Comparison Sorting Algorithms
CSE 332 Summer 2021

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Announcements

- P2 checkpoint 2 tomorrow – google form will release this afternoon
  - QuickSort should be the only thing we haven’t covered in lecture yet

- Exercises 7 & 8 out!
  - Ex7 Canvas Groups: Join group and post in *group discussion*
  - Reflection questions subject to change before Wednesday

- Midterm out Wednesday!

- P1 Grades will release
Lecture Outline

- **Intro to Sorting**

- Simple Sorts
  - InsertionSort
  - SelectionSort

- Fancier Sorts
  - HeapSort
  - “Data Structure Sorts”

- Divide & Conquer Sorts
  - MergeSort
  - QuickSort
When you play cards, how do you order them in your hand?

Why do you think we learning about sorting in this class?
Introduction to Sorting (1 of 2)

- Stacks, queues, priority queues, and dictionaries/sets all provide one element at a time

- But often we want “all the items” in some order
  - Alphabetical list of people
  - Population list of countries
  - Search engine results by relevance

- Different sorting algorithms have different asymptotic and constant-factor trade-offs
  - Knowing one way to sort just isn’t enough; no single “best sort”
    - Sorting is an excellent case-study in making trade-offs!
Introduction to Sorting (2 of 2)

- **Preprocessing** (e.g. sorting) data to make subsequent operations faster is a general technique in computing!
  - Example: Sort the items so that you can:
    - Find the $k^{th}$ largest in constant time for any $k$
      - Perform binary search to find an item in logarithmic time
  - Whether preprocessing is beneficial depends on
    - How often the items will change
    - How many items there are

- Preprocessing’s benefits depend on how often the items will change and how many items there are

  - Sorting is an excellent case-study in making trade-offs!
Comparison Sorting: Definition

- **Problem**: We have \( n \) comparable items in an array, and we want to rearrange them to be in increasing order

- **Input**:
  - An array \( A \) of (key, value) pairs
  - A comparison function (consistent and total)
    - Given keys \( a \) & \( b \), what is their relative ordering? \(<, =, >?\)
    - Ex: keys that implement `Comparable` or have a `Comparator`

- **Output/Side-Effect**:
  - Reorganize the elements of \( A \) such that for any index \( i \) and \( j \),
    - \( i < j \) then \( A[i] \leq A[j] \)
  - [Usually unspoken] \( A \) must have all the same items it started with
  - Could also sort in reverse order, of course
Comparison Sort: Variations (1 of 2)

1. Maybe elements are in a linked list
   - Could convert to array and back in linear time, but some algorithms can still “work” on linked lists

2. Maybe if there are ties we should preserve the original ordering
   - Sorts that do this naturally are called **stable sorts**.

3. Maybe we must not use more than $O(1)$ “auxiliary space”
   - These are called **in-place sorts**
   - Not allowed to allocate memory proportional to input (i.e., $O(n)$), but can allocate $O(1)$ # of variables
   - Work is done by swapping around in the array
Comparison Sort: Variations (2 of 2)

4. Maybe we can do more with elements than just compare
   - Comparison sorts assume a binary ‘compare’ operator
   - In special cases we can sometimes get faster algorithms

5. Maybe we have too many items to fit in memory
   - Use an external sorting algorithm
Big Picture of Comparison-Based Sorts

- Simple algorithms: $O(n^2)$
  - InsertionSort, SelectionSort
  - BubbleSort, ShellSort

- Fancier algorithms: $O(n \log n)$
  - HeapSort, MergeSort, QuickSort (randomized)

- Comparison-based sorting’s lower bound: $\Omega(n \log n)$
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InsertionSort

- **Idea**: At step $k$, insert the $k^{th}$ element in the correct position
  - Sort first two elements
  - Now insert 3rd element in order
  - ...

