COMPARISON STUDY OF SORTING TECHNIQUES IN DYNAMIC DATA STRUCTURE

ZEYAD ADNAN ABBAS

A dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the award of the Degree of Master of Computer Science (Software Engineering)

Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology
Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia

MARCH 2016
ABSTRACT

Sorting is an important and widely studied issue, where the execution time and the required resources for computation is of extreme importance, especially if it is dealing with real-time data processing. Therefore, it is important to study and to compare in details all the available sorting algorithms. In this project, an intensive investigation was conducted on five algorithms, namely, Bubble Sort, Insertion Sort, Selection Sort, Merge Sort and Quick Sort algorithms. Four groups of data elements were created for the purpose of comparison process among the different sorting algorithms. All the five sorting algorithms are applied to these groups. The worst time complexity for each sorting technique is then computed for each sorting algorithm. The sorting algorithms were classified into two groups of time complexity, \(O(n^2)\) group and \(O(n\log n)\) group. The execution time for the five sorting algorithms of each group of data elements were computed. The fastest algorithm is then determined by the estimated value for each sorting algorithm, which is computed using linear least square regression. The results revealed that the Merge Sort was more efficient to sort data from the Quick Sort for \(O(n\log n)\) time complexity group. The Insertion Sort had more efficiency to sort data from Selection Sort and Bubble Sort for \(O(n^2)\) group. Bubble Sort was the slowest or it was less efficient to sort the data. In conclusion, the efficiency of sorting algorithms can be ranked from highest to lowest as Merge Sort, Quick Sort, Insertion Sort, Selection Sort and Bubble Sort.
ABSTRAK

Isihan merupakan satu masalah yang penting dan telah dikaji secara meluas, di mana masa pelaksanaan dan sumber yang diperlukan untuk membuat pengiraan adalah sangat penting, terutamanya dalam memproses data masa nyata. Oleh itu, ia adalah penting untuk mengkaji dan membandingkan dengan terperinci semua algoritma isihan yang ada. Dalam projek ini, kajian terperinci dijalankan ke atas lima algoritma sisihan, iaitu Bubble Sort, Insertion Sort, Selection Sort, Merge Sort dan Quick Sort. Empat kumpulan elemen data telah dibentuk untuk membuat perbandingan antara algoritma isihan yang berbeza. Kesemua lima algoritma isihan digunakan kepada kumpulan elemen data ini. Kekompleksan masa bagi setiap algoritma isihan telah dikira. Algoritma isihan dikelaskan kepada dua kumpulan kekompleksan masa iaitu kumpulan $O(n^2)$ dan kumpulan $O(log_2 n)$. Masa pelaksanaan bagi lima algoritma isihan untuk setiap kumpulan elemen data telah dikira. Algoritma terpantas kemudian ditentukan menggunakan anggaran nilai untuk setiap algoritma sisihan, yang dikira menggunakan linear least square regression. Keputusan menunjukkan bahawa Merge Sort lebih pantas untuk menyusun data daripada Quick Sort untuk kumpulan kekompleksan masa $O(n \log n)$. Insertion Sort lebih cekap untuk menyusun data daripada Selection Sort dan Bubble Sort untuk kumpulan kekompleksan masa $O(n^2)$. Manakala Bubble Sort mengambil masa paling lama atau paling kurang cekap untuk menyusun data. Kesimpulannya, kecekapan algoritma sisihan boleh disusun mengikut tahap yang paling cekap kepada kurang cekap sebagai Merge Sort, Quick Sort, Insertion Sort, Selection Sort dan Bubble Sort.
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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Sorting is any process of arranging items in any sequence to reduce the cost of accessing the data. Sorting techniques can be divided into two categories; comparison sorting technique and non-comparison sorting techniques. A comparison sort is a type of sorting algorithms that only reads the list of elements through a single abstract comparison operation that determines which two elements should occur first in the final sorted list. Comparison sorting consists of Bubble Sort, Insertion Sort, and Quick Sort. Non-comparison sorting technique does not compare data elements in order to sort them. This category includes Bucket Sort and Count Sort (Verma, & Kumar, 2013). The sorting algorithm is used to rearrange the items of a given list in any order. Though dozens of sorting algorithm have been developed, no single sorting technique is best suited for all applications. Great research went into this category of algorithm because of its importance. These types of algorithm are very much used in many computer algorithms. For instance, searching an element, database algorithm and many more. Sorting algorithm can be classified into two categories, internal sorting and external sorting. In internal sorting all items to be sorted are kept in the main memory. External sorting, on the other hand, deals with a large number of items, hence have resided in auxiliary storage devices such as tape or disk (Dutta, 2013).

