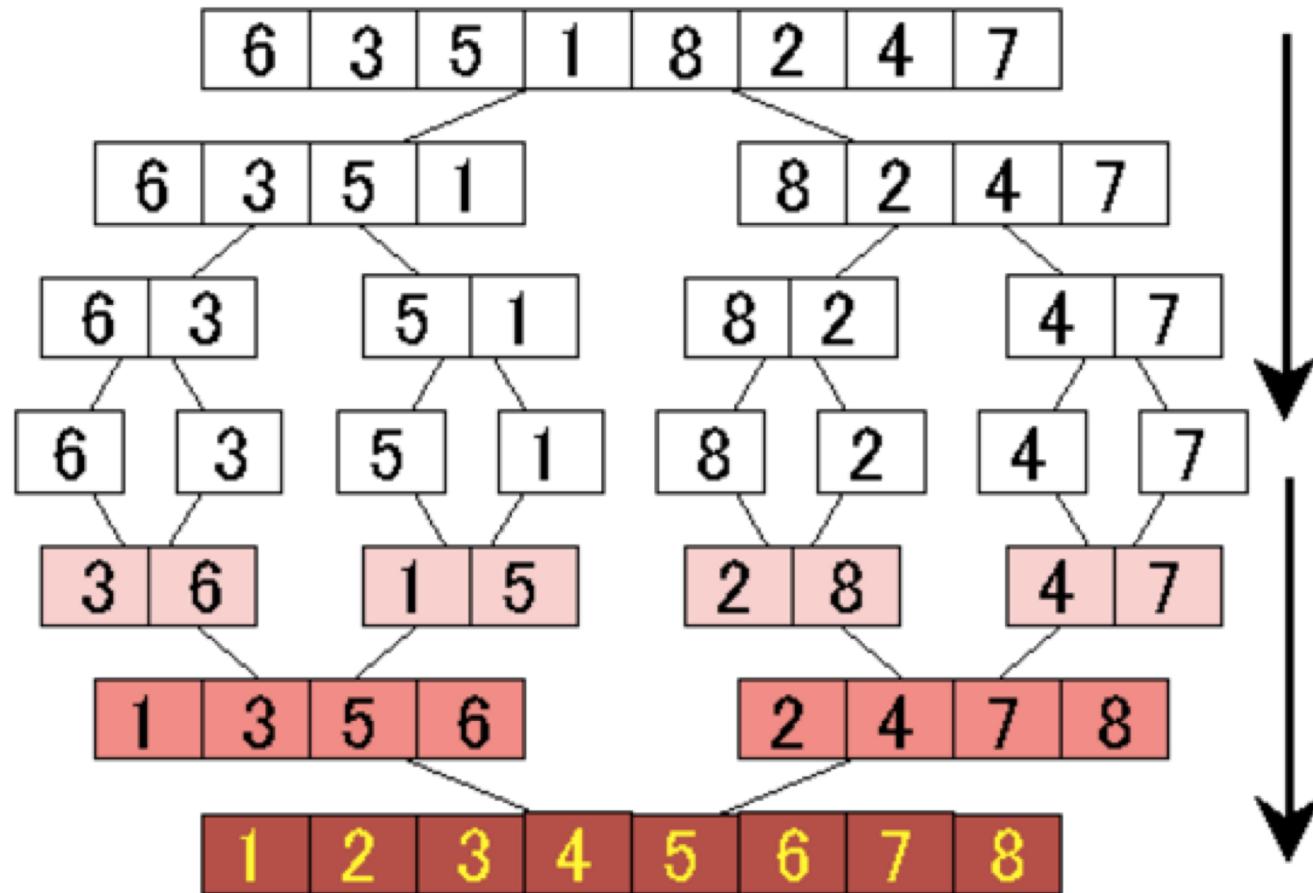
Number of Comparisons



# Insertion Sort (Incremental)

- Begin with 1 sorted item.
- Insert 2<sup>nd</sup> item properly onto the sorted list
  - 2 sorted items
- Insert 3<sup>rd</sup> item properly onto the sorted list
  - 3 sorted item
- ...
- Repeat until we have all ( $n$ ) sorted items.
- Time complexity:  $1+2+\dots+(n-1) = (n^2-n)/2 = O(n^2)$

# Merge Sort



- Divide-and-conquer
- Recursively sort  $\frac{1}{2}$  the set
- Then merge them together:  $O(n)$
- $O(n \lg n)$  for both best, average, and worst cases
- Can be made to be in-place

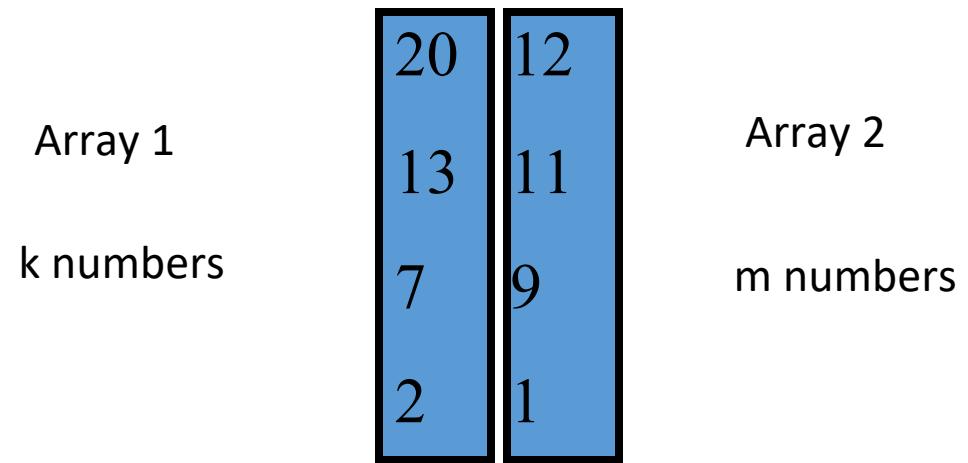
## *Codes: Merge Sort*

http://www.cs.usfca.edu/~galles/JavaAlgorithms/searching/MergeSort.html

## *Key subroutine:* MERGE O(n)



# Merging two sorted arrays



Time:  $O(k + m)$ .

