



Lecture 23: Introduction to Sorting II

CSE 373: Data Structures and
Algorithms

Warm Up

Selection Sort

Worst case runtime? $\Theta(n^2)$

Best case runtime? $\Theta(n^2)$

In-practice runtime? $\Theta(n^2)$

Stable? No

In-place? Yes

Insertion Sort

Worst case runtime? $\Theta(n^2)$

Best case runtime? $\Theta(n)$

In-practice runtime? $\Theta(n^2)$

Stable? Yes

In-place? Yes

Heap Sort

Worst case runtime? $\Theta(n \log n)$

Best case runtime? $\Theta(n)$

In-practice runtime? $\Theta(n \log n)$

Stable? No

In-place? Yes

Heap Sort

1. run Floyd's buildHeap on your data
2. call removeMin n times

```
public void heapSort(input) {  
    E[] heap = buildHeap(input)  
    E[] output = new E[n]  
    for (n)  
        output[i] = removeMin(heap)  
}
```

Worst case runtime? $\Theta(n \log n)$

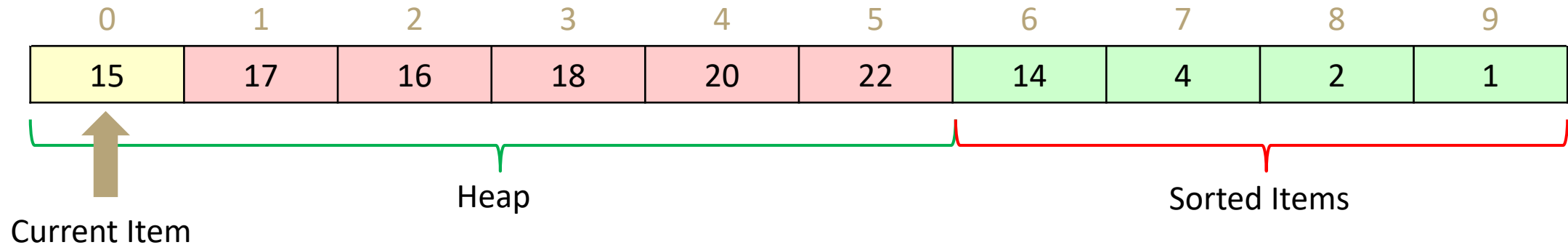
Best case runtime? $\Theta(n)$

In-practice runtime? $\Theta(n \log n)$

Stable? No

In-place? If we get clever...

In Place Heap Sort



```
public void inPlaceHeapSort(input) {  
    buildHeap(input) // alters original array  
    for (n : input)  
        input[n - i - 1] = removeMin(heap)  
}
```

Complication: final array is reversed! Lots of fixes:

- Run reverse afterwards ($O(n)$)
- Use a max heap
- Reverse compare function to emulate max heap

Worst case runtime? $\Theta(n \log n)$

Best case runtime? $\Theta(n)$

In-practice runtime? $\Theta(n \log n)$

Stable? No

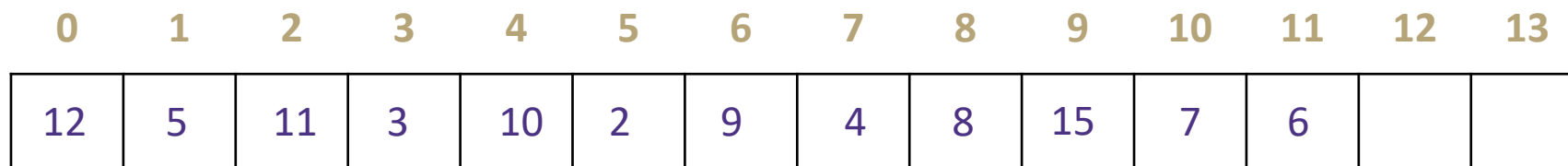
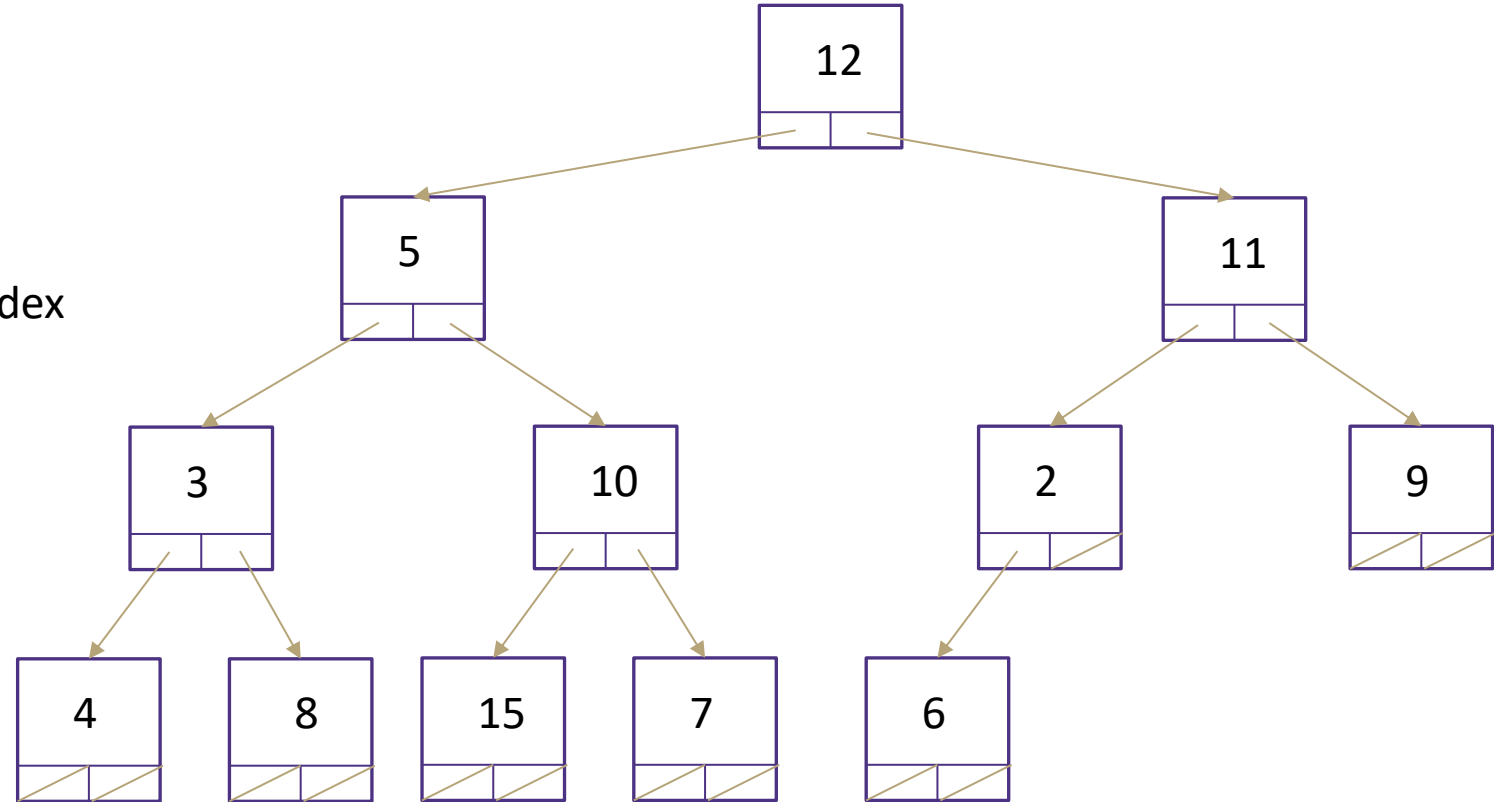
In-place? Yes

Floyd's buildHeap algorithm

Build a tree with the values:

