

**Undergraduate Math Club
Fall 2006
2nd floor Nesbitt Common Room
September 28, 4:10-5:00pm
(free pizza and pop, as always)**

Quick 'n' Dirty Sorting

Professor Loren Spice

Abstract

Sorting is one of the fundamental problems of computing theory. It is interesting both in its own right and because of its importance to other algorithmic problems, such as searching. Further, there are many simple sorting algorithms known, and one can easily establish a sharp lower bound for the running time of such an algorithm.

We will start from slow inefficient methods, and move on to fast efficient ones, possibly by way of fast inefficient ones. Next, we will see why our sorting methods are the fastest possible. Finally, if time permits, we will see how to sort faster.

No background in computer science, or even programming, is required.