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Introduction to Computer Science
Lecture 04

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Sorting algorithms

- Iterative or recursive,
- Comparison-based or non-comparison based,
- Stable or not stable,
- In-place or requiring more memory

Why review sorting algorithms?

- Usefulness - it's much easier to work on sorted data.
- Sorting algorithms implement many approaches to solve problem.
- Lots of applications:
  - Detecting duplicates,
  - Counting frequency of symbols,
  - Finding subsets,
  - ...and colliding/joining them,
  - Faster searching

In a real world

- Different libraries use different sorting methods.
  - GNU Standard library uses 3 phases of sorting:
    - Quicksort or heapsort (depending is already sorted or not - so it's more like introsort!) with limited depth,
    - Final insertion sort pass.
  - Older C++ Libraries (like OW) could use in-place Merge sort.
    - More time, less memory used.
  - Qt C++ library uses merge sort with auxiliary buffer (O(n*log(n)).
  - Older Pascal implementations use Shell's sort algorithm - non-recursive, in-place, a bit slower than Quick sort.

- Conclusion: We already use different algorithms for different things.
  We will review a few of them.

Thing we already know...

- Can we use a BST to sort items?

  1. Insert items to BST
  2. Traverse the BST in order.

- PROBLEMS:
  - If a tree is not balanced, and we have a descending order of adding items, we will get a singly linked list instead → $O(n^2)$.
  - If we use self-balancing trees, we may enhance this to O(n log(n)).
  - We need O(n) of memory space for it.

Bubble sort

- We have a n-element unsorted/partially sorted array.
- The procedure:

For x [0..*n-1*]

1. Compare pair of numbers n and n+1
2. If out of order → swap them.

3. Reduce *n-1* by 1 and repeat.

- Notice how the biggest items „bubble” to the last positions of the array.

Bubble sort


Pass 1
31 12 16 39 15
12 31 16 39 15
12 16 31 39 15
12 16 31 39 15
12 16 31 15 39
Pass 2
12 16 31 15 39
12 16 31 15 39
12 16 31 15 39
12 16 15 31 39
Pass 3
12 16 15 31 39
12 16 15 31 39
12 15 16 31 39
Pass 4
12 15 16 31 39
12 15 16 31 39
12 15 16 31 39

Bubble sort

- Can be implemented using two nested loops.
  - The outer loop spins exactly *n* times.
  - The inner loop's iterations decrease by 1 with each iteration of the outer loop.

- The complexity is $O(n^2)$

Let's cheat a little

- Notice that the last pass was done without any swapping.
- If the set is sorter earlier, we will just fruitlessly and blindly compare the already sorted array.
- A good way to make things short is to **terminate the algorithm** when we see that the operation is completed.
- The test will look like this:
  - If during the inner loop iteration no swapping has been made → end the algorithm as the set is sorted.

- This will save some time.

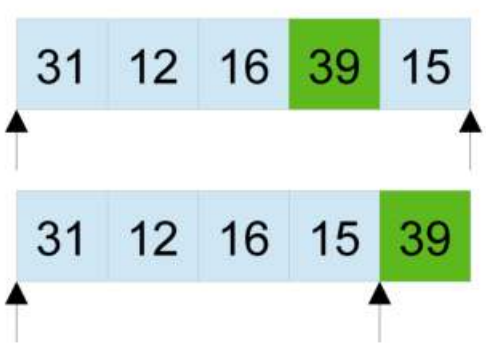
An altered version complexity

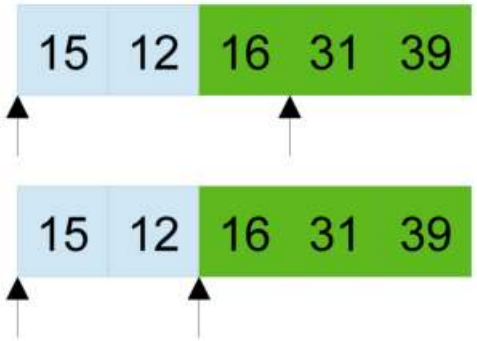
- Worst case is the array sorted backwards, our condition will not run and it will be still $O(n^2)$.
- Best case: A fully sorted array. Will end in a single pass - O(n).
- Practical application: We have to add the (small) performance impact of additional variable holding information was there any swapping or not.

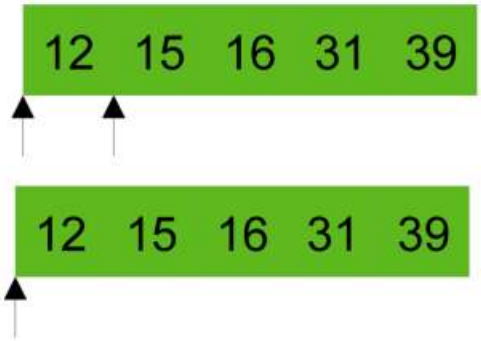
Selection Sort

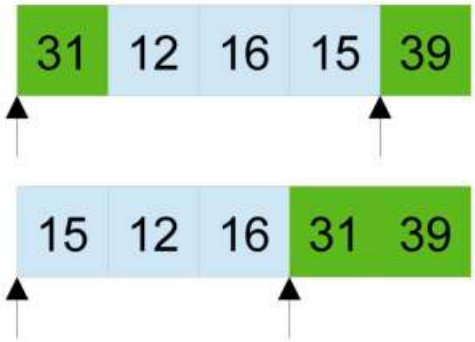
- Find the largest item in 0..n-element array.
- Swap the largest item with the n-th item
- It’s in a proper place, so n=n-1 and repeat.

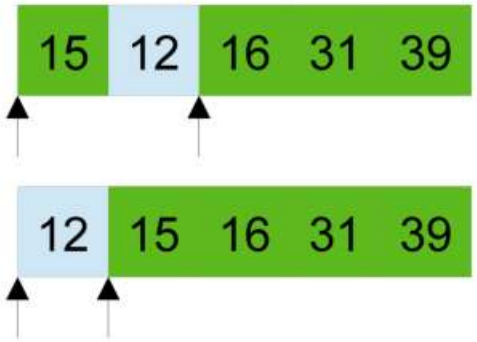
Selection sort











Selection sort

- The most important part is finding the index of the last item from the sub-array [0..n-x]
- The x is the iteration number then.

- So we still use two nested loops:
  - Outer: Thru a whole array.
  - Inner - Thru less and less elements in the array.
- So the complexity is still $O(n^2)$.

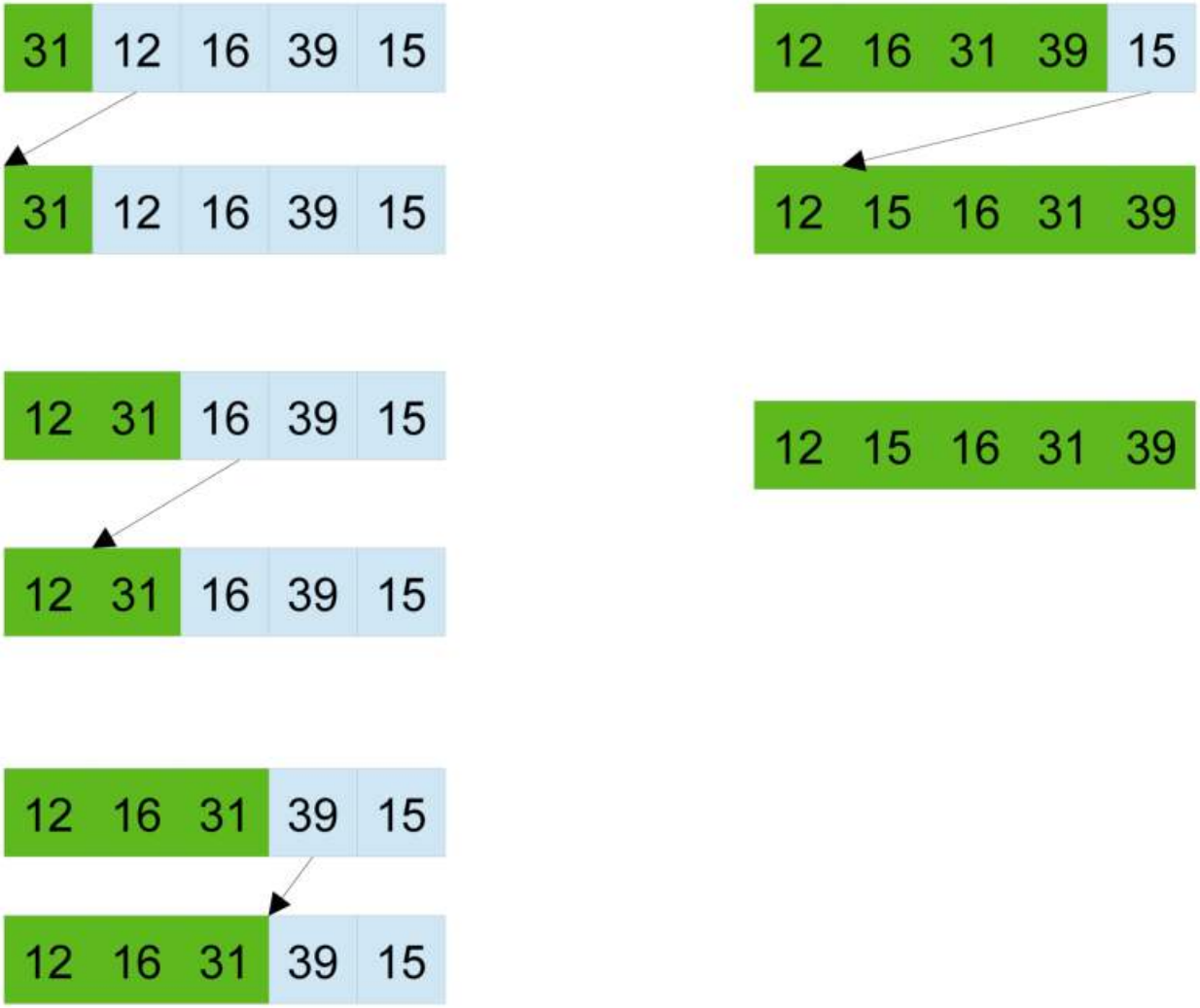
Implementation considerations

- If our „swap” is more resource-consuming (we’re not using pointers, we have to re-calculate something) the selection sort will significantly outperform bubble sort.
- ...but we cannot use the „cheating” we ued with bubble sort, so we won’t get O(n) in the best case.
- In practical applications, usually selection sort performs a bit better.

Insertion sort

- Start with a single item. It is always sorted.
- Take the next item
- Determine the position in the „sorted” set in which it has to be inserted into.
- Insert the item in its proper position in the „sorted” set.
- Repeat for all unsorted items.

Insertion sort



Insertion sort: Implementation

For every item of index *i* in the n-item array:

```
insertedItem = array[i] ← the item to be inserted.
j = i-1

while (j>0) and (array[j]>insertedItem)
    array[j+1] = array[j] ← shift sorted items to make space for a new one.
    j--

a[j+1]=insertedItem ← insert the item in the correct location.
```

Insertion sort: Complexity

- The outer loop always executes *n*-1 times.
- If the array is already sorted, the inner loop will execute once per item.
- In the worst case, insertion will always occur - the loop will execute always at its full range.

- So the best-case complexity is O(n), and the worst-case $O(n^2)$.

Sorting algorithms stability

- The sorting algorithm is stable when it does not change the relative order of two items with the same value.
- So, with bubble sort, if we swap only if items are in the wrong order, we get the **stable** algorithm. The same with insertion sort.

- Now, the selection sort is **not stable** - starting the largest item lookup from the beginning and inserting it to the end of the sorted set, it will **swap** the order of the largest items with the same value.

Merge sort

- Assume we know how to **merge** two sorted sets into one sorted set:
  - {2, 3, 10} and {5, 17} → {2, 3, 5, 10, 17}
- Can we use it to sort any set?

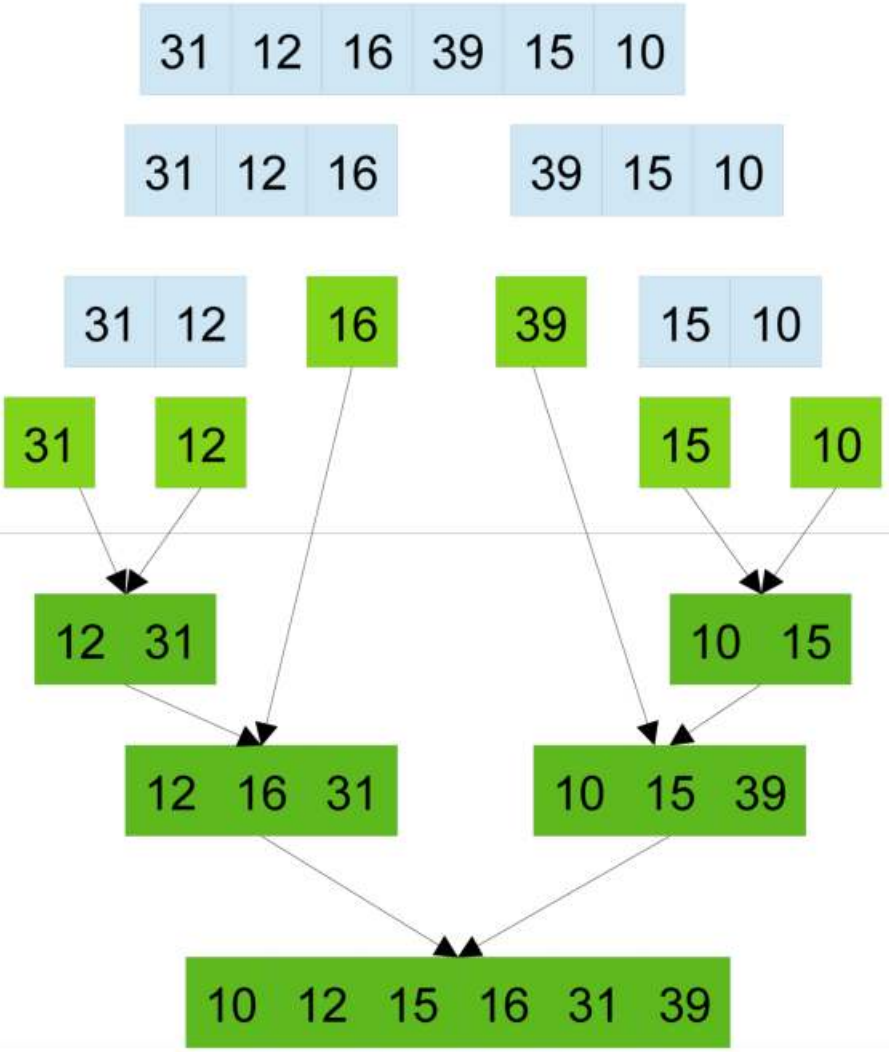
- We can divide sets as we want.
- A set of 1 item is always in order.
- Now we can **merge** 2 1-item sets.
  - Then we **merge** 2 2-item sets,
    - Then we merge 2 4-item sets,
      - Then we merge 2 8-item sets,
        - » ...
- Until we get a single sorted set.

