

Comparison:

- In most cases, Merge Sort exhibits the highest number of comparisons, followed by Quick Sort and then Heap Sort. However, as the number of elements increases, the disparity in comparisons between Merge Sort and Quick Sort diminishes.

Swapping:

- Among the three algorithms, Heap Sort necessitates the greatest number of swaps, succeeded by Quick Sort and then Merge Sort. With an increasing number of elements, the distinction in swaps between Heap Sort and Quick Sort becomes more pronounced.

Hits:

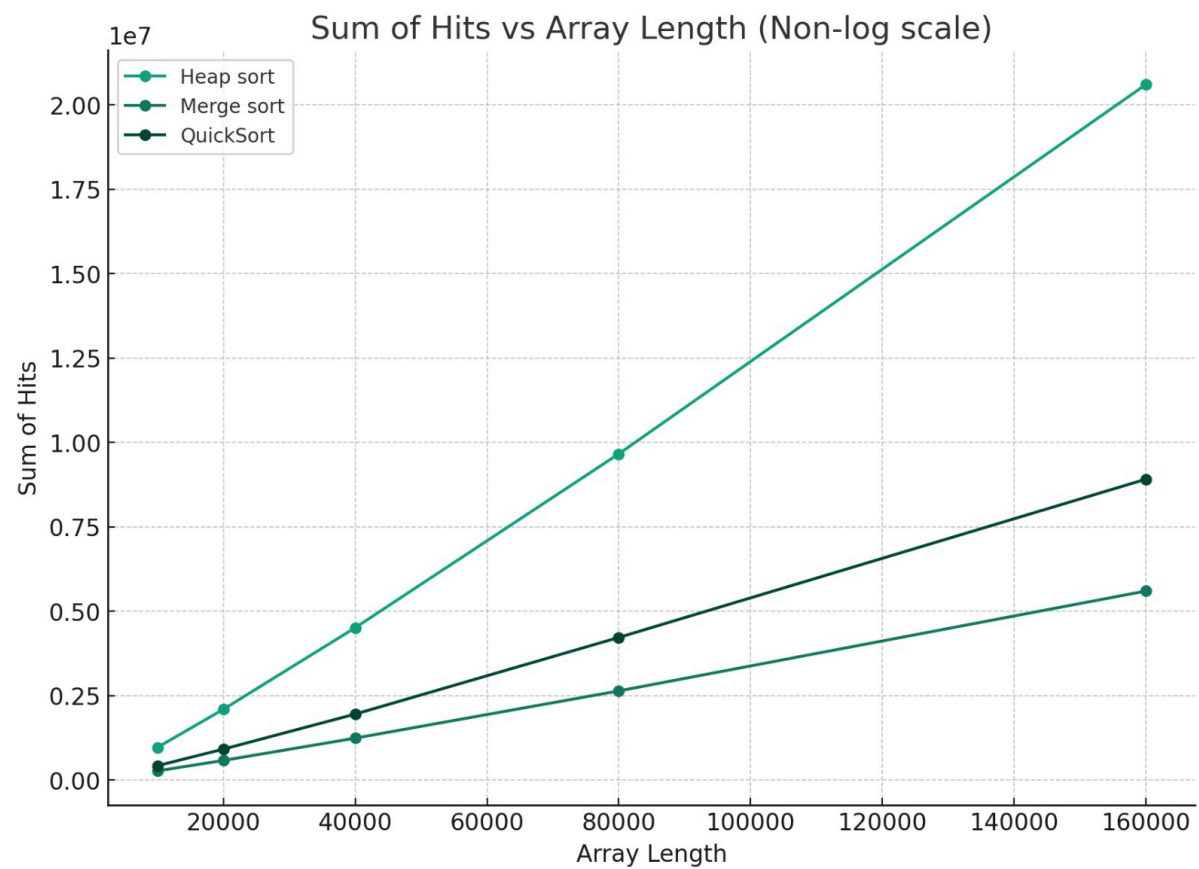
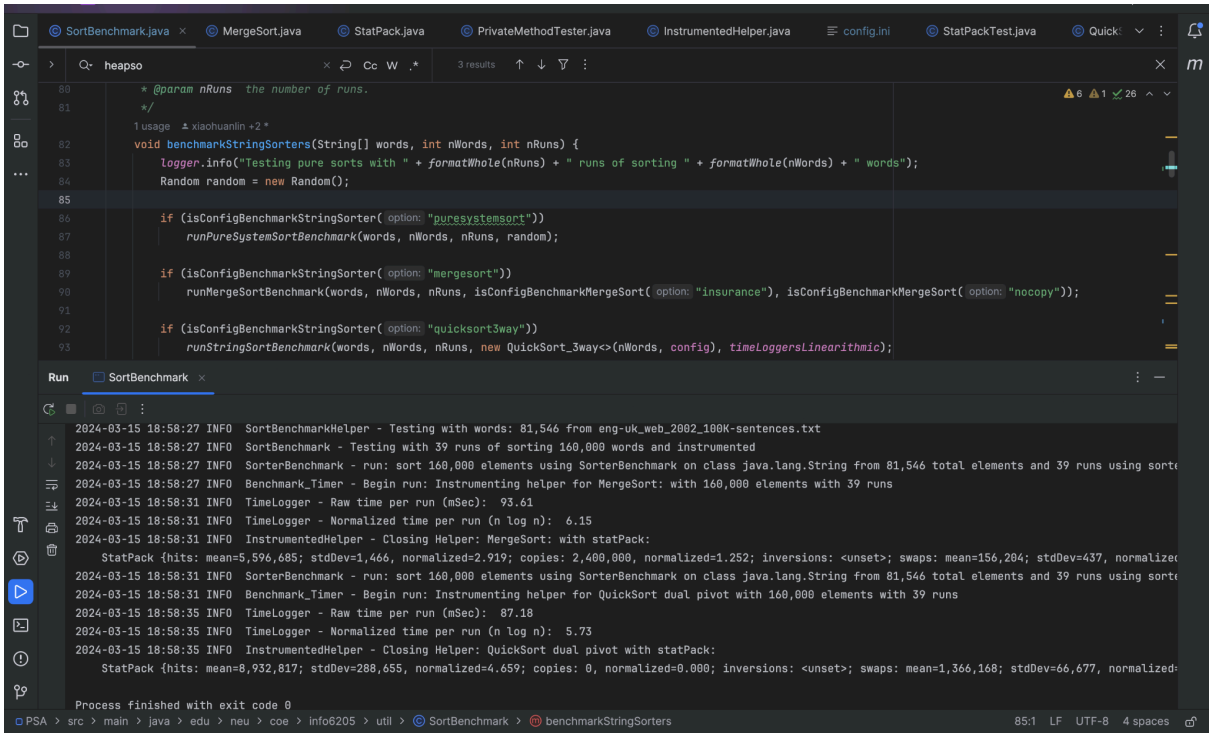
- Solely Merge Sort employs the concept of "hits" or merges to combine the two subarrays during the merge phase. The frequency of hits escalates with the number of elements and correlates directly with the number of merges required. In contrast, Heap Sort and Quick Sort do not utilize hits.