# Merging two sorted arrays

20 12

13 11

7 9

2 1

# Merging two sorted arrays

20 12

13 11

7 9

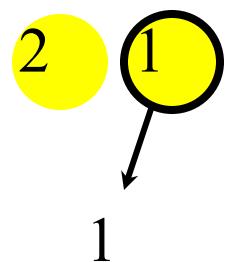
2 1

# Merging two sorted arrays

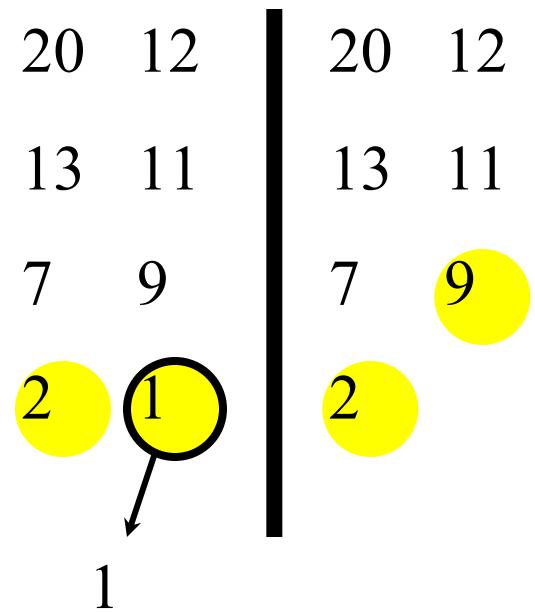
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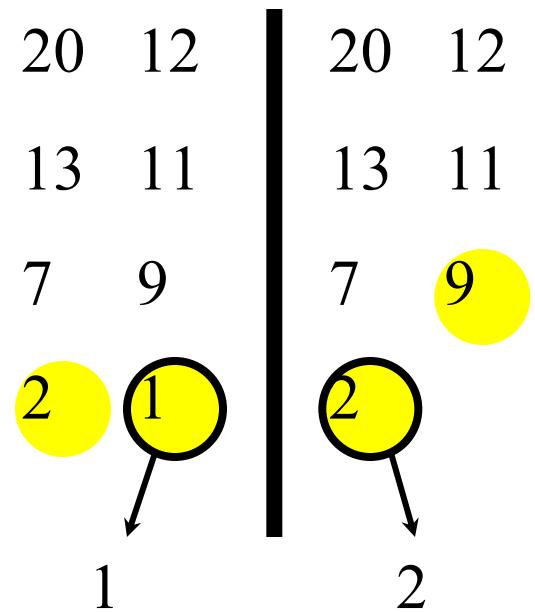
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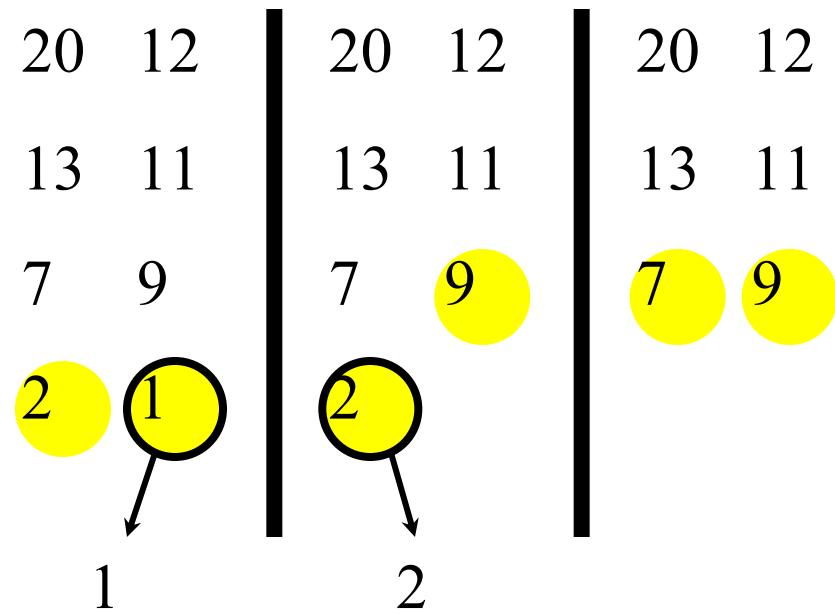
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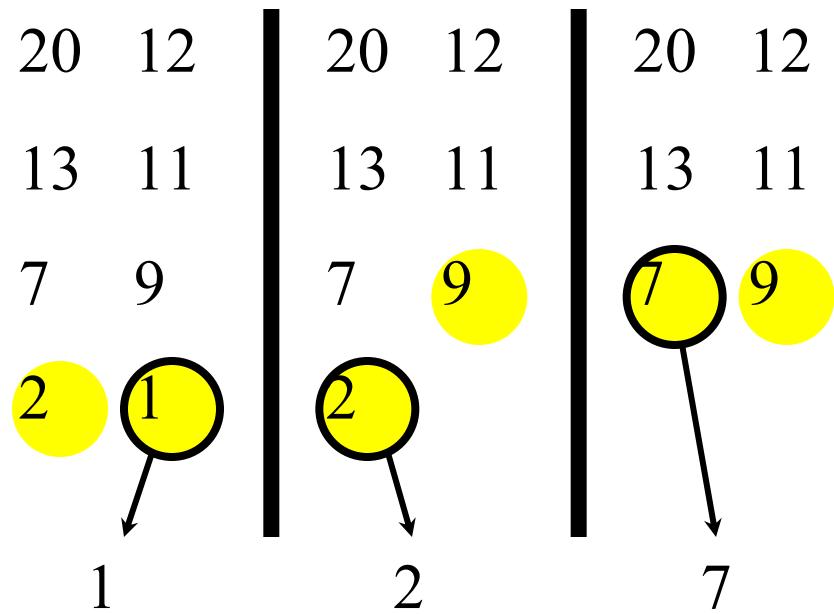
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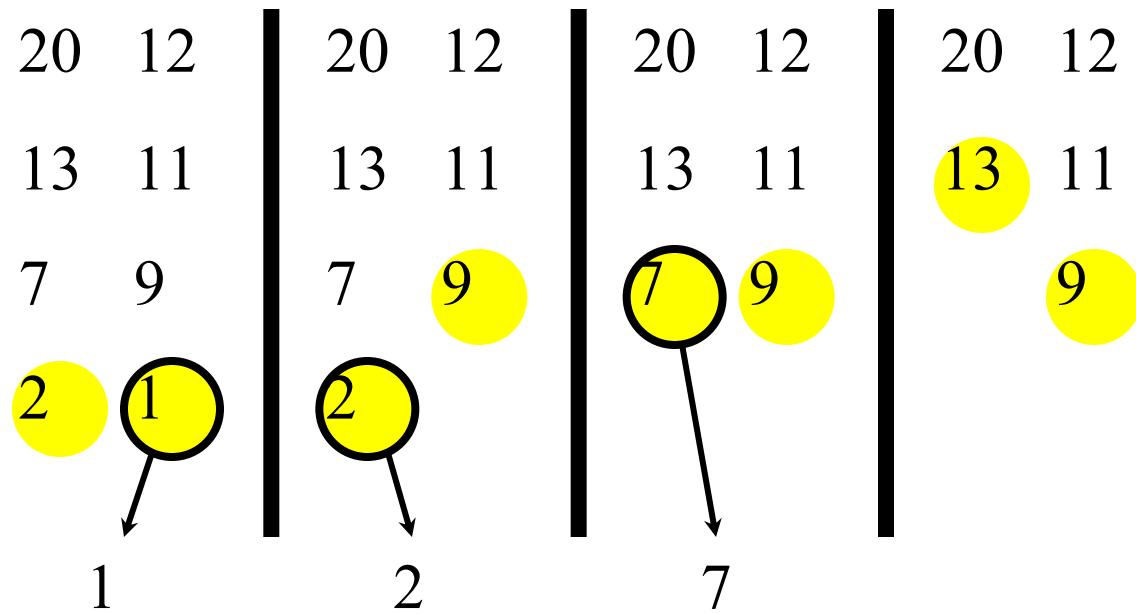
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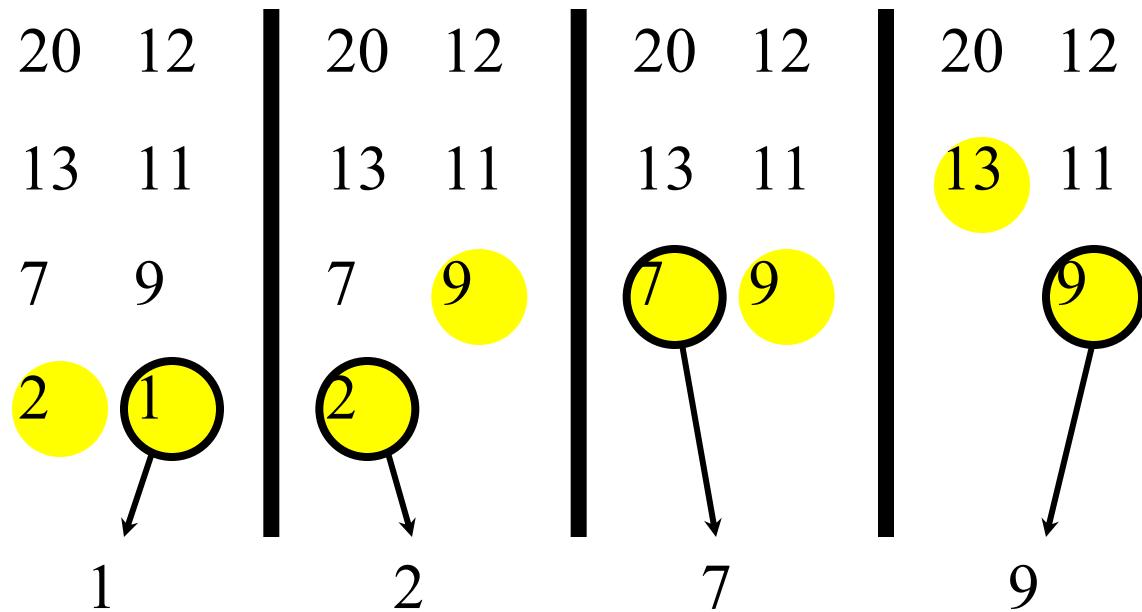
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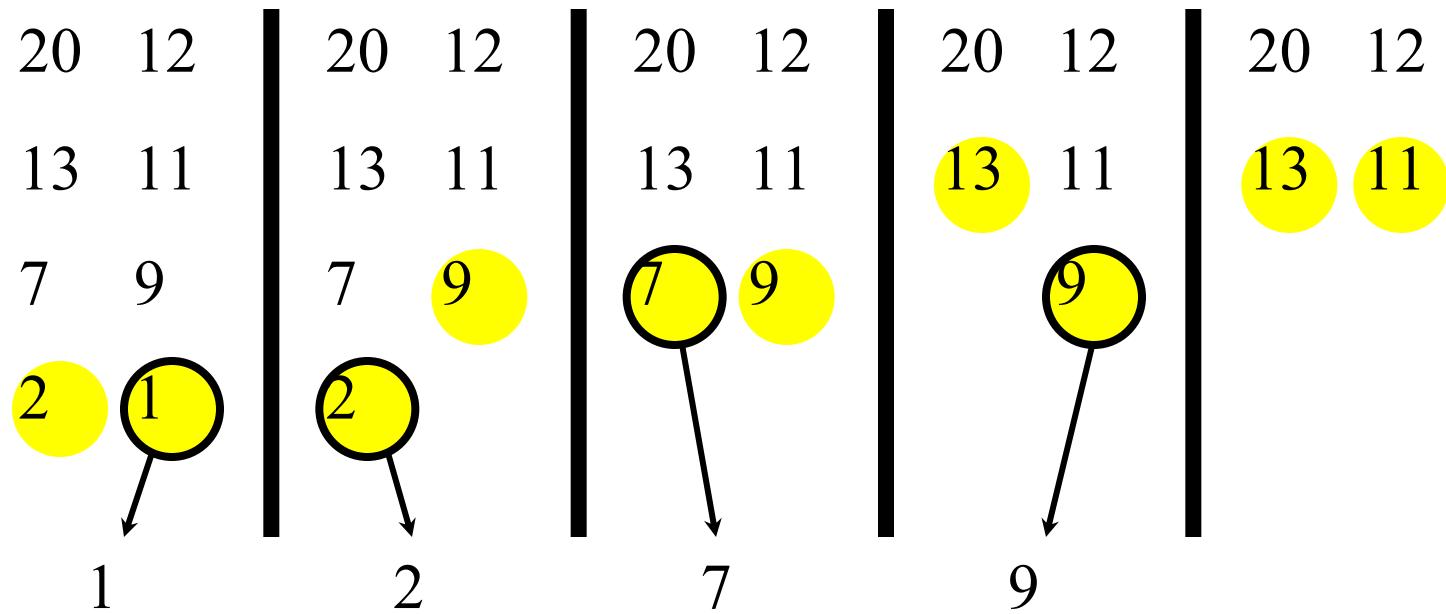
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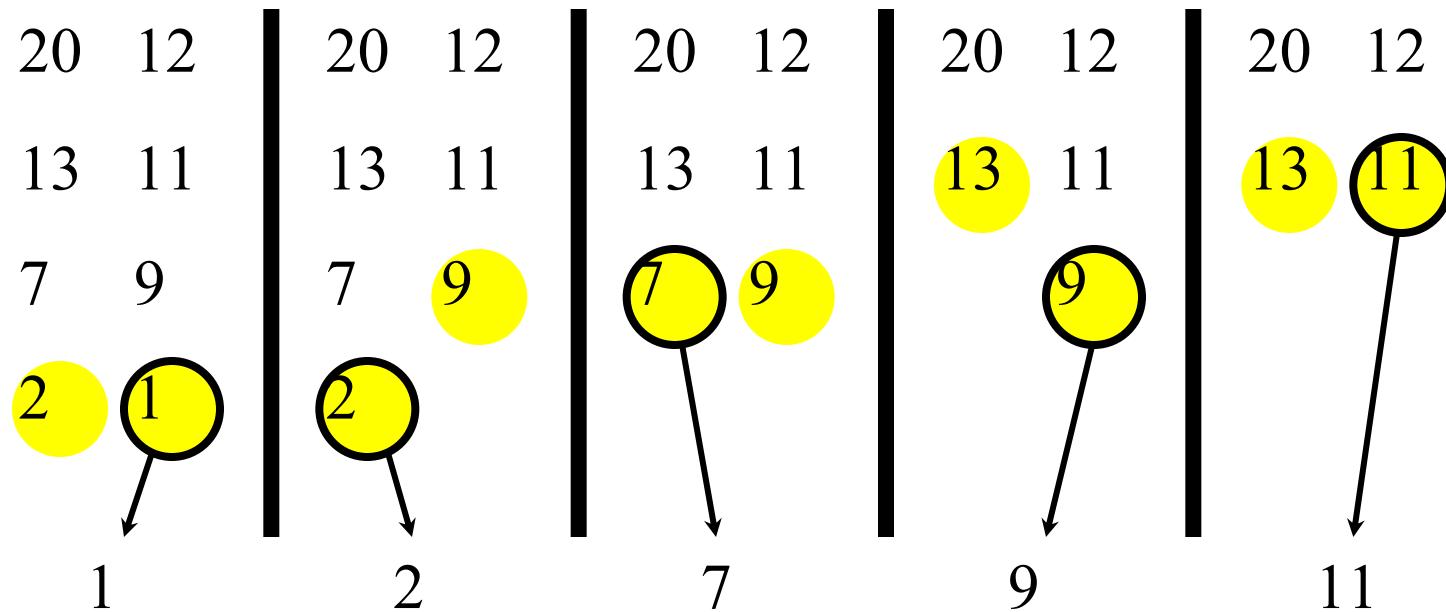
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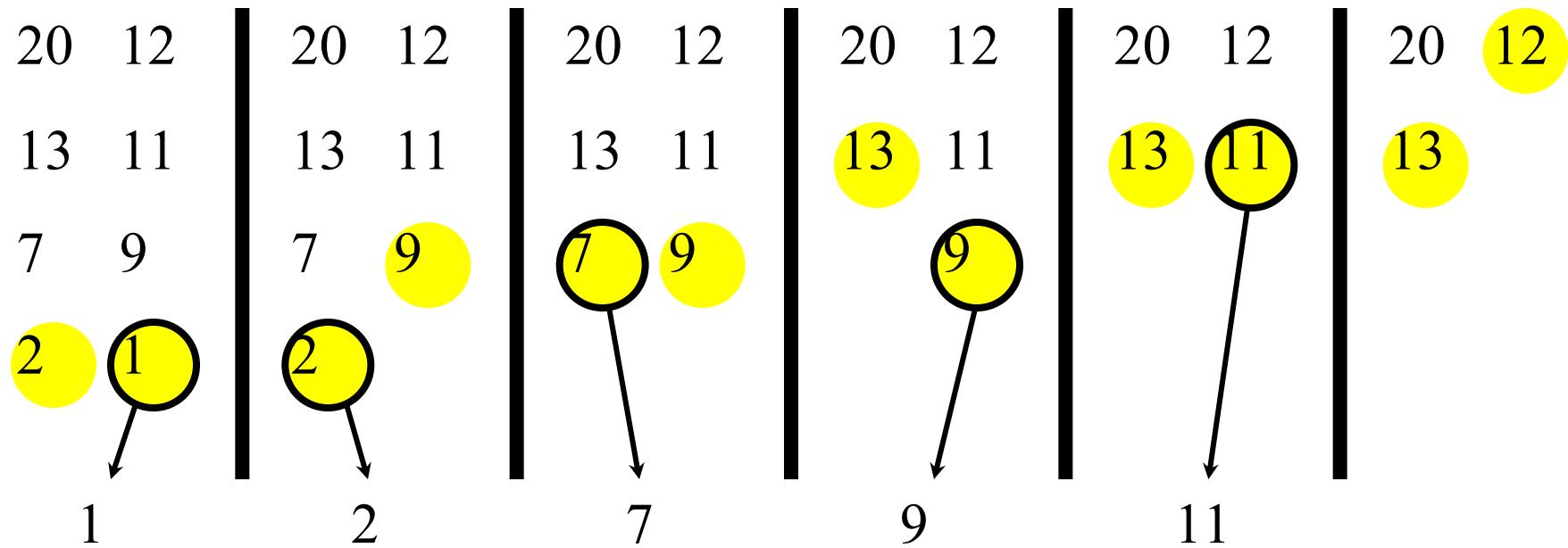
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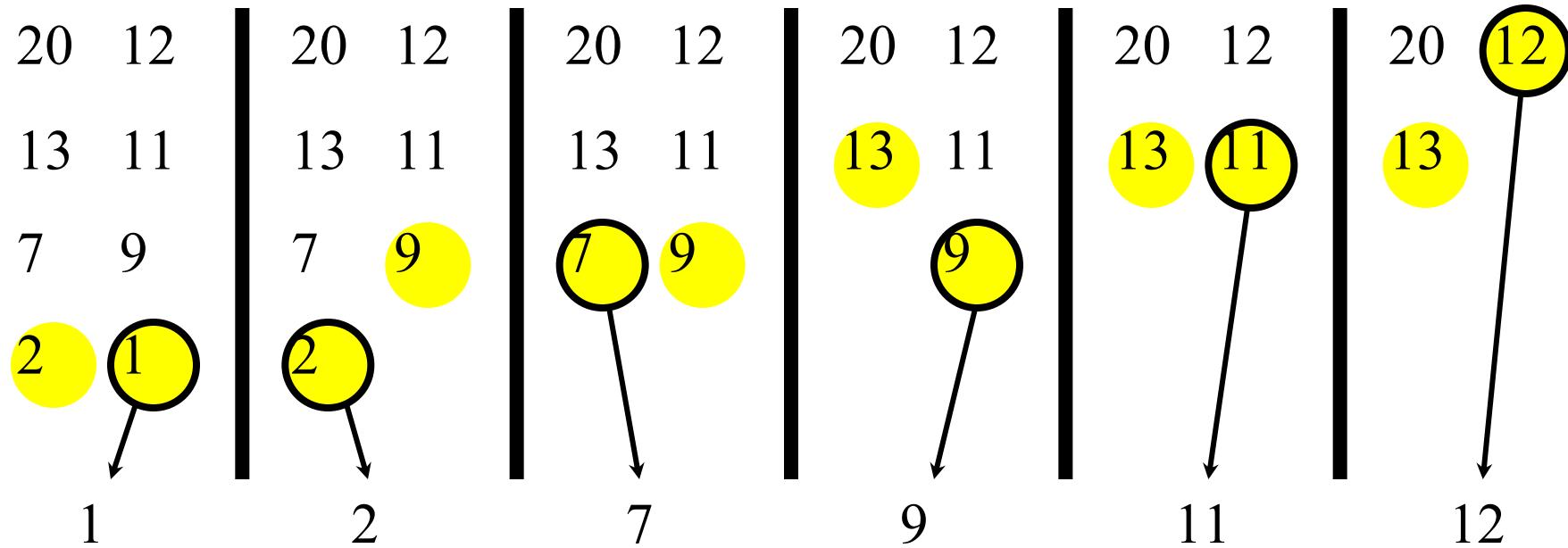
# Merging two sorted arrays



