

Comparison-based Sorting Algorithms

Manuel Eberl

March 17, 2025

Abstract

This article contains a formal proof of the well-known fact that number of comparisons that a comparison-based sorting algorithm needs to perform to sort a list of length n is at least $\log_2(n!)$ in the worst case, i.e. $\Omega(n \log n)$.

For this purpose, a shallow embedding for comparison-based sorting algorithms is defined: a sorting algorithm is a recursive datatype containing either a HOL function or a query of a comparison oracle with a continuation containing the remaining computation. This makes it possible to force the algorithm to use only comparisons and to track the number of comparisons made.

Contents

1	Linear orderings as relations	2
1.1	Auxiliary facts	2
1.2	Sortedness w.r.t. a relation	2
1.3	Linear orderings	4
1.4	Converting a list into a linear ordering	5
1.5	Insertion sort	5
1.6	Obtaining a sorted list of a given set	7
1.7	Rank of an element in an ordering	9
1.8	The bijection between linear orderings and lists	12
2	Lower bound on costs of comparison-based sorting	13
2.1	Abstract description of sorting algorithms	13
2.2	Lower bounds on number of comparisons	16

1 Linear orderings as relations

```

theory Linorder-Relations
  imports
    Complex-Main
    HOL-Combinatorics.Multiset-Permutations
    List-Index.List-Index
begin

```

1.1 Auxiliary facts

```

lemma distinct-count-atmost-1':
  distinct xs = (∀ a. count (mset xs) a ≤ 1)
proof -
  {
    fix x have count (mset xs) x = (if x ∈ set xs then 1 else 0) ⟷ count (mset
xs) x ≤ 1
      using count-eq-zero-iff[of mset xs x]
      by (cases count (mset xs) x (auto simp del: count-mset-0-iff))
  }
  thus ?thesis unfolding distinct-count-atmost-1 by blast
qed

```

```

lemma distinct-mset-mono:
  assumes distinct ys mset xs ⊆# mset ys
  shows distinct xs
  unfolding distinct-count-atmost-1'
proof
  fix x
  from assms(2) have count (mset xs) x ≤ count (mset ys) x
    by (rule mset-subset-eq-count)
  also from assms(1) have ... ≤ 1 unfolding distinct-count-atmost-1' ..
  finally show count (mset xs) x ≤ 1 .
qed

```

```

lemma mset-eq-imp-distinct-iff:
  assumes mset xs = mset ys
  shows distinct xs ⟷ distinct ys
  using assms by (simp add: distinct-count-atmost-1')

```

```

lemma total-on-subset: total-on B R ⟹ A ⊆ B ⟹ total-on A R
  by (auto simp: total-on-def)

```

1.2 Sortedness w.r.t. a relation

```

inductive sorted-wrt :: ('a × 'a) set ⇒ 'a list ⇒ bool for R where
  sorted-wrt R []
| sorted-wrt R xs ⟹ (∧ y. y ∈ set xs ⟹ (x,y) ∈ R) ⟹ sorted-wrt R (x # xs)

```

```

lemma sorted-wrt-Nil [simp]: sorted-wrt R []

```

by (*rule sorted-wrt.intros*)

lemma *sorted-wrt-Cons*: *sorted-wrt R (x # xs) \longleftrightarrow ($\forall y \in \text{set } xs. (x, y) \in R$) \wedge sorted-wrt R xs*
by (*auto intro: sorted-wrt.intros elim: sorted-wrt.cases*)

lemma *sorted-wrt-singleton [simp]*: *sorted-wrt R [x]*
by (*intro sorted-wrt.intros simp-all*)

lemma *sorted-wrt-many*:
assumes *trans R*
shows *sorted-wrt R (x # y # xs) \longleftrightarrow (x, y) \in R \wedge sorted-wrt R (y # xs)*
by (*force intro: sorted-wrt.intros transD[OF assms] elim: sorted-wrt.cases*)

lemma *sorted-wrt-imp-le-last*:
assumes *sorted-wrt R xs xs \neq [] x \in set xs x \neq last xs*
shows *(x, last xs) \in R*
using *assms by induction auto*

lemma *sorted-wrt-append*:
assumes *sorted-wrt R xs sorted-wrt R ys*
 $\bigwedge x y. x \in \text{set } xs \implies y \in \text{set } ys \implies (x, y) \in R \text{ trans } R$
shows *sorted-wrt R (xs @ ys)*
using *assms by (induction xs) (auto simp: sorted-wrt-Cons)*

lemma *sorted-wrt-snoc*:
assumes *sorted-wrt R xs (last xs, y) \in R trans R*
shows *sorted-wrt R (xs @ [y])*
using *assms(1,2)*
proof *induction*
case *(2 xs x)*
show *?case*
proof (*cases xs = []*)
case *False*
with *2 have (z, y) \in R if z \in set xs for z*
using *that by (cases z = last xs)*
 $(\text{auto intro: assms transD[OF assms(3), OF sorted-wrt-imp-le-last[OF 2(1)]]})$
from *False have *: last xs \in set xs by simp*
moreover from *2 False have (x, y) \in R by (intro transD[OF assms(3) 2(2)[OF *]]) simp*
ultimately show ?thesis using 2 False
by (*auto intro!: sorted-wrt.intros*)
qed (*insert 2, auto intro: sorted-wrt.intros*)
qed *simp-all*

lemma *sorted-wrt-conv-nth*:
sorted-wrt R xs \longleftrightarrow ($\forall i j. i < j \wedge j < \text{length } xs \longrightarrow (xs!i, xs!j) \in R$)
by (*induction xs*) (*auto simp: sorted-wrt-Cons nth-Cons set-conv-nth split: nat.splits*)

