



<http://algs4.cs.princeton.edu>

2.1 ELEMENTARY SORTS

- ▶ *rules of the game*
- ▶ *selection sort*
- ▶ *insertion sort*
- ▶ *shellsort*
- ▶ *shuffling*
- ▶ *convex hull*



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- ▶ *convex hull*

Sorting problem

Ex. Twitter Dossier.

| | Name | YOB | Tweets | Followers | Most Recent Tweet Containing |
|--------|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|--|
| | Justin Bieber | 1994 | 23,532 | 44,865,050 | u saved my life ... @justinbieber |
| | Kevin Shields | 1963 | 21 | 6,165 | Primal Scream (& Kevin Shields) |
| | Kevin Barnes | 1974 | 1,211 | 43,470 | kevin barnes drank too much cough syrup |
| item → | Kevin Mitnick | 1963 | 9,380 | 103,952 | Kevin Mitnick gives solution for NSA spying |
| | Lil B | 1989 | 115,746 | 678,610 | GUYS LIL B COMMENTED ON MY PICTURE BYE |
| | Josh Hug | 1981 | 48 | 30 | I need a josh hug |
| key → | Carly Rae Jepsen | 1981 | 5,040 | 8,874,941 | carly rae jepsen stop trying already |

Sort. Rearrange array of N items into ascending order.

| Name | YOB | Tweets | Followers | Most Recent Tweet Containing |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|--|
| Carly Rae Jepsen | 1981 | 5,040 | 8,874,941 | carly rae jepsen stop trying already |
| Josh Hug | 1981 | 48 | 30 | I need a josh hug |
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| Kevin Shields | 1963 | 21 | 6,165 | Primal Scream (& Kevin Shields) |
| Lil B | 1989 | 115,746 | 678,610 | GUYS LIL B COMMENTED ON MY PICTURE BYE |

Inversions (a.k.a. Yodaness)

Def. An **inversion** is a pair of keys in an array that are out of order.



A E E L M O T R X P S



T-R T-P T-S R-P X-P X-S

(6 inversions out of 55 max)




Goal.

- Given an array with N inversions.
- Perform a sequence of operations that reduces inversions to 0.

Sample sort client 1

Goal. Sort **any** type of data.

Ex 1. Sort random real numbers in ascending order.

 seems artificial, but stay tuned for an application

```
public class Experiment
{
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        int N = Integer.parseInt(args[0]);
        Double[] a = new Double[N];
        for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
            a[i] = StdRandom.uniform();
        Insertion.sort(a);
        for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
            StdOut.println(a[i]);
    }
}
```

```
% java Experiment 10
0.08614716385210452
0.09054270895414829
0.10708746304898642
0.21166190071646818
0.363292849257276
0.460954145685913
0.5340026311350087
0.7216129793703496
0.9003500354411443
0.9293994908845686
```

Sample sort client 2

Goal. Sort **any** type of data.

Ex 2. Sort strings from file in alphabetical order.

```
public class StringSorter
{
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        String[] a = In.readStrings(args[0]);
        Insertion.sort(a);
        for (int i = 0; i < a.length; i++)
            StdOut.println(a[i]);
    }
}
```

```
% more words3.txt
it's friday, friday gotta get down on friday

% java StringSorter words3.txt
down friday friday friday, get gotta it's on
```

Sample sort client 3

Goal. Sort **any** type of data.

Ex 3. Sort the files in a given directory by filename.

```
import java.io.File;
public class FileSorter
{
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        File directory = new File(args[0]);
        File[] files = directory.listFiles();
        Insertion.sort(files);
        for (int i = 0; i < files.length; i++)
            StdOut.println(files[i].getName());
    }
}
```

```
% java FileSorter .
Insertion.class
Insertion.java
InsertionX.class
InsertionX.java
Selection.class
Selection.java
Shell.class
Shell.java
ShellX.class
ShellX.java
```

```
public class File {
    private String path;
    private int prefixLength;
    ...
}
```

Callbacks

Goal. Sort **any** type of data.

Q. How can `sort()` know how to compare data of type `Double`, `String`, and `java.io.File` without any information about the type of an item's key?

Callback = reference to executable code.

- Client passes array of objects to `sort()` function.
- The `sort()` function calls back object's `compareTo()` method as needed.

Implementing callbacks.

- Java: **interfaces**.

Callbacks: roadmap

client

```
import java.io.File;
public class FileSorter
{
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        File directory = new File(args[0]);
        File[] files = directory.listFiles();
        Insertion.sort(files);
        for (int i = 0; i < files.length; i++)
            StdOut.println(files[i].getName());
    }
}
```

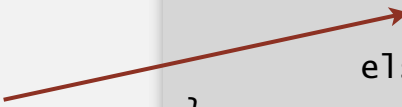
object implementation

```
public class File
implements Comparable<File>
{
    ...
    public int compareTo(File b)
    {
        ...
        return -1;
        ...
        return +1;
        ...
        return 0;
    }
}
```

Comparable interface (built in to Java)

```
public interface Comparable<Item>
{
    public int compareTo(Item that);
}
```

Insertion sort implementation

```
public static void sort(Comparable[] a)
{
    int N = a.length;
    for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
        for (int j = i; j > 0; j--)
            if (a[j].compareTo(a[j-1]) < 0)
                
                exch(a, j, j-1);
            else break;
}
```

key point: no dependence
on File data type

Callbacks: roadmap

client

```
import java.io.File;
public class FileSorter
{
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        File directory = new File(args[0]);
        File[] files = directory.listFiles();
        Insertion.sort(files);
        for (int i = 0; i < files.length; i++)
            StdOut.println(files[i].getName());
    }
}
```

pollEv.com/jhug

text to 37607

Q: If we omit “compareTo()”, which file will fail to compile?

- A. FileSorter.java [778751]
- B. File.java [778752]
- C. InsertionSort.java [778753]

object implementation

```
public class File
implements Comparable<File>
{
    ...
    public int compareTo(File b)
    {
        ...
        return -1;
        ...
        return +1;
        ...
        return 0;
    }
}
```

Insertion sort implementation

```
public static void sort(Comparable[] a)
{
    int N = a.length;
    for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
        for (int j = i; j > 0; j--)
            if (a[j].compareTo(a[j-1]) < 0)
                exch(a, j, j-1);
            else break;
}
```

Callbacks: roadmap

client

```
import java.io.File;
public class FileSorter
{
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        File directory = new File(args[0]);
        File[] files = directory.listFiles();
        Insertion.sort(files);
        for (int i = 0; i < files.length; i++)
            StdOut.println(files[i].getName());
    }
}
```

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text to 37607

Q: If we omit “implements Comparable”, which file will fail to compile?

- A. FileSorter.java [778757]
- B. File.java [778758]
- C. InsertionSort.java [778759]

object implementation

```
public class File
implements Comparable<File>
{
    ...
    public int compareTo(File b)
    {
        ...
        return -1;
        ...
        return +1;
        ...
        return 0;
    }
}
```

Insertion sort implementation

```
public static void sort(Comparable[] a)
{
    int N = a.length;
    for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
        for (int j = i; j > 0; j--)
            if (a[j].compareTo(a[j-1]) < 0)
                exch(a, j, j-1);
            else break;
}
```

Comparable API

Implement `compareTo()` so that `v.compareTo(w)`

- Is a total order.
- Returns a negative integer, zero, or positive integer if v is less than, equal to, or greater than w , respectively.
- Throws an exception if incompatible types (or either is `null`).

Total order

A **total order** is a binary relation \leq that satisfies:

- Antisymmetry: if $v \leq w$ and $w \leq v$, then $v = w$.
- Transitivity: if $v \leq w$ and $w \leq x$, then $v \leq x$.
- Totality: either $v \leq w$ or $w \leq v$ or both.

Ex.

- Standard order for natural and real numbers.
- Chronological order for dates or times.
- Alphabetical order for strings.
- ...



an intransitive relation

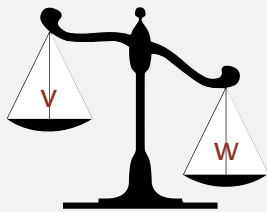
violates totality: `(Double.NaN <= Double.NaN)` is false

Surprising but true. The `<=` operator for `double` is not a total order. (!)

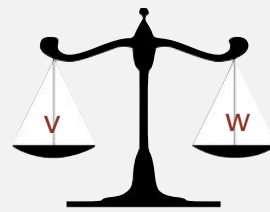
Comparable API

Implement `compareTo()` so that `v.compareTo(w)`

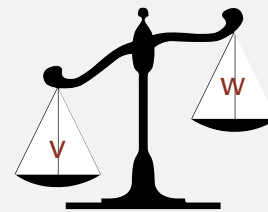
- Is a total order.
- Returns a negative integer, zero, or positive integer if v is less than, equal to, or greater than w , respectively.
- Throws an exception if incompatible types (or either is `null`).



less than (return -1)



equal to (return 0)



greater than (return +1)

Built-in comparable types. Integer, Double, String, Date, File, ...

User-defined comparable types. Implement the Comparable interface.

Implementing the Comparable interface

Date data type. Simplified version of java.util.Date.

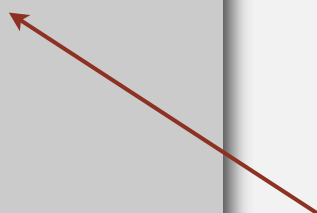
```
public class Date implements Comparable<Date>
{
    private final int month, day, year;

    public Date(int m, int d, int y)
    {
        month = m;
        day   = d;
        year  = y;
    }
}
```

```
public int compareTo(Date that)
{
    if (this.year < that.year ) return -1;
    if (this.year > that.year ) return +1;
    if (this.month < that.month) return -1;
    if (this.month > that.month) return +1;
    if (this.day   < that.day   ) return -1;
    if (this.day   > that.day   ) return +1;
    return 0;
}
```

```
}
```

only compare dates
to other dates



Callbacks

Goal. Sort **any** type of data.

Q. How can `sort()` know how to compare data of type `Double`, `String`, and `java.io.File` without any information about the type of an item's key?

Callback = reference to executable code.

- Client passes array of objects to `sort()` function.
- The `sort()` function calls back object's `compareTo()` method as needed.

Implementing callbacks.

- Java: **interfaces**.
- C: function pointers.
- C++: class-type functors.
- C#: delegates.
- Python, Perl, ML, Javascript: first-class functions.

Summary.

Generic Sorting.

- Generic sorting algorithm expects array of Comparables
- Comparable: Class implements `.compareTo()` method
 - Must contain `compareTo()` method to compile
 - `compareTo()` should obey certain rules to guarantee function

Today's Sorting Algorithms.

- Will only interact with the `Comparable` array via helper functions
 - `exch(i, j)`: swaps items at position `i` and `j`
 - `less(v, w)`: returns `true` if `v.compareTo(w) < 0`

Two useful sorting abstractions

Helper functions. Refer to data through compares and exchanges.

Less. Is item v less than w ?

```
private static boolean less(Comparable v, Comparable w)
{ return v.compareTo(w) < 0; }
```

Exchange. Swap item in array $a[]$ at index i with the one at index j .

- Why exchange?

```
private static void exch(Comparable[] a, int i, int j)
{
    Comparable swap = a[i];
    a[i] = a[j];
    a[j] = swap;
}
```

Testing

Goal. Test if an array is sorted.

```
private static boolean isSorted(Comparable[] a)
{
    for (int i = 1; i < a.length; i++)
        if (less(a[i], a[i-1])) return false;
    return true;
}
```

a[] → **TroubleSort.sort(a)**

a[] → **isSorted(a)** → true

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text to **37607**

Q. If the sorting algorithm passes the test, did it correctly sort the array?

A. Yes [778645]

B. No [778646]

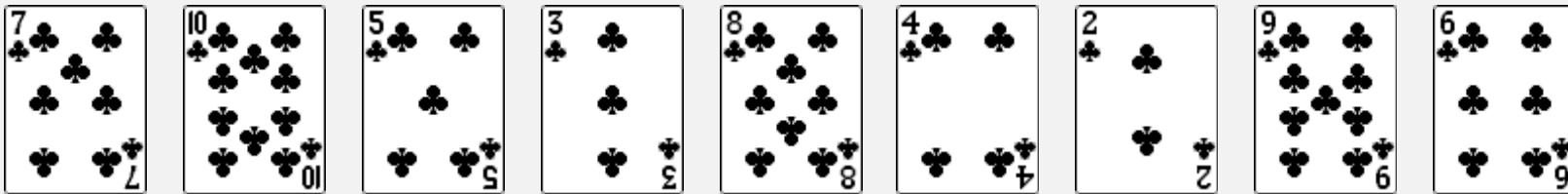


2.1 ELEMENTARY SORTS

- ▶ *rules of the game*
- ▶ *selection sort*
- ▶ *insertion sort*
- ▶ *shellsort*
- ▶ *shuffling*
- ▶ *convex hull*

Selection sort demo

- In iteration i , find index \min of smallest remaining entry.
- Swap $a[i]$ and $a[\min]$.



initial

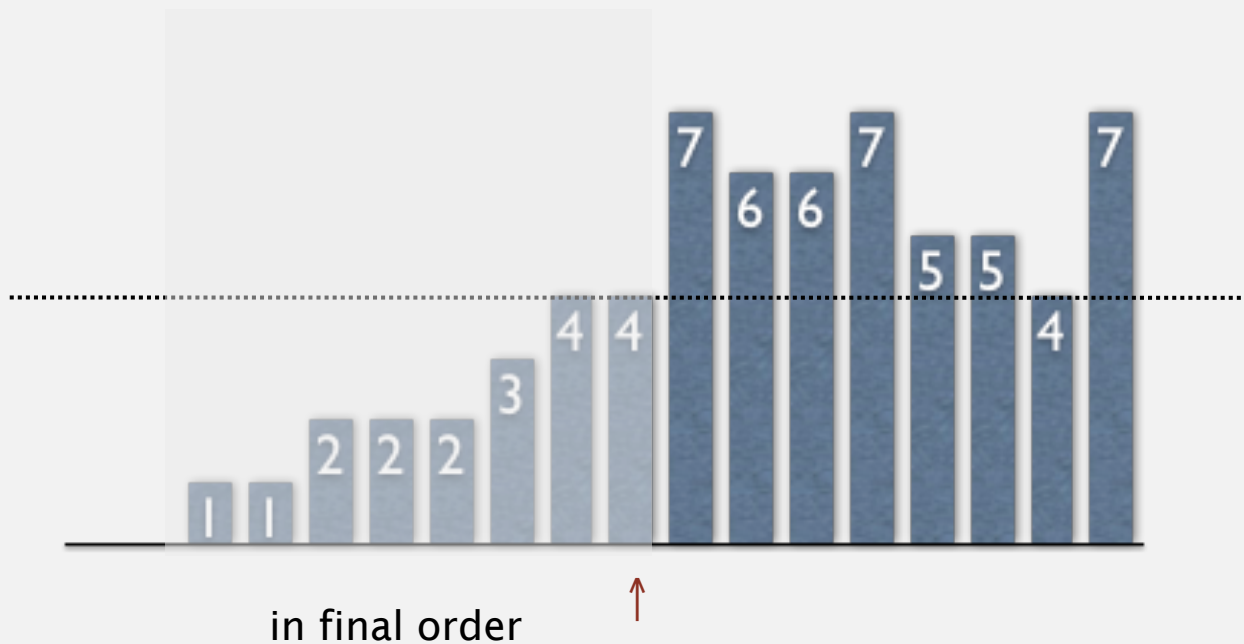


Selection sort

Algorithm. ↑ scans from left to right.