12, 5, 11, 3, 10, 2, 9, 4, 8, 15, 7, 6

1. Add all values to back of array
2. percolateDown(parent) starting at last index

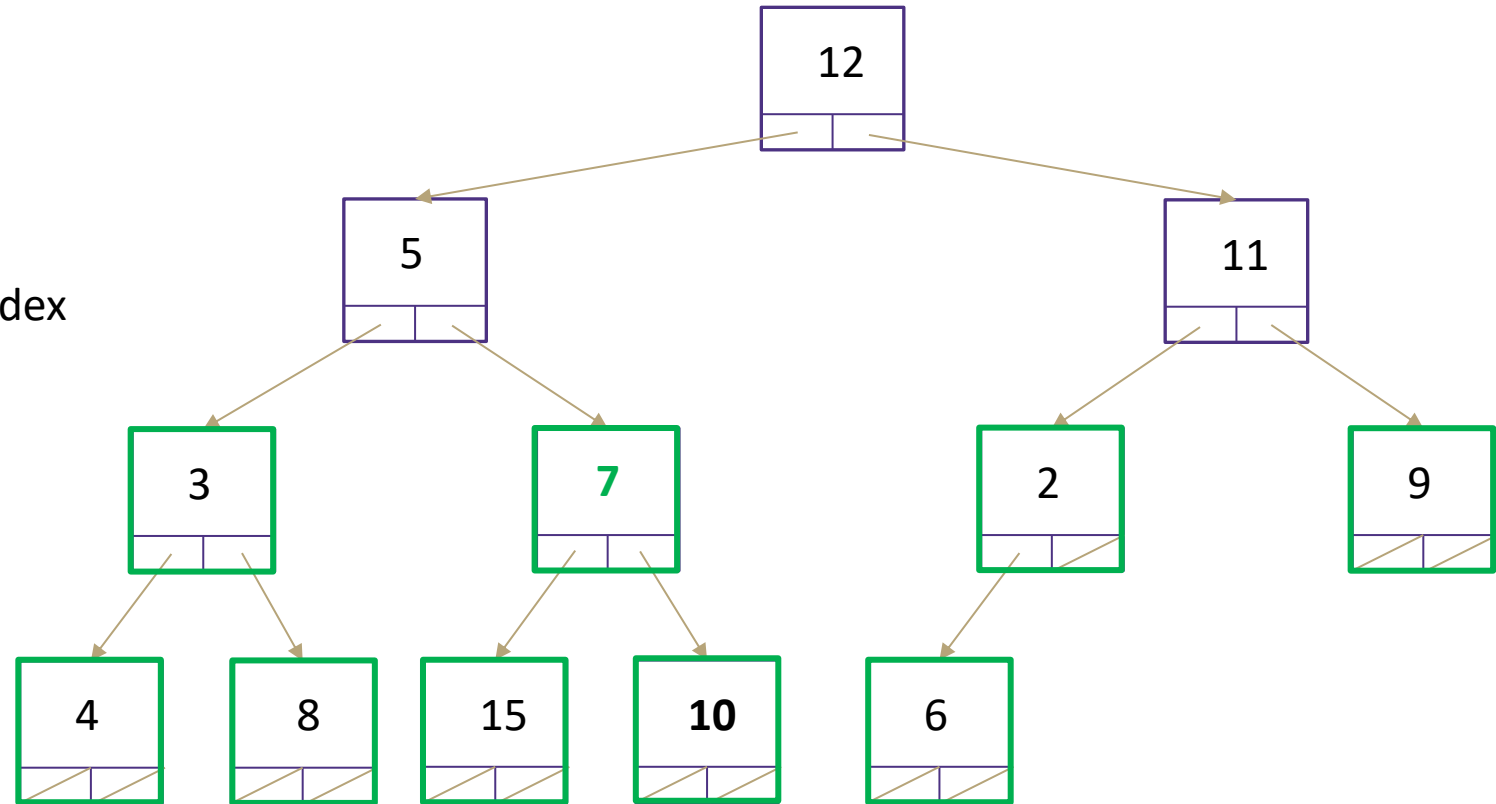


Floyd's buildHeap algorithm

Build a tree with the values:

12, 5, 11, 3, 10, 2, 9, 4, 8, 15, 7, 6

1. Add all values to back of array
2. percolateDown(parent) starting at last index
 1. percolateDown level 4
 2. percolateDown level 3



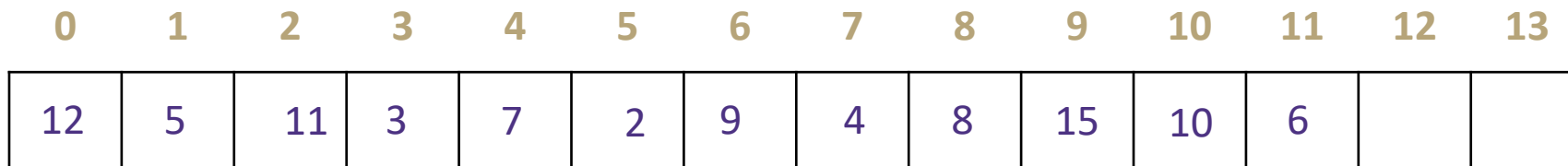
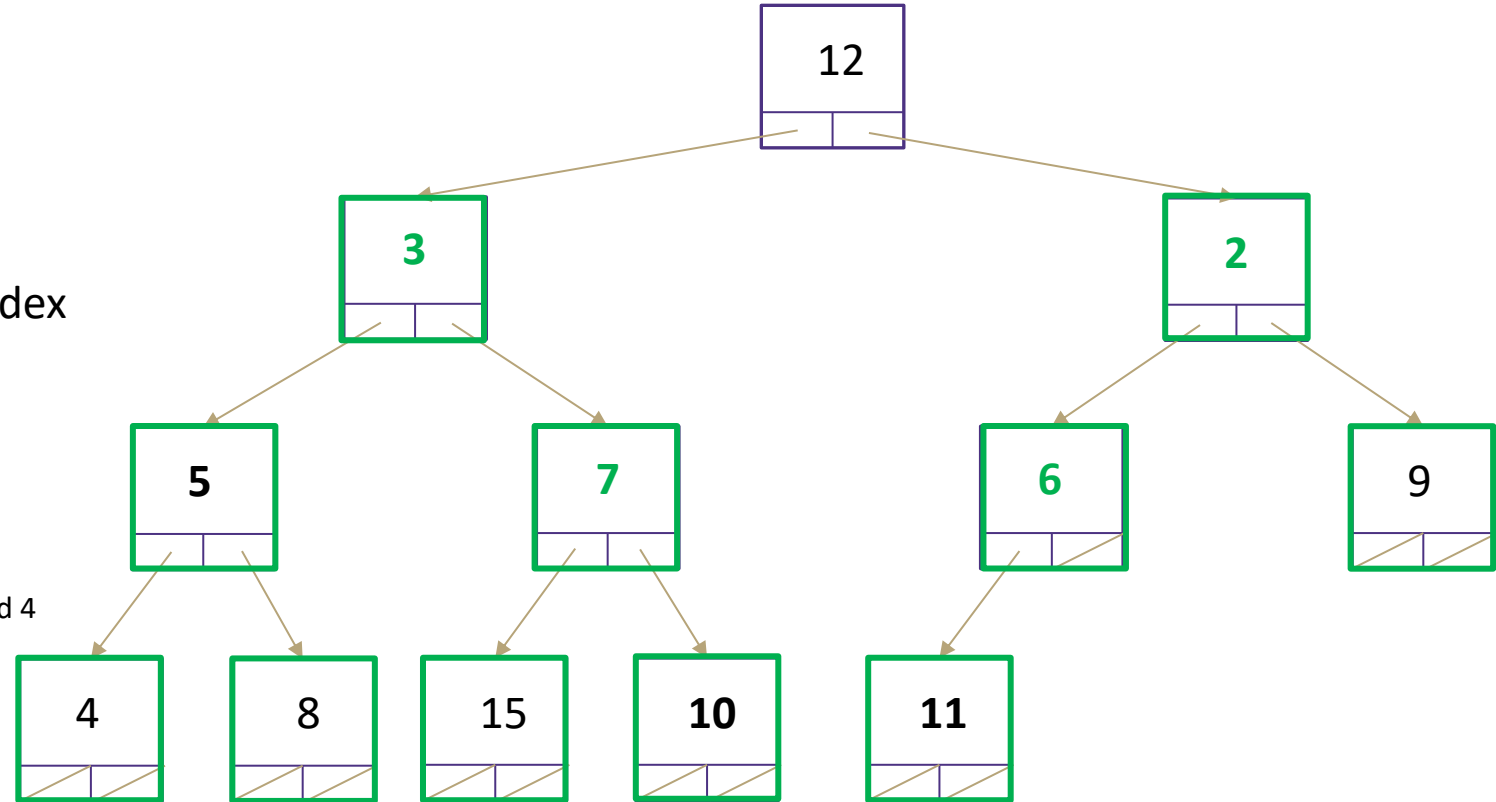
Floyd's buildHeap algorithm

Build a tree with the values:

