

# Sorting and Element Selection

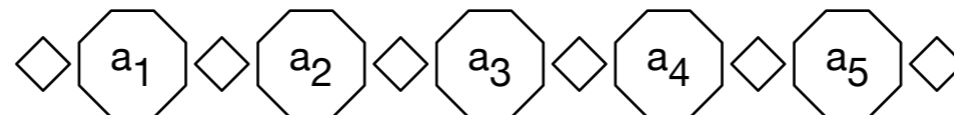
Thomas Schwarz, SJ

# Permutations

- A permutation of the set  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  is a reordering of the numbers where each number between 1 and  $n$  appears exactly once.

# Permutations

- How many permutations are there?
  - Use recurrence!
    - In a permutation of  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ , where is the  $n$  located?
    - There are  $n - 1$  other numbers.
    - This gives us  $n - 2$  gaps and spots before and after



# Permutations

- Let  $n!$  be the number of permutations of  $n$  elements
  - This gives us the recurrence
    - $n! = n \cdot (n - 1)!$
  - which can be unfolded very simply

- $$n! = \prod_{i=1}^n i$$

# Permutations

How do we determine its asymptotic growth?

$$n! = \prod_{i=1}^n i$$

Use Logarithms!

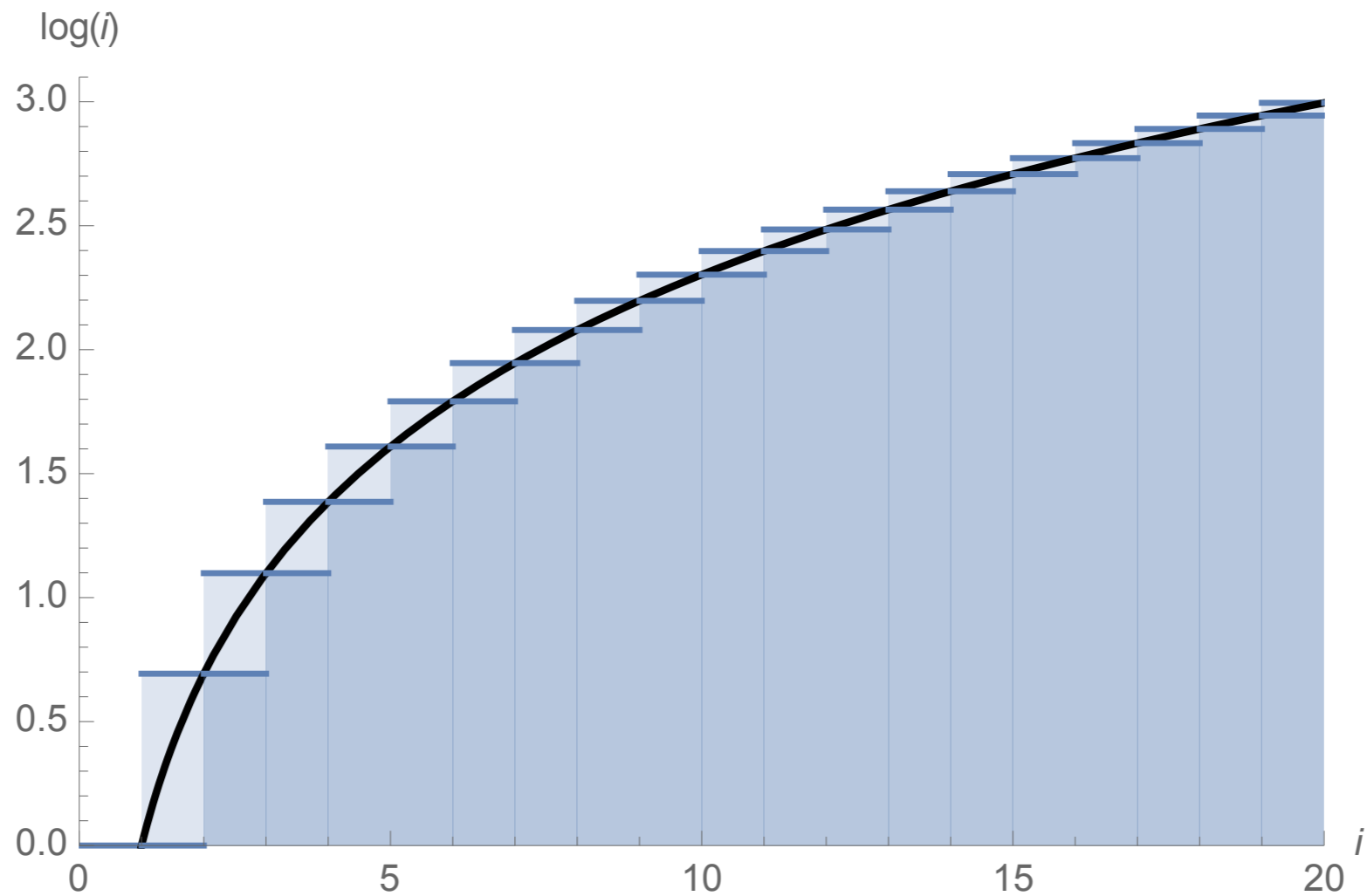
# Permutations

- Approximation of the factorial

$$\text{Use } \log n! = \sum_{i=1}^n \log(i)$$

Use an integral!

# Permutations



$$\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \log(i) < \int_1^n \log(x) dx < \sum_{i=1}^n \log i$$

# Permutations

$$\begin{aligned}\log(n!) &= \sum_{i=1}^n \log(i) \\ &\approx \int_1^n \log(x) dx \\ &= [x \log x - x]_1^n \\ &= n \log(n) - n + 1\end{aligned}$$