Invariants.

- Entries the left of ↑ (including ↑) fixed and in ascending order.
- No entry to right of ↑ is smaller than any entry to the left of ↑.



Selection sort inner loop

To maintain algorithm invariants:

- Move the pointer to the right.

```
i++;
```

- Identify index of minimum entry on right.

```
int min = i;  
for (int j = i+1; j < N; j++)  
    if (less(a[j], a[min]))  
        min = j;
```

- Exchange into position.

```
exch(a, i, min);
```



Selection sort: Java implementation

```
public class Selection
{
    public static void sort(Comparable[] a)
    {
        int N = a.length;
        for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
        {
            int min = i;
            for (int j = i+1; j < N; j++)
                if (less(a[j], a[min]))
                    min = j;
            exch(a, i, min);
        }
    }

    private static boolean less(Comparable v, Comparable w)
    { /* as before */ }

    private static void exch(Comparable[] a, int i, int j)
    { /* as before */ }
}
```


Selection sort: mathematical analysis

Proposition. Selection sort uses $(N-1) + (N-2) + \dots + 1 + 0 \sim N^2/2$ compares and N exchanges.

| | | a[] | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-----|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| i | min | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| | | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E |
| 0 | 6 | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E |
| 1 | 4 | A | O | R | T | E | X | S | M | P | L | E |
| 2 | 10 | A | E | R | T | O | X | S | M | P | L | E |
| 3 | 9 | A | E | E | T | O | X | S | M | P | L | R |
| 4 | 7 | A | E | E | L | O | X | S | M | P | T | R |
| 5 | 7 | A | E | E | L | M | X | S | O | P | T | R |
| 6 | 8 | A | E | E | L | M | O | S | X | P | T | R |
| 7 | 10 | A | E | E | L | M | O | P | X | S | T | R |
| 8 | 8 | A | E | E | L | M | O | P | R | S | T | X |
| 9 | 9 | A | E | E | L | M | O | P | R | S | T | X |
| 10 | 10 | A | E | E | L | M | O | P | R | S | T | X |
| | | A | E | E | L | M | O | P | R | S | T | X |

entries in black are examined to find the minimum

entries in red are a[min]

entries in gray are in final position

Trace of selection sort (array contents just after each exchange)

Running time insensitive to input. Quadratic time, even if input is sorted.
Data movement is minimal. Linear number of exchanges.

Selection sort: mathematical analysis

Proposition. Selection sort uses $(N-1) + (N-2) + \dots + 1 + 0 \sim N^2/2$ compares and N exchanges.

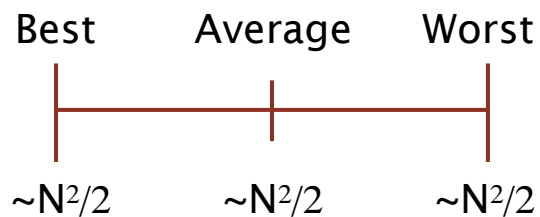
| | | a[] | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-----|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| i | min | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| | | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E |
| 0 | 6 | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E |
| 1 | 4 | A | O | R | T | E | X | S | M | P | L | E |
| 2 | 10 | A | E | R | T | O | X | S | M | P | L | E |
| 3 | 9 | A | E | E | T | O | X | S | M | P | L | R |
| 4 | 7 | A | E | E | L | O | X | S | M | P | T | R |
| 5 | 7 | A | E | E | L | M | X | S | O | P | T | R |
| 6 | 8 | A | E | E | L | M | O | S | X | P | T | R |
| 7 | 10 | A | E | E | L | M | O | P | X | S | T | R |
| 8 | 8 | A | E | E | L | M | O | P | R | S | T | X |
| 9 | 9 | A | E | E | L | M | O | P | R | S | T | X |
| 10 | 10 | A | E | E | L | M | O | P | R | S | T | X |
| | | A | E | E | L | M | O | P | R | S | T | X |

entries in black are examined to find the minimum

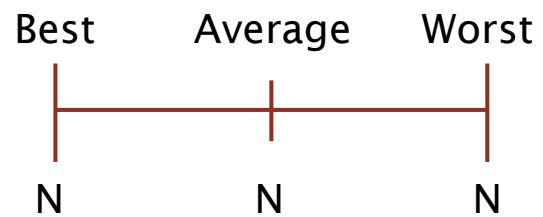
entries in red are a[min]

entries in gray are in final position

Selection Sort (Compares).



Selection Sort (Exchanges).



Selection sort: mathematical analysis



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Q. Let R be the number of un-fixed elements before a call to `exch`. By how much is the inversion count reduced on that call to `exch`?

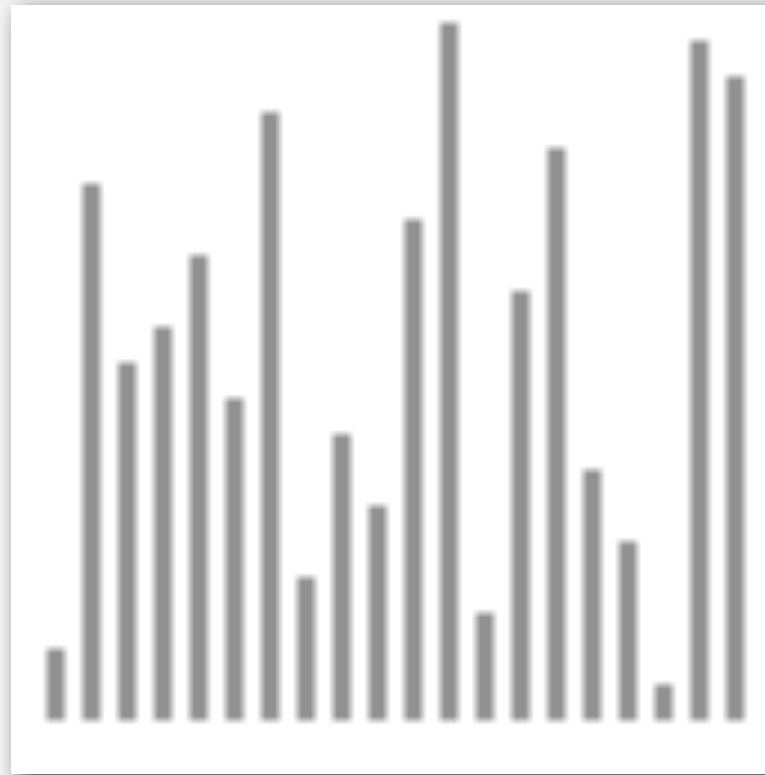
- | | | | |
|--------|----------|----------------------|----------|
| A. 1 | [779846] | D. Between 0 and R | [779849] |
| B. N | [779847] | E. Between 0 and N | [779850] |
| C. R | [779848] | | |

```
exch(a, i, min);
```



Selection sort: animations

20 random items

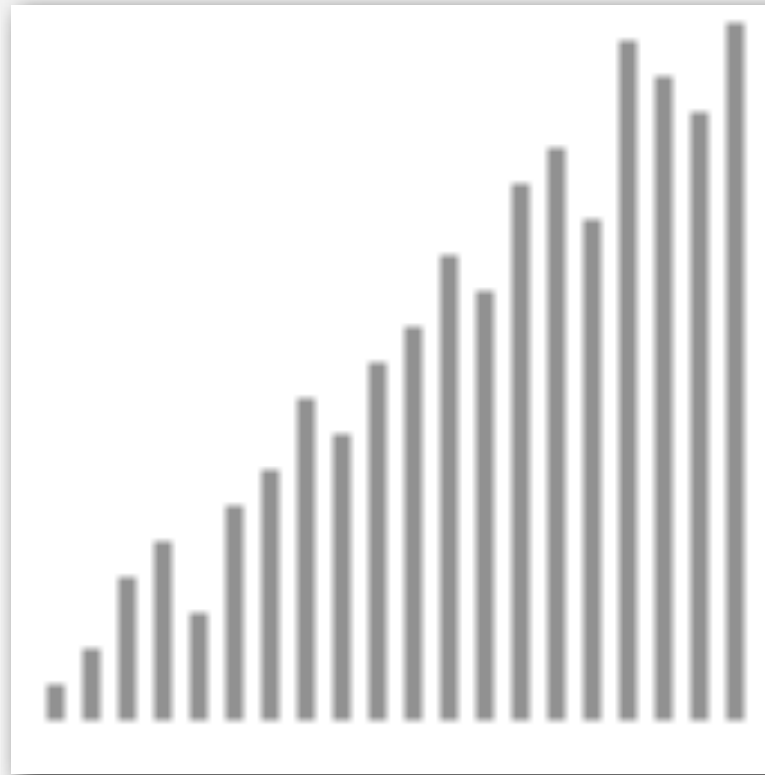


- ▲ algorithm position
- █ in final order
- ▒ not in final order

<http://www.sorting-algorithms.com/selection-sort>

Selection sort: animations

20 partially-sorted items



- ▲ algorithm position
- █ in final order
- ▒ not in final order

<http://www.sorting-algorithms.com/selection-sort>

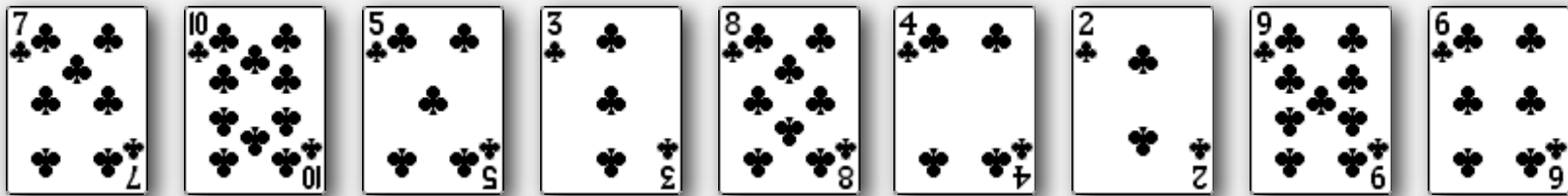


2.1 ELEMENTARY SORTS

- ▶ *rules of the game*
- ▶ *selection sort*
- ▶ *insertion sort*
- ▶ *shellsort*
- ▶ *shuffling*
- ▶ *convex hull*

Insertion sort demo

- In iteration i , swap $a[i]$ with each larger entry to its left.



Insertion sort

Algorithm. ↑ scans from left to right.

Invariants.

- Entries to the left of ↑ (including ↑) are in ascending order.
- Entries to the right of ↑ have not yet been seen.



Insertion sort inner loop

To maintain algorithm invariants:

- Move the pointer to the right.

```
i++;
```



- Moving from right to left, exchange $a[i]$ with each larger entry to its left.

```
for (int j = i; j > 0; j--)  
    if (less(a[j], a[j-1]))  
        exch(a, j, j-1);  
    else break;
```



Insertion sort: Java implementation

```
public class Insertion
{
    public static void sort(Comparable[] a)
    {
        int N = a.length;
        for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
            for (int j = i; j > 0; j--)
                if (less(a[j], a[j-1]))
                    exch(a, j, j-1);
                else break;
    }
    ...
}
```

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text to **37607**

Q. What is the worst case number of compares to complete an entire insertion sort?

- | | | | |
|---------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| A. $\sim N$ | [780115] | D. $\sim N^2$ | [780118] |
| B. $\sim N/2$ | [780116] | E. $\sim N^2/2$ | [780119] |
| C. $\sim N/4$ | [780117] | F. $\sim N^2/4$ | [780120] |

Insertion sort: Java implementation

```
public class Insertion
{
    public static void sort(Comparable[] a)
    {
        int N = a.length;
        for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
            for (int j = i; j > 0; j--)
                if (less(a[j], a[j-1]))
                    exch(a, j, j-1);
                else break;
    }
    ...
}
```

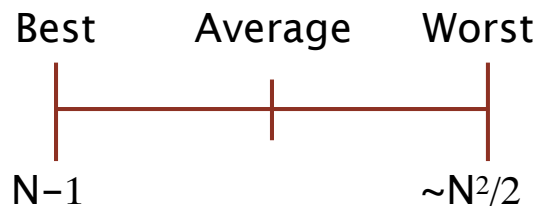
Q. What is the best case number of compares to complete an entire insertion sort? Exchanges?

