

## readme

## Homework 8

This homework will give you practice implementing sorting algorithms, and will illustrate how sorting linked lists can be different from sorting arrays. This is an individual assignment; you may not share code with other students.

Your job is to implement two sorting algorithms for linked lists. The data structure you will use is a catenable queue. "Catenable" means that two queues can be concatenated into a single queue efficiently--in  $O(1)$  time. The `LinkedList` data structure is implemented as a singly-linked list with a tail pointer, much like the one you worked with in Lab 3.

The `LinkedList` class (in the `list` package) has the following methods.

```
public LinkedList();
public int size();
public boolean isEmpty();
public void enqueue(Object item);
public Object dequeue() throws QueueEmptyException;
public Object front() throws QueueEmptyException;
public String toString();
public Object nth(int n);
public void append(LinkedList q);
```

The second-last method, `nth()`, returns item `n` in the queue (with the assumption that items are numbered from 1) without removing it, taking  $\Theta(n)$  time. The last method, `append()`, concatenates the contents of `q` onto the end of "this" queue and leaves `q` empty, taking constant time.

You will implement mergesort and quicksort in the file `ListSorts.java`. In Parts I and II below, assume that the input `LinkedList` (to be sorted) contains only `Comparable` items, so that casting items to `Comparable` is safe. All comparisons should be done using the method `compareTo()`. Your code should be work with any `Comparable` objects, not just the `Integer` objects used by the test code. (In other words, do not cast queue items to `Integers`.)

The `dequeue()` and `front()` methods can throw `QueueEmptyExceptions`; make sure that these exceptions are always caught. (If your code is bug-free, such an exception will never occur, so you can handle caught exceptions by simply printing an error message to let yourself know you have a bug.) Do not add a "throws" clause to any method prototype that doesn't already have one.

## Part I (4 points)

Implement mergesort on `LinkedLists` using the following three steps.

(1) Write a method called `makeQueueOfQueues()` that takes a `LinkedList` as input and returns a queue of queues in which each queue contains one item from the input queue. For example, if the input queue is `[ 3 5 2 ]`, this method should return the queue `[ [ 3 ] [ 5 ] [ 2 ] ]`.

```
public static LinkedList makeQueueOfQueues(LinkedList q);
```

(2) Write a method called `mergeSortedQueues()` that merges two sorted queues into one. See the comments in `ListSorts.java` for details.

```
public static LinkedList mergeSortedQueues(LinkedList q1, LinkedList q2);
```

(3) Implement `mergeSort()`, which sorts a `LinkedList` `q` as follows. First, use `makeQueueOfQueues()` to convert `q` into a queue of queues. Repeatedly do the following: remove two items from the queue of queues, merge them with `mergeSortedQueues()`, and enqueue the resulting queue on the queue of queues. When there is only one queue left on the queue of queues, move its items back to `q` (preferably using the fast `append()` method).

```
public static void mergeSort(LinkedList q);
```

## Part II (4 points)

Implement quicksort on `LinkedLists` using the following two steps.

(1) Implement a `partition()` method that partitions a queue into three separate queues containing items less than, equal to, or greater than a pivot item. See the comments for details.

```
public static void partition(LinkedList qIn, Comparable pivot,
                           LinkedList qSmall, LinkedList qEquals,
                           LinkedList qLarge);
```

(2) Implement `quickSort()`, which sorts a `LinkedList` `q` as follows. Choose a random integer between 1 and `q.size()`. Find the corresponding item using the `nth()` method, and use the item as the pivot in a call to `partition()`. Recursively `quickSort()` the smaller and larger partitions, and then put all of the items back into `q` in sorted order by using the `append()` method.

```
public static void quickSort(LinkedList q);
```

There is test code for both mergesort and quicksort; run "java ListSorts". The test code generates different random arrays each time you run it.

I strongly advise that you also test that your mergesort and quicksort both work on lists of size zero and one. (Our autograder will.)

## Part III (1 point)

Uncomment the timing code in the `main()` method, then run your sorting routines on larger lists. By changing the `SORTSIZE` constant, you may change the size of the queues you sort. What are the running times (in milliseconds) for sorting lists of sizes 100, 1000, 10,000, 100,000, and 1,000,000? Put your answers in the `GRADER` file. (Do NOT put a `.txt` extension on `GRADER`!)

Part IV (1 point)

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A sort is `_stable_` if items with equal keys always come out in the same order they went in. If you sort the database records [ 3:hex 7:boo 3:spa ] by number, and the output is [ 3:spa 3:hex 7:boo ], then the sort is not stable because two records with the same key (3) traded places.

Is your mergesort always stable? Explain why or why not.  
Is your quicksort always stable? Explain why or why not.

Give a sentence or two in your explanations that describe where in your code or in the data structures the stability of the sort is decided--that is, whether or not equal items are kept in their original order at critical parts of the sorting process. Put your answers in the GRADER file.

Submitting your solution

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(Your entire implementation should be in ListSorts.java.) You're not allowed to change any other files. Include your name and answers to Parts III and IV in GRADER. Make sure your code compiles and your tests run correctly just before you submit.

You may submit as often as you like. Only the last version you submit before the deadline will be graded.