Divide and conquer method

- First, we divide the problem to the smaller ones.
- Recursively solve the smaller problems.
- Combine the results of the solutions while coming back from the recursion to obtain solution for larger problem.

- So in the Merge sort:
    1. Divide the set to two (equal) halves.
    2. Recursively Merge sort two halves.
    3. Merge two halves of the sorted array.

Merge sort



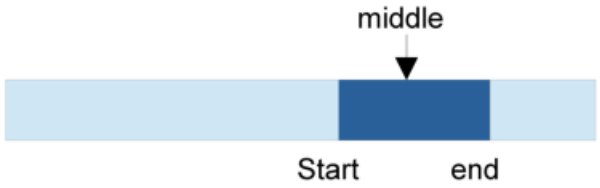
Divide phase
(split arrays)

Conquer phase
(merge arrays)

Merge - recursive function

```
MergeSort(array, start, end)
    if (start<end)
        middle=start+end/2
        MergeSort(array,start,middle)
        MergeSort(array,middle+1,end)

        Merge(array, start, middle, end)
```



Is there 0 or 1 item?

Merging implementation (1)

```
Merge(array, start, middle, end)
    n=end-start+1
    buffer= n-element array
    left=start
    right=middle+1
    index=0

    while(left<=middle and right<=end)
        if (array[left]<=array[right])
            buffer[index++]=array[left++];
        else
            buffer[index++]=array[right++];
```

This part inserts new items to the buffer, item by item, it choses left-hand or right-hand side to insert from.

Merging implementation (2)

```
while (left<=middle)
    buffer[index++]=array[left++]
while (right<=end)
    buffer[index++]=array[right++]

for every element with index i in buffer
    array[start+i]=buffer[i]
```

All which remains in source sets is copied to the buffer.

Finally, the buffer is copied to the respective place in the array

Complexity of Merge Sort

- Most of work is done in this Merge function.
- For a call of Merge(array, start, middle, end) we have:
  - start-end+1 items
  - At most *number of items*-1 comparisons
  - At most *Number of items* moves to the buffer
  - ...and the same number or moves back to the main array.
  - So at most it's 3* *number of items* - 1 → O(n).
- But we call it **many** times...

When the Merge is called?

- For the single array of *n* items, we don't call the function.
- When it's divided to 2 sets, we have a single call with *n/2* items in each half.
- When it's divided to 4 sets, we have 2 calls, $n/2^2$ items in each half (at most).
- When it's divided to 8 sets, 2^2 calls, $n/2^3$ items in each half.

- The total time complexity of the method is O(n log(n)).

Summing up

- This is considered an optimal comparison-based method.
- Can operate on large data, requiring the buffer.
- It can be proven, that it is stable.

- ...but it is quite problematic to implement at first (recursion!).
- ...and is not an **in-place** method → requires a non-constant size of extra storage.

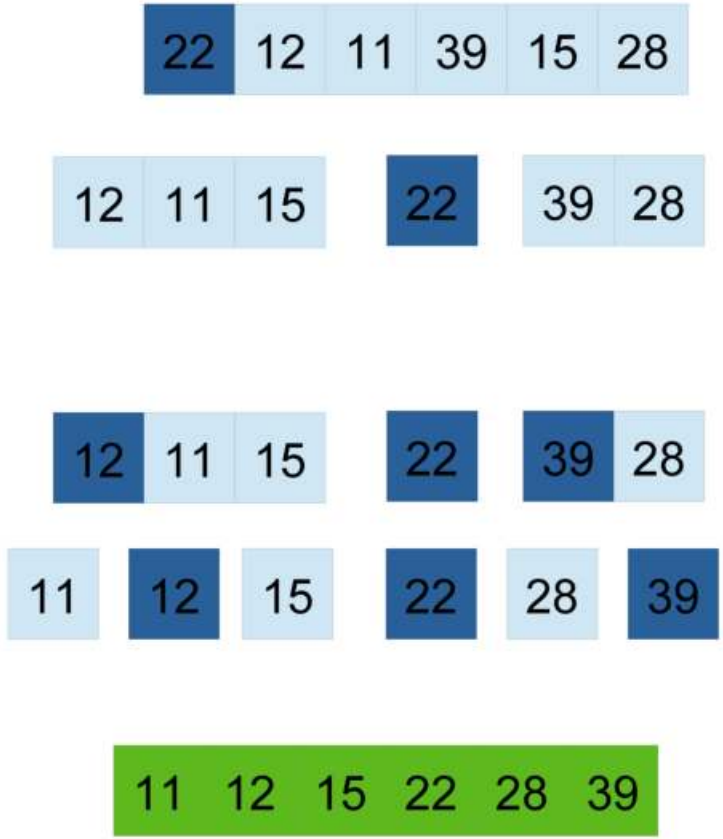
Quick Sort

- In the merge sort, we do most activities in the merge step.
- So in the „divide and conquer” methodology, we do most of activities after the problem has been divided to sub-problems.
- Is it possible to shift the sorting activity into the divide part?

Quick Sort

- Dividing:
  - Choose a specific item **p** known as **pivot**, and divide the set to two subsets:
    - Smaller than **p**,
    - Larger or equal than **p**.
  - Perform the same thing for every part
- ...and nothing left to do after the recursive division.

Quick Sort


22 12 11 39 15 28
12 11 15 22 39 28
12 11 15 22 39 28
11 12 15 22 28 39
11 12 15 22 28 39

Quick Sort

- Notice that the pivot, after executing the sorting round related to it, takes its final position in the given sub-set → it does not participate in further sorting and is in the proper position in this sub-set.

- So the implementation will be:

```
QuickSort(array, start, end)
    if (start<end)
        int pivotIndex = partition(array, start, end)
        QuickSort(array, start, pivotIndex-1)
        QuickSort(array, pivotIndex+1, end)
```

The partitioning function - the most simple implementation

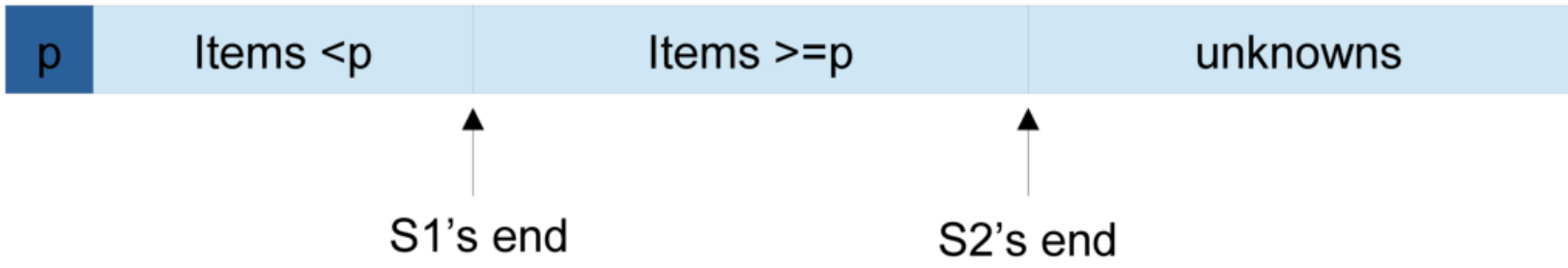
- Assume we will take the 0th item of the array to be partitioned.
- We define two sets (dynamic arrays for example)
  - S1 - in which items are < pivot's value.
  - S2 - in which items are >= pivot's value.
- Iteratively we compare all items against the pivot. If they are smaller, they got to S1, else → S2.
- Finally, we return the S1, pivot and S2.

Partitioning - can we optimize it?

- Instead of allocating the memory for two sets, we can **use the array we have.**
- The pivot is array[0] as usual.
- The next parts of the array can be:
  - The first set (S1): <pivot.
  - The second set (S2): >=pivot
  - The last set: Not checked yet.
- We iterate thru items starting from array[0].

Better partitioning approach

- We iterate on the array starting from pivot.
- If the item is >=p, we increment the pointer to the **S2 set**'s end**.**
- Else, we have to increment the S1's end pointer, but we have an item in ther S2's range…
  - …so let's just swap these items and extend S2's end pointer too.



The implementation

```
Partition(array, start, end)
    int pivot = array[start]
    int S1end=start
    int S2end=start+1;

    while (S2end<=end)
        if (array[S2end]<pivot) //extend S1
            S1end++
            swap(S2end, S1end)
        S2end++                 //we always proceed with S2

    swap(start, S1end) //correct pivot position
    return S1end //return new pivot position
```

Quick sort: Summary

- The algorithm is **not stable**, but **in-place**.
- The best result is obtained if the problem is always divided to two equal halves.
  - Then, depth of recursion is logarithmic,
  - The complexity is O(n log(n)).

- The worst case is when the pivot gets always separated → we get a full S1 and empty S2 or full S1 and empty S1.
  - Then, we get to $O(n^2)$
  - Notice this will happen is we try to sort the already sorted array!
  - It can be fixed with different pivot initialization.

Radix sort

- We have always used sorting algorithms for numbers.
- What if we want to sort strings?
  - Convert strings to ASCII numerals?
  - …?UTF-8 numerals? ← trouble!
- What if we want to develop a sorting method **specifically** for strings?

Radix sort

- We consider each record of data as a string of symbols.

- We group string into sets according to the next symbol in each string.
- Concatenate the sets for the next iteration
- Repeat until sorted.

- Assume we have a constant-length strings.
  - ...but if we stick to numerals, we can zero-pad.

A well aligned example from Halim S. - „World of Seven” - https://www.comp.nus.edu.sg/~stevenha/

Radix sort

- How do we group items?
  - We find the first item of the specified characteristics,
  - Move it to the specific set.
  - Go until the end of input data.
  - Repeat for each symbol (or group).

So:
i=1;
for every symbol in the record length:

```
group the items by i-th item.
concatenate groups
i++
```

Radix sort: Grouping and merging

- We can do grouping iteratively:

  Given i = the position we use for grouping.
  Create a set of vectors for every symbol.

  for every symbol in the array:
  add the symbol to the vector related to it.

- For the decimal numbers:

```
digit=0;
for every element of the array
    digit=(element/i) %10
    push(digitsList[digit], element)
```

Merging

- We can just copy the vectors to the array, symbol by symbol:

```
i=0
for every symbol in the alphabet
    while symbol's list not empty
                array[i]=pop(symbol's list)
                i++
```

Radix sort

- We can use any alphabet we want.
- For each iteration we go thru the whole array once to place them to groups, then we concatenate groups to the array.
- So the complexity is O(n).
- Number of iterations: number of symbols in the alphabet.
- So the complexity is O(dn).

- Not in-place, but stable.
- Requires more memory.

Heap sort

- A binary **heap** is a data structure which is a binary tree with the following limitations:
  - All its levels except the last one are completely filled (Shape property).
  - The value stored in each node is greater (or less - depending on implementation) than its children.

- Thanks to shape property, we can **serialize** a BST into the linear array and retrieve it back without any pointers.
- Because it’s not a BST, we can shift elements down without any side effects.

Heap sort

- If we are able to build a heap of the data, we can do the following:

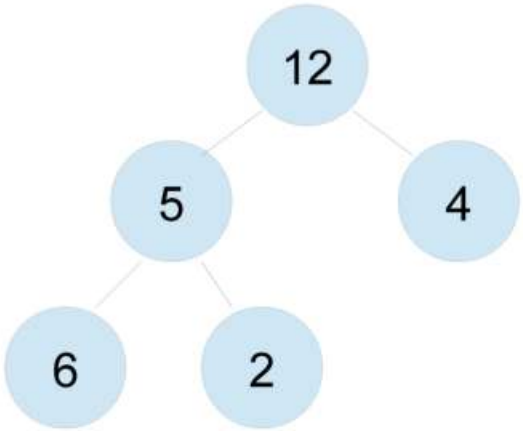
  1. Remove the topmost part of the heap (maximum) and append it to the sorted list part.
  2. Re-create the heap.

- Because the n-element heap is serialized in the array, we can do the step 1 by moving the maximum to the place right after the end of the heap in the same array - the „heap” part will shrink, the „sorted” part will grow then.