Weiss (2003) stressed on the importance of sorting. For instance, the words in a dictionary must be sorted and case distinctions must be ignored. The files in a directory must be listed in sorting order. The index of a book must be sorted and case distinctions must ignored. Card catalog in a library must be sorted by both author and title. A listing
of course offerings at a university must be sorted, first by department and then by course number. Many banks provide statements that list cheques in increasing order by cheque number. In a newspaper, the calendar of events in a schedule is generally sorted by date. The musical compact disks in a record store are generally sorted by recording artist. In the programs printed for graduation ceremonies, departments are listed in sorted order and then students in those departments are listed in sorted order.

Many computer scientists consider sorting to be a fundamental problem in the study of algorithms. There are several reasons (Cormen et al., 2009). First, sometimes they need to sort information that is inherent to an application. For example, in order to prepare customer statements, the bank needs to sort cheques by cheque number. Second, the algorithms often use sorting as a key subroutine. For example, a program that renders graphical objects that are layered on top of each other might have to shoot the object according to the layered relation so that it can draw these objects from bottom to top. Third, sorting is a problem for which can achieve a nontrivial lower bound. The best upper bound must match with lower bound asymptotically so know that the sorting algorithm is optimal. Fourth, there are a wide variety of sorting algorithms and they use various techniques. In fact, there are many important techniques used throughout the algorithm design that have been developed over the years. Therefore, sorting is a problem of historical interest. Previously, many engineering issues come to the fore when they are implementing sorting algorithms. The fastest sorting program for a particular situation may depend upon many factors, such as prior knowledge about the keys and data, the memory hierarchy of the host computer and the software environment.

The linked list data structure is one of the dynamic data structure methods that are used to store the data. The linked list is the data structure used to save unsorted elements and it was used from the sorting techniques namely, Bubble Sort, Insertion Sort, Selection Sort, Merge Sort and Quick Sort to create a sorted linked list.

Thus, this study was comparing the sorting techniques according to worst case time complexity and sorting execution time results.
1.2 Problem Statement

Sorting is the most fundamental algorithmic problem in computer science and a rich source of programming problems for two distinct reasons. First, sorting is a useful operation which efficiently solves many tasks that every programmer encounters. Second, literally dozens of different sorting algorithms have been developed, each of which rests on a particular clever idea or observation (Swain et al., 2013). Therefore, it is essential to compare the prominent of sorting algorithm that is used in recent technology. Today, rapid technology has enhanced the requirement for data processing to meet the demand of the next era. Internet of things (IOT) (Vermesan, & Friess, 2013) is one of the factors that increased the row of data significantly. Therefore, it is important to use a sorting algorithm efficiently. However, it is unknown which algorithm provides the optimum result, considering the required execution time for each algorithm. This research was compare sorting algorithms in order to decide the proper algorithm to avoid the hardware requirement which saves time and reduced the cost significantly. Bubble Sort, Insertion Sort, Selection Sort, Quick Sort and Merge Sort are a sample of sorting techniques that were compared in the research to determine which sorting techniques that are sufficient to sort different sizes of data. In this research, the difference, similarity and working for these sorting techniques was explained in details.

1.3 Research Objectives

The objectives of this project are to:

(i) implement Selection Sort, Insertion Sort, Bubble Sort, Quick Sort and Merge sort using dynamic data structure (Linked list).

(ii) apply four groups of data elements into those techniques in (i).

