Quicksort

Sorting algorithms

- Insertion, selection and bubble sort have quadratic worst-case performance
- The faster comparison based algorithm ?

  O(nlogn)

- Mergesort and Quicksort

Quicksort Algorithm

Given an array of *n* elements (e.g., integers):
- If array only contains one element, return
- Else
  - pick one element to use as *pivot.*
  - Partition elements into two sub-arrays:
    - Elements less than or equal to pivot
    - Elements greater than pivot
  - Quicksort two sub-arrays
  - Return results

Example

We are given array of n integers to sort:

40	20	10	80	60	50	7	30	100

Pick Pivot Element

There are a number of ways to pick the pivot element. We will use the first element in the array:

40	20	10	80	60	50	7	30	100

Partitioning Array

Given a pivot, partition the elements of the array such that the resulting array consists of:
1. One sub-array that contains elements >= pivot
2. Another sub-array that contains elements < pivot

The sub-arrays are stored in the original data array.

Partitioning loops through, swapping elements below/above pivot.

pivot_index = 0

40	20	10	80	60	50	7	30	100
[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]

too_big_index

too_small_index

---

1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index

pivot_index = 0

40	20	10	80	60	50	7	30	100
[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]

too_big_index

too_small_index

---

1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index

pivot_index = 0

40	20	10	80	60	50	7	30	100
[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]

too_big_index

too_small_index

---

1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index

pivot_index = 0

40	20	10	80	60	50	7	30	100
[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]

too_big_index

too_small_index

---

1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index
2. While data[too_small_index] > data[pivot]
   --too_small_index

pivot_index = 0

40	20	10	80	60	50	7	30	100
[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]

too_big_index

too_small_index

---

1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index
2. While data[too_small_index] > data[pivot]
   --too_small_index

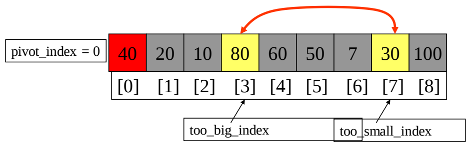
pivot_index = 0

40	20	10	80	60	50	7	30	100
[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]

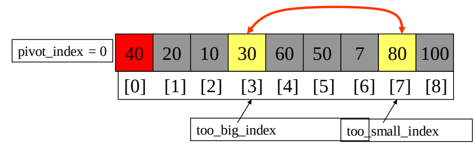
too_big_index

too_small_index

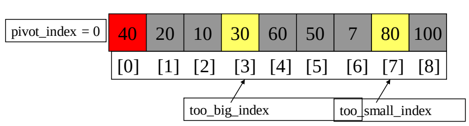
1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index
2. While data[too_small_index] > data[pivot]
   --too_small_index
3. If too_big_index < too_small_index
   swap data[too_big_index] and data[too_small_index]



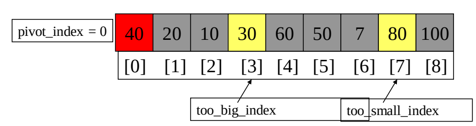
1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index
2. While data[too_small_index] > data[pivot]
   --too_small_index
3. If too_big_index < too_small_index
   swap data[too_big_index] and data[too_small_index]



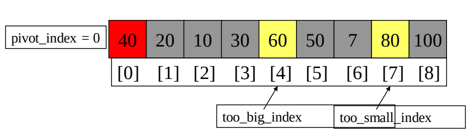
1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index
2. While data[too_small_index] > data[pivot]
   --too_small_index
3. If too_big_index < too_small_index
   swap data[too_big_index] and data[too_small_index]
4. While too_small_index > too_big_index, go to 1.



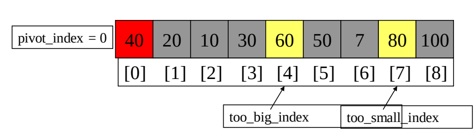
1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index
2. While data[too_small_index] > data[pivot]
   --too_small_index
3. If too_big_index < too_small_index
   swap data[too_big_index] and data[too_small_index]
4. While too_small_index > too_big_index, go to 1.



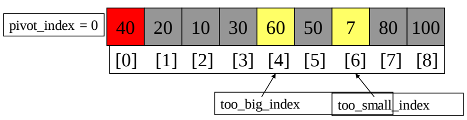
1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index
2. While data[too_small_index] > data[pivot]
   --too_small_index
3. If too_big_index < too_small_index
   swap data[too_big_index] and data[too_small_index]
4. While too_small_index > too_big_index, go to 1.



