

Red line = the deterministic select algorithm Green line = the sort and pick algorithm.

As we can see from the graph, the sort and pick algorithm outperforms deterministic select algorithm. Also, as m gets larger, the running time for finding the kth smallest number is decreasing. This tells us that the optimal value of m is not in the range of {5, 7, 9, 11, 13}. We expect the running time to decrease as m gets larger. It will get larger until it hits the length of the array. This means that the optimal value for m is basically the length of this array. Computing the deterministic select algorithm for such m is, in fact, sort and pick algorithm. We obtain such a result because for the larger size of an array, we will need to sort a large number of smaller arrays of size m. This accounts for the increasing time for deterministic select algorithm.