

# CS61B Lecture #26

## Today:

- Sorting algorithms: why?
- Insertion Sort.
- Inversions

# Purposes of Sorting

- Sorting supports searching
- Binary search standard example
- Also supports other kinds of search:
  - Are there two equal items in this set?
  - Are there two items in this set that both have the same value for property X?
  - What are my nearest neighbors?
- Used in numerous unexpected algorithms, such as convex hull (smallest convex polygon enclosing set of points).

## Some Definitions

- A *sorting algorithm* (or *sort*) *permutes* (re-arranges) a sequence of elements to bring them into order, according to some *total order*.
- A total order,  $\preceq$ , is:
  - **Total:**  $x \preceq y$  or  $y \preceq x$  for all  $x, y$ .
  - **Reflexive:**  $x \preceq x$ ;
  - **Antisymmetric:**  $x \preceq y$  and  $y \preceq x$  iff  $x = y$ .
  - **Transitive:**  $x \preceq y$  and  $y \preceq z$  implies  $x \preceq z$ .
- However, our orderings may treat unequal items as equivalent:
  - E.g., there can be two dictionary definitions for the same word. If we sort only by the word being defined (ignoring the definition), then sorting could put either entry first.
  - A sort that does not change the relative order of equivalent entries (compared to the input) is called *stable*.

# Classifications

- *Internal sorts* keep all data in primary memory.
- *External sorts* process large amounts of data in batches, keeping what won't fit in secondary storage (in the old days, tapes).
- *Comparison-based* sorting assumes only thing we know about keys is their order.
- *Radix sorting* uses more information about key structure.
- *Insertion sorting* works by repeatedly inserting items at their appropriate positions in the sorted sequence being constructed.
- *Selection sorting* works by repeatedly selecting the next larger (smaller) item in order and adding it to one end of the sorted sequence being constructed.

# Sorting Arrays of Primitive Types in the Java Library

- The java library provides static methods to sort arrays in the class `java.util.Arrays`.
- For each primitive type `P` other than `boolean`, there are

```
/** Sort all elements of ARR into non-descending order. */  
static void sort(P[] arr) { ... }
```

```
/** Sort elements FIRST .. END-1 of ARR into non-descending  
 * order. */  
static void sort(P[] arr, int first, int end) { ... }
```

```
/** Sort all elements of ARR into non-descending order,  
 * possibly using multiprocessing for speed. */  
static void parallelSort(P[] arr) { ... }
```

```
/** Sort elements FIRST .. END-1 of ARR into non-descending  
 * order, possibly using multiprocessing for speed. */  
static void parallelSort(P[] arr, int first, int end) {...}
```

# Sorting Arrays of Reference Types in the Java Library

- For reference types, *C*, that have a *natural order* (that is, that implement `java.lang.Comparable`), we have four analogous methods (one-argument `sort`, three-argument `sort`, and two `parallelSort` methods):

```
/** Sort all elements of ARR stably into non-descending
 * order. */
static <C extends Comparable<? super C>> sort(C[] arr) {...}
etc.
```

- And for all reference types, *R*, we have four more:

```
/** Sort all elements of ARR stably into non-descending order
 * according to the ordering defined by COMP. */
static <R> void sort(R[] arr, Comparator<? super R> comp) {...}
etc.
```

- Q: Why the fancy generic arguments?

# Sorting Arrays of Reference Types in the Java Library

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- And for all reference types, *R*, we have four more:

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/** Sort all elements of ARR stably into non-descending order
 * according to the ordering defined by COMP. */
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etc.
```

- **Q:** Why the fancy generic arguments?
- **A:** We want to allow types that have `compareTo` methods that apply also to more general types.

# Sorting Lists in the Java Library

- The class `java.util.Collections` contains two methods similar to the sorting methods for arrays of reference types:

```
/** Sort all elements of LST stably into non-descending  
 * order. */
```

```
static <C extends Comparable<? super C>> sort(List<C> lst) {...}  
etc.
```

```
/** Sort all elements of LST stably into non-descending  
 * order according to the ordering defined by COMP. */
```