# Merging two sorted arrays



# Merging two sorted arrays



# Analyzing merge sort

```
Def mergesort(data, first, last):  
  
    if last > first:  
        mid = (first+last)/2 ;  
        mergesort(data, first, mid );  
        mergesort(data[], mid+1, last);  
        merge ( data, first, last );
```

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} \Theta(1) & \text{if } n = 1; \\ 2T(n/2) + \Theta(n) & \text{if } n > 1. \end{cases}$$

# Recurrence for merge sort

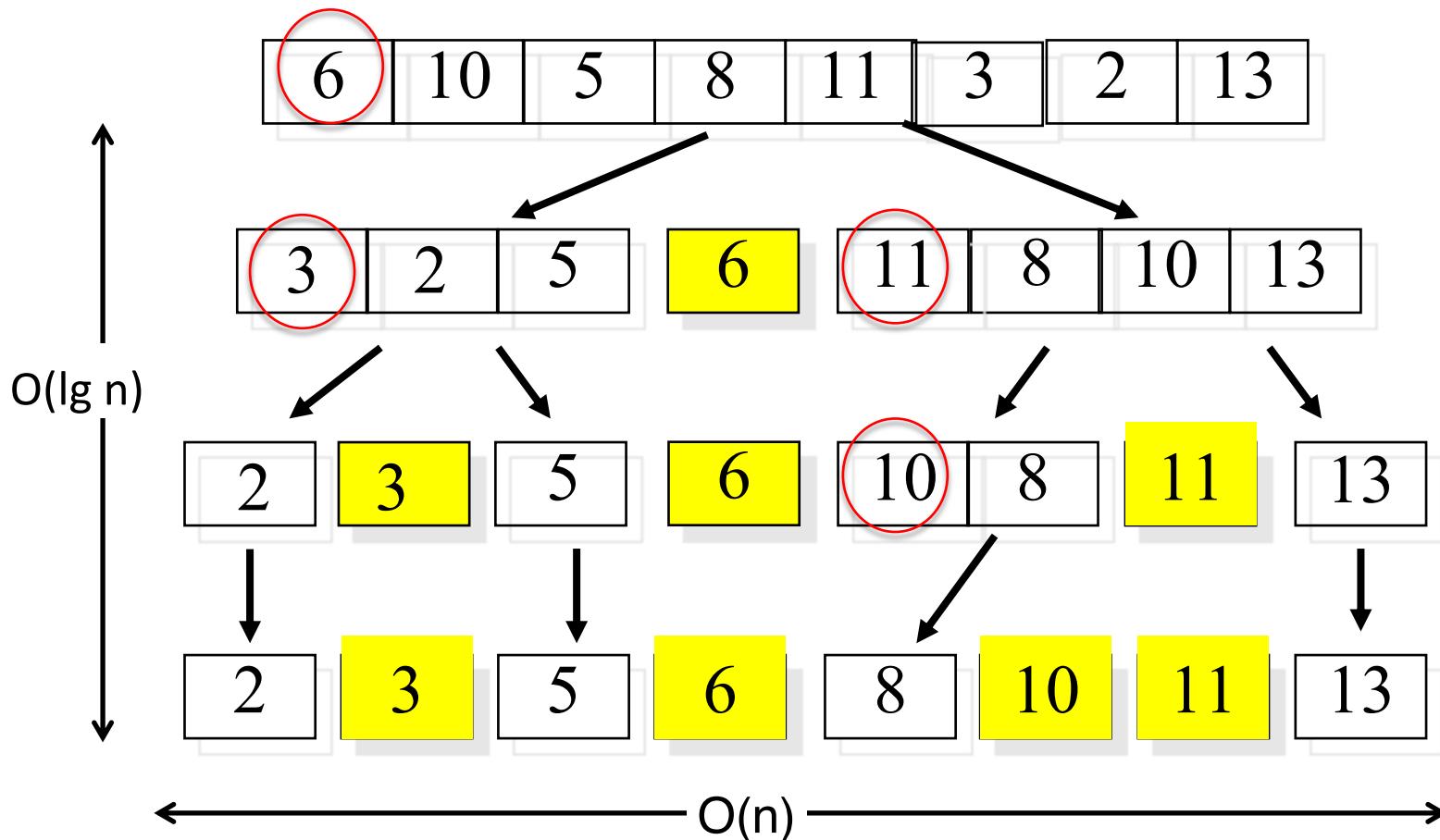
$$T(n) = \begin{cases} \Theta(1) & \text{if } n = 1; \\ 2T(n/2) + \Theta(n) & \text{if } n > 1. \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= 2 T(n/2) + n \\ &= 2(2T(n/4) + n/2) + n = 4 T(n/4) + 2*n \\ &= 4 (2T(n/8) + n/4) + 2*n = 8 T(n/8) + 3*n \\ &= \dots = 2^k T(n/2^k) + k*n = \\ &= \dots = n * T(1) + k*n, \text{ where } k = \log n \\ &= n + (\log_2 n) * n = O(n \log n) \end{aligned}$$

# Quicksort

- Another divide and conquer sorting algorithm
  - like merge sort
- The worst-case and average-case running time
- Learn new algorithm analysis tricks