# Permutations

Therefore

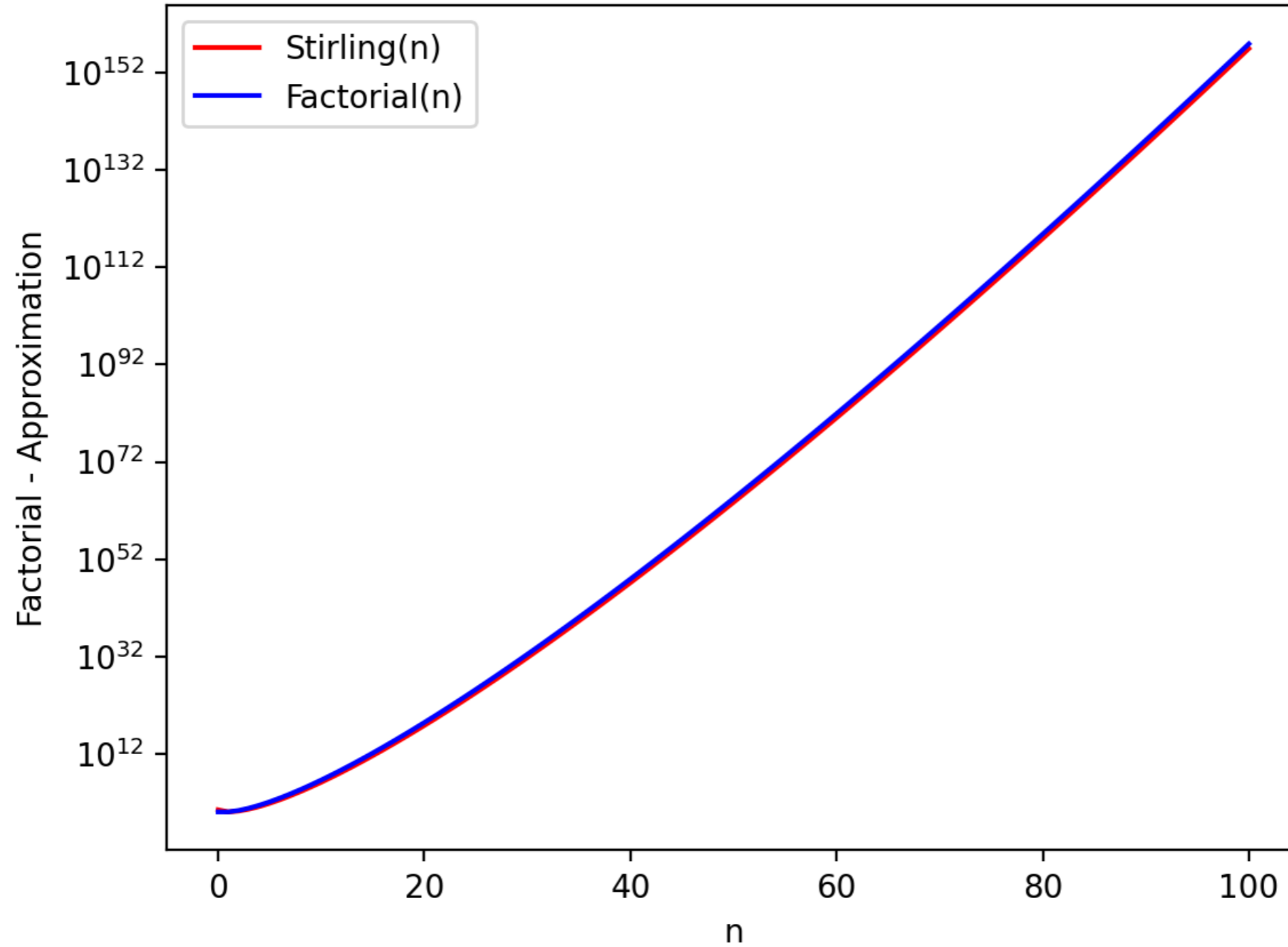
$$n! \approx \exp(n \log(n) - n - 1)$$

$$= \exp(\log(n^n) - n + 1)$$

$$= n^n \cdot e^{-n} \cdot e$$

$$= e \cdot \left(\frac{n}{e}\right)^n$$

# Permutations



# Permutations

An analysis of the error substituting the Riemann sum for an integral gives Stirling's approximation (invented by de Moivre)

$$\sqrt{2\pi n} \left(\frac{n}{e}\right)^n e^{\left(\frac{1}{12n} - \frac{1}{360n^3}\right)} < n! < \sqrt{2\pi n} \left(\frac{n}{e}\right)^n e^{\frac{1}{12n}} .$$

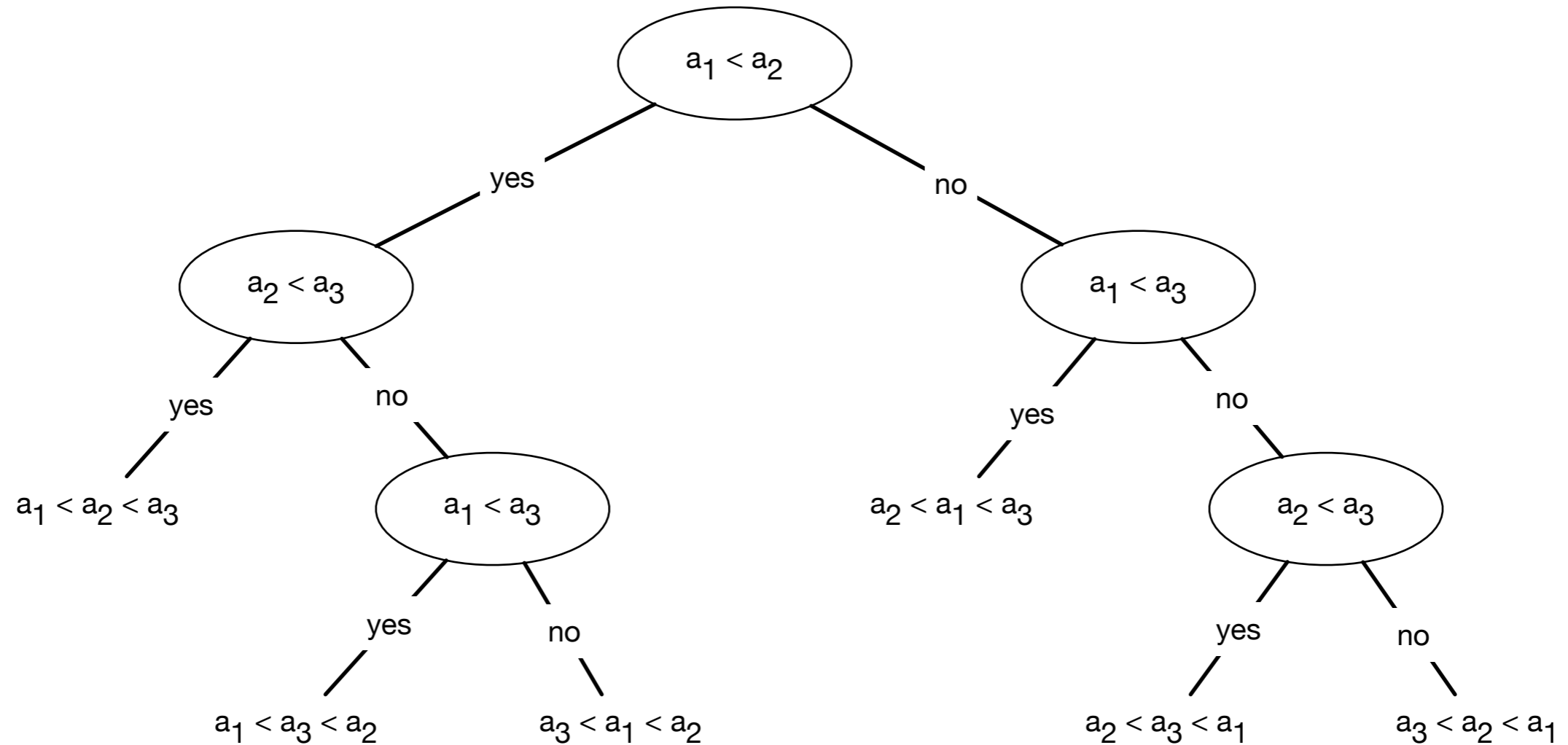
# Sorting by Comparison

- Many sorting algorithms use comparisons
- An algorithm needs to be able to sort with all orders of inputs, i.e. distinguish between  $n!$  arrangements of the input by order
  - assuming all elements are different

