

The sort command ('sort' [-ordering option] [file]) will sort, merge, or sequence check some text files (.txt format) or will read standard input if no files are given. You can sort a file in ascending or descending order, alphabetical order, or by columns, tabs and colons and more. The sort can be performed on any file as long as the contents are in Ascii format. Numbers can be sorted with the -n option (numerical sort). Sort can also be performed on multiple files which will result in the sorted and merged values from all input files.

From the source code it seems like sort uses a few different data structures including queue and binary merge tree and has a lot of fork() and PID action. Also I noticed that it also follows the POSIX behavior so non-POSIX locales may produce unexpected output. I did a search for sort unix bugs and found that most people were having problems because their locales (LC_ALL=C) were not set correctly so they thought that something was wrong with sort.