



















Sorting is ubiquitous

- In the classic book series *The Art of Computer Programming*, Donald Knuth devoted a whole volume (about 700 pages) to sorting and searching
- He claimed that about 70% of all CPU time is spent on these two activities

"Sorting" is a funny word for this concept!

- Not quite like normal English usage
- Is there a normal English usage?
- **From Knuth**:
 - He was **sort** of out of **sorts** from **sorting** that **sort** of data.
- Could "ordering" be a better word?
- Knuth again:
 - My boss ordered me to order [more memory] so that we could order our data several orders of magnitude faster
 - Actually in Knuth's (dated) statement, it was "tape drive" instead of "more memory"

Elementary Sorting Methods

- > Name several of them
- How does each work?
- Running time for each (sorting N items)?
 - best
 - worst
 - average
 - Extra space requirements
- Spend 10 minutes with a group of three, answering these questions. Then we will summarize







First of all...

- The problem of sorting N elements is at least as hard as determining their ordering
 - $\circ\,$ e.g., $\,$ determining that $a_3 < a_4 < a_1 < a_5 < a_2$
- So any lower bound on all "orderdetermination" algorithms is also a lower bound on "all sorting algorithms"

Sort Decision Trees

- Let A be any comparison-based algorithm for sorting an array of distinct elements
 - What do we mean by comparison-based?
- Note that sorting is asymptotically equivalent to determining the correct order of the originals. Because once we have determined the correct order, a linear algorithm will do the actual sorting
- For any given N, we can draw an EBT that corresponds to the comparisons that will be used by A to sort an array of N elements
 - [This is just an on-paper EBT. Not a data structure to implement]
 - Do it for three elements and selection sort
 - · Clearly, different algorithms will have different trees
- The worst-case number of comparisons for A is the _____ of the Sort Decision Tree