# Quicksort (Divide & Conquer)

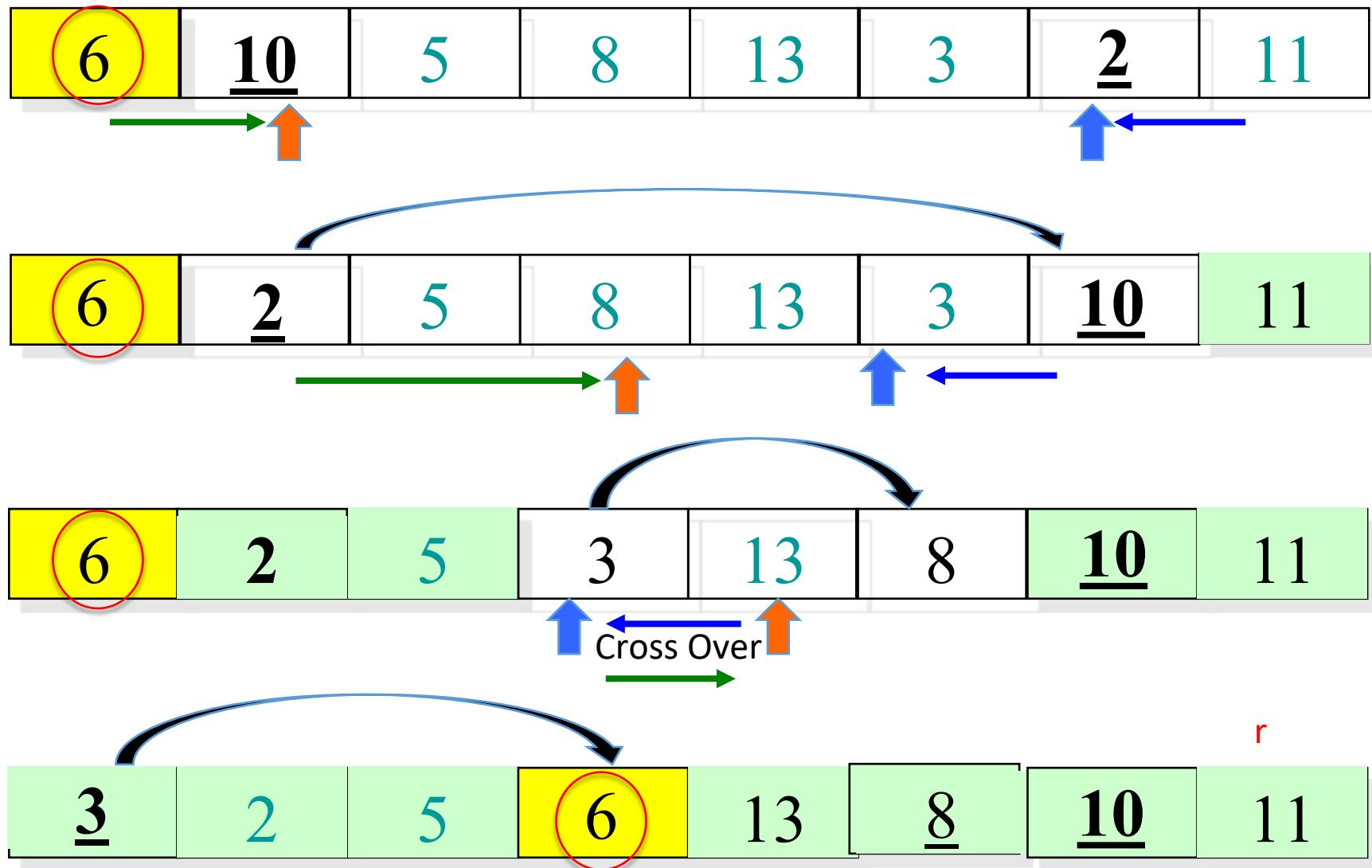


- Pick a pivot element
- Partition items to 2 groups
  - Items  $<$  pivot on the left
  - Items  $>$  pivot on the right
- Sort the left and the right partitions recursively
  - ...
- Done when problem trivial
- Time complexity:  $O(n \lg n)$

