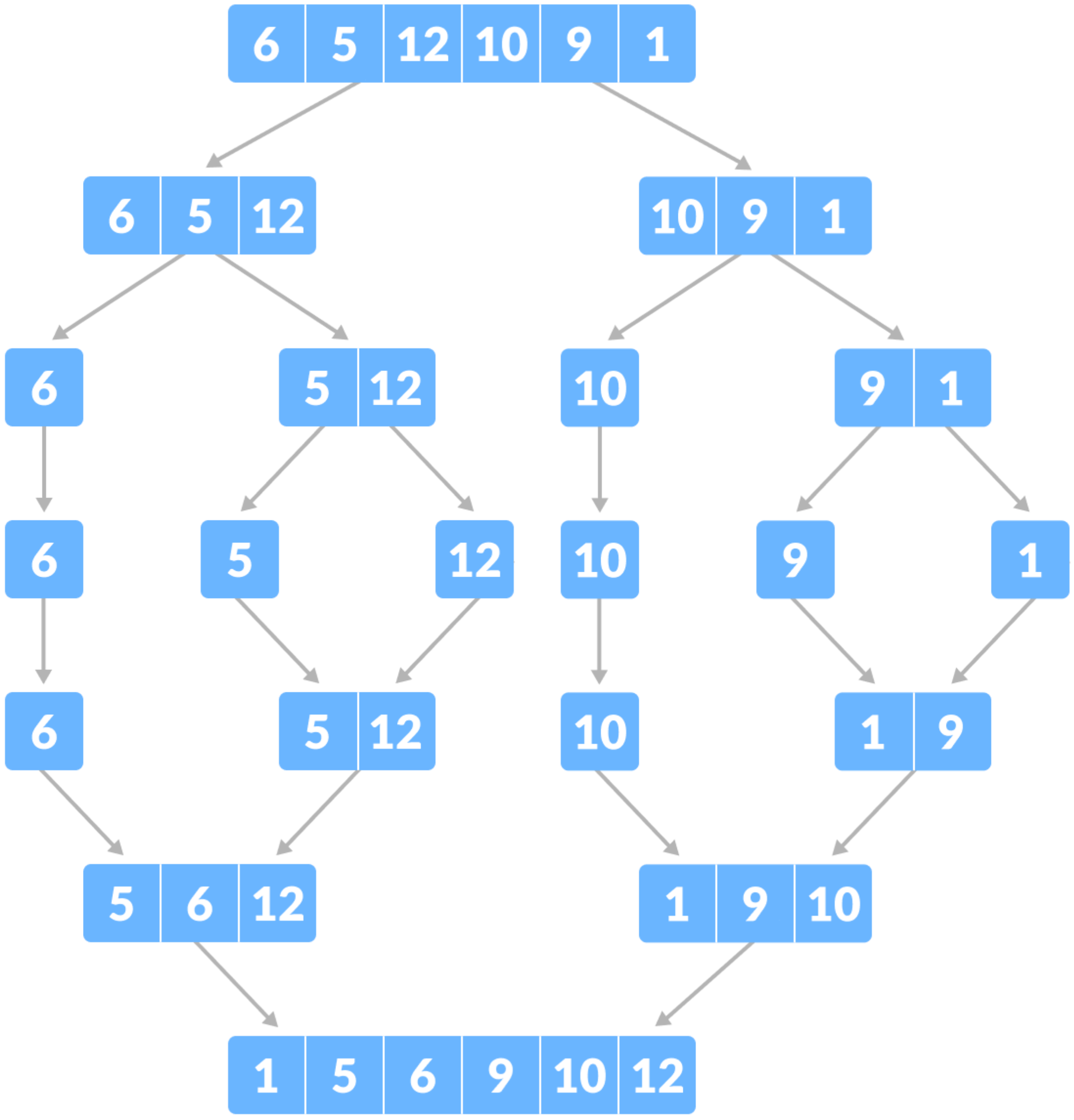
Merge Sort Algorithm

Merge Sort is one of the most popular sorting algorithms that is based on the principle of Divide and Conquer Algorithm.

