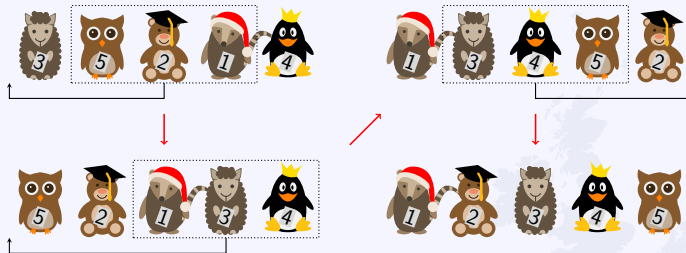
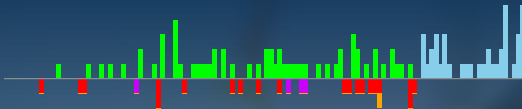


Problem

Given an unsorted sequence of the numbers $1, \dots, n$, sort it using operations of the following kind: cut three consecutive values from the sequence and paste them somewhere else.



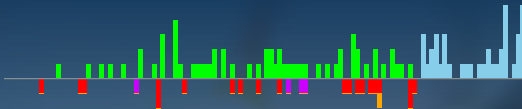


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Solution

- While there are more than 5 numbers, locate the largest one and move it to the back.
- This can be achieved in at most 2 steps and reduces the problem size by 1.
- For the last 5 numbers, either:
 - perform some graph search through the remaining $5! = 120$ permutations; or
 - just do random steps until the sequence is sorted.
- Total number of steps $\lesssim 2n + 160$



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