(iii) calculate the time complexity, such as the execution time and worst case time complexity.
1.4 Research Scope

This study focuses on the problem of sorting of many data sizes to determine which sorting technique provides a result faster than other techniques in terms of the execution time. They are grouped into:

(i) first group from 100 to 1000 data elements
(ii) second group from 2000 to 10000 data elements
(iii) third group from 11000 to 20000 data elements
(iv) fourth group from 21000 to 30000 data elements

A linked list dynamic data structure is used to store the data. Five Sorting algorithms are used, namely, Selection Sort, Insertion Sort, Bubble Sort, Merge Sort and Quick Sort. The execution time is the criteria used to discuss the performance of these sorting algorithms. The Visual C++ program is used to implement the sorting algorithm program and calculate the execution time for all sorting algorithms.

1.5 Outline of Report

This research consists of five chapters. Chapter 1 covers the overview and main objectives of the research. It also consists of the scope of work covered. Chapter 2 illustrates the Selection Sort and Insertion Sort, Merge Sort, Quick Sort and Bubble Sort. This chapter focus on literature review and related works of the research. Chapter 3 discusses the methodology used to achieve the entire objectives of this research. Chapter 4 explains the implementation and the detailed steps as well as the results and discussion. Finally, Chapter 5 illustrates objectives achieved, future work and conclusion.
1.6 Chapter Summary

This chapter contains explanations about all the techniques required in this research and also addressed the problem and the importance of sorting techniques as well as how to find the fastest sorting technique. This research includes the application of techniques of sorting data stored in linked lists and calculate the execution time of each sort techniques, and then performs the comparison among these techniques. The techniques that will be applied in this research are the Insertion Sort, Selection Sort, Bubble Sort, Merge Sort and Quick Sort, which differ from one another in terms of how they function.
CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter will explain the literature review of sorting techniques such as Selection Sort, Insertion Sort and Bubble Sort. These sorting techniques were implemented in dynamic data structure (Linked list). All sorting techniques were used during the research steps and related works will be explained. Based on the research objectives, there are various methods that were used to find the best sort technique to sort data. This chapter explains these methods in the comparison study between the sorting techniques.

2.2 Data Structure

A data structure is the implementation of an abstract data type (ADT). The term data structure often refers to data stored in a computer’s main memory. An ADT is the realization of a data type as a software component. The interface of the ADT is defined in terms of a type and a set of operations on that type. The behavior of each operation is determined by its inputs and outputs. An ADT do not specify how the data type is implemented. A data type is a type together with a collection of operations to manipulate the type. For example, an integer variable is a member of the integer data type and an addition is an example of an operation of the integer data type. A data item is a piece of information or a record whose value is drawn from a type. A data item is said to be a member of a type. A type is a collection of values. For example, the Boolean type consists of the values true and false. An integer is a simple type because its values
contain no subparts. A record is an example of an aggregate type or composite type. Encapsulation is an implementation detail that is hidden from the user of the ADT and protected from outside access (Shaffer, 2010). A linked list is a data structure consisting of a group of nodes which together represent a sequence. Under the simplest form, each node is composed of a datum and a reference (in other words, a link) to the next node in the sequence; more complex variants add additional links. This structure allows for efficient insertion or removal of elements from any position in the sequence (De L’Armee & Contax, 2012).

Dynamic data structures can increase and decrease in size while the program is running. The advantages of dynamic data structures is that it only use the space that is needed at any time. It makes efficient use of the memory and the storage no longer required can be returned to the system for other uses. Meanwhile, the disadvantages of Dynamic Data Structures are difficult to program, can be slow to implement searches, and only allows serial access for a linked list (Alicia Sykes, 2012).

A linked list is a collection of components, called nodes. Every node except the last node contains the address of the next node. Thus, every node in a linked list has two components, one to store the relevant information that is a data and one to store the address, called the link, of the next node in the list. The address of the first node in the list is stored in a separate location, called the head or first. Figure 2.1 is a pictorial representation of a node.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data</th>
<th>Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Figure 2.1: Structure of node

Linked lists are a list of items, called nodes, in which the order of the nodes is determined by the address, called the link, stored in each node. The list in Figure 2.2 is an example of a linked list.
The arrow in each node indicates that the address of the node to which it is pointing is stored in that node. The down arrow in the last node indicates that this link field is NULL (Malik, 2010). The advantages and disadvantages of linked list will be explained in the next two subsections.