# Pseudocode for quicksort

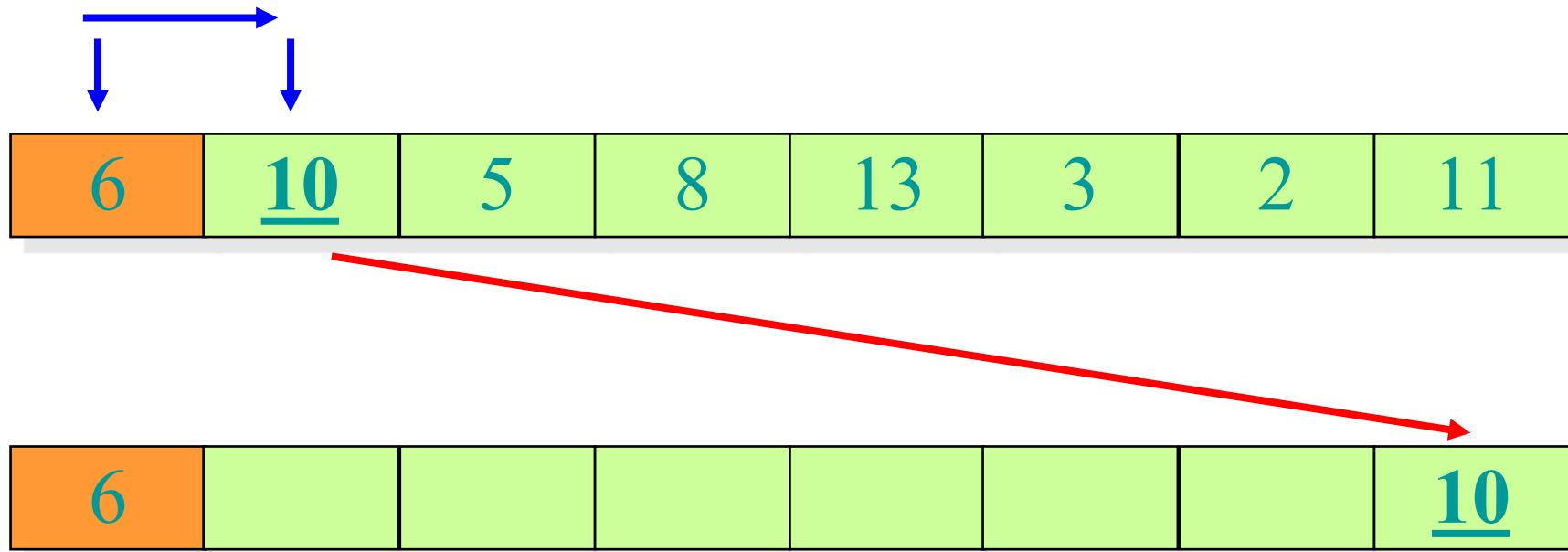


# Key Step of Quick Sort: Partitioning O(n)



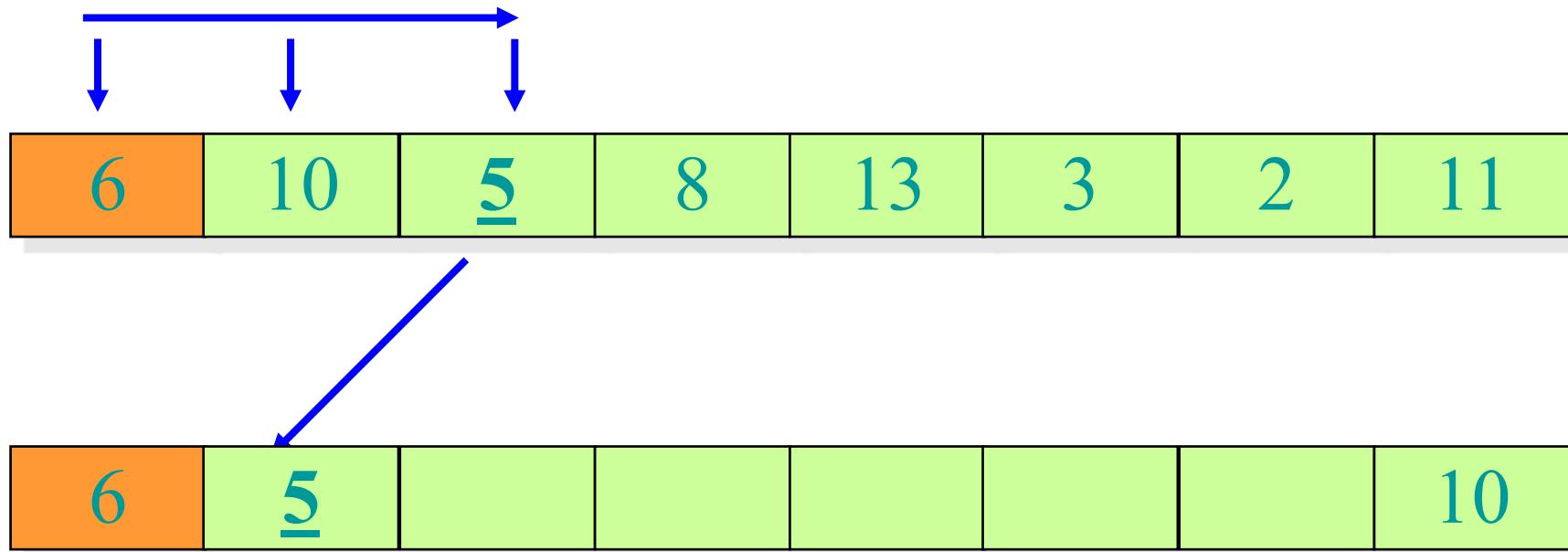
# Idea of partition

- If we are allowed to use a second array, it would be easy



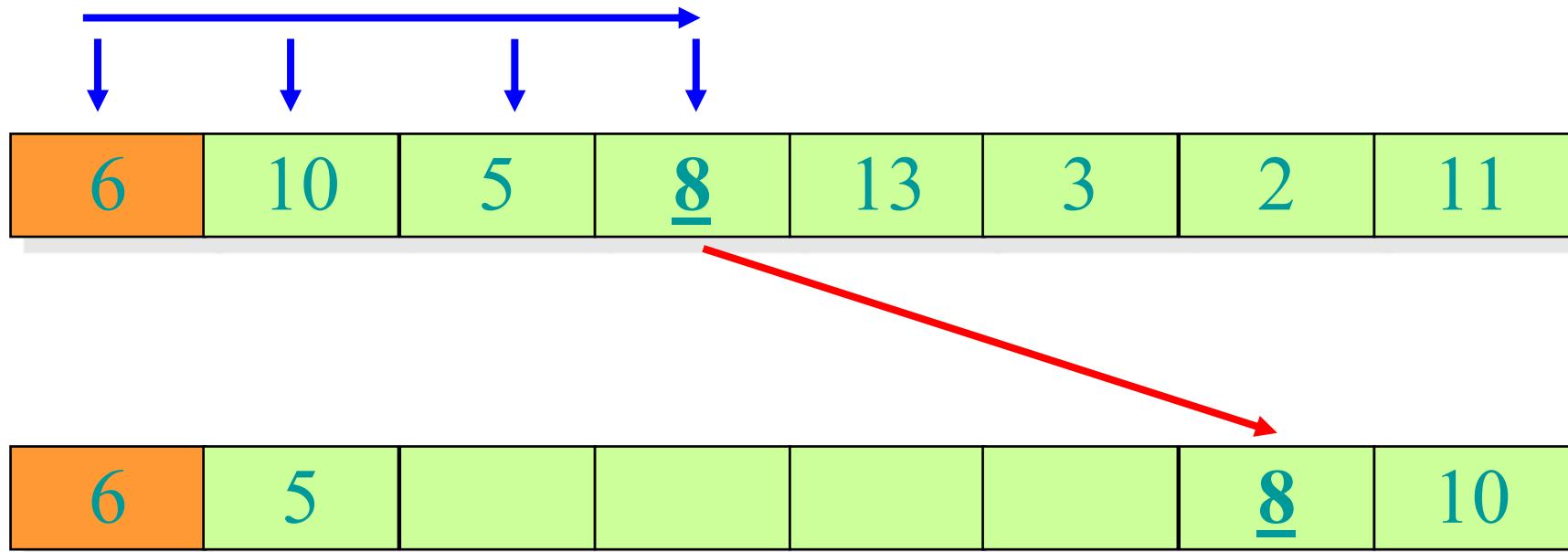
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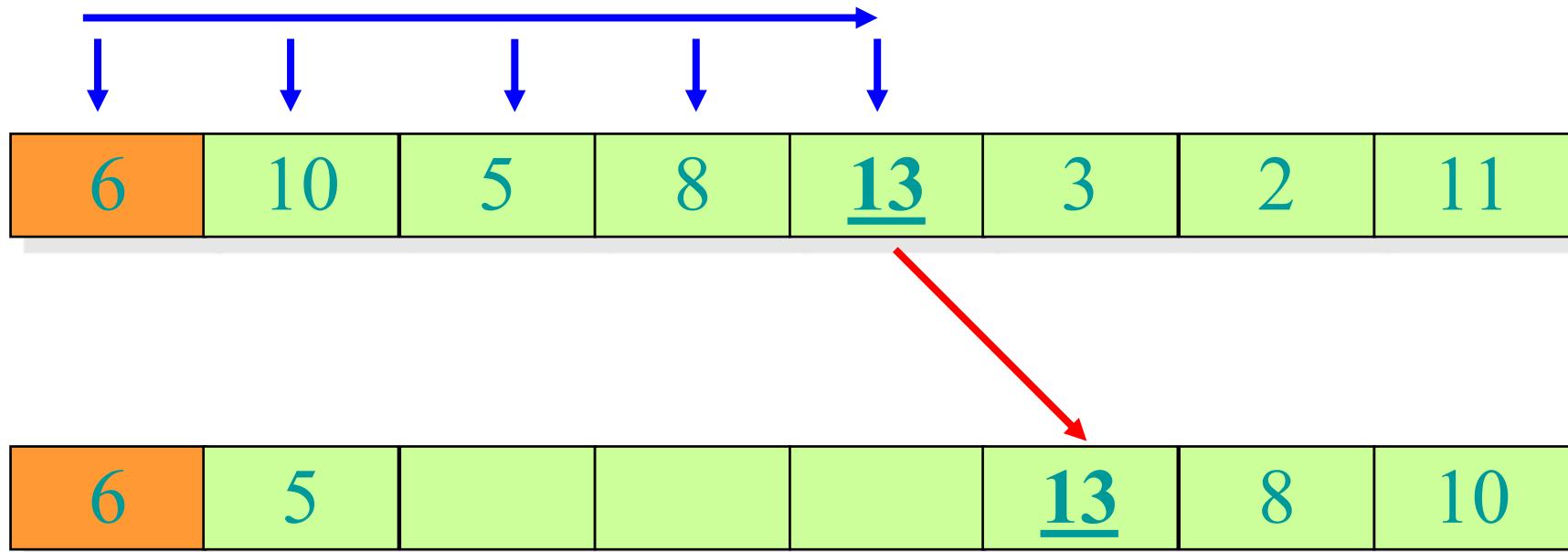
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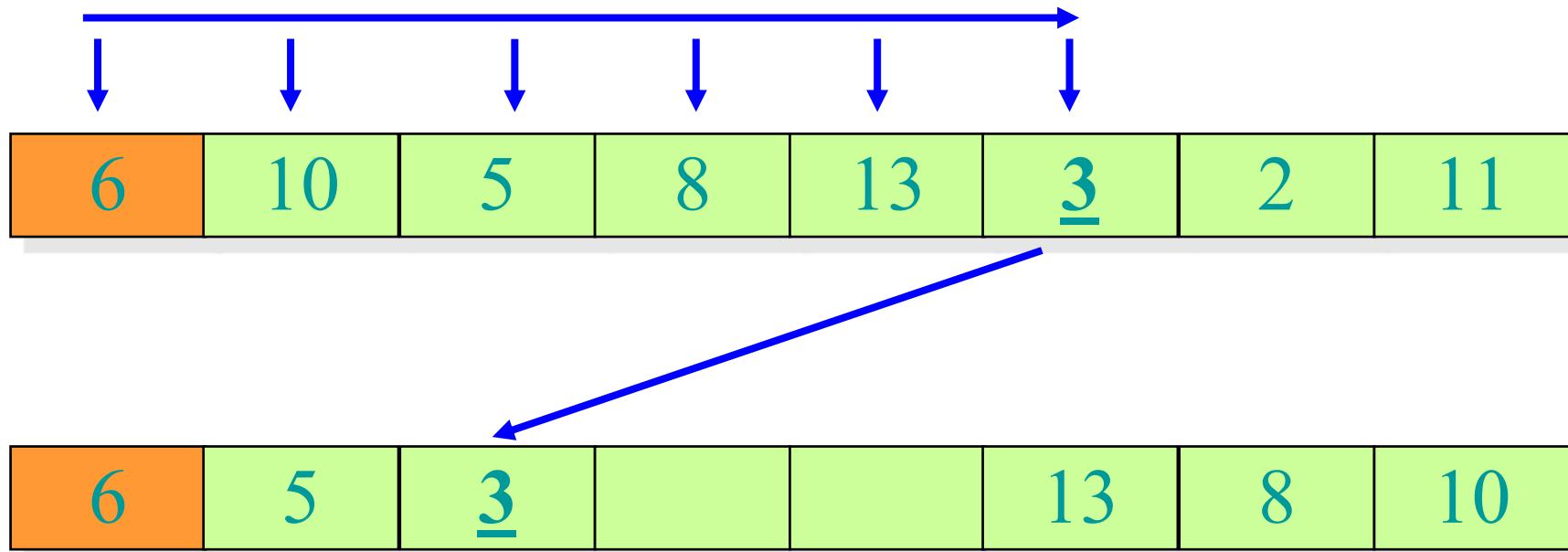
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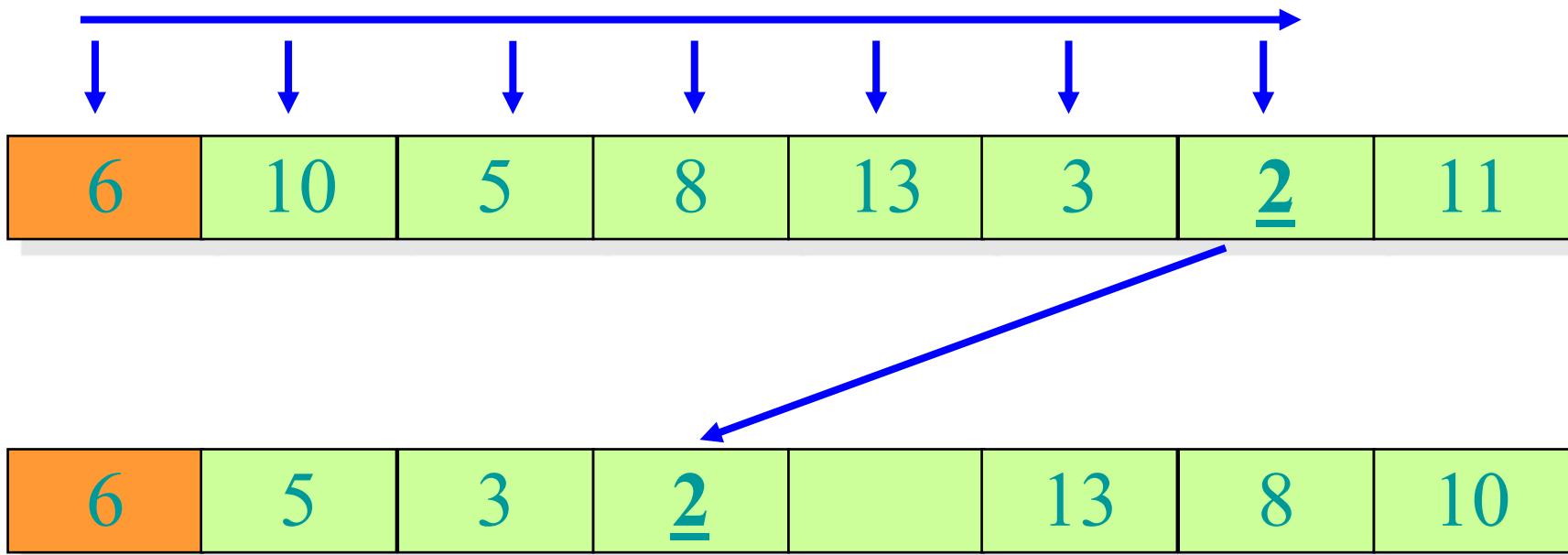
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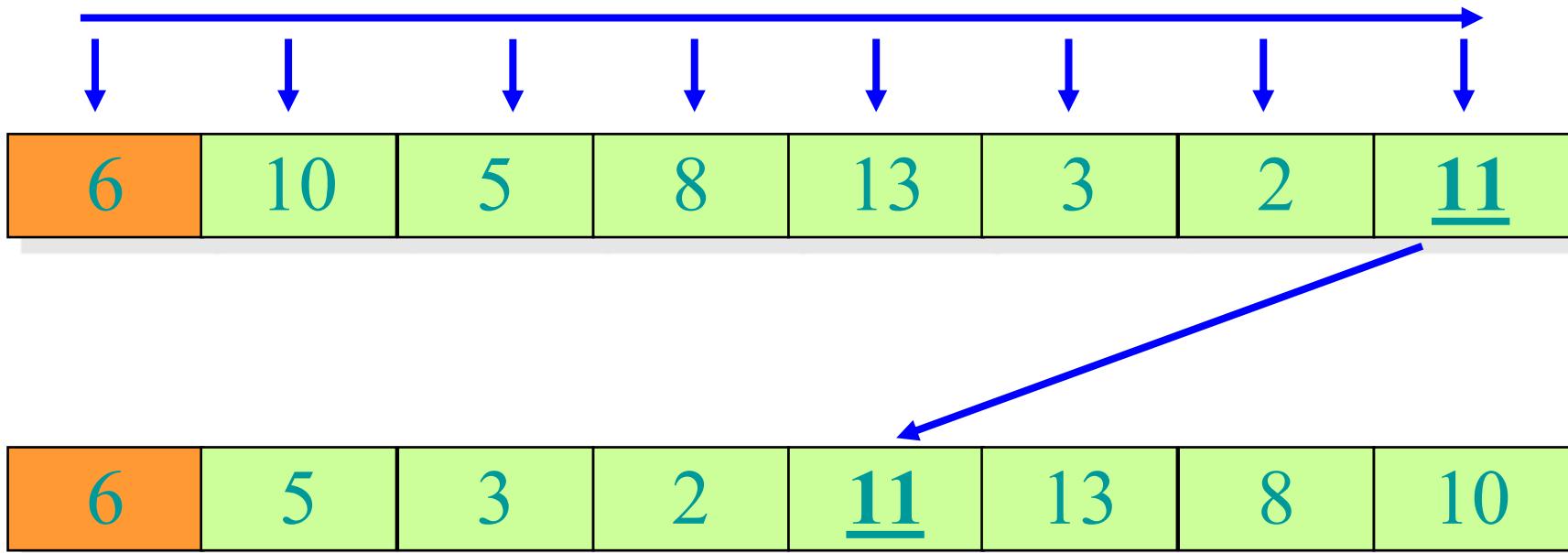
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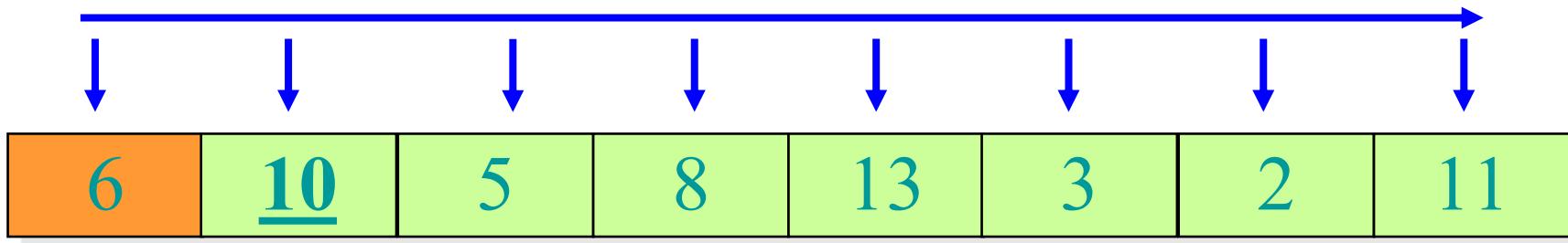
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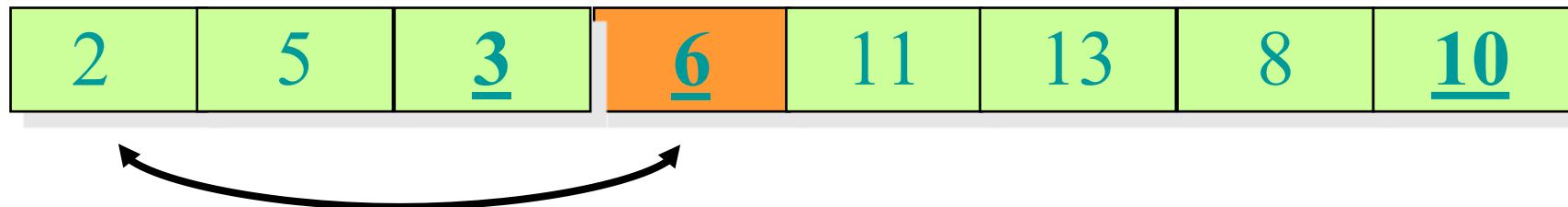
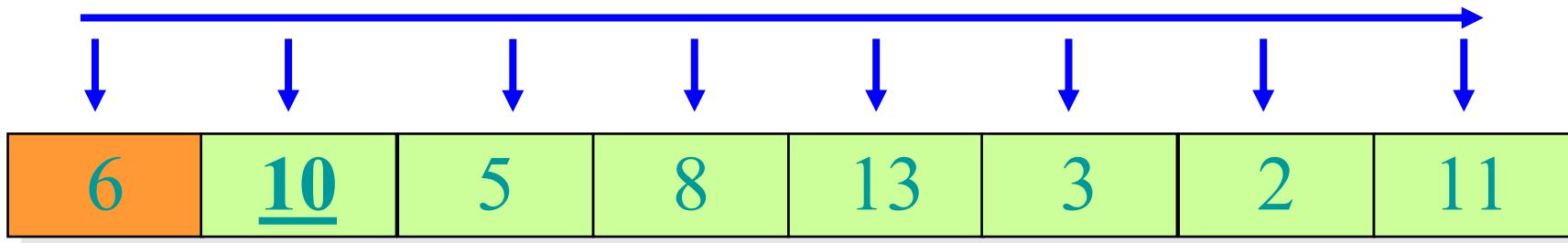
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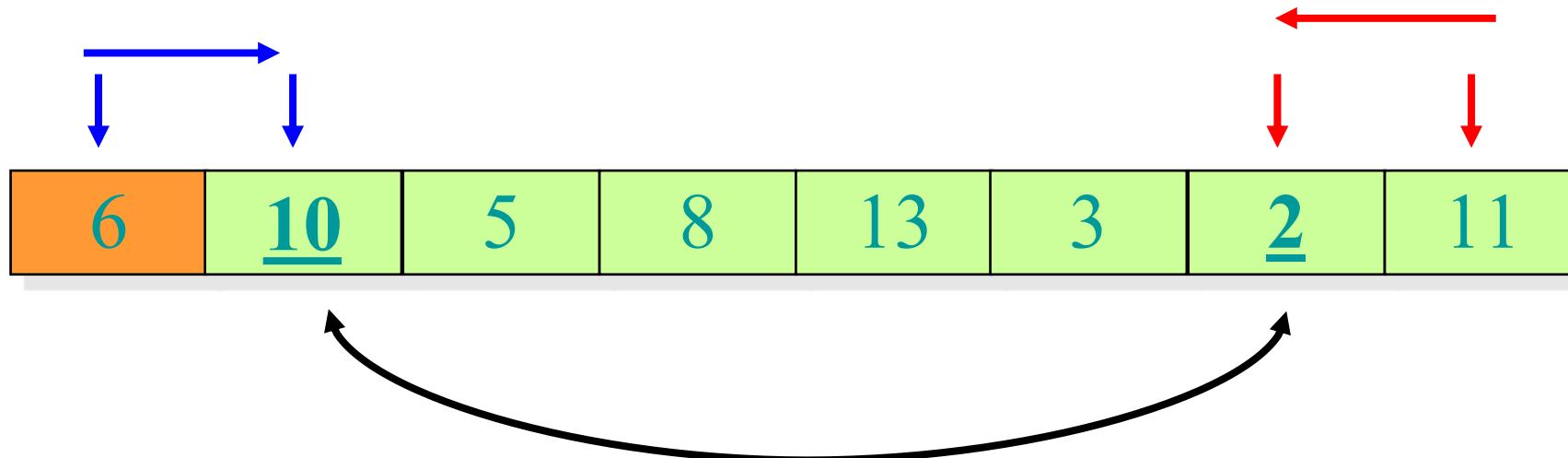