# Sorting by Comparison

- Sorting algorithm makes a comparison, then decides on what to do
- These algorithms can be represented as a binary tree

# Sorting by Comparison



A fictitious algorithm for sorting three elements  
as a Decision Tree

# Sorting by Comparison

- Represent any comparison based algorithm by such a tree
- Any run of the algorithm represents a path from the root to a leaf node
- Leaf nodes represent an algorithm finishing.
  - Each leaf represents an ordering of the array
  - So, there are at least  $n!$  of them for an array of  $n$  elements

# Sorting by Comparison

- How many leaves does a tree with  $N$  leaves have?
- A tree of height  $h$  has how many leaves?
  - Height 0: only root, one leaf
  - Height 1: only root plus one or two leaves:  $\leq 2$
  - Height 2: at most two nodes at height one have at most  $\leq 2^2$  leaves
  - Induction: Height  $h$  has at most  $2^h$  leaves



# Sorting by Comparison

- Relationship between height of decision tree and number of elements to be sorted:

- Need to have at least  $n!$  leaves:

- $2^h \geq n!$

- which implies

- $h \geq \log_2(n!) = \frac{1}{\log(2)} \log(n!)$

- $\approx \frac{1}{\log(2)} n \log(n) - n + 1$

- $= \Theta(n \log(n))$

# Sorting by Comparison

- Since the height of the decision tree is the worst time runtime, we have
  - *The runtime of a comparison based sorting algorithm is at best  $\Theta(n \log(n))$*

# Linear Time Sorting

- In order to do better:
  - Needs to exploit special inputs
- In fact:
  - Sorting integers can be done in linear time

# Linear Time Sorting

- Counting sort
  - Assume we want to sort numbers in  $\{1, 2, \dots, k - 1, k\}$
  - Create a dictionary with keys in  $\{1, 2, \dots, k - 1, k\}$ 
    - E.g. as an array `Int (1 : k)`
  - Walk through the array, updating the count
  - Once the count is done, go through the dictionary in order of the keys, emitting as many keys as the count

# Linear Time Sorting

- Counting sort:

- |    |   |   |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |
|----|---|---|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|
| 10 | 3 | 4 | 10 | 12 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 7 |
|----|---|---|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|

- create a counting array:

- |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |     |     |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1: | 2: | 3: | 4: | 5: | 6: | 7: | 8: | 9: | 10: | 11: | 12: | 13: |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

- Walk through the array and calculate counts

- |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |       |       |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1: 1 | 2: 3 | 3: 3 | 4: 2 | 5: 2 | 6: 0 | 7: 1 | 8: 1 | 9: 1 | 10: 3 | 11: 0 | 12: 1 | 13: 0 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|

- Emit keys according to count

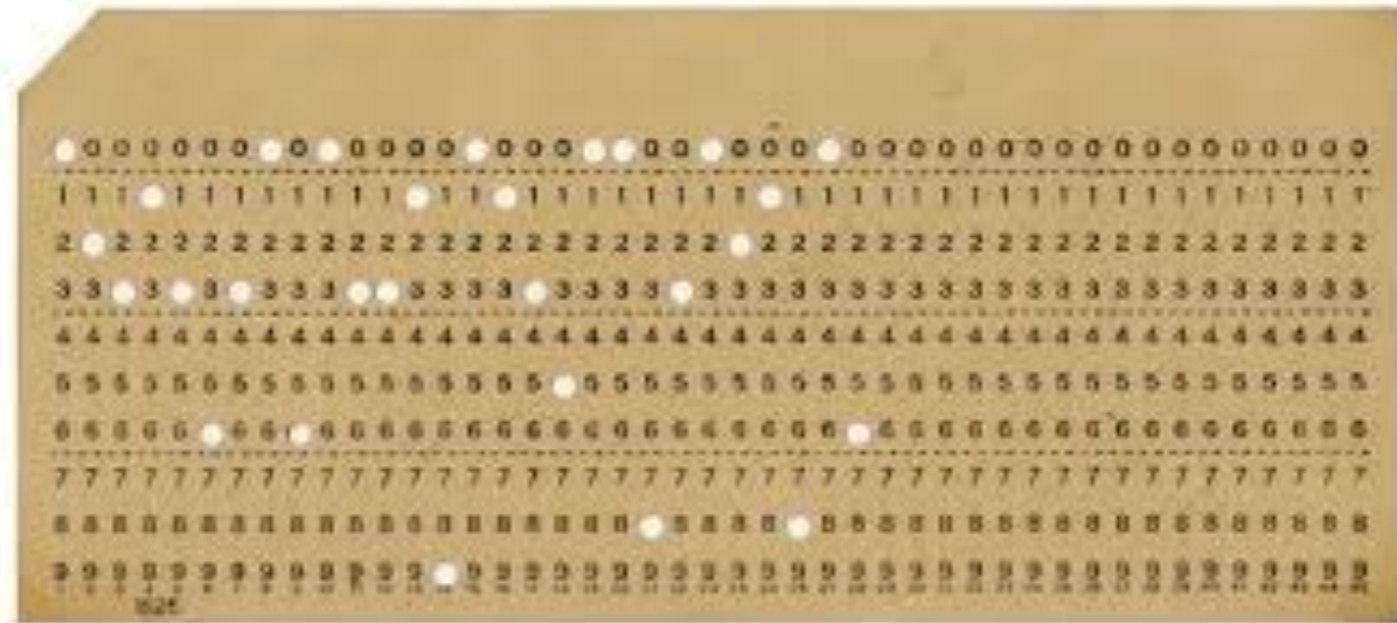
- 1 2 2 2 3 3 3 4 4 5 5 7 8 9 10 10 10 12

# Linear Time Sorting

- If there are  $n$  elements in the array, then counting sort uses
  - $\sim k$  to create and evaluate the counting array
  - $\sim n$  to update the counting array
- Therefore: counting sort run-time is  $\Theta(n + k)$

# Linear Time Sorting

- Radix Sort
  - Imagine sorting punch cards with by ID in the first columns



# Linear Time Sorting

- Simple Method:
  - Create heaps of cards based on the first digit
    - Then recursively sort the heaps