```
static <R> void sort(List<R> , Comparator<? super R> comp) {...}  
etc.
```

- Also an instance method in the `List<R>` interface itself:

```
/** Sort all elements of LST stably into non-descending  
 * order according to the ordering defined by COMP. */
```

```
void sort(Comparator<? super R> comp) {...}
```



# Examples

- Assume:

```
import static java.util.Arrays.*;
import static java.util.Collections.*;
```

- Sort X, a `String[]` or `List<String>`, into non-descending order:

```
sort(X);    // or ...
```

- Sort X into reverse order (Java 8):

```
sort(X, (String x, String y) -> { return y.compareTo(x); });
// or
sort(X, Collections.reverseOrder());    // or
X.sort(Collections.reverseOrder());    // for X a List
```

- Sort `X[10]`, ..., `X[100]` in array or `List X` (rest unchanged):

```
sort(X, 10, 101);
```

- Sort `L[10]`, ..., `L[100]` in list `L` (rest unchanged):

```
sort(L.sublist(10, 101));
```

# Sorting by Insertion

- Simple idea:
  - starting with empty sequence of outputs.
  - add each item from input, *inserting* into output sequence at right point.
- Very simple, good for small sets of data.
- With vector or linked list, time for find + insert of one item is at worst  $\Theta(k)$ , where  $k$  is # of outputs so far.
- This gives us a  $\Theta(N^2)$  algorithm (worst case as usual).
- Can we say more?

# Inversions

- Can run in  $\Theta(N)$  comparisons if already sorted.
- Consider a typical implementation for arrays:

