

# Sorting and Searching -- Introduction

- Two common programming tasks are sorting a items and searching for an item in a list
- Chapter 13 focuses on:
  - Selection Sort
  - Insertion Sort
  - A generic sort for objects
  - Linear Search
  - Binary Search
  - Hashing

# Sorting

- Sorting is the process of arranging a list particular order
- There must be some value on which the order
- There are many algorithms for sorting a list
- These algorithms vary in efficiency
- We will examine two specific algorithms: Selection Sort and Insertion Sort

## Selection Sort

- The approach of Selection Sort:
  - select one value and put it in its final place in
  - repeat for all other values
    -
- An expanded version:
  - scan the list to find the smallest value
  - put it in the first position
  - find the next smallest value
  - put it in the second position
  - repeat until all values are placed

# Selection Sort

- An example:

original:

3    9    6    1    2

smallest is 1:

1    9    6    3    2

smallest is 2:

1    2    6    3    9

smallest is 3:

1    2    3    6    9

smallest is 6:

1    2    3    6    9

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- See Selection\_Sort\_Test.java

## Insertion Sort

- The approach of Insertion Sort:
  - Pick any item and insert it into its proper place
  - repeat until all items have been inserted
  -
- An expanded version:
  - consider the first item to be a sorted sublist (of one item)
  - insert the second item into the sorted sublist, as necessary to make room to insert the new addition
  - insert the third item into the sorted sublist (of two items) as necessary
  - repeat until all values are inserted into their proper place
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# Insertion Sort

- An example:

original:     3    9    6    1    2

insert 9:     3    9    6    1    2

insert 6:     3    6    9    1    2

insert 1:     1    3    6    9    2

insert 2:     1    2    3    6    9

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- See `Insertion_Sort_Test.java`

## Comparing Sorts

- Both Selection and Insertion Sorts are similar in efficiency
- The both have outer loops that scan all elements in inner loops that compare the value of the element with almost all values in the list
- That is approximately  $n^2$  number of comparisons for a list of size  $n$
- We therefore say that these sorts are of order  $n^2$
- Other sorts are more efficient

## Sorting Objects

- Integers have an inherent order
- But the order of a set of objects must be defined
- person defining the class
- Recall that a Java interface can be used as a contract and guarantees that a particular class has particular methods
- We can use this to develop a generic sort for objects
- See `Object_Sort_Test.java`



## Searching

- The goal is to find a particular target value
- In an unsorted list, a ~~linear~~<sup>brute force</sup> technique is used
- Scan through the list one item at a time in order to find the target value
- See `Linear_Search_Test.java`
- If the list is sorted, not all items need to be checked
- As soon as you encounter a value greater than the target value, you know the target is not in the list

## Binary Search

- If the list is sorted, binary search is a fast way to find target value
- Strategy: examine the item in the middle of the list, eliminating half of the items from consideration
- The target value will either be found, or we will determine that it is not in the list
- Continue the process, examining the middle of the remaining section on each comparison
- See `Binary_Search_Test.java`

## Recursive Binary Search

- The binary search algorithm can be implemented recursively
- It has the same general strategy as the iterative version
- Each recursive call narrows the search segment
- See `Binary_Search_Test2.java`

## Hashing

- Hashing is another technique for storing array information
- A hash function produces ~~hash~~<sup>integer</sup> for any given item
- The hash code is scaled to a hash index size of the hash table
- The item is stored in hash table at the hash

## Hashing

- Collisions may occur, resulting in a list of particular index
- Therefore a small search may be necessary
- Because hashing is based on calculations, it is efficient
- Storing and searching involve the same amount of work