Insertion sort: Java implementation

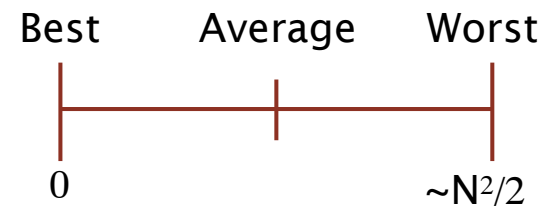
```
public class Insertion
{
    public static void sort(Comparable[] a)
    {
        int N = a.length;
        for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
            for (int j = i; j > 0; j--)
                if (less(a[j], a[j-1]))
                    exch(a, j, j-1);
                else break;
    }
    ...
}
```

Q. What is the best case number of compares to complete an entire insertion sort? Exchanges?

Insertion Sort (Compares).



Insertion Sort (Exchanges).



Insertion sort: mathematical analysis

Proposition. To sort a randomly-ordered array with distinct keys, insertion sort uses $\sim \frac{1}{4} N^2$ compares and $\sim \frac{1}{4} N^2$ exchanges on average.

Pf. Expect each entry to move halfway back.

| | | a[] | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| i | j | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| | | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E |
| 1 | 0 | O | S | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E |
| 2 | 1 | O | R | S | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E |
| 3 | 3 | O | R | S | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E |
| 4 | 0 | E | O | R | S | T | X | A | M | P | L | E |
| 5 | 5 | E | O | R | S | T | X | A | M | P | L | E |
| 6 | 0 | A | E | O | R | S | T | X | M | P | L | E |
| 7 | 2 | A | E | M | O | R | S | T | X | P | L | E |
| 8 | 4 | A | E | M | O | P | R | S | T | X | L | E |
| 9 | 2 | A | E | L | M | O | P | R | S | T | X | E |
| 10 | 2 | A | E | E | L | M | O | P | R | S | T | X |

entries in gray do not move
entry in red is a[j]
entries in black moved one position right for insertion

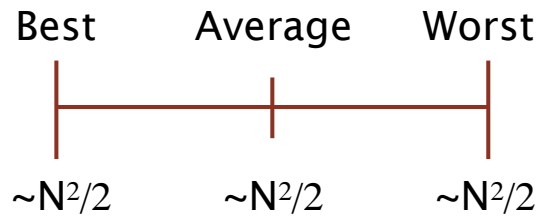
Trace of insertion sort (array contents just after each insertion)

Insertion sort: trace

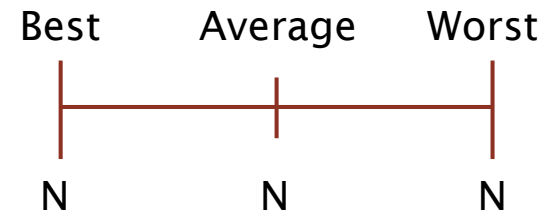
| | | a[] | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|
| i | j | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | | |
| | | A | S | O | M | E | W | H | A | T | L | O | N | G | E | R | I | N | S | E | R | T | I | O | N | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E | | |
| 0 | 0 | A | S | O | M | E | W | H | A | T | L | O | N | G | E | R | I | N | S | E | R | T | I | O | N | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E | | |
| 1 | 1 | A | S | O | M | E | W | H | A | T | L | O | N | G | E | R | I | N | S | E | R | T | I | O | N | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E | | |
| 2 | 1 | A | O | S | M | E | W | H | A | T | L | O | N | G | E | R | I | N | S | E | R | T | I | O | N | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E | | |
| 3 | 1 | A | M | O | S | E | W | H | A | T | L | O | N | G | E | R | I | N | S | E | R | T | I | O | N | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E | | |
| 4 | 1 | A | E | M | O | S | W | H | A | T | L | O | N | G | E | R | I | N | S | E | R | T | I | O | N | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E | | |
| 5 | 5 | A | E | M | O | S | W | H | A | T | L | O | N | G | E | R | I | N | S | E | R | T | I | O | N | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E | | |
| 6 | 2 | A | E | H | M | O | S | W | A | T | L | O | N | G | E | R | I | N | S | E | R | T | I | O | N | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E | | |
| 7 | 1 | A | A | E | H | M | O | S | W | T | L | O | N | G | E | R | I | N | S | E | R | T | I | O | N | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E | | |
| 8 | 7 | A | A | E | H | M | O | S | T | W | L | O | N | G | E | R | I | N | S | E | R | T | I | O | N | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E | | |
| 9 | 4 | A | A | E | H | L | M | O | S | T | W | O | N | G | E | R | I | N | S | E | R | T | I | O | N | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E | | |
| 10 | 7 | A | A | E | H | L | M | O | O | S | T | W | N | G | E | R | I | N | S | E | R | T | I | O | N | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E | | |
| 11 | 6 | A | A | E | H | L | M | N | O | O | S | T | W | G | E | R | I | N | S | E | R | T | I | O | N | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E | | |
| 12 | 3 | A | A | E | G | H | L | M | N | O | O | S | T | W | E | R | I | N | S | E | R | T | I | O | N | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E | | |
| 13 | 3 | A | A | E | E | G | H | L | M | N | O | O | S | T | W | R | I | N | S | E | R | T | I | O | N | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E | | |
| 14 | 11 | A | A | E | E | G | H | L | M | N | O | O | R | S | T | W | I | N | S | E | R | T | I | O | N | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E | | |
| 15 | 6 | A | A | E | E | G | H | I | L | M | N | O | O | R | S | T | W | N | S | E | R | T | I | O | N | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E | | |
| 16 | 10 | A | A | E | E | G | H | I | L | M | N | N | O | O | R | S | T | W | S | E | R | T | I | O | N | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E | | |
| 17 | 15 | A | A | E | E | G | H | I | L | M | N | N | O | O | R | S | S | T | W | E | R | T | I | O | N | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E | | |
| 18 | 4 | A | A | E | E | E | G | H | I | L | M | N | N | O | O | R | S | S | T | W | R | T | I | O | N | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E | | |
| 19 | 15 | A | A | E | E | E | G | H | I | L | M | N | N | O | O | R | S | S | T | W | T | I | O | N | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E | | | |
| 20 | 19 | A | A | E | E | E | G | H | I | L | M | N | N | O | O | R | R | S | S | T | T | W | I | O | N | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E | | |
| 21 | 8 | A | A | E | E | E | G | H | I | I | L | M | N | N | O | O | R | R | S | S | T | T | W | O | N | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E | | |
| 22 | 15 | A | A | E | E | E | G | H | I | I | L | M | N | N | O | O | O | R | R | S | S | T | T | W | N | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E | | |
| 23 | 13 | A | A | E | E | E | G | H | I | I | L | M | N | N | N | O | O | O | R | R | S | S | T | T | W | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E | | |
| 24 | 21 | A | A | E | E | E | G | H | I | I | L | M | N | N | N | O | O | O | R | R | S | S | S | T | T | W | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E | | |
| 25 | 17 | A | A | E | E | E | G | H | I | I | L | M | N | N | N | O | O | O | O | R | R | S | S | S | T | T | W | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E | | |
| 26 | 20 | A | A | E | E | E | G | H | I | I | L | M | N | N | N | O | O | O | O | R | R | R | S | S | S | T | T | W | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E | | |
| 27 | 26 | A | A | E | E | E | G | H | I | I | L | M | N | N | N | O | O | O | O | R | R | R | R | S | S | S | T | T | T | W | E | X | A | M | P | L | E | |
| 28 | 5 | A | A | E | E | E | E | G | H | I | I | L | M | N | N | N | O | O | O | O | R | R | R | R | S | S | S | T | T | T | W | X | A | M | P | L | E | |
| 29 | 29 | A | A | E | E | E | E | E | G | H | I | I | L | M | N | N | N | O | O | O | O | R | R | R | R | S | S | S | T | T | T | W | X | A | M | P | L | E |
| 30 | 2 | A | A | A | E | E | E | E | E | G | H | I | I | L | M | N | N | N | O | O | O | O | R | R | R | R | S | S | S | T | T | T | W | X | M | P | L | E |
| 31 | 13 | A | A | A | E | E | E | E | E | G | H | I | I | L | M | M | N | N | N | O | O | O | O | R | R | R | R | S | S | S | T | T | T | W | X | P | L | E |
| 32 | 21 | A | A | A | E | E | E | E | E | G | H | I | I | L | M | M | N | N | N | O | O | O | O | P | R | R | R | R | S | S | S | T | T | T | W | X | L | E |
| 33 | 12 | A | A | A | E | E | E | E | E | G | H | I | I | L | L | M | M | N | N | N | O | O | O | O | P | R | R | R | R | S | S | S | T | T | T | W | X | E |
| 34 | 7 | A | A | A | E | E | E | E | E | E | G | H | I | I | L | L | M | M | N | N | N | O | O | O | O | P | R | R | R | R | S | S | S | T | T | T | W | X |
| | | A | A | A | E | E | E | E | E | E | G | H | I | I | L | L | M | M | N | N | N | O | O | O | O | P | R | R | R | R | S | S | S | T | T | T | W | X |

Insertion sort vs. selection sort

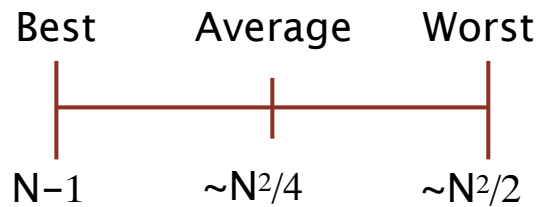
Selection Sort (Compares).



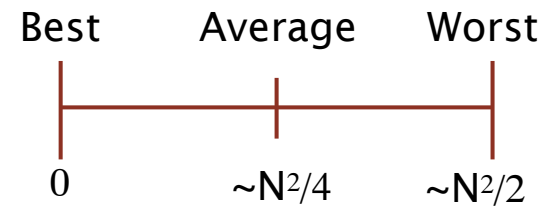
Selection Sort (Exchanges).



Insertion Sort (Compares).

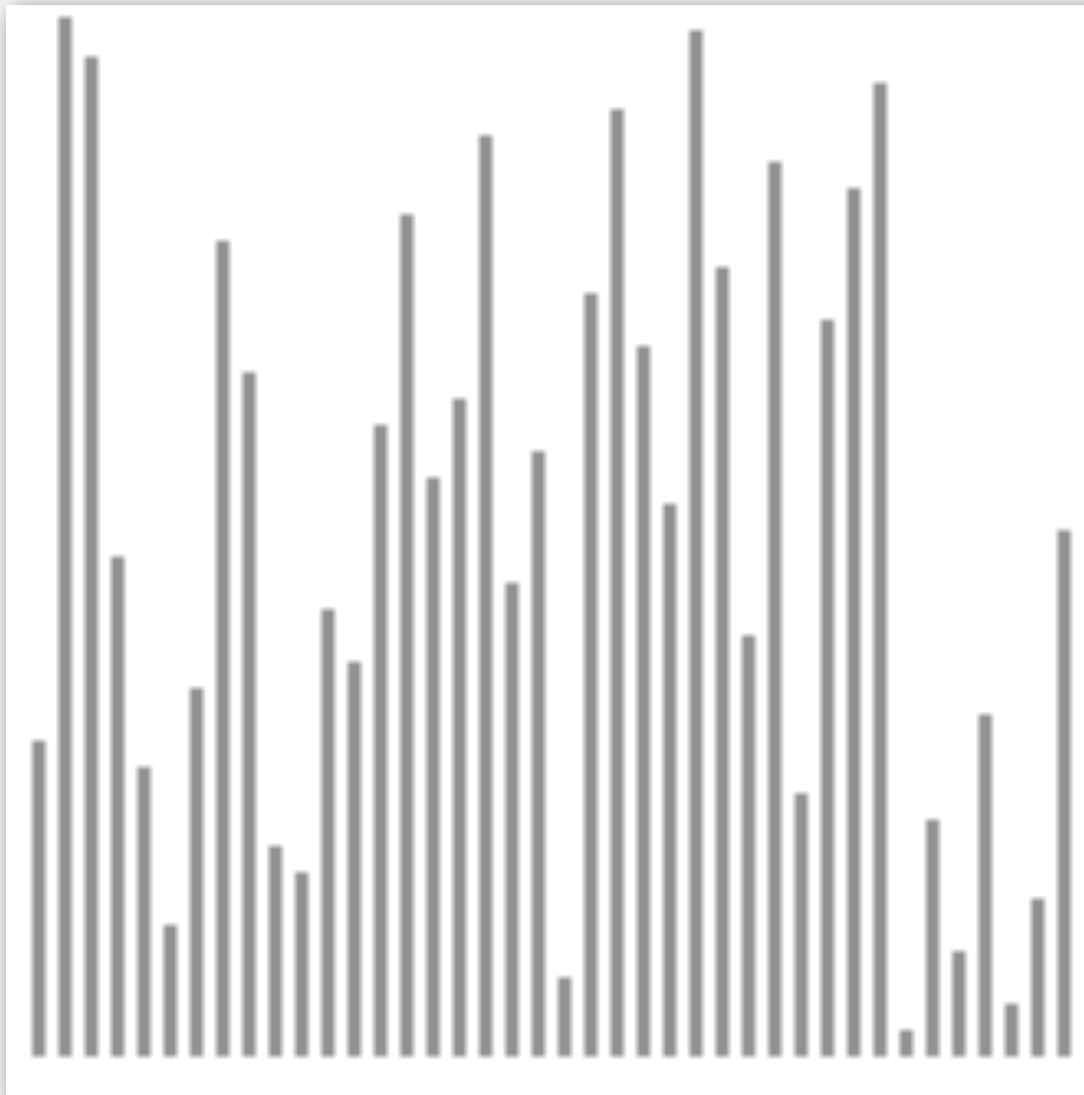


Insertion Sort (Exchanges).



