

Divide and conquer - merge sort

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```
[1]: def insertion_sort(list_to_sort):  
    L = list(list_to_sort)  
    new_list = []  
  
    while len(L) > 0:  
        # find the index of the smallest thing  
        min_index = min(range(len(L)), key=lambda i : L[i])  
  
        # remove it from L and add to new_list  
        new_list.append(L.pop(min_index))  
    return new_list
```

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[2]: import math, random  
from time import time
```

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[3]: L = [random.randint(1, 1000000) for n in range(10000)]
```

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[4]: L[:5]
```

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[4]: [427197, 114724, 62702, 642190, 841575]
```

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[5]: tt = time()  
R1 = insertion_sort(L)  
print(time() - tt)
```

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4.119019985198975
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[6]: tt = time()  
R2 = sorted(L)  
print(time()-tt)
```

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0.0018157958984375
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[7]: R1 == R2
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```
[7]: True
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[19]: def merge_sort(L):  
    #print("Calling with list:",L)
```

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# base case: a list of length 1 is already sorted
if len(L) == 1:
    return L

# split the list (roughly) in half
mid_point = math.ceil(len(L)/2)
left_half = L[:mid_point]
right_half = L[mid_point:]

# recursively apply the function to both halves
LS = merge_sort(left_half)
RS = merge_sort(right_half)

full_list = []

while len(LS) + len(RS) > 0:
    # either LS[0] or RS[0] is the smallest of
    # all elements left. Find it, remove it, and
    # add to full_list.

    # if len(LS) > 0
    if LS:
        if RS:
            if LS[0] <= RS[0]:
                full_list.append(LS.pop(0))
            else:
                full_list.append(RS.pop(0))
        else:
            full_list.append(LS.pop(0))
    else:
        full_list.append(RS.pop(0))

return full_list

```

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[20]: merge_sort([3, 19, -7, 2, 1, 6, 0, -10])
```

```
[20]: [-10, -7, 0, 1, 2, 3, 6, 19]
```

```
[21]: tt = time()
R3 = merge_sort(L)
print(time()-tt)
```

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0.07052326202392578
```

```
[10]: R1 == R3
```

```
[10]: True
```

insertion sort: 100 elements - 0.00075 1000 elements - 0.064 – 85 times bigger than 100 10000 elements - 5.39 – 84 times bigger than 1000

our merge sort: 100 elements - 0.0004 1000 elements - 0.005 - 13 times bigger 10000 elements - 0.07 - 12.5 times bigger 100000 elements - 1.46 - 20 times bigger

python's sort (timsort): 10000 elements - 0.0018 100000 elements - 0.017 1000000 elements - 0.32 10000000 elements - 4.3

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