12, 5, 11, 3, 10, 2, 9, 4, 8, 15, 7, 6

1. Add all values to back of array
2. percolateDown(parent) starting at last index
 1. percolateDown level 4
 2. percolateDown level 3
 3. percolateDown level 2

keep percolating down
like normal here and swap 5 and 4

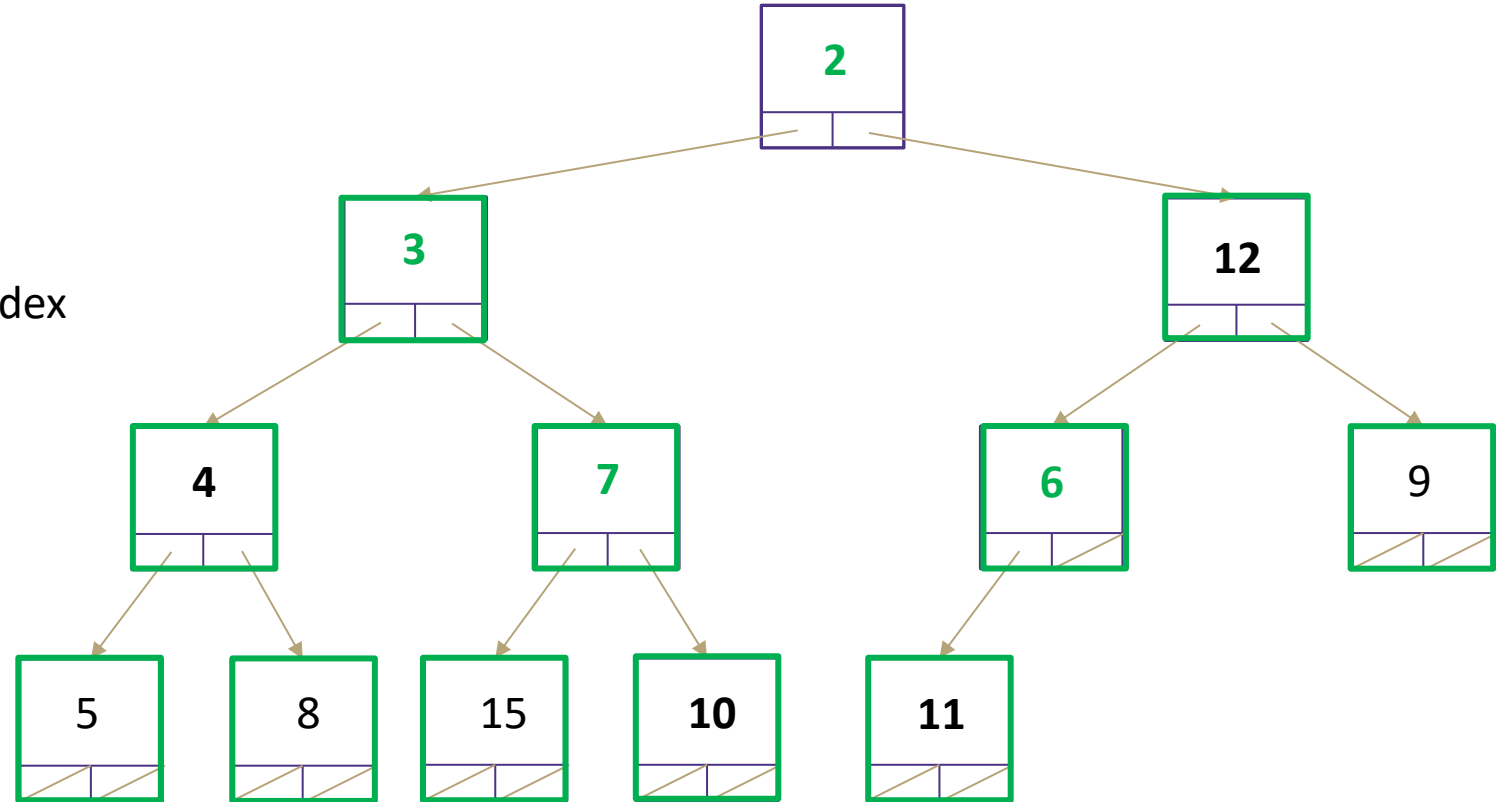


Floyd's buildHeap algorithm

Build a tree with the values:

12, 5, 11, 3, 10, 2, 9, 4, 8, 15, 7, 6

1. Add all values to back of array
2. percolateDown(parent) starting at last index
 1. percolateDown level 4
 2. percolateDown level 3
 3. percolateDown level 2
 4. percolateDown level 1

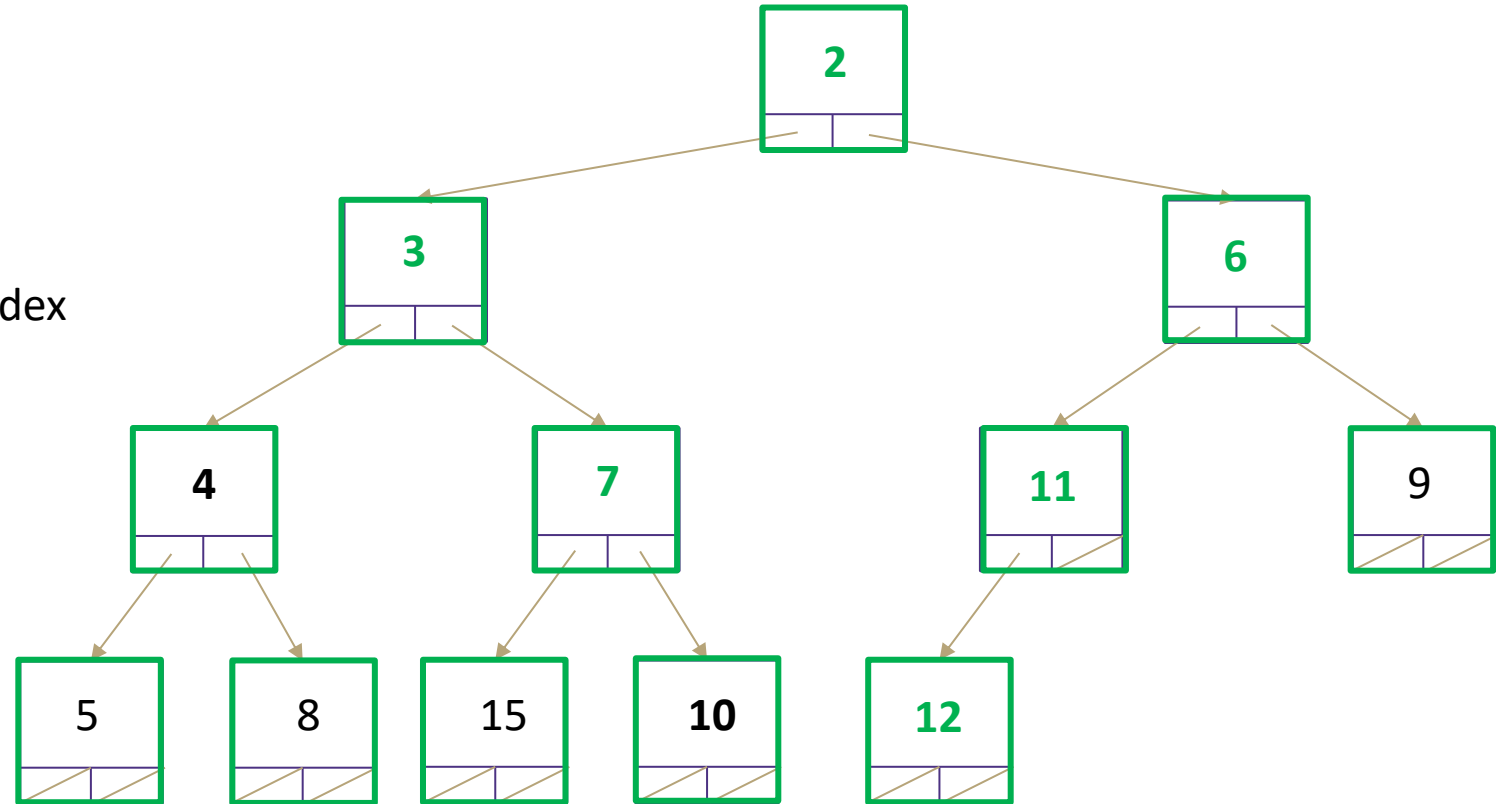


Floyd's buildHeap algorithm

Build a tree with the values:

12, 5, 11, 3, 10, 2, 9, 4, 8, 15, 7, 6

1. Add all values to back of array
2. percolateDown(parent) starting at last index
 1. percolateDown level 4
 2. percolateDown level 3
 3. percolateDown level 2
 4. percolateDown level 1



Is It Really Faster?

Assume the tree is **perfect**

- the proof for complete trees just gives a different constant factor.

percolateDown() doesn't take $\log n$ steps each time!

