

a)

Running Python (on a Mac) :

1. Open terminal
2. 'cd' into the same directory as your python (.py) file ,
3. Type python3 (name of the file) and run
eg. python3 & main.py.

Running C (on a mac)

1. Open terminal
2. 'cd' into the same directory as your c executable (.c) file.
3. Type 'gcc main.c -o TEST' and hit enter
4. ./TEST and hit enter.

Make sure there is a folder named 'c' and 'Python'.
All the output files are written in these two folders.

b(i) Merge Sort

merge-sort(s):

1. $n = \text{length of list } s$
2. if $n < 2$:
3. return list s // length 0 or 1 already sorted
4. set $\text{mid} = n // 2$
5. set list $s_1 = s[0 : \text{mid}]$ // copy first half of s
6. set list $s_2 = s[\text{mid} : n]$ // copy second half of s
7. ~~merge~~ call merge-sort(s_1) // recursive call 1 on s_1
8. call merge-sort(s_2) // recursive call 2 on s_2
9. call merge(s_1, s_2, s)

merge(s_1, s_2, s):

10. set $i=0$ and $j=0$ // initialization
11. while $i+j < \text{length of list } s$
12. if $j = \text{length of } s_2$ or ($i < \text{length of } s_1$ and $s_1[i] < s_2[j]$) then
13. set $s[i+j] = s_1[i]$
14. increase i by 1
- else:
15. set $s[i+j] = s_2[j]$
16. increase j by 1
- end if
- end while

b(ii) InsertionSort(alist):

For each index in the length of alist starting at index 1

set currentvalue = alist[index]

set position = index

while position > 0 and alist[position-1] > currentvalue:

set alist[position] = alist[position-1]

decrease position by 1

End while

update alist[position] = currentvalue

End for.

b(iii) Selection sort

For each $gillslot$ in $range(len(alist)-1, 0, -1)$;

Initialize $positionofmax = 0$

for each $location$ in $range(1, gillslot + 1)$

if $alist[location] > alist[positionofmax]$:

set $positionofmax = location$

end if

end for

~~then~~

Set $temp = alist[gillslot]$

update $alist[gillslot] = alist[positionofmax]$

update $alist[positionofmax] = temp$.

end for.

MERGE SORT		
	Time Cost (microseconds)	
Input Size	Python	C
10	48	2
100	400	12
1000	5704	155
10000	76877	1470
100000	6177	20709
SELECTION SORT		
	Time Cost (microseconds)	
Input Size	Python	C
10	31	3
100	558	17
1000	49297	1760
10000	131783	130346
100000	493859	13059003
INSERTION SORT		
	Time Cost (microseconds)	
Input Size	Python	C
10	29	2
100	582	11
1000	73204	740
10000	379596	75833
100000	892531	7100335

In all the cases, the performance in C is better. This is an expected result. C, a compiled language, is faster than Python, an interpreted language. Python uses C in its implementation, so C is unsurprisingly faster than python.

d) Responsibility of each group member

Maniz

Code execution of insertion and merge sort^{function} in python. Also, debugged C.

Nirdesh

- Code execution in C. Also, debugged python code.

Saujan

- Code execution of selection sort in python.
Also, finished the write-up.

- ⑤ • We faced problem/confusion when the `rand()` in C was generating the same set of numbers upon compilation.

How did we solve this / plan to solve ?

After several searching on the internet, we still couldn't find a concrete answer.

This wasn't a major problem as the program sorted the numbers properly, but we wanted to see if we get a new ^{set of} random numbers each time.

We plan to try using `srand()` instead of `rand()` and modify the code a bit.

- It took a long time to run in Python.

Solution

We only used file sizes with a maximum of 100000 elements. We were trying 1000000, so we removed that in the interest of time.

- Debugging C was tough because it's a compiled language.

For this we took help of various internet resources.

f) This project helped us to put the theory learned in class about the efficiency of sorting algorithms into perspective by running them in code.

The efficiency of the sorting algorithms is easy to compare when programmed.

This project was also a good demonstration of the two programming languages used, namely python and c. We found c to be faster. Python itself is written in c so its implementation involves running c.

In addition to this, python is an interpreted language, while c is not. In python, the line-by-line execution by the interpreter can involve a lot of unnecessary repeated translations.

c is compiled, meaning the whole ^{source} code is translated into machine code in one-go.

Comments:

This was a useful project to finally program in this more of a theoretical class. It was nice to see the practicality of the theory of sorting algorithm.

Working in c was little tough because none of us had adequate experience with c, barring the things learned in class. Working with multiple executable files was confusing. So, it would be nice if we could go over c programming once more in class.