

Analyzation of Sorting Algorithms, Lab 5, Java II

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Abstract—Sorting has become a sub-field of computer science. The ability to take a set of data and arrange it into a specific sequence of ascending or descending values has created a multitude of algorithms and analyses. Our challenge was to create a class from which we could run at least 6 different sorting algorithms coded in Java and compare the performance of each on a given set of data.

Keywords—Computer Society, IEEEtran, journal, L^AT_EX, Force Push, nanosecond unreliability.

1 INTRODUCTION

OUR team created a class that contained 6 different sorting routines. We also created a separate class to handle the acquisition of the data to be sorted, the invoking of the Sort class to access the individual sort methods, and the recording of the time that it would take to perform each task. We also wanted to be able to provide different sizes of data sets to be able to compare sort times for varying values of n.

tjs

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1.1 Tasking the Sorts

Our task was not to code each sorting routine from scratch, although we did so with the Bubble sort and our own Force

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Push sort. Our task was, instead, to assemble the sorts from other documented sources such as the textbook (in the case of the Quick Sort) or the Internet as noted in each method. Once the sorting routines were gathered and assembled, a methodology had to be developed to provide fair and accurate testing and recording. Each sorting algorithm was structured to receive a reference to an array of type Point. The class Point was defined in a separate point.java class file and consisted of two double values representing the (x,y) Cartesian graphing pair. The array would be sorted in ascending order based on the x coordinate. No return type was required since the reference passed as an actual parameter was a reference to the array from the invoking class. Thus, the original array was the one being sorted. System time was recorded in nanoseconds before and after each sorting routine was called. The difference of the two times was logged as the time that it took that sort algorithm to perform a sort on the array with n elements.



1.2 Methodology

Our methodology for testing the different sorting algorithms was to create a sort

testing class that would have an array of integers representing the different sizes of arrays (different size n arrays) to be sorted. This gave us great flexibility in deciding the different sizes of the data sets. Given a file with 100,000 test elements, this array of integers was used to create sub arrays from the full list.

Each sort was invoked given an array of sizes varying from 10 elements to 100,000 elements. Each sort was timed and that time was recorded. Because run time of a program can be influenced by other tasks the computer may be performing at the same time, we ran each test 10 times and took the average time for each test case.

We noticed that there were anomalies with the results when the test cases used

IN LINE $n < 10$

, regardless of the sort routine called. In fact, the first test of each routine resulted in times that were higher than the second run of the same routine even when the same data was being used. To counter this anomaly, we disregarded the results of the first few tests i.e.

$n = 2, n = 3, n = 4, \dots n = 9$

IN LINE

1.3 Hypothesis

We were working on a hypothesis that an

$$O(n^2)$$

sort might have better real time performance on lower n elements than an

$$O(n \log n)$$

sort. Thus, we structured our test cases to cover more tests of

$$n < 100$$

However, our tests did not show a significant benefit for using a non-recursive or

$$O(n^2)$$

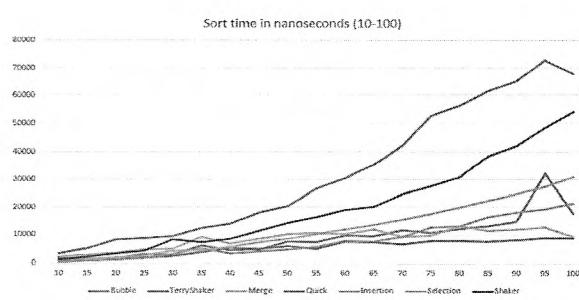
sort for lower values of n.

1.4 Graphs

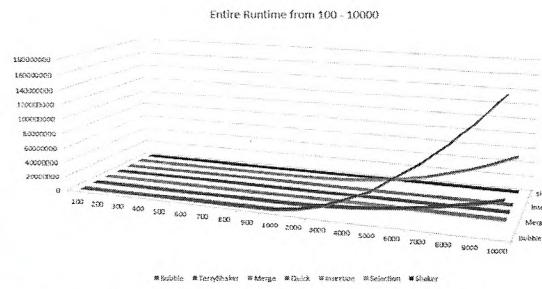
These were the averages of the test results for

$$n \leq 100$$

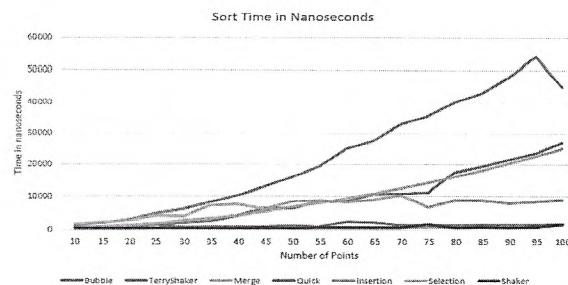
based on the random data from the original file:



The overall graph of the 7 sort routines that we tested is as follows:



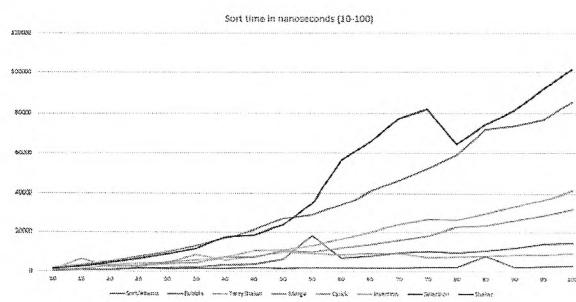
We also ran test cases for the same test sizes of n using data that was already sorted. This graph shows the results of this test for best-case scenario:



In addition, we ran the same tests for data that was in perfect reverse order. This

Random numbers sorted in reverse order

graph shows the results of a worst-case scenario:



1.5 Run-time

For this sorting task analysis, we were required to include 5 well known sorts: Bubble, Merge, Insertion, Selection, and Quick. We were also required to select a sixth sorting algorithm of our choice. Our team chose the Cocktail shaker sort, which derives it's name from a visualization of the way the sort "bubbles" the largest item to the right, then the smallest item to the left, then the next largest item to its place on the right, etc... until all items are sorted. Our perception of the Cocktail Shaker sort was that it was an improvement over the Bubble sort because it correctly identified and placed the largest and smallest two items in their proper place on each pass. Further examination proved our initial perception to be incorrect. By definition, the Cocktail Shaker sort is indeed a Bubble sort that makes two passes: the first pass, from left to right, bubbles the largest item to the right until it is in it's proper place; the second pass, from right to left, bubbles the smallest item to the left. This alternation of directions can provide better performance in some cases. Our Bubble sort had a calculated run-time of

$$8n^2 + 5n + 2$$

and the Cocktail Shaker sort had a run-time of

$$8n^2 + 3n$$

While both the Bubble and Cocktail Shaker sorts have a Big-O of

~~n^2~~

the data shows that the Cocktail Shaker out-performs the Bubble sort. Given the misconception of the algorithm for the Cocktail Shaker sort, our team decided to try to implement what we thought was a commonsense improvement on the Bubble sort. We decided to call our sort the "Force Push" sort, given the way that each pass forces an item left and an item right. If a Jedi were standing in the middle of the area to be sorted, he would "Push" both items to either end and have them land in their appropriate location. So we created, from scratch, an algorithm to make a pass through the data and locate, but not swap, the largest and smallest items at the same time. At the end of the first iteration, we would swap the smallest element to the leftmost side, and swap the largest element to the rightmost side. The next iteration would then not need to include the first or last element when searching for the remaining minimum and maximum value and repeating the process. In our Force Push sort, the first iteration would take n passes, the second iteration would require

~~$n - 2$~~

passes. Each iteration would decrease n by 2. Thus, the number of iterations would be

$$n + (n - 2) + (n - 4) + (n - 6) \dots + (n - (n - 2))$$

with only two element swaps per iteration. A Bubble sort would do n passes through the data on the first pass and n passes through the data on each successive iteration. Bubble sort can be improved to skip the area already sorted, thus decreasing the number of passes through the list of elements by 1 on each iteration.

This means that a better coded Bubble sort would take

$$n + (n-1) + (n-2) + (n-3) + \dots + (n-(n-1))$$

passes, with an average of $n/2$ swaps on the first iteration and

$$\frac{n-1}{2}$$

swaps on the second iteration, and so on.

The Force Push sort is also in the Big-O of:

$$n^2$$

Our Force Push sort has a run-time formula of

$$8n^2 + 11n + 18$$

1.6 Conclusion

We found many different ideas and methods when analyzing different sort methods. Most of them are fascinating and many are ingenious. Data will always need to be sorted. We found that coding a simple sort routine can be quick and easy, as in the case of the Bubble sort. We did Bubble sort from memory and typed it straight into our class. We copied the Quick sort from the textbook and easily adapted it to our data type. Other sorts were copied straight from the Internet and adapted. But coding our Force Push sort required more testing and troubleshooting than anticipated. Our first attempt at coding the Force Push sort used recursion. This proved to be memory intensive and caused overflow errors. After the testing was done on the method's algorithm, we easily converted the implementation to an iterative approach. As can be seen from the data, we bested the Bubble sort, even though we were still in the family of n^2

~~our~~
 ~~n^2~~

Java has a built-in sort, and we wanted to implement a TimSort from the Internet. But the ability to sort non-primitive

data types using generics was beyond the scope of our knowledge. Implementing different sorts and having to adjust the coding to handle our Point data type for sorting whets the appetite to learn generics. The library of sorting methods that we have tested is already a valuable reference.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors of this document would like to thank Phd. C. Servin of EPCC and the L^AT_EX community for making documentation and presets readily available to us during this paper.