### 2.2.1 Advantages of Linked list

The linked list advantages can be summarized in the following steps:

i. It is not necessary to know in advance the number of elements to be stored in the list and therefore, need not allocated as and when necessary.

ii. In a linked list, insertions and deletions can be handled efficiently without fixing the size of the memory in advance.

iii. An important advantage of linked lists over arrays is that the linked list uses exactly as much memory as it needs, and can be made to expand to fill all available memory locations if needed (Chauhan, 2012).

### 2.2.2 Disadvantages of Linked list

The disadvantages of linked list can be summarized in the following two steps:

i. The traversal is sequential.

ii. Increased overhead for storing pointers for linking the data items (Vivik, 2012).
2.3 Sorting Techniques

Sorting means rearranging data in any order, such as ascending; or descending with numerical data or alphabetically with character data (Dutta, 2013). Sorting is a commonly used operation in computer science. In addition to its main job, sorting often require to facilitation of some other operation such as searching, merging and normalization (Renu & Manisha, 2015). There are many sorting algorithms that are being used in practical life as well as in computation. A sorting algorithm consists of comparison, swap, and assignment operations (Khairullah, 2013). The usefulness and significance of sorting is depicted from day to day application of (Kapur et al., 2012). Sorting of real life objects, for instance, the telephone directories, incoming tax files, tables of contents, libraries and dictionaries.

In the following subsection, five sorting algorithms, such as, Bubble Sort, Insertion Sort, Selection Sort, Merge Sort and Quick Sort will be explained in some of the details.

2.3.1 Selection Sort

In Selection Sort, a list is sorted by selecting elements in the list, one at a time, and moving them to their proper positions. This algorithm finds the location of the smallest element in the unsorted portion of the list and moves it to the top of the unsorted portion (that is, the whole list) of the list. The first time locates the smallest item in the entire list; the second locates the smallest item in the list starting from the second element in the list, and so on. Selection Sort is a sorting algorithm, specifically an in-place comparison sort. It has an $O(n^2)$ complexity, making it inefficient on large lists, and generally performs worse than the similar Insertion Sort. Selection Sort is noted for its simplicity and also has performance advantages over more complicated algorithms in certain situations (Mishra, 2009). For example supposes the list shown in Figure 2.3.
Initially, the entire list is unsorted, therefore there is a need to find the smallest item in the list and the smallest item is at position 5, as shown in Figure 2.4. The smallest item must be moved to position 0. Therefore swap value 3 (that is, a list [0]) with value 1 (that is, a list [5]). After swapping these elements, the resulting list is shown in Figure 2.4.

After that, swapping the smallest second item at position 4 to position 1. Hence swap value 7 that is in the list [1] with value 2 that is in the list [4], as shown in Figure 2.5. The swapping of smallest element continues until the last small element exchanging with the last big element in the list (Malik, 2010).
Selection Sort has an $O(n^2)$ time complexity in best, worst and average case, which gets somewhat inefficient when applied to large lists (Kapur et al., 2012).

2.3.2 Insertion Sort

Insertion Sort is an efficient algorithm for sorting a small number of elements. The Insertion Sort works just like its name suggests, by inserting each item in its proper place in the final list. Sorting a hand of playing cards is one of the real time examples of Insertion Sort. The items are considered one at a time, and each new item is inserted into appropriate position relative to the previously sorted items. Examples of these sorting methods are Shell sort, Tree sort, Library sort and Patience sort. Insertion Sort can take different amounts of time to sort two input sequences of the same size depending upon how nearly they are sorted. It sorts small list quickly, but big list very slowly. Insertion Sort is a simple sorting algorithm that is relatively efficient for small lists and mostly-sorted lists, and is often used as part of more sophisticated algorithms. It works by taking
elements from the list one by one and inserting them in their correct position in a new sorted list. In arrays, the new list and the remaining elements can share the array's space, but the Insertion is expensive, requiring shifting all following elements over by one (Mishra, 2009). The example of Selection Sort is shown in Figure 2.6.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st pass</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd pass</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd pass</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th pass</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th pass</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th pass</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>7th pass</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th pass</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2.6: Insertion Sort Example

