

# Inversion Count

Tuesday, September 12, 2023 9:21 AM

## Algorithm of Inversion Count

We can count inversions in an array by using the merge sort algorithm with minor changes highlighted in green. We keep the count of total number of inversions. Idea is to divide the array into two equal halves and count the inversion right side of the mid and then call a function that will compute the overall inversions in the array.

Merge\_Sort(Arr[], left, right )

```
{
    Inv_Count = 0
    If(left < right)                ==> O(1)
    {
        M = (left + right)/2        ==> O(1)
        Inv_Count += Merge_Sort(Arr, left, M)    ==> T(N/2)    recursive call with input size N/2
        Inv_Count += Merge_Sort(Arr, M+1, right) ==> T(N/2)
        Inv_Count += Merge (Arr, left, M, right) ==> O(N)
    }
    Return Inv_Count
}
```

**Main Steps of Merge 1:** calculate Size, **2:** Create temp Arrays, **3:** Copy data in temp Arrays, **4:** comparison of temp Arrays, **5:** copying pending elements **6:** delete temp arrays

**Merge (Arr[], left, M, right)**

```
{
    Inv_Count = 0
    n1 = M - left + 1    //size of sub array1
    n2 = right - M        //size of sub array2
    A[n1]                // temp Arrays definitely on heap
    B[n2]
    copy (Arr, A, left, M)    // By coping the data in temporary arrays, the original input space will get free and
    update the data           inside original array

    copy (Arr, B, M+1, right)
    i = j = 1              // iterators for temp Arrays
    k = left               // iterator for original array
    while (i < n1 AND j < n2)
    {
        If(A[i] <= B[j])
            Arr[k++] = A[i++]
        Else
            Arr[k++] = B[j++]
        Inv_Count += (n1 - i + 1)
    }
    //Either array A or B will get exhausted so we need to copy the pending elements in sorted order in the original array
    while (i < n1)
        Arr[k++] = A[i++]
    while (j < n2)
        Arr[k++] = B[j++]

    Delete A and B
    Return Inv_Count
    Since n1+ n2 = N so the overall complexity of this function will be O(N)
}
```



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Inversion count is a measure of how far an array is from being sorted<sup>12</sup>. It is the number of pairs of elements in the array that are in the wrong order<sup>2</sup>. If the array is already sorted, the inversion count is 0. If the array is sorted in reverse order, the inversion count is the maximum<sup>12</sup>. Formally, an inversion occurs when  $a[i] > a[j]$  and  $i < j$ .



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