- **Loop invariant** ("when loop index is $i$"):
  - First $i$ elements are in sorted order

- **Time**:
  - Best-case: $O(n)$  
  - Worst-case: $O(n^2)$

- **Characteristics**:
  - Stable: $\checkmark$  
  - In-place: $\times$
SelectionSort

- **Idea**: At step $k$, select the smallest elt and put it at $k^{th}$ position
  - Find smallest element, put it $1^{st}$
  - Find next smallest element, put it $2^{nd}$
  - ...

- **Loop invariant** (“when loop index is $i$”):
  - First $i$ elements are the $i$ smallest elements in sorted order

- **Time**:
  - Best-case: $O(n^2)$
  - Worst-case: $O(n^2)$

- **Characteristics**:
  - Stable: ✓
  - In-place: ✓
InsertionSort vs. SelectionSort (1 of 2)

Different algorithms, same problem

- **InsertionSort**
  - **Loop invariant:**
    - First $i$ elements are in sorted order
  - **Characteristics:**
    - Stable: yes
  - **Time:**
    - Worst-case: $O(n^2)$
    - “Average” case: $O(n^2)$

- **SelectionSort**
  - **Loop invariant:**
    - First $i$ elements are the $i$ smallest elements in sorted order
  - **Characteristics:**
    - Stable: no
  - **Time:**
    - Worst-case: $O(n^2)$
    - “Average” case: $O(n^2)$
InsertionSort vs. SelectionSort (2 of 2)

- InsertionSort has better best-case complexity
  - Best case is when input is “mostly sorted”

- Different constants
  - InsertionSort may do well on small arrays (empirically: N < ~15)
  - Java’s built-in sort prefers InsertionSort for arrays <47 items
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Naïve HeapSort

- **Idea**: Put everything in a **MIN** heap; successively `deleteMin`
  - `add()` all elements into heap – OR – better yet, use `buildHeap`
  - `for(i=0; i < arr.length; i++)`
    - `arr[i] = deleteMin();`

- **Loop invariant** (“when loop index is `i`”):
  - First `i` elements are *the `i` smallest elements* in sorted order

- **Time**: `O(n log n)`

- **Characteristics**:
  - Stable: **N**  In-place: **N**
In-place HeapSort

- **Idea**: Put everything in a **MAX** heap; successively `deleteMax`
  - insert each `arr[i]` – OR – better yet, use `buildHeap`
  - for `(i=0; i < arr.length; i++)`
    - `arr[arr.length - i] = deleteMax();`

- **Loop invariant** (“when loop index is `i`”): same as naïve version

- **Time**: \( n \log n \)

- **Characteristics**:
  - Stable: \( \checkmark \)
  - In-place: \( \checkmark \)
Aside: “AVLSort” and “DataStructureSort”

- We can also use a balanced tree to:
  - **add** each element: total time $O(n \log n)$
  - Do an in-order traversal $O(n)$

- But a balanced tree cannot be made in-place, and constants worse than HeapSort
  - Both are $O(n \log n)$ in worst, best, and average case
  - Neither sorts parallelizes well

- Don’t even think about trying to sort with a hash table …
Why might I care about a sort being stable or in place? Would having these two qualities ever be worth the tradeoff of having a slower algorithm?
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Technique: Divide and Conquer

- Very important technique in algorithm design!
  1. Divide problem into smaller parts
  2. Solve the parts independently
     - Recursion
     - Or potentially parallelism!
  3. Combine solution of parts to produce overall solution

- Examples:
  - Sort each half of the array, then combine together
  - Split the array into “small part” and “big part”, then sort the parts
Sorting with Divide and Conquer

- Two great sorting methods are divide-and-conquer!
  - **MergeSort:**
    - Sort the left half of the elements (recursively)
    - Sort the right half of the elements (recursively)
    - Merge the two sorted halves into a sorted whole
  - **QuickSort:**
    - Pick a “pivot” element
    - Partition elements into those *less-than* pivot and those *greater-than* pivot
    - Sort the *less-than* elements (recursively)
    - Sort the *greater-than* the elements (recursively)
    - All done! Answer is [sorted-less-than] [pivot] [sorted-greater-than]
MergeSort