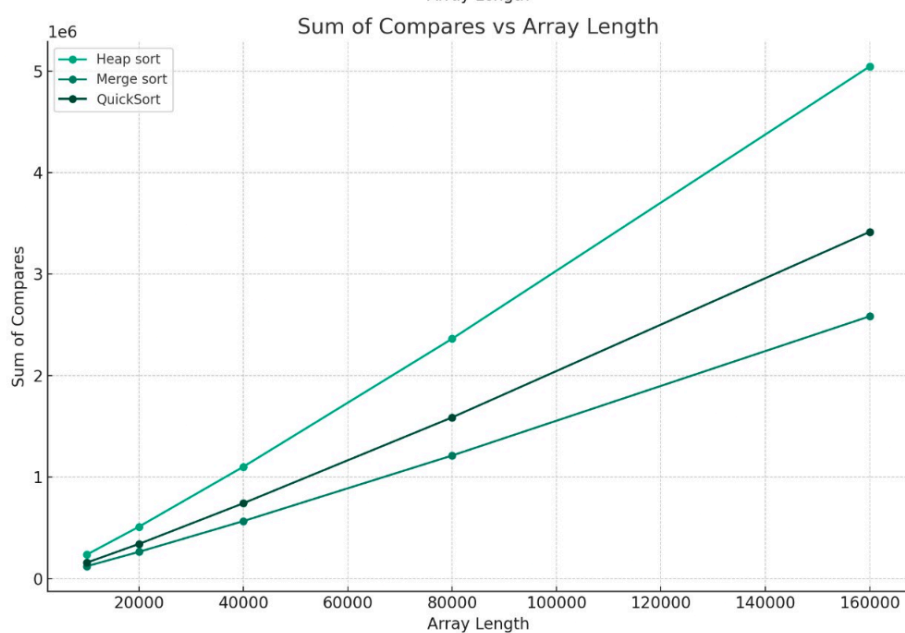
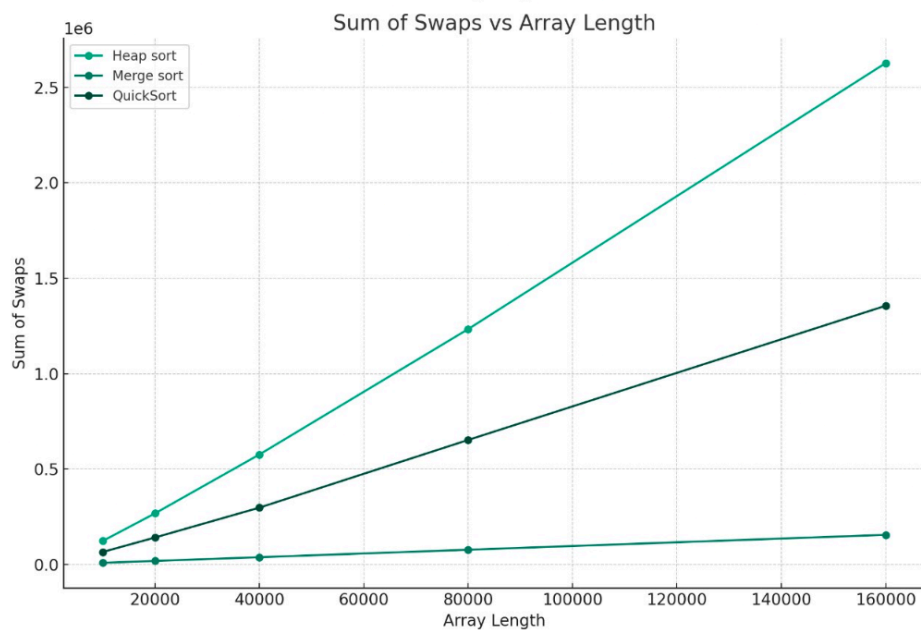
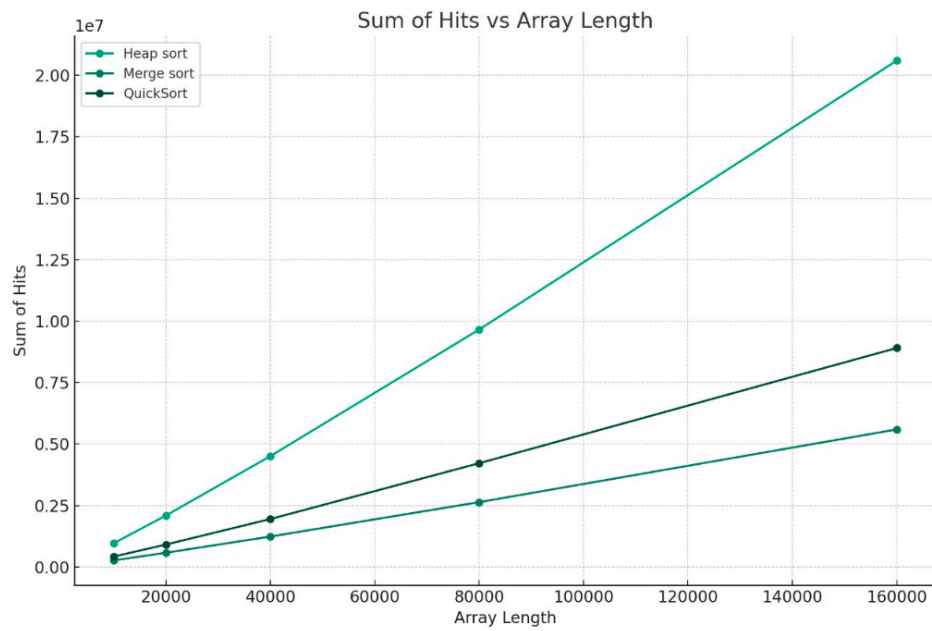
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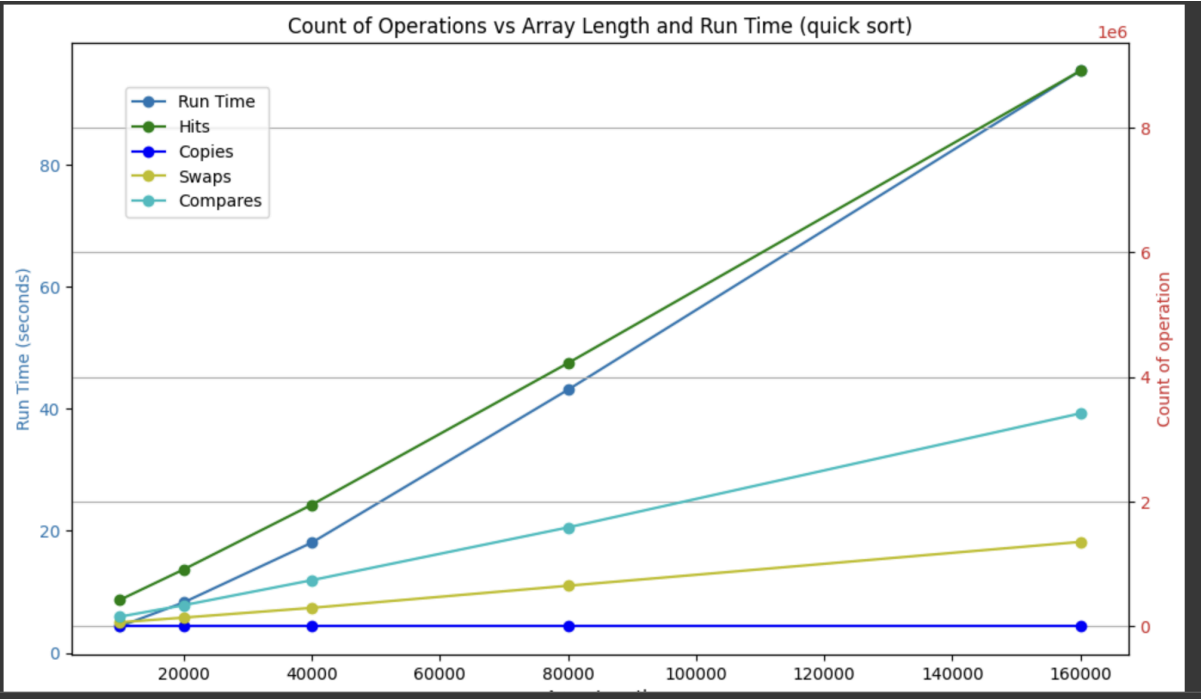
