

SELECT3(A, p, r, i)

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1  while  $(r - p + 1) \bmod 9 \neq 0$ 
2      for  $j = p + 1$  to  $r$                                 // put the minimum into  $A[p]$ 
3          if  $A[p] > A[j]$ 
4              exchange  $A[p]$  with  $A[j]$ 
5      // If we want the minimum of  $A[p:r]$ , we're done.
6      if  $i == 1$ 
7          return  $A[p]$ 
8      // Otherwise, we want the  $(i - 1)$ st element of  $A[p + 1:r]$ .
9       $p = p + 1$ 
10      $i = i - 1$ 
11  $g = (r - p + 1)/3$                                        // number of 3-element groups
12 for  $j = p$  to  $p + g - 1$                                    // run through the groups
13     sort  $\langle A[j], A[j + g], A[j + 2g] \rangle$  in place
14 // All group medians now lie in the middle third of  $A[p:r]$ .
15  $g' = g/3$                                                 // number of 3-element subgroups
16 for  $j = p + g$  to  $p + g + g' - 1$                        // sort the subgroups
17     sort  $\langle A[j], A[j + g'], A[j + 2g'] \rangle$  in place
18 // All subgroup medians now lie in the middle ninth of  $A[p:r]$ .
19 // Find the pivot  $x$  recursively as the median of the subgroup medians.
20  $x = \text{SELECT3}(A, p + 4g', p + 5g' - 1, \lceil g'/2 \rceil)$ 
21  $q = \text{PARTITION-AROUND}(A, p, r, x)$  // partition around the pivot
22 // The rest is just like lines 19–24 of SELECT.
23  $k = q - p + 1$ 
24 if  $i == k$ 
25     return  $A[q]$                                           // the pivot value is the answer
26 elseif  $i < k$ 
27     return SELECT3( $A, p, q - 1, i$ )
28 else return SELECT3( $A, q + 1, r, i - k$ )
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