APPENDIX A

CODE

At the end of this document we provide our Java source code for the review of those grading this paper and for those interested in running future tests with Superior hardware, give Moore's Law, despite it not being a law, holds true.

WHAT'S moore's law?

APPENDIX B DATA

On the next page we give the table of data for our project. The data was made by summing the time of iteration for each number of elements then dividing the sum by the number of the iterations thus getting a more precise measurement. This was necessary in light of the unreliability of java run-time at the scale of nanoseconds.



Description

The objective of this programming lab is to test the performance of six different sorting algorithms (five of them discussed in class) by sorting a file containing 100,000 coordinates. Notice that the coordinates are in format of x,y. The objective is to order the file based on x-coordinate. Use the following sorting methods:

- bubble,
- selection,
- insertion,
- merge,
- quick, and
- a one algorithm selected of your preference ¹

The purpose is to count the total time that each algorithm took to sort a `Point` based on the x-coordinate. Write a class called `SortAlgorithmsTester.java`, where will process a file containing the `100000Points.txt`. The file:

100000Points.txt

is located in the website and contains several thousands of coordinates, each coordinate belongs to a `Point`. For each coordinate, create a `Point` object and store it in an array of `Points`.

In the file `SortAlgorithmsTester.java` you will process the time elapsed that each algorithm took to sort the array of `Points` created previously.

Implementation and Test Cases (25 pts.)

The `SortAlgorithms.java` class

Create a file called `SortAlgorithms.java`, where will contain the six algorithms. Notice that the Tester program will call these static methods. Each method will only take **one** parameter, i.e., an array of `Point` objects. The implementation of bubble, selection, insertion and quick sort are in your book. Feel free to use them. The *merge* sort and the one of your preference are **not** in your book, however, you can use well known resources such as books in computer programming or the Wikipedia to reference your work. Whatever resource you wish to use, make sure you cite your references properly.

¹See video: 15 Sorting Algorithms in 6 Minutes and select one of your preference



The Point.java class

Implement a class named `Point`, that will contain two fields (i.e., `x` and `y`), representing the `x`-coordinate and the `y`-coordinate. Provide proper getters for each field.²

The Tester.java class

Implement a class named `Tester.java` that will test the performance of the six algorithms implemented in `SortAlgorithms.java`. In this class, you will

- read the file `100000Points.txt`
- process each line and create a `Point` object with each coordinate from the file
- store each `Point` in an array of `Points`, i.e., `Point[] array`;
- sort the array of `Points` with the 6 different algorithms and check the performance.

You can check the performance of each algorithm by using the `System.nanoTime()` method call:

```
long startTime = System.nanoTime();  
// ... the algorithm to be measured ...  
long estimatedTime = System.nanoTime() - startTime;
```

Be aware that the array used by the first algorithm will be *sorted* after the method invocation. Therefore, it is recommended that you *clone* the array six times, and test each sorting algorithm with a different copy of the array.

Report (75 pts.)

Write a report using the IEEE format sample:

- see: IEEE Format (doc)
- see: IEEE Format (L^AT_EX)

explaining the performance of each sorting algorithm and the experiments you performed. You can include graphs showing the performance between the algorithms. In the report, show the Big- \mathcal{O} notation for each algorithm. Explain the why the algorithm owns that complexity. You can also include the run time analysis for each sorting algorithm. NOTE: Notice that most of the points are in the report, therefore I expect a clear, concise and well structured report. I will check the following for the report:

²Hint: you can make your class `comparable` if you wish to compare your object `Point` more rapidly.



