

## 4.1 mergesort and quicksort

Tuesday, September 20, 2022

### Reminders

- test 1 in lab on Thursday
- lab 4 will be postponed

### TODAY

big-O review

selection sort

merge sort

quick sort

runtimes: worst case, best case, expected

#### Review classes of algorithms and big-O

1. What class grows proportionally to the size of the problem? linear  $O(n)$
2. What's the fastest-running class of algorithms? constant  $O(1)$
3. What's an example of a quadratic algorithm?  
 $O(n^2)$ , for  $\{ \dots \dots \dots \}$  selection sort, bubblesort
4. Which class of algorithms is the slowest-running? factorial  $O(n!)$
5. What class do the fastest sorting algorithms fall into?  
comparison-based sorting  $O(n \log n)$

### Selection Sort: pseudocode

select Sort (array, size)

for  $i = \text{size} - 1$  down to 1

indexOfMax = findMax (array, i)

swap (array, i, indexOfMax)

}  $n-1$  iterations

findMax (array, end) // finds index of largest element

indexOfMax = 0

for  $i = 0$  to end

| if array[i] > array[indexOfMax]

| | indexOfMax = i

in array



doesn't look beyond index "end"

return index of Max

## Observations

- selection sort is  $O(n^2)$
- selection sort is in-place: it doesn't use extra memory, it just edits the original array

## Mergesort

An example of a divide-and-conquer algorithm.

Recursive structure:

- base case, where we solve the problem without recursion
- recursive cases, where we use the same approach on smaller subproblems

CONQUER by combining results from separate subproblems to solve the overall problem.

```
mergeSort(array, size):  
  if size < 2: BASE CASE  
    return // you're all done! that array is definitely sorted  
  copy the first half of the array into a new array B  
  copy the second half of the array into a new array C } divide  
  mergeSort(B, size/2)  
  mergeSort(C, size/2)  
  
  merge(B, size/2, C, size/2, array) conquer  
  // helper function "merge" takes two arrays and puts them  
  // back in sorted order in the original array.
```

```
merge(A, sizeA, B, sizeB, C): // A and B are sorted, and C has size big enough  
  i=0, j=0, k=0 // indices for A, B, and C, respectively to store A & B's elements
```



each level of tree is  $O(n)$  work  
There are  $\log_2 n$  many levels.

Mergesort is  $O(n \log n)$ .

### Observations:

- mergesort is  $O(n \log_2 n)$
- mergesort uses lots of extra memory to make all the smaller copies of pieces of the array

Can we do better - is there a sorting algorithm that's both fast and in-place?

Quicksort another divide-and-conquer

To sort the whole array: `quicksort(array, 0, size-1)`

```
quicksort(array, i, j) // sorts the array[i,...,j]
  if j ≤ i:
    return // region to sort is ≤1 element, so it's definitely sorted!
  k = partition(array, i, j) ← divide
  quicksort(array, i, k-1) } conquer
  quicksort(array, k+1, j)
```

```
partition(array, left, right):
  // rearranges array[left,...,right] using a pivot element
  // should return the index where pivot element ends up
  pivot = right
  right --
  do:
    if array[left] ≤ array[pivot]:
      left++
    else if array[right] ≥ array[pivot]:
      right--
    else:
      swap(array, left, right)
  ... ..
```

Idea: Keep incrementing 'left' and decrementing 'right' until we find values that should be swapped.

