
CSE 143

Sorting

Reading: Sec. 19.3

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Sorting

- Binary search is a huge speedup over sequential search
 - But requires the list be sorted
- Slight Problem: How do we get a sorted list?
 - Maintain the list in sorted order as each word is added
 - Sort the entire list when needed
- Many, many algorithms for sorting have been invented and analyzed
 - Let's invent some!

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Insert for a Sorted List

- One possibility: ensure the list is always sorted as it is created
 - Exercise: Assume that `words[0..size-1]` is sorted. Place new word in correct location so modified list remains sorted
 - Assume that there is spare capacity for the new word
 - Before coding:
 - Draw pictures of an example situation, before and after
 - Write down the postconditions for the operation
- ```
// given existing list words[0..size-1], insert word in correct place and increase size
void insertWord(String word) {
```

```
 size++;
}
```

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## Picture

- Draw your picture here

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## Insertion Sort

- Once we have insertWord working...
- We can sort a list in place by repeating the insertion operation

```
void insertionSort() {
 int finalSize = size;
 size = 1;
 for (int k = 1; k < finalSize; k++) {
 insertWord(words[k]);
 }
}
```

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## Insertion Sort As A Card Game Operation

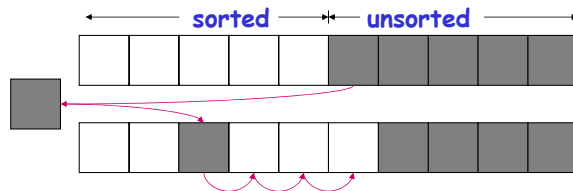
- A bit like sorting a hand full of cards dealt one by one:
  - Pick up 1<sup>st</sup> card – it's sorted, the hand is sorted
  - Pick up 2<sup>nd</sup> card; *insert* it after or before 1<sup>st</sup> – both sorted
  - Pick up 3<sup>rd</sup> card; *insert* it after, between, or before 1<sup>st</sup> two
  - ...
- Each time:
  - Determine where new card goes
  - Make room for the newly inserted card and place it there

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## Insertion Sort As Invariant Progression

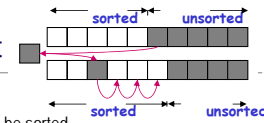


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## Insertion Sort



```
// instance variable
int[] list; // list[0..size-1] is the list to be sorted
int size;
// Sort list[0..size-1]
public void sort {
 for (int j=1; j < size; j++) {
 // pre: 1 <= j && j < size && list[0 ... j-1] is in sorted order
 int temp = list[j];
 for (int i = j - 1; i >= 0 && list[i] > temp; i--) {
 list[i+1] = list[i];
 }
 list[i+1] = temp;
 // post: 1 <= j && j < size && list[0 ... j] in sorted order
 }
}
```

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## Insertion Sort Trace

- Initial array contents

- 0 pear
- 1 orange
- 2 apple
- 3 rutabaga
- 4 aardvark
- 5 cherry
- 6 banana
- 7 kumquat

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## Insertion Sort Performance

- Cost of each insertWord operation:
- Number of times insertWord is executed:
- Total cost:
- Can we do better?

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## Analysis

- Why was binary search so much more effective than sequential search?
  - Answer: binary search divided the search space in half each time; sequential search only reduced the search space by 1 item per iteration
- Why is insertion sort  $O(n^2)$ ?
  - Each insert operation only gets 1 more item in place at cost  $O(n)$
  - $O(n)$  insert operations
- Can we do something similar for sorting?