Insertion sort: animation

40 random items

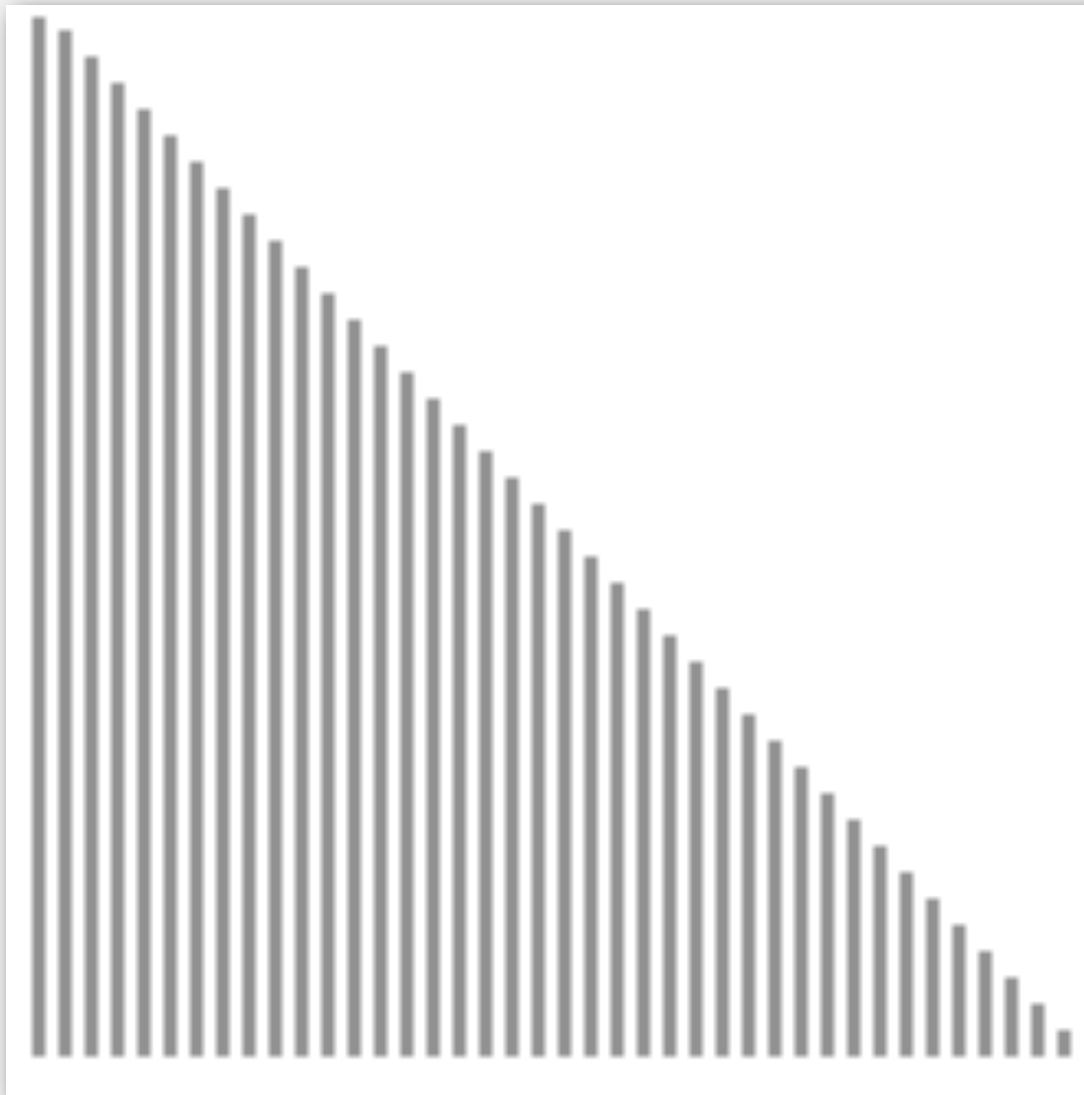


<http://www.sorting-algorithms.com/insertion-sort>

▲ algorithm position
■ in order
■ not yet seen

Insertion sort: animation

40 reverse-sorted items

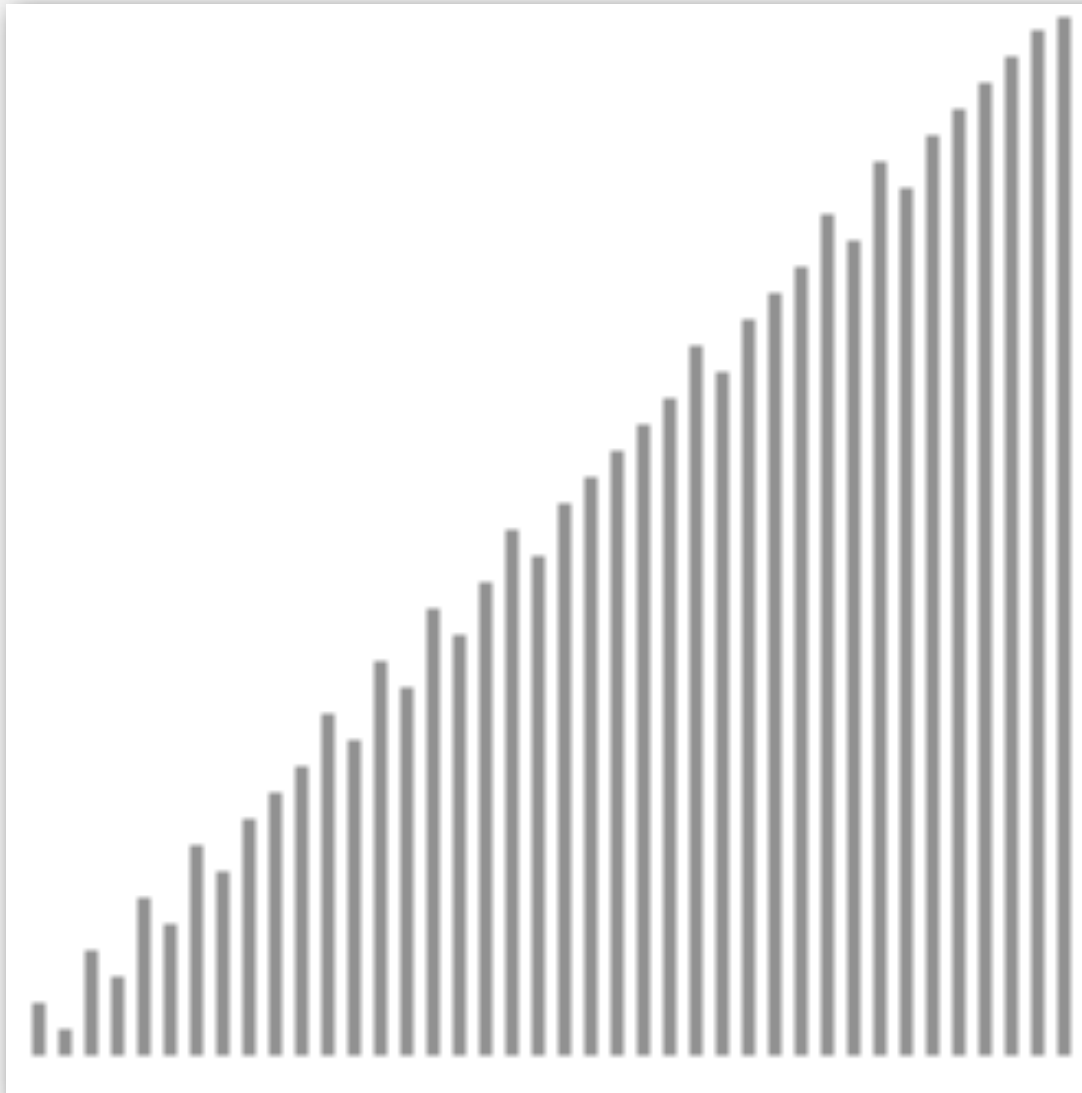


- ▲ algorithm position
- █ in order
- █ not yet seen

<http://www.sorting-algorithms.com/insertion-sort>

Insertion sort: animation

40 partially-sorted items



- ▲ algorithm position
- █ in order
- █ not yet seen

<http://www.sorting-algorithms.com/insertion-sort>

Insertion sort: Java implementation

```
public class Insertion
{
    public static void sort(Comparable[] a)
    {
        int N = a.length;
        for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
            for (int j = i; j > 0; j--)
                if (less(a[j], a[j-1]))
                    exch(a, j, j-1);
                else break;
    }
}
```

Q1. What happens to the inversion on each call to exch?

Q2. Given an array with inversion count C , how many calls to exch will be made total before sorting is complete?

Insertion sort: partially-sorted arrays

Def. An **inversion** is a pair of keys that are out of order.

A E E L M O T R X P S

T-R T-P T-S R-P X-P X-S

(6 inversions)

Def. An array is **partially sorted** if the number of inversions is $\leq cN$.

- Ex 1. A subarray of size 10 appended to a sorted subarray of size N .
- Ex 2. An array of size N with only 10 entries out of place.

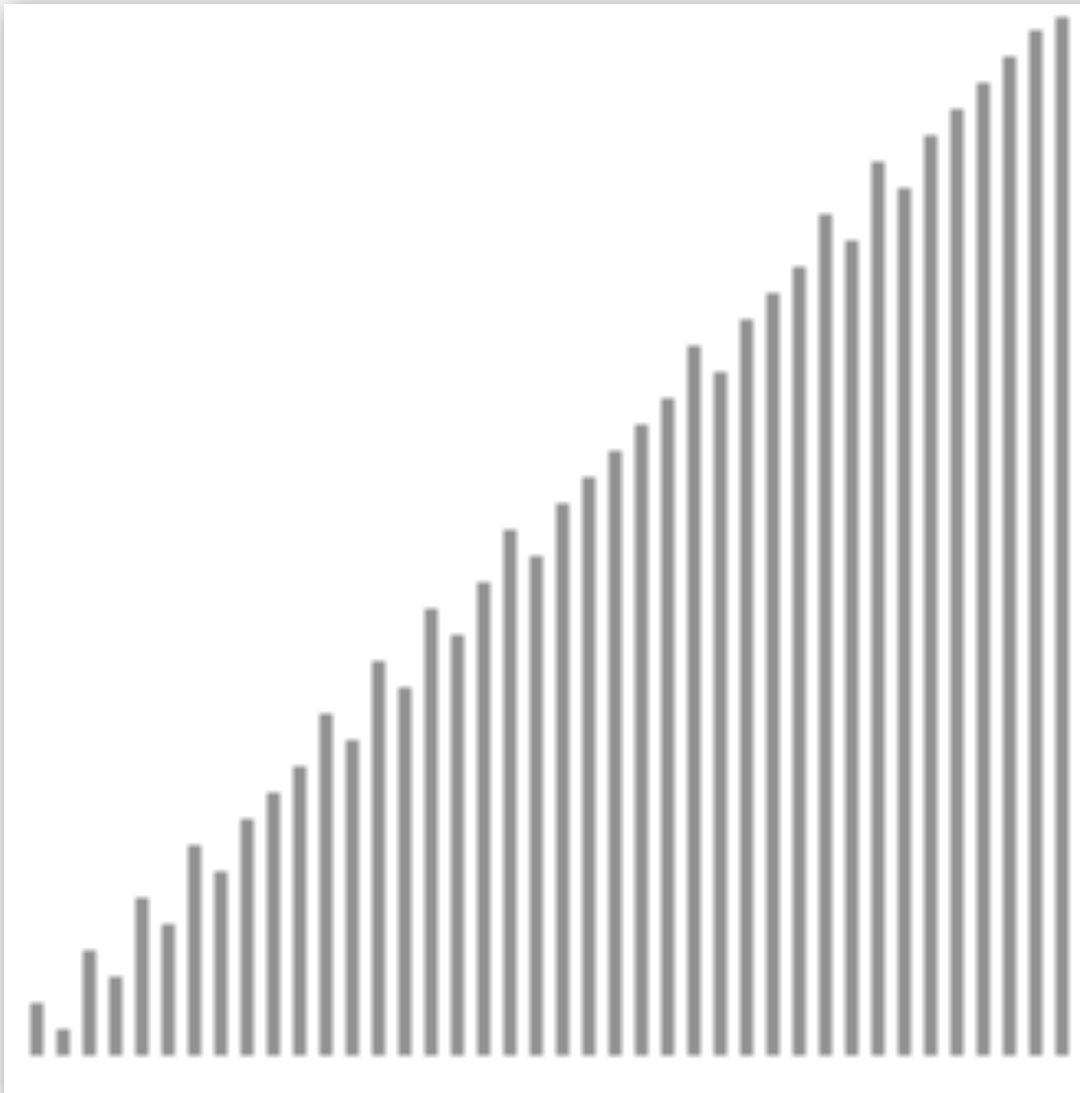
Proposition. For partially-sorted arrays, insertion sort runs in linear time.

Pf. Number of exchanges equals the number of inversions.

↑
number of compares = exchanges + $(N - 1)$

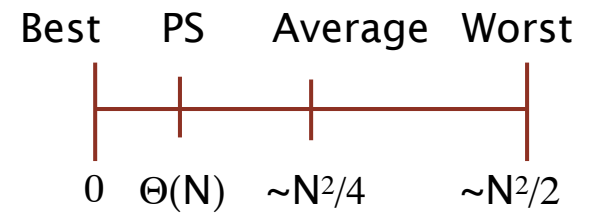
Insertion sort: animation

40 partially-sorted items



<http://www.sorting-algorithms.com/insertion-sort>

Insertion Sort (Exchanges).