Half the nodes of the tree are leaves

- Leaves run percolate down in constant time

1/4 of the nodes have at most 1 level to travel

1/8 the nodes have at most 2 levels to travel

etc...

$$\text{work}(n) \approx \frac{n}{2} \cdot 1 + \frac{n}{4} \cdot 2 + \frac{n}{8} \cdot 3 + \dots + 1 \cdot (\log n)$$

Closed form Floyd's buildHeap

$$n/2 \cdot 1 + n/4 \cdot 2 + n/8 \cdot 3 + \dots + 1 \cdot (\log n)$$

factor out n

$$\text{work}(n) \approx n \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{2}{4} + \frac{3}{8} + \dots + \frac{\log n}{n} \right) \text{ find a pattern } \rightarrow \text{ powers of 2} \quad \text{work}(n) \approx n \left(\frac{1}{2^1} + \frac{2}{2^2} + \frac{3}{2^3} + \dots + \frac{\log n}{2^{\log n}} \right) \text{ Summation!}$$

$$\text{work}(n) \approx n \sum_{i=1}^? \frac{i}{2^i} \quad ? = \text{upper limit should give last term}$$

We don't have a summation for this! Let's make it look more like a summation we do know.

Infinite geometric series

$$\text{work}(n) \leq n \sum_{i=1}^{\log n} \left(\frac{3}{2} \right)^i \quad \text{if } -1 < x < 1 \text{ then } \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} x^i = \frac{1}{1-x} = x \quad \text{work}(n) \approx n \sum_{i=1}^{\log n} \frac{i}{2^i} \leq n \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{3}{4} \right)^i = n * 4$$

Floyd's buildHeap runs in O(n) time!

Announcements

Things are tough all over the world right now

- Everyone gets +2 late days (thanks TAs!)
- Extending the late turn in from 3 days after due date to 5 days after due date

P4 Spec Quiz Due today!

- For extra credit
- No late submissions accepted
- P4 due Wednesday June 2nd

Office Hours slight change

- TAs have been instructed to help with ONE step of debugging: identify bug, reproduce bug or resolve bug
- Goal is to move through OH queue faster so you have more questions answered in smaller chunks
- OH Form will be added to OH page and bot

Tech Career Resources

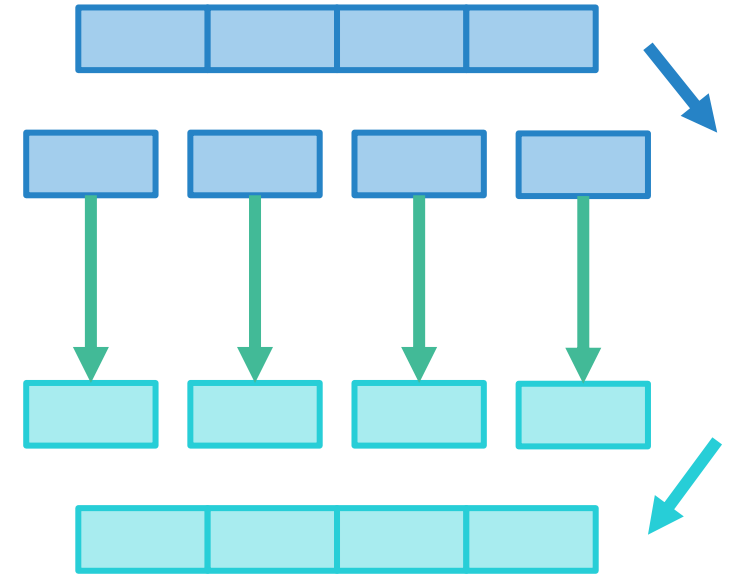
- No BS CS Career Talk Thursday (tomorrow) 5-6 (cal invite on OH calendar)
- Section 9 Thursday 5/27 Interview Prep

Sorting Strategy 3: Divide and Conquer

General recipe:

1. **Divide** your work into smaller pieces recursively
2. **Conquer** the recursive subproblems
 - In many algorithms, conquering a subproblem requires no extra work beyond recursively dividing and combining it!
3. **Combine** the results of your recursive calls

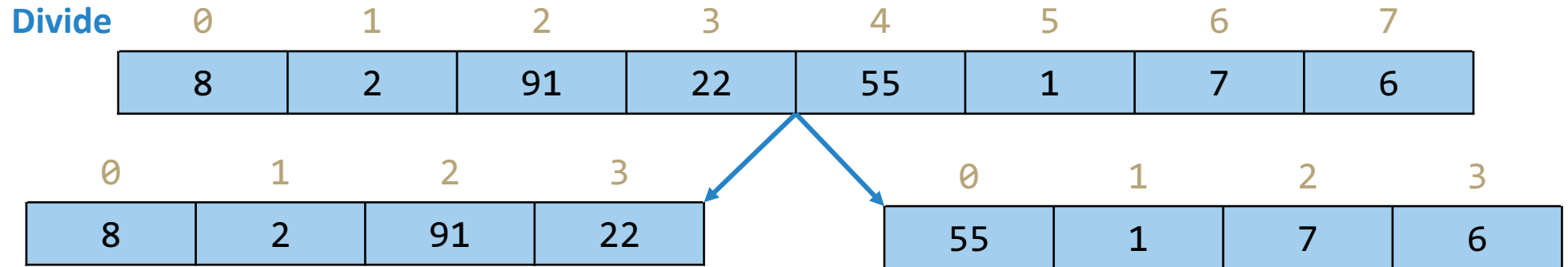
```
divideAndConquer(input) {  
  if (small enough to solve):  
    conquer, solve, return results  
  else:  
    divide input into a smaller pieces  
    recurse on smaller pieces  
    combine results and return  
}
```