The example in the Figure 2.6 shows that the Insertion Sort implementation for sorting unsorted list of elements. The first operation start by comparing the number 3 with the number 7. The number 3 is smaller than the number 7. Next, the second operation comparing the numbers 3 and 7 with the number 8. Since the number 8 is greater than the numbers 3 and 7, then next operation is continued. The third operation start by comparing the numbers 3, 7 and 8 with the number 5. Since, the number 5 is smaller than the number 7 and greater than the number 3, then insert the number 5 between the numbers 3 and 7. This operation continues until reach to a sorted list.

The running time of Insertion Sort is quadratic i.e., \( O(n^2) \). The average case is similar to that of worst case due to which Insertion Sort becomes impractical for sorting large arrays built for sorting small arrays, as it is one of the best performing algorithms (Kapur et al., 2012).
2.3.3 Bubble Sort

Bubble Sort is a basic sorting algorithm that performs the sorting operation by iteratively comparing the adjacent pair of the given data items and swaps the items if their order is reversed. There is a repetition of the passes through the list is sorted and no more swaps are needed. It is a simple algorithm, but it lacks in efficiency when the given input data set is large. The worst case as well as the average case complexity of Bubble Sort is $O(n^2)$ (Kapur et al., 2012). If have 100 elements, then the total number of comparisons is 10000. Obviously, this algorithm is rarely used except in education (Mishra, 2009). Bubble Sort is a straightforward and simple method sorting data that is used in computer science. The algorithm starts at the beginning of the data set. It compares the first two elements, and if the first is greater than the second, it swaps them. It continues doing this for each pair of adjacent elements to the end of the data set. It then starts again with the first two elements, repeating until no swaps have occurred on the last pass (Mishra, 2009). For example sort of the unsorted list (3, 7, 8, 5, 2, 1, 9, 5, 4) to Bubble Sort in Figure 2.7.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data</th>
<th>378521954</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pass1</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass2</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass3</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass4</td>
<td>231557489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass5</td>
<td>123554789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass6</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2.7: Bubble Sort examples

The example in Figure 2.7 shows that the Bubble Sort implementation for unsorted list. The first pass operation consist of 5 exchanging operations, the second pass operation consist of 5 exchanging operations, the third pass operation consist of 4
exchanging operations, the fourth pass operation consist of 2 swapping operations and
the fifth pass operation consist of 2 swapping operations. Therefore, the number of
comparison that are used to sort the 9 elements of data in Figure 2.7 is 19 and the
number passes is 5.

2.3.4 Quick Sort

Quick Sort is a very popular sorting algorithm invented by a computer scientist named
C.A.R Hoar back in 1962 (Hoare, 1962). The name comes from the fact that, in general,
Quick Sort can sort a list of data elements significantly faster than any of the common
sorting algorithms. This algorithm is based on the fact that it is faster and easier to sort
two small arrays than one larger one. Quick Sort is based on divide and conquer method.
Quick Sort is also known as partition exchange sort. The Quick Sort operation steps are:

Step 1: One of the elements is selected as the partition element known as pivot element.
Step 2: The remaining items are compared to it and a series of exchanges is performed.
Step 3: When the series of exchanges is done, the original sequence has been partitioned
into three subsequences, all items less than the pivot element, the pivot element in its
final place, all items greater than the pivot element. At this stage, Step 2 is completed
and Quick Sort will be applied recursively to Step 1, and the sequence is sorted when the
recursion terminates (Mishra, 2009).

Quick Sort is a divide and conquer algorithm which relies on a partition
operation, to partition an array, choosing an element; called a pivot, moving all smaller
elements before the pivot, and move all great elements after it. This can be done
efficiently in linear time and in-place. Then the lesser and greater sub lists are
recursively sorted (Mishra, 2009).