Here, a problem is divided into multiple sub-problems. Each sub-problem is solved individually. Finally, sub-problems are combined to form the final solution.



Merge Sort example

Divide and Conquer Strategy

Using the **Divide and Conquer** technique, we divide a problem into subproblems. When the solution to each subproblem is ready, we 'combine' the results from the subproblems to solve the main problem.

MergeSort Algorithm

The MergeSort function repeatedly divides the array into two halves until we reach a stage where we try to perform MergeSort on a subarray of size 1 i.e. *p* == *r*.

After that, the merge function comes into play and combines the sorted arrays into larger arrays until the whole array is merged.

Merge sort Algorithm1:

```
MergeSort(A, p, r):
  if p > r
    return
  q = (p+r)/2
  mergeSort(A, p, q)
  mergeSort(A, q+1, r)
  merge(A, p, q, r)
```

To sort an entire array, we need to call `MergeSort(A, 0, length(A)-1)`.

Merge Sort Algorithm2:

```
MERGE_SORT(arr, beg, end)

if beg < end
set mid = (beg + end)/2
MERGE_SORT(arr, beg, mid)
MERGE_SORT(arr, mid + 1, end)
MERGE (arr, beg, mid, end)
end of if

END MERGE_SORT
```

Program: Write a program to implement merge sort in C language.

```
#include <stdio.h>

/* Function to merge the subarrays of a[] */
void merge(int a[], int beg, int mid, int end)
```

```
{
    int i, j, k;
    int n1 = mid - beg + 1;
    int n2 = end - mid;

    int LeftArray[n1], RightArray[n2]; //temporary arrays

    /* copy data to temp arrays */
    for (int i = 0; i < n1; i++)
    LeftArray[i] = a[beg + i];
    for (int j = 0; j < n2; j++)
    RightArray[j] = a[mid + 1 + j];

    i = 0; /* initial index of first sub-array */
    j = 0; /* initial index of second sub-array */
    k = beg;  /* initial index of merged sub-array */

    while (i < n1 && j < n2)
    {
        if(LeftArray[i] <= RightArray[j])
        {
            a[k] = LeftArray[i];
            i++;
        }
        else
        {
            a[k] = RightArray[j];
            j++;
        }
        k++;
    }
    while (i<n1)
    {
        a[k] = LeftArray[i];
        i++;
        k++;
    }

    while (j<n2)
    {
        a[k] = RightArray[j];
        j++;
        k++;
    }
}

void mergeSort(int a[], int beg, int end)
{
    if (beg < end)
    {
        int mid = (beg + end) / 2;
        mergeSort(a, beg, mid);
        mergeSort(a, mid + 1, end);
        merge(a, beg, mid, end);
    }
}

/* Function to print the array */
void printArray(int a[], int n)
{
    int i;
    for (i = 0; i < n; i++)
        printf("%d ", a[i]);
    printf("\n");
}

int main()
{
    int a[] = { 12, 31, 25, 8, 32, 17, 40, 42 };
    int n = sizeof(a) / sizeof(a[0]);
    printf("Before sorting array elements are - \n");
    printArray(a, n);
    mergeSort(a, 0, n - 1);
    printf("After sorting array elements are - \n");
    printArray(a, n);
    return 0;
}
```

