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Summary - Sorting Algorithms Analysis

This program compares the relative performance of different sorting algorithms on datasets containing integers. Ultimately, the data sorted in ascending order. Program tested on two different array sizes: 100 and 1000.

The following random number distributions where used:

Random All – Completely random numbers

Almost Sorted – Almost sorted in ascending order (90% in increasing order, 10% random)

Almost Reversed – Almost sorted in descending order (90% in increasing order, 10% random)

Random Last – Array is sorted except of last 10%

The following sorting algorithms are used:

Selection Sort

Selection Sort is consistent with all cases - $O(n^2)$ regardless of different datasets. The number of comparisons is always n(n-1)/2 and the number of swaps is always n-1.

Insertion Sort

InsertionSort is in the worst case scenario $O(n^2)$ which happens when the list is in reverse order. Insertion is better with the array already sorted but will not perform as good when the array is in descending order as it compares and shifts each value it goes through.

Heap Sort

HeapSort's number of comparison differs slightly depending on how the data is sorted; however, it is $O(n \log_2 n)$ and does not vary much amongst different data and is not space-inefficient.

Merge Sort

MergeSort is always $O(n \log_2 n)$ regardless of the order the data is stored. MergeSort is space-inefficient in array implementation. The algorithm requires a temporary array that is the size of the original array to be created to transfer over the sorted data.

Quick Sort

QuickSort is at worst $O(n^2)$ when the data is almost sorted or almost reversed because it splits the list unbalanced; on the other hand, when the data is sorted in such a way that it divides the list evenly in half every recursive call, it is $O(n \log_2 n)$. For this reason, Quick Sort does much more efficient on random data than sorted data.

Testing Array of 100 Elements

Sort Algorithm	Random All	Almost Sorted	Almost Reversed	Random Last
Selection Sort	99 swaps	99 swaps	99 swaps	99 swaps
	4950 comps	4950 comps	4950 comps	4950 comps
Insertion Sort	2341 swaps	368 swaps	4698 swaps	517 swaps
	2435 comps	467 comps	4788 comps	616 comps
Heap Sort	566 swaps	634 swaps	523 swaps	621 swaps
	1232 comps	1368 comps	1146 comps	1342 comps
Merge Sort	672 swaps	672 swaps	672 swaps	672 swaps
	1203 comps	1111 comps	1073 comps	1049 comps
Quick Sort	339 swaps	208 swaps	919 swaps	226 swaps
	639 comps	1837 comps	1843 comps	2126 comps

Testing Array of 1000 Elements

Sort Algorithm	Random All	Almost Sorted	Almost Reversed	Random Last
Selection Sort	999 swaps	999 swaps	999 swaps	999 swaps
	499500 comps	499500 comps	499500 comps	499500 comps
Insertion Sort	243034 swaps	29496 swaps	473555 swaps	87562 swaps
	244028 comps	30495 comps	474508 comps	88561 comps
Heap Sort	9034 swaps	9552 swaps	8410 swaps	9462 swaps
	19068 comps	20104 comps	17820 comps	19924 comps
Merge Sort	9976 swaps	9976 swaps	9976 swaps	9976 swaps
	18656 comps	17414 comps	17501 comps	15513 comps
Quick Sort	4700 swaps	5916 swaps	9484 swaps	38158 swaps
	13496 comps	38221 comps	17420 comps	48012 comps