# Linear Time Sorting

- Better method:
  - Sort according to the last digit
    - Then use a *stable sort* to sort after the second-last digit
    - Then use a stable sort to sort after the third-last digit

# Linear Time Sorting

- Stable sort:
  - Leave order of elements with the same key during sorting
  - Insertion sort, merge sort, bubble sort, counting sort are all stable
  - Heap sort, selection sort, shell sort, and quick sort are not

# Linear Time Sorting

- Radix sort:
  - ```
for i in range(length(key), 0, -1):  
    stable_sort on digit i of key
```

# Linear Time Sorting

|     |
|-----|
| 135 |
| 242 |
| 122 |
| 023 |
| 220 |
| 144 |
| 321 |
| 221 |
| 203 |
| 302 |

|     |
|-----|
| 220 |
| 321 |
| 221 |
| 242 |
| 122 |
| 302 |
| 023 |
| 203 |
| 144 |
| 135 |

|     |
|-----|
| 302 |
| 203 |
| 220 |
| 321 |
| 221 |
| 122 |
| 023 |
| 135 |
| 242 |
| 144 |

|     |
|-----|
| 023 |
| 122 |
| 135 |
| 144 |
| 203 |
| 220 |
| 221 |
| 242 |
| 302 |
| 321 |

# Linear Time Sorting

- Radix sort correctness
  - What would be a loop invariant?

# Linear Time Sorting

- Assume  $n$  keys of  $d$  digits in  $\{0, 1, \dots, r - 1\}$
- Use counting sort to sort in time  $\Theta(n + r)$
- Radix sort then takes  $\Theta(d(n + r))$  time

# Linear Time Sorting

- Given  $n$  numbers of  $b$  bits each
- Assume  $b = O(\log(n))$
- Choose  $r = \lfloor \log_2(n) \rfloor$ .
  - Divide the  $b$ -bit numbers into “digits” of length  $r$
  - Thus, each round of radix sort takes time  $\Theta(n + 2^r)$
  - There are  $\lceil \frac{b}{r} \rceil$  rounds
  - So, radix sort takes  $\Theta(\frac{b}{r}(n + 2^r)) = \Theta(\frac{b}{r}(n + n)) = \Theta(n)$  time!

**Selection**



# Selection Problems

- Given an unordered array:
  - Find the  $k$ -largest (-smallest) element in an unordered array
  - Naïve Solution:
    - Sort (usually in time  $\Theta(n \log n)$  )
    - Pick element  $n - k$  or  $k$  of the sorted array

# Selection Problem

- Finding the maximum
- Finding the maximum and minimum at the same time
- Finding the  $k^{\text{th}}$  largest element
- Finding the median

# Maximum

- Obvious algorithm:

```
def max(array):  
    result = array[0]  
    for i in range(1, len(array)):  
        if array[i] > result:  
            result = array[i]
```

- $n - 1$  comparisons

# Maximum

- Toy algorithm:
  - Partition array into  $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$  pairs.
    - (There might be an additional element).
  - Use one comparison in order to select the largest of each pair (plus the odd one out if exists)
  - These form an array of length  $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1$
  - Recursively call the toy algorithm

# Maximum

- What is the recurrence relation?

# Maximum

- $T(n) = T(n - \lfloor n/2 \rfloor) + \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$
- $T(2) = 1$
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Now use substitution to get an idea of solving the recurrence

# Maximum

- Assume  $n$  is a power of 2

# Maximum

- Recurrence then becomes
  - $T(n) = T(n/2) + n/2, \quad T(2) = 1$
  - $= T(n/4) + n/4 + n/2$
  - $= T(n/8) + n/8 + n/4 + n/2$
  - $\dots$
  - $= T(2) + 2 + 4 + 8 + \dots + n/8 + n/4 + n/2$
  - $= n - 1$



# Maximum

- Now prove by induction for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$
- $T(n) = T(n - \lfloor n/2 \rfloor) + \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$
- $T(2) = 1$

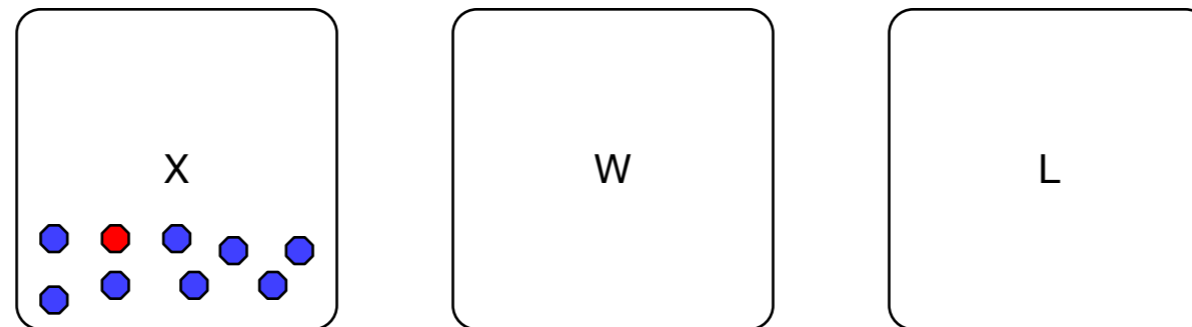
# Maximum

- Induction Hypothesis:  $T(m) = m - 1$  if  $m < n$ .
- $T(n)$ 
  - $= T(n - \lfloor n/2 \rfloor) + \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$
  - $= n - \lfloor n/2 \rfloor - 1 + \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$
  - $= n - 1$

# Maximum

- In fact:
  - *Theorem: Finding the maximum of an array of length  $n$  costs at least  $n - 1$  comparisons*
  - *Proof: Place all elements into three buckets:*
    - One for not-looked at
    - One for won all comparisons
    - One for lost all comparisons

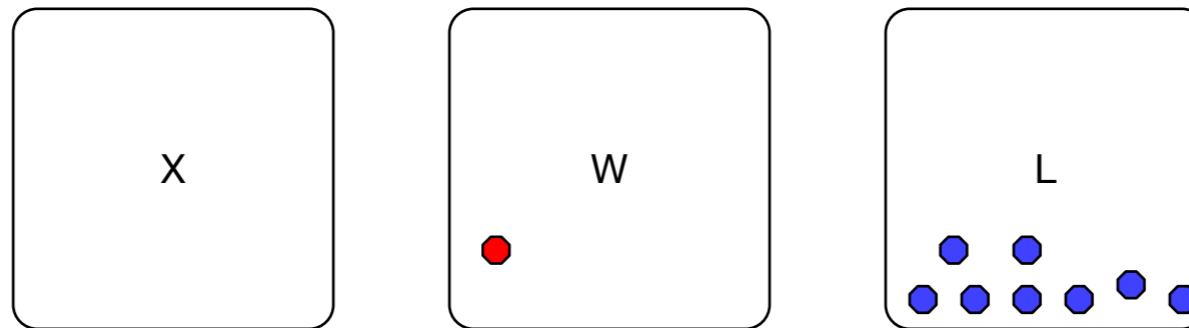
# Maximum



- A single comparison can involve 6 cases
  - X-X: move two elements from X, one into W, one into L
  - X-W: move one element from X into W or move one element from X into W and one from W into L
  - X-L: move one element from X into W or one into L
  - W-W: move one element from W to L
  - W-L: nothing or move one element from W to L
  - L-L: nothing