With its modest $O(\log_2 n)$ space usage, this makes Quick sort one of the most
popular sorting algorithms, available in many standard libraries. The more complex
issue in Quick Sort is choosing a good pivot element; consistently poor choices of pivots
can result in drastically slower $O(n^2)$ performance, but if at each step the median as the
pivot is chosen then it works in $O(n\log_2 n)$ (Kapur et al, 2012).
Quick Sort is very efficient when data to be sorted is randomly scattered and it takes $O(n \log_2 n)$ time. It does not perform well on nearly sorted data and give time complexity near to $O(n^2)$. Quick Sort's performance is dependent on a pivot (Verma & Kumar, 2013). The Quick Sort example is shown in Figure 2.8.

![Quick Sort Example Diagram](image)

**Figure 2.8: Quick Sort Examples**

In Figure 2.8, the algorithm first selects the random element as a pivot and hides the pivot meanwhile it reconstructs the array with elements smaller than pivot in the left sub array. Likewise elements larger than pivot in the right sub array. The algorithm repeats this operation until the array being sorted. In Figure 2.8 all the pivot elements are highlighted in circles. It shows that:
Step 1: The first pivot selected was 5, so it moves all the elements higher than 5 such as 9, 8, 7 to the right sub array. Likewise smaller elements such as 3, 4, 2, 1, 5 to the left sub array.

Step 2: This operation is repeated with the left sub array [3, 4, 2, 1, 5] and right sub array [9, 8, 7] being recursive until the list being sorted (i.e) [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 5, 7, 8, 9].

In general, the pivot's task is to facilitate with splitting the array and in the final sorted array pivot placed in the position called split point. Moreover, it preserves the relative order of elements with equal keys in Figure 2.8, for the reason that it is considered as a stable sort.

### 2.3.5 Merge Sort

The merging operation means combining two individual sorted lists into one single sorted list. The unsorted list is first divided in two halves. Each half is again divided into two. This is continued to get individual numbers. The pairs of number are combined (Merged) into short lists of two numbers. Pairs of these lists of four numbers are merged into a sorted list of eight numbers. This is continued until the one fully sorted list is obtained (Mishra, 2009).

Merge Sort uses the divide and conquer approach to solve a given problem. It works by splitting the unsorted array into n sub array recursively until each sub array has one element (Brown, 1972).

In general an array with one element is considered to be sorted. Consequently, it merges each sub array to generate a final sorted array. It is a comparison-based sorting algorithm. In most implementations it is stable, meaning that it preserves the input order of equal elements in the sorted output (Mishra, 2009). The Merge Sort example is as shown in Figure 2.9.
The example in Figure 2.9 divides the unsorted array into two unequal sub arrays. As the number of elements in the array consist of 9 elements, the first subdivided arrays have \( ((1+9)/2 = 5 \) elements), and the second subdivided array has 4 elements. This operation is repeated until each sub array has one element. For instance the array \([3,7, 8, 5, 2, 1, 9, 5, 4]\) divides into nine sub arrays with one element each (i.e) \([3], [7], [8], [5], [2], [1], [9], [5], [4]\). Now each sub array is considered to be sorted and the merging process proceeds. The Merge operation scans the two sub array and finds
the smallest element thus removes the smallest element and is placed in the final sorted sub array. This operation is repeated until there is only one sub array left. This sub array considered to be sorted. For instance the Merge operation takes two sub arrays [3] and [7], it scans these two arrays and finds that 3 is the smallest element, so it placed 3 in the first position on the merged sub list and 7 in the second position. This step continues until only one sub array which is sorted (i.e) [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 5, 7, 8, 9] (Karunanithi, 2014).

2.4 Time Complexity

The time complexity (Sipser & Michael, 2006) of an algorithm quantifies the amount of time taken by an algorithm to run as a function of the length of the string representing the input. The time complexity of an algorithm is commonly expressed using Big-O Notation, which excludes coefficients and lower order terms. When expressed this way, the time complexity is said to be described asymptotically, i.e., as the input size goes to infinity. For example, if the time required by an algorithm on all inputs of size \( n \) is at most \( 5n^3 + 3n \) for any \( n \), the asymptotic time complexity is \( O(n^3) \). The following subsections are some concepts of the time complexity.