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## Where are we on the chart?

| N     | $\log_2 N$ | $5N$  | $N \log_2 N$ | $N^2$  | $2^N$            |
|-------|------------|-------|--------------|--------|------------------|
| 8     | 3          | 40    | 24           | 64     | 256              |
| 16    | 4          | 80    | 64           | 256    | 65536            |
| 32    | 5          | 160   | 160          | 1024   | $\sim 10^9$      |
| 64    | 6          | 320   | 384          | 4096   | $\sim 10^{19}$   |
| 128   | 7          | 640   | 896          | 16384  | $\sim 10^{38}$   |
| 256   | 8          | 1280  | 2048         | 65536  | $\sim 10^{76}$   |
| 10000 | 13         | 50000 | $10^5$       | $10^8$ | $\sim 10^{3010}$ |

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## Divide and Conquer Sorting

- Idea: something similar to binary search
  1. divide the sorting problem into two subproblems;
  2. recursively sort each subproblem;
  3. combine results
- Want division and combination at the end to be fast
- Want to be able to sort two halves independently
- This algorithm strategy is called *divide and conquer*



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## Quicksort

- Invented by C. A. R. Hoare (1962)
- Idea
  - Pick an element of the list: the *pivot*
  - Place all elements of the list smaller than the pivot in the half of the list to its left; place larger elements to the right
  - Recursively sort each of the halves
- Before looking at any code, see if you can draw pictures based just on the first two steps of the description

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## Code for QuickSort

```
// Sort words[0..size-1]
void quickSort() {
 qsort(0, size-1);
}

// Sort words[lo..hi]
void qsort(int lo, int hi) {
 // quit if empty partition
 if (lo > hi) { return; }
 int pivotLocation = partition(lo, hi); // partition array and return pivot loc
 qsort(lo, pivotLocation-1);
 qsort(pivotLocation+1, hi);
}
```

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## Recursion Analysis

- Base case? Yes.

```
// quit if empty partition
if (lo > hi) { return; }
```
- Recursive cases? Yes

```
qsort(lo, pivotLocation-1);
qsort(pivotLocation+1, hi);
```
- Each recursive cases work on a smaller subproblem, so algorithm will terminate

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## A Small Matter of Programming

- *Partition* algorithm
  - Pick pivot
  - Rearrange array so all smaller element are to the left, all larger to the right, with pivot in the middle
- *Partition* is not recursive
- Fact of life: *partition* can be a bit tricky to get right
  - Pictures and invariants are your friends here
- How do we pick the pivot?
  - For now, keep it simple – use the first item in the interval
  - Better strategies exist

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## Partition design

- We need to partition words[lo..hi]
- Pick words[lo] as the pivot
- Picture:

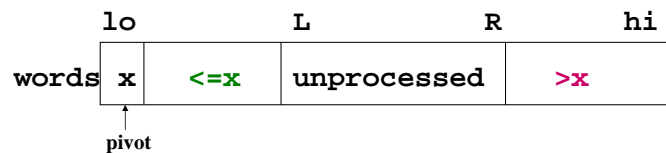
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## A Partition Implementation

- Use first element of array section as the pivot
- Invariant:



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## Partition Algorithm: PseudoCode

```
// Partition words[lo..hi]; return location of pivot in range lo..hi
int partition(int lo, int hi) {
```

```
}
```

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## Partition Test

- Check: partition(0,7)

- 0 orange
- 1 pear
- 2 apple
- 3 rutabaga
- 4 aardvark
- 5 cherry
- 6 banana
- 7 kumquat

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## Complexity of QuickSort

- Each call to Quicksort (ignoring recursive calls):
  - Each call of partition() is  $O(n)$  where  $n$  is size of the *part* of array being sorted
    - Note: This  $n$  is smaller than the  $N$  of the original problem
  - Some  $O(1)$  work
  - Total =  $O(n)$  ( $n$  is the size of array part being sorted)
- Including recursive calls:
  - Two recursive calls at each level of recursion, each partitions "half" the array at a cost of  $O(n/2)$
  - How many levels of recursion?