// Merge sort in C

```
#include <stdio.h>

// Merge two subarrays L and M into arr
void merge(int arr[], int p, int q, int r) {

  // Create L ← A[p..q] and M ← A[q+1..r]
  int n1 = q - p + 1;
  int n2 = r - q;

  int L[n1], M[n2];

  for (int i = 0; i < n1; i++)
    L[i] = arr[p + i];
  for (int j = 0; j < n2; j++)
    M[j] = arr[q + 1 + j];

  // Maintain current index of sub-arrays and main array
  int i, j, k;
  i = 0;
  j = 0;
  k = p;

  // Until we reach either end of either L or M, pick larger among
  // elements L and M and place them in the correct position at A[p..r]
  while (i < n1 && j < n2) {
    if (L[i] <= M[j]) {
      arr[k] = L[i];
      i++;
    } else {
      arr[k] = M[j];
      j++;
    }
    k++;
  }

  // When we run out of elements in either L or M,
  // pick up the remaining elements and put in A[p..r]
  while (i < n1) {
    arr[k] = L[i];
    i++;
    k++;
  }

  while (j < n2) {
    arr[k] = M[j];
    j++;
    k++;
  }
}

// Divide the array into two subarrays, sort them and merge them
void mergeSort(int arr[], int l, int r) {
  if (l < r) {

    // m is the point where the array is divided into two subarrays
    int m = l + (r - l) / 2;

    mergeSort(arr, l, m);
    mergeSort(arr, m + 1, r);

    // Merge the sorted subarrays
    merge(arr, l, m, r);
  }
}

// Print the array
void printArray(int arr[], int size) {
  for (int i = 0; i < size; i++)
    printf("%d ", arr[i]);
  printf("\n");
}

// Driver program
int main() {
  int arr[] = {6, 5, 12, 10, 9, 1};
  int size = sizeof(arr) / sizeof(arr[0]);

  mergeSort(arr, 0, size - 1);

  printf("Sorted array: \n");
  printArray(arr, size);
}
```

Merge Sort Complexity

Time Complexity	
Best	O(n*log n)
Worst	O(n*log n)
Average	O(n*log n)
Space Complexity	O(n)
Stability	Yes

Time Complexity

Best Case Complexity: *O(n*log n)*

Worst Case Complexity: *O(n*log n)*

Average Case Complexity: *O(n*log n)*

Space Complexity

The space complexity of merge sort is *O(n)*.

Merge Sort Applications

- Inversion count problem
- External sorting
- E-commerce applications

Applications of Merge Sort:

- **Sorting large datasets:** Merge sort is particularly well-suited for sorting large datasets due to its guaranteed worst-case time complexity of O(n log n).
- **External sorting:** Merge sort is commonly used in external sorting, where the data to be sorted is too large to fit into memory.
- **Custom sorting:** Merge sort can be adapted to handle different input distributions, such as partially sorted, nearly sorted, or completely unsorted data.
- Inversion Count Problem

Advantages of Merge Sort:

- **Stability**: Merge sort is a stable sorting algorithm, which means it maintains the relative order of equal elements in the input array.
- **Guaranteed worst-case performance:** Merge sort has a worst-case time complexity of O(N logN), which means it performs well even on large datasets.
- **Parallelizable**: Merge sort is a naturally parallelizable algorithm, which means it can be easily parallelized to take advantage of multiple processors or threads.

Drawbacks of Merge Sort:

