

## Insertion Sort

---

**Algorithm 1** Insertion-Sort( $A$ )

---

```
for  $j = 2$  to  $A.Length$  do
     $key = A[j]$ 
    ▷ Insert  $A[j]$  into the sorta sequence  $A[1 \dots j - 1]$ .
     $i = j - 1$ 
    while  $i > 0$  and  $A[i] > key$  do
         $A[i + 1] = A[i]$ 
         $i = i - 1$ 
    end while
     $A[i + 1] = key$ 
end for
```

---

**Loop Invariant:** At the start of each iteration of the **for** loop, the subarray  $A[1 \dots j - 1]$  consists of the elements original in  $A[1 \dots j - 1]$ , but in sorted order.

**Initialization:** We start by showing that the loop invariant holds before the first loop iteration, when  $j = 2$ . The subarray  $A[1 \dots j - 1]$ , therefore, consists of just the single element  $A[1]$ , which is in fact the original element in  $A[1]$ . Moreover, this subarray is sorted (trivially), which shows that the loop invariant holds prior to the first iteration of the loop.

**Maintenance:** Informally, the body of the **for** loop works by moving  $A[j - 1], A[j - 2], A[j - 3], \dots$  by one position to the right until it finds the proper position for  $A[j]$ . The subarray  $A[1 \dots j - 1]$  then consists of the elements originally in  $A[1 \dots j]$ , but in sorted order. Incrementing  $j$  for the next iteration of the **for** loop then preserves the loop invariant.<sup>1</sup>

**Termination:** The condition causing the **for** loop to terminate is that  $j > A.length = n$ . Because each loop iteration increases  $j$  by 1, we must have  $j = n + 1$  at that time. Substituting  $n + 1$  for  $j$  in the wording of loop invariant, we have that the subarray  $A[1 \dots n]$  consists of the elements originally in  $A[1 \dots n]$ , but in sorted order. Observing that the subarray  $A[1 \dots n]$  is the entire array, we conclude that the entire array is sorted.

---

<sup>1</sup>A more formal treatment of the Maintenance property would require us to state and show a loop invariant for the **while** loop.