# Maximum

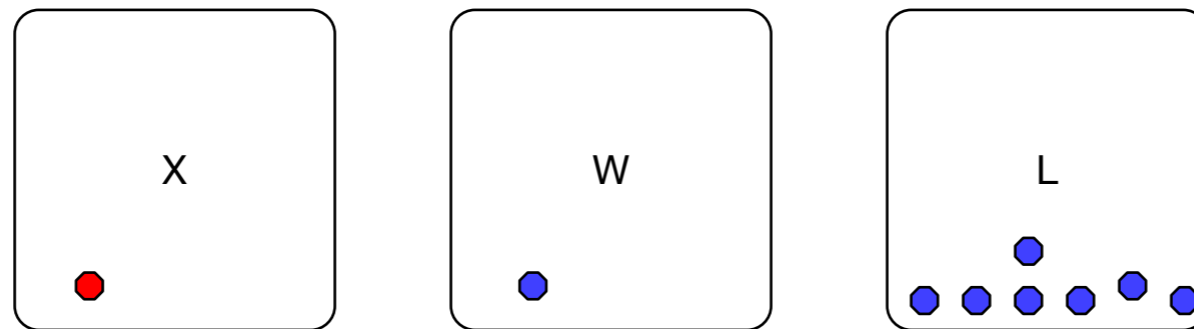
- To have finished the algorithm:
  - No elements left in  $X$
  - Only one element left in  $W$



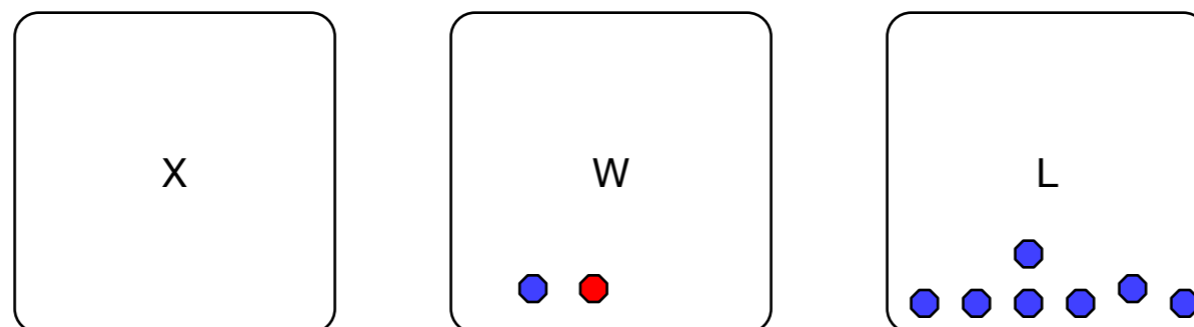
- Otherwise, can construct counterexample

# Maximum

- One left in X: could be the maximum



- Two (or more) left in W:
  - Which one is the maximum?



# Maximum

- Each comparison sends at most one element to  $L$
- At best,  $n - 1$  comparisons

# Combined Maximum and Minimum

- Combined Maximum and Minimum
  - Naïve algorithm:
    - Calculate the max, then the min (can exclude the max)
      - $m - 1 + m - 2 = 2m - 3$  comparisons



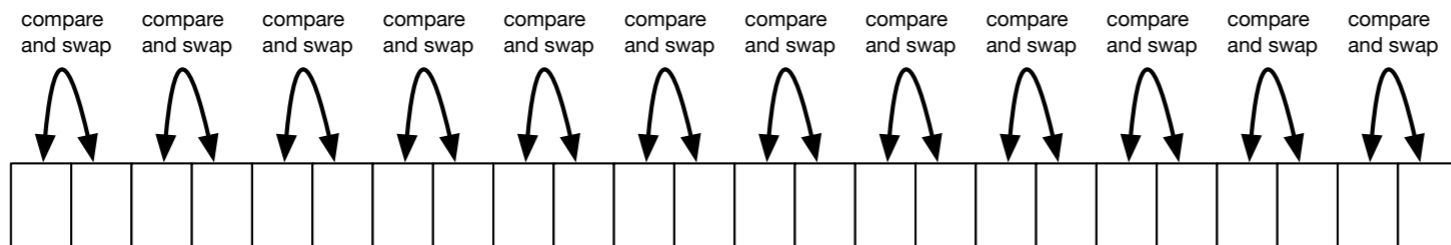
# Combined Maximum and Minimum

- A better algorithm
  - Divide the array into pairs
  - Compare the values of each pair
  - Place the winner of each pair in one array, the loser of each array in a second array
    - (Or use swapping so that the winners are in even position and the losers are in odd positions)
- Now use maximum and minimum on the two sub-arrays

