Algorithms speed test

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Experiment 1, Experimentation & Evaluation 2023

# Abstract

Short (120-130 words) summary of your entire report. Give the reader a quick idea of what you did and what the main findings were (if you prepare this report ahead of time, leave out the findings until after you finish the analysis).

# 1. Introduction

Introduce the topic of investigation to the reader and motivate why you did the experiment. Note that in our case, writing “because I was told to by the course instructor” is not a valid answer. Please assume that you are trying to answer a certain relevant question and motivate its relevance. (In a “real” study report, you would need to also discuss any relevant prior research results here. Given our setting, however, we skip any “related work” consideration.) Your final paragraph of the introduction should outline your proposed experiment.

Sorting algorithms play a crucial role in various computer science applications, influencing the efficiency and performance of data processing tasks. It is important to choose the correct and faster algorithm according to the situation and cases of the program to maximize the efficiency. For this reason, the aim of this experiment is to demonstrate which among the three selected algorithms, namely, BubbleSortPassPerItem, BubbleSortUntilNoChange, and BubbleSortWhileNeeded, provides superior speed and efficiency? This inquiry drives the motivation behind our experiment, aiming to uncover the comparative performance of these algorithms and shed light on their behavior under varying conditions such as the size of the array, the type of the elements inside and the order of the elements.

These algorithms, despite performing the same task, have significant different approaches to the problem:

* The BubbleSortPassPerItem algorithm iterates through the array multiple times, swapping adjacent elements if they are in the wrong order. It continues this process until the entire array is sorted.
* The BubbleSortUntilNoChange algorithm also swaps adjacent elements until the array is sorted. However, it repeats this process until no more swaps are needed, indicating that the array is fully sorted. This approach potentially reduces the number of iterations compared to pass-per-item.
* The BubbleSortWhileNeeded algorithm iterates through the array, swapping adjacent elements until no more swaps are needed. It keeps track of the maximum index where a swap occurred and reduces the size of the array to that index in each iteration. This approach aims to optimize the sorting process by avoiding unnecessary comparisons.

The pursuit of this investigation is driven by a curiosity about the practical implications of sorting algorithms in real-world scenarios. Understanding the nuances of algorithmic behavior is essential for making informed decisions in software development, where optimal performance is often a critical factor.

The primary focus of our investigation is the evaluation of the three sorting algorithms in question, each representing a distinct approach to sorting. In this introduction, we provide a glimpse into the overarching goal of our experiment: to identify the algorithm that excels in terms of speed and efficiency.

In the subsequent sections, we will outline the experimental methodology, present the results, and draw conclusions based on our findings. By the end of this study, we aim to provide a clear understanding of the comparative strengths and weaknesses of the three algorithms considered.

|  |
| --- |
| **Hypotheses:** |
| According to the general functionality of the algorithms, we can formulate the following hypothesis:   1. **Null Hypothesis**: The sorting algorithms taken into consideration demonstrate comparable performance in terms of sorting time across varying array sizes and object types. 2. **Alternative Hypothesis**: The sorting algorithms taken into consideration demonstrate significant differences in sorting time based on array size and object types. |

# 2. Method

## 2.1 Variables

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Independent variable** | **Levels** |
| Algorithm  Length of the array to sort  Type of object in the array | PassPerItem, UntilNoChange, WhileNeeded  100, 1000, 10000  String, Integer, Byte |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Dependent variable** | **Measurement Scale** |
| Time required to sort the array | Seconds |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Control variable** | **Fixed Value** |
| Elements of the array | Random values, Sorted values and inverted-sorted values |

## 2.2 Design

**Type of Study** (check one):

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ⃞ **Observational Study** | ⃞ **Quasi-Experiment** | X **Experiment** |

The experimental design involves manipulating independent variables to observe their effects. Through randomization of groups, we aim to control extraneous variables and establish causal relationships between the independent variables and the observed outcomes.

**Number of Factors** (check one):

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ⃞ **Single-Factor Design** | X **Multi-Factor Design** | ⃞ Other |

Explain, (1) in text using terminology from the book and lectures **and** (2) with a figure (similar to those used in Chapter 3 of the Field & Hole book), what kind of experiment you did.

The study incorporates multiple independent variables, forming a multi-factor design. This approach allows us to explore the interactions and combined effects of these variables, providing a more comprehensive understanding of the phenomena under investigation.

For the experiment, all the possible combinations of independent variables have been taken into consideration for all the control variable, obtaining so 81 valid results, testing each algorithm with three different sizes and each size tested with three different type of elements. Everything has been repeated three times for each type of ordination of the elements in the array.

## 2.3 Apparatus and Materials

* Computer: model Dell Precision 5550
* Java: version openjdk 17.0.8.1 2023-08-24 (Used for creating the test)
* Python: version 3.8.10 (Used for creating the graphs)
* Libreoffice: version 6.4.7.2 40 (Used to save the datas)

## 2.4 Procedure

**Test Execution Overview:**

The experiment involves evaluating the performance of three sorting algorithms across different data types (Integer, String, Byte) and array sizes (100, 1000, 10000). The testing process is orchestrated within the Test java class, utilizing a thoughtful experimental design.