2.4.1 Asymptotic notation

In computer science, generally notations are used to illustrate the asymptotic running time of algorithms which are defined in terms of functions whose domains are the set of natural numbers and sometimes real numbers (Cormen et al., 2009).
2.4.2 Big-O Notation

The Big-O notation is used to describe tighter upper bound of a function, which states that the maximum amount of resources needed by an algorithm to complete the execution (Cormen et al., 2009). Let \( f(n) \) and \( g(n) \) be functions that map positive integers to positive real numbers. \( f(n) \) is \( O(g(n)) \) if there exists a real constant \( c > 0 \) and there exists an integer constant \( n_0 \geq 1 \) such that \( f(n) \leq c, g(n) \) for every integer \( n \geq n_0 \).

2.4.3 Running Time Analysis

The running time analysis is a theoretical process to categorize the algorithm into a relative order among function by predicting and calculating approximately the increase in running time of an algorithm as its input size increases. To ensure the execution time of an algorithm should anticipate the worst case, average case and best case performance of an algorithm. These analyses assist the understanding of algorithm complexity (Karunanithi, 2014).

The worst case time complexity is the criteria that are used to locate the running time analysis for every sorting technique that are used in this research.

2.4.3.1 Worst Case Analysis

The worst case analysis (Karunanithi, 2014), anticipates the greatest amount of running time that an algorithm needed to solve a problem for any input of size \( n \). The worst case running time of an algorithm gives us an upper bound on the computational complexity. The worst-case complexity of the algorithm is the function defined by the maximum number of steps taken on any instance of size \( n \). It represents the curve passing through the highest point of each column. This is shown in Figure 2.10.
```c
int x = 0;
for ( int j = 1; j <= n/2; j++ )
    for ( int k = 1; k <= n*n; k++ )
        x = x + j + k;
```

Figure 2.10: Nested loop Example

The worst case time complexity of the program in Figure 2.10 shows that the outer loop executes $n/2$ times. For each of those times, inner loop executes $n^2$ times, so the body of the inner loop is executed $(n/2) \times n^2 = n^3/2$ times. The algorithm is $O(n^3)$. The second example is shown in Figure 2.11.

```c
int x = 0;
for ( int j = 1; j <= n; j++ )
    for ( int k = 1; k < 3*j; k++ )
        x = x + j;
```

Figure 2.11: Nested loop program

When $j$ is 1, inner loop executes 3 times, when $j$ is 2, inner loop executes $3 \times 2$ times, when $j$ is $n$, inner loop executes $3 \times n$ times. All the inner loop executes $3+6+9+...+3n = 3(1+2+3+...+n) = 3n^2/2 + 3n/2$ times. The algorithm is $O(n^2)$. The worst case time complexity of Bubble Sort, Insertion Sort and Selection Sort are $O(n^2)$, because they all have two nested loops.
2.4.4 Computational Complexity

The main factor that classifies the sorting algorithm is time or computational complexity. In general, it predicts the performance of each algorithm in which some has worst case performance with large input size of \( n \) over other which has best case performance under optimal condition. Typically serial sorting algorithms good of behaviour is \( O(n \log_2 n) \) and bad behaviour is \( O(n^2) \) (Mark, 2006).

2.4.5 Divide-and-conquer Algorithms

The divide-and-conquer strategy solves a problem by:

(i) Breaking it into sub problems that are themselves smaller instances of the same type of problem.

(ii) Recursively solving these sub problems.

(iii) Appropriately combining their answers.

The real work is done gradually, in three different places, in the partitioning of problems into sub problems; at the very tail end of the recursion, when the sub problems are so small that they are solved outright; and in the merge together of partial answers. These are held together and coordinated by the algorithm’s core recursive structure (Drozdek, 2012).