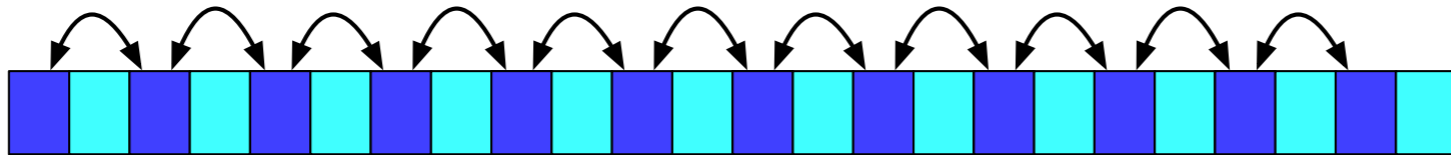
# Combined Maximum and Minimum

- Case 1:  $n$  is even

- There are  $n/2$  pairs or  $n/2$  comparisons



- Run maximum on even indexed array elements



- This gives us  $n/2 - 1$  comparisons

- Same for minimum

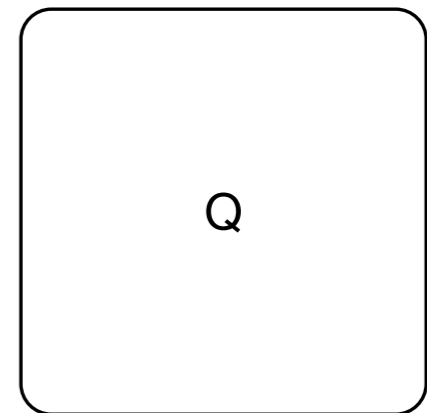
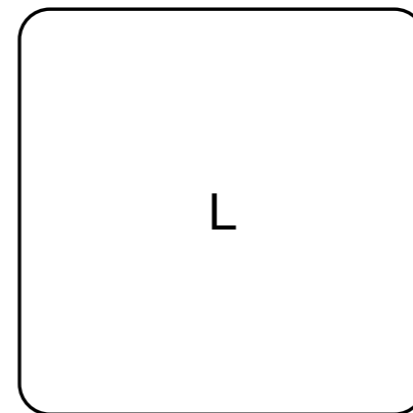
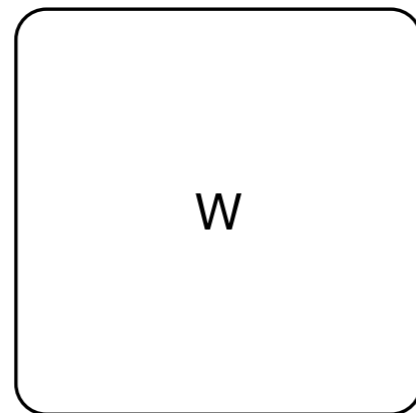
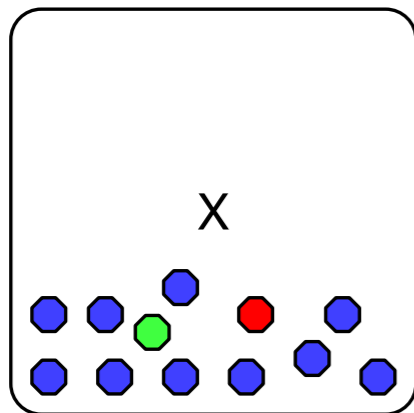
- Total is  $n/2 + n/2 - 1 + n/2 - 1 = \frac{3n}{2} - 2$  comparisons

# Combined Maximum and Minimum

- Case:  $n$  is odd
  - Run algorithm on the first  $n - 1$  elements
    - $\frac{3n - 3}{2} - 2$  comparisons
  - Then add two comparisons to see whether the last element is either minimum or maximum
    - Total of  $\frac{3n - 3}{2}$  comparisons

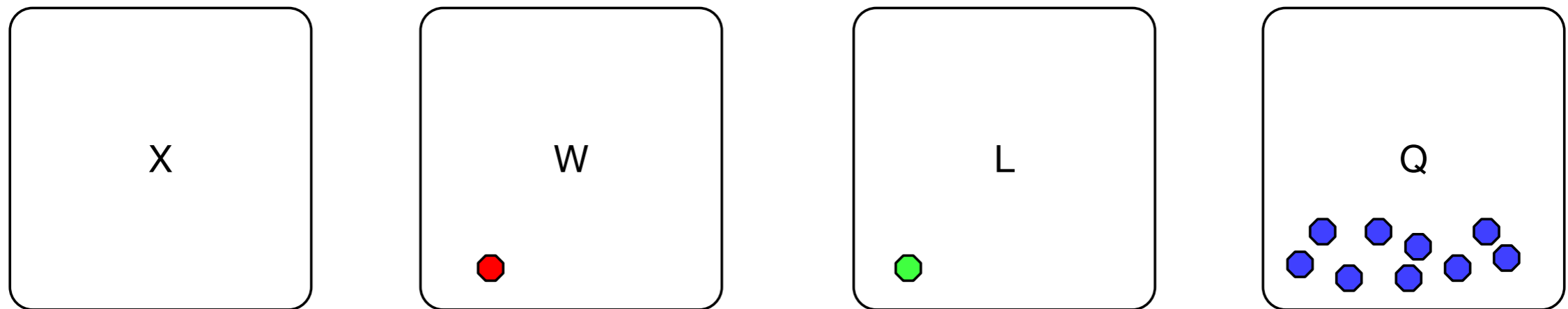
# Combined Maximum and Minimum

- Can we do better?
  - Use a more sophisticated bin method
  - X - not looked at, W - won every comparison, L - lost every comparison, Q - at least one win and at least one loss



# Combined Maximum and Minimum

- To be successful, need to move everything out of X and have only one element in W and L



- Otherwise can have a counter-example

# Combined Maximum and Minimum

- Just counting the moves is not sufficient
  - Example:
    - We compare an element  $w \in W$  with an element  $l \in L$
    - Possibly:  $w < l$ 
      - And we move both elements to the  $Q$  bucket
  - So, possible to move all  $n$  elements out of  $X$  into  $W \cup L$  in  $n/2$  comparisons and  $n - 2$  elements out of  $W \cup L$  into  $Q$  in  $n/2 - 1$  comparisons
  - Only gives  $n - 1$  moves!

# Combined Maximum and Minimum



- Use an **adversary** argument
  - Algorithm can only depend on the knowledge of the previous comparisons when making a decision
- An adversary is allowed to change all values as long as the results of the comparisons stay the same
  - If  $w \in W$  and  $l \in L$ , then the only thing the algorithm knows is that  $w$  has won all of its comparisons and  $l$  has lost all of its comparisons
  - Adversary therefore is allowed to change the value of  $l$  downward
  - Adversary guarantees that  $w > l$ .

# Combined Maximum and Minimum



- With the help of the adversary who substitutes values when needed

- Potential:  $\frac{3}{2} |X| + |W| + |L|$

- Calculate net changes for comparisons between buckets



# Combined Maximum and Minimum



- Compare  $X$  with  $X$ 
  - Net change  $(-2, 1, 1, 0)$ 
    - Potential change: 1

# Combined Maximum and Minimum



- Compare  $X$  with  $W$ 
  - Case 1:  $x \in X, w \in W, x < w$  Net change  $(-1, 0, 1, 0)$
  - Case 2:  $x \in X, w \in W, x > w$  Net change  $(-1, 0, 0, 1)$
  - The adversary can prevent Case 2 by decreasing  $x$ 
    - Possible because this is the first time that we look at  $x$
- Potential changes by  $\frac{1}{2}$

# Combined Maximum and Minimum



- Compare  $X$  with  $L$ 
  - similar as before

# Combined Maximum and Minimum



- Compare  $X$  with  $Q$ 
  - The element in  $X$  changes to either  $W$  or  $L$ 
    - Net change  $(-1, 1, 0, 0)$  or  $(-1, 0, 1, 0)$
    - Potential change  $\frac{1}{2}$

# Combined Maximum and Minimum



- Compare  $W$  with  $W$ 
  - One element looses
  - Net change (0, -1, 0, 1)
  - Potential change 1