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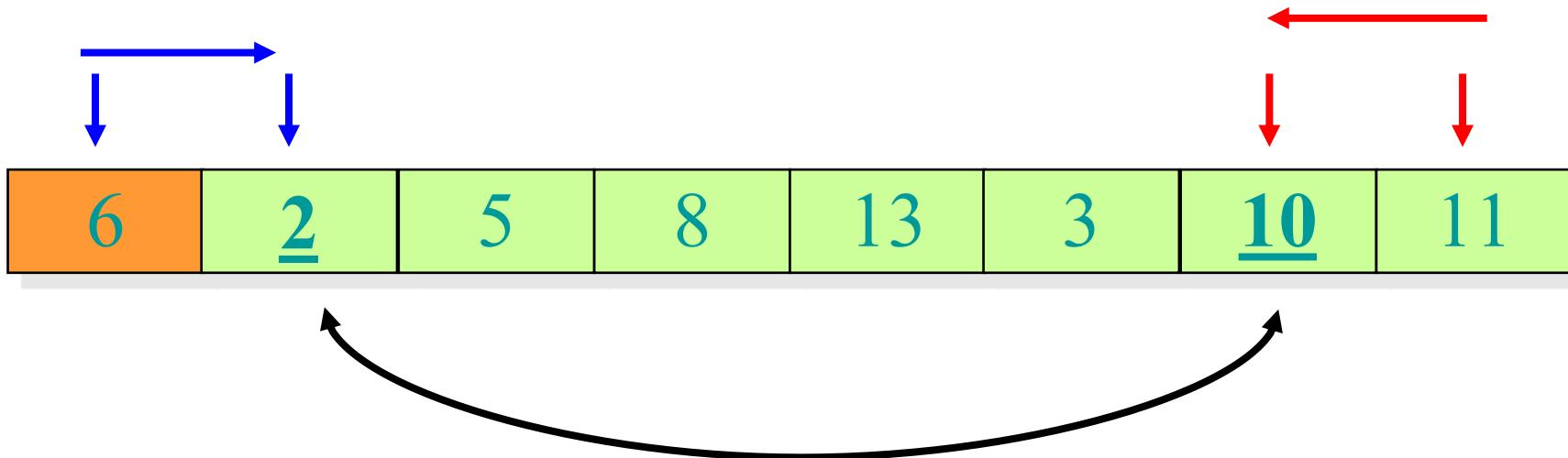


# Idea of **in-place** partition



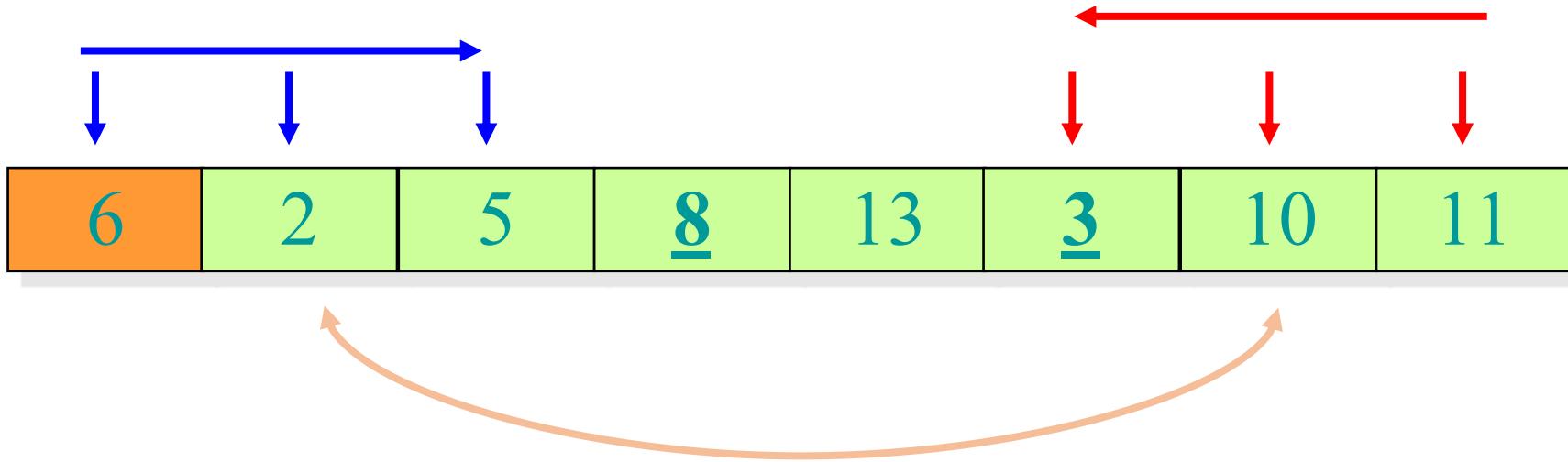
- Keep two iterators: one from head, one from tail
- Blue pointer stops at a number  $> 6$  (pivot)
- Red pointer stops at a number  $< 6$  (pivot)
- Swap both numbers
  - Stop when BLUE and RED pointers cross over