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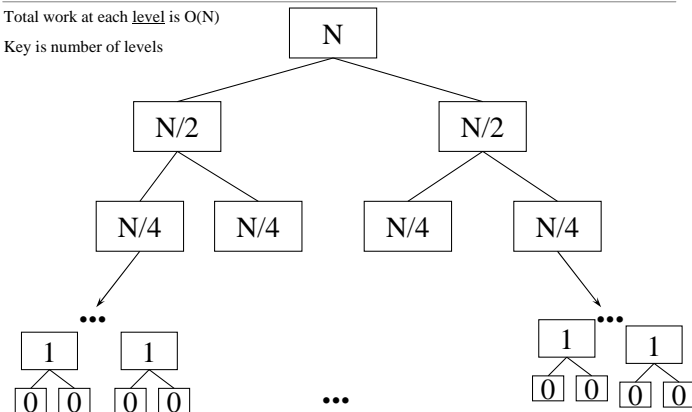
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## QuickSort (Ideally)

Total work at each level is  $O(N)$

Key is number of levels



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## QuickSort Performance (Ideal Case)

- Each partition divides the list parts in half
  - Sublist sizes on recursive calls:  $n, n/2, n/4, n/8, \dots$
  - Total depth of recursion: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Total work at each level:  $O(n)$
  - Total cost of quicksort: \_\_\_\_\_ !
- For a list of 10,000 items
  - Insertion sort:  $O(n^2)$ : 100,000,000
  - Quicksort:  $O(n \log n)$ :  $10,000 \log_2 10,000 = 132,877$

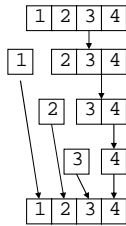
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## Worst Case for QuickSort

- If we're very unlucky, each pass through partition removes only a *single* element.



- In this case, we have  $N$  levels of recursion rather than  $\log_2 N$ . What's the total complexity?

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## QuickSort Performance (Worst Case)

- Each partition manages to pick the largest or smallest item in the list as a pivot
  - Sublist sizes on recursive calls:
  - Total depth of recursion: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Total work at each level:  $O(n)$
  - Total cost of quicksort: \_\_\_\_\_ !

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## Worst Case vs Average Case

- QuickSort has been shown to work well in the average case (mathematically speaking)
- In practice, Quicksort works well, provided the pivot is picked with some care
- Some strategies for choosing the pivot:
  - Compare a small number of list items (3-5) and pick the *median* for the pivot  
(Typically check the first, middle, last, and a couple of items in between – works well even if the original array is almost sorted)
  - Pick a pivot element *randomly* (!) in the range lo..hi

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## QuickSort as an Instance of Divide and Conquer

| Generic Divide and Conquer                        | QuickSort                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Divide                                         | Pick an element of the list: the <i>pivot</i><br>Place all elements of the list smaller than the pivot in the half of the list to its left; place larger elements to the right |
| 2. Solve subproblems separately (and recursively) | Recursively sort each of the halves                                                                                                                                            |
| 3. Combine subsolutions to get overall solution   | Surprise! Nothing to do                                                                                                                                                        |

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## Another Divide-and-Conquer Sort: Mergesort

- 1. Split array in half
  - just take the first half and the second half of the array, *without* rearranging
- 2. Sort the halves separately
- 3. Combining the sorted halves ("merge")
  - repeatedly pick the least element from each array
  - compare, and put the smaller in the resulting array
  - example: if the two arrays are

```
1 12 15 20
5 6 13 21 30
```

The "merged" array is

```
1 5 6 12 13 15 20 21 30
```

- note: we will need a second array to hold the result

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## Quicksort vs MergeSort

- Mergesort always has subproblems of size  $n/2$ 
  - Which means guaranteed  $O(n \log n)$
- But mergesort requires an extra array for the result
  - No problem if you're sorting disk or tape files
  - Can be a problem if you're trying to sort large lists in main memory
- In practice, quicksort is the most commonly used general-purpose sort
  - Pretty easy to pick pivots well, so expected time is  $O(n \log n)$
  - Doesn't require extra space for a copy of the data

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## Summary

- Divide and Conquer
  - Algorithm design strategy that exploits recursion
  - Divide original problem into subproblems
  - Solve each subproblem recursively
  - Can sometimes yield dramatic performance improvements
- Sorting
  - Quicksort, mergesort: classic divide and conquer algorithms

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