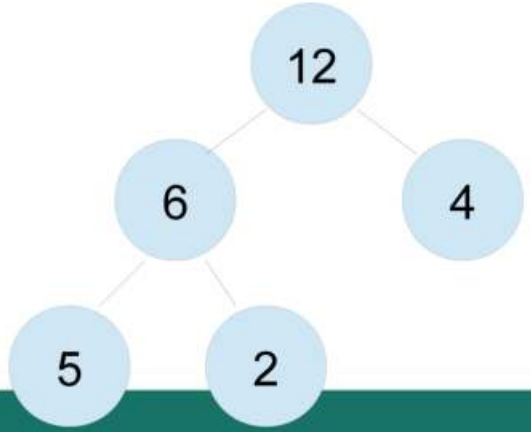
Heap sort

- [5,12,4,6,2]
  - Not a heap

- As 5<12, we swap them

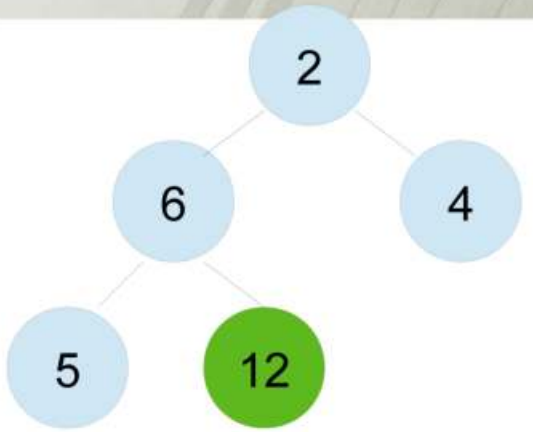


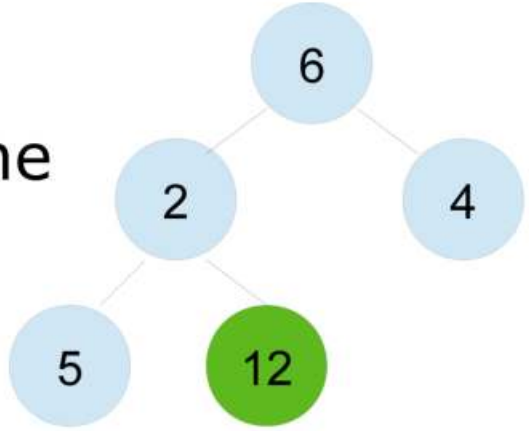
- And as 5<6, we swap 5 with 6.
- We have a heap property.

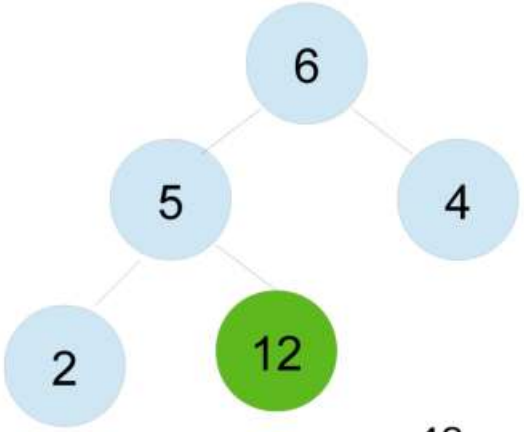


Heap sort

- Remove the root - this is sorted
- We do it by swapping it with the last node and trimming it off from further processing.
-
- Then, we re-create the heap:
  - Swap 6-2
  - Swap 5-6

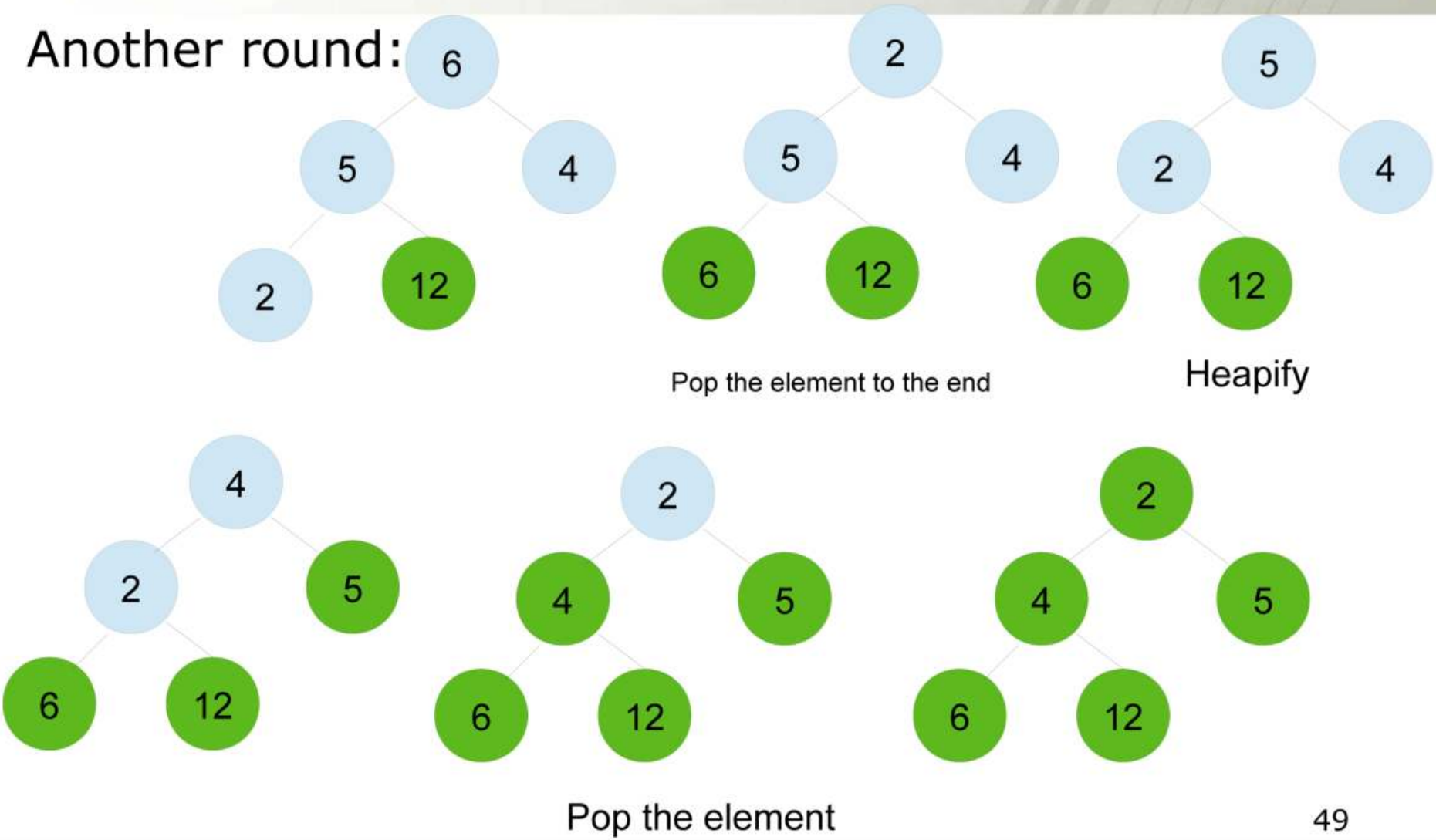






Heap sort

- Another round:



Heap sort: Typical Implementation

```
HeapSort(array, count)
        start=count/2
        end=count
        while (end>1)
                if (start>0)
                        start--
                else
                        end--
                        swap(array[end],array[0])

                //Moving the smaller elements down
                root=start
                while (2*root+1)<end
                        leaf=2*root+1
                        if (leaf+1<end and a[leaf]<a[leaf+1]
                                leaf++
                        if (a[root]<a[leaf])
                                swap(a[root],a[leaf])
                                root=leaf
                        else
                                break
```

Select the largest item and put it to the end

Restore heap properties.

Heap sort

- Complexity (worst case): O(n log(n))
- Not a stable sort
- In-place algorithm

- In many practical cases a bit slower than Quick sort.

Hybrid algorithms

- How can we get rid of $O(n^2)$ complexity in badly formed input data?
  - Use a different algorithm, not so suitable for other alignments of data…
- Introspective sort variant:
  - If the number of data is relatively small, go with InsertionSort.
  - If the recursion depth of Quick sort is acceptable we can go with Quick sort.
    - ...but we can just partition the array in 2 and go Intro Sort on them.
  - Else, we go with Heap sort.

Estimating the depth of recursion

- Usually $2*\log_2 n$.
- This will „lock” the complexity to O(n log(n)).

- The total complexity of Intro sort will be then O(n log(n))
- ...however, it is not stable.
- ...and more difficult to implement.

A small interruption

- Stack machines
  - A CPU that does not use registers, but (usually one) stack.
  - Execution of operation means:
    - Fetching operation code from the stack,
    - Fetching operands from the stack,
    - Pushing the result to the stack.
    - With 2-operand command, stack is shorter by 1 value or 2 items: instruction and value.

Stack mahines

- Implementations:
  - Separate stack and conventional instructions storage (Symbolics, 1970s).
  - Single stack including instructions and operands (Ferranti, 1965-70s).
  - Multiple stacks, switchable and shortable (Syeika, 1970s, Multiklet project).

- Because it is quite difficult to program these CPUs and typical programming languages compilers don’t generate such code efficiently, they never got popularity.
  - In 1970s, Symbolics LISP-programmable machines were implemented as stack CPUs.

Sorting using stacks

- Having a set of stacks it is possible to implement a sorting algorithm similar to insertion sort.
- It can be implemented using conventional programming techniques, but also with a stack-based processors.
- The „register-as-stack” architecture allow to obtain a very high performance in the implementation.

Sorting using stacks

- Rules:
  - No access different than stack-based,
  - No registers, only stacks,
  - The only moving-related operations are push and pop. Popped value must be pushed somewhere.
  - We can compare top values from various stacks without popping.

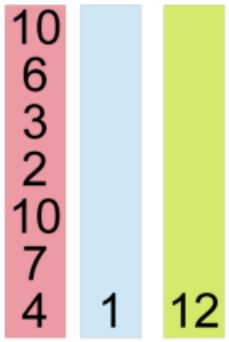
- Given:
  - Input, unsorted data stack
  - Two working stacks: Left and right.
  - Minimum and maximum element value.

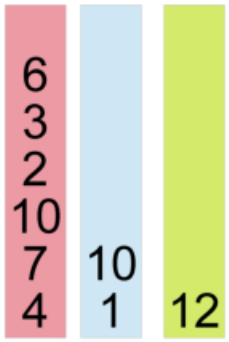
Sorting using stacks

- Initialization:
  - Push the minimum to the left stack,
  - Push the maximum to the right stack.

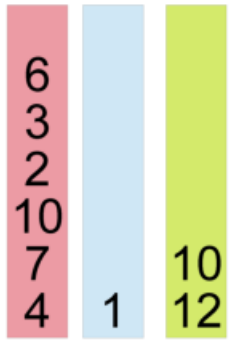
- Operation:
  - Pop the value from input stack to the left stack.
  - Until top of left stack is not larger than top of input stack:
    - Pop the left stack to the right stack.
  - Until top of the right stack is not smaller than top of input stask:
    - Pop the right stack to the left stack.

Example

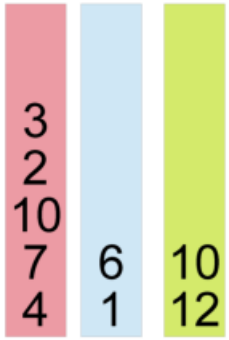




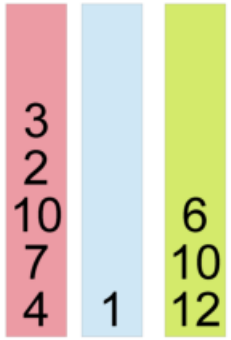
Pop input→ left



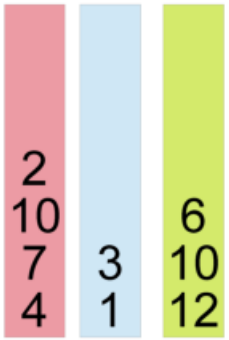
Left>in so L→ R



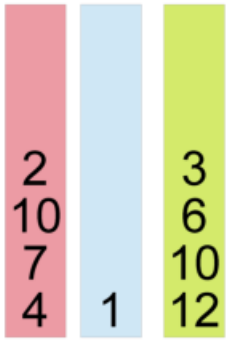
Pop input->left



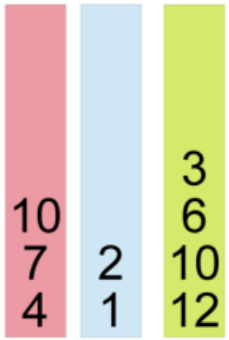
Left>in, so L→R



Pop input->left.



Left>in, so L→R

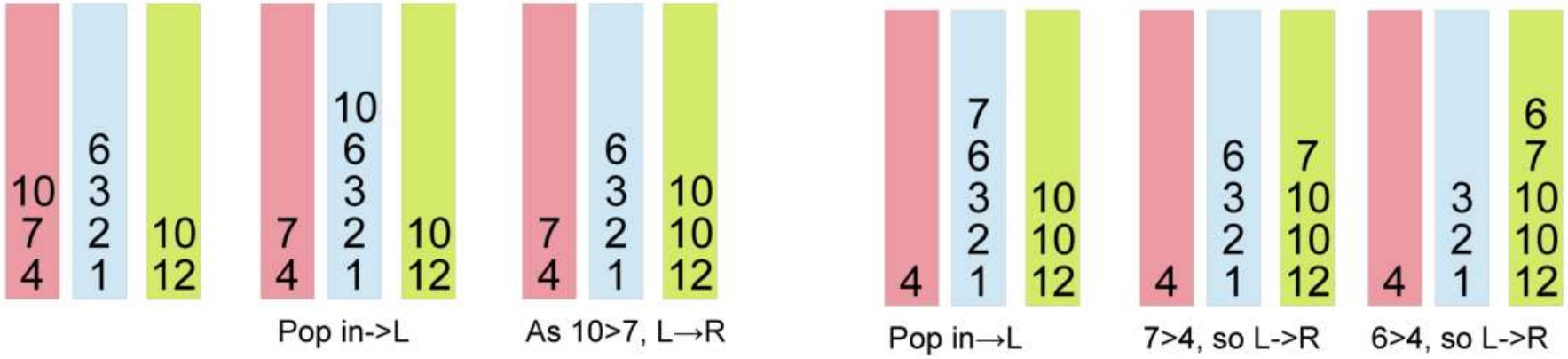


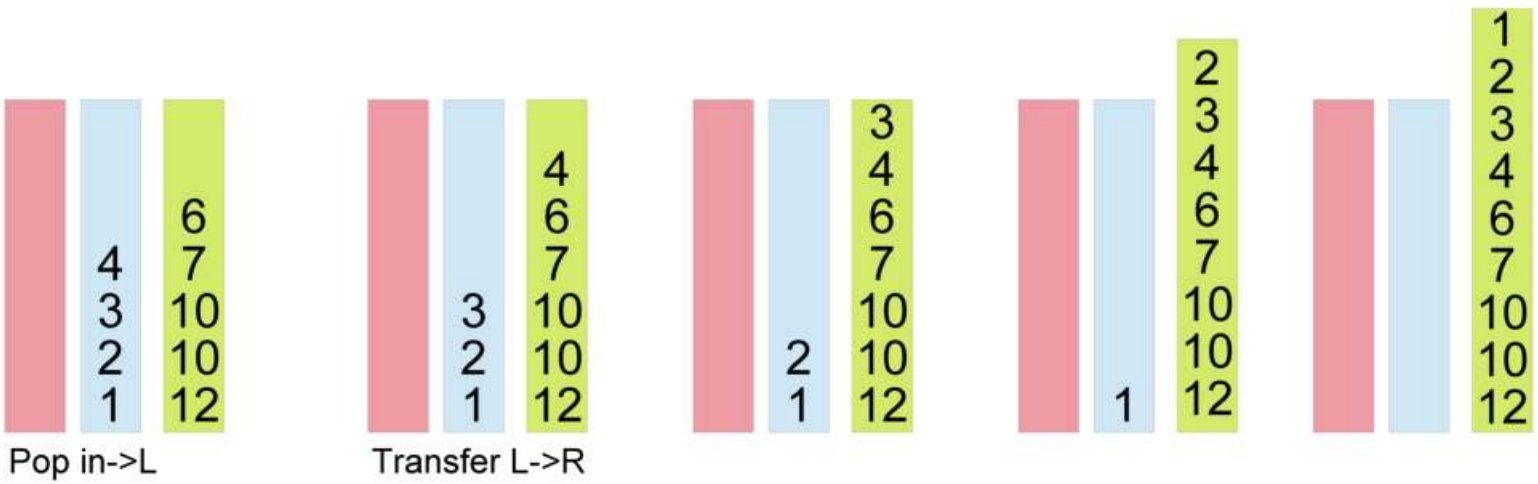
Pop input->left

Left<in, so R->L

Left<in, so R→L
10!>10, so we don't pop anymore.

