Searching and Sorting

24.2 Searching Algorithms

· Linear Search

- Searches each element in an array sequentially
- Has O(n) time
 - The worst case is that every element must be checked to determine whether the search item exists in the array

• Big O notation

- One way to describe the efficiency of a search
 - Measures the worst-case run time for an algorithm
 - O(1) is said to have a constant run time
 - O(n) is said to have a linear run time
 - $O(n^2)$ is said to have a quadratic run time



24.3 Sorting Algorithms

• Selection Sort

- The first iteration selects the smallest element in the array and swaps it with the first element
- The second iteration selects the second-smallest item and swaps it with the second element
- Continues until the last iteration selects the second-largest element and swaps it with the second-to-last index
 - · Leaves the largest element in the last index
- After the ith iteration, the smallest i items of the array will be sorted in increasing order in the first i elements of the array
- Is a simple, but inefficient, sorting algorithm; $O(n^2)$



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24.3 Sorting Algorithms (Cont.)

• Insertion Sort

- The first iteration takes the second element in the array and swaps it with the first element if it is less than the first element
- The second iteration looks at the third element and inserts it in the correct position with respect to the first two elements
 - All three elements will be in order
- At the ith iteration of this algorithm, the first i elements in the original array will be sorted
- Another simple, but in efficient, sorting algorithm; $O(n^{\wedge}2)$



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24.3 Sorting Algorithms (Cont.)

- Merge Sort
 - Sorts an array by splitting it into two equal-sized subarrays
 - Sort each subarray and merge them into one larger array
 - With an odd number of elements, the algorithm still creates two subarrays
 - One subarray will have one more element than the other
 - Merge sort is an efficient sorting algorithm: $O(n \log n)$
 - Conceptually more complex than selection sort and insertion



Unsorted: 36 38 81 93 85 72 31 11 33 74

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