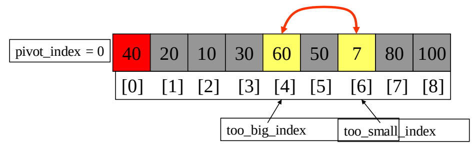
1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index
2. While data[too_small_index] > data[pivot]
   --too_small_index
3. If too_big_index < too_small_index
   swap data[too_big_index] and data[too_small_index]
4. While too_small_index > too_big_index, go to 1.



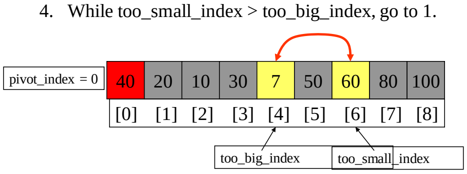
1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index
2. While data[too_small_index] > data[pivot]
   --too_small_index
3. If too_big_index < too_small_index
   swap data[too_big_index] and data[too_small_index]
4. While too_small_index > too_big_index, go to 1.



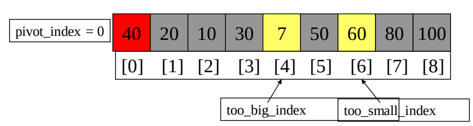
1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index
2. While data[too_small_index] > data[pivot]
   --too_small_index
3. If too_big_index < too_small_index
   swap data[too_big_index] and data[too_small_index]
4. While too_small_index > too_big_index, go to 1.



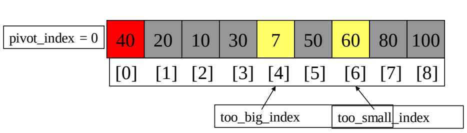
1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index
2. While data[too_small_index] > data[pivot]
   --too_small_index
3. If too_big_index < too_small_index
   swap data[too_big_index] and data[too_small_index]
4. While too_small_index > too_big_index, go to 1.



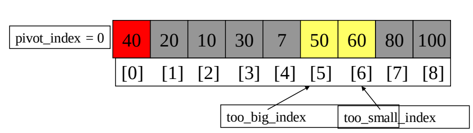
1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index
2. While data[too_small_index] > data[pivot]
   --too_small_index
3. If too_big_index < too_small_index
   swap data[too_big_index] and data[too_small_index]
4. While too_small_index > too_big_index, go to 1.



1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index
2. While data[too_small_index] > data[pivot]
   --too_small_index
3. If too_big_index < too_small_index
   swap data[too_big_index] and data[too_small_index]
4. While too_small_index > too_big_index, go to 1.



1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index
2. While data[too_small_index] > data[pivot]
   --too_small_index
3. If too_big_index < too_small_index
   swap data[too_big_index] and data[too_small_index]
4. While too_small_index > too_big_index, go to 1.



1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index
2. While data[too_small_index] > data[pivot]
   --too_small_index
3. If too_big_index < too_small_index
   swap data[too_big_index] and data[too_small_index]
4. While too_small_index > too_big_index, go to 1.

pivot_index = 0

40	20	10	30	7	50	60	80	100
[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]

too_big_index too_small_index

1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index
2. While data[too_small_index] > data[pivot]
   --too_small_index
3. If too_big_index < too_small_index
   swap data[too_big_index] and data[too_small_index]
4. While too_small_index > too_big_index, go to 1.

pivot_index = 0

40	20	10	30	7	50	60	80	100
[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]

too_big_index too_small_index

1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index
2. While data[too_small_index] > data[pivot]
   --too_small_index
3. If too_big_index < too_small_index
   swap data[too_big_index] and data[too_small_index]
4. While too_small_index > too_big_index, go to 1.

pivot_index = 0

40	20	10	30	7	50	60	80	100
[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]

too_big_index too_small_index

1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index
2. While data[too_small_index] > data[pivot]
   --too_small_index
3. If too_big_index < too_small_index
   swap data[too_big_index] and data[too_small_index]
4. While too_small_index > too_big_index, go to 1.

pivot_index = 0

40	20	10	30	7	50	60	80	100
[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]

too_big_index too_small_index

1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index
2. While data[too_small_index] > data[pivot]
   --too_small_index
3. If too_big_index < too_small_index
   swap data[too_big_index] and data[too_small_index]
4. While too_small_index > too_big_index, go to 1.

