

Top-down mergesort

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Recursive mergesort implementation:

Being call recursively until

ALGORITHM 2.4 Top-down mergesort

```
public class Merge
{
    private static Comparable[] aux;    // auxiliary array for merges
    public static void sort(Comparable[] a)
    {
        aux = new Comparable[a.length];    // Allocate space just once.
        sort(a, 0, a.length - 1);
    }

    private static void sort(Comparable[] a, int lo, int hi)
    {
        // Sort a[lo..hi].
        if (hi <= lo) return; // Tells the program when to stop the recursive calling of sort method
        int mid = lo + (hi - lo)/2; // Computes the value of the midpoint
        sort(a, lo, mid); // Sort left half. mid becomes the new hi value
        sort(a, mid+1, hi); // Sort right half. mid+1 becomes the new lo value
        merge(a, lo, mid, hi); // Merge results (code on page 271).
    }
}
```

previous note

To sort a subarray $a[lo..hi]$ we divide it into two parts: $a[lo..mid]$ and $a[mid+1..hi]$, sort them independently (via recursive calls), and merge the resulting ordered subarrays to produce the result.

	lo	hi	a[0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
				M	E	R	G	E	S	O	R	T	E	X	A	M	P	L	E
merge(a,	0,	0, 1)		E	M	R	G	E	S	O	R	T	E	X	A	M	P	L	E
merge(a,	2,	2, 3)		E	M	G	R	E	S	O	R	T	E	X	A	M	P	L	E
merge(a,	0,	1, 3)		E	G	M	R	E	S	O	R	T	E	X	A	M	P	L	E
merge(a,	4,	4, 5)		E	G	M	R	E	S	O	R	T	E	X	A	M	P	L	E
merge(a,	6,	6, 7)		E	G	M	R	E	S	O	R	T	E	X	A	M	P	L	E
merge(a,	4,	5, 7)		E	G	M	R	E	O	R	S	T	E	X	A	M	P	L	E
merge(a,	0,	3, 7)		E	E	G	M	O	R	R	S	T	E	X	A	M	P	L	E
merge(a,	8,	8, 9)		E	E	G	M	O	R	R	S	E	T	X	A	M	P	L	E
merge(a,	10,	10, 11)		E	E	G	M	O	R	R	S	E	T	A	X	M	P	L	E
merge(a,	8,	9, 11)		E	E	G	M	O	R	R	S	A	E	T	X	M	P	L	E
merge(a,	12,	12, 13)		E	E	G	M	O	R	R	S	A	E	T	X	M	P	L	E
merge(a,	14,	14, 15)		E	E	G	M	O	R	R	S	A	E	T	X	M	P	E	L
merge(a,	12,	13, 15)		E	E	G	M	O	R	R	S	A	E	T	X	E	L	M	P
merge(a,	8,	11, 15)		E	E	G	M	O	R	R	S	A	E	E	L	M	P	T	X
merge(a,	0,	7, 15)		A	E	E	E	E	G	L	M	M	O	P	R	R	S	T	X

Trace of merge results for top-down mergesort

The method call trace:

```
sort(a, 0, 15) → the first call
sort(a, 0, 7)  second call
sort(a, 0, 3)  third call
sort(a, 0, 1)  :
merge(a, 0, 0, 1)
sort(a, 2, 3)
merge(a, 2, 2, 3)
```

```

sort(a, 0, 15)
sort(a, 0, 7)
sort(a, 0, 3)
sort(a, 0, 1)
merge(a, 0, 0, 1)
sort(a, 2, 3)
merge(a, 2, 2, 3)
merge(a, 0, 1, 3)
sort(a, 4, 7)
sort(a, 4, 5)
merge(a, 4, 4, 5)
sort(a, 6, 7)
merge(a, 6, 6, 7)
merge(a, 4, 5, 7)
merge(a, 0, 3, 7)
sort(a, 8, 15)
sort(a, 8, 11)
sort(a, 8, 9)
merge(a, 8, 8, 9)
sort(a, 10, 11)
merge(a, 10, 10, 11)
merge(a, 8, 9, 11)
sort(a, 12, 15)
sort(a, 12, 13)
merge(a, 12, 12, 13)
sort(a, 14, 15)
merge(a, 14, 14, 15)
merge(a, 12, 13, 15)
merge(a, 8, 11, 15)
merge(a, 0, 7, 15)

```

sort
left half

second call
third call

sort
right half

merge
results

Top-down mergesort call trace