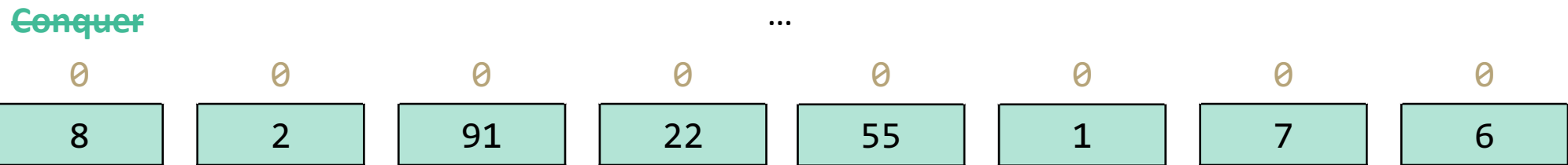
Merge Sort

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XaqR3G_NVoo

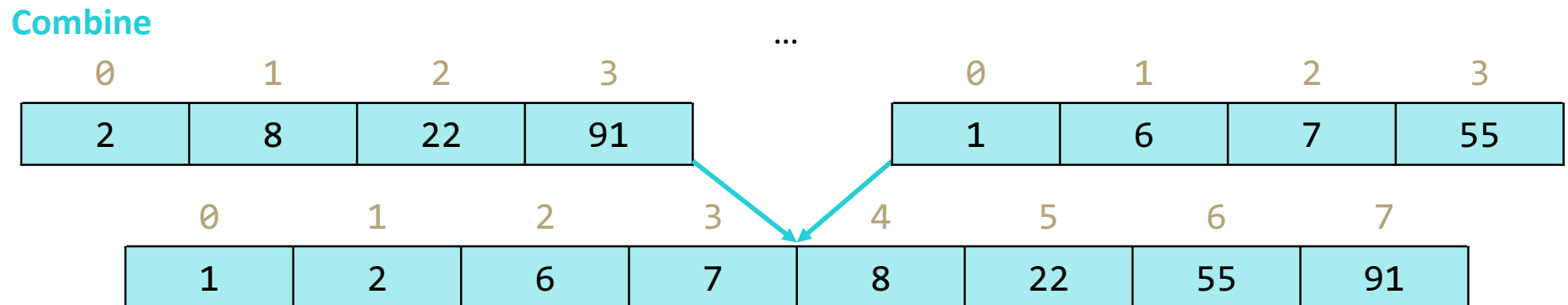
Simply divide in half each time



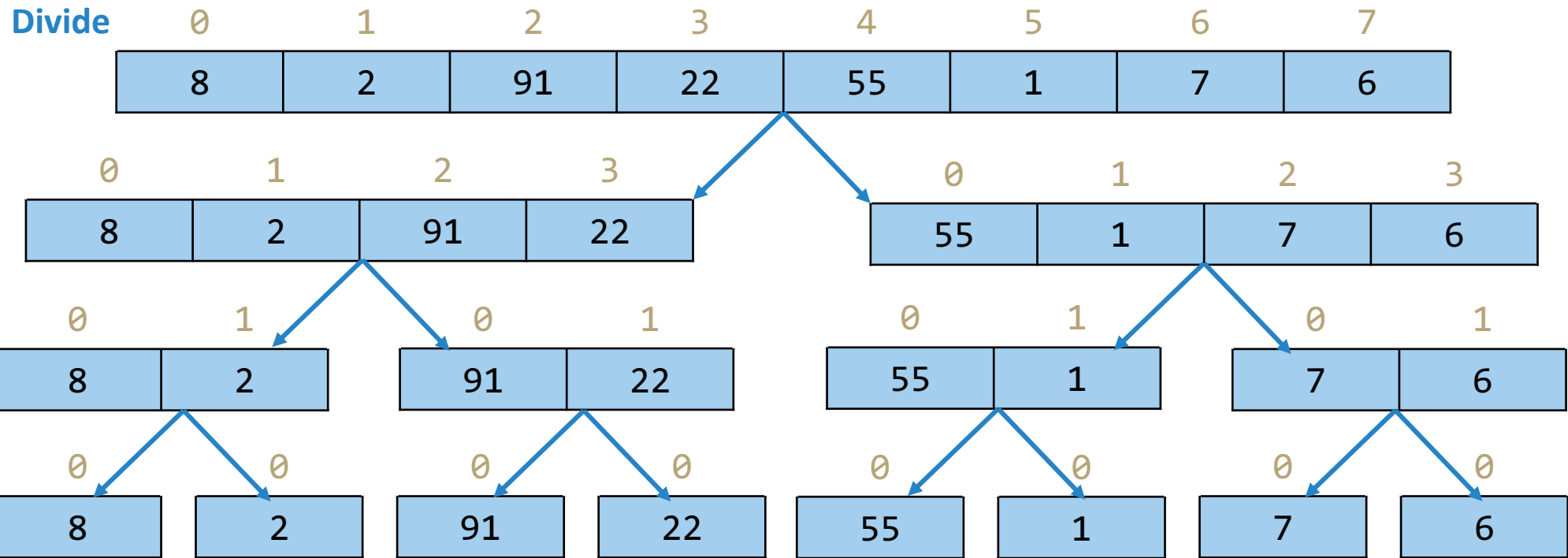
No extra conquer work needed!



The actual sorting happens here!



Merge Sort: Divide Step



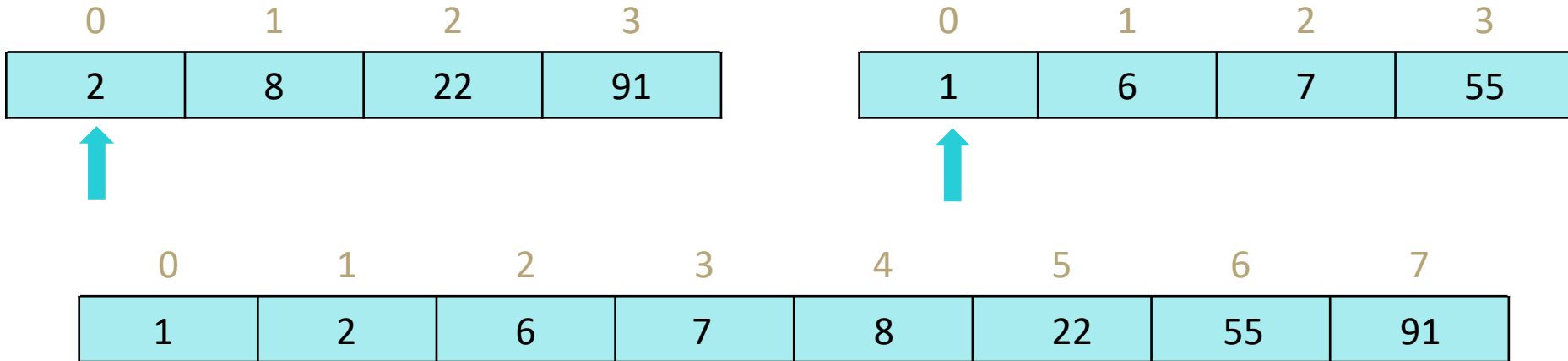
Recursive Case: split the array in half and recurse on both halves

Base Case: when array hits size 1, stop dividing. In Merge Sort, no additional work to conquer: everything gets sorted in combine step!

Sort the pieces through the magic of recursion

Merge Sort: Combine Step

Combine



Combining two *sorted* arrays:

1. Initialize **pointers** to start of both arrays
2. Repeat until all elements are added:
 1. Add whichever is smaller to the result array
 2. Move that pointer forward one spot

Works because we only move the smaller pointer – then “reconsider” the larger against a new value, and because the arrays are sorted we never have to backtrack!

Merge Sort

```
mergeSort(list) {
  if (list.length == 1):
    return list
  else:
    smallerHalf = mergeSort(new [0, ..., mid])
    largerHalf = mergeSort(new [mid + 1, ...])
    return merge(smallerHalf, largerHalf)
}
```

Worst case runtime? $T(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n \leq 1 \\ 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + n & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

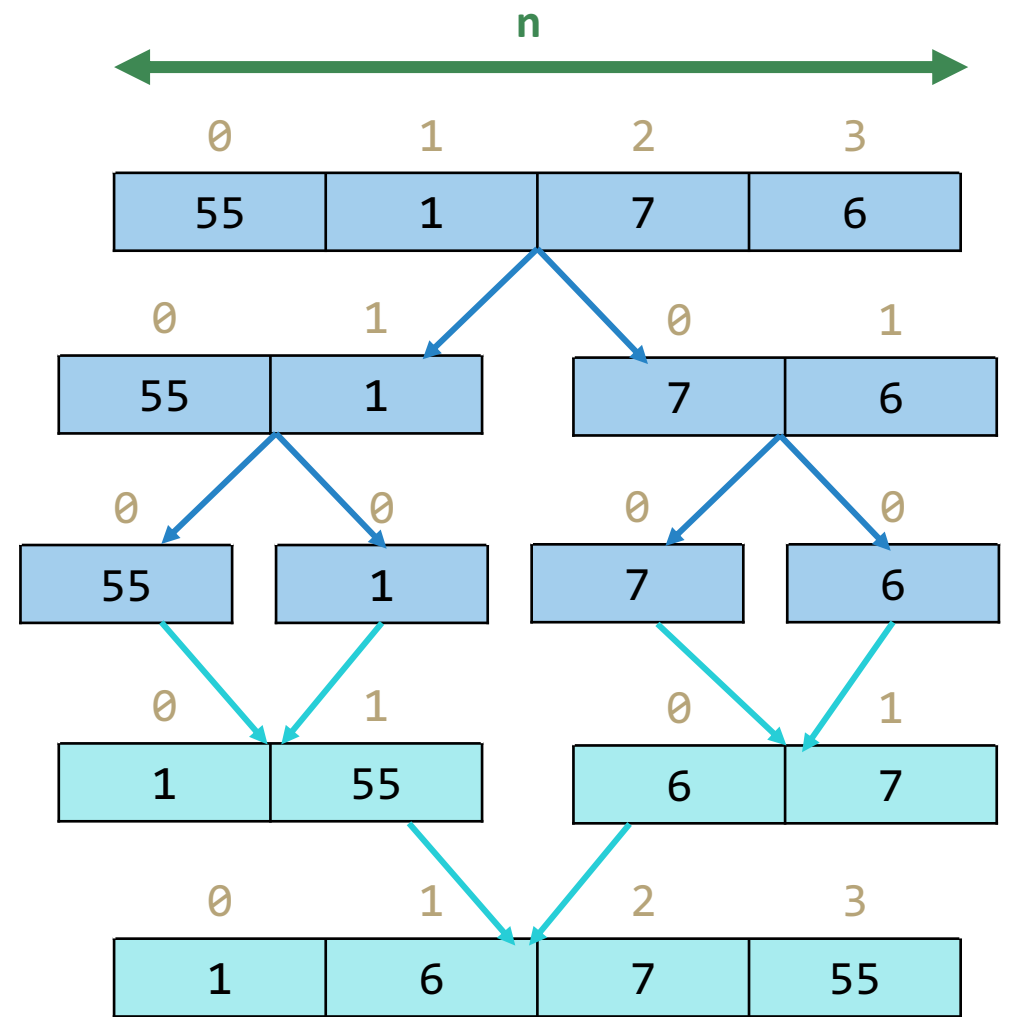
Best case runtime? Same $=\Theta(n \log n)$

In Practice runtime? Same

Stable? Yes

In-place? No

$2 \log n$



2 Constant size Input

Don't forget your old friends, the 3 recursive patterns!

Divide and Conquer

There's more than one way to divide!