**Algorithm Initialization:**

Before conducting tests, each sorting algorithm is initialized for every data type. To enhance performance, a warming-up process (warmup() method) is employed, utilizing an arbitrary sorter to ensure consistent CPU scheduling for subsequent tasks.

**Benchmarking Process:**

For each array size under consideration, a suite of tests is executed using the benchmark() method. This function takes in the sorters of a specific type, a function to generate an array of that type, and the array size. The benchmark initializes three arrays to record execution times for each algorithm and performs sorting operations N times. The generated arrays remain consistent across implementations, eliminating randomness. Importantly, a copy of the array, not the array itself, is passed to ensure consistency.

**Detailed Steps:**

1. Initialization: Sorters are initialized for Integer, String, and Byte data types.
2. Warm-up: The warmup() method ensures CPU space occupation for subsequent consistent scheduling.
3. Benchmark Execution: For each array size and data type, the benchmark() method records execution times for each algorithm across multiple repetitions.
4. Result Output: The mean execution times are printed to the terminal while the single executions per array are stored in separate text files for further analysis.

**Experimental Controls:**

* Array sizes: 100, 1000, 10000
* Data types: Integer, String, Byte
* Repetitions: Each test is performed 100 times
* Warming-up cycles: 25
* Output directory: ./results/

The comprehensive experimental setup, encompassing warm-up cycles and repeated tests, ensured a solid and valid evaluation of the sorting algorithms' performance under varying conditions. The use of consistent arrays and detailed recording of execution times contributed to the reliability and reproducibility of the experiment.

# 3. Results

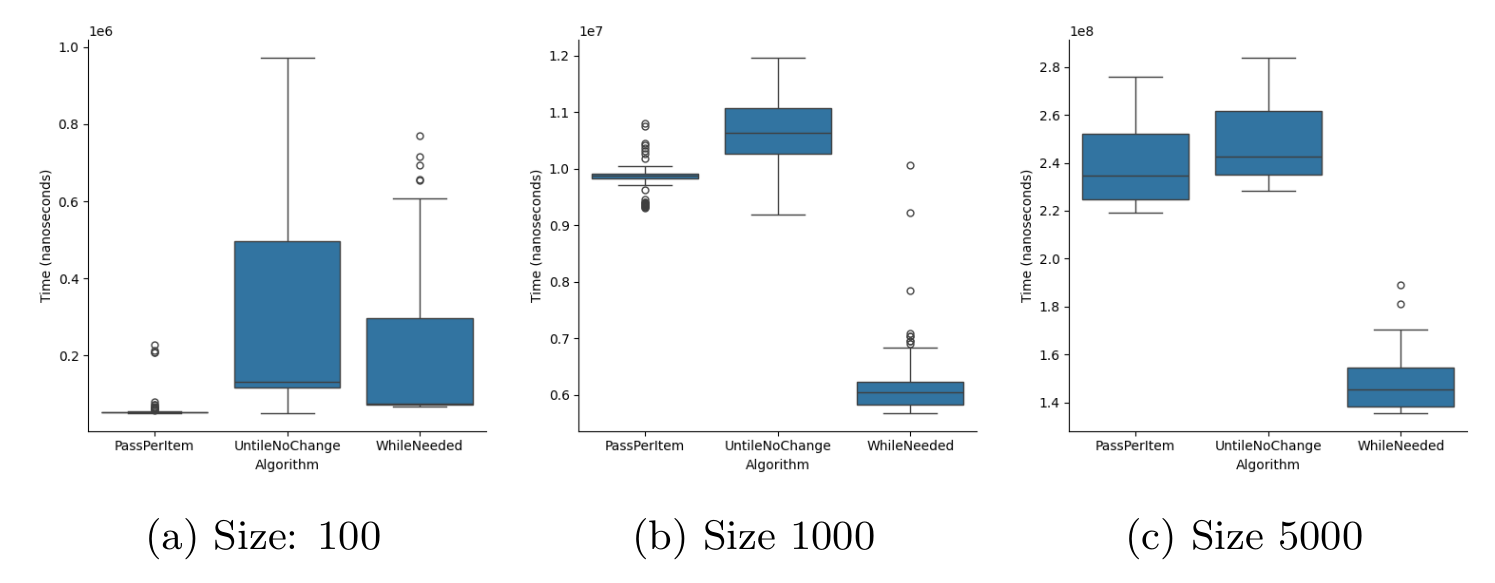
## 3.1 Visual Overview

The graphs represent the time needed for the various algorithms to sort an array of different sizes of different types.