PS: Partially sorted

- ▲ algorithm position
- █ in order
- █ not yet seen



2.1 ELEMENTARY SORTS

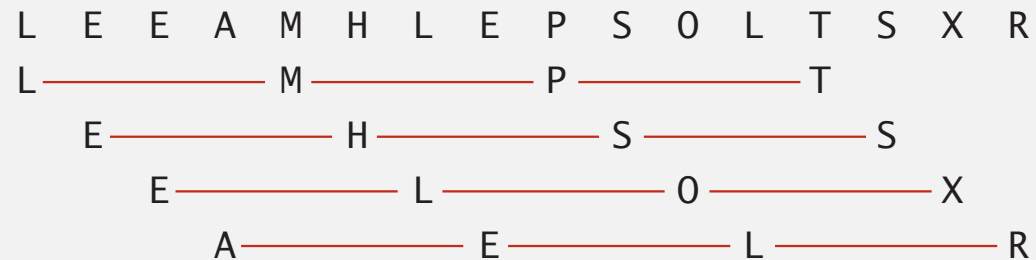
- ▶ *rules of the game*
- ▶ *selection sort*
- ▶ *insertion sort*
- ▶ *shellsort [see lecture/slides online]*
- ▶ *shuffling*
- ▶ *convex hull*

Shellsort overview

Idea. Move entries more than one position at a time by *h-sorting* the array.

an *h*-sorted array is *h* interleaved sorted subsequences

h = 4

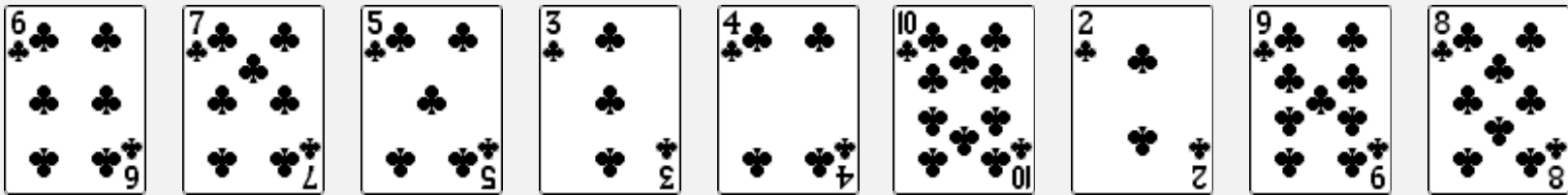


Shellsort. [Shell 1959] *h-sort* array for decreasing sequence of values of *h*.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| input | S | H | E | L | L | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E |
| 13-sort | P | H | E | L | L | S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | S | L | E |
| 4-sort | L | E | E | A | M | H | L | E | P | S | O | L | T | S | X | R |
| 1-sort | A | E | E | E | H | L | L | L | M | O | P | R | S | S | T | X |

h-sorting demo

In iteration i , swap $a[i]$ with each larger entry h positions to its left.



h-sorting

How to h -sort an array? Insertion sort, with stride length h .

3-sorting an array

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | O | L | E | E | X | A | S | P | R | T |
| E | O | L | M | E | X | A | S | P | R | T |
| E | E | L | M | O | X | A | S | P | R | T |
| E | E | L | M | O | X | A | S | P | R | T |
| A | E | L | E | O | X | M | S | P | R | T |
| A | E | L | E | O | X | M | S | P | R | T |
| A | E | L | E | O | P | M | S | X | R | T |
| A | E | L | E | O | P | M | S | X | R | T |
| A | E | L | E | O | P | M | S | X | R | T |
| A | E | L | E | O | P | M | S | X | R | T |

Why insertion sort?

- Big increments \Rightarrow small subarray.
- Small increments \Rightarrow nearly in order. [stay tuned]

Shellsort example: increments 7, 3, 1

input

S O R T E X A M P L E

7-sort

S O R T E X A M P L E
M O R T E X A S P L E
M O R T E X A S P L E
M O L T E X A S P R E
M O L E E X A S P R T

3-sort

M O L E E X A S P R T
E O L M E X A S P R T
E E L M O X A S P R T
A E L E O X M S P R T
A E L E O X M S P R T
A E L E O P M S X R T
A E L E O P M S X R T
A E L E O P M S X R T

1-sort

A E L E O P M S X R T
A E L E O P M S X R T
A E L E O P M S X R T
A E E L O P M S X R T
A E E L O P M S X R T
A E E L M O P S X R T
A E E L M O P S X R T
A E E L M O P R S X T
A E E L M O P R S T X

result

A E E L M O P R S T X

Shellsort: Java implementation

```
public class Shell
{
    public static void sort(Comparable[] a)
    {
        int N = a.length;

        int h = 1;
        while (h < N/3) h = 3*h + 1; // 1, 4, 13, 40, 121, 364, ...

        while (h >= 1)
        { // h-sort the array.
            for (int i = h; i < N; i++)
            {
                for (int j = i; j >= h && less(a[j], a[j-h]); j -= h)
                    exch(a, j, j-h);
            }

            h = h/3;
        }
    }

    private static boolean less(Comparable v, Comparable w)
    { /* as before */ }
    private static boolean exch(Comparable[] a, int i, int j)
    { /* as before */ }
}
```