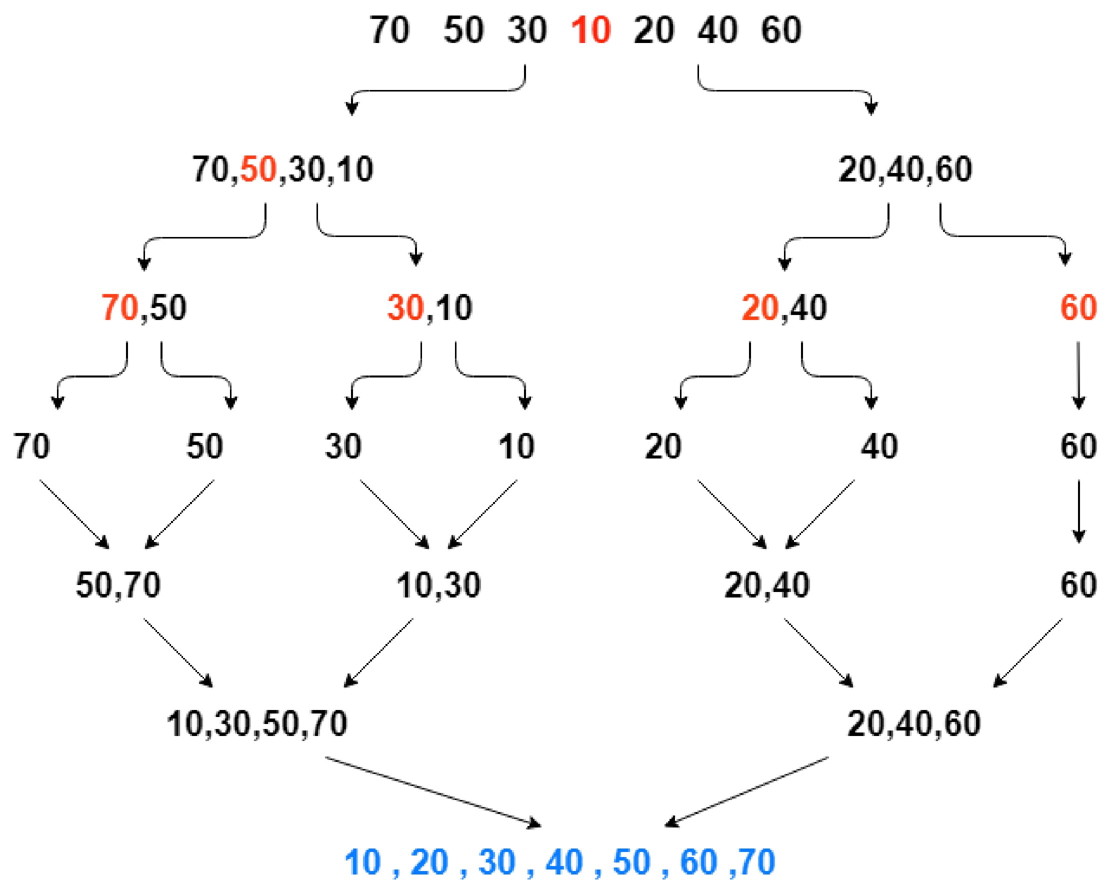
- **Space complexity:** Merge sort requires additional memory to store the merged sub-arrays during the sorting process.
- **Not in-place:** Merge sort is not an in-place sorting algorithm, which means it requires additional memory to store the sorted data. This can be a disadvantage in applications where memory usage is a concern.
- **Not always optimal for small datasets:** For small datasets, Merge sort has a higher time complexity than some other sorting algorithms, such as insertion sort. This can result in slower performance for very small datasets.

So, the merge sort working rule involves the following steps:

1. Divide the unsorted array into subarray, each containing a single element.
2. Take adjacent pairs of two single-element array and merge them to form an array of 2 elements.
3. Repeat the process till a single sorted array is obtained.

Merge Sort Algorithm Flow

Array = *{70,50,30,10,20,40,60}*



MergeSort

We repeatedly break down the array in two parts, the left part, and the right part. the division takes place from the mid element. We divide until we reach a single element and then we start combining them to form a Sorted Array.

