

The following materials have been collected from the numerous sources such as Stanford CS106 and Harvard CS50 including my own and my students over the years of teaching and experiences of programming. Please help me to keep this tutorial up-to-date by reporting any issues or questions. Please send any comments or criticisms to [idebtor@gmail.com](mailto:idebtor@gmail.com). Your assistances and comments will be appreciated.

## PSet: Profiling – Performance Analysis

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### Purpose of Assignment

This project seeks to verify empirically the accuracy of those analysis's by measuring performance of each algorithm under specific conditions. Performance measurement or program profiling provides detailed empirical data on algorithm performance at different levels of granularity and measures.

“Program Profiling” measures, for example, the space (memory) or time complexity of a program, the usage of particular instructions, or the frequency and duration of function calls. Let us use the elapsed times printed by program execution even though it may not be as accurate as special profiling tools. With small input data size, all times will likely be 0.0000 because the clock interval is too large to measure the execution times. In that case, you should try to get sufficiently accurate results with various data sets and/or extra lines of code repetitions. Our focus on this assignment is to compare the time complexity of two sorting algorithms.

### Files provided

- profiling.pdf – this file
- profiling.cpp – a skeleton code Step 1 and 2
- **profilingx.exe** – for pc, a solution for Step 1 and 2
- **profiling – for mac**
- **sortDriver3.cpp – a skeleton code for Step 4**
- sortx.exe – for pc, a solution for Step 4
- sortx - for mac

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## Step 1. Handling user's input and complete getStep()

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Read and run the program **profiling.cpp** provided in this pset.

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### Task 1: User's input

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Run **profilingx.exe** and be familiar with how it works.

There are two ways to start the program, profilingx.exe. Users may start it by the executable file. Then the program must prompt the user to enter "the number of the maximum sample numbers to sort". If the number entered is less than **STARTING\_SAMPLES** (a magic number stored in sort.h), quit the program but with a proper message.

```
// sort.h
const int STARTING_SAMPLES = 500;
```

Users may give the number of samples in the command line argument. We must check whether or not it is larger than **STARTING\_SAMPLES**, exit the program if it is not with a proper message. Run sortx.exe to see the error message.

Once you get the max sample size N, you must allocate the memory accordingly and deallocate after use.

NOTICE: To make profiling.cpp simple, **don't use** nowic library functions such as GetInt(), and GetChar() and so on.

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### Task 2: getStep()

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Currently the step increases in linear scale such as 100, 200, ... , 1000, 1100, 1200. In order to measure the performance, the step size should be incremented by 100 between 100 and 1000; the step size will be 1,000 between 1000 and 10,000; From 10,000 to 100,000, the step size will be 10,000 and so on. Rewrite getStep() function accordingly.

Implement **getStep(n)** function such that it returns **1** for  $n=[0..9]$ , **10** for  $n=[10..99]$ , **100** for  $n=[100..999]$ , **1000** for  $n=[1000..9999]$ , and so on. The variable step defined in the program would be many different values, depending on the number of samples. The sample sizes could reach up to **billions**.

You should **not** code something like below:

```
// this is not the way of coding.
int getStep(int n) {
    if (n < 100) step = 10;
    else if (n < 1000) step = 100;
    else if (n < 10000) step = 1000;
    .....
    .....
    return step;
}
```

```
// this is not the way of coding.
int getStep(int n) {
    if (n == 100) step = 100;
    else if (n == 1000) step = 1000;
    else if (n == 10000) step = 10000;
    .....
    .....
    return step;
}
```

## Step 2. Build and run executables

The skeleton code, profiling.cpp, are already invoking sorting functions as we need. Now we would like to compare the elapsed time of following cases:

### 1. insertionSort()

- A. Best case –  $O(n)$ , Input data is already sorted
- B. Average case -  $O(n^2)$ , Input data is randomly ordered
- C. Worst case -  $O(n^2)$ , Input data is reversely ordered