Mergesort:

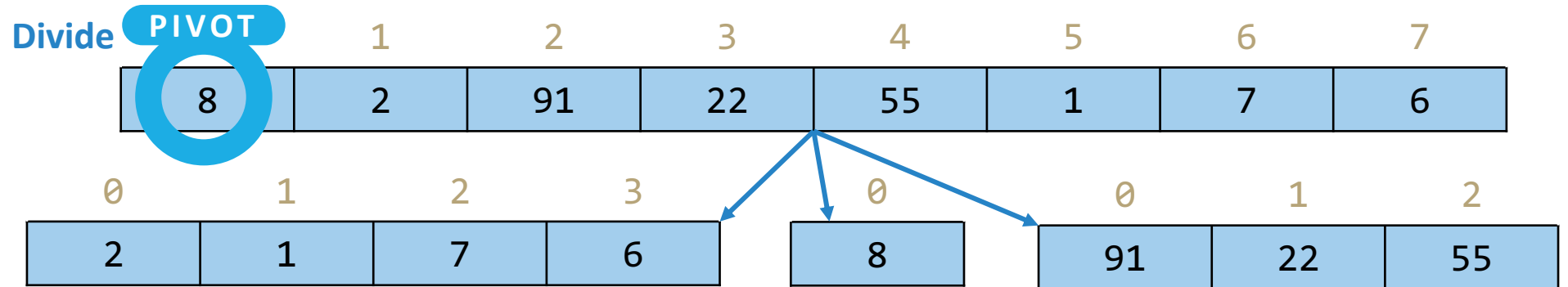
- Split into two arrays.
- Elements that just happened to be on the left and that happened to be on the right.

Quicksort:

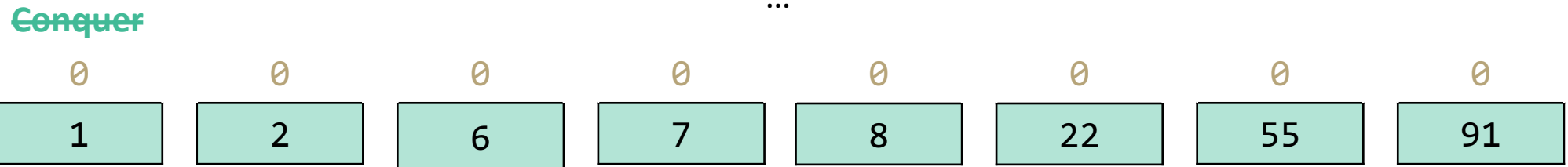
- Split into two arrays.
- Roughly, elements that are "small" and elements that are "large"
- How to define "small" and "large"? Choose a "pivot" value in the array that will partition the two arrays!

Quick Sort (v1)

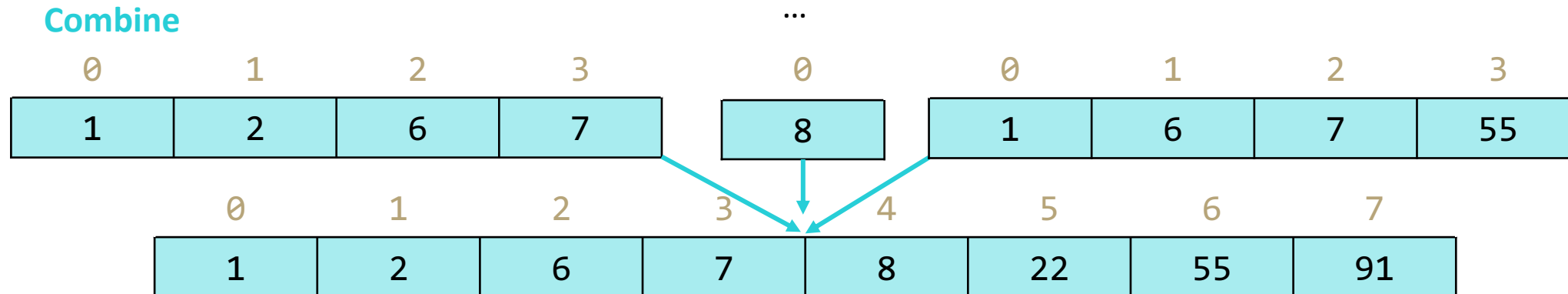
Choose a "pivot" element, partition array relative to it!



Again, no extra conquer step needed!



Simply concatenate the now-sorted arrays!



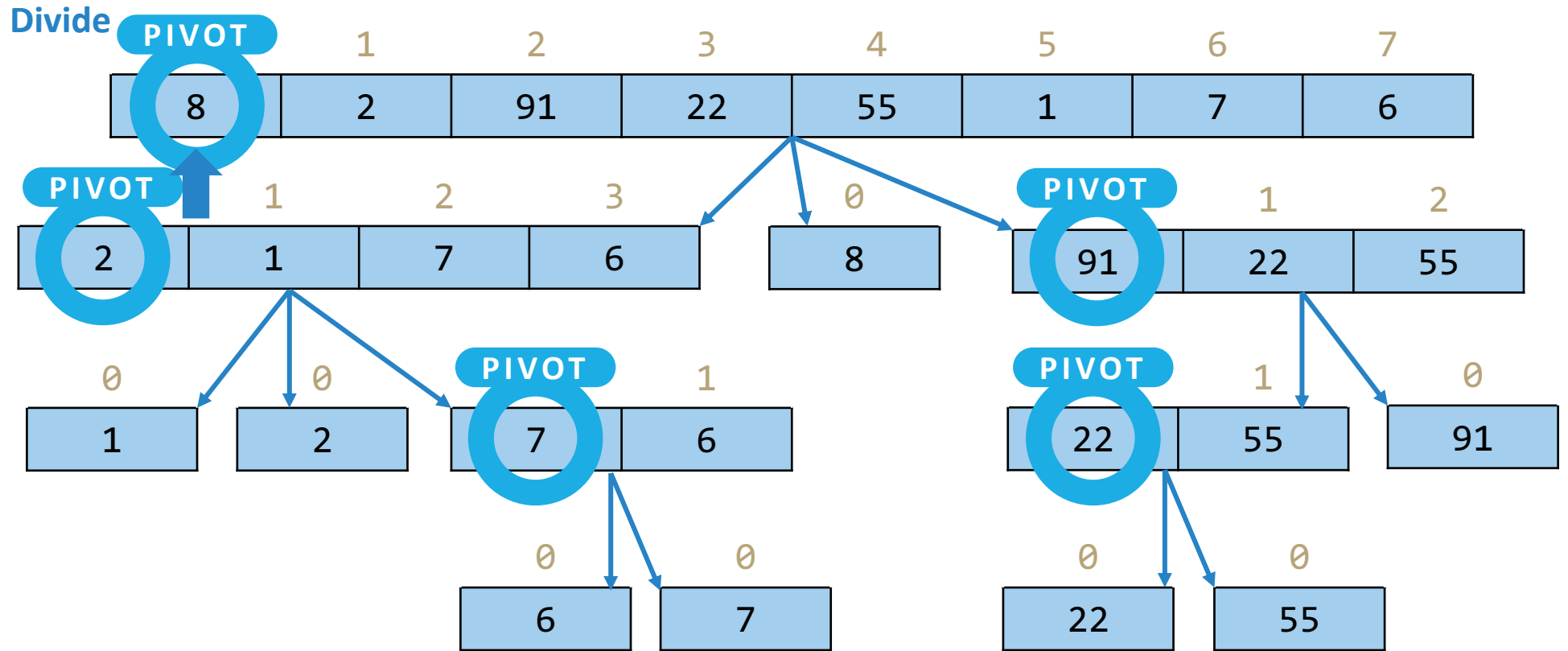
Quick Sort (v1): Divide Step

Recursive Case:

- Choose a “pivot” element
- Partition: linear scan through array, add smaller elements to one array and larger elements to another
- Recursively partition