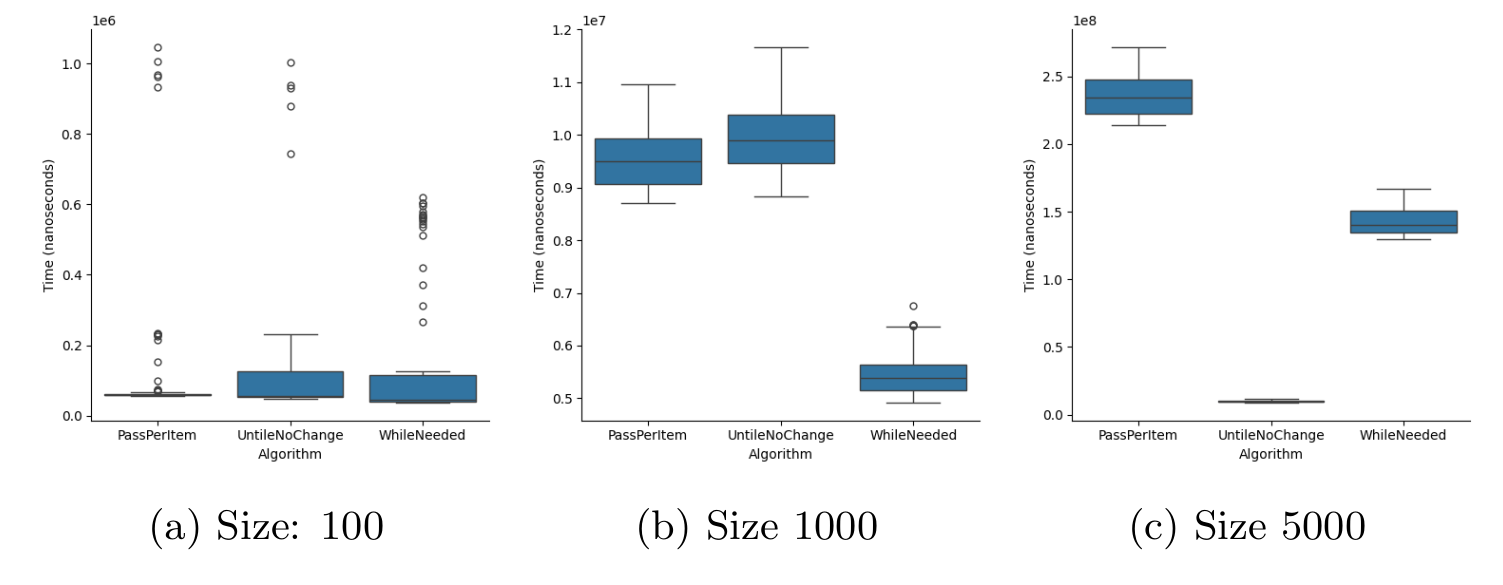
On the X axis are written the algorithm used.

On the Y axis is written the time in nanoseconds multiplied for the value on top of the axis (to improve visibility).

Type: Integer



Type: Byte



Provide an insightful overview of the data you collected. This requires some engineering from your part, to find a good degree of summarization: On one end of the spectrum, you don't summarize, and report hundreds of raw measurement values in a block of text. On the other end of the spectrum, you report a single number (like a mean value). Both approaches are bad.

Instead, use appropriate visual summaries (such as **scatter plots**, **histograms**, **box plots**, or **empirical cumulative distribution functions**) to show the distribution of your data. If you have a very small number of measurement values, then report all of them in a **well organized table** (where rows and/or columns correspond to different levels of different factors).

## 3.2 Descriptive Statistics

Type Integer and Size 100

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Minimum (s)** | **First Quartile** | **Median (ns)** | **Third quartile** | **Maximum (ns)** |
| **PassPerItem** | 50421 | 51863 | 52829 | 53403.5 | 229123 |
| **UntilNoChange** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **WhileNeeded** |  |  |  |  |  |

For each group or condition, summarize the set of measured values with a "five-number summary": **minimum**, **first quartile**, **median**, **third quartile**, and **maximum**.

Make sure you explain – in your words – what these statistics mean “in plain English”, but don’t yet interpret them (this is for the Discussion section).

# 4. Discussion

## 4.1 Compare Hypothesis to Results

Provide a brief restatement of the main results from the previous section, and if (or if not) these support your research hypothesis.

If there is a discrepancy between your hypothesis and the results of your experiment, speculate about why you were unable to find evidence to support your hypothesis.

## 4.2 Limitations and Threats to Validity

Acknowledge any faults or limitations your study has, and how seriously these affect your

results. How could these be remedied in future work?

## 4.3 Conclusions

End with the main conclusions that can be drawn from your study.

Appendix

# A. Materials

Any documents you used for your informed consent (information sheets, consent) or as part of your apparatus (e.g., manual, hand-out), please include them here.

# B. Reproduction Package (or: Raw Data)

Before, during, and after the experiment you collected all kinds of data. Don't ever throw such data away! Any plots, tables, summaries, and statistics provided in this report should be recreatable from the raw data you have.

If you only collected a small amount of data, put it in this Appendix right here.

If you collected data in forms that are better kept in separate files, then zip up those files, and submit them as a "reproduction package" supporting this report.