1.3 Linear orderings

definition *linorder-on* :: 'a set \Rightarrow ('a \times 'a) set \Rightarrow bool **where**
linorder-on A R \longleftrightarrow refl-on A R \wedge antisym R \wedge trans R \wedge total-on A R

lemma *linorder-on-cases*:

assumes *linorder-on* A R $x \in A$ $y \in A$
shows $x = y \vee ((x, y) \in R \wedge (y, x) \notin R) \vee ((y, x) \in R \wedge (x, y) \notin R)$
using *assms* **by** (auto simp: *linorder-on-def* *refl-on-def* *total-on-def* *antisym-def*)

lemma *sorted-wrt-linorder-imp-index-le*:

assumes *linorder-on* A R set xs \subseteq A sorted-wrt R xs
 $x \in$ set xs $y \in$ set xs $(x, y) \in R$
shows index xs x \leq index xs y

proof –

define i j **where** i = index xs x **and** j = index xs y
{
 assume j < i
 moreover from *assms* **have** i < length xs **by** (simp add: i-def)
 ultimately have (xs[j], xs[i]) $\in R$ **using** *assms* **by** (auto simp: sorted-wrt-conv-nth)
 with *assms* **have** x = y **by** (auto simp: *linorder-on-def* *antisym-def* i-def j-def)
}
hence i \leq j \vee x = y **by** linarith
thus ?thesis **by** (auto simp: i-def j-def)

qed

lemma *sorted-wrt-linorder-index-le-imp*:

assumes *linorder-on* A R set xs \subseteq A sorted-wrt R xs
 $x \in$ set xs $y \in$ set xs index xs x \leq index xs y
shows $(x, y) \in R$

proof (cases x = y)

case False

define i j **where** i = index xs x **and** j = index xs y
from False **and** *assms* **have** i \neq j **by** (simp add: i-def j-def)
with \langle index xs x \leq index xs y \rangle **have** i < j **by** (simp add: i-def j-def)
moreover from *assms* **have** j < length xs **by** (simp add: j-def)
ultimately have (xs[i], xs[j]) $\in R$ **using** *assms*(3)
 by (auto simp: sorted-wrt-conv-nth)

with *assms* **show** ?thesis **by** (simp-all add: i-def j-def)

qed (insert *assms*, auto simp: *linorder-on-def* *refl-on-def*)

lemma *sorted-wrt-linorder-index-le-iff*:

assumes *linorder-on* A R set xs \subseteq A sorted-wrt R xs
 $x \in$ set xs $y \in$ set xs

shows index xs x \leq index xs y \longleftrightarrow $(x, y) \in R$

using sorted-wrt-linorder-index-le-imp[OF *assms*] sorted-wrt-linorder-imp-index-le[OF *assms*]

by blast

lemma *sorted-wrt-linorder-index-less-iff*:

assumes *linorder-on* A R *set* $xs \subseteq A$ *sorted-wrt* R xs
 $x \in \text{set } xs \ y \in \text{set } xs$
shows $\text{index } xs \ x < \text{index } xs \ y \iff (y, x) \notin R$
by (*subst sorted-wrt-linorder-index-le-iff* [*OF assms(1-3) assms(5,4), symmetric*]) *auto*

lemma *sorted-wrt-distinct-linorder-nth*:

assumes *linorder-on* A R *set* $xs \subseteq A$ *sorted-wrt* R xs *distinct* xs
 $i < \text{length } xs \ j < \text{length } xs$
shows $(xs[i], xs[j]) \in R \iff i \leq j$
proof (*cases i j rule: linorder-cases*)
 case *less*
 with *assms* **show** *?thesis* **by** (*simp add: sorted-wrt-conv-nth*)
next
 case *equal*
 from *assms* **have** $xs[i] \in \text{set } xs \ xs[j] \in \text{set } xs$ **by** (*auto simp: set-conv-nth*)
 with *assms(2)* **have** $xs[i] \in A \ xs[j] \in A$ **by** *blast+*
 with $\langle \text{linorder-on } A \ R \rangle$ **and** *equal* **show** *?thesis* **by** (*simp add: linorder-on-def refl-on-def*)
next
 case *greater*
 with *assms* **have** $(xs[j], xs[i]) \in R$ **by** (*auto simp add: sorted-wrt-conv-nth*)
 moreover from *assms* **and** *greater* **have** $xs[i] \neq xs[j]$ **by** (*simp add: nth-eq-iff-index-eq*)
 ultimately show *?thesis* **using** $\langle \text{linorder-on } A \ R \rangle$ *greater*
 by (*auto simp: linorder-on-def antisym-def*)
qed

1.4 Converting a list into a linear ordering

definition *linorder-of-list* :: $'a \text{ list} \Rightarrow ('a \times 'a) \text{ set}$ **where**

$\text{linorder-of-list } xs = \{(a, b). a \in \text{set } xs \wedge b \in \text{set } xs \wedge \text{index } xs \ a \leq \text{index } xs \ b\}$

lemma *linorder-linorder-of-list* [*intro, simp*]:

assumes *distinct* xs
shows *linorder-on* (*set* xs) (*linorder-of-list* xs)
unfolding *linorder-on-def* **using** *assms*
by (*auto simp: refl-on-def antisym-def trans-def total-on-def linorder-of-list-def*)

lemma *sorted-wrt-linorder-of-list* [*intro, simp*]:

$\text{distinct } xs \implies \text{sorted-wrt } (\text{linorder-of-list } xs) \ xs$
by (*auto simp: sorted-wrt-conv-nth linorder-of-list-def index-nth-id*)

1.5 Insertion sort

primrec *insert-wrt* :: $('a \times 'a) \text{ set} \Rightarrow 'a \Rightarrow 'a \text{ list} \Rightarrow 'a \text{ list}$ **where**

$\text{insert-wrt } R \ x \ [] = [x]$
 $|\ \text{insert-wrt } R \ x \ (y \# ys) = (\text{if } (x, y) \in R \text{ then } x \# y \# ys \text{ else } y \# \text{insert-wrt } R \ x \ ys)$

lemma *set-insert-wrt* [*simp*]: $\text{set } (\text{insert-wrt } R \ x \ xs) = \text{insert } x \ (\text{set } xs)$

```

by (induction xs) auto

lemma mset-insert-wrt [simp]: mset (insert-wrt R x xs) = add-mset x (mset xs)
by (induction xs) auto

lemma length-insert-wrt [simp]: length (insert-wrt R x xs) = Suc (length xs)
by (induction xs) simp-all

definition insort-wrt :: ('a × 'a) set ⇒ 'a list ⇒ 'a list where
  insort-wrt R xs = foldr (insert-wrt R) xs []

lemma set-insort-wrt [simp]: set (insort-wrt R xs) = set xs
by (induction xs) (simp-all add: insort-wrt-def)

lemma mset-insort-wrt [simp]: mset (insort-wrt R xs) = mset xs
by (induction xs) (simp-all add: insort-wrt-def)

lemma length-insort-wrt [simp]: length (insort-wrt R xs) = length xs
by (induction xs) (simp-all add: insort-wrt-def)

lemma sorted-wrt-insert-wrt [intro]:
  linorder-on A R ⇒ set (x # xs) ⊆ A ⇒
    sorted-wrt R xs ⇒ sorted-wrt R (insert-wrt R x xs)
proof (induction xs)
  case (Cons y ys)
  from Cons.prem1 have (x,y) ∈ R ∨ (y,x) ∈ R
  by (cases x = y) (auto simp: linorder-on-def refl-on-def total-on-def)
  with Cons show ?case
  by (auto simp: sorted-wrt-Cons intro: transD simp: linorder-on-def)
qed auto

lemma sorted-wrt-insort [intro]:
  assumes linorder-on A R set xs ⊆ A
  shows sorted-wrt R (insort-wrt R xs)
proof -
  from assms have set (insort-wrt R xs) = set xs ∧ sorted-wrt R (insort-wrt R xs)
  by (induction xs) (auto simp: insort-wrt-def intro!: sorted-wrt-insert-wrt)
  thus ?thesis ..
qed

lemma distinct-insort-wrt [simp]: distinct (insort-wrt R xs) ⟷ distinct xs
by (simp add: distinct-count-atmost-1)

lemma sorted-wrt-linorder-unique:
  assumes linorder-on A R mset xs = mset ys sorted-wrt R xs sorted-wrt R ys
  shows xs = ys
proof -
  from ⟨mset xs = mset ys⟩ have length xs = length ys by (rule mset-eq-length)
  from this and assms(2-) show ?thesis

```

```

proof (induction xs ys rule: list-induct2)
  case (Cons x xs y ys)
  have set (x # xs) = set-mset (mset (x # xs)) by simp
  also have mset (x # xs) = mset (y # ys) by fact
  also have set-mset ... = set (y # ys) by simp
  finally have eq: set (x # xs) = set (y # ys) .

have x = y
proof (rule ccontr)
  assume x ≠ y
  with eq have x ∈ set ys y ∈ set xs by auto
  with Cons.prem and assms(1) and eq have (x, y) ∈ R (y, x) ∈ R
    by (auto simp: sorted-wrt-Cons)
  with assms(1) have x = y by (auto simp: linorder-on-def antisym-def)
  with ⟨x ≠ y⟩ show False by contradiction
qed
with Cons show ?case by (auto simp: sorted-wrt-Cons)
qed auto
qed

```

1.6 Obtaining a sorted list of a given set

definition sorted-wrt-list-of-set **where**

```

sorted-wrt-list-of-set R A =
  (if finite A then (THE xs. set xs = A ∧ distinct xs ∧ sorted-wrt R xs) else [])

```

lemma mset-remdups: mset (remdups xs) = mset-set (set xs)

```

proof (induction xs)
  case (Cons x xs)
  thus ?case by (cases x ∈ set xs) (auto simp: insert-absorb)
qed auto

```

lemma sorted-wrt-list-set:

```

assumes linorder-on A R set xs ⊆ A
shows sorted-wrt-list-of-set R (set xs) = insert-wrt R (remdups xs)

```

proof –

```

have sorted-wrt-list-of-set R (set xs) =
  (THE xsa. set xsa = set xs ∧ distinct xsa ∧ sorted-wrt R xsa)
  by (simp add: sorted-wrt-list-of-set-def)

```

also have ... = insert-wrt R (remdups xs)

proof (rule the-equality)

fix xsa **assume** xsa: set xsa = set xs ∧ distinct xsa ∧ sorted-wrt R xsa

from xsa **have** mset xsa = mset-set (set xsa) **by** (subst mset-set-set) simp-all

also from xsa **have** set xsa = set xs **by** simp

also have mset-set ... = mset (remdups xs) **by** (simp add: mset-remdups)

finally show xsa = insert-wrt R (remdups xs) **using** xsa assms

```

  by (intro sorted-wrt-linorder-unique[OF assms(1)])
  (auto intro!: sorted-wrt-insert)

```

qed (insert assms, auto intro!: sorted-wrt-insert)

finally show *?thesis* .
qed

lemma *linorder-sorted-wrt-exists*:
 assumes *linorder-on A R finite B B ⊆ A*
 shows $\exists xs. \text{set } xs = B \wedge \text{distinct } xs \wedge \text{sorted-wrt } R \text{ } xs$
 proof -
 from $\langle \text{finite } B \rangle$ obtain *xs* where $\text{set } xs = B$ *distinct xs*
 using *finite-distinct-list* by blast
 hence $\text{set } (\text{insort-wrt } R \text{ } xs) = B$ *distinct (insort-wrt R xs)* by *simp-all*
 moreover have *sorted-wrt R (insort-wrt R xs)*
 using *assms* $\langle \text{set } xs = B \rangle$ by (intro *sorted-wrt-insort* [OF *assms*(1)]) auto
 ultimately show *?thesis* by blast
 qed

lemma *linorder-sorted-wrt-list-of-set*:
 assumes *linorder-on A R finite B B ⊆ A*
 shows $\text{set } (\text{sorted-wrt-list-of-set } R \text{ } B) = B$ *distinct (sorted-wrt-list-of-set R B)*
 sorted-wrt R (sorted-wrt-list-of-set R B)
 proof -
 have $\exists ! xs. \text{set } xs = B \wedge \text{distinct } xs \wedge \text{sorted-wrt } R \text{ } xs$
 proof (rule *ex-ex1I*)
 show $\exists xs. \text{set } xs = B \wedge \text{distinct } xs \wedge \text{sorted-wrt } R \text{ } xs$
 by (rule *linorder-sorted-wrt-exists assms*) +
 next
 fix *xs ys* assume $\text{set } xs = B \wedge \text{distinct } xs \wedge \text{sorted-wrt } R \text{ } xs$
 $\text{set } ys = B \wedge \text{distinct } ys \wedge \text{sorted-wrt } R \text{ } ys$
 thus *xs = ys*
 by (intro *sorted-wrt-linorder-unique* [OF *assms*(1)]) (auto simp: *set-eq-iff-mset-eq-distinct*)
 qed
 from *theI* [OF *this*] show $\text{set } (\text{sorted-wrt-list-of-set } R \text{ } B) = B$
 distinct (sorted-wrt-list-of-set R B) sorted-wrt R (sorted-wrt-list-of-set R B)
 by (*simp-all add: sorted-wrt-list-of-set-def* $\langle \text{finite } B \rangle$)
 qed

lemma *sorted-wrt-list-of-set-eqI*:
 assumes *linorder-on B R A ⊆ B set xs = A distinct xs sorted-wrt R xs*
 shows *sorted-wrt-list-of-set R A = xs*
 proof (rule *sorted-wrt-linorder-unique*)
 show *linorder-on B R* by fact
 let *?ys* = *sorted-wrt-list-of-set R A*
 have *fin* [*simp*]: *finite A* by (*simp-all add: assms*(3) [*symmetric*])
 have *: *distinct ?ys set ?ys = A sorted-wrt R ?ys*
 by (rule *linorder-sorted-wrt-list-of-set* [OF *assms*(1)] *fin assms*) +
 from *assms* * show *mset ?ys = mset xs*
 by (*subst set-eq-iff-mset-eq-distinct* [*symmetric*]) *simp-all*
 show *sorted-wrt R ?ys* by fact
 qed fact+

1.7 Rank of an element in an ordering

The ‘rank’ of an element in a set w.r.t. an ordering is how many smaller elements exist. This is particularly useful in linear orders, where there exists a unique n -th element for every n .

definition *linorder-rank* **where**

$$\text{linorder-rank } R \ A \ x = \text{card } \{y \in A - \{x\}. (y, x) \in R\}$$

lemma *linorder-rank-le*:

assumes *finite A*

shows $\text{linorder-rank } R \ A \ x \leq \text{card } A$

unfolding *linorder-rank-def* **using** *assms*

by (*rule card-mono*) *auto*

lemma *linorder-rank-less*:

assumes *finite A x ∈ A*

shows $\text{linorder-rank } R \ A \ x < \text{card } A$

proof –

have $\text{linorder-rank } R \ A \ x \leq \text{card } (A - \{x\})$

unfolding *linorder-rank-def* **using** *assms* **by** (*intro card-mono*) *auto*

also from *assms* **have** $\dots < \text{card } A$ **by** (*intro psubset-card-mono*) *auto*

finally show *?thesis* .

qed

lemma *linorder-rank-union*:

assumes *finite A finite B A ∩ B = {}*

shows $\text{linorder-rank } R \ (A \cup B) \ x = \text{linorder-rank } R \ A \ x + \text{linorder-rank } R \ B \ x$

x

proof –

have $\text{linorder-rank } R \ (A \cup B) \ x = \text{card } \{y \in (A \cup B) - \{x\}. (y, x) \in R\}$

by (*simp add: linorder-rank-def*)

also have $\{y \in (A \cup B) - \{x\}. (y, x) \in R\} = \{y \in A - \{x\}. (y, x) \in R\} \cup \{y \in B - \{x\}. (y, x) \in R\}$ **by** *blast*

also have $\text{card } \dots = \text{linorder-rank } R \ A \ x + \text{linorder-rank } R \ B \ x$ **unfolding** *linorder-rank-def*

using *assms* **by** (*intro card-Un-disjoint*) *auto*

finally show *?thesis* .

qed

lemma *linorder-rank-empty* [*simp*]: $\text{linorder-rank } R \ \{\} \ x = 0$

by (*simp add: linorder-rank-def*)

lemma *linorder-rank-singleton*:

$\text{linorder-rank } R \ \{y\} \ x = (\text{if } x \neq y \wedge (y, x) \in R \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } 0)$

proof –

have $\text{linorder-rank } R \ \{y\} \ x = \text{card } \{z \in \{y\} - \{x\}. (z, x) \in R\}$ **by** (*simp add: linorder-rank-def*)

also have $\{z \in \{y\} - \{x\}. (z, x) \in R\} = (\text{if } x \neq y \wedge (y, x) \in R \text{ then } \{y\} \text{ else } \{\})$ **by** *auto*

also have $\text{card } \dots = (\text{if } x \neq y \wedge (y, x) \in R \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } 0)$ by simp
 finally show ?thesis .

qed

lemma *linorder-rank-insert*:

assumes *finite* A $y \notin A$

shows $\text{linorder-rank } R (\text{insert } y A) x =$

$(\text{if } x \neq y \wedge (y, x) \in R \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } 0) + \text{linorder-rank } R A x$

using *linorder-rank-union*[of $\{y\} A R x$] *assms* by (auto simp: *linorder-rank-singleton*)

lemma *linorder-rank-mono*:

assumes *linorder-on* B R *finite* A $A \subseteq B$ $(x, y) \in R$

shows $\text{linorder-rank } R A x \leq \text{linorder-rank } R A y$

unfolding *linorder-rank-def*

proof (rule *card-mono*)

from *assms* have *trans*: *trans* R and *antisym*: *antisym* R by (simp-all add: *linorder-on-def*)

from *assms* *antisym* show $\{y \in A - \{x\}. (y, x) \in R\} \subseteq \{ya \in A - \{y\}. (ya, y) \in R\}$

by (auto intro: *transD*[OF *trans*] simp: *antisym-def*)

qed (insert *assms*, *simp-all*)

lemma *linorder-rank-strict-mono*:

assumes *linorder-on* B R *finite* A $A \subseteq B$ $y \in A$ $(y, x) \in R$ $x \neq y$

shows $\text{linorder-rank } R A y < \text{linorder-rank } R A x$

proof –

from *assms*(1) have *trans*: *trans* R by (simp add: *linorder-on-def*)

from *assms* have *: $(x, y) \notin R$ by (auto simp: *linorder-on-def* *antisym-def*)

from *this* and $\langle (y, x) \in R \rangle$ have $\{z \in A - \{y\}. (z, y) \in R\} \subseteq \{z \in A - \{x\}. (z, x) \in R\}$

by (auto intro: *transD*[OF *trans*])

moreover from * and *assms* have $y \notin \{z \in A - \{y\}. (z, y) \in R\}$ $y \in \{z \in A - \{x\}. (z, x) \in R\}$

by auto

ultimately have $\{z \in A - \{y\}. (z, y) \in R\} \subset \{z \in A - \{x\}. (z, x) \in R\}$ by blast

thus ?thesis using *assms* unfolding *linorder-rank-def* by (intro *psubset-card-mono*)
 auto

qed

lemma *linorder-rank-le-iff*:

assumes *linorder-on* B R *finite* A $A \subseteq B$ $x \in A$ $y \in A$

shows $\text{linorder-rank } R A x \leq \text{linorder-rank } R A y \iff (x, y) \in R$

proof (cases $x = y$)

case *True*

with *assms* show ?thesis by (auto simp: *linorder-on-def* *refl-on-def*)

next

case *False*

from *assms*(1) have *trans*: *trans* R by (simp-all add: *linorder-on-def*)

from *assms* have $x \in B$ $y \in B$ by auto

```

with  $\langle \text{linorder-on } B \ R \rangle$  and False have  $((x,y) \in R \wedge (y,x) \notin R) \vee ((y,x) \in R \wedge (x,y) \notin R)$ 
by (fastforce simp: linorder-on-def antisym-def total-on-def)
thus ?thesis
proof
  assume  $(x,y) \in R \wedge (y,x) \notin R$ 
  with assms show ?thesis by (auto intro!: linorder-rank-mono)
next
  assume  $*(y,x) \in R \wedge (x,y) \notin R$ 
  with linorder-rank-strict-mono[OF assms(1-3), of y x] assms False
  show ?thesis by auto
qed
qed

```

```

lemma linorder-rank-eq-iff:
  assumes linorder-on B R finite A A  $\subseteq$  B x  $\in$  A y  $\in$  A
  shows linorder-rank R A x = linorder-rank R A y  $\longleftrightarrow$  x = y
proof
  assume linorder-rank R A x = linorder-rank R A y
  with linorder-rank-le-iff[OF assms(1-5)] linorder-rank-le-iff[OF assms(1-3) assms(5,4)]
  have  $(x, y) \in R \wedge (y, x) \in R$  by simp-all
  with assms show  $x = y$  by (auto simp: linorder-on-def antisym-def)
qed simp-all

```

```

lemma linorder-rank-set-sorted-wrt:
  assumes linorder-on B R set xs  $\subseteq$  B sorted-wrt R xs x  $\in$  set xs distinct xs
  shows linorder-rank R (set xs) x = index xs x
proof –
  define j where  $j = \text{index } xs \ x$ 
  from assms have  $j < \text{length } xs$  by (simp add: j-def)
  have  $*(x = y \vee ((x, y) \in R \wedge (y, x) \notin R) \vee ((y, x) \in R \wedge (x, y) \notin R) \text{ if } y \in \text{set } xs \text{ for } y$ 
  using linorder-on-cases[OF assms(1), of x y] assms that by auto
  from assms have  $\{y \in \text{set } xs \mid (y, x) \in R\} = \{y \in \text{set } xs \mid \text{index } xs \ y < \text{index } xs \ x\}$ 
  by (auto simp: sorted-wrt-linorder-index-less-iff[OF assms(1-3)] dest: *)
  also have  $\dots = \{y \in \text{set } xs \mid \text{index } xs \ y < j\}$  by (auto simp: j-def)
  also have  $\dots = (\lambda i. xs ! i) \text{ ` } \{i. i < j\}$ 
  proof safe
    fix y assume  $y \in \text{set } xs \text{ index } xs \ y < j$ 
    moreover from this and j have  $y = xs ! \text{index } xs \ y$  by simp
    ultimately show  $y \in (\lambda i. xs ! i) \text{ ` } \{i. i < j\}$  by blast
  qed (insert assms j, auto simp: index-nth-id)
  also from assms and j have  $\text{card } \dots = \text{card } \{i. i < j\}$ 
  by (intro card-image) (auto simp: inj-on-def nth-eq-iff-index-eq)
  also have  $\dots = j$  by simp
  finally show ?thesis by (simp only: j-def linorder-rank-def)
qed

```

```

lemma bij-betw-linorder-rank:
  assumes linorder-on B R finite A A ⊆ B
  shows bij-betw (linorder-rank R A) A {..card A}
proof -
  define xs where xs = sorted-wrt-list-of-set R A
  note xs = linorder-sorted-wrt-list-of-set[OF assms, folded xs-def]
  from ⟨distinct xs⟩ have len-xs: length xs = card A
    by (subst ⟨set xs = A⟩ [symmetric]) (auto simp: distinct-card)
  have rank: linorder-rank R (set xs) x = index xs x if x ∈ A for x
    using linorder-rank-set-sorted-wrt[OF assms(1), of xs x] assms that xs by
simp-all
  from xs len-xs show ?thesis
    by (intro bij-betw-byWitness[where f' = λi. xs ! i])
      (auto simp: rank index-nth-id intro!: nth-mem)
qed

```

1.8 The bijection between linear orderings and lists

```

theorem bij-betw-linorder-of-list:
  assumes finite A
  shows bij-betw linorder-of-list (permutations-of-set A) {R. linorder-on A R}
proof (intro bij-betw-byWitness[where f' = λR. sorted-wrt-list-of-set R A] ballI
subsetI,
  goal-cases)
  case (1 xs)
  thus ?case by (intro sorted-wrt-list-of-set-eqI) (auto simp: permutations-of-set-def)
next
  case (2 R)
  hence R: linorder-on A R by simp
  from R have in-R: x ∈ A y ∈ A if (x,y) ∈ R for x y using that
    by (auto simp: linorder-on-def refl-on-def)
  let ?xs = sorted-wrt-list-of-set R A
  have xs: distinct ?xs set ?xs = A sorted-wrt R ?xs
    by (rule linorder-sorted-wrt-list-of-set[OF R] assms order.refl) +
  thus ?case using sorted-wrt-linorder-index-le-iff[OF R, of ?xs]
    by (auto simp: linorder-of-list-def dest: in-R)
next
  case (4 xs)
  then obtain R where R: linorder-on A R and xs [simp]: xs = sorted-wrt-list-of-set
R A by auto
  let ?xs = sorted-wrt-list-of-set R A
  have xs: distinct ?xs set ?xs = A sorted-wrt R ?xs
    by (rule linorder-sorted-wrt-list-of-set[OF R] assms order.refl) +
  thus ?case by auto
qed (auto simp: permutations-of-set-def)

```

```

corollary card-finite-linorders:
  assumes finite A

```

```

shows   card {R. linorder-on A R} = fact (card A)
proof -
  have   card {R. linorder-on A R} = card (permutations-of-set A)
    by (rule sym, rule bij-betw-same-card [OF bij-betw-linorder-of-list[OF assms]])
  also from assms have ... = fact (card A) by (rule card-permutations-of-set)
  finally show ?thesis .
qed

end

```

2 Lower bound on costs of comparison-based sorting

```

theory Comparison-Sort-Lower-Bound
imports
  Complex-Main
  Linorder-Relations
  Stirling-Formula.Stirling-Formula
  Landau-Symbols.Landau-More
begin

```

2.1 Abstract description of sorting algorithms

We have chosen to model a sorting algorithm in the following way: A sorting algorithm takes a list with distinct elements and a linear ordering on these elements, and it returns a list with the same elements that is sorted w. r. t. the given ordering.

The use of an explicit ordering means that the algorithm must look at the ordering, i. e. it has to use pair-wise comparison of elements, since all the information that is relevant for producing the correct sorting is in the ordering; the elements themselves are irrelevant.

Furthermore, we record the number of comparisons that the algorithm makes by not giving it the relation explicitly, but in the form of a comparison oracle that may be queried.

A sorting algorithm (or ‘sorter’) for a fixed input list (but for arbitrary orderings) can then be written as a recursive datatype that is either the result (the sorted list) or a comparison query consisting of two elements and a continuation that maps the result of the comparison to the remaining computation.

```

datatype 'a sorter = Return 'a list | Query 'a 'a bool ⇒ 'a sorter

```

Cormen *et al.* [1] use a similar ‘decision tree’ model where an sorting algorithm for lists of fixed size n is modelled as a binary tree where each node is a comparison of two elements. They also demand that every leaf in the tree be reachable in order to avoid ‘dead’ subtrees (if the algorithm makes

redundant comparisons, there may be branches that can never be taken). Then, the worst-case number of comparisons made is simply the height of the tree.

We chose a subtly different model that does not have this restriction on the algorithm but instead uses a more semantic way of counting the worst-case number of comparisons: We simply use the maximum number of comparisons that occurs for any of the (finitely many) inputs.

We therefore first define a function that counts the number of queries for a specific ordering and then a function that counts the number of queries in the worst case (ranging over a given set of allowed orderings; typically, this will be the set of all linear orders on the list).

primrec *count-queries* :: ('a × 'a) set ⇒ 'a sorter ⇒ nat **where**
count-queries - (Return -) = 0
| *count-queries* R (Query a b f) = Suc (count-queries R (f ((a, b) ∈ R)))

definition *count-wc-queries* :: ('a × 'a) set set ⇒ 'a sorter ⇒ nat **where**
count-wc-queries Rs sorter = (if Rs = {} then 0 else Max ((λR. count-queries R sorter) ` Rs))

lemma *count-wc-queries-empty* [simp]: *count-wc-queries* {} sorter = 0
by (simp add: count-wc-queries-def)

lemma *count-wc-queries-aux*:

assumes $\bigwedge R. R \in Rs \implies \text{sorter} = \text{sorter}' R Rs \subseteq Rs'$ *finite* Rs'
shows *count-wc-queries* Rs sorter ≤ Max ((λR. count-queries R (sorter' R)) ` Rs')
proof (cases Rs = {})
case False
hence *count-wc-queries* Rs sorter = Max ((λR. count-queries R sorter) ` Rs)
by (simp add: count-wc-queries-def)
also have (λR. count-queries R sorter) ` Rs = (λR. count-queries R (sorter' R)) ` Rs
by (intro image-cong refl) (simp-all add: assms)
also have Max ... ≤ Max ((λR. count-queries R (sorter' R)) ` Rs') **using** False
by (intro Max-mono assms image-mono finite-imageI) auto
finally show ?thesis .
qed simp-all

primrec *eval-sorter* :: ('a × 'a) set ⇒ 'a sorter ⇒ 'a list **where**
eval-sorter - (Return ys) = ys
| *eval-sorter* R (Query a b f) = eval-sorter R (f ((a, b) ∈ R))

We now get an obvious bound on the maximum number of different results that a given sorter can produce.

lemma *card-range-eval-sorter*:

assumes *finite* Rs
shows card ((λR. eval-sorter R e) ` Rs) ≤ 2 ^ count-wc-queries Rs e

```

using assms
proof (induction e arbitrary: Rs)
  case (Return xs Rs)
    have *: ( $\lambda R. \text{eval-sorter } R (\text{Return } xs)$ ) ‘  $Rs = (\text{if } Rs = \{\} \text{ then } \{\} \text{ else } \{xs\})$ 
  by auto
  show ?case by (subst *) auto
next
  case (Query a b f Rs)
  have  $f \text{ True} \in \text{range } f \wedge f \text{ False} \in \text{range } f$  by simp-all
  note IH = this [THEN Query.IH]
  let ?Rs1 =  $\{R \in Rs. (a, b) \in R\}$  and ?Rs2 =  $\{R \in Rs. (a, b) \notin R\}$ 
  let ?A = ( $\lambda R. \text{eval-sorter } R (f \text{ True})$ ) ‘ ?Rs1 and ?B = ( $\lambda R. \text{eval-sorter } R (f \text{ False})$ ) ‘ ?Rs2
  from Query.prems have fin: finite ?Rs1 finite ?Rs2 by simp-all

  have *: ( $\lambda R. \text{eval-sorter } R (\text{Query } a \ b \ f)$ ) ‘  $Rs \subseteq ?A \cup ?B$ 
  proof (intro subsetI, elim imageE, goal-cases)
    case (1 xs R)
    thus ?case by (cases (a,b) ∈ R) auto
  qed

  show ?case
  proof (cases Rs = {})
    case False
    have  $\text{card } ((\lambda R. \text{eval-sorter } R (\text{Query } a \ b \ f)) \text{ ‘ } Rs) \leq \text{card } (?A \cup ?B)$ 
    by (intro card-mono finite-UnI finite-imageI fin *)
    also have ...  $\leq \text{card } ?A + \text{card } ?B$  by (rule card-Un-le)
    also have ...  $\leq 2^{\text{count-wc-queries } ?Rs1 (f \text{ True})} + 2^{\text{count-wc-queries } ?Rs2 (f \text{ False})}$ 
    by (intro add-mono IH fin)
    also have  $\text{count-wc-queries } ?Rs1 (f \text{ True}) \leq \text{Max } ((\lambda R. \text{count-queries } R (f ((a,b) \in R))) \text{ ‘ } Rs)$ 
    by (intro count-wc-queries-aux Query.prems) auto
    also have  $\text{count-wc-queries } ?Rs2 (f \text{ False}) \leq \text{Max } ((\lambda R. \text{count-queries } R (f ((a,b) \in R))) \text{ ‘ } Rs)$ 
    by (intro count-wc-queries-aux Query.prems) auto
    also have  $2^{\dots} + 2^{\dots} = (2^{\text{Suc } \dots} :: \text{nat})$  by simp
    also have  $\text{Suc } (\text{Max } ((\lambda R. \text{count-queries } R (f ((a,b) \in R))) \text{ ‘ } Rs)) =$ 
       $\text{Max } (\text{Suc } ((\lambda R. \text{count-queries } R (f ((a,b) \in R))) \text{ ‘ } Rs))$  using False
    by (intro mono-Max-commute finite-imageI Query.prems) (auto simp: inc-seq-def)
    also have  $\text{Suc } ((\lambda R. \text{count-queries } R (f ((a,b) \in R))) \text{ ‘ } Rs) =$ 
       $(\lambda R. \text{Suc } (\text{count-queries } R (f ((a,b) \in R)))) \text{ ‘ } Rs$  by (simp add: image-image)
    also have  $\text{Max } \dots = \text{count-wc-queries } Rs (\text{Query } a \ b \ f)$  using False
    by (auto simp add: count-wc-queries-def)
    finally show ?thesis by - simp-all
  qed simp-all
qed

```

The following predicate describes what constitutes a valid sorting result for a given ordering and a given input list. Note that when the ordering is linear, the result is actually unique.

definition *is-sorting* :: ('a × 'a) set ⇒ 'a list ⇒ 'a list ⇒ bool **where**
is-sorting R xs ys ⇔ (mset xs = mset ys) ∧ sorted-wrt R ys

2.2 Lower bounds on number of comparisons

For a list of n distinct elements, there are $n!$ linear orderings on n elements, each of which leads to a different result after sorting the original list. Since a sorter can produce at most 2^k different results with k comparisons, we get the bound $2^k \geq n!$:

theorem

fixes *sorter* :: 'a sorter **and** *xs* :: 'a list
assumes *distinct*: distinct *xs*
assumes *sorter*: $\bigwedge R. \text{linorder-on } (\text{set } xs) \ R \implies \text{is-sorting } R \ xs \ (\text{eval-sorter } R \text{ sorter})$
defines $R_s \equiv \{R. \text{linorder-on } (\text{set } xs) \ R\}$
shows *two-power-count-queries-ge*: $\text{fact } (\text{length } xs) \leq (2 \wedge \text{count-wc-queries } R_s \text{ sorter} :: \text{nat})$
and *count-queries-ge*: $\log 2 \ (\text{fact } (\text{length } xs)) \leq \text{real } (\text{count-wc-queries } R_s \text{ sorter})$

proof –

have $R_s \subseteq \text{Pow } (\text{set } xs \times \text{set } xs)$ **by** (auto simp: *Rs-def* *linorder-on-def* *refl-on-def*)
hence *fin*: finite R_s **by** (rule *finite-subset*) *simp-all*
from *assms* **have** $\text{fact } (\text{length } xs) = \text{card } (\text{permutations-of-set } (\text{set } xs))$
by (*simp add: distinct-card*)
also have $\text{permutations-of-set } (\text{set } xs) \subseteq (\lambda R. \text{eval-sorter } R \text{ sorter}) \text{ ' } R_s$
proof (rule *subsetI*, *goal-cases*)
case (1 *ys*)
define *R* **where** $R = \text{linorder-of-list } ys$
define *zs* **where** $zs = \text{eval-sorter } R \text{ sorter}$
from 1 **and** *distinct* **have** *mset-ys*: $\text{mset } ys = \text{mset } xs$
by (auto simp: *set-eq-iff-mset-eq-distinct* *permutations-of-set-def*)
from 1 **have** *: $\text{linorder-on } (\text{set } xs) \ R$ **unfolding** *R-def* **using** *linorder-linorder-of-list*[*of* *ys*]
by (*simp add: permutations-of-set-def*)
from *sorter*[*OF this*] **have** $\text{mset } xs = \text{mset } zs \text{ sorted-wrt } R \ zs$
by (*simp-all add: is-sorting-def* *zs-def*)
moreover from 1 **have** *sorted-wrt* $R \ ys$ **unfolding** *R-def*
by (*intro sorted-wrt-linorder-of-list*) (*simp-all add: permutations-of-set-def*)
ultimately have $zs = ys$
by (*intro sorted-wrt-linorder-unique*[*OF* *]) (*simp-all add: mset-ys*)
moreover from * **have** $R \in R_s$ **by** (*simp add: Rs-def*)
ultimately show ?*case* **unfolding** *zs-def* **by** blast
qed
hence $\text{card } (\text{permutations-of-set } (\text{set } xs)) \leq \text{card } ((\lambda R. \text{eval-sorter } R \text{ sorter}) \text{ ' } R_s)$

by (intro card-mono finite-imageI fin)
 also from fin have $\dots \leq 2^{\text{count-wc-queries } Rs \text{ sorter}}$ by (rule card-range-eval-sorter)
 finally show *: fact (length xs) $\leq (2^{\text{count-wc-queries } Rs \text{ sorter}} :: \text{nat})$.

have $\ln (\text{fact } (\text{length } xs)) = \ln (\text{real } (\text{fact } (\text{length } xs)))$ by simp
 also have $\dots \leq \ln (\text{real } (2^{\text{count-wc-queries } Rs \text{ sorter}}))$
 proof (subst ln-le-cancel-iff)
 show $\text{real } (\text{fact } (\text{length } xs)) \leq \text{real } (2^{\text{count-wc-queries } Rs \text{ sorter}})$
 by (subst of-nat-le-iff) (rule *)
 qed simp-all
 also have $\dots = \text{real } (\text{count-wc-queries } Rs \text{ sorter}) * \ln 2$ by (simp add: ln-realpow)
 finally have $\text{real } (\text{count-wc-queries } Rs \text{ sorter}) \geq \ln (\text{fact } (\text{length } xs)) / \ln 2$
 by (simp add: field-simps)
 also have $\ln (\text{fact } (\text{length } xs)) / \ln 2 = \log 2 (\text{fact } (\text{length } xs))$ by (simp add: log-def)
 finally show **: $\log 2 (\text{fact } (\text{length } xs)) \leq \text{real } (\text{count-wc-queries } Rs \text{ sorter})$.
 qed

lemma ln-fact-bigo: $(\lambda n. \ln (\text{fact } n) - (\ln (2 * \pi * n) / 2 + n * \ln n - n)) \in O(\lambda n. 1 / n)$
 and asymp-equiv-ln-fact [asymp-equiv-intros]: $(\lambda n. \ln (\text{fact } n)) \sim_{[at-top]} (\lambda n. n * \ln n)$
proof –
 include asymp-equiv-syntax
 define f where $f = (\lambda n. \ln (2 * \pi * \text{real } n) / 2 + \text{real } n * \ln (\text{real } n) - \text{real } n)$
 have eventually $(\lambda n. \ln (\text{fact } n) - f n \in \{0..1/(12*\text{real } n)\})$ at-top
 using eventually-gt-at-top[of 1::nat]
proof eventually-elim
 case (elim n)
 with ln-fact-bounds[of n] show ?case by (simp add: f-def)
 qed
 hence eventually $(\lambda n. \text{norm } (\ln (\text{fact } n) - f n) \leq (1/12) * \text{norm } (1 / \text{real } n))$
 at-top
 using eventually-gt-at-top[of 0::nat] by eventually-elim (simp-all add: field-simps)
 thus $(\lambda n. \ln (\text{fact } n) - f n) \in O(\lambda n. 1 / \text{real } n)$
 using bigoI[of $\lambda n. \ln (\text{fact } n) - f n$ $1/12$ $\lambda n. 1 / \text{real } n$] by simp
 also have $(\lambda n. 1 / \text{real } n) \in o(f)$ unfolding f-def by (intro smallo-real-nat-transfer)
 simp
 finally have $(\lambda n. f n + (\ln (\text{fact } n) - f n)) \sim f$
 by (subst asymp-equiv-add-right) simp-all
 hence $(\lambda n. \ln (\text{fact } n)) \sim f$ by simp
 also have $f \sim (\lambda n. n * \ln n + (\ln (2*\pi*n)/2 - n))$ by (simp add: f-def algebra-simps)
 also have $\dots \sim (\lambda n. n * \ln n)$ by (subst asymp-equiv-add-right) auto
 finally show $(\lambda n. \ln (\text{fact } n)) \sim (\lambda n. n * \ln n)$.
 qed

This leads to the following well-known Big-Omega bound on the number of

comparisons that a general sorting algorithm has to make:

corollary *count-queries-bigomega*:

```

fixes sorter :: nat  $\Rightarrow$  nat sorter
assumes sorter:  $\bigwedge n R. \text{linorder-on } \{.. $n$ \} R \implies$ 
               is-sorting R  $[0.. $n$ ]$  (eval-sorter R (sorter n))
defines Rs  $\equiv \lambda n. \{R. \text{linorder-on } \{.. $n$ \} R\}$ 
shows ( $\lambda n. \text{count-wc-queries } (Rs\ n) (\text{sorter } n) \in \Omega(\lambda n. n * \ln n)$ )
proof –
  have ( $\lambda n. n * \ln n \in \Theta(\lambda n. \ln (fact\ n))$ )
    by (subst bigtheta-sym) (intro asymp-equiv-imp-bigtheta asymp-equiv-intros)
  also have ( $\lambda n. \ln (fact\ n) \in \Theta(\lambda n. \log 2 (fact\ n))$ ) by (simp add: log-def)
  also have ( $\lambda n. \log 2 (fact\ n) \in O(\lambda n. \text{count-wc-queries } (Rs\ n) (\text{sorter } n))$ )
  proof (intro bigO[where c = 1] always-eventually allI, goal-cases)
    case (1 n)
    have norm ( $\log 2 (fact\ n) = \log 2 (fact (\text{length } [0.. $n$ ]))$ ) by simp
    also from sorter[of n] have ...  $\leq \text{real } (\text{count-wc-queries } (Rs\ n) (\text{sorter } n))$ 
    using count-queries-ge[of  $[0.. $n$ ]$  sorter n] by (auto simp: Rs-def atLeast0LessThan)

    also have ... = 1 * norm ... by simp
    finally show ?case by simp
  qed
  finally show ?thesis by (simp add: bigomega-iff-bigo)
qed
end

```

References

- [1] T. H. Cormen, C. Stein, R. L. Rivest, and C. E. Leiserson. *Introduction to Algorithms*. McGraw-Hill Higher Education, 2nd edition, 2001.