

# Project 1: Asymptotic Analysis of Sorting Algorithms

## 1. Results

### 1.1. Selection Sort

Selection Sort works by dividing the array into two parts: 1) A subarray of already sorted elements and 2) a subarray of elements yet to be sorted. Moving left to right, the algorithm finds the smallest (or largest) element in the unsorted subarray, swaps it with leftmost unsorted element, and then moves the subarray bounds by one element. In all cases (best, average, and worst), selection has a complexity of  $\Theta(n^2)$ . This makes it not particularly useful for large sets of data.

The tested results for Selection sort on constant, sorted, and random data are as follows:

	$n_{\min}$	$t_{\min}$	$n_{\max}$	$t_{\max}$
SC	5000	15	750000	521187
SS	5000	15	750000	525093
SR	5000	31	750000	524578

### 1.2. Insertion Sort

Insertion Sort works by picking one element for each iteration of the loop, locating where it belongs in the sorted array of elements, inserts it, and repeats until all elements have been sorted. The best case for Insertion sort is for an array that is already sorted, yielding a complexity of  $\Omega(n)$ . The worst case is for an array in reverse order, which yields a complexity of  $O(n^2)$ . Average case is also  $\Theta(n^2)$  which, like Selection sort, makes it bad for handling large data sets.

The tested results for Insertion sort on constant, sorted, and random data are as follows:

	$n_{\min}$	$t_{\min}$	$n_{\max}$	$t_{\max}$
IC	5000000	15	1000000000	2703
IS	5000000	15	1000000000	2718
IR	5000	15	1000000	528140

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### 1.3. Merge Sort

The divide-and conquer algorithm, Merge Sort, starts by repeatedly splitting the array in half until the base case of a single element is reached in each subarray. It then returns up, merging each subarray, sorting them, and merging further up until the original array of size  $n$  is reached, resulting in a fully sorted array. Merge sorts best, average, and worst case complexities are  $\Theta(n \lg n)$ .

The tested results for Merge sort on constant, sorted, and random data are as follows:

	$n_{\min}$	$t_{\min}$	$n_{\max}$	$t_{\max}$
MC	750000	31	1000000000	71250
MS	750000	46	1000000000	74437
MR	100000	15	1000000000	192000

### 1.4. Quick Sort

The comparison sorting algorithm, Quick Sort, works by choosing a pivot value in the array. For the best case, a random element is chosen. It then moves everything smaller than the pivot to the left and everything bigger, to the right. It then continues doing this to each subarray until the entire array of size  $n$  is sorted. The best and average case for Quick Sort are  $\Theta(n \lg n)$ . The worst case for Quick Sort is  $O(n^2)$ ; however, this is rare.

The tested results for Quick sort on constant, sorted, and random data are as follows:

	$n_{\min}$	$t_{\min}$	$n_{\max}$	$t_{\max}$
QC	10000	46	n/a	n/a
QS	500000	15	1000000000	53125
QR	100000	15	1000000000	192640

Note: The stack size was not sufficient enough to complete quicksort using constant data. The `ulimit` and `setrlimit` commands were used but were unable to increase the size of the stack.

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1.5. Complete Data

Input	Selection Sort			Insertion Sort		
	Constant	Sorted	Random	Constant	Sorted	Random
10	0	0	0	0	0	0
100	0	0	0	0	0	0
1000	0	0	0	0	0	0
5000	15	15	31	0	0	15
10000	93	93	93	0	0	46
50000	2328	2312	2328	0	0	1296
100000	9250	9265	9296	0	0	5203
500000	231531	231296	231312	0	0	130343
750000	521187	525093	524578	0	0	293484
1000000	926640	934031	933000	0	0	528140
5000000	>1000000	>1000000	>1000000	15	15	>1000000
10000000	>1000000	>1000000	>1000000	31	31	>1000000
50000000	>1000000	>1000000	>1000000	140	140	>1000000
100000000	>1000000	>1000000	>1000000	281	265	>1000000
500000000	>1000000	>1000000	>1000000	1359	1359	>1000000
1000000000	>1000000	>1000000	>1000000	2703	2718	>1000000

Input	Merge Sort			Quick Sort		
	Constant	Sorted	Random	Constant	Sorted	Random
10	0	0	0	0	0	0
100	0	0	0	0	0	0
1000	0	0	0	0	0	0
5000	0	0	0	0	0	0
10000	0	0	0	46	0	0
50000	0	0	0	968	0	0
100000	0	0	15	3890	0	15
500000	0	0	62	n/a	15	62
750000	31	46	93	n/a	31	93
1000000	46	46	125	n/a	31	125
5000000	281	281	718	n/a	203	718
10000000	562	578	1500	n/a	421	1531
50000000	3062	3187	8156	n/a	2296	8312
100000000	6312	6718	16937	n/a	4765	17234
500000000	34796	36187	92984	n/a	25437	93453
1000000000	71250	74437	192000	n/a	53125	192640

## 2. Analysis

### 2.1. Selection Sort

The tested complexity for Selection Sort is calculated as:

	$t_{\max}/t_{\min}$	n ratio	$n \lg n$ ratio	$n^2$ ratio	Behavior
SC	34745.8	150	238.2444812	22500	$n^2$
SS	35006.2	150	238.2444812	22500	$n^2$
SR	16921.871	150	238.2444812	22500	$n^2$

The experimental results match up exactly to the theoretical results. This was expected as the data sets have to be fairly small in order to achieve decent complexity times. Once you cross 1 million input elements, the time to sort can be 15 minutes or more.

### 2.2. Insertion Sort

The tested complexity for Insertion Sort is calculated as:

	$t_{\max}/t_{\min}$	n ratio	$n \lg n$ ratio	$n^2$ ratio	Behavior
IC	180.2	200	268.6980236	40000	$n$
IS	181.2	200	268.6980236	40000	$n$
IR	35209.333	200	324.414634	40000	$n^2$

The experimental results nearly match up to the theoretical analysis of the Insertion Sort algorithm. The only difference is with the sorted elements being  $O(n)$  instead of  $O(n^2)$ . This could have been caused by a number of factors including number of currently running processes and CPU speed.

### 2.3. Merge Sort

The tested complexity for Merge Sort is calculated as:

	$t_{\max}/t_{\min}$	n ratio	$n \lg n$ ratio	$n^2$ ratio	Behavior
MC	34745.8	150	238.2444812	22500	$n \lg n$
MS	35006.2	150	238.2444812	22500	$n \lg n$
MR	16921.871	150	238.2444812	22500	$n \lg n$

The experimental results match up exactly to the theoretical analysis of Merge Sort. This algorithm is one of the more complex, but effective sorting algorithms. The only thing to really worry about is very very large data sets and the amount of memory available in the system.

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## 2.4. Quick Sort

The tested complexity for Quick Sort is calculated as:

	$t_{\max}/t_{\min}$	n ratio	$n \lg n$ ratio	$n^2$ ratio	Behavior
QC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
QS	3541.6667	2000	3158.465475	4000000	$n \lg n$
QR	12842.667	10000	18000	100000000	n

The experimental results do not match up to the theoretical results. As mentioned before, the constant data was unable to be obtained as the stack size was not sufficient. This caused a segmentation fault in the program due to a stack overflow. The stack has the ability to be changed; however, the system used did not allow it. The random data yielded a linear behavior, which is incorrect as the expected result is  $O(n^2)$ . This could be caused by the data sets being incorrectly sized or a miscalculation of the final results. The average experimental behavior did match the theoretical analysis.