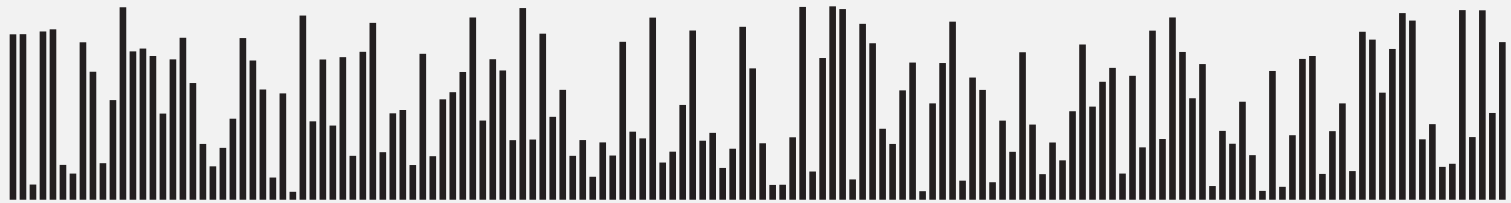
← 3x+1 increment
sequence

← insertion sort

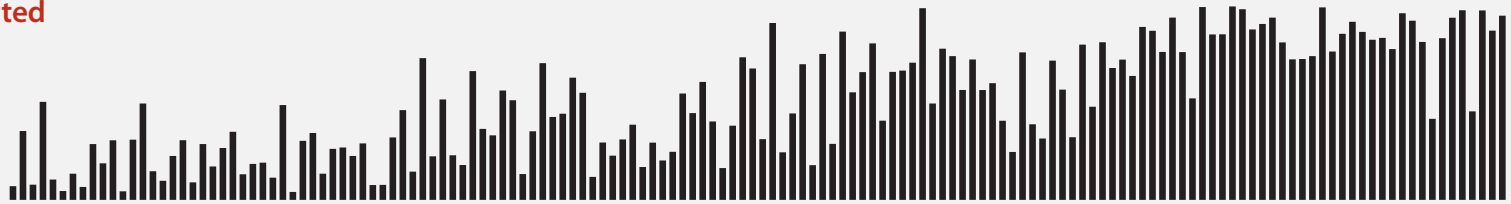
← move to next
increment

Shellsort: visual trace

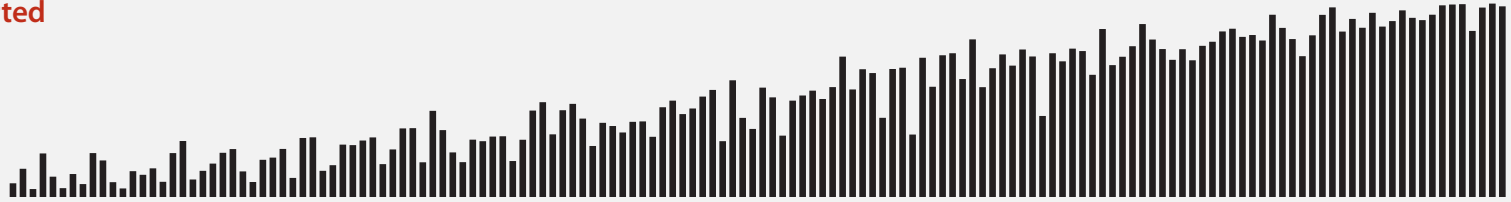
input



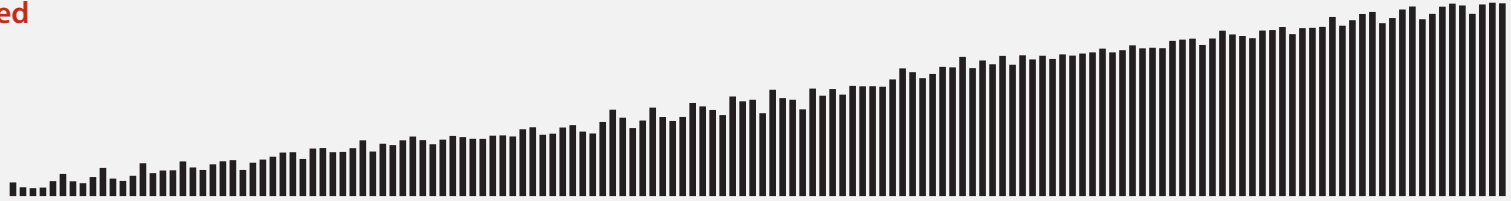
40-sorted



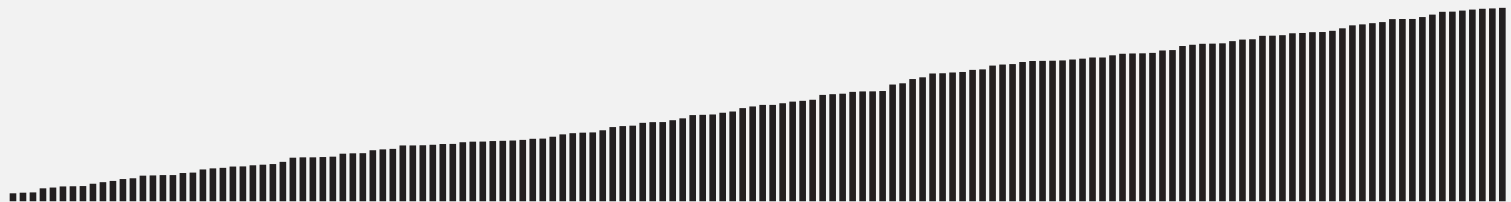
13-sorted



4-sorted

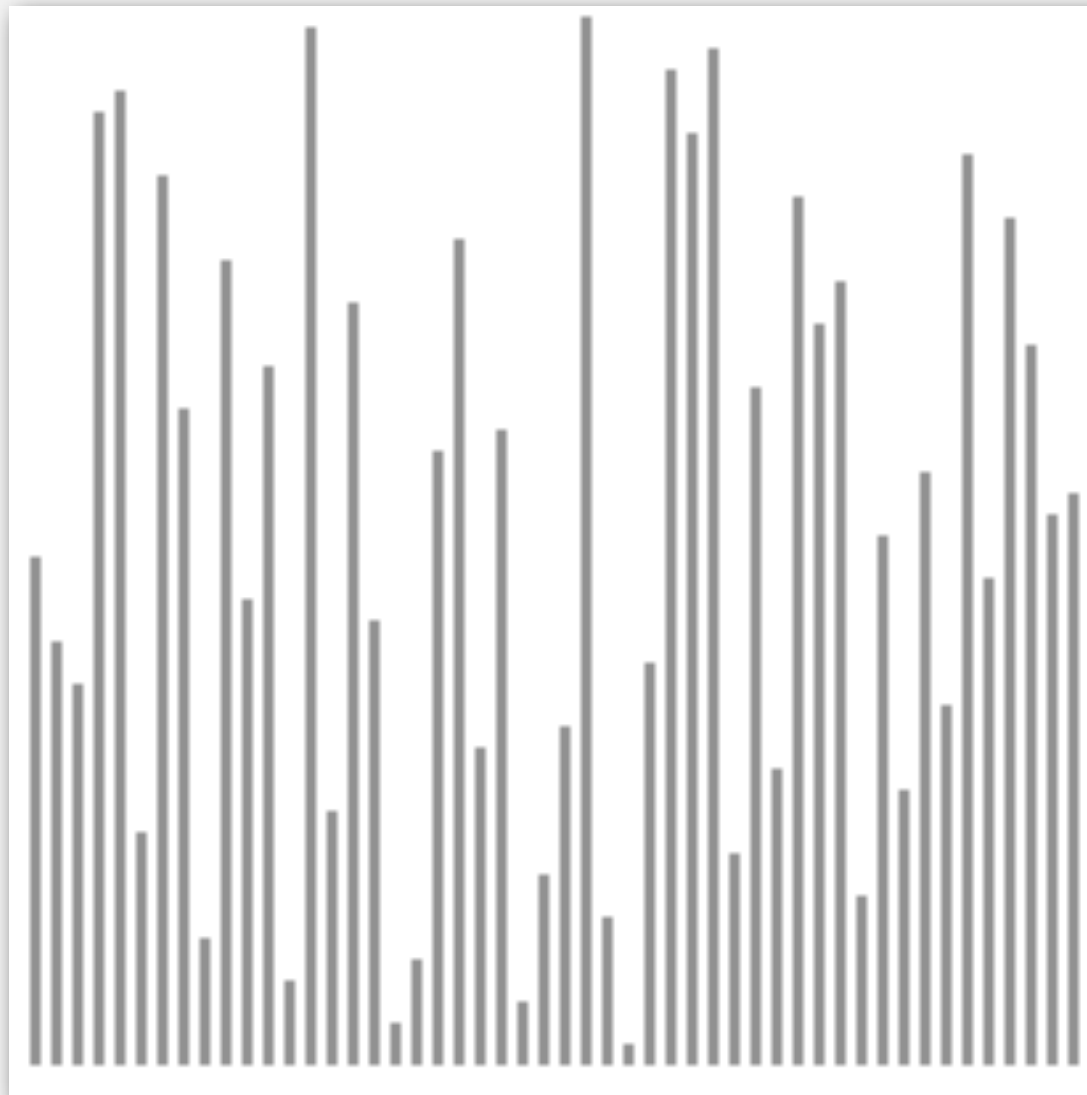


result



Shellsort: animation

50 random items

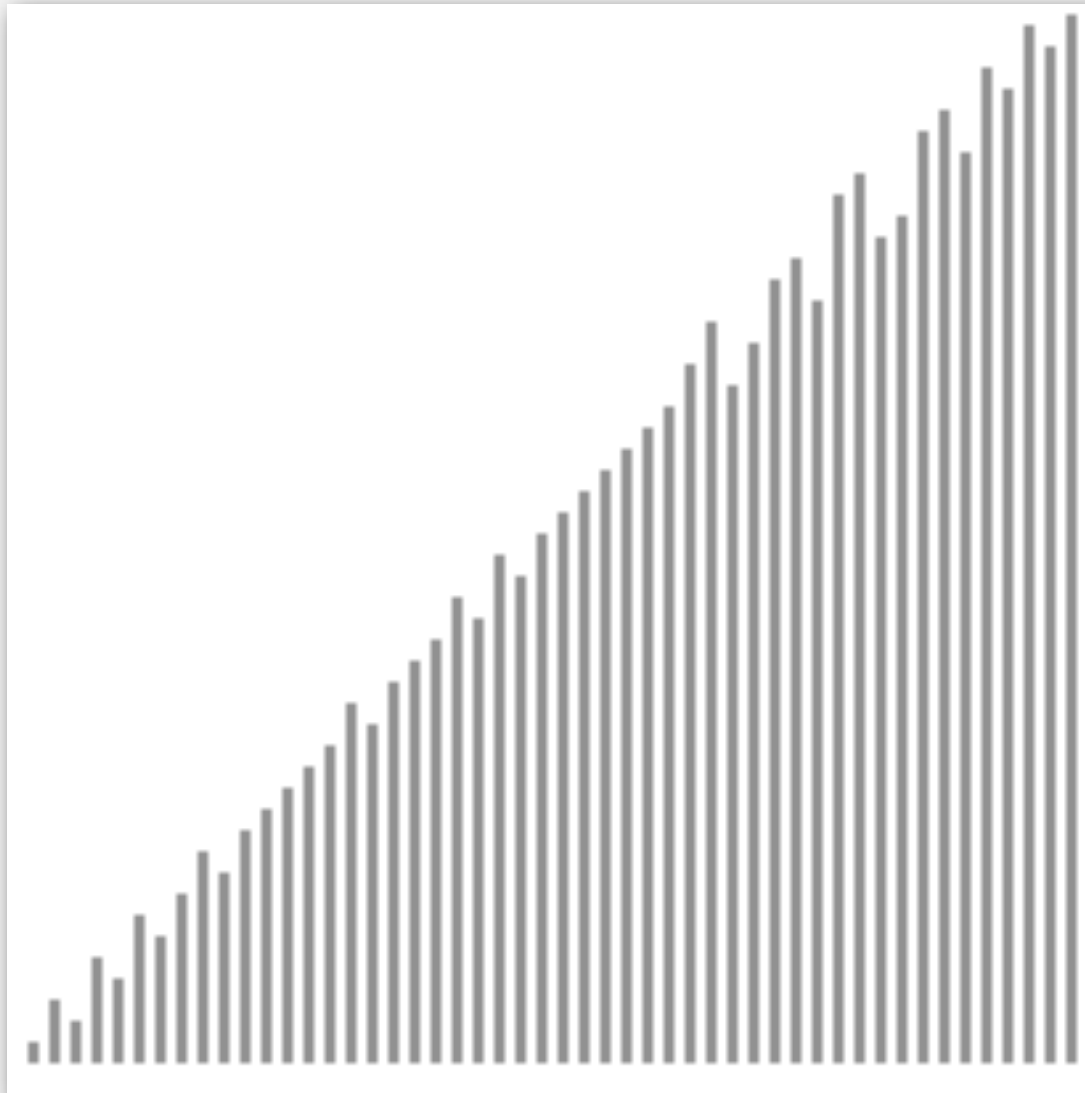


<http://www.sorting-algorithms.com/shell-sort>

- ▲ algorithm position
- h-sorted
- current subsequence
- other elements

Shellsort: animation

50 partially-sorted items



<http://www.sorting-algorithms.com/shell-sort>

- ▲ algorithm position
- h-sorted
- current subsequence
- other elements

Shellsort: which increment sequence to use?

Powers of two. 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, ...

No.

Powers of two minus one. 1, 3, 7, 15, 31, 63, ...

Maybe.

→ $3x + 1$. 1, 4, 13, 40, 121, 364, ...

OK. Easy to compute.

Sedgewick. 1, 5, 19, 41, 109, 209, 505, 929, 2161, 3905, ...

Good. Tough to beat in empirical studies.

merging of $(9 \times 4^i) - (9 \times 2^i) + 1$
and $4^i - (3 \times 2^i) + 1$

Shellsort: intuition

Proposition. A g -sorted array remains g -sorted after h -sorting it.

7-sort

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | O | R | T | E | X | A | M | P | L | E |
| M | O | R | T | E | X | A | S | P | L | E |
| M | O | R | T | E | X | A | S | P | L | E |
| M | O | L | T | E | X | A | S | P | R | E |
| M | O | L | E | E | X | A | S | P | R | T |

3-sort

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | O | L | E | E | X | A | S | P | R | T |
| E | O | L | M | E | X | A | S | P | R | T |
| E | E | L | M | O | X | A | S | P | R | T |
| E | E | L | M | O | X | A | S | P | R | T |
| A | E | L | E | O | X | M | S | P | R | T |
| A | E | L | E | O | X | M | S | P | R | T |
| A | E | L | E | O | P | M | S | X | R | T |
| A | E | L | E | O | P | M | S | X | R | T |
| A | E | L | E | O | P | M | S | X | R | T |
| A | E | L | E | O | P | M | S | X | R | T |



still 7-sorted

Challenge. Prove this fact—it's more subtle than you'd think!

Shellsort: analysis

Proposition. The worst-case number of compares used by shellsort with the $3x+1$ increments is $O(N^{3/2})$.

Property. Number of compares used by shellsort with the $3x+1$ increments is at most by a small multiple of N times the # of increments used.

| N | compares | $N^{1.289}$ | $2.5 N \lg N$ |
|--------|----------|-------------|---------------|
| 5,000 | 93 | 58 | 106 |
| 10,000 | 209 | 143 | 230 |
| 20,000 | 467 | 349 | 495 |
| 40,000 | 1022 | 855 | 1059 |
| 80,000 | 2266 | 2089 | 2257 |

measured in thousands

Remark. Accurate model has not yet been discovered (!)

Why are we interested in shellsort?

Example of simple idea leading to substantial performance gains.

Useful in practice.

- Fast unless array size is huge (used for small subarrays).
- Tiny, fixed footprint for code (used in some embedded systems).
- Hardware sort prototype.

bzip2, /linux/kernel/groups.c



uClibc



Simple algorithm, nontrivial performance, interesting questions.

- Asymptotic growth rate?
- Best sequence of increments? ← open problem: find a better increment sequence
- Average-case performance?

Lesson. Some good algorithms are still waiting discovery.

Summary.

Sorting Techniques.

- Today's sorts:
 - Selection Sort: Order of growth: N^2 .
 - Insertion Sort: N^2 .
 - Shell Sort: $N^{3/2}$.
- Next week: $N \lg N$ sorts.
 - Merge sort.
 - Quick sort.
 - Heap sort.
- Novelty sorts:
 - Bogo sort: $NN!$ (average case). Never completes (worst case).
 - Gnome sort: N^2 .



2.1 ELEMENTARY SORTS

- ▶ *rules of the game*
- ▶ *selection sort*
- ▶ *insertion sort*
- ▶ *shellsort*
- ▶ *shuffling*
- ▶ *convex hull*



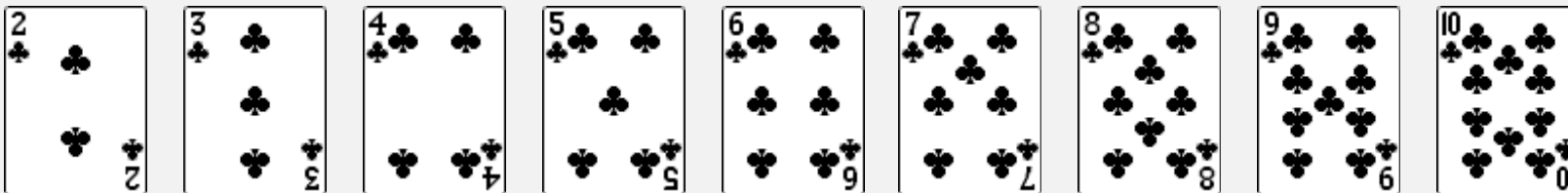
2.1 ELEMENTARY SORTS

- ▶ *rules of the game*
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- ▶ *shuffling*
- ▶ *convex hull*

How to shuffle an array

Goal. Rearrange array so that result is a uniformly random permutation.

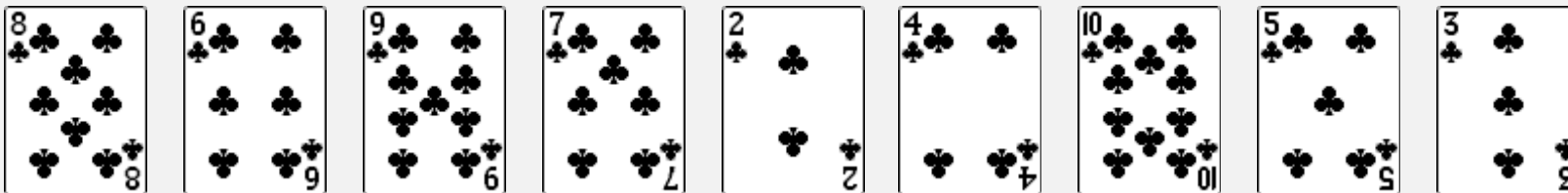
Uniformly Random Permutation. All permutations equally likely.



How to shuffle an array

Goal. Rearrange array so that result is a uniformly random permutation.

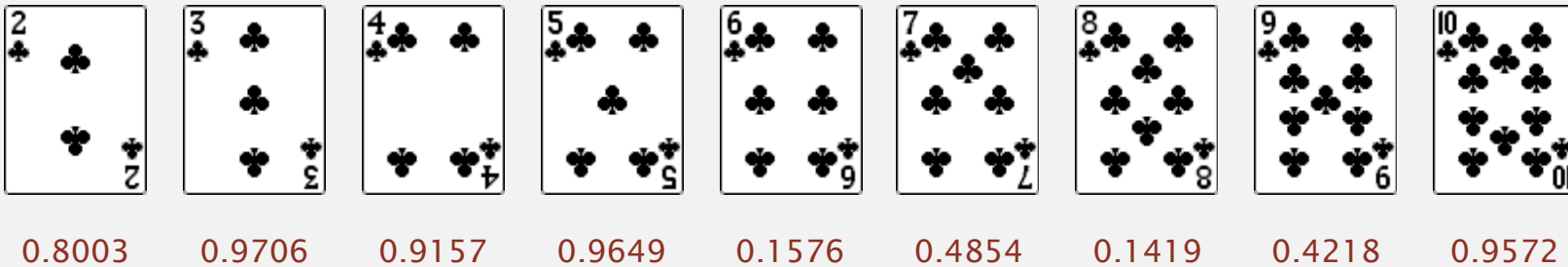
Uniformly Random Permutation. All permutations equally likely.



Shuffle sort

- Generate a random number for each array entry.
- Sort the array.

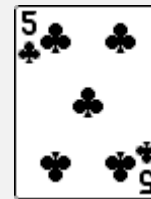
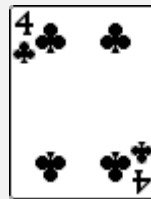
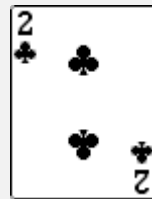
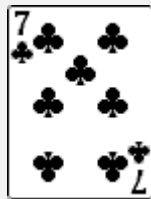
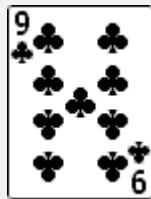
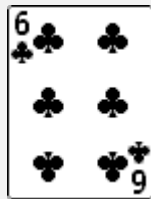
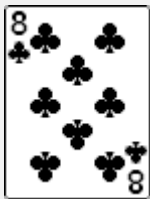
↑ useful for shuffling
columns in a spreadsheet



Shuffle sort

- Generate a random number for each array entry.
- Sort the array.

↖ useful for shuffling
columns in a spreadsheet



0.1419

0.1576

0.4218

0.4854

0.8003

0.9157

0.9572

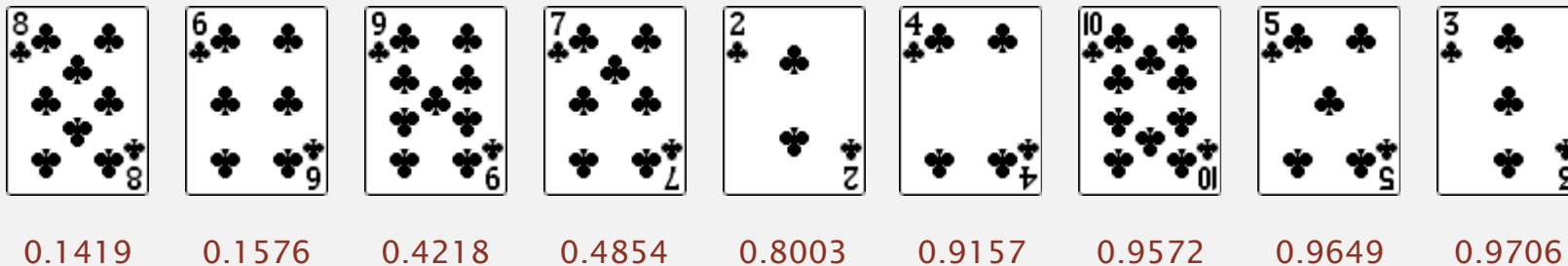
0.9649

0.9706

Shuffle sort

- Generate a random number for each array entry.
- Sort the array.

↑ useful for shuffling
columns in a spreadsheet



Proposition. Shuffle sort produces a uniformly random permutation of the input array, provided no duplicate numbers.

↑ assuming numbers
uniformly at random

Problem with Duplicates. Identical items aren't randomly distributed.

War story (Microsoft)

Microsoft antitrust probe by EU. Microsoft agreed to provide a randomized ballot screen for users to select browser in Windows 7.

<http://www.browserchoice.eu>

Select your web browser(s)



A fast new browser from Google. Try it now!



Safari for Windows from Apple, the world's most innovative browser.



Your online security is Firefox's top priority. Firefox is free, and made to help you get the most out of the



The fastest browser on Earth. Secure, powerful and easy to use, with excellent privacy protection.



Designed to help you take control of your privacy and browse with confidence. Free from Microsoft.



appeared last 50% of the time

War story (Microsoft)

Microsoft antitrust probe by EU. Microsoft agreed to provide a randomized ballot screen for users to select browser in Windows 7.