- I THINK WE
SHOULD PROVIDE
THESE ANALYSIS
FOR SHAKER
+ PUSH*
1. **Introduction.** Here goes the description of the problem you are solving. What is the problem given to you? What is the challenge? What is the task you need to perform.
 2. **The problem and our solving approach.** Here goes the description of the way you plan to address this problem: basically an informal description, along with your algorithms. You have to explain (justify) why your approach actually solves the given problem.
 3. **Sixth Algorithm Selection.** Provide a description about the sixth algorithm you selected to test. For this algorithm, provide:
 - (a) Description about the algorithm: What is the input, output, and main features of the algorithm
 - (b) Historic details, i.e., who invented, what year was invented, when was created, under what circumstances was invented (make sure you cite your references properly)
 - (c) Complexity: Provide the $\mathcal{O}(n)$, $\Theta(n)$, and the $\Omega(n)$
 4. **Performance of our approach.** Here goes the theoretical study of your algorithm, i.e., run time analysis and description of the algorithm complexity (i.e., Big- \mathcal{O})
 5. **Testing strategy.** Describe the test cases that you include for testing your five different algorithms. Enumerate your test cases, e.g., unordered data, sorted data, duplicates, reverse order data.
 6. **Experiments and Results.** Provide the experiments and the results of each experiment. You need to be as detail as possible. Provide tables, graphs, or any kind of ideas to demonstrate the work you did. For this specific lab, you can include the theoretical results (i.e., the run time analysis) and the experimental results (the actual execution time).
 7. **Conclusion.** Summarize your work done in the report, recap everything you learned and justify the results of your experiments.
 8. **Implementation Annexes** In this section you must include your code for your algorithms and your programs including the test cases.

Submission

- Print the grading sheet criteria page and staple in front of your code
 - Make sure your code presented in hardcopy is well formatted. You can use:
 - L^AT_EX, or
 - The site: <http://hilite.me/>
 - Send your .javas files ONLY to prof.chris.servin@gmail.com
 - Use in the email subject the following format [COSC1437]<LastName>-Lab 5
-
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COSC 1437 – Lab Assignment #5 Grading Criteria

Name _____ Section _____

Points	Description
Introduction	
10 pts	Description about the problem you want to solve is provided. Discussion about potential challenges. Statement about what tasks will be performed.
5 pts	Introduction is provided, but missing ideas about what is the idea of this assignment. E.g., what steps/algorithms you will use in this assignment
0 pts	Missing Introduction. No effort on mentioning what the problem is.
Solving Approach	
10 pts	Solving strategy is provided: Details about how to solve and test each sorting algorithm is provided. Description of the 6th algorithm.
5 pts	Mentions the algorithms that will be tested, but not details about what characteristics of the testing will be considered.
0 pts	Missing both: description of the testing and about the sorting algorithms.
Performance Analysis	
15 pts	Detail Big-Oh and run time analysis is provided as well as discussion of the worst case scenario. Theoretical analysis is provided and analysis in terms of number of comparisons/copies is mentioned.
10 pts	Description about the performance of different sorting algorithms is provided. Missing either runtime analysis or Big-oh Notation for more than 2 algorithms.
5 pts	Description for each algorithm is provided but details about the theoretical impact is missing.
0 pts	Missing details about the complexity and theoretical impact. No evidence provided about what is the performance for any particular algorithm.
Testing Strategy	
15 pts	Describe the test cases that will include for testing the five different algorithms. Enumerated the test cases, e.g., unordered data, sorted data, duplicates, reverse order data. Explicitly state either: (a) the execution time based on System.currentTimeMillis(), (b) number of operations, (c) number of copies/comparisons
10 pts	Provides different testing strategies, provides a good analysis about which testing cases will be used. However, missing details about what information to consider in the analysis.
5 pts	Strategy is provided but misses the testing level. Lack of enumeration of testing cases.
0 pts	No description about testing strategy is provided. Missing what kind of testing strategy will be used that can be either by execution time or analytically.
Exp. Results	
15 pts	Provides the experiments and the results of each experiment. Provides tables, graphs, or any kind of ideas to demonstrate the testing work. Comparison of the theoretical results (i.e., the run time analysis) and the experimental results (the actual execution time).
10 pts	Provides results of experiments. Some tables and graphs are provided that demonstrate the work implemented. However, is missing analytical results and discussion between theoretical vs experimental results
5 pts	Provides results of experiments but missing tables/graphs that depicts the data obtained from the results. Also there is no mention about the theoretical/experimental results.
0 pts	Missing results, any graphical representation of the results and all above criteria.
Conclusion	
10 pts	Summarizes the work done in the report, recap everything that was mentioned in previous sections and justify the results of your experiments
5 pts	Some conclusion is provided but misses most of the work done before. Analysis is missing.
0 pts	No effort to recap the work done in previous sections. No analysis or discussion about the findings through the experiments.
Annexes	
20 pts	(1) The six algorithms are provided. (10 pts) (2) Test cases and running strategies. (5 pts) (5) Documentation of the program (including javadocs) (5 pts)
Format	
5 pts	Proper usage of code-format/indentation, variable names, readability.