

6 5 3 1 8 7 2 4

# Insertion Sort

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**Insertion sort** is a simple sorting algorithm that works similar to the way you sort playing cards in your hands. The array is virtually split into a sorted and an unsorted part. Values from the unsorted part are picked and placed at the correct position in the sorted part.

## Characteristics of Insertion Sort:

- This algorithm is one of the simplest algorithm with simple implementation
- Basically, Insertion sort is efficient for small data values
- Insertion sort is adaptive in nature, i.e. it is appropriate for data sets which are already partially sorted.

## Working of Insertion Sort algorithm:

Consider an example: arr[]: {12, 11, 13, 5, 6}

### **First Pass:**

- Initially, the first two elements of the array are compared in insertion sort.
- Here, 12 is greater than 11 hence they are not in the ascending order and 12 is not at its correct position. Thus, swap 11 and 12.
- So, for now 11 is stored in a sorted sub-array.

### **Second Pass:**

- Now, move to the next two elements and compare them
- Here, 13 is greater than 12, thus both elements seems to be in ascending order, hence, no swapping will occur. 12 also stored in a sorted sub-array along with 11

### **Third Pass:**

- Now, two elements are present in the sorted sub-array which are **11** and **12**
- Moving forward to the next two elements which are 13 and 5
- Both 5 and 13 are not present at their correct place so swap them
- After swapping, elements 12 and 5 are not sorted, thus swap again
- Here, again 11 and 5 are not sorted, hence swap again
- here, it is at its correct position

### **Fourth Pass:**

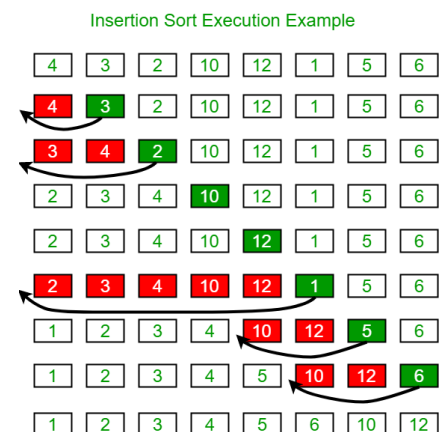
- Now, the elements which are present in the sorted sub-array are **5, 11** and **12**
- Moving to the next two elements 13 and 6
- Clearly, they are not sorted, thus perform swap between both
- Now, 6 is smaller than 12, hence, swap again
- Here, also swapping makes 11 and 6 unsorted hence, swap again
- Finally, the array is completely sorted.

### Illustrations:

### Insertion Sort Algorithm

To sort an array of size N in ascending order:

- Iterate from arr[1] to arr[N] over the array.
- Compