

Heap Sort

Heap Sort is a **comparison-based sorting algorithm** that uses a special data structure called a **Heap**.

It is based on the idea of using a **Binary Heap** (usually a Max Heap) to repeatedly extract the maximum element and build a sorted array.

Heap Sort is efficient and works in-place, but unlike Merge Sort and Quick Sort, it is **not stable**.

- A **Heap** is a complete binary tree that satisfies the **Heap Property**.
- **Max Heap**: The parent node is always greater than or equal to its children.
- **Min Heap**: The parent node is always smaller than or equal to its children.

Heap Sort generally uses a **Max Heap** to sort numbers in ascending order.

◆ Steps in Heap Sort

1. **Build Max Heap** → Convert the array into a Max Heap (largest element at the root).
2. **Swap Root with Last Element** → Swap the maximum element (root) with the last element of the heap.
3. **Reduce Heap Size & Heapify** → Exclude the last (sorted) element and heapify the remaining elements to maintain heap property.
4. **Repeat** → Continue until all elements are sorted.

◆ Example

Sort the array: [4, 10, 3, 5, 1]

- Step 1: Build Max Heap → [10, 5, 3, 4, 1]

- Step 2: Swap root with last → [1, 5, 3, 4, 10]
- Step 3: Heapify → [5, 4, 3, 1, 10]
- Step 4: Repeat process → [1, 3, 4, 5, 10]

Final Sorted Array: [1, 3, 4, 5, 10]

◆ Time Complexity

- Building Heap: $O(n)$
- Heapify (per element): $O(\log n)$
- Overall: $O(n \log n)$
- Best Case: $O(n \log n)$
- Average Case: $O(n \log n)$
- Worst Case: $O(n \log n)$

Unlike Quick Sort, Heap Sort's worst case is **not bad**.

◆ Space Complexity

- $O(1)$ → In-place sorting (only requires constant extra memory).

◆ Advantages of Heap Sort

- Guaranteed $O(n \log n)$ time complexity.
- In-place sorting (no extra space like Merge Sort).

- Useful for **Priority Queue operations** (using heaps).

◆ Disadvantages of Heap Sort

- **Not Stable:** Equal elements may not maintain their relative order.
- In practice, Heap Sort is often **slower than Quick Sort** due to cache inefficiency.

