

Sorting Algorithms Comparison Table

Algorithm	Best Case	Average Case	Worst Case	Space	Stable?	In-Place?	Type	When to Use
Insertion Sort	$O(n)$	$O(n^2)$	$O(n^2)$	$O(1)$	Yes	Yes	Comparison-based	Small or nearly sorted arrays
Merge Sort	$O(n \log n)$	$O(n \log n)$	$O(n \log n)$	$O(n)$	Yes	No	Divide & Conquer	Large datasets with memory available
Quick Sort	$O(n \log n)$	$O(n \log n)$	$O(n^2)$	$O(\log n)$	No	Yes	Divide & Conquer	Fast general-purpose sorting
Heap Sort	$O(n \log n)$	$O(n \log n)$	$O(n \log n)$	$O(1)$	No	Yes	Comparison-based	When you need $O(1)$ space
Counting Sort	$O(n + k)$	$O(n + k)$	$O(n + k)$	$O(k)$	Yes	No	Non-comparison-based	Integers or categories with small range
Radix Sort	$O(nk)$	$O(nk)$	$O(nk)$	$O(n + k)$	Yes	No	Non-comparison-based	Large number of elements
Bucket Sort	$O(n + k)$	$O(n + k)$	$O(n^2)$	$O(n + k)$	Yes*	No	Non-comparison-based	Uniformly distributed data

Notes:

- Stable: Preserves order of equal elements.
- In-Place: Uses constant extra space.
- $k$  = range (Counting), number of digits (Radix), or buckets (Bucket).
- Bucket Sort is stable only if the inner sort is stable (e.g., Insertion Sort).