```
for (int i = 1; i < A.length; i += 1) {
    int j;
    Object x = A[i];
    for (j = i-1; j >= 0; j -= 1) {
        if (A[j].compareTo(x) <= 0) /* (1) */
            break;
        A[j+1] = A[j]; /* (2) */
    }
    A[j+1] = x;
}
```

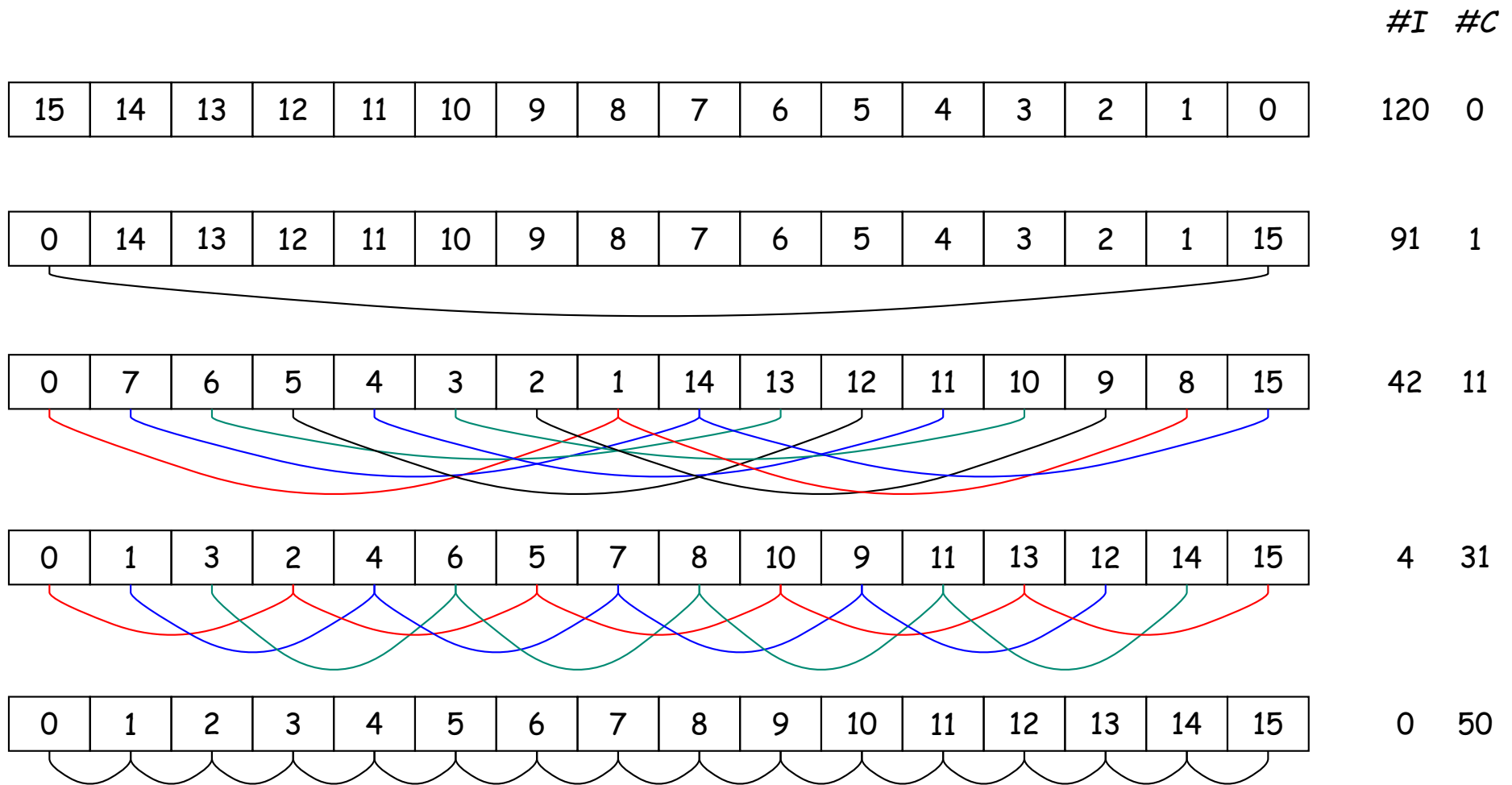
- #times (1) executes for each  $j \approx$  how far  $x$  must move.
- If all items within  $K$  of proper places, then takes  $O(KN)$  operations.
- Thus good for any amount of *nearly sorted* data.
- One measure of unsortedness: # of *inversions*: pairs that are out of order (= 0 when sorted,  $N(N - 1)/2$  when reversed).
- Each execution of (2) decreases inversions by 1.

# Shell's sort

**Idea:** Improve insertion sort by first sorting *distant* elements:

- First sort subsequences of elements  $2^k - 1$  apart:
  - sort items #0,  $2^k - 1$ ,  $2(2^k - 1)$ ,  $3(2^k - 1)$ , ..., then
  - sort items #1,  $1 + 2^k - 1$ ,  $1 + 2(2^k - 1)$ ,  $1 + 3(2^k - 1)$ , ..., then
  - sort items #2,  $2 + 2^k - 1$ ,  $2 + 2(2^k - 1)$ ,  $2 + 3(2^k - 1)$ , ..., then
  - etc.
  - sort items # $2^k - 2$ ,  $2(2^k - 1) - 1$ ,  $3(2^k - 1) - 1$ , ...,
  - Each time an item moves, can reduce #inversions by as much as  $2^k + 1$ .
- Now sort subsequences of elements  $2^{k-1} - 1$  apart:
  - sort items #0,  $2^{k-1} - 1$ ,  $2(2^{k-1} - 1)$ ,  $3(2^{k-1} - 1)$ , ..., then
  - sort items #1,  $1 + 2^{k-1} - 1$ ,  $1 + 2(2^{k-1} - 1)$ ,  $1 + 3(2^{k-1} - 1)$ , ...,
  - $\vdots$
- End at plain insertion sort ( $2^0 = 1$  apart), but with most inversions gone.
- Sort is  $\Theta(N^{3/2})$  (take CS170 for why!).

# Example of Shell's Sort



*I*: Inversions left.

*C*: Cumulative comparisons used to sort subsequences by insertion sort.