pivot_index = 0

40	20	10	30	7	50	60	80	100
[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]

too_big_index too_small_index

1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index
2. While data[too_small_index] > data[pivot]
   --too_small_index
3. If too_big_index < too_small_index
   swap data[too_big_index] and data[too_small_index]
4. While too_small_index > too_big_index, go to 1.
5. Swap data[too_small_index] and data[pivot_index]

pivot_index = 0

40	20	10	30	7	50	60	80	100
[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]

too_big_index too_small_index

1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index
2. While data[too_small_index] > data[pivot]
   --too_small_index
3. If too_big_index < too_small_index
   swap data[too_big_index] and data[too_small_index]
4. While too_small_index > too_big_index, go to 1.
5. Swap data[too_small_index] and data[pivot_index]

pivot_index = 4

7	20	10	30	40	50	60	80	100
[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]

too_big_index too_small_index

Partition Result

7	20	10	30	40	50	60	80	100
[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]

<= data[pivot] > data[pivot]

Recursion: Quicksort Sub-arrays

7	20	10	30	40	50	60	80	100
[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]

<= data[pivot] > data[pivot]

A practical implementation

```
if( left + 10 <= right )
{
    Comparable pivot = median3( a, left, right );

        // Begin partitioning
    int i = left, j = right - 1;
    for( ; ; )
    {
        while( a[ ++i ] < pivot ) { }
        while( pivot < a[ --j ] ) { }
        if( i < j )
            swap( a[ i ], a[ j ] );
        else
            break;
    }

    swap( a[ i ], a[ right - 1 ] );  // Restore pivot

    quicksort( a, left, i - 1 );     // Sort small elements
    quicksort( a, i + 1, right );    // Sort large elements
}
else  // Do an insertion sort on the subarray
    insertionSort( a, left, right );
```

Choose pivot

Partitioning

Recursion

For small arrays

Small arrays

- For very small arrays, quicksort does not perform as well as insertion sort
  - how small depends on many factors, such as the time spent making a recursive call, the compiler, etc
- Do not use quicksort recursively for small arrays
  - Instead, use a sorting algorithm that is efficient for small arrays, such as insertion sort

Quicksort Analysis

- Assume that keys are random, uniformly distributed.
- What is best case running time?

Quicksort Analysis

- Assume that keys are random, uniformly distributed.
- What is best case running time?
  – Recursion:
    1. Partition splits array in two sub-arrays of size n/2
    2. Quicksort each sub-array

Quicksort Analysis

- Assumption:
  – A random pivot
- Running time
  – pivot selection: constant time, i.e. O(1)
  – partitioning: linear time, i.e. O(N)
  – running time of the two recursive calls
- **T(N)=** O(1) + O(N) +**T(i)+T(N-i-1)**
- **T(N)= cN + T(i)+T(N-(i+1))**
  – where c is a constant
  – i is number of elements in array 1

Best-case Analysis

- What will be the best case?
  – Partition is perfectly balanced.
  – Pivot is always in the middle (median of the array)
  – **T(N)= cN + 2T(N/2)**
  – **T(N)= O(Nlog N)**

$$
\begin{aligned}
T(N) &= 2T(N/2) + cN \\
\frac{T(N)}{N} &= \frac{T(N/2)}{N/2} + c \\
\frac{T(N/2)}{N/2} &= \frac{T(N/4)}{N/4} + c \\
\frac{T(N/4)}{N/4} &= \frac{T(N/8)}{N/8} + c \\
&\vdots \\
\frac{T(2)}{2} &= \frac{T(1)}{1} + c \\
\frac{T(N)}{N} &= \frac{T(1)}{1} + c \log N \\
T(N) &= cN \log N + N = O(N \log N)
\end{aligned}
$$

Average-Case Analysis

- Assume
  – Each of the sizes for S1 is equally likely
- This assumption is valid for our pivoting (median-of-three) strategy
- On average, the running time is O(N log N)

Quicksort Analysis

- Assume that keys are random, uniformly distributed.
- Best case running time: O(n $\log_2$n)
- Worst case running time?