# Combined Maximum and Minimum



- Compare  $W$  with  $L$ 
  - Adversary guarantees that the element in  $W$  wins by making all of them bigger
  - This works because each element in  $W$  has only seen wins and that does not change if the elements are made bigger.
  - No change

# Combined Maximum and Minimum



- Compare  $W$  with  $Q$ 
  - Since the elements in  $W$  have always won, the adversary can make them larger
  - No net change

# Combined Maximum and Minimum



- Comparisons with  $L$  are the same as with  $W$
- Comparisons within  $Q$  are useless, but make no changes



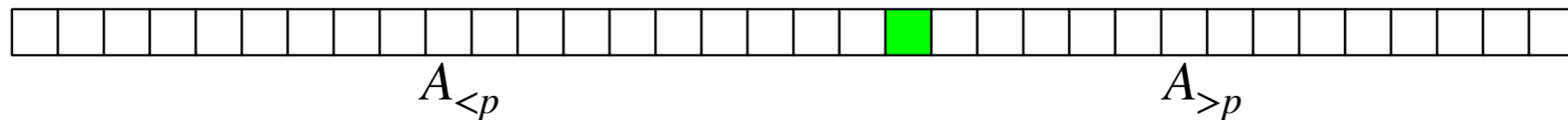
# Combined Maximum and Minimum



- With the help of the adversary
  - Potential changes by at most 1
- Initial Potential:  $\frac{3}{2}n$
- Final Potential: 2
- Need at least  $\frac{3n - 4}{2}$  comparisons

# Selection

- Find the  $k^{\text{th}}$  largest element
  - Algorithm 1: Use the idea of quicksort
    - Find a random pivot and partition around it



- Now use recursion:
  - If  $k \leq \text{len}(A_{>p})$  find the  $k^{\text{th}}$  largest element in  $A_{>p}$
  - If  $k = \text{len}(A_{>p}) + 1$ , select  $p$
  - If  $k > \text{len}(A_{>p})$ , find the  $k - \text{len}(A_{>p}) - 1$  largest element in  $A_{<p}$

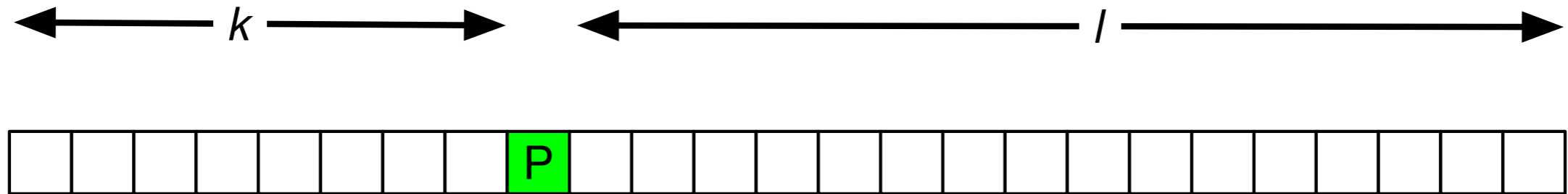
# Selection

- Worst case behavior:
  - Pivot is always the maximum
  - Search in array of length one less
  - Partitioning an array of length takes  $\Theta(n)$  time
    - Worst time:  $\sim n + (n - 1) + (n - 2) + \dots + 2 + 1$
    - $= \frac{n(n + 1)}{2}$
    - $= \Theta(n^2)$

# Selection

- Expected behavior:
  - Let  $T(n)$  be the expected run-time on input array  $n$
  - How does the pivot fall in an array?

# Selection



- Call either  $T(k)$  or  $T(l) = T(n - k - 1)$  or are done
- Bad luck assumption:
  - its always the one for the larger array
- All positions of the pivot are equally probable

# Selection

- Gives a recurrence

- $$T(n) \leq 2 \sum_{i=\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{n-1} \frac{1}{n} T(i) + dn$$

- where  $dn$  is the costs of partitioning
- Now assume that  $T(n) \leq cn$

# Selection

Then:

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &\leq \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{n-1} \frac{1}{n} T(i) + dn \\ &\leq \frac{2c}{n} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} i - \sum_{i=1}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} i \right) + dn \\ &= \frac{2c}{n} \left( \frac{(n-1)n}{2} - \frac{(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor - 1)\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}{2} \right) + dn \\ &\leq \frac{2c}{n} \left( \frac{(n-1)n}{2} - \frac{(n/2 - 2)(n/2 - 1)}{2} \right) + dn \end{aligned}$$

# Selection

$$\leq \frac{2c}{n} \left( \frac{(n-1)n}{2} - \frac{(n/2-2)(n/2-1)}{2} \right) + dn$$

$$= \frac{2c}{n} \left( \frac{n^2 - n}{2} - \frac{n^2/4 - 3n/2 + 2}{2} \right) + dn$$

$$= \frac{c}{n} \left( \frac{3n^2}{4} + \frac{n}{2} - 2 \right) + dn$$

$$= c \left( \frac{3n}{4} + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{2}{n} \right) + dn$$



# Selection

$$= c\left(\frac{3n}{4} + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{2}{n}\right) + dn$$
$$= cn - \left(\frac{cn}{4} - \frac{c}{2} - dn\right)$$

which is  $\leq cn$  if and only if

# Selection

$$\frac{cn}{4} - \frac{c}{2} - dn \geq 0$$

$$\iff cn \geq 2c + 4dn$$

$$\iff c \geq 2c/n + 4d$$

If we assume  $n \geq 4$ , then the right side is at most  $\frac{c}{2} + 4d$

Thus, if  $c > 8d$  then the previous calculation goes through

# Selection

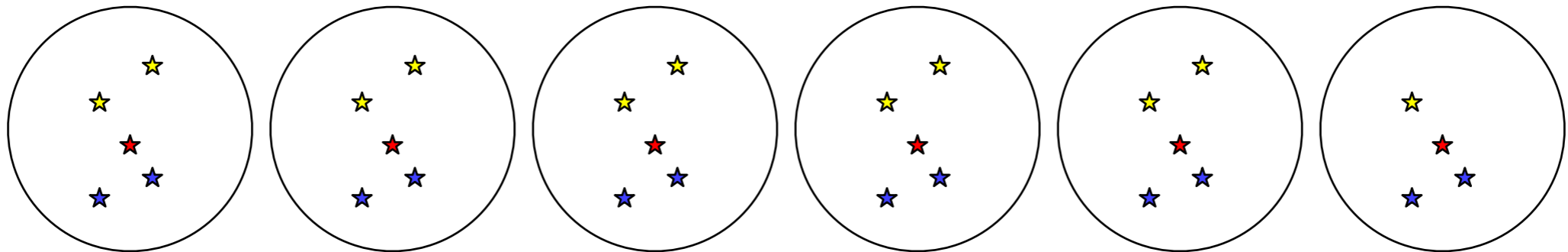
- We have shown
  - $T(n) < Cn$  if  $n \geq 4$  and  $C \geq 8d$
- Make  $C$  larger if necessary to obtain
  - $T(1) \leq C, T(2) \leq 2C, T(3) \leq 3C, T(4) \leq 4C$
- Then: Induction base works and Induction hypothesis works.
- So: expected runtime is linear
- But: we can do better