The Quick Sort and Merge Sort are categorized under dividing and conquer techniques, where the Merge Sort divides one list into many lists and merge the lists into one list after sorting processing was done during merging operation. The Quick Sort was conducted by dividing one list into many lists according to the pivot value, and then merges the lists into one list after the sorting processing done during merging operation.
2.5 Regression

A regression line summarizes the relationship between two variables, but only in a specific setting, where one of the variables helps explain or predict the other. Regression describes a relationship between an explanatory variable and a response variable. A regression line is a straight line that describes how a response variable $y$ changes as an explanatory variable $x$ changes. Regression line is used to predict the value of $y$ for a given value of $x$ (Moore, 2010). In the following subsection the linear regression is explained, which includes the simple linear regression and the estimation least square regression. This is because the least square regression was used to estimate one value for each group data elements and execution time for sorting techniques results.

2.5.1 Linear regression

Linear regression (Moore, 2010) is a simple approach to supervise learning. It assumes that the dependence of $Y$ on $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_p$ is linear as a blue line in Figure 2.12. True regression functions are never linear, although it may seem overly simplistic as a red line Figure 2.12. Linear regression is extremely useful both conceptually and practically.

![Figure 2.12: Linear regression example](image-url)
2.5.2 Simple linear regression using a single predictor X

Assume a model:

\[ y \hat{=} \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \varepsilon \]  \hspace{1cm} (2.1)

Where \( \beta_0 \) and \( \beta_1 \) are two unknown constants that represent the intercept and slope, also known as coefficients or parameters, and \( \varepsilon \) is the error term. Given some estimates \( \hat{\beta}_0 \) and \( \hat{\beta}_1 \) for the model coefficients, future execution time is predicated using:

\[ y \hat{=} \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 x \]  \hspace{1cm} (2.2)

Where \( y \hat{=} \) indicates a prediction of \( Y \) on the basis of \( X = x \). The hat symbol denotes an estimated value (Moore, 2010).

2.5.3 Estimation of the parameters by least squares

The least square regression is used as the prediction for \( Y \) based on the \( i \)th value of \( X \) then

\[ y \hat{=} \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 x_i \]  \hspace{1cm} (2.3)

e represents the \( i \)th residual, then

\[ e_i = y_i - y_i \hat{=} \]  \hspace{1cm} (2.4)

Define the residual sum of squares (RSS) as:

\[ RSS = e_1^2 + e_2^2 + \ldots + e_n^2 \]  \hspace{1cm} (2.5)

Or equivalently as

\[ RSS = (y_1 - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_1 x_1)^2 + (y_2 - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_1 x_2)^2 + \ldots + (y_n - \hat{\beta}_0 - \hat{\beta}_1 x_n)^2 \]  \hspace{1cm} (2.6)

The least squares approach chooses \( \hat{\beta}_0 \) and \( \hat{\beta}_1 \) to minimize the RSS (Moore, 2010). The minimizing values can be shown to be:

\[ y \hat{=} \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 x \]  \hspace{1cm} (2.7)
Where:

\[
\beta_1^* = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i - \bar{x})^2}
\]  
(2.8)

\[
\beta_0^* = \bar{y} - \beta_1^* \bar{x}
\]  
(2.9)

\[
\bar{x} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i}{n}
\]  
(2.10)

\[
\bar{y} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} y_i}{n}
\]  
(2.11)

Such that, \(\beta_0^*\) is the intercept, \(\beta_1^*\) is the slope, \(\bar{x}\) is the mean of \(X\), \(\bar{y}\) is the mean of \(Y\) and \(x\) is a middle number of for each group of data. The least square regression example is shown in Figure 2.13.

![Figure 2.13: Linear Least Square regression example](image)

Figure 2.13 shows the linear least square regression for \(X\) and \(Y\). The red points are represent the real results of \(X\) and \(Y\). The blue line is represents the assumed points \((\hat{y}_i)\) for \(Y\) on \(X\). The lines between real point and assumed points are representing the difference between them \((e)\). Where \(X = x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_p\) and \(Y = y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_p\).

This research focuses on the equations (2.7), (2.8), (2.9), (2.10) and (2.11) to estimate one value for each sorting technique for each data elements group. The details of calculating the estimated values for each sorting technique for each data elements group are explained in Chapter 3.
REFERENCES