Quicksort Analysis

- Assume that keys are random, uniformly distributed.
- Best case running time: O(n $\log_2$n)
- Worst case running time?
  – Recursion:
    1. Partition splits array in two sub-arrays:
       - one sub-array of size 0
       - the other sub-array of size n-1
    2. Quicksort each sub-array

Quicksort: Worst Case

- Assume first element is chosen as pivot.
- Assume we get array that is already in order:

pivot_index = 0

2	4	10	12	13	50	57	63	100
[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]

too_big_index too_small_index

---

1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index
2. While data[too_small_index] > data[pivot]
   --too_small_index
3. If too_big_index < too_small_index
   swap data[too_big_index] and data[too_small_index]
4. While too_small_index > too_big_index, go to 1.
5. Swap data[too_small_index] and data[pivot_index]

pivot_index = 0

2	4	10	12	13	50	57	63	100
[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]

too_big_index too_small_index

---

1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index
2. While data[too_small_index] > data[pivot]
   --too_small_index
3. If too_big_index < too_small_index
   swap data[too_big_index] and data[too_small_index]
4. While too_small_index > too_big_index, go to 1.
5. Swap data[too_small_index] and data[pivot_index]

pivot_index = 0

2	4	10	12	13	50	57	63	100
[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]

too_big_index too_small_index

---

1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index
2. While data[too_small_index] > data[pivot]
   --too_small_index
3. If too_big_index < too_small_index
   swap data[too_big_index] and data[too_small_index]
4. While too_small_index > too_big_index, go to 1.
5. Swap data[too_small_index] and data[pivot_index]

pivot_index = 0

2	4	10	12	13	50	57	63	100
[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]

too_big_index too_small_index

---

1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index
2. While data[too_small_index] > data[pivot]
   --too_small_index
3. If too_big_index < too_small_index
   swap data[too_big_index] and data[too_small_index]
4. While too_small_index > too_big_index, go to 1.
5. Swap data[too_small_index] and data[pivot_index]

pivot_index = 0

2	4	10	12	13	50	57	63	100
[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]

too_big_index too_small_index

---

1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index
2. While data[too_small_index] > data[pivot]
   --too_small_index
3. If too_big_index < too_small_index
   swap data[too_big_index] and data[too_small_index]
4. While too_small_index > too_big_index, go to 1.
5. Swap data[too_small_index] and data[pivot_index]

pivot_index = 0

2	4	10	12	13	50	57	63	100
[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]

too_big_index too_small_index

1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index
2. While data[too_small_index] > data[pivot]
   --too_small_index
3. If too_big_index < too_small_index
   swap data[too_big_index] and data[too_small_index]
4. While too_small_index > too_big_index, go to 1.
5. Swap data[too_small_index] and data[pivot_index]

pivot_index = 0

2	4	10	12	13	50	57	63	100
[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]

too_big_index

too_small_index

1. While data[too_big_index] <= data[pivot]
   ++too_big_index
2. While data[too_small_index] > data[pivot]
   --too_small_index
3. If too_big_index < too_small_index
   swap data[too_big_index] and data[too_small_index]
4. While too_small_index > too_big_index, go to 1.
5. Swap data[too_small_index] and data[pivot_index]

pivot_index = 0

2	4	10	12	13	50	57	63	100
[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]

<= data[pivot]

> data[pivot]

Worst-Case Analysis

- What will be the worst case?
  - The pivot is the smallest element, all the time
  - Partition is always unbalanced
  - i=0

$$
\begin{aligned}
T(N) &= T(N-1) + cN \\
T(N-1) &= T(N-2) + c(N-1) \\
T(N-2) &= T(N-3) + c(N-2) \\
&\vdots \\
T(2) &= T(1) + c(2) \\
T(N) &= T(1) + c\sum_{i=2}^{N} i = O(N^2)
\end{aligned}
$$

Quicksort is 'faster' than Mergesort

- Both quicksort and mergesort take O(N log N) in the average case.
- Why is quicksort faster than mergesort?
  - The inner loop consists of an increment/decrement (by 1, which is fast), a test and a jump.
  - There is no extra organising as in mergesort.

```
int i = left, j = right - 1;
for( ; ; )
{
    while( a[ ++i ] < pivot ) { }
    while( pivot < a[ --j ] ) { }
    if( i < j )
        swap( a[ i ], a[ j ] );
    else
        break;
}
```

inner loop

Quicksort Analysis

- Assume that keys are random, uniformly distributed.
- Best case running time: $O(n \log_2 n)$
- Worst case running time: $O(n^2)$

Quicksort Analysis

- Assume that keys are random, uniformly distributed.
- Best case running time: $O(n \log_2 n)$
- Worst case running time: $O(n^2)$
- What can we do to avoid worst case?

Improved Pivot Selection

Pick median value of three elements from data array:
data[0], data[n/2], and data[n-1].

Use this median value as pivot.