Solution? Implement shuffle sort by making comparator always return a random answer.

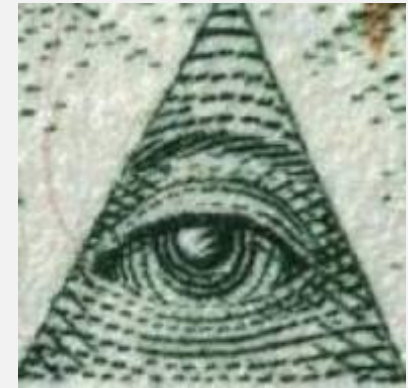
```
public int compareTo(Browser that)
{
    double r = Math.random();
    if (r < 0.5) return -1;
    if (r > 0.5) return +1;
    return 0;
}
```

← browser comparator
(should implement a total order)

War story (Microsoft)

Microsoft antitrust probe by EU. Microsoft agreed to provide a randomized ballot screen for users to select browser in Windows 7.

Programming Error... or was it?



<http://www.browserchoice.eu>

Select your web browser(s)



A fast new browser from Google. Try it now!



Safari for Windows from Apple, the world's most innovative browser.



Your online security is Firefox's top priority. Firefox is free, and made to help you get the most out of the



The fastest browser on Earth. Secure, powerful and easy to use, with excellent privacy protection.



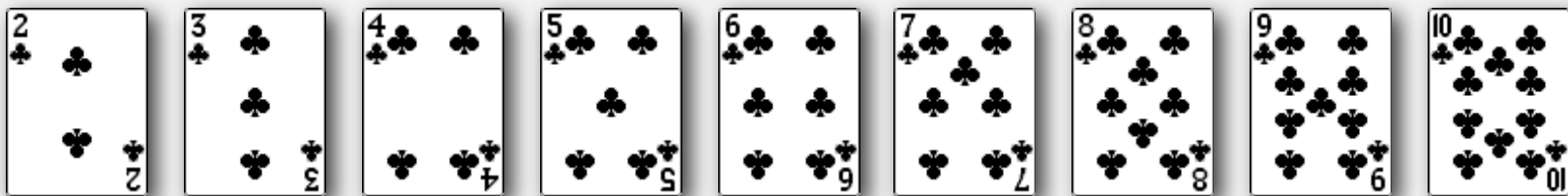
Designed to help you take control of your privacy and browse with confidence. Free from Microsoft.



appeared last
50% of the time

Knuth shuffle demo

- In iteration i , pick integer r between 0 and i uniformly at random.
- Swap $a[i]$ and $a[r]$.



Proposition. [Fisher-Yates 1938] Knuth shuffling produces a uniformly random permutation of the input array in linear time.

Knuth shuffle

- In iteration i , pick integer r between 0 and i uniformly at random.
- Swap $a[i]$ and $a[r]$.

common bug: between 0 and $N - 1$
correct variant: between i and $N - 1$

```
public class StdRandom
{
    ...
    public static void shuffle(Object[] a)
    {
        int N = a.length;
        for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
        {
            int r = StdRandom.uniform(i + 1);
            exch(a, i, r);
        }
    }
}
```

← between 0 and i

War story (online poker)

Texas hold'em poker. Software must shuffle electronic cards.



How We Learned to Cheat at Online Poker: A Study in Software Security

<http://www.datamation.com/entdev/article.php/616221>

War story (online poker)

Shuffling algorithm in FAQ at www.planetpoker.com

```
for i := 1 to 52 do begin
  r := random(51) + 1;
  swap := card[r];
  card[r] := card[i];
  card[i] := swap;
end;
```

← between 1 and 51

- Bug 1.** Random number r never 52 \Rightarrow 52nd card can't end up in 52nd place.
- Bug 2.** Shuffle not uniform (should be between 1 and i).
- Bug 3.** `random()` uses 32-bit seed \Rightarrow 2^{32} possible shuffles.
- Bug 4.** Seed = milliseconds since midnight \Rightarrow 86.4 million shuffles.

“ The generation of random numbers is too important to be left to chance. ”

— Robert R. Coveyou

War story (online poker)

Best practices for shuffling (if your business depends on it).

- Use a hardware random-number generator that has passed both the FIPS 140-2 and the NIST statistical test suites.
- Continuously monitor statistic properties:
hardware random-number generators are fragile and fail silently.
- Use an unbiased shuffling algorithm.



Bottom line. Shuffling a deck of cards is hard!

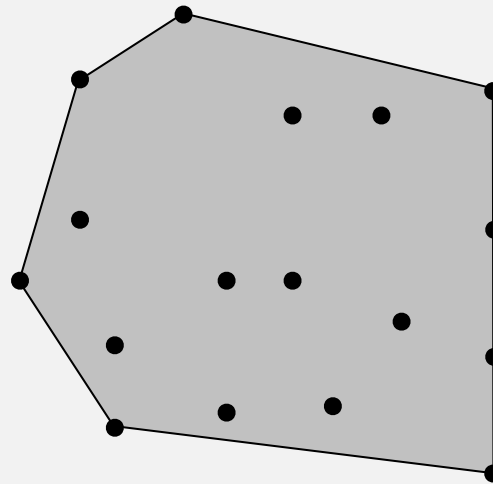


2.1 ELEMENTARY SORTS

- ▶ *rules of the game*
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- ▶ *insertion sort*
- ▶ *shellsort*
- ▶ *shuffling*
- ▶ *convex hull*

Convex hull

The **convex hull** of a set of N points is the smallest perimeter fence enclosing the points.

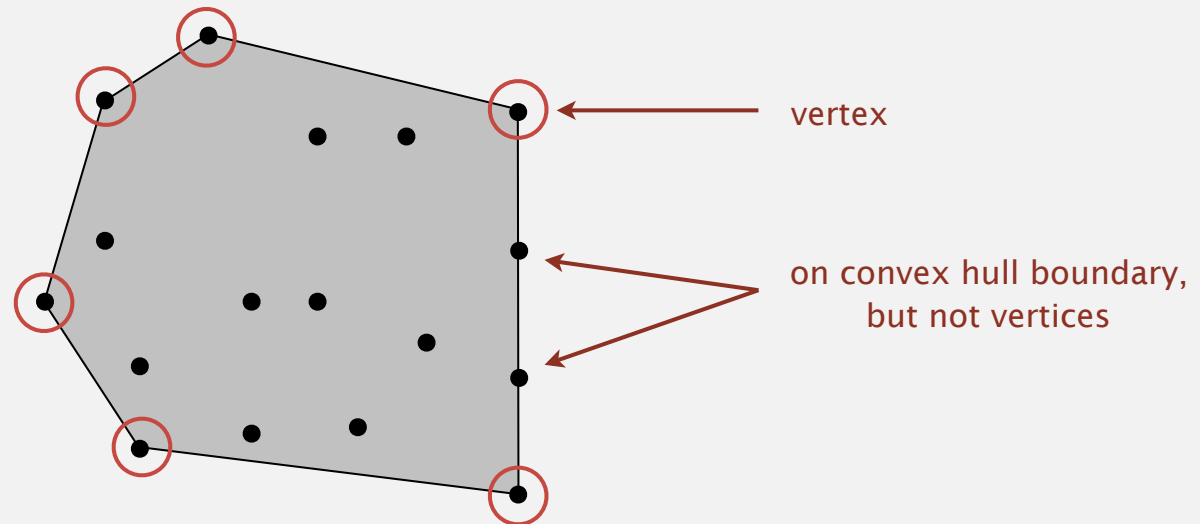


Equivalent definitions.

- Smallest convex set containing all the points.
- Smallest area convex polygon enclosing the points.
- Convex polygon enclosing the points, whose vertices are points in set.

Convex hull

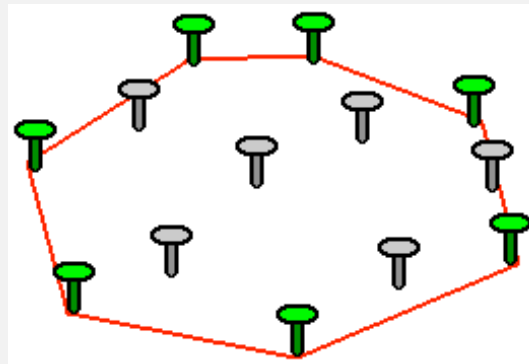
The **convex hull** of a set of N points is the smallest perimeter fence enclosing the points.



Convex hull output. Sequence of vertices in counterclockwise order.

Convex hull: mechanical algorithm

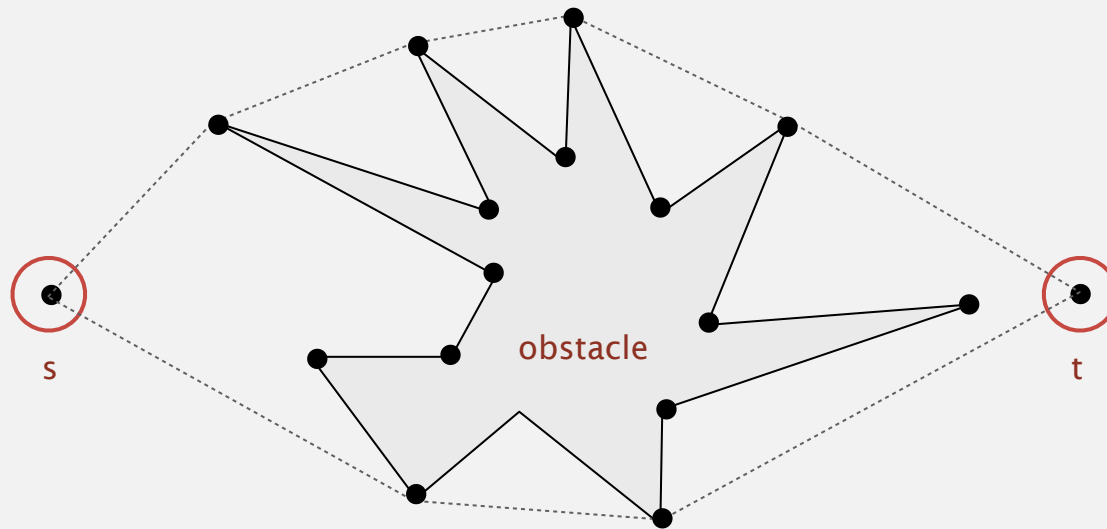
Mechanical algorithm. Hammer nails perpendicular to plane; stretch elastic rubber band around points.



http://www.idlcoyote.com/math_tips/convexhull.html

Convex hull application: motion planning

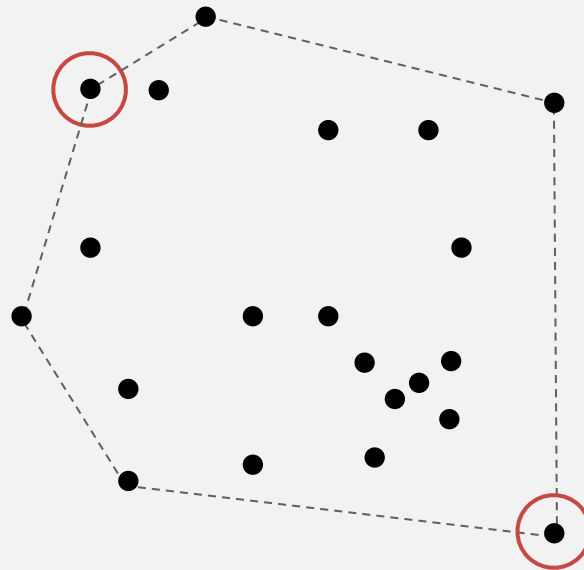
Robot motion planning. Find shortest path in the plane from s to t that avoids a polygonal obstacle.



Fact. Shortest path is either straight line from s to t or it is one of two polygonal chains of convex hull.

Convex hull application: farthest pair

Farthest pair problem. Given N points in the plane, find a pair of points with the largest Euclidean distance between them.

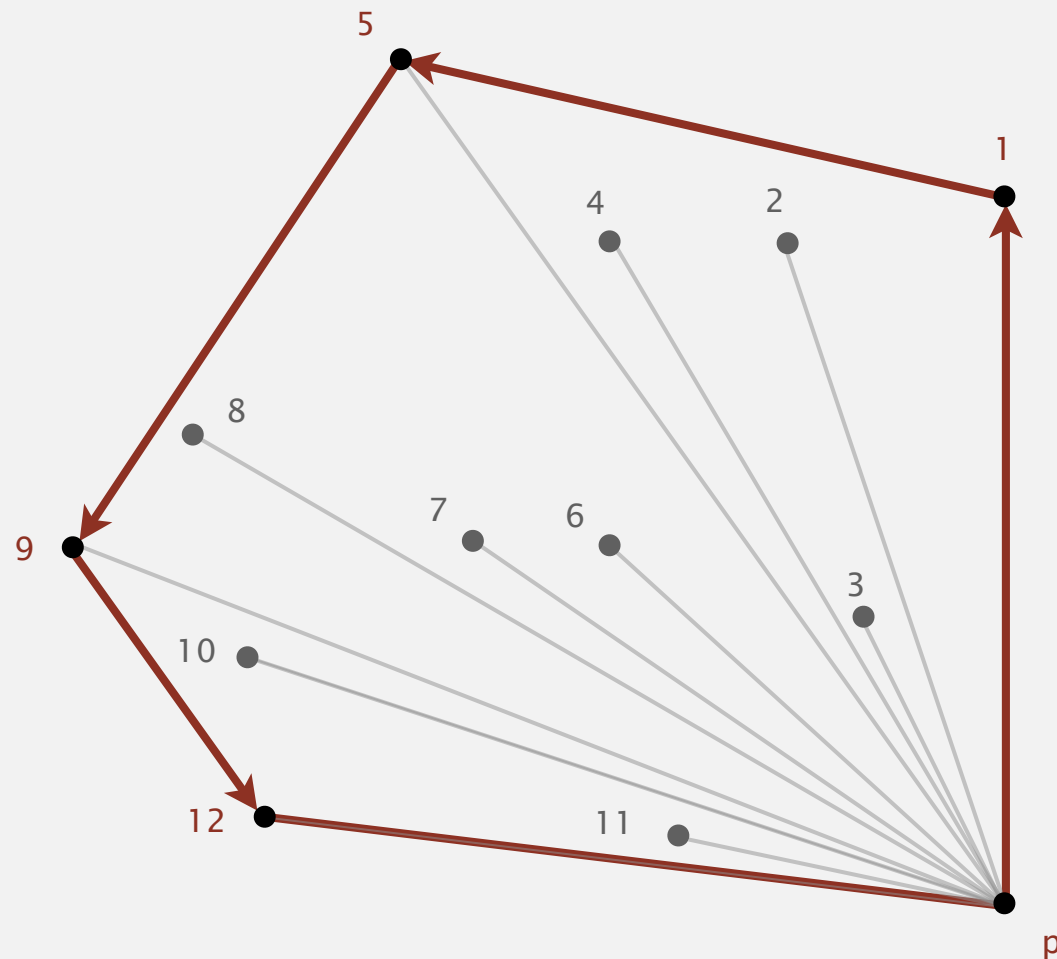


Fact. Farthest pair of points are extreme points on convex hull.