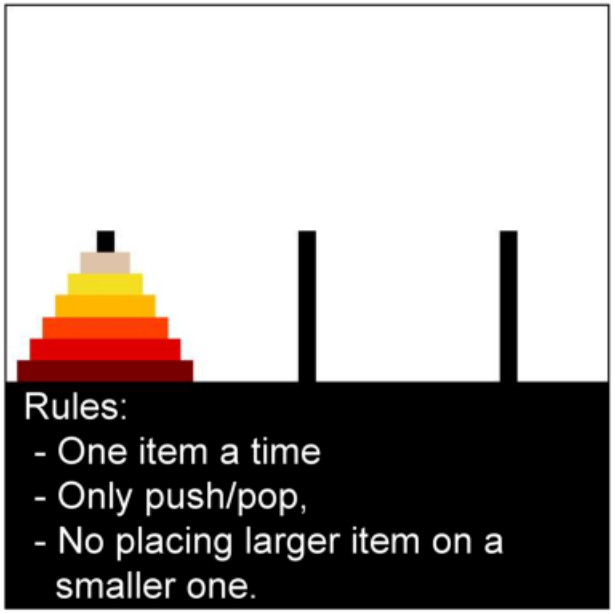
Example (2)


10 7 4
6 3 2 1
10 12
7 4
10 6 3 2 1
10 12
Pop in->L
7 4
6 3 2 1
10 10 12
As 10>7, L→R
4
7 6 3 2 1
10 10 12
Pop in→L
4
6 3 2 1
7 10 10 12
7>4, so L->R
4
3 2 1
6 7 10 10 12
6>4, so L->R


4 3 2 1
6 7 10 10 12
Pop in->L
3 2 1
4 6 7 10 10 12
Transfer L->R
2 1
3 4 6 7 10 10 12
1
2 3 4 6 7 10 10 12
1 2 3 4 6 7 10 10 12

Summing up

- This looks like an insertion sort.
- Insertion sort can be implemented on stack-like data structures.
- This has a terrible complexity.
  - If you'll try to solve Hanoi towers problem with this approach, it will be worse (exponential $O(2^n)$).
  - ...but what is we cheat a little and **swap stack parts? ;-)**



- → With specific stack machine architectures, it is possible to make it more efficient!

Mass-solving linear equations

- Any discretized set of differential equations can be described as a system of linear equations.
- The problem is that number of these linear equations may be VERY large.

- Is it possible to solve these equations with a computer?

Linear equations system

- A set of linear equations like:

$$\begin{cases} Ax_1+Bx_2+Cx_3+Dx_4=U \\ Ex_1+Fx_2+Gx_3+Hx_4=V \\ Ix_1+Jx_2+Kx_3+Lx_4=W \\ Mx_1+Nx_2+Ox_3+Px_4=X \end{cases}$$

- Can be described using matrix equation:

$$\begin{bmatrix} A & B & C & D \\ E & F & G & H \\ I & J & K & L \\ M & N & O & P \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} U \\ V \\ W \\ X \end{bmatrix}$$

- Sometimes described as:

$$\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{B}$$

Gauss method

- Allows to obtain solution of such equations system.

- Inspired by the method of solving these systems by eliminating unknowns until we get some x_x=Y, a single unknonwn solved.
  - It can be used to obtain the next equation's unknown,
  - And then, using two solutions, another one…
  - Going this way, we can obtain all unknowns.

Elimination

- If we get a $A \times X = B$ matrix equations (in which X and B are vectors), we can write A|B matrix:

$$\begin{array}{cccccc} a_{1,1} & a_{1,2} & a_{1,3} & \ldots & a_{1,n} & b_1 \\ a_{2,1} & a_{2,2} & a_{2,3} & \ldots & a_{2,n} & b_2 \\ a_{3,1} & a_{3,2} & a_{3,3} & \ldots & a_{3,n} & b_3 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ldots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ldots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ldots & \vdots & \vdots \\ a_{n,1} & a_{n,2} & a_{n,3} & \ldots & a_{n,n} & b_n \end{array}$$

Elimination (2)

- Next, we convert all elements under $a_{1,1}$ to 0.
- Then all elements under $a_{2,2}$,
- Then, $a_{3,3}$ etc.

  (the first row remains the same)
- So we can use a single solution to expand it to the rest.

Elimination (3)

- Elimination of column 2 (so only $a_{1,1}$ remains):
  - For all elements of the row *i* (2..n) we add the next elements of the row 1 multiplied by $-1*(a_{i,1}/a_{1,1})$.
  - Notice that for $a_{2,1}$, we will get:
    - $a_{2,1}-(a_{2,1}/a_{1,1})*a_{1,1} = a_{2,1}-a_{2,1} = \mathbf{0}$
    - ...and that's what we want!
  - For a2,2 we will get: $a_{2,2}-(a_{2,1}/a_{1,1})*a_{1,2}$
  - For a2,n we will get: $a_{2,n}-(a_{2,1}/a_{1,1})*a_{1,n}$
  - For b column: $b_2-(a_{2,1}/a_{1,1})b_1$

Elimination

- We process it until we will get the matrix **triangular**:

$$\begin{matrix} a_{1,1} & a_{1,2} & a_{1,3} & \dots & a_{1,n} & b_1 \\ 0 & a'_{2,2} & a'_{2,3} & \dots & a'_{2,n} & b'_2 \\ 0 & 0 & a'_{3,3} & \dots & a'_{3,n} & b'_3 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & a'_{n,n} & b'_n \end{matrix}$$

Unpack it back

- We will then unpack the matrix to something that looks more like an equation system:

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{1,1} & a_{1,2} & a_{1,3} & \dots & a_{1,n} \\ 0 & a'_{2,2} & a'_{2,3} & \dots & a'_{2,n} \\ 0 & 0 & a'_{3,3} & \dots & a'_{3,n} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & a'_{4,n} \\ \vdots & & & & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & a'_{n,n} \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \\ \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b'_2 \\ b'_3 \\ b'_4 \\ \\ b'_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Find the unknowns

- Formula for the unknown x_i:

  For $i=n-1, n-2, \ldots 1$:

  $$x_i = (b'_i - a'_{i,n}x_n - \ldots a'_{1,i+1}x_{i+1})/a'_{i,i}$$

- So:

  $$x_n = b'_n/a'_{n,n}$$

- Knowing that subsequent ‘-operations are recursive, it can be implemented recursively.

Pseudocode

Stage 1: Gaussian elimination

```
For i=1,2,...n-1
    For j=1,2,...n
        If AB[i,i]==0
              return 2        //Error! We are going to divide by 0!
        multiplier = AB[j,i]/AB[i,i]
        For k=i+1..n+1
              AB[j,k]=B[j,k]+multiplier*AB[i,k]
```

WARNING!
==0 is assumed to have some tolerance!

Pseudocode

Stage 2: Obtaining unknown values

```
For i=n, n-1, n-2 … 1
    s=AB[i, n+1]
    For j=n, n-1, n-2 … i+1
        s=s-AB[i,j]*x[j]
    if AB[i,i]==0
        return 2      //ERROR - we are going to divide by 0
    X[i]=s/AB[i,i]
```

- Unknowns are stored in X vector

Crout's enhancement

- Presence of any 0 in the dagonal of the matrix, or introduction of such 0, will cause the algorithm to divide by 0.

- Because A+B==B+A, we can swap columns in the array as we wish.
- Implementation of column swap can be done just using pointer swap.
- Can we swap columns to not get zeros in the diagonal, or better, get them in part we want?

- Wa search for the element with biggest absolute value.
- Now, we swap columns: Column with this element with column with the part of the diagonal.
- It can minimize the division by zero errors.

- Instead of pointers, a **lookup table** can be used.

Even better version

- In practical applications, frequently we have this $A \times x = b$ problem with various b values for the same, or similar, A values.
  - Like the same discretized continuous problems, for the same equations, for different points in the medium.
- We can save the eliminated A-values and use them again.
  - ...but there is a b-vector involved - the decomposition must be different.

A = LU

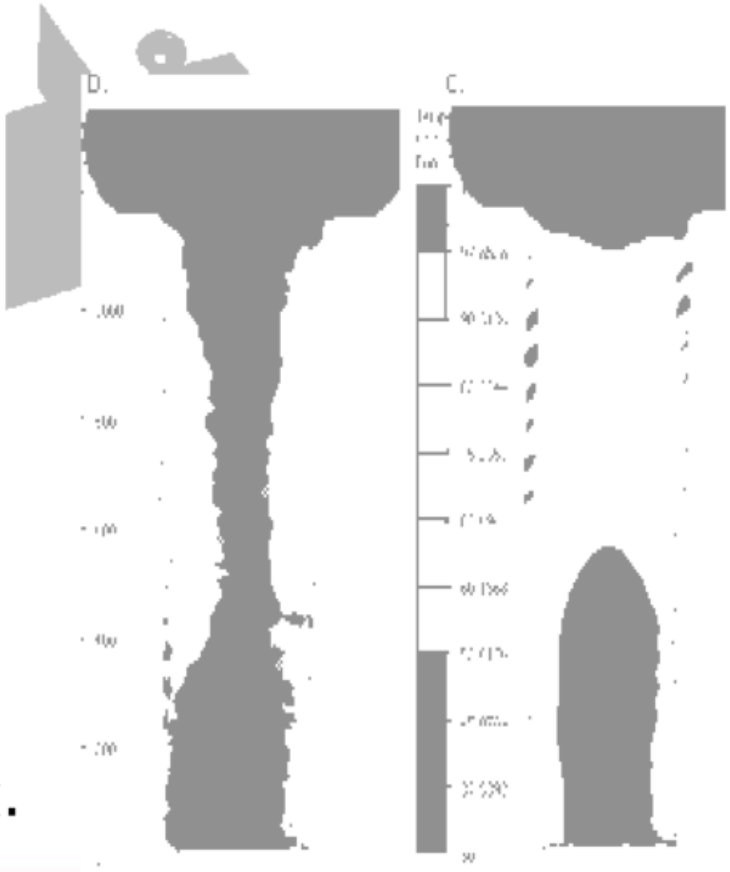
- We describe the converted A matrix as a matrix product of upper and lower triangular matrices:

$$A=LU$$

- Once we decompose A to LU, we can save them and substitute with any values of B we want.
- The complexity remains as in Gaussian elimination.

Why do we need this?

- A lot of physical, mechanical, structural problems can be converted into a linear equations system.
- There are even more efficient methods to do this.
- If we discretize the continuous media and interpolate in between, we can solve non-linear problems using linear equations!



- ...however, the typical method for an e.g. computer simulations has millions of columns and rows.
  - ...fortunately it is a sparse matrix.

Graph algorithms

- A **graph** is a data structure which consists of **vertices** and **edges** linking them.
- Both vertices and egdes may hold additional information.
- The g**raph order** is a number of vertices in the graph.
- The **graph size** is a number of edges in graph.
- A **null graph** consists vertices, but no edges.

- Graphs are used in discrete mathematics, geometry/topology, and, in application, in engineering.

Properties of graph elements

- Graph may allow a **multi-edge** connection, it means that two vertices may be connected by more than one relation.
- A **loop** is a connection to itself.

- The edge may be **uni- or bidirectional.**
- The graph is **planar** if we can daw it without crossing the edges.
  - Finding planar graph of an existing graph is an important problem in design software algorithms.