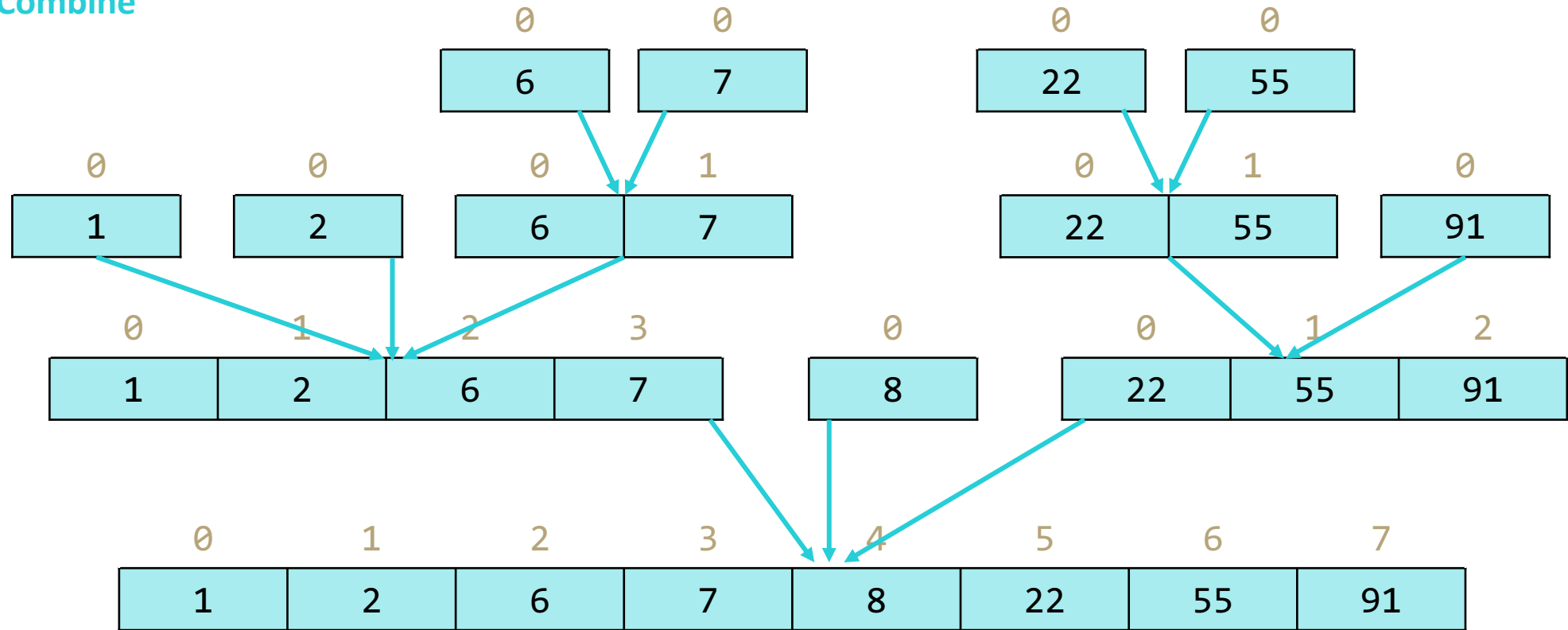
Base Case:

- When array hits size 1, stop dividing.



Quick Sort (v1): Combine Step

Combine



Simply concatenate the arrays that were created earlier!
Partition step already left them in order 😊

Quick Sort (v1)

```

quickSort(list) {
  if (list.length == 1):
    return list
  else:
    pivot = choosePivot(list)
    smallerHalf = quickSort(getSmaller(pivot, list))
    largerHalf = quickSort(getBigger(pivot, list))
    return smallerHalf + pivot + largerHalf
}

```

Worst case runtime? $T(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n \leq 1 \\ T(n-1) + n & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} = \Theta(n^2)$

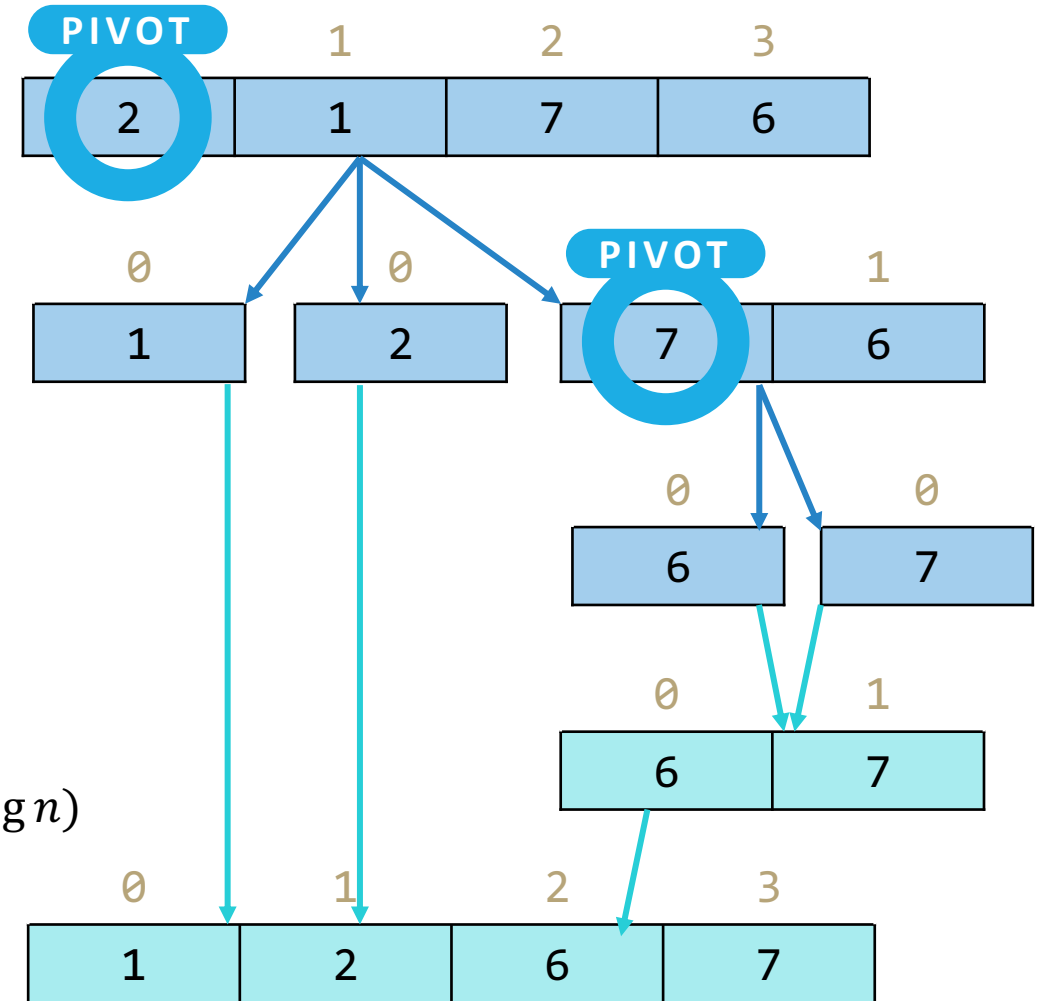
Best case runtime? $T(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n \leq 1 \\ 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + n & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} = \Theta(n \log n)$

In-practice runtime? Just trust me: $\Theta(n \log n)$
(absurd amount of math to get here)

Stable? No

In-place? Can be done!

Worst case: Pivot only chops off one value
Best case: Pivot divides each array in half



Can we do better?

How to avoid hitting the worst case?

- It all comes down to the pivot. If the pivot divides each array in half, we get better behavior

Here are four options for finding a pivot. What are the tradeoffs?

- Just take the first element
- Take the median of the full array
- Take the median of the first, last, and middle element
- Pick a random element

Strategies for Choosing a Pivot

Just take the first element

- Very fast!
- But has worst case: for example, sorted lists have $\Omega(n^2)$ behavior

Take the median of the full array

- Can actually find the median in $O(n)$ time (google QuickSelect). It's **complicated**.
- $O(n \log n)$ even in the worst case... but the constant factors are **awful**. No one does quicksort this way.

Take the median of the first, last, and middle element

- Makes pivot slightly more content-aware, at least won't select very smallest/largest
- Worst case is still $\Omega(n^2)$, but on real-world data tends to perform well!