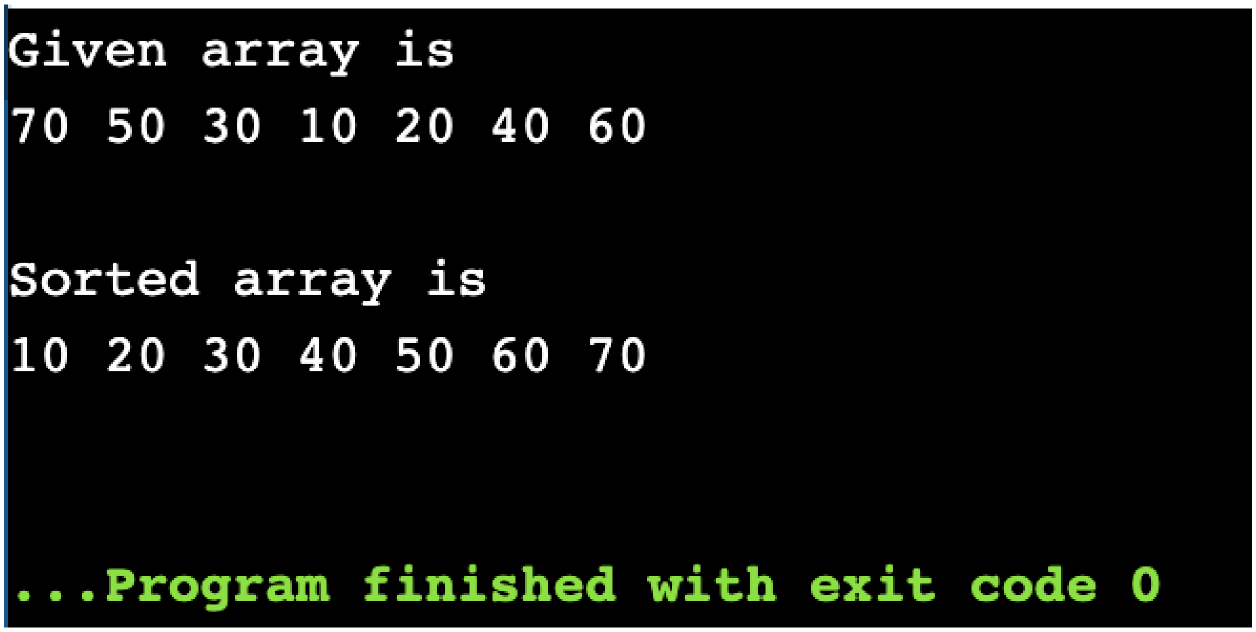
2. C Implementation

```
#include <stdio.h>

void merge(int arr[], int l, int m, int r)
{
```

```
int i, j, k;
int n1 = m - l + 1;
int n2 =  r - m;

/* create temp arrays */
int L[n1], R[n2];

/* Copy data to temp arrays L[] and R[] */
for (i = 0; i < n1; i++)
    L[i] = arr[l + i];
for (j = 0; j < n2; j++)
    R[j] = arr[m + 1+ j];

/* Merge the temp arrays back into arr[l..r]*/
i = 0; // Initial index of first subarray
j = 0; // Initial index of second subarray
k = l; // Initial index of merged subarray
while (i < n1 && j < n2)
{
    if (L[i] <= R[j])
    {
        arr[k] = L[i];
        i++;
    }
    else
    {
        arr[k] = R[j];
        j++;
    }
    k++;
}

/* Copy the remaining elements of L[], if there
   are any */
while (i < n1)
{
    arr[k] = L[i];
    i++;
    k++;
}

/* Copy the remaining elements of R[], if there
   are any */
while (j < n2)
```

```
    {
        arr[k] = R[j];
        j++;
        k++;
    }
}

/* l is for left index and r is the right index of the
   sub-array of arr to be sorted */
void mergeSort(int arr[], int l, int r)
{
    if (l < r)
    {
        // Same as (l+r)/2, but avoids overflow for
        // large l and h
        int m = l+(r-l)/2;

        // Sort first and second halves
        mergeSort(arr, l, m);
        mergeSort(arr, m+1, r);

        merge(arr, l, m, r);
    }
}


void printArray(int A[], int size)
{
    int i;
    for (i=0; i < size; i++)
        printf("%d ", A[i]);
    printf("\n");
}

/* Driver program to test above functions */
int main()
{
    int arr[] = {70, 50, 30, 10, 20, 40,60};
    int arr_size = sizeof(arr)/sizeof(arr[0]);

    printf("Given array is \n");
    printArray(arr, arr_size);

    mergeSort(arr, 0, arr_size - 1);
    printf("\nSorted array is \n");
    printArray(arr, arr_size);
    return 0;
}
```

OUTPUT



```
Given array is
70 50 30 10 20 40 60

Sorted array is
10 20 30 40 50 60 70



...Program finished with exit code 0
```

Merge Sort C Implementation