Subject: Re: Misc. Bugs & Problems
Posted by David Kastrup on Fri, 26 Feb 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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"Steve Scheele" <sscheele@scitor.com> writes:

- > < Problem: Sort slows down considerably when sorting integer arrays
- >> containing many identical values. (on NT)

>

>> Note that this seems to be platform dependent.

>

- > Yes It is also my understanding that Sort uses the sort algorithm
- > that is native to the particular OS. I had thought that Sort used
- > quick sort. However, quick sort slows down considerably when
- > sorting arrays already in (mostly) sorted order. My testing failed
- > to show this particular problem.

Only naive quicksort slows down on sorted elements. The usual variant is the median of three quicksort picking the pivot from a median of first, last and middle element of a range. The most inefficient configuration for this sort is pretty hard to come up by design, but is also O(n^2).

When you are using the GNU C library, qsort really reverts to a mergesort method unless memory is scarce.

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