Properties of graph elements

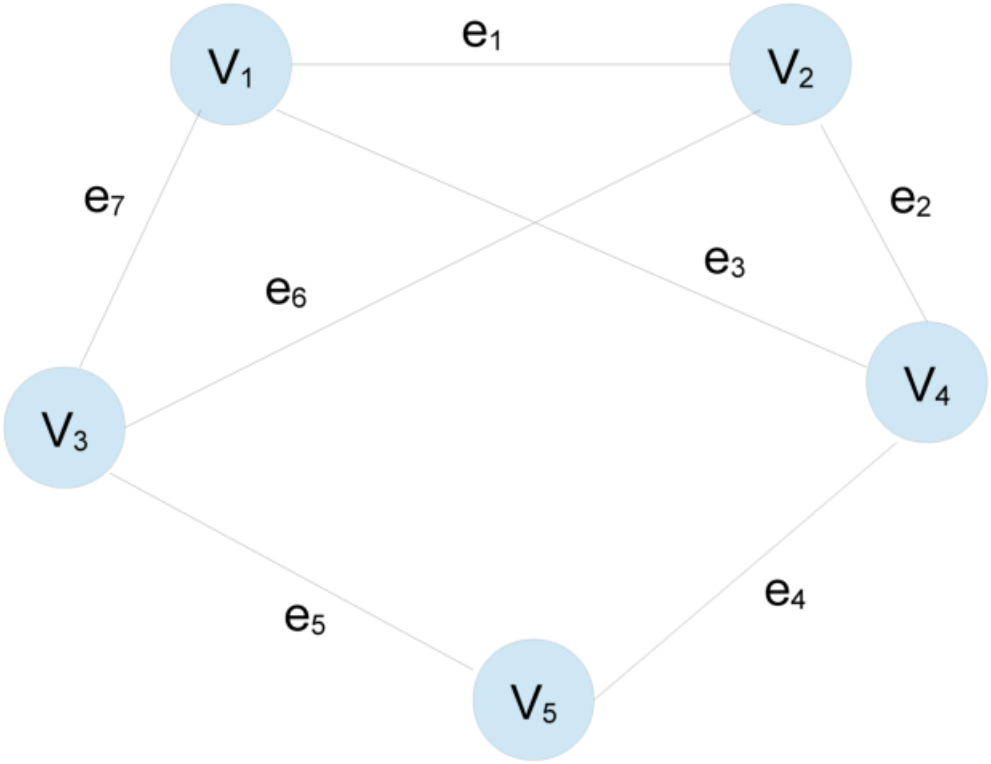
- Graph's edges may have their values, called **weights**.
- A **path** is a series of vertex traversals from one vertex to another, usually thru other vertices.
  - Finding the shortest path is an important problem in function optimization and logistics.
- A **simple graph** has no multi-edges or loops.

Paths and cycles

- A **Hamiltonian path** is a path which goes thru all vertices of the graph.
- A **Hamiltionian cycle** is similarly, a closed path. **The simple cycle must cross each vertex only once**. Some edges may not be used.

- An **Eulerian path** goes thru all edges.
- In the **Eulerian cycle** the path must be closed.

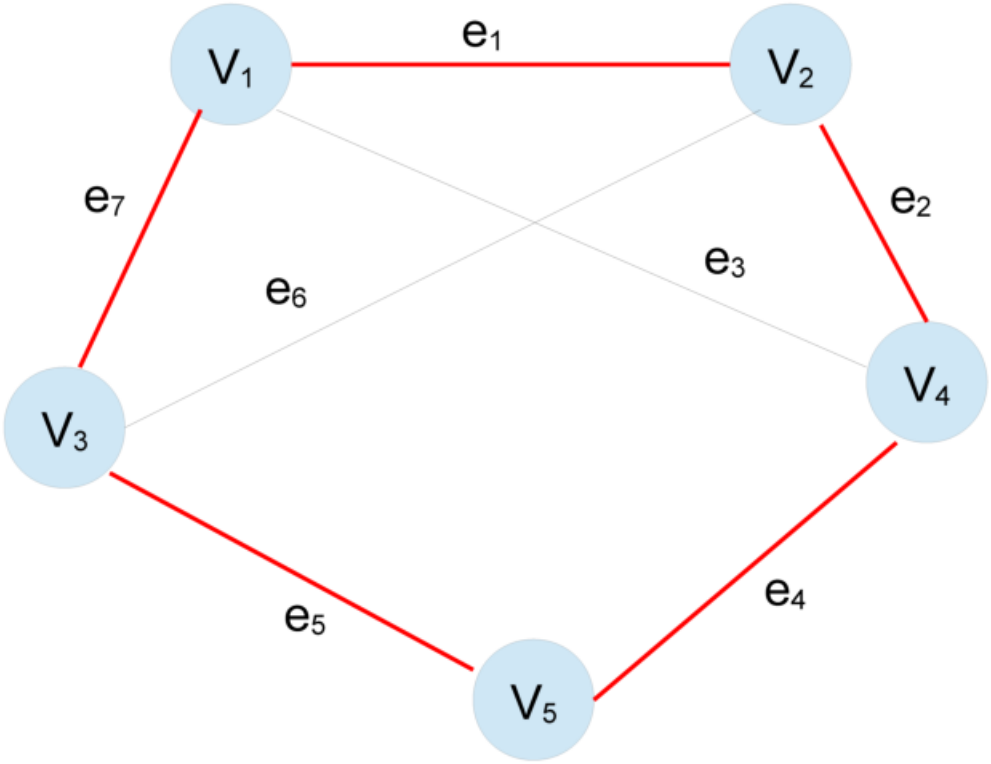
Graph example



A **non-directed, simple** but **non-planar** graph.

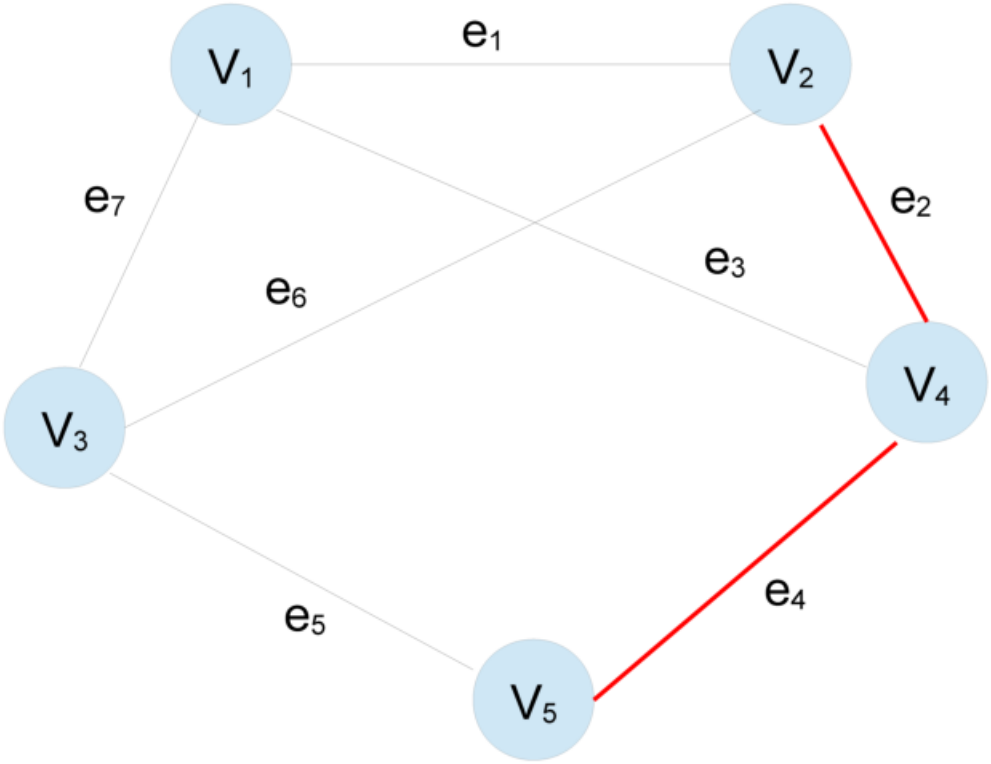
Not a **complete** graph as V_5 is not directly connected to e.g. V_1 or V_2.

Graph example



A Hamilton cycle

Graph example



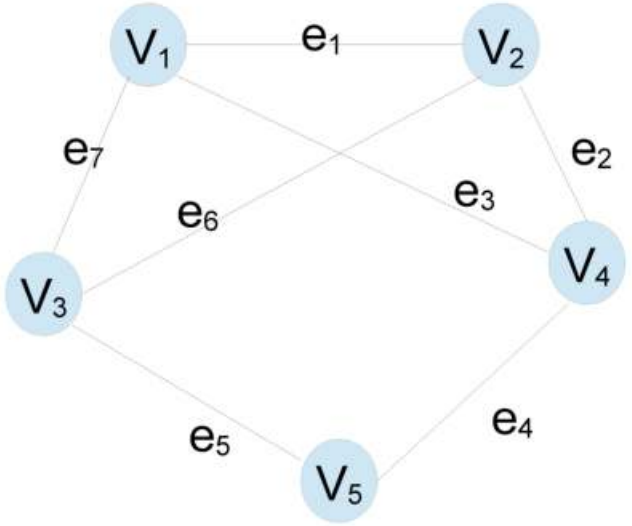
A V_5 to V_2 **path**.

How graph can be stored?

- Structures and pointers
  - PROBLEM: If we may have any munber of edges from a vertex, we need dynamic data structure to hold pointers.
  - PROBLEM: Lack of general overview of the graph.
  - PROBLEM: Algorithms which look for specific vertex will have to traverse it almost blindly.

Better way to store graphs?

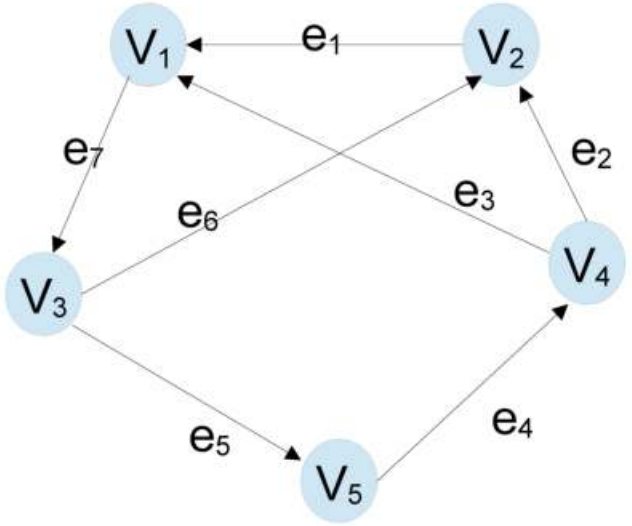
- Adjacency matrix:
  - For **n** vertices we create **nxn matrix** of binary values.
  - 1 if there is a connection between column- and row-related element.
  - We can store **directed** and non-directed graphs.



	V_1	V_2	V_3	V_4	V_5
V_1	0	1	1	1	0
V_2	1	0	1	1	0
V_3	1	1	0	0	1
V_4	1	1	0	0	1
V_5	0	0	1	1	0

Better way to store graphs?

- Adjacency matrix and directed graphs:
  - Rows contain starting points
  - Columns: End of edge.



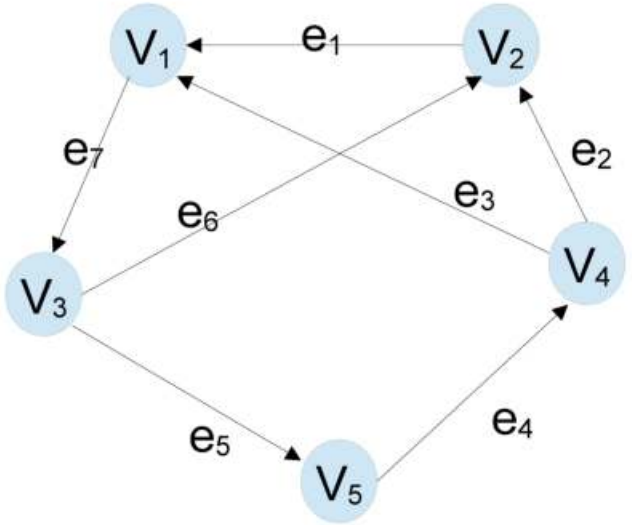
	V_1	V_2	V_3	V_4	V_5
V_1	0	0	1	0	0
V_2	1	0	0	0	0
V_3	0	1	0	0	1
V_4	1	1	0	0	0
V_5	0	0	0	1	0

Using the adjacency matrix

- A degree of the vertex, for a non-directed graph, is a count of 1s in the column or row related to this vertex.
- For a directed graph, we obtain, by counting in columns or rows, degree of „inputs” or „outputs” of the vertex.
- In a directed graph, if [x,y]==[y,x]==1, then these two vertices have two links (or one bi-directional, if we allow it).

Incidence matrix

- Each row is a vertex,
- Each column is an edge,
- Each value is a relation:
  - 0, if there is no relation between vertex and edge,
  - 1 if a vertex is a start of the edge,
  - -1 if a vertex is the end of the edge.



	e_1	e_2	e_3	e_4	e_5	e_6	e_7
V_1	-1	0	-1	0	0	0	1
V_2	1	-1	0	0	0	-1	0
V_3	0	0	0	0	1	1	-1
V_4	0	1	1	-1	0	0	0
V_5	0	0	0	1	-1	0	0

Properties of incidence matrix

- Much easier to add weights than in neighbourhood matrix.
- Each column must have one -1 and one 1 (integrity check).
- Number of 1s and -1s in rows → number of edges in and out.
- Finding neighbours is harder as we have to seek thru an entire row.
- All zeros in a row → insulated vertex.

	e_1	e_2	e_3	e_4	e_5	e_6	e_7
V_1	-1	0	-1	0	0	0	1
V_2	1	-1	0	0	0	-1	0
V_3	0	0	0	0	1	1	-1
V_4	0	1	1	-1	0	0	0
V_5	0	0	0	1	-1	0	0

Traversing the graph

- We traverse the graph to visit **every vertex**.
  - If the graph is currently a read-only data structure, we use traversal to obtain information from the graph.
  - If we want to modify the graph, traversal may be performed to find an optimal point to insert node or to modify graph's contents.
- Graph traversal can be **depth first** or **breadth first.**
- We can **mark** vertices which are already checked.
  - In cyclic graphs this is definitely needed!

- We start the traversal from a chosen vertex called **root**. The root can be **anywhere** in the graph and it's our choice where to start.