### 2. quickSort()

- A. Average case -  $O(n \log n)$ , Input data is randomly ordered

Sample run:

```
$ ./profiling 10000
The minimum number of entries is set to 500
Enter the number of max entries to sort: 10000
The maximum sample data size is 10000

    insertionSort(): already sorted - best case.
    Data will NOT be randomized before use.
      n      repetitions      sort(sec)
    500      351798          0.000003
    600      318514          0.000003
    700      282230          0.000004
    800      250027          0.000004
    900      236931          0.000004
   1000      219992          0.000005
   2000      121951          0.000008
   3000       90212          0.000011
   4000       70272          0.000014
   5000       56832          0.000018
   6000       48603          0.000021
   7000       40910          0.000024
   8000       35896          0.000028
   9000       32081          0.000031
  10000       28353          0.000035

    insertionSort(): randomized - average case.
    Randomized Data will be used during sorting.
      n      repetitions      sort(sec)
    500         5543          0.000180
    600         3908          0.000256
    700         2674          0.000374
    800         2097          0.000477
```

900	1604	0.000623
1000	1299	0.000770
2000	351	0.002855
3000	152	0.006579
4000	90	0.011144
5000	69	0.014565
6000	44	0.023295
7000	35	0.028571
8000	28	0.036643
9000	21	0.047810
10000	16	0.063062

insertionSort(): sorted reversed - worst case.  
Data will NOT be randomized before use.

n	repetitions	sort(sec)
500	2934	0.000341
600	2241	0.000446
700	1500	0.000667
800	930	0.001075
900	1010	0.000990
1000	551	0.001815
2000	202	0.004960
3000	92	0.010967
4000	46	0.021761
5000	33	0.030485
6000	23	0.043783
7000	18	0.057889
8000	13	0.077769
9000	11	0.095909
10000	9	0.118778

quickSort(): randomized - average case.  
Randomized Data will be used during sorting.

n	repetitions	sort(sec)
500	2631	0.000380
600	1522	0.000657
700	1533	0.000652
800	1396	0.000716
900	605	0.001653
1000	1054	0.000949
2000	586	0.001706
3000	361	0.002773
4000	242	0.004145
5000	210	0.004781
6000	172	0.005814
7000	146	0.006897
8000	120	0.008350
9000	107	0.009346
10000	101	0.009941

- You are going to use these files to draw a graph to show the **growth rate** of the algorithm as the sample size  $n$  increases and compare them in Step 2.
- Make sure that you have the appropriate function calls before you redirect the output. You may need to recompile after you switch the sort function.

## Tips and Hints

Read the skeleton code provided and follow the instruction properly.

The quicksort really runs worst if the input data is already sorted. To test the worst-case quicksort, you must pass a sorted data. For other cases, you just pass the randomized data.

- **How to compile:** Using your own **libsort.a** as you made it in **lab6** before.  
`$ g++ profiling.cpp printList.cpp -I../include -L../lib -lsort -o profiling,`
- **How to run:**  
`$ ./profiling 100000 # PowerShell`  
`$ profiling 100000 # cmd`
- **How to save the output into a file:**  
`$ ./profiling 100000 > profiling.txt`  
`$ profiling 100000 > profiing.txt`
- **How to increase the stack size**  
 The worst-case quicksort may not finish completely since it requires a lot of stack memory. In this case, you must increase stack since it is only 1 megabyte by default. The following command increase the stack size to 16 megabytes.

**By the way**, these compiler option does **not** work in the Windows PowerShell nor Atom console, you must change PowerShell to **cmd windows** before run the command.

Also **mac users** may look it up more in googling since its syntax may be different a bit.

```
$ cmd
$ g++ -Wl,--stack,16777216 profiling.cpp printList.cpp -I../include -
L../lib -lsort -o profiling
$ profiling
```

## Step 3 – Compute the time complexity of best/average/worst cases

We would like to do the performance analysis with our programs and data. In this step, the question we want to answer is **"How long will my program take, as function of the input size?"** To help answer this question, we plot data with the problem size  $N$  on the x-axis and the running time  $T(N)$  on the y-axis.

Let's suppose we have the running time, as a function of the input size,

$$T(N) = a N^b,$$

where  $a$  is a constant and  $b$  is a growth rate.

