Sorting Algorithms

Bubble Sort

- The purpose of sorting algorithms is to order an unordered list. Item can be ordered alphabetically or by number.
- Bubble sort steps through a list and compares pairs of adjacent numbers. The numbers are swapped if they are in the wrong order. For an ascending list if the left number is bigger than the right number the items are swapped otherwise the numbers are not swapped.
- The algorithm repeatedly passes through the list until no more swaps are needed.

Example

Sort the following sequence in ascending order using bubble sort: 5,3,4,1,2.

Pass 1	**5**	**3**	**4**	**1**	**2**	
	3	5	4	1	2	Compare 5 and 3 – swap
	3	4	5	1	2	Compare 5 and 4 – swap
	3	4	1	5	2	Compare 5 and 1 – swap
	3	4	1	2	5	Compare 5 and 2 – swap; end of pass 1
Pass 2	3	4	1	2	5	Compare 3 and 4 – no swap
	3	1	4	2	5	Compare 4 and 1 – swap
	3	1	2	4	5	Compare 4 and 2 – swap
	3	1	2	4	5	Compare 4 and 5 – no swap; end of pass 2
Pass 3	1	3	2	4	5	Compare 3 and 1 – swap
	1	2	3	4	5	Compare 3 and 2 – swap
	1	2	3	4	5	Compare 3 and 4 – no swap
	1	2	3	4	5	Compare 4 and 5 – no swap; end of pass 3
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	

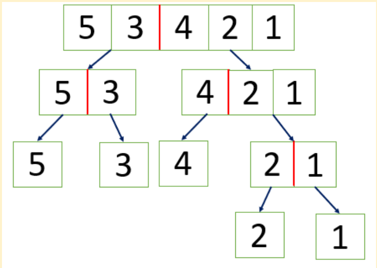
Bubble sort Pseudocode

```
A=[5,3,4,1,2]
sorted ← False
WHILE not sorted
 sorted ← True
 FOR I TO LEN(A)-1:
  IF A[i] > A[i+1]:
   temp ← A[i]
   A[i] ← A[i+1]
   A[i+1] ← temp
   sorted ← False
  ENDIF
 ENDFOR
ENDWHILE
OUTPUT A
```

Merge Sort

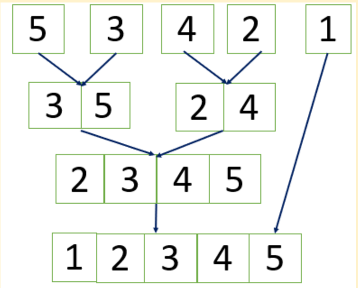
- Merge sort is a type of divide and conquer algorithm.
- There are two steps: divide and combine
- Merge sort works by dividing the unsorted list sublists. It keeps on doing this until there is 1 item in each list.
- Pairs of sublists are combined into an ordered list containing all items in the two sublists. The algorithm keeps going until there is only 1 ordered list remaining.
- Merge sort is a recursive function, that calls itself.

Step 1: Divide



Keep dividing until there is only 1 item in each list

Step2: Combine



1. The first items in the two sublists are compared, and the smallest value is copied to the parent list.
2. The copied item is then removed from the sublist.
3. When there are no items left in one of the sublists the remaining items in the other sublist are them copied in order to the parent list.

Merge sort Versus Bubble sort

	Advantages	Disadvantages
Bubble sort	Very simple and robust algorithm	Can be slow particularly for long lists. As the number of items increases the time taken for the algorithm to run increases dramatically.
Merge sort	Much faster than bubble sort especially when the number of elements is large	More complex to understand Step 1: Divide Step 2: Combine