

Figure 3. Sorted ArrayList of valid words in alphabetical order.

2. Design

A) As mentioned in the requirement document, the “two text files are relatively big, you should consider how to make your program efficient”. Therefore, I choose to use the **HashSet<String>** data structure to store the vocabulary words, as shown in Figure 4.

Using HashSet could avoid redundant words in the set, and it could also provide a constant $O(1)$ time complexity for testing whether a word in the document is contained in the HashSet or not. Since the document is relatively big (many words), using HashSet to improve the speed of checking each word is significant for the algorithm efficiency of the program.

Figure 4. Using HashSet data structure for the vocabulary.

B) For sorting, I implemented the merge sort algorithm as required, as shown in Figure 5. It partitioned the whole list into two half parts, and then recursively call merge sort algorithm to sort each of the two parts. Finally, a merge function is used to merge the sorted two half parts into one part. The termination condition of recursion is $start \geq end$, i.e., whenever there is at most one element, which means there is no need to further partition or sort.

The argument of `int[] num_compartion` in the definition of `mergeSort` function is used to maintain the count of moves/comparisons during sorting. Using `int[]` data type here is because of Java passes by values for `int` type, which cannot be obtained after calling the functions.

```
/*  
The mergeSort function  
Input: an ArrayList of strings, start and end position of mergesort, and a helper list for merging  
Output: the ArrayList of strings will be sorted in ascending alphabetical order  
*/  
  
public static void mergeSort(ArrayList<String> words, int start, int end, String[] helper, int[] num_comparison) {  
    // If start >= end, then there is no need to sort  
  
    if (start < end) {  
        // Set a mid position, and recursively call mergeSort twice  
        // to sort the two half parts: start to mid, and mid+1 to end  
  
        int mid = (start + end) / 2;  
  
        mergeSort(words, start, mid, helper, num_comparison);  
        mergeSort(words, mid+1, end, helper, num_comparison);  
  
        // Merge the sorted two half parts after sorting them  
  
        merge(words, start, end, helper, num_comparison);  
    }  
}
```

Figure 5. Implementation of merge sort.

To calculate the time used during sorting, I record the time before and after sorting, and calculate their difference, as shown in Figure 6.

```
// Record the time before sorting  
  
start_time = System.nanoTime();  
  
// Call the merge sort function to sort the first num_words_sorted words in valid_words  
mergeSort(valid_words, start: 0, num_words_sorted-1, helper, num_comparison);  
  
// Record the time after sorting  
  
end_time = System.nanoTime();  
  
// Calculate the time used for sorting  
  
time_elapsed = end_time - start_time;
```

Figure 6. Calculate time used during sorting.

3. Ease of use and documentation

I use try and catch to make the code deal with invalid user input, such as file names which do not exist in the devices, as shown in Figure 7. In case of using non-existing file names, the program will not crash, and it will output a description of exception for fixing the issues, (e.g, ./google-10000-english-no-swears-wrong-filename.txt (No such file or directory)).

```
// First, try to open the given vocabulary file,  
// and add each word (line) in the vocabulary file into the HashSet of strings,  
// using try and catch for situations like files not existing (e.g., wrong file names),  
  
try {  
    FileInputStream filestream = new FileInputStream(name: "./google-10000-english-no-swears.txt");  
    BufferedReader br = new BufferedReader(new InputStreamReader(filestream));  
  
    String strline;  
  
    while ((strline = br.readLine()) != null) {  
        vocabulary.add(strline.toLowerCase());  
    }  
  
    filestream.close();  
} catch (Exception exception) {  
    System.err.println(exception.getMessage());  
}
```

Figure 7. Calculate time used during sorting.

As shown in above screenshots, the output is formatted in a easy to understand way, and the code is well commented with clear explanations.