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1 QUICKSORT PSEUDOCODE
2
3 // Quicksort algorithm: This code sorts A[low..high].
4 quicksort(A[], int low, int high)
5     if (low < high) // lists of size=0 or 1 don't need to be sorted
6         pos = partition(A, low, high)
7         quicksort(A, low, pos - 1)
8         quicksort(A, pos + 1, high)
9
10 // The partition function chooses the [low] element in the array A as the pivot.
11 // It rearranges A so that all the elements less than the pivot are on the left
12 // side, and all the elements greater than the pivot are on the right side.
13 partition(A[], int low, int high)
14     pivot = A[low] // choose pivot as first element in sub-array of A
15     i = low // i=index for search starting on the left
16     j = high // j=index for search starting on the right
17
18     while (i < j)
19         // search from right for an element <= pivot
20         while (A[j] > pivot)
21             j = j - 1
22
23         // search from left for an element > pivot
24         while (i < j && A[i] <= pivot)
25             i = i + 1
26
27         if (i < j)
28             swap A[i] and A[j]
29
30     // End of searches; place pivot in correct spot (index j).
31     pos = j
32     A[low] = A[pos]
33     A[pos] = pivot
34     return pos
35

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36 Notes:

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- 38 - First call to quicksort should be quicksort(A, 0, A.size()-1).
- 39 - Often programmers will make an overloaded quicksort(A[]) function that calls
- 40 the three-argument version.
- 41 - Choice of the pivot matters a lot. In the real world, choosing the pivot as
- 42 the left-most element (at index low) is a bad idea, e.g., results in poor
- 43 performance for arrays that are already sorted.
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