# Selection

- Linear worst case selection
  - Idea: Improve the selection of the pivot!
  - Need to take at most linear time for the pivot selection

# Selection

- Divide the  $n$  elements of the input array into  $\lfloor n/5 \rfloor$  groups of five elements and possibly one additional group
- In each group, choose the median (middle element)
  - In the last one, you might need to break a tie



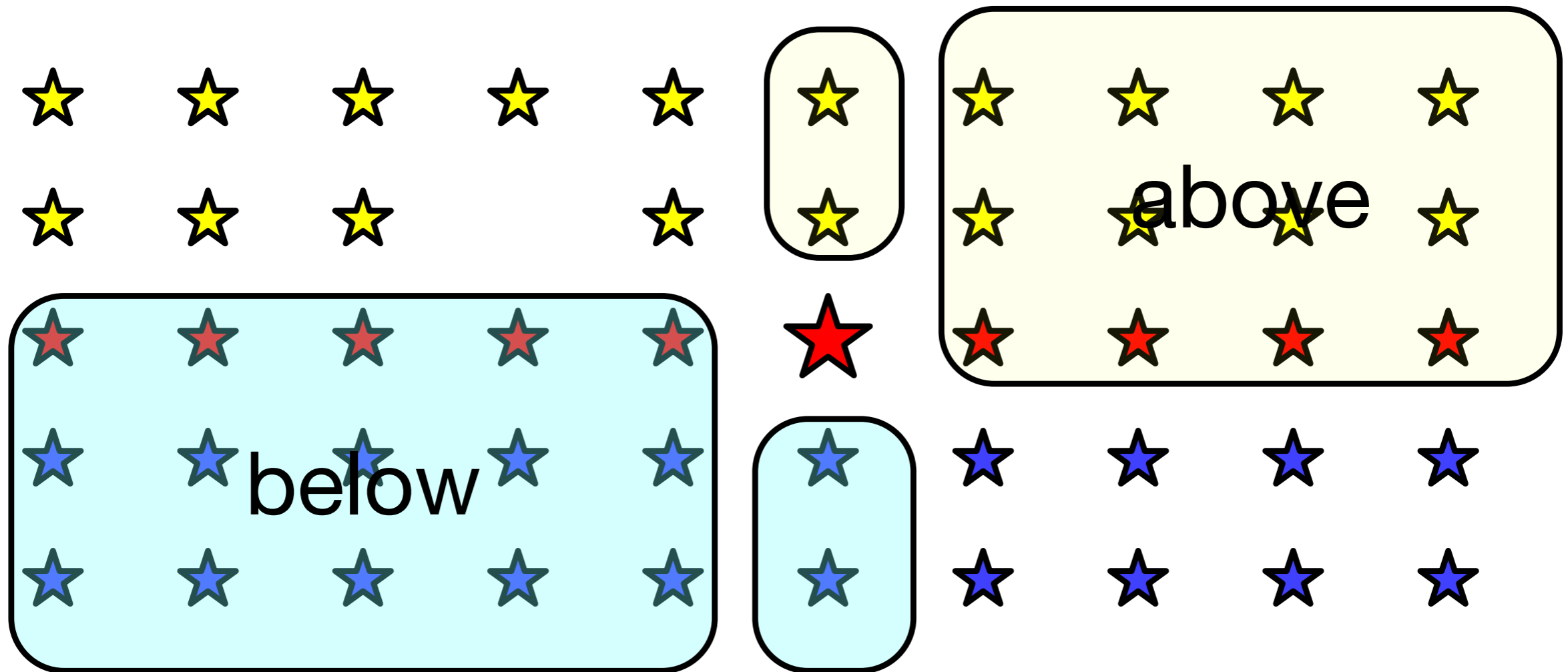
- Then select the median of the medians by **recurrence**

# Selection

- Show that the median of medians divides the array fairly well
- Show that adding up the costs, we still are linear



# Selection



A number of elements are below and above  
the median of medians for sure.



# Selection

- At least half of the medians are greater or equal than the median of medians
- At least half of the  $\lceil n/5 \rceil$  contributes at least three elements that are larger
  - Discard the group that is smaller and the group with the median of median
- The number of elements larger than the median of medians is at least

$$\bullet 3 \left( \left\lceil \frac{1}{2} \left\lceil \frac{n}{5} \right\rceil \right\rceil - 2 \right)$$

# Selection

- $3 \left( \left\lceil \frac{1}{2} \left\lceil \frac{n}{5} \right\rceil \right\rceil - 2 \right) \geq \frac{3n}{10} - 6$  larger than the median of medians
- $3 \left( \left\lceil \frac{1}{2} \left\lceil \frac{n}{5} \right\rceil \right\rceil - 2 \right) \geq \frac{3n}{10} - 6$  smaller than the median of medians

# Selection

- $T(n)$  run time of the algorithm
  - Division into groups of five:  $\Theta(n)$
  - Determination of the medians:  $\Theta(n)$  because there are  $\Theta(n)$  groups and we sort them in constant time to get the median
  - Determination of the median of median by recurrence  
 $T(\lceil \frac{n}{5} \rceil)$
  - Partitioning around the median of medians  $\Theta(n)$
  - Recursive call on at most  $n - \frac{3n}{10} - 6 = \frac{7n}{10} + 6$  elements

# Selection

- Total runtime:
  - $T(n) \leq T(\lceil \frac{n}{5} \rceil) + T(0.7n + 6) + an$
- Show that this is linear using induction / substitution
- Again: induction step only needs to work for large enough  $n$

# Selection

$$\begin{aligned}T(n) &\leq c\left(\frac{n}{5} + 1\right) + c\left(\frac{7n}{10} + 6\right) + an \\ &= 0.9cn + 7c + an\end{aligned}$$

This is at most  $cn$  if and only if  $7c + an \leq 0.1cn$ .

Since  $7c + an \leq 0.1cn \iff \frac{70}{n}c + 10a \leq c$ , we assume

$n > 140$  so that  $c$  needs to be larger than  $20a$ .

# Selection

- We also need to make  $c$  larger than  $T(1)$ ,  $T(2)/2$ , ...,  $T(140)/140$
- Then we have an induction base on 140 values
- And an induction step that works
- So  $T(n) \leq cn$

# Selection

- This algorithm makes no assumptions on the input
- Unlike our results on linear sorting