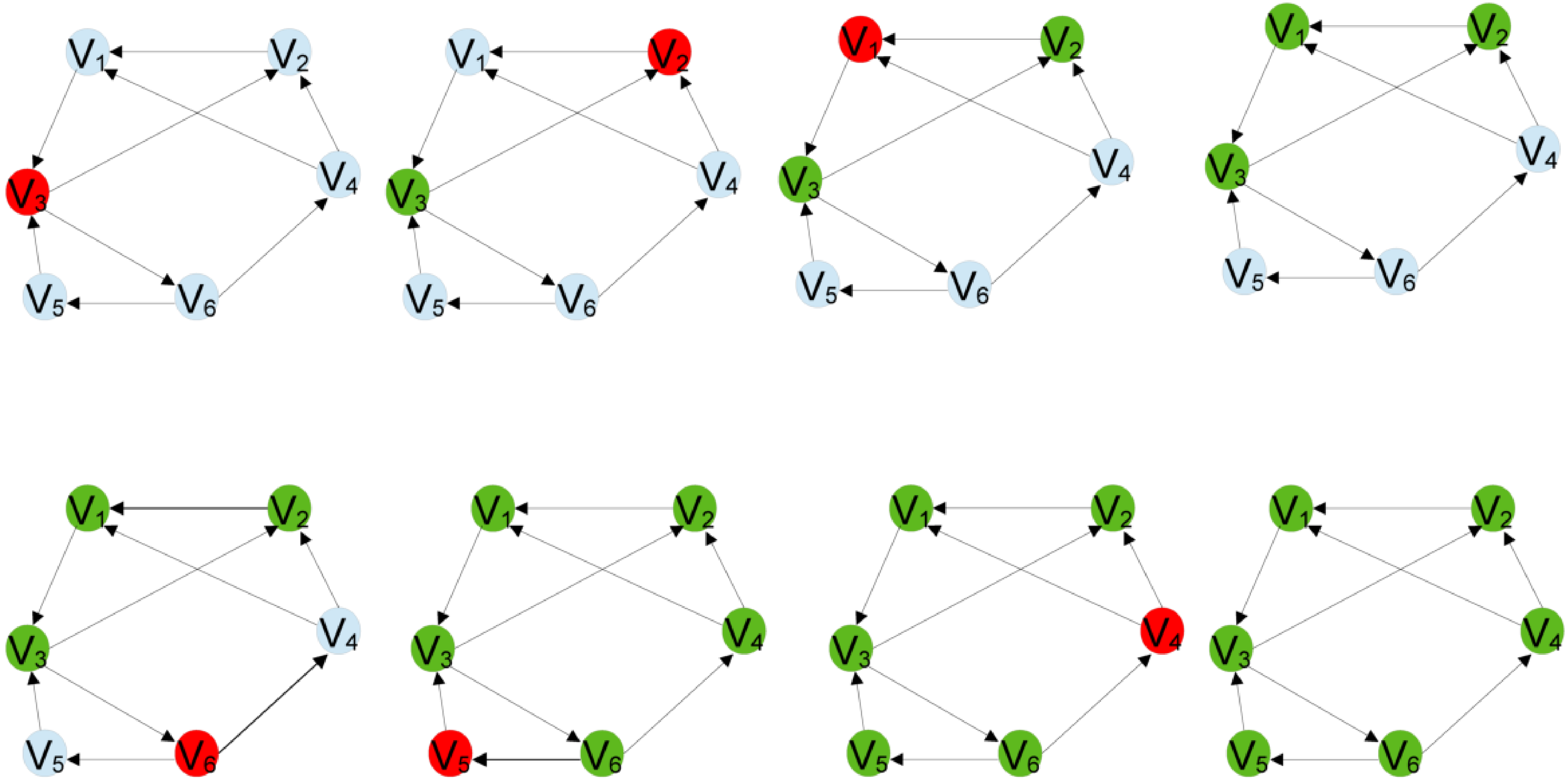
Depth-first

- We traverse the graph the same way as we traversed a binary tree.
- When we were doing an in-order traversal of a BST, we preferred the left-hand pointer, then, we „visited” the root, then the right-hand.
- In graphs, we don’t have such bias, and we may have more, or less than 2 pointers from the node.
- Initial conditions:
  - Specified a „root” vertex.
  - All vertices are „not visited”.

Depth-first - the recursive algorithm

1. Current vertex is root.
2. Mark the root as visited.
3. For every connected vertex:
   If the vertex is not visited yet:
   Traverse the vertex
4. End.

Depth-first search



Implementation using incidence matrix

1. Set given vertex ***v*** as visited
2. For each edge **i**:
   if A[v][i]!=1
      continue loop
   For each vertex **j**
      if A[j][i]!=-1
         continue loop
      if **j** is not visited
         DFS(j)
3. Return.

Search for edges which start from vertex **v**

Find vertex pointed with edge **i**.

Implementation using adjacency matrix

Given is the node **v**.

1. Mark **v** as visited
2. For each **i** of the A[v][…]
   if A[v][i]==1 and ***i*** is not visited
   DFS(i)

What can we do with it?

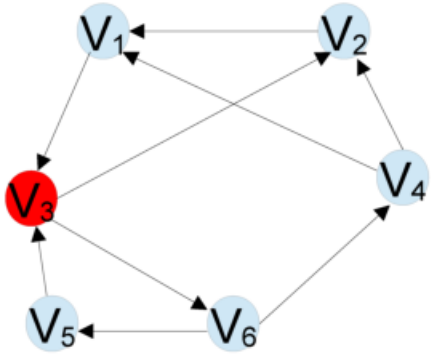
- Detect cycles and loops in the graph.
- Accumulate the traversed path in an external data structure and halt the algorithm at a specified vertex → get the path between specific vertices.

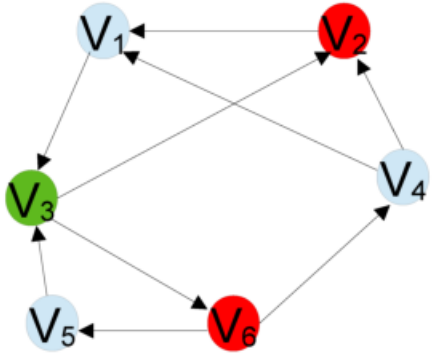
- Crawl the graphs like hyperlinks in the web services.
  - Traditionally, it is done breadth-first, like all inks from one page, then links from subpages, etc.
  - If we don’t want to overload the server, depth-first search will cause more chances to spread traffic between servers.

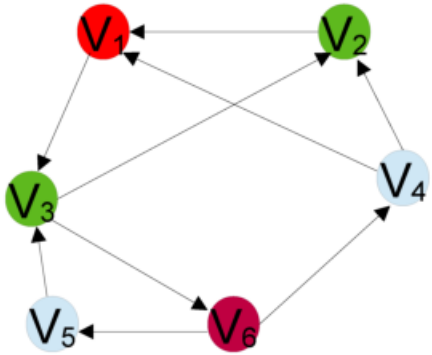
Breadth-first search

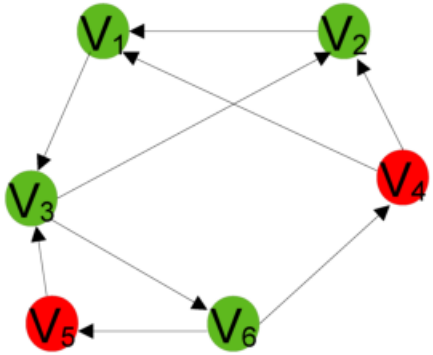
- We traverse the graph visiting all neighbouring vertices first.
- If we have cycles in the graph, we must note which vertices are visited.
- We have to **enqueue** items to visit some way to keep track of what is visited and what is to visit.

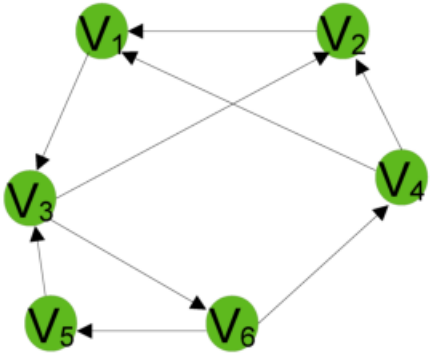
Breadth-first search











Breadth-first search

1. Enqueue the given starting vertex.
2. Set the starting vertex as visited.
3. Until the queue is not empty:
   Dequeue vertex **v** for processing.
   For every neightbour **x** of vertex **v**
      if **x** is visited
         continue the loop
      Enqueue **x.**
      Set **x** as visited.

...for the adjacency matrix

- After dequeuing vertex **x** from the queue:

  For i=0..number of vertices

  if A[**x**][i]==0 or **i** is visited

  continue

  Enqueue the vertex **i**

  Mark **i** as visited.

Applications

- Find the path using the most naive way.
- Web crawling,
- Finding the spanning tree.
- Find all neighbours in computer networks.

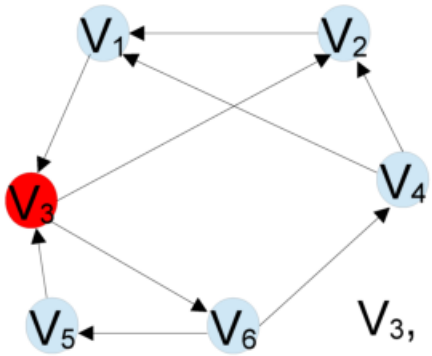
Finding path in the graph

- The **path** is a set of connected vertices allowing to go between two selected vertices.
- It may, or may not, contain other vertices.
- If the graph if weighted, we can optimize the path around weights.

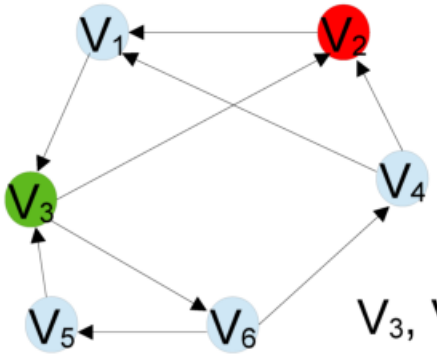
Finding path by searching

- By traversing with DFS, we can find the path between the starting and a given node.
- We need to have a data structure to keep the path (usually some array or queue).
- When we are changing the considered vertex, we keep the number of processed vertex in the queue.
- We finish when the target vertex is present in the queue.

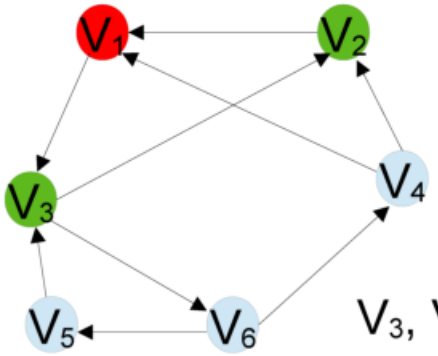
Find $V_3 \rightarrow V_1$.



V_3,



V_3, V_2,



V_3, V_2, V_1

- Notice what would happen if we try $V_3 \rightarrow V_6$…
- If we allow re-entry, we can get V_3, V_2, V_1, V_3, V_6.
- Else, we will get lots of unneeded visits.
- It means that this is no way optimal solution…
- ...but can be used to obtain cycles.

DFS path finding implementation

- A recursive DFS (given is the root):

1. Mark root as visited.
2. Append the root to the visited vertices list.
3. If the root is the target
   return true
4. For every neighbour **x** of a root
   if **x** is visited
   continue
   if (DFS(**x**)==true)
   return true
5. No path, remove the root from visited vertices list.
6. Return false.

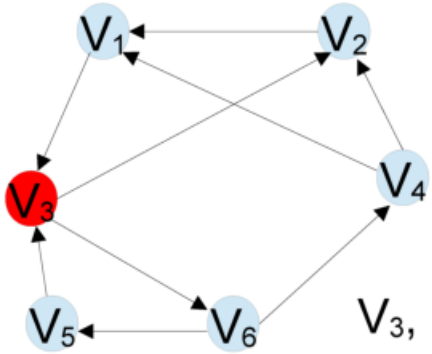
Path length

- DFS can find us the path between vertices.
- If it will find cycles, it is possible to iteratively „collapse” them.
- But there is no guarantee that the path will be the **shortest**.
- More - because we are going depth-first, in many practical applications we may meet more situations with the resulting path unnecessarily long.
- Graph description method also has a signifiacnt influence on this.

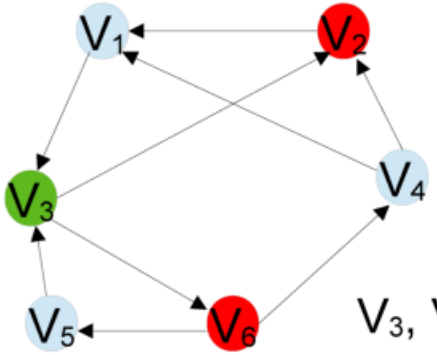
Breadth-first search in pathfinding

- To obtain shortest path, we must **minimize** the number of visited vertices.
- Notice how the vertices are visited in BFS: At first, the direct neighbours. Then, one vertex away, then two vertices away, three, etc.
- If we meet a vertex we are looking for in such search, we will get the **shortest** path.

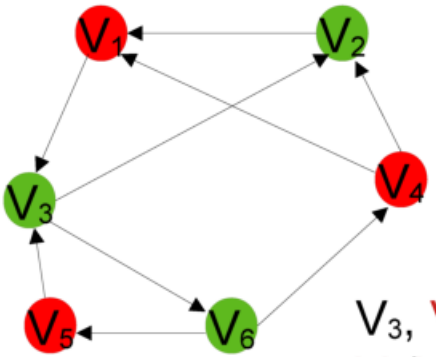
Again, $V_3 \rightarrow V_1$.



V_3,



V_3, V_6/V_2,



V_3, V_6/V_2, $V_5/V_4/V_1$

- Notice what would happen if we try $V_3 \rightarrow V_6$…
- We can get V_3, V_6/V_2 and it will be the end.

BFS in pathfinding

0. Initialize visited/path lists.
1. Add the starting vertex to the path list.
2. Mark starting vertex as visited.
3. Until the queue is not empty:
    Dequeue item **x**.
    If the item is the end item
        return it
    For every neighbour **y** of the vertex x
        if **y** is already visited
            continue
        Add **y** to the path list
        Enqueue **y**
        Mark **y** as visited
4. Return no path existing.

Spanning tree

- ...is a tree containing all vertices of the initial graph, so it will mostly have less edges.
- For typical connected graphs, spanning tree must be also connected.
- A typical graph usually has a few spanning sub-graphs.

- If the graph is weighted, it is possible to find a **minimum spanning tree** which is a spanning tree with the minimum weight values.

Creating spanning tree of existing graph

- If the graph has a cycle, it has unneded connections.
- So to create a spaning tree, we have to **unlink** all cycles.
- If we remove any single edge from a spanning tree, we will get two sets.

- Can we unlink the cycles using known algorithms?