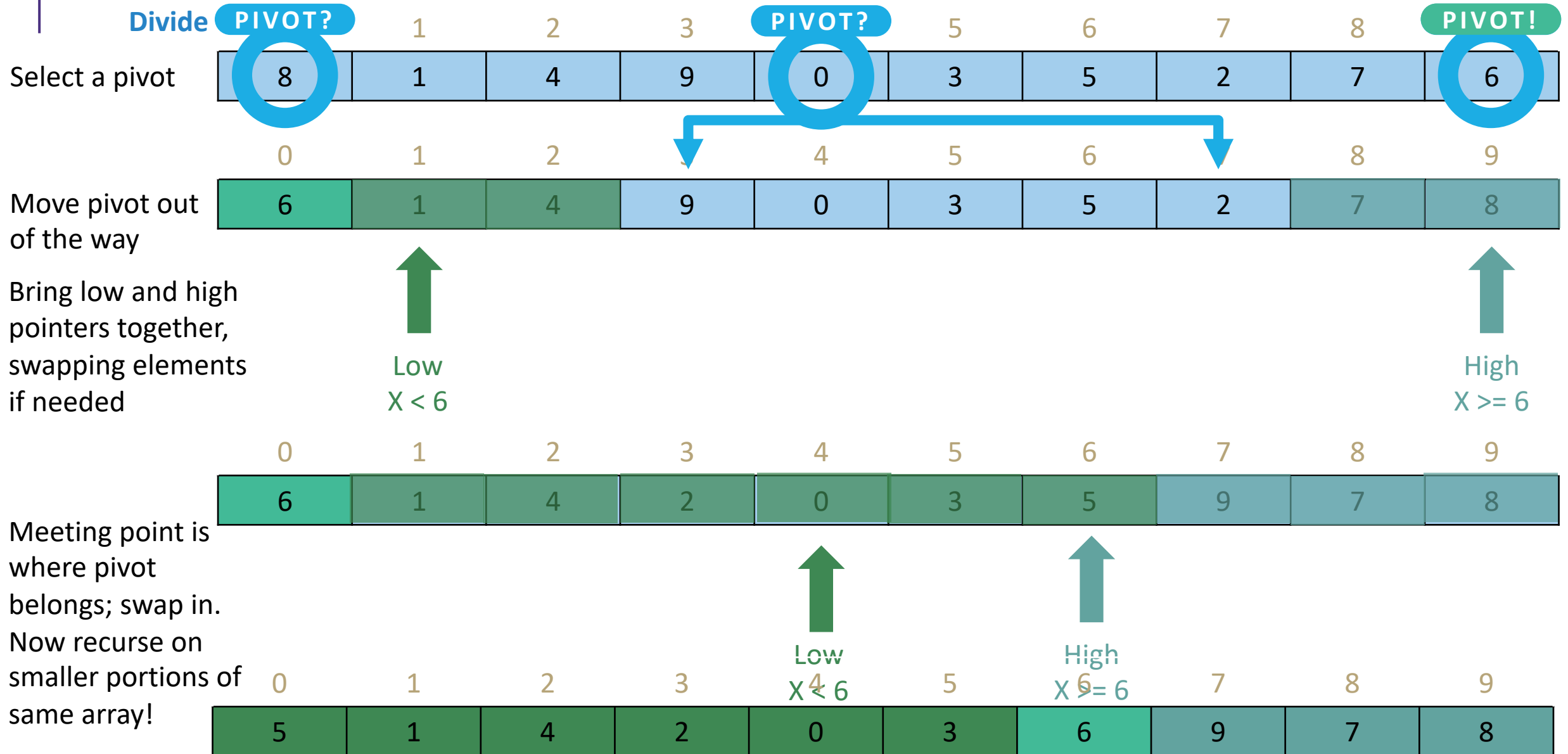
Pick a random element

- Get $O(n \log n)$ runtime with probability at least $1 - 1/n^2$
- No simple worst-case input (e.g. sorted, reverse sorted)

Most commonly used



Quick Sort (v2: In-Place)



Quick Sort (v2: In-Place)

```
quickSort(list) {  
  if (list.length == 1):  
    return list  
  else:  
    pivot = choosePivot(list)  
    smallerPart, largerPart = partition(pivot, list)  
    smallerPart = quickSort(smallerPart)  
    largerPart = quickSort(largerPart)  
    return smallerPart + pivot + largerPart  
}
```

choosePivot:

- Use one of the pivot selection strategies

partition:

- For in-place Quick Sort, series of swaps to build both partitions at once
- Tricky part: moving pivot out of the way and moving it back!
- Similar to Merge Sort divide step: two pointers, only move smaller one

Worst case runtime? $T(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n \leq 1 \\ T(n-1) + n & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} = \Theta(n^2)$

Best case runtime? $T(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n \leq 1 \\ 2T\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) + n & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} = \Theta(n \log n)$

In-practice runtime? Just trust me: $\Theta(n \log n)$
(absurd amount of math to get here)

Stable? No

In-place? Yes

0	1	2	3	4	5
0	3	6	9	7	8

Can we do better?

We'd really like to avoid hitting the worst case.

Key to getting a good running time, is always cutting the array (about) in half.

How do we choose a good pivot?

Here are four options for finding a pivot. What are the tradeoffs?

- Just take the first element
- Take the median of the first, last, and middle element
- Take the median of the full array
- Pick a random element as a pivot

Pivots

Just take the first element

- fast to find a pivot
- But (e.g.) nearly sorted lists get $\Omega(n^2)$ behavior overall

Take the median of the first, last, and middle element

- Guaranteed to not have the absolute smallest value.
- On real data, this works quite well...
- But worst case is still $\Omega(n^2)$

Median of three is a common choice in practice

Take the median of the full array

- Can actually find the median in $O(n)$ time (google QuickSelect). It's **complicated**.
- $O(n \log n)$ even in the worst case....but the constant factors are **awful**. No one does quicksort this way.

Pick a random element as a pivot

- somewhat slow constant factors
- Get $O(n \log n)$ running time with probability at least $1 - 1/n^2$
- "adversaries" can't make it more likely that we hit the worst case.

Sorting: Summary

	Best-Case	Worst-Case	Space	Stable
Selection Sort	$\Theta(n^2)$	$\Theta(n^2)$	$\Theta(1)$	No
Insertion Sort	$\Theta(n)$	$\Theta(n^2)$	$\Theta(1)$	Yes
Heap Sort	$\Theta(n)$	$\Theta(n \log n)$	$\Theta(n)$	No
In-Place Heap Sort	$\Theta(n)$	$\Theta(n \log n)$	$\Theta(1)$	No
Merge Sort	$\Theta(n \log n)$	$\Theta(n \log n)$	$\Theta(n \log n)$ <small>$\Theta(n)$* optimized</small>	Yes
Quick Sort	$\Theta(n \log n)$	$\Theta(n^2)$	$\Theta(n)$	No
In-place Quick Sort	$\Theta(n \log n)$	$\Theta(n^2)$	$\Theta(1)$	No

What does Java do?

- Actually uses a combination of 3 *different sorts*:
 - If objects: use Merge Sort* (stable!)
 - If primitives: use Dual Pivot Quick Sort
 - If “reasonably short” array of primitives: use Insertion Sort
 - Researchers say 48 elements

Key Takeaway: No single sorting algorithm is “the best”!

- Different sorts have different properties in different situations
- The “best sort” is one that is well-suited to your data

* They actually use Tim Sort, which is very similar to Merge Sort in theory, but has some minor details different

STRATEGY 1:
ITERATIVE IMPROVEMENT

Insertion Sort

WORST $\theta(n^2)$
BEST $\theta(n)$

Simple, stable, low-overhead, great if already sorted.

✦ IN-PLACE

↔ STABLE

SPACE $\theta(1)$

Selection Sort

WORST $\theta(n^2)$
BEST $\theta(n^2)$

Minimizes array writes, otherwise never preferred.

✦ IN-PLACE

SPACE $\theta(1)$

STRATEGY 2:
IMPOSE STRUCTURE

Heap Sort

WORST $\theta(n \log n)$
BEST $\theta(n)$

Always good runtimes

✦ IN-PLACE

SPACE $\theta(1)$

STRATEGY 3:
DIVIDE AND CONQUER

Merge Sort

WORST $\theta(n \log n)$
BEST $\theta(n \log n)$

Stable, very reliable! In-place variant is slower.

↔ STABLE

SPACE $\theta(n)$

Quick Sort

WORST $\theta(n^2)$
BEST $\theta(n \log n)$

Fastest in practice (constant factors), bad worst case.

✦ IN-PLACE

SPACE $\theta(1)$

Insertion Sort

WORST $\theta(n^2)$

BEST $\theta(n)$

Simple, stable, low-overhead, great if already sorted.

★ IN-PLACE

↔ STABLE

SPACE $\theta(1)$

Selection Sort

WORST $\theta(n^2)$

BEST $\theta(n^2)$

Minimizes array writes, otherwise never preferred.

★ IN-PLACE

SPACE $\theta(1)$

Heap Sort

WORST $\theta(n \log n)$

BEST $\theta(n)$

Always good runtimes

★ IN-PLACE

SPACE $\theta(1)$

Merge Sort

WORST $\theta(n \log n)$

BEST $\theta(n \log n)$

Stable, very reliable! In-place variant is slower.

↔ STABLE

SPACE $\theta(n)$

Quick Sort

WORST $\theta(n^2)$

BEST $\theta(n \log n)$

Fastest in practice (constant factors), bad worst case.

★ IN-PLACE

SPACE $\theta(1)$

Can we do better than $n \log n$?

- For comparison sorts, **NO**. A proven lower bound!
 - Intuition: n elements to sort, no faster way to find “right place” than $\log n$
- However, niche sorts can do better in specific situations!

Many cool niche sorts beyond the scope of 373!

Radix Sort ([Wikipedia](#), [VisuAlgo](#)) - Go digit-by-digit in integer data. Only 10 digits, so no need to compare!

Counting Sort ([Wikipedia](#))

Bucket Sort ([Wikipedia](#))

External Sorting Algorithms ([Wikipedia](#)) - For big data™

But Don't Take it From Me...

Here are some excellent visualizations for the sorting algorithms we've talked about!

Comparing Sorting Algorithms

- Different Types of Input Data:
<https://www.toptal.com/developers/sorting-algorithms>
- More Thorough Walkthrough:
<https://visualgo.net/en/sorting?slide=1>

Comparing Sorting Algorithms



Insertion Sort:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROaIU379I3U>

Selection Sort:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ns4TPTC8whW>

Heap Sort:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xw2D9aJRBY4>

Merge Sort:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XaqR3G_NV0Q

Quick Sort:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywWBy6J5gz8>