# Idea of **in-place** partition



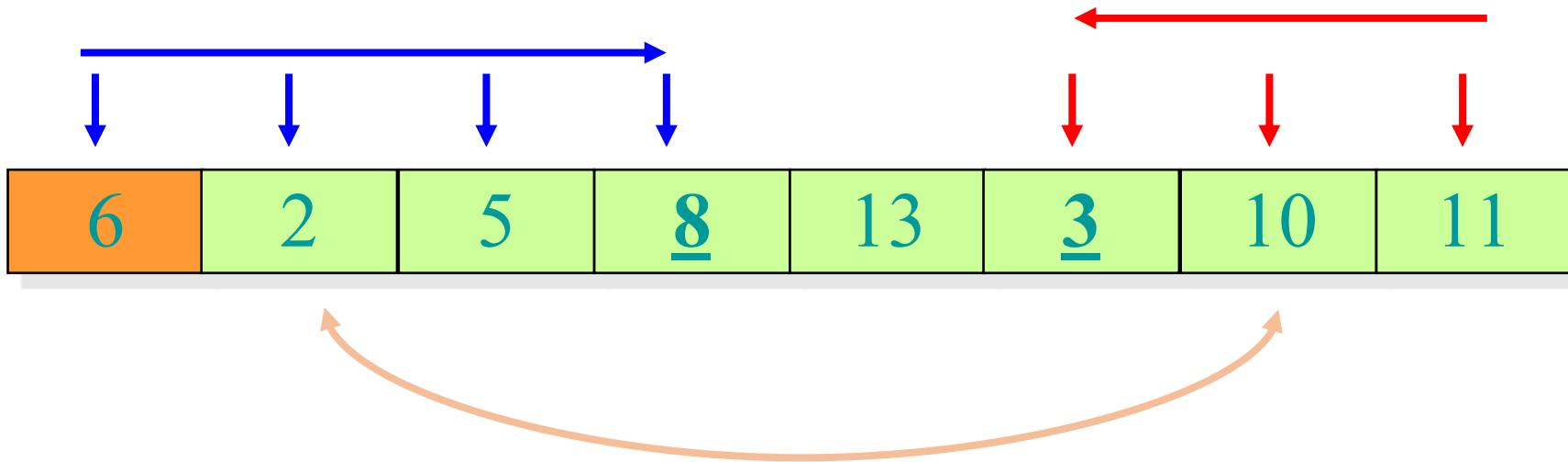
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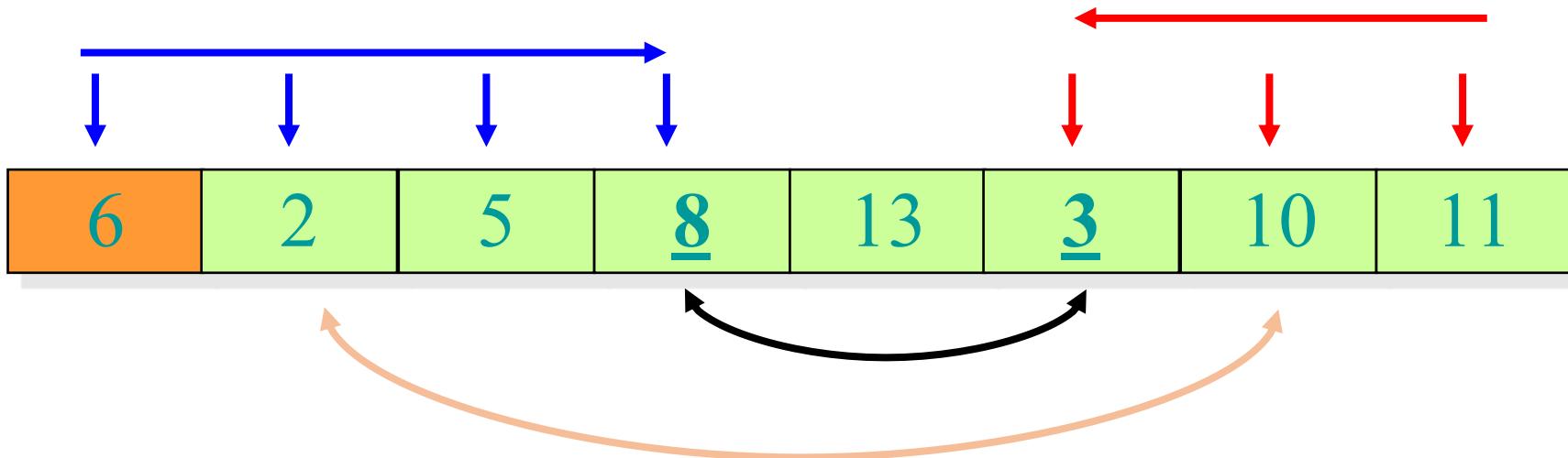
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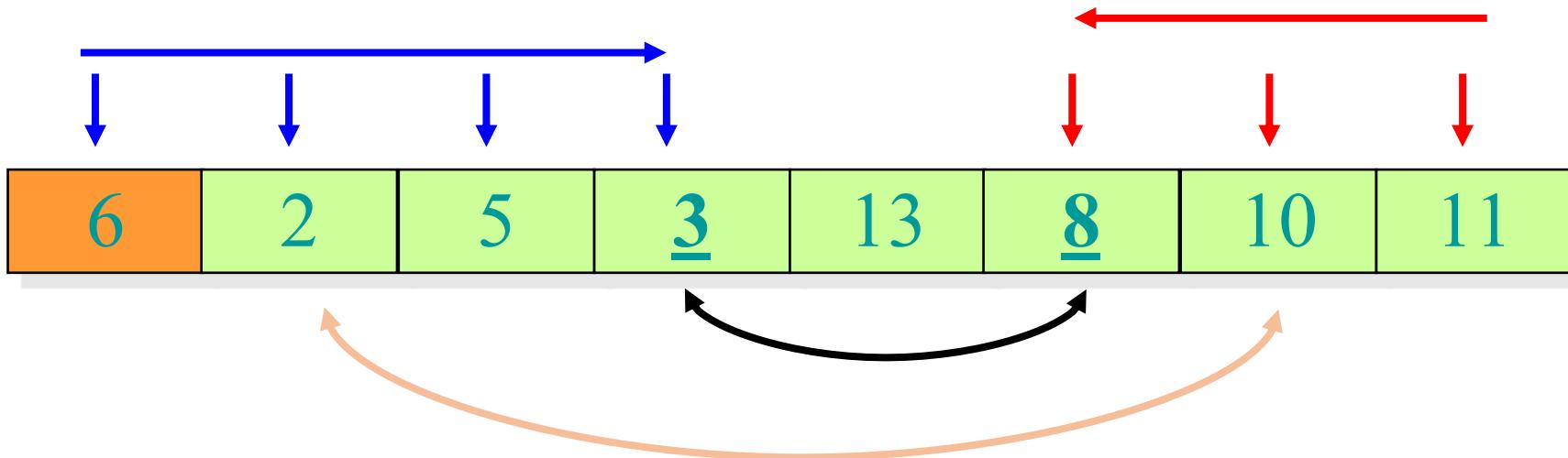
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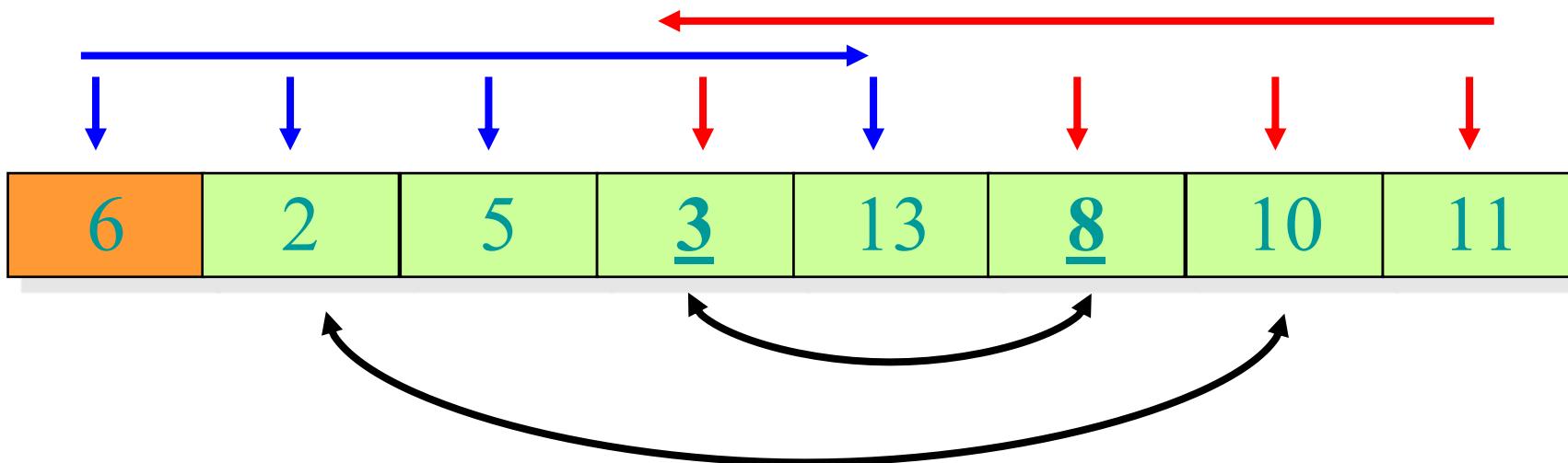
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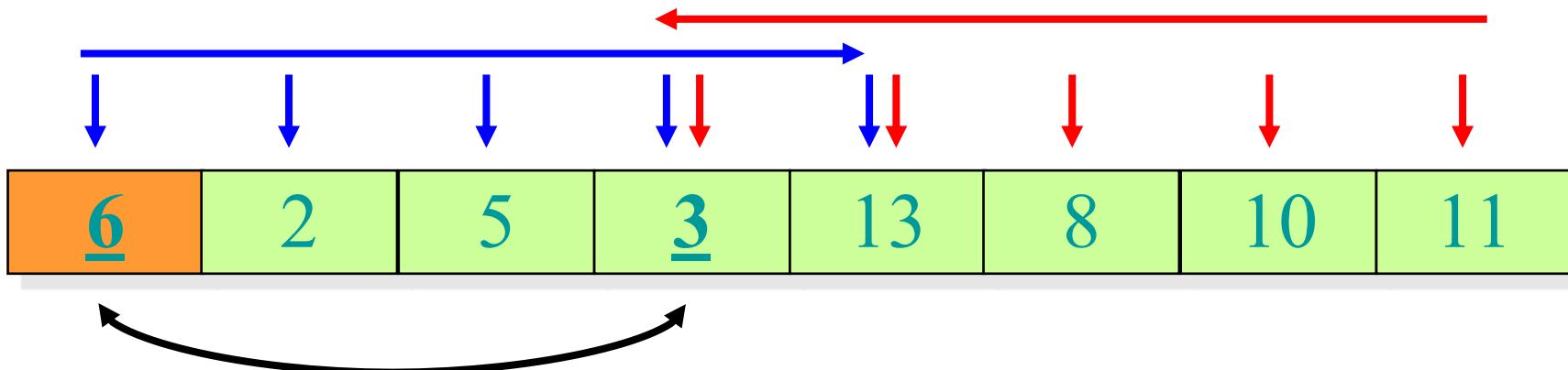
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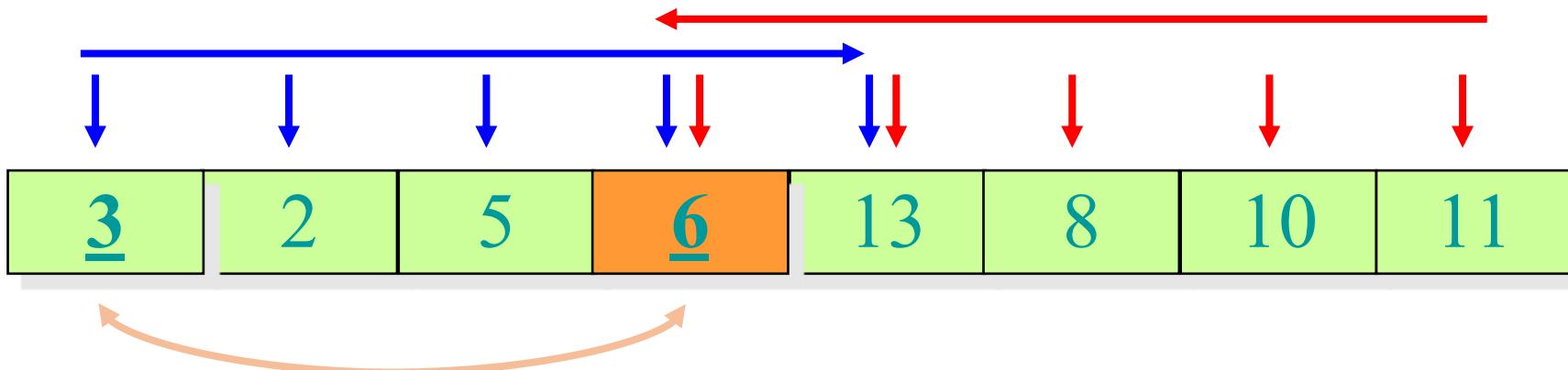
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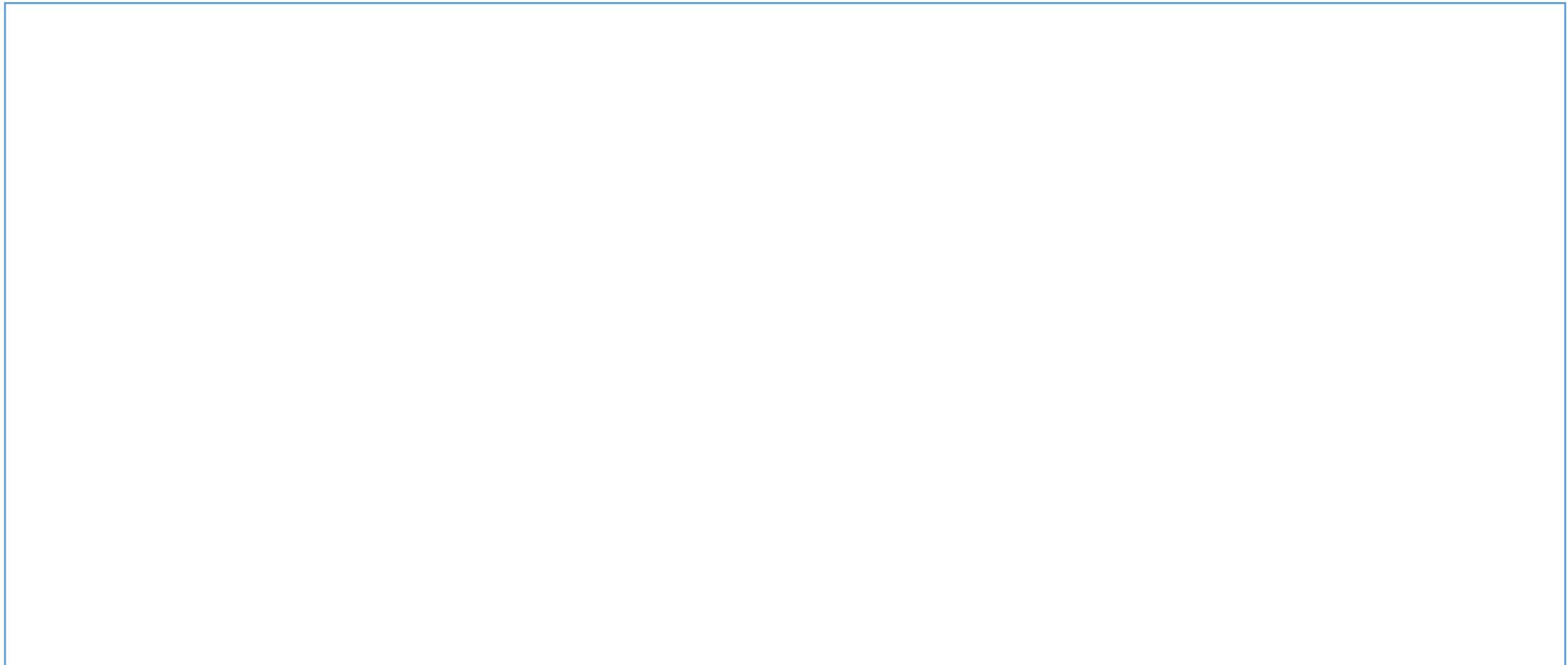
- Keep two iterators: one from head, one from tail
  - Stop when they cross over