DFS

- We can get it both with BFS and DFS.
- DFS will not go to the same vertex twice.
- So we can **accumulate edges** which are passed during DFS traversal.
- So to get the spanning tree as vertices list:

Given is the root vertex.
Mark it as visited.
For every neighbour **x** of the root:
    If **x** is visited
        continue
    Add **x** to the vertices list
    DFS(**x**)

Minimum spanning tree

- In a weighted graph, a minimum spanning tree is a spanning tree that has a minimal cost.
- In some weighted graphs there can be one or more minimum spanning trees.

- Applications:
  - Finding routes in logistics…
  - ...and computer networks,
  - Data compression - find the smallest translation between two data block descriptions
  - Image processing (segmentation!)

Prim's / Jarnik-Prim's algorithm

- Start from any vertex.
- Repeat until no vertices are left unvisited.
- Do not visit already visited vertices.
- Always choose the edge with the smallest cost in the whole minimum spanning tree.

- Characteristics:
  - We have to not only accumulate the edges of the tree we're discovering, but also its cost and we have to find the smallest one.
  - Can use sorted array, BST, array with insertion sort, etc. as description of the „graph"

The algorithm

1. Initialize the empty sorted list for unvisited items, visited items, and a MST.
2. Select an initial vertex **v**.
3. Mark **v** as visited.
4. For every vertex **i** in graph:

    For every neighbour **x** of vertex **v**

        if **x** is not visited

            add the x to the unvisited list.

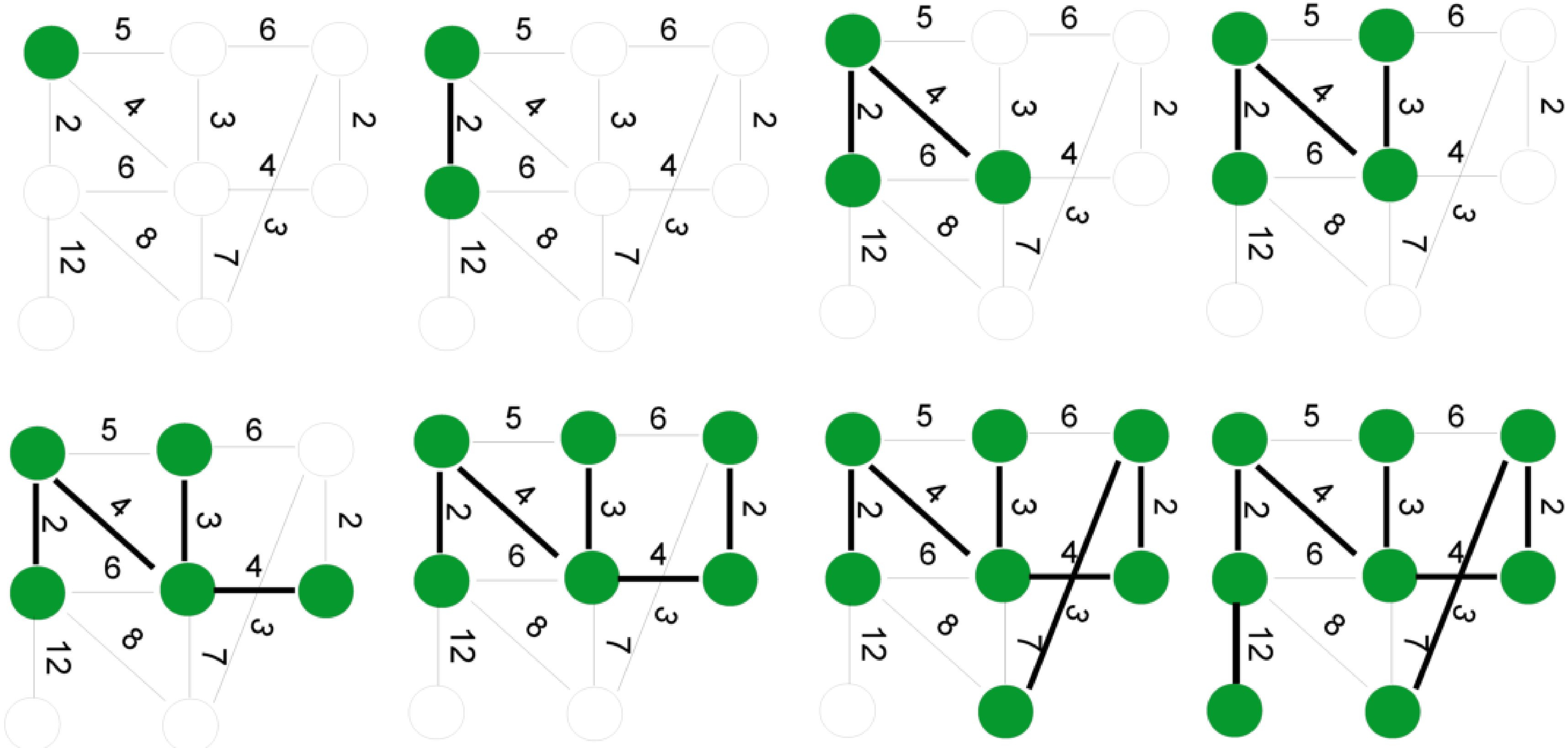
    until the target vertex is visited

        Get the smallest cost edge from the unvisited list.

    Add the first unvisited vertex to the MST

    Mark the vertex as visited

    Make it a new **v**.

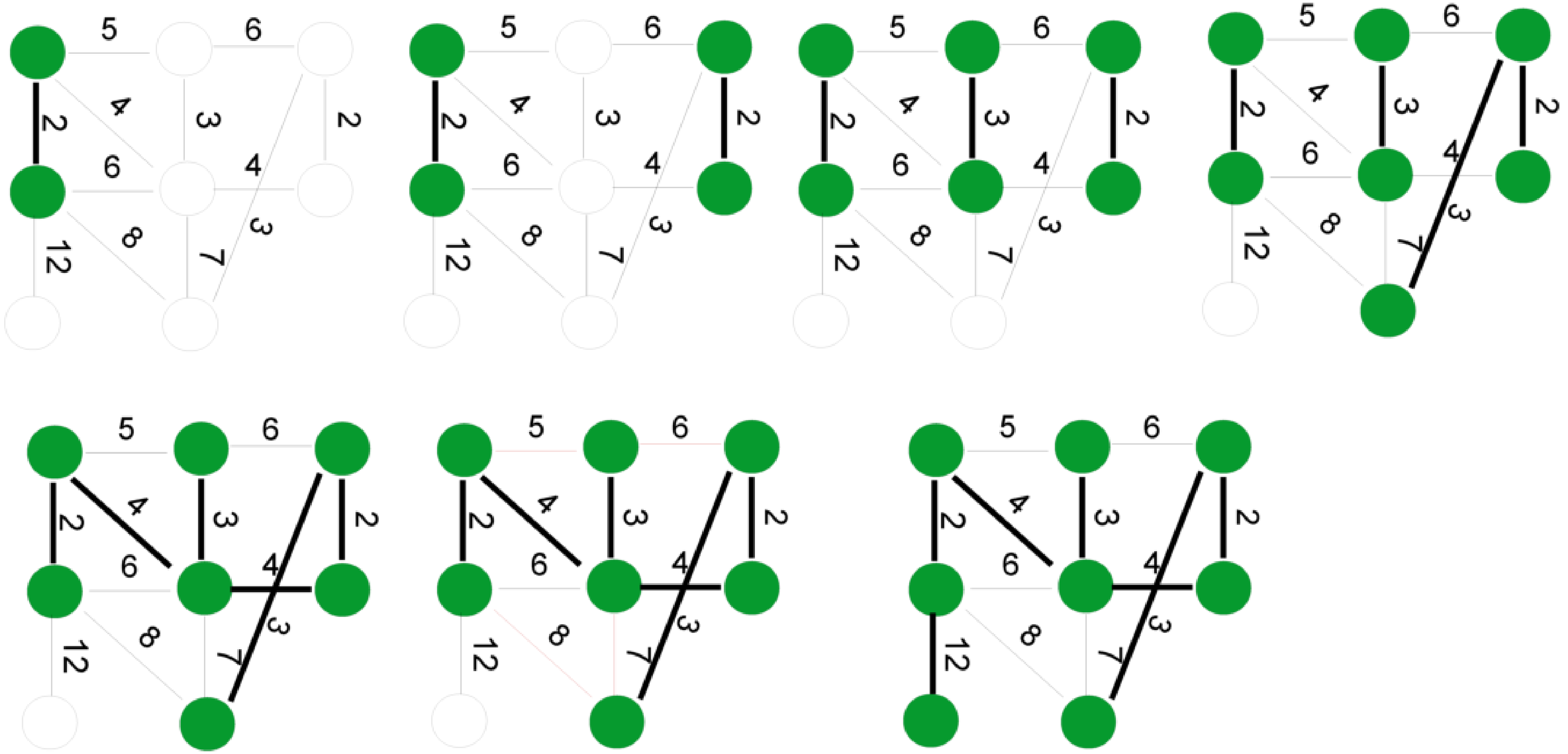

5 6 2 4 3 2 6 4 12 8 7 3
5 6 2 4 3 2 6 4 12 8 7 3
5 6 2 4 3 2 6 4 12 8 7 3
5 6 2 4 3 2 6 4 12 8 7 3
5 6 2 4 3 2 6 4 12 8 7 3
5 6 2 4 3 2 6 4 12 8 7 3
5 6 2 4 3 2 6 4 12 8 7 3
5 6 2 4 3 2 6 4 12 8 7 3

Prim's algorithm

- Notice that we are chosing the thing what is the best solution **for now**, even if we may get a better total optimal solution.
- This is called a **greedy** approach.
- Usually such approach allows to obtain a working solution, but in some cases do not give an optimal solution.
- There are some specific problems for which the greedy algorithms give the worst possible solution.

Kruskal's Algorithm

- A MST is described as a set of edges and their vertices.
- Until there are some vertices not in the set:
  - Select the edge from the graph
  - If it does not form a cycle, add it to the MST.
- So the algorithm works using the **edges**, not vertices.



All of these will make cycles.

Can we go with non-greedy approach?

- Yes, but implementations are quite difficult.
- Some methods allow to store multiple phases of MST, but it takes more memory.
- ...or more tries.

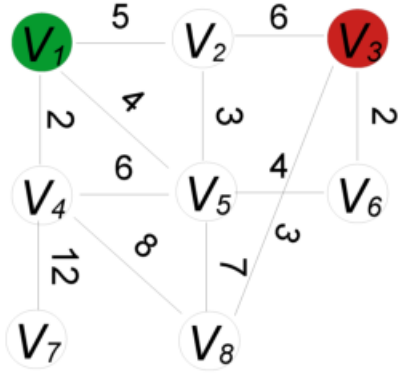
- Chazelle-Pettie approach (2000):
  - Using a soft-heap: Easy O(1) to get and remove minimum, O(log(1/n)) insertion.
    - The heap may get corrupted to some degree, but we can predict what and when it will be fixed.
  - Divide the graph to „contraction trees” - a sub-graphs by the srothest paths.
  - Join the contraction trees.

Shortest path?

- If the graph is weighted, we may try to find the **shortest** path, i.e. the path in which the sum of weights (**cost** of the path) is the smallest.
- Usually there are many paths of different total costs.

- It is possible that the path with the smallest number of vertices has bigger cost than path with more vertices in between.

Shortest path



- Consider the $V_1 \rightarrow V_3$.
  - If we go thru V_2:
    Cost: 5+6=11
  - If we go thru V_5 and V_6:
    Cost: 4+4+2=10

    (notice that this coincidentially is like passing a MST. This is not always true!)

- Applications:
  - Computer networks,
  - Logistics,
  - Design tools.

Dijkstra's algorithm

- The graph is described as a set Q.
- The path will be held in a set S.
- We store costs of going to all vertices in an array A.
- We store previous vertices in array P.
-

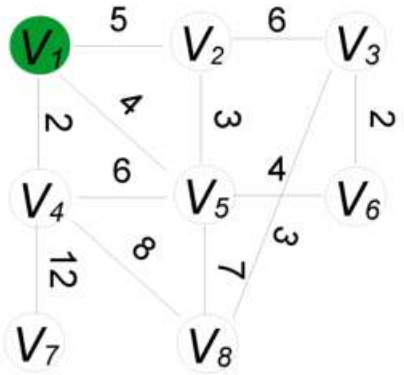
0. Initially, assume A is full of maximum values and P is full of -1.
1. A[starting vertex]=0
2. Until Q contains vertices:
   Find the vertex **w** with the smallest A value (entry cost)
   move it to S.
   For each **x** of **w**'s neighbours
   If **x** is not in Q, continue
   If A[**x**]>A[**w**]+weight(x,w)
   A[**x**]=A[**w**]+weight(**x**,**w**)
   P[**x**]=**w**

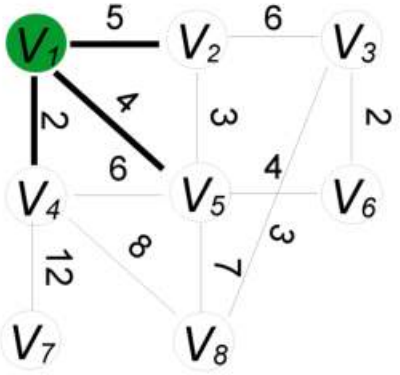
Thr result

- By iterating thru Dijkstra's algorithm, we obtain a cost array A and previous vertices array P.
- From the cost array, we can get a cost of getting from the starting vertex to the vertex with the index of the array.
- By reading the previous vertices matrix backwards, it is possible to get the path.

Implementation problems

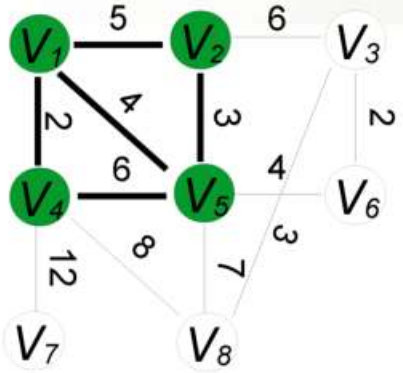
- It is quite useful to have the graph implemented as a list of neighbouring vertices.
- The Q and S sets may be implemented using pointers, arrays of pointers or even arrays of boolean values - as we move vertices between sets without any copying.
- Searching for the cheapest path in Q is another problem - from simple linear search to heap-like data structures.