Convex hull: geometric properties

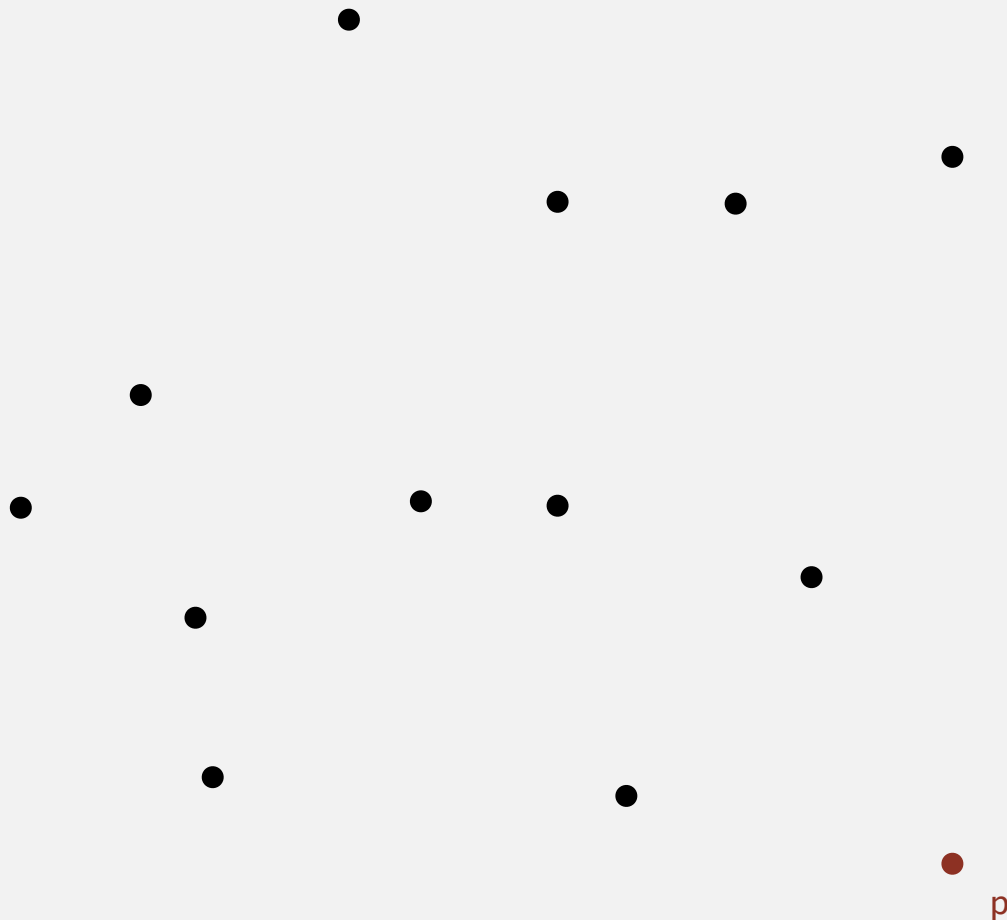
Fact. Can traverse the convex hull by making only counterclockwise turns.

Fact. The vertices of convex hull appear in increasing order of polar angle with respect to point p with lowest y -coordinate.



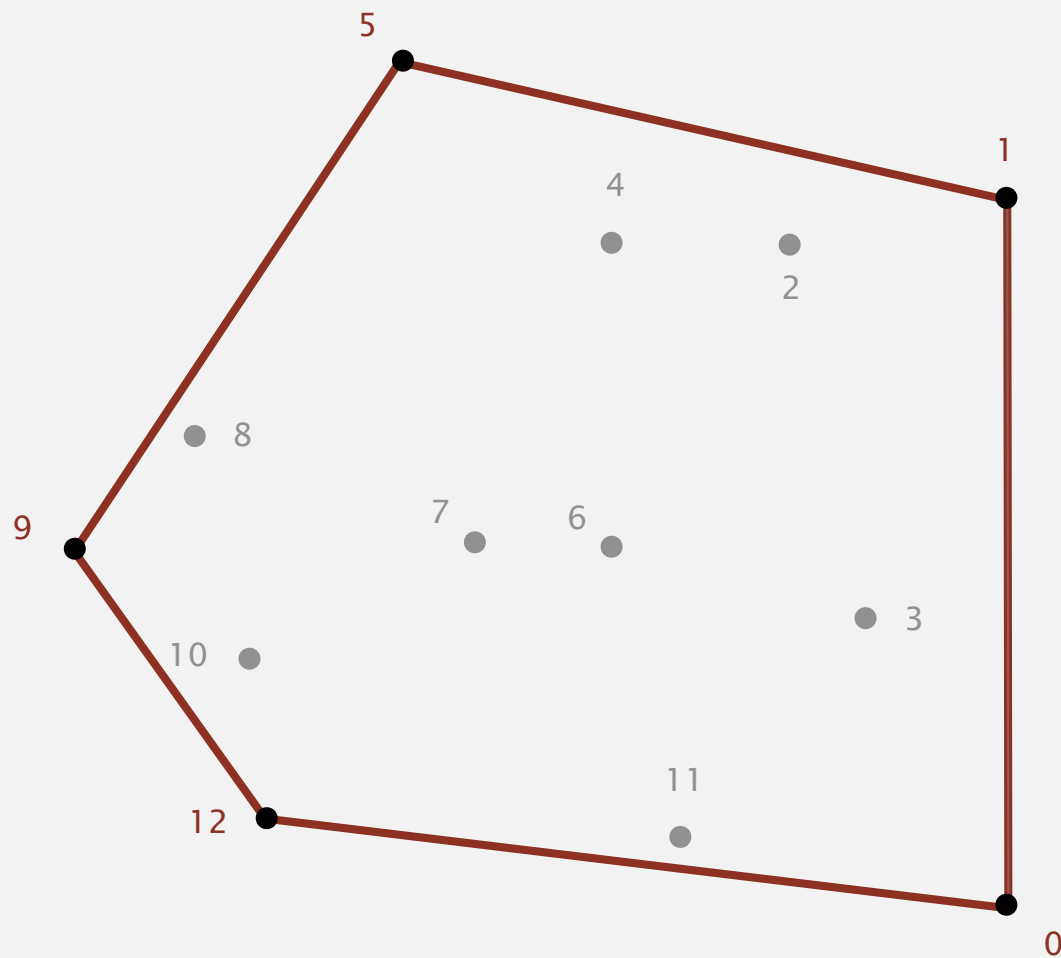
Graham scan demo

- Choose point p with smallest y -coordinate.
- Sort points by polar angle with p .
- In sorted order: Add point, then discard old points until all turns are ccw.



Graham scan demo

- Choose point p with smallest y -coordinate.
- Sort points by polar angle with p .
- In sorted order: Add point, then discard old points until all turns are ccw.



Graham scan: implementation challenges

Q. How to find point p with smallest y -coordinate?

A. Define a total order, comparing by y -coordinate. [next lecture]

Q. How to sort points by polar angle with respect to p ?

A. Define a total order **for each** point p . [next lecture]

Q. How to determine whether $p_1 \rightarrow p_2 \rightarrow p_3$ is a counterclockwise turn?

A. Computational geometry. [next two slides]

Q. How to sort efficiently?

A. Mergesort sorts in $N \log N$ time. [next lecture]

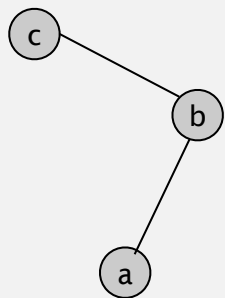
Q. How to handle degeneracies (three or more points on a line)?

A. Requires some care, but not hard. [see booksite]

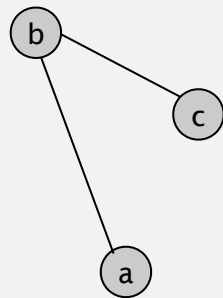
Implementing ccw

CCW. Given three points a , b , and c , is $a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c$ a counterclockwise turn?

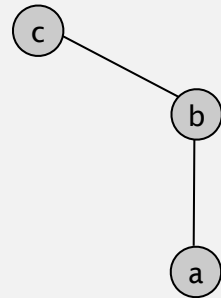
is c to the left of the ray $a \rightarrow b$



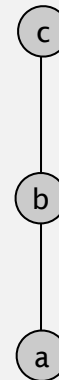
yes



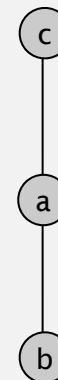
no



yes
(∞ -slope)



no
(collinear)



no
(collinear)



no
(collinear)

Lesson. Geometric primitives are tricky to implement.

- Dealing with degenerate cases.
- Coping with floating-point precision.

Implementing ccw

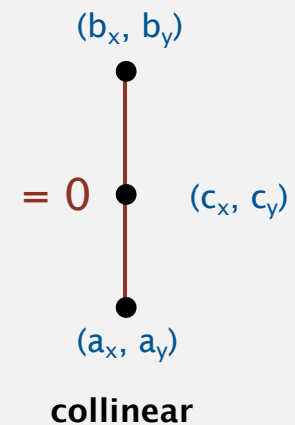
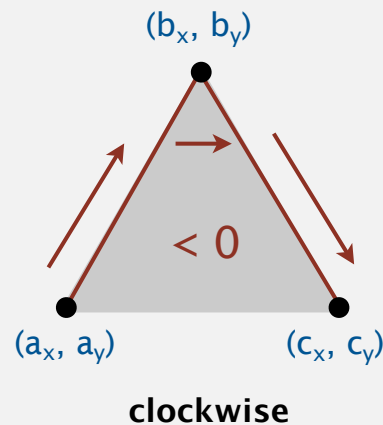
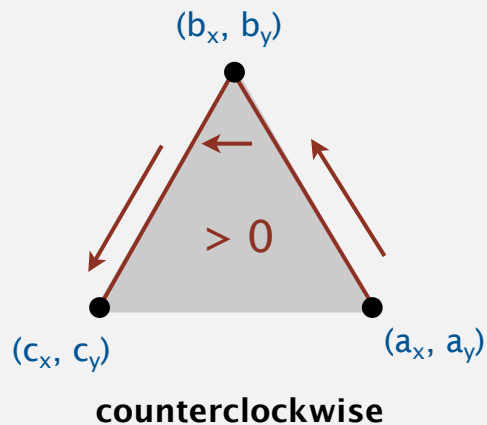
CCW. Given three points a , b , and c , is $a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c$ a counterclockwise turn?

- Determinant of special matrix gives 2x signed area of planar triangle.

$$2 \times \text{Area}(a, b, c) = \begin{vmatrix} a_x & a_y & 1 \\ b_x & b_y & 1 \\ c_x & c_y & 1 \end{vmatrix} = (b_x - a_x)(c_y - a_y) - (b_y - a_y)(c_x - a_x)$$

$|(\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a}) \times (\mathbf{c} - \mathbf{a})|$

- If signed area > 0 , then $a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c$ is counterclockwise.
- If signed area < 0 , then $a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c$ is clockwise.
- If signed area $= 0$, then $a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c$ are collinear.



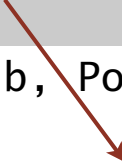
Immutable point data type

```
public class Point2D
{
    private final double x;
    private final double y;

    public Point2D(double x, double y)
    {
        this.x = x;
        this.y = y;
    }

    ...
}
```

danger of
floating-point
roundoff error



```
public static int ccw(Point2D a, Point2D b, Point2D c)
{
    double area2 = (b.x-a.x)*(c.y-a.y) - (b.y-a.y)*(c.x-a.x);
    if (area2 < 0) return -1; // clockwise
    else if (area2 > 0) return +1; // counter-clockwise
    else return 0; // collinear
}
}
```

Graham scan: implementation

Simplifying assumptions. No three points on a line; at least 3 points.

```
Stack<Point2D> hull = new Stack<Point>();  
  
Arrays.sort(p, Point2D.Y_ORDER); ← p[0] is now point with lowest y-coordinate  
Arrays.sort(p, p[0].BY_POLAR_ORDER); ← (can do more efficiently without sorting)  
                                       ← sort by polar angle with respect to p[0]  
  
hull.push(p[0]); ← definitely on hull  
hull.push(p[1]);  
  
for (int i = 2; i < N; i++) {  
    Point2D top = hull.pop();  
    while (Point2D.ccw(hull.peek(), top, p[i]) <= 0)  
        top = hull.pop();  
    hull.push(top);  
    hull.push(p[i]); ← add p[i] to putative hull  
}
```

discard points that would
create clockwise turn
↓

Running time. $N \log N$ for sorting and linear for rest.

Pf. $N \log N$ for sorting; each point pushed and popped at most once.

In closing

Sorting.

- Useful on its own.
- Can be used as a stepping stone to solving other problems.
 - Shuffling.
 - Convex hull.
 - Finding duplicates in an array.
 - Finding similarities between arrays.
- COS226: Solving diverse problems using standard algorithmic tools.