- To sort array from position $lo$ to position $hi$:
  - If range is 1 element long, it’s sorted! (Base case)
  - Else, split into two halves:
    - “Somehow” sort from $lo$ to $(hi+lo)/2$
    - “Somehow” sort from $(hi+lo)/2$ to $hi$
    - Merge the two halves together

- Merging takes two sorted parts and sorts everything
  - $O(n)$ time but requires $O(n)$ auxiliary space...

\[
\begin{array}{cccccccc}
8 & 2 & 9 & 4 & 5 & 3 & 1 & 6 \\
\end{array}
\]
MergeSort: Merging Example (1 of 10)

- Start with:
  - `arr`:
    - `8 2 9 4 5 3 1 6`

- Return from left and right recursion
  - (pretend it works for now)

- Merge
  - Use 3 cursors and an extra auxiliary array
  - When done, copy the extra array back to the original
MergeSort: Merging Example (2 of 10)

- Start with:

```
8  2  9  4  5  3  1  6
```

- Return from left and right recursion
  - (not magic 😊)

- Merge
  - Use 3 cursors and an extra auxiliary array
  - When done, copy the extra array back to the original

```
2  4  8  9  1  3  5  6
```

```
aux
1
```
MergeSort: Merging Example (3 of 10)

- Start with:

```
8  2  9  4  5  3  1  6
```

- Return from left and right recursion
  - (not magic 😊)

- Merge
  - Use 3 cursors and an extra auxiliary array
  - When done, copy the extra array back to the original

```
arr
2  4  8  9  1  3  5  6
```

```
aux
1  2
```
MergeSort: Merging Example (4 of 10)

- Start with:

- Return from left and right recursion
  - (not magic 😊)

- Merge
  - Use 3 cursors and an extra auxiliary array
  - When done, copy the extra array back to the original
MergeSort: Merging Example (5 of 10)

- Start with:

- Return from left and right recursion
  - (not magic 😊)

- Merge
  - Use 3 cursors and an extra auxiliary array
  - When done, copy the extra array back to the original

```
8 2 9 4 5 3 1 6
```

```
2 4 8 9 1 3 5 6
```

```
1 2 3 4
```

```
1 2 3 4
```
MergeSort: Merging Example (6 of 10)

- Start with:

- Return from left and right recursion
  - (not magic 😊)

- Merge
  - Use 3 cursors and an extra auxiliary array
  - When done, copy the extra array back to the original
MergeSort: Merging Example (7 of 10)

- Start with:
  
- Return from left and right recursion
  - (not magic 😊)

- Merge
  - Use 3 cursors and an extra auxiliary array
  - When done, copy the extra array back to the original
MergeSort: Merging Example (8 of 10)

- Start with:

- Return from left and right recursion
  - (not magic 😊)

- Merge
  - Use 3 cursors and an extra auxiliary array
  - When done, copy the extra array back to the original
MergeSort: Merging Example (9 of 10)

- Start with:

- Return from left and right recursion
  - (not magic 😊)

- Merge
  - Use 3 cursors and an extra auxiliary array
  - When done, copy the extra array back to the original
MergeSort: Merging Example (10 of 10)

- Start with:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>arr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Return from left and right recursion
  - (not magic 😊)

- Merge
  - Use 3 cursors and an extra auxiliary array
  - When done, copy the extra array back to the original

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>arr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>aux</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>arr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MergeSort: Recursion Example (1 of 3)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Divide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Divide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8</th>
<th>2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One Element (done recurring!)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8</th>
<th>2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MergeSort: Recursion Example (2 of 3)

Divide

Divide

One Element
(done recurring!)

Merge

Merge
MergeSort: Recursion Example (3 of 3)

When a recursive call ends, its sub-arrays are each in order; we just need to merge them in order together.
Optimizations: Reducing “Dregs Copies” (1 of 2)

- Remember the final steps of our merge example?