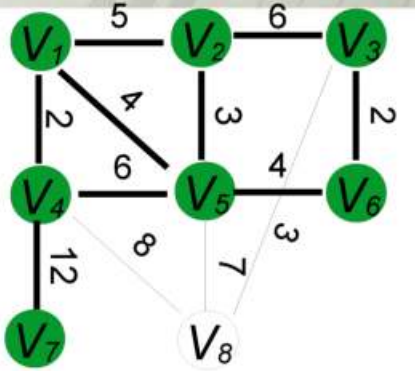


	V_1	V_2	V_3	V_4	V_5	V_6	V_7	V_8
A	0	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞
P	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1

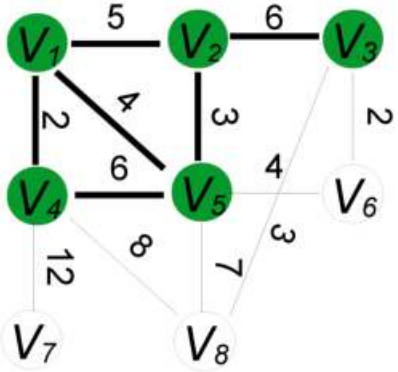
	V_1	V_2	V_3	V_4	V_5	V_6	V_7	V_8
A	0	5	∞	2	4	∞	∞	∞
P	-1	0	-1	0	0	-1	-1	-1



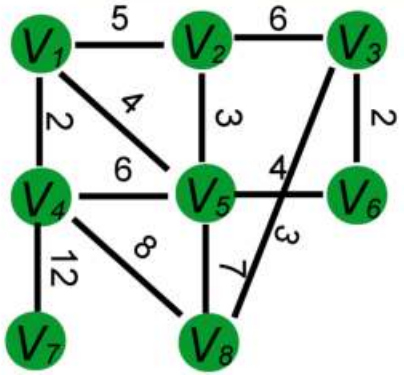
	V_1	V_2	V_3	V_4	V_5	V_6	V_7	V_8
A	0	5	∞	2	4	∞	∞	∞
P	-1	0	-1	0	0	-1	-1	-1



	V_1	V_2	V_3	V_4	V_5	V_6	V_7	V_8
A	0	5	11	2	4	8	14	∞
P	-1	0	1	0	0	4	3	-1



	V_1	V_2	V_3	V_4	V_5	V_6	V_7	V_8
A	0	5	11	2	4	∞	∞	∞
P	-1	0	1	0	0	-1	-1	-1



	V_1	V_2	V_3	V_4	V_5	V_6	V_7	V_8
A	0	5	11	2	4	8	14	10
P	-1	0	1	0	0	4	3	3

- Notice that we can assume different starting points.
- It's still a greedy algorithm.

Searching for a Hamiltonian cycle

- A **Hamiltonian cycle** is a closed path that visits each vertex of the graph once.
- A graph which has a hamiltonian cycle is a **hamiltonian graph**.
- There are graphs which have no hamiltonian cycles, and graphs which have more than 1 of such cycles.

The algorithm

- We browse the graph with DFS, starting from any vertex.
- We push the vertex to the stack.
- If the stack contains all vertices
  - Check do we have a closed loop there
    → Hamiltonian cycle
    else: hamiltonian path.
- If the stack does not have all vertices, we recursively DFS all neighbours.
  - Then, we pop the vertex from the stack and unmark the visited state.

Unmarking the vertex

- We unmark the vertex to:
  - Not include the specific edge in the path or cycle.
  - Get one level up from the recursion.
- Then, the vertex **will be** processed on the other edge's neighbourhood. Or has already been processed.

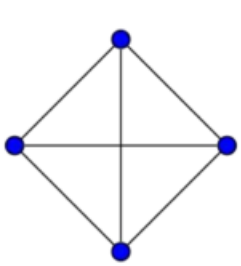
Pseudocode

Given: Current vertex **v**.

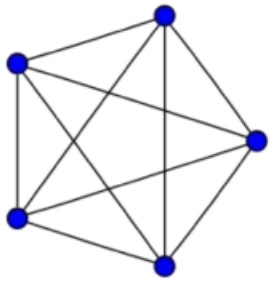
1. Push the vertex to the stack.
2. If the stack has all vertices, we check is it
   For each neighbour **u** of **v**.
   if **u** is the first vertex considered
   END - the hamiltonian cycle.
3. Mark **v** as visited.
4. For each neighbour **u** of **v**
   if **u** is not visited
   Check the vertex **u**.
5. Unmark **v** from being visited.

The problem of this algorithm

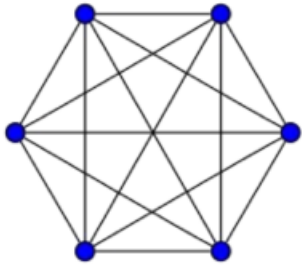
- This algorithm has the O(n!) complexity.
- It means that is is definitely not usable in practical applications.
- If the graph has various weights between vertices, we go to totally another problem, as every Hamiltonian path may have different cost.



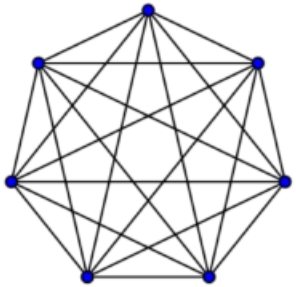
V: 4 E: 6
Cycles: 6



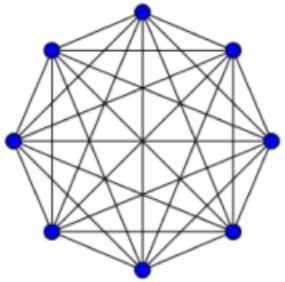
V: 5 E: 10
Cycles: 24



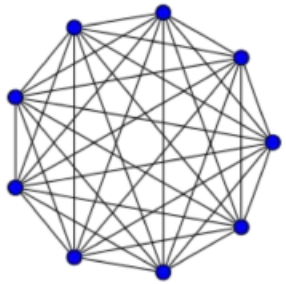
V: 6 E: 15
Cycles: 120



V: 7 E: 21
Cycles: 720



V: 8 E: 28
Cycles: 5040



V: 9 E: 36
Cycles: 40320

Travelling Salesman problem

- A salesman is travelling between cities. It is needed to visit every city only once and travel back home.
- It means that it is needed to find a **hamiltonian cycle** in the graph.

- Worst case: We have a n-element complete graph and we check all edges for all possible cycles to get the cheapest one…

- The O(n!) solution?
  - For real-life problems, we usually not get a complete graph. It may hel a bit.
  - Assuming constant k edges from every of n vertices, number of cycles to determine and test is $(k-1)^n$.
    - Again, exponential notation is not practically feasible.

Current methods

- Held-Karp algorithm (1962)
  - Divide the problem to smaller ones.
  - Calculate the cheapest paths from starting vertex to every other vertex, but passing thru specific selected set S of vertices,
  - Expand the set S of vertices,
  - Still $O(2^n n^2)$
- Multi-dimensional constraining (oversimplifying: find the edges we **don't** want to cross) - still exponential complexity.
  - Calculated in 2001 for real-life situation of 15112 cities.

Not-so-exact methods...

- It is possible to try to solve this problem using heuristics and approximation methods.
- Some of these methods are even **non-deterministic.**
- However, it is possible that these methods will give solutions that are usable in practice, ignoring the fact that they are non-optimal.

- The most simple of such solutions:
  - Choose the closest unvisited city at the current moment (greedy approach).
  - If it fails, retract one vertex back.

Non-deterministic and probabilistic algorithms

- If an algorithm can return different results for the same input parameters, it's called **non-deterministic** algorithm.
- Many algorithms which approximate, or converge towards solution are non-deterministic or even probabilistic algorithms.

- In real applications, solutions given by these algorithms are good enough to be used, even if it's not guaranteed that they are the best solutions.

An example of such algorithm

- We have a TSP in a non-directed graph of a large number of vertices. The path can be described as a **chain** of vertices.
  - i.e. we can make the solution **serialized**.

- Using the graph, it is possible to calculate total cost of every proposed path.

- The number of paths we should check to bruteforce the problem for 1000-node graph (assuming it's complete):

$1000! \approx 4.0238 \times 10^{2567}$

But the graph is not complete!

- For our solution, we can pretend it is, however, the weight of the connecting edge will be just too large for any reasonable path.

- Or we can modify the algorithm to omit the untraceable paths, this will introduce additional computation.

Initialization

- Given, problem specific:
  - The nondirected, weighted graph G of n vertices.
  - The function Cost(path) that calculates the total cost of the path/cycle.
- Algorithm-specific:
  - The capacity of the solutions pool.
  - The number of best solutions to process further.
  - Additional „helpers” like limitations for different algorithm steps - problem-dependent.

Initialization

- Initialize the solutions pool using random solutions.
  - Generate random cycles (we can check their integrity and remove impossible routes here… or not).
  - Calculate the cost of every cycle and save it.

Computation epoch

- Sort the solutions by the cost, descending.
- Select a number of best solutions and copy them to a new pool.
- Fill the rest of the pool using solutions generated from the solutions chosen and the following operators:
  - Crossing-over two good solutions in a randomly selected (but possible - check it in the graph!) point
  - Mutation - changing the order of some (usually random from some range) number of vertices.

Operators

- Crossing over is quite specific for closed loop: We cross over the possible **subsets** of the solutions:

$V_7\ V_3\ V_{12}\ V_8\ V_{16}\ \ldots\ V_9\ V_{10}\ V_7$

$V_{12}\ V_3\ V_{16}\ V_5\ V_9\ \ldots\ V_4\ V_1\ V_{12}$

$V_7\ \mathbf{V_3}\ \mathbf{V_{12}}\ \mathbf{V_8}\ V_{16}\ \ldots\ V_9\ V_{10}\ V_7$

$V_{12}\ V_3\ V_{16}\ V_5\ V_9\ \ldots\ V_4\ V_1\ V_{12}$

Select the crossover point

$\mathbf{V_3}\ \mathbf{V_{12}}\ \mathbf{V_8}$

$V_{16}\ \mathbf{V_3}\ \mathbf{V_{12}}\ \mathbf{V_8}\ V_5\ \ldots\ V_1\ V_4\ V_{16}$

Fill the remainder with information from the other solution

Operators (2)

- To Mutate the solution, we just change placement of a few of items in the solution.

$V_7\ V_3\ V_{12}\ V_8\ V_{16}\ \ldots\ V_9\ V_{10}\ V_7$

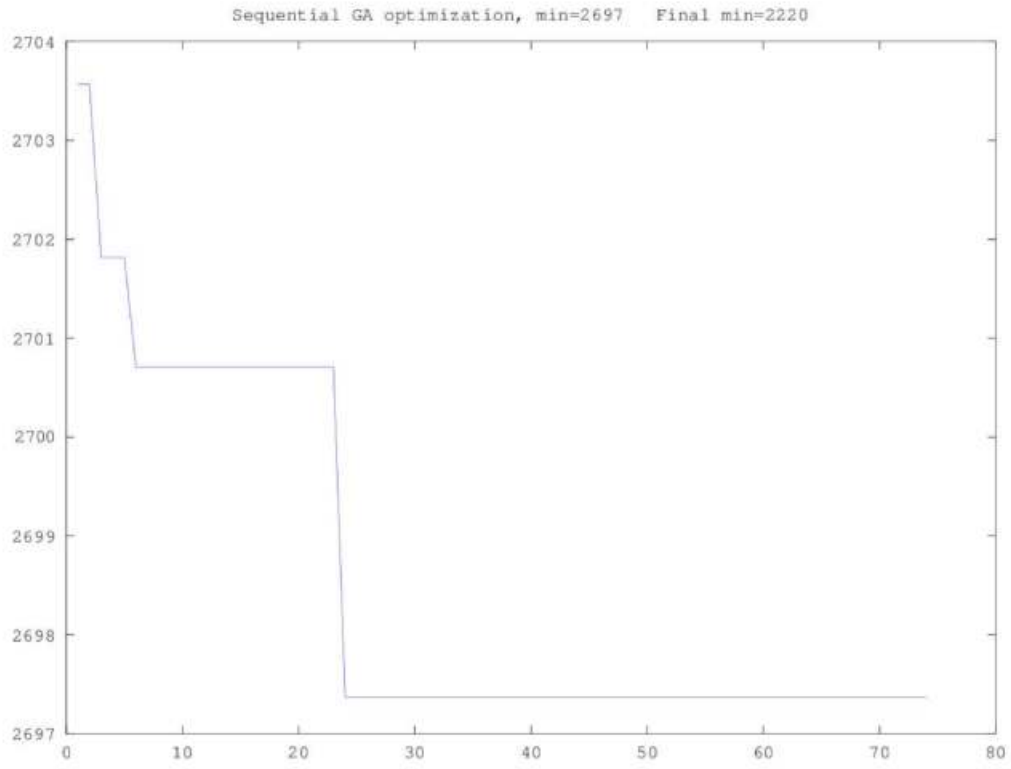
$V_7\ V_3\ \mathbf{V_{10}}\ V_8\ V_{16}\ \ldots\ V_9\ \mathbf{V_{12}}\ V_7$

Back to the computation epoch

- After we filled the new pool with solutions, we re-compute it again:
  - Calculate the **fitness** - the total cost in our case.
  - Select the best solutions,
  - Move it to a new pool,
  - Apply operators to extend solutions to an entire pool,
  - Swap pools.

The result

- Highly non-deterministic.
- Tends to converge towards some wvlue, then has rare „deflections” towards better solutions:
- Another run will give another solution.
- Dependent on RNG.



Applications

- If only the problem can be described using a series of coefficients or data:
  - Process control - series of settings.
  - Function minimization - series of values.
  - Communication protocol - series of bytes.
- If a solution feasibility can be evaluated and compared using a number:
  - Process control - quality of product.
  - Function minimization - function's value.
  - Communication protocol - passing of tests
- Then, this method may be used to obtain searching or optimization result.

AGH

Thank You for attention