# Partition In Words

- Partition( $A, p, r$ ):
  - Select an element to act as the “pivot” (*which?*)
  - Grow two regions,  $A[p..i]$  and  $A[j..r]$ 
    - All elements in  $A[p..i] \leq \text{pivot}$
    - All elements in  $A[j..r] \geq \text{pivot}$
  - Increment  $i$  until  $A[i] > \text{pivot}$
  - Decrement  $j$  until  $A[j] < \text{pivot}$
  - Swap  $A[i]$  and  $A[j]$
  - Repeat until  $i \geq j$
  - Swap  $A[j]$  and  $A[p]$
  - Return  $j$

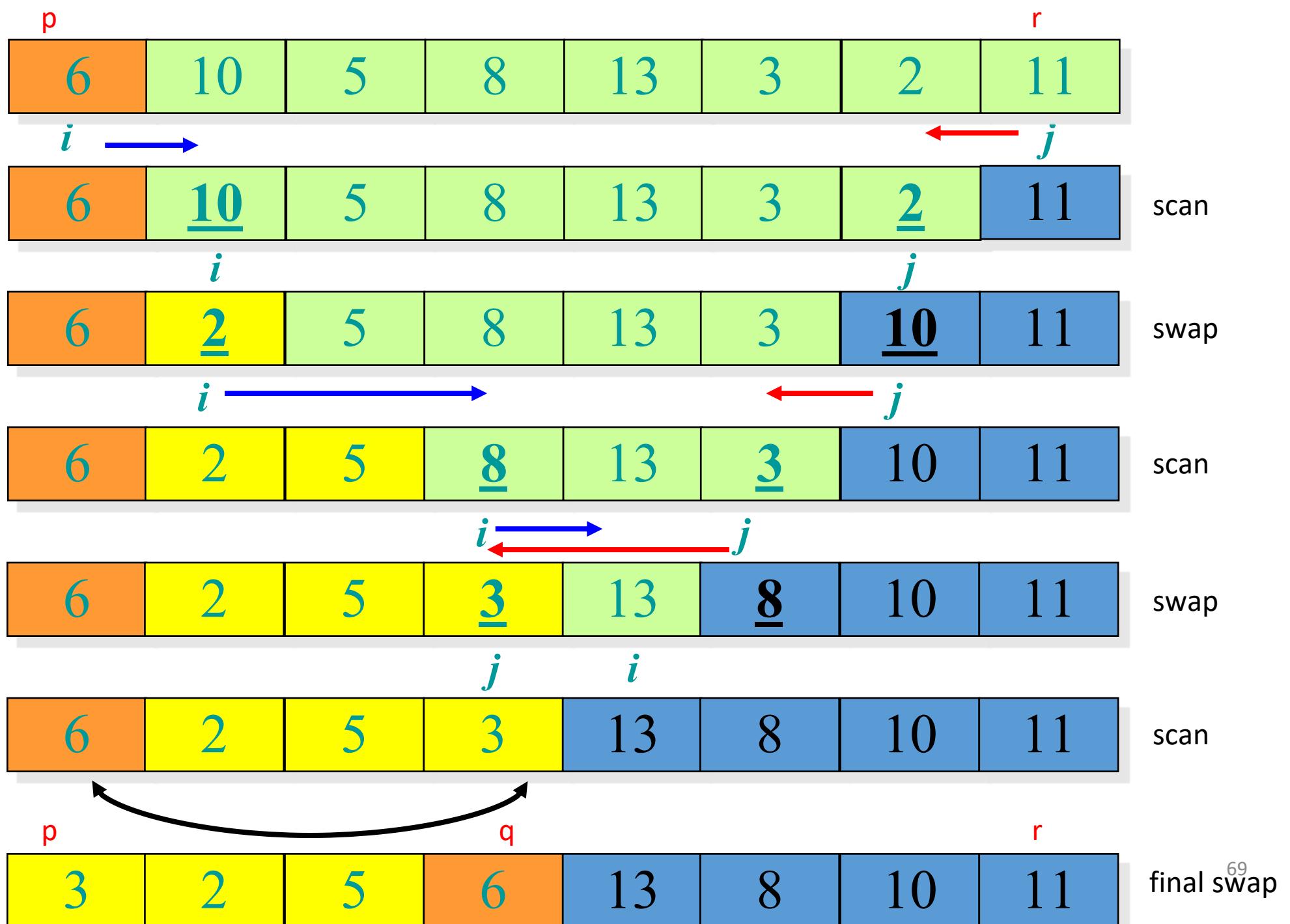
*Note: different from book's partition() ,  
which uses two iterators that both move forward.*

# Partition Code



*Running time:  $\Theta(n)$  time*

$$x = 6$$



## Quick sort example