Let's suppose that you can get the growth rate  $b$  in the following step. Then we want to estimate the elapsed time of one samples. We can use one of our data points to solve for  $a$  – for example,

$$T(8000) = 0.036643 = a 8000^{1.72}$$

$$a = \frac{0.036643}{8000^{1.72}} = 7.09 \times 10^{-9}$$

$$T(N) = 7.09 \times 10^{-9} \times N^{1.72}$$

With this equation, you can estimate the elapsed time for one million samples or billion samples as well. Using this formula, we can estimate the timing for 1,000,000 samples.

**Compute** the **growth rate  $b$**  of the running time as a function of  $n$  using the output (profiling.txt) you got from Step 2 and fill the following table for their comparison. Assume that the running time obeys a power law  $T(n) \approx a n^b$ . Based on the elapsed time between  $n = 4,000$  and  $n = 8,000$  shown in the table below, **compute** the measured growth rate  **$b$** .

How to compute the measured growth rate  $b$

We safely assume that most algorithms approximately have the order of growth of the running time:

$$T(N) \approx a N^b$$

To predict running times, multiply the last observed running time by  $2^b$  and double  $N$ , continuing as long as desired. Let us compute  $b$  using the double ratio.

Since  $T(N) \approx a N^b$ ,  $T(2N) = a (2N)^b$ , then

$$\frac{T(2N)}{T(N)} = \frac{a(2N)^b}{aN^b} = \frac{2^b(N)^b}{N^b} = 2^b$$

Log both sides

$$\log \frac{T(2N)}{T(N)} = \log 2^b$$

$$b = \log \frac{T(2N)}{T(N)}$$

In our example,

$$b = \log \frac{T(2N)}{T(N)} = \log \frac{t2(8000)}{t1(4000)}$$

For  **$b$**  in the table below, you must show how you get your answer. You may use a calculator and compute up to two digits after the decimal separator. In my case, I have got 1.72 for the average case of InsertionSort. It will be close to 2.0 for the worst case of insertionSort, 1.2 ~ 1.5 for the average case quickSort.

Now, we use this  $b$  to compute  **$a$**  in

$$T(N) = a N^b,$$

as shown previously.

**Estimate** the elapsed time for one million samples based your computation of  $b$  in your machine. Fill the blank in the table below. Show your exact steps how you compute the estimated time using the **growth rate  $b$**  and write it in your report. Use a proper time unit. For example, don't say 1,234.57 sec., but 20 min 35 sec.

Fill blanks in the table below with the elapsed time actually measured in your computer while running them with 1 million samples.

**Hints and Tips:** Refer to **DiscreteMath.pdf** provided for this computation.

	$T(N) \approx a N^b$ , $a =$ $b =$ insertionSort – Best		$T(N) \approx a N^b$ , $a =$ $b =$ insertionSort – Average		$T(N) \approx a N^b$ , $a =$ $b =$ insertionSort – Worst	
N	4,000	Time for Million	4,000	Time for Million	4,000	Time for Million
Time		Estimated:		Estimated:		Estimated:
N	8,000	Measured:	8,000	Measured:	8,000	Measured:
Time						

	$T(N) \approx a N^b$ , $a =$ $b =$ Average qsort $O(N \log N)$	
N	4,000	Time for Million
Time		Estimated:
N	8,000	Measured:
Time		

**Plot** the data sets that you got from Step 2 to compare them graphically as shown below. You may use Excel Chart(분산형) to plot them. An output example combined data from InsertionSort and quickSort for plotting and report.

n	Insertion Best	Insertion Average	Insertion Worst	qsort Average
500	0.000003	0.000180	0.000341	0.000380
600	0.000003	0.000256	0.000446	0.000657
700	0.000004	0.000374	0.000667	0.000652
800	0.000004	0.000477	0.001075	0.000716
900	0.000004	0.000623	0.000990	0.001653
1000	0.000005	0.000770	0.001815	0.000949
2000	0.000008	0.002855	0.004960	0.001706
3000	0.000011	0.006579	0.010967	0.002773
4000	0.000014	0.011144	0.021761	0.004145
5000	0.000018	0.014565	0.030485	0.004781
6000	0.000021	0.023295	0.043783	0.005814
7000	0.000024	0.028571	0.057889	0.006897
8000	0.000028	0.036643	0.077769	0.008350
9000	0.000031	0.047810	0.095909	0.009346
10000	0.000035	0.063062	0.118778	0.009941



## Step 4 – Be ready for all “sorts” of profiling

In this step, let the user have many choices of sort algorithm to run the profiling of sort with other options that you implemented in PSet2. For this purpose, add two options **p** and **v** in **sortDriver3.cpp** and call **profiling()** defined in **profiling.cpp**.