- It’s wasteful to copy 8 & 9 to the auxiliary array, and then immediately copy them back into the original array!
Optimizations: Reducing “Dregs Copies” (2 of 2)

- If left side finishes first:
  - Stop the merge, and copy the auxiliary array back to the original

```
arr: |
```
```
aux: 1 2 3 4 5 6
```

- If right side finishes first:
  - Stop the merge, and copy the dregs directly into right side
  - Then copy auxiliary array back to the original

```
arr: 8 9 |
```
```
aux: 1 2 3 4 5 6
```
Optimizations: Reducing Temp Arrays (1 of 2)

- Simplest / worst approach:
  - Every divide: allocate two new auxiliary arrays of size \((hi-lo)/2\)
  - Every merge: allocate another auxiliary array

- Better:
  - Allocate a single auxiliary array of size \(n\) at beginning to use throughout
  - Reuse “slices” of size \((hi-lo)/2\) within that array at every merge

- Best (but a little tricky):
  - Don’t copy back! At 2\(^{nd}\), 4\(^{th}\), 6\(^{th}\), ... merges, use the original array as the auxiliary array; at odd-numbered merges, vice-versa
  - If the number of stages is odd, need one final copy at end
Optimizations: Reducing Temp Arrays (2 of 2)

1. Recur down to sub-arrays of size 1 (no copies)
2. As we return from the recursion, switch off arrays
3. Arguably easier to code up without recursion at all

Copy (if number of stages is odd)
MergeSort: Runtime Analysis (1 of 3)

- MergeSort sorts \( n \) elements by:
  - Returning immediately if \( n=1 \)
  - Doing 2 subproblems of size \( n/2 \) + then an \( O(n) \) merge otherwise

- Runtime expression?
  - \( T(1) = c_1 \)
  - \( T(n) = 2T(n/2) + c_2n \)
MergeSort: Runtime Analysis (2 of 3)

T(1) = c_1

T(n) = 2T(n/2) + c_2n  \hspace{1cm} \text{First expansion}

= 2(2T(n/4) + c_2n/2) + c_2n  \hspace{1cm} \text{Second expansion}

= 4T(n/4) + 2c_2n

= 4(2T(n/8) + c_2n/4) + 2c_2n  \hspace{1cm} \text{Third expansion}

= 8T(n/8) + 3c_2n

= 2^kT(n/2^k) + kc_2n  \hspace{1cm} \text{kth expansion}

If I want n/2^k = 1, let k = \log n

Then T(n) = 2^kT(n/2^k) + kc_2n

= 2^{\log n}T(1) + \log n \cdot c_2n

= c_1n + c_2n \log n

= O(n \log n)
More intuitively, this recurrence comes up often enough you should “just know” it’s $O(n \log n)$

- MergeSort’s runtime is relatively easy to intuit
  - Best, worst, and “average” all have the same runtime
  - The recursion “tree” will have $\log n$ height and at each level we do a total amount of merging equal to $n$
MergeSort: Characteristics

- **Execution:**
  - Merge sorted subarrays as it “recurs upward” (i.e., returns from recursive calls)

- **Characteristics:**
  - Stable: yes
  - In-place: no

- **Time:** always $O(n \log n)$

```java
def mergeSort(arr, startIdx, endIdx) {
    if (startIdx == endIdx || startIdx + 1 == endIdx) {
        return;
    }
    midIdx = (endIdx - startIdx) / 2 + startIdx;
    mergeSort(arr, startIdx, midIdx);
    mergeSort(arr, midIdx, endIdx);
    merge(arr, startIdx, midIdx, endIdx);
}
```
MergeSort: Final Thoughts

- We’ve discussed arrays, but you may need to sort linked lists
  - One approach for other algorithms:
    - Convert to array: $O(n)$
    - Sort: $O(n \log n)$
    - Convert back to list: $O(n)$
  - Alternatively: MergeSort works well on linked lists
    - HeapSort and QuickSort do not 😞
    - InsertionSort and SelectionSort can work, but they’re slower

- **MergeSort is the best choice for external sorting**
  - Linear merges minimize new disk accesses