

23.12 sort/parallelSort Timings with the Java SE 8 Date/Time API

8

In [Section 7.15](#), we used class `Arrays`'s `static` method `sort` to sort an array and we introduced `static` method `parallelSort` for sorting large arrays more efficiently on multi-core systems. [Figure 23.29](#) uses both methods to sort 100,000,000 element arrays of random `int` values so that we can demonstrate `parallelSort`'s performance improvement of over `sort` on a multi-core system (we ran this example on a quad-core system).⁴

4. To create the 100,000,000 element array in this example, we used `Random` rather than `SecureRandom`, because `Random` executes significantly faster.

```
1 // Fig. 23.29: SortComparison.java
2 // Comparing performance of Arrays methods sort
3 import java.time.Duration;
4 import java.time.Instant;
5 import java.text.NumberFormat;
6 import java.util.Arrays;
7 import java.util.Random;
8
9 public class SortComparison {
```

```

10     public static void main(String[] args) {
11         Random random = new Random();
12
13         // create array of random ints, then copy
14         int[] array1 = random.ints(100_000_000).to
15             int[] array2 = array1.clone();
16
17         // time the sorting of array1 with Arrays
18         System.out.println("Starting sort");
19         Instant sortStart = Instant.now();
20         Arrays.sort(array1);
21         Instant sortEnd = Instant.now();
22
23         // display timing results
24         long sortTime = Duration.between(sortStart
25             System.out.printf("Total time in milliseco
26
27         // time the sorting of array2 with Arrays
28         System.out.println("Starting parallelSort"
29         Instant parallelSortStart = Instant.now();
30         Arrays.parallelSort(array2);
31         Instant parallelSortEnd = Instant.now();
32
33         // display timing results
34         long parallelSortTime =
35             Duration.between(parallelSortStart, par
36             System.out.printf("Total time in milliseco
37                 parallelSortTime);
38
39         // display time difference as a percentage
40         String percentage = NumberFormat.getPerce
41             (double) (sortTime - parallelSortTime)
42             System.out.printf("sort took %s more time
43                 percentage);
44         }
45     }

```



Starting sort

```
Total time in milliseconds: 8883  
Starting parallelSort  
Total time in milliseconds: 2143  
  
sort took 315% more time than parallelSort
```



Fig. 23.29

Comparing performance of `Arrays` methods `sort` and `parallelSort`.

Creating the Arrays

Line 14 uses `Random` method `ints` to create an `IntStream` of 100,000,000 random `int` values, then calls `IntStream` method `toArray` to place the values into an array. Line 15 calls method `clone` to make a copy of `array1` so that the calls to both `sort` and `parallelSort` work with the same set of values.

Timing Arrays Method sort with Date/Time API Classes Instant and

Duration

Lines 19 and 21 each call class `Instant`'s `static` method `now` to get the current time before and after the call to `sort`. To determine the difference between two `Instants`, line 24 uses class `Duration`'s `static` method `between`, which returns a `Duration` object containing the time difference. Next, we call `Duration` method `toMillis` to get the difference in milliseconds.

Timing Arrays Method `parallelSort` with Date/Time API Classes `Instant` and `Duration`

Lines 29–31 time the call to `Arrays` method `parallelSort`. Then, lines 34–35 calculate the difference between the `Instants`.

Displaying the Percentage Difference Between the Sorting Times

Lines 40–41 use a `NumberFormat` (package `java.text`)

to format the ratio of the sort times as a percentage.

`NumberFormat static` method

`getPercentInstance` returns a `NumberFormat` that's used to format a number as a percentage. `NumberFormat` method `format` performs the formatting. As you can see in the sample output, the `sort` method took over *300% more time* than `parallelSort` to sort the 100,000,000 random `int` values.⁵

5. Depending on your computer's setup, number of cores, whether your operating system is running in a virtual machine, etc., you could see significantly different performance.

Other Parallel Array Operations

In addition to method `parallelSort`, class `Arrays` now contains methods `parallelSetAll` and `parallelPrefix`, which perform the following tasks:

- `parallelSetAll`—Fills an array with values produced by a generator function that receives an `int` and returns a value of type `int`, `long`, `double` or the array's element type. Depending on which overload of method `parallelSetAll` is used, the generator function is an implementation of `IntUnaryOperator` (for `int` arrays), `IntToLongFunction` (for `long` arrays), `IntToDoubleFunction` (for `double` arrays) or `IntFunction<T>` (for arrays of any non-primitive type).
- `parallelPrefix`—Applies a `BinaryOperator` to the current and previous array elements and stores the result in the current element. For example, consider:

```
int[] values = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};  
Arrays.parallelPrefix(values, (x, y) -> x + y);
```



This call to `parallelPrefix` uses a `BinaryOperator` that *adds* two values. After the call completes, the array contains 1, 3, 6, 10 and 15. Similarly, the following call to `parallelPrefix`, uses a `BinaryOperator` that *multiplies* two values. After the call completes, the array contains 1, 2, 6, 24 and 120:

```
int[] values = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};  
Arrays.parallelPrefix(values, (x, y) -> x * y);
```

