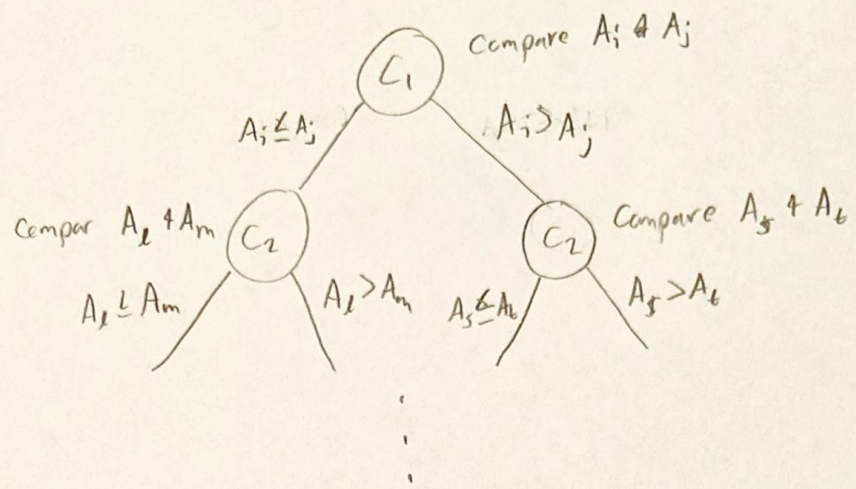


The usual approach to sorting lower bounds (on worst cases) is to consider comparison  $C_k$  of a deterministic sorting algorithm as a branching point in a tree.



Here when we reach a leaf node, we know  $A$ . But then there are  $n!$  leaves, and a binary search tree of height  $h$  has  $2^h$  leaves. Solve for  $h$ .

$$2^h \geq n!$$

$$\Rightarrow h \geq \log n! \approx n \log n$$

But the height of the tree  $h$  is the required number of comparisons, so there is always at least 1 input which requires  $n \log n$  comparisons.