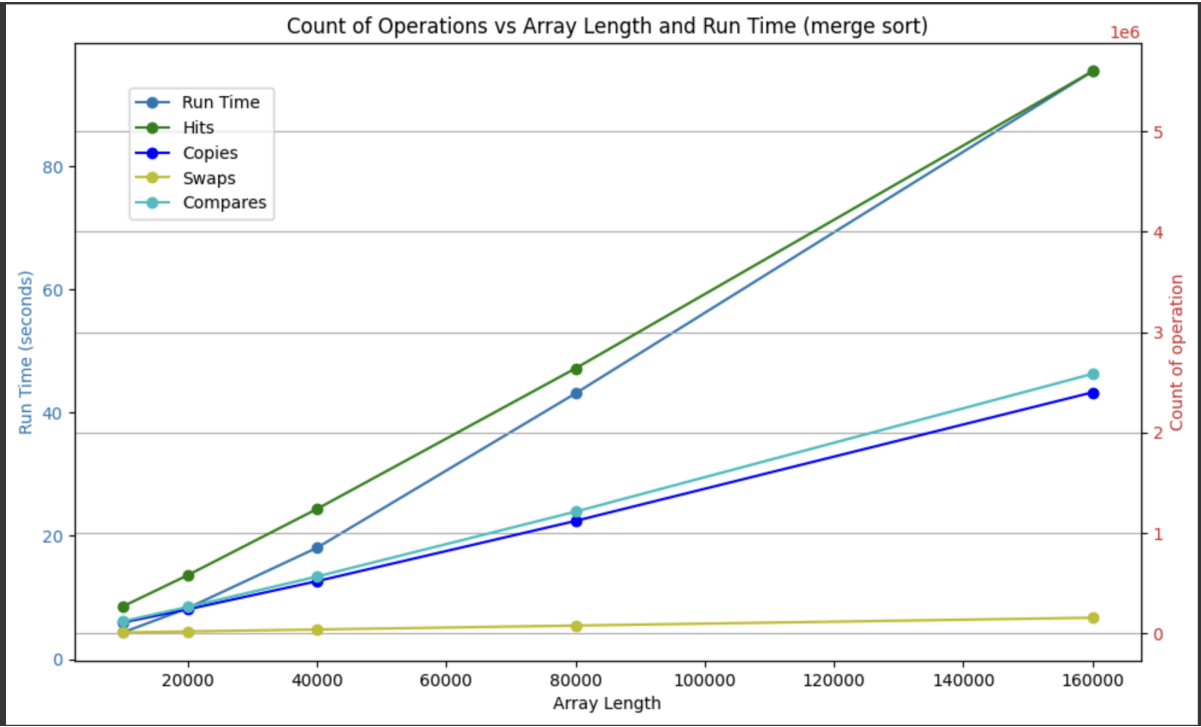
- Merge Sort and Heap Sort exclusively incorporate the notion of copies to retain temporary arrays throughout the sorting procedure. Merge Sort entails a higher count of copies compared to Heap Sort.

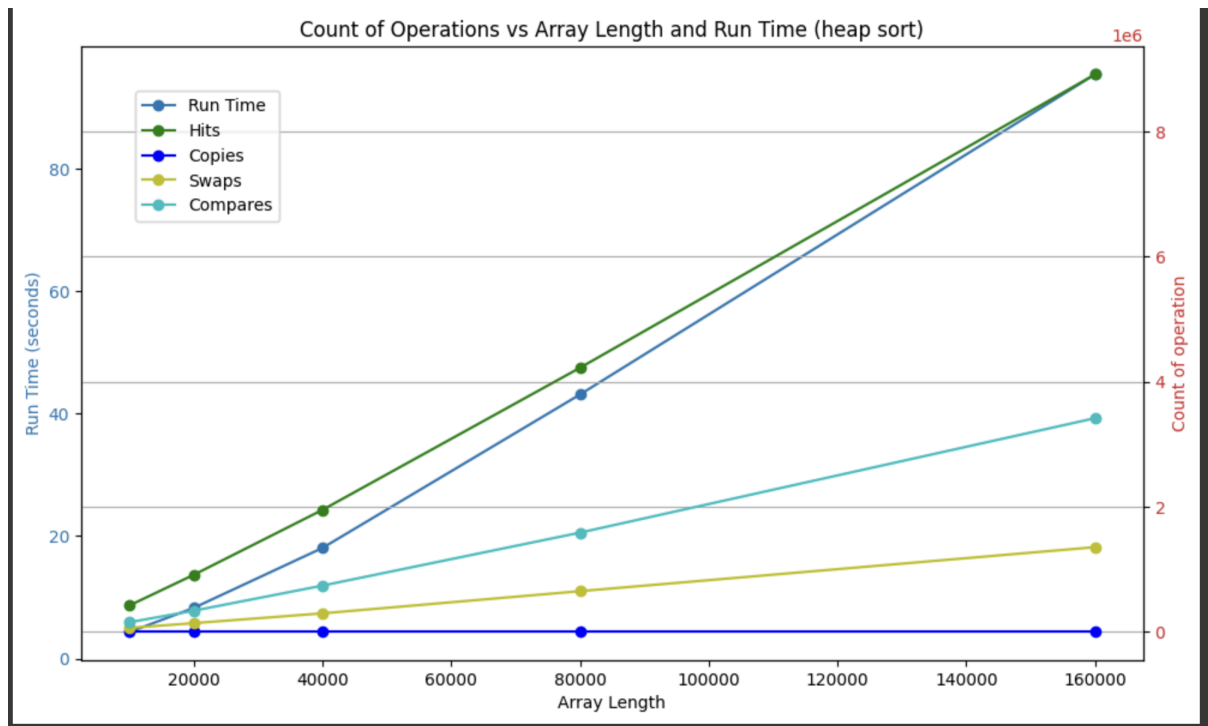
In case of heap sort, the number of hits drastically increases as the array length increases. For quick sort the increase is relatively lower and for the merge sort it is the lowest. Hence we can conclude that for higher array lengths, merge sort is better as it has lower number of hits and has lower execution time.

Supporting evidence and screenshots:









Conculsion:

As we can see that for all the sorting algorithms, as the number of hits, swaps, comparisons increase, the number of time increases. However, there is a very strong co relation between the time taken and the number of hits. As seen from the log log plots for different array lengths it can be seen that the number of hits can be considered as the best predictor for total execution time.