1. Add “p” option which invokes **profiling()** in **profiling.cpp** with a sort algorithm chosen.

Add the function proto-type at the top of **sortDriver3.cpp** as needed.

When you invoke it, you have to pass the function pointer as an argument.

If the number of samples are less than **STARTING\_SAMPLES**, print the error message such that the user changes the number of samples much larger than **STARTING\_SAMPLES**.

2. Add an option “v” which sets **the list as sorted list** in ascending or descending order. It toggles. If the current list is in ascending order, set it in descending order and vice versa. Using this option, the user can set the data in either ascending or descending order eventually. This option, therefore, enables us to test sorting algorithms with a reverse ordered form of data sets.
3. Before compiling, you must comment out the **main()** part in **profiling.cpp** by setting **#if 0** just above **main()** since we are using **main()** in **sortDriver3.cpp**. Use your own **libsort.a** as you made it lab6 before, use the following command to build **sort.exe**.

```
g++ sortDriver3.cpp, profiling.cpp printList.cpp -I../include -L../lib -lnowic -llibsort -o sort
```

4. You may check your implementation with **sortx.exe** provided.

## Step 5 – Selection Sort and QuickSort



Now, we would like to use this new menu-driven profiling program developed in Step 4 and apply for selectionSort() and quickSort().

**Task 1:** Run profiling for selectionSort using this sort.exe and make sure that it produces the same results by profiling.exe.

**Task 2:** Do profiling for the following three cases of selectionSort().

- Case 1. Input data is already sorted
- Case 2. Input data is randomly ordered
- Case 3. Input data is reversely ordered

	$T(N) \approx a N^b$ , $a =$ $b =$ selectionSort – Case 1		$T(N) \approx a N^b$ , $a =$ $b =$ selectionSort – Case 2		$T(N) \approx a N^b$ , $a =$ $b =$ selectionSort – Case 3	
N	4,000	Time for Million	4,000	Time for Million	4,000	Time for Million
Time		Estimated:		Estimated:		Estimated:
N	8,000	Measured:	8,000	Measured:	8,000	Measured:
Time						

**Task 3.** Compare the results with insertionSort() and write about your findings.

**Task 4.** In the previous steps, we have run quickSort() with only randomized data set (so-called average case). This time, run quickSort() with different kind of data sets such as sorted and reversed. Observe the results and write what you found in the report.

## Submitting your solution

- On my honour, I pledge that I have neither received nor provided improper assistance in the completion of this assignment.  
Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Number: \_\_\_\_\_
- Make sure your code **compiles** and **runs** right before you submit it. Don't make "a tiny last-minute change" and assume your code still compiles. You will not receive sympathy for code that "almost" works.
- If you only manage to work out the Project problem partially before the deadline, you still need to turn it in. However, don't turn it in if it does not compile and run.
- Place your source files in the folder you and I are sharing.
- After submitting, if you realize one of your programs is flawed, you may fix it and submit again as long as it is **before the deadline**. You will have to resubmit any related files together, even if you only change one. You may submit as often as you like. **Only the last version** you submit before the deadline will be graded.

## Files to submit

- profiling.cpp, sortDriver3.cpp

- report.docx: at least 4 pages long report includes the followings:
  - Screen capture of profiling.exe output
  - Complete the performance analysis tables
  - The excel chart and graph for comparing best/average/worst cases
  - Comparison and analysis of algorithms: For example, Insertion vs quick sort, Timing, Stack problem, best/average/worst cases analysis
  - Draw a graph for the worst case of quickSort(). You first need to increase the stack size and test it.

### **Due and Grade points**

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- Due: 11:55 pm, Sept. 30
- 5 points