

# Quicksort

## COMS10017 - Algorithms 1

Dr Christian Konrad

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## Quicksort

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- *In place version of Mergesort:*

```
A[0,  $\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ ] ← MERGESORT(A[0,  $\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ ])  
A[ $\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor + 1, n - 1$ ] ← MERGESORT(A[ $\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor, n - 1$ ])  
A ← MERGE(A)  
return A
```

recursive calls in mergesort



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- *Mergesort*: First solve subproblems recursively, then merge their solutions
- *Quicksort*: First partition problem into two subproblems in a clever way so that no extra work is needed when combining the solutions to the subproblems, then solve subproblems recursively

## **Divide and Conquer Algorithm:**

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- **Divide:** Chose a good *pivot*  $A[q]$ . Rearrange  $A$  such that every element  $\leq A[q]$  is left of  $A[q]$  in the resulting ordering and every element  $> A[q]$  is right of  $A[q]$  in the resulting ordering. Let  $p$  be the new position of  $A[q]$ .

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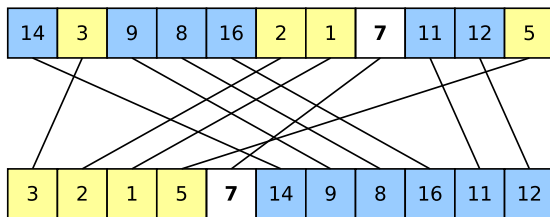
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- **Combine:** No work needed

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- 2 What is a good pivot? Ideally we would like to obtain subproblems of equal/similar sizes

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Require: Array  $A$  of length  $n$   
 $x \leftarrow A[n - 1]$   
 $i \leftarrow -1$   
for  $j \leftarrow 0 \dots n - 1$  do  
  if  $A[j] \leq x$  then  
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    exchange  $A[i]$  with  $A[j]$   
return  $i$ 
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PARTITION

**Pivot:** Algorithm assumes pivot is  $A[n - 1]$  (if different pivot  $A[q]$  is used: swap  $A[q]$  with  $A[n - 1]$ ).

# Example

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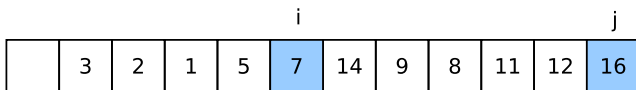
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- 2 Elements right of  $i$  (excluding  $i$ ) and left of  $j$  (excluding  $j$ ) are larger than  $x$ :

$$\text{For } i + 1 \leq k \leq j - 1 : A[k] > x$$









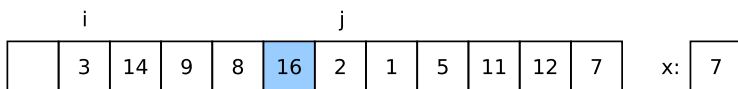
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- 1  $A[j] > x$ : Then  $j$  is incremented



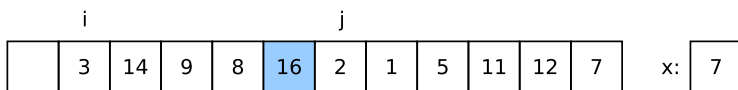
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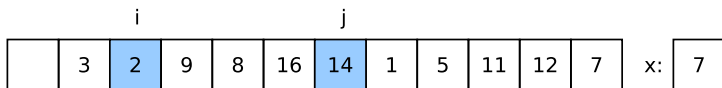
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**Termination:** (useful property showing that algo. is correct)

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**What is the runtime of Quicksort?**