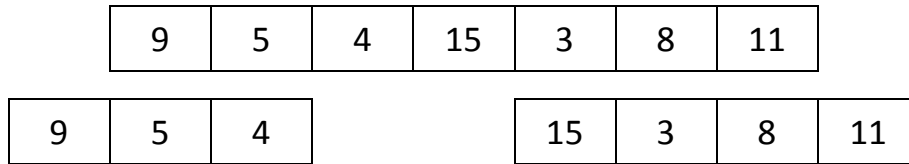
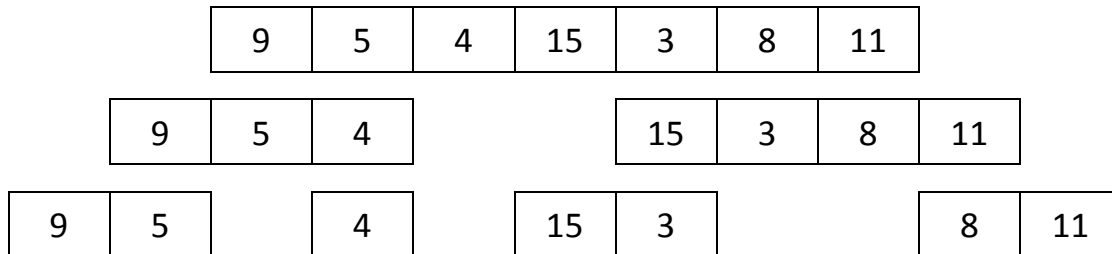


Merge sorting

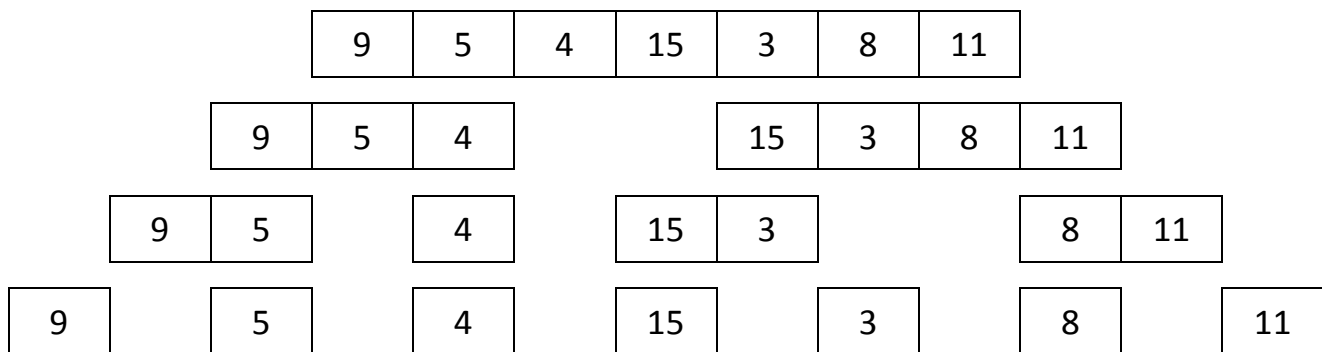
1. Take your array, split it in half (with an odd number, go to the far end)



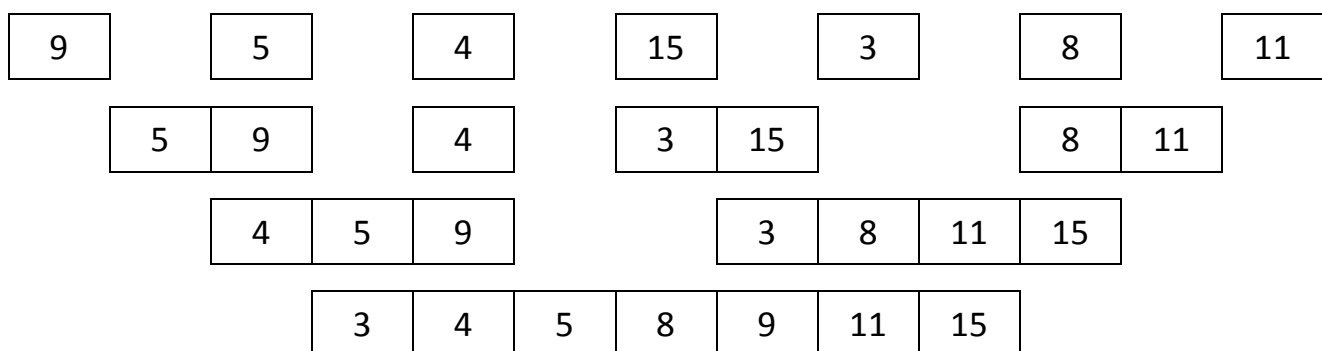
2. Take each subarray and split them again



3. Keep splitting until you get single elements



4. Now build the array back up again from the bottom, sorting each subarray as you work layer by layer



Key points:

This breaks the problem down into lots of smaller sorts at the bottom layer.

When you combine layers, each subarray is already sorted. This makes the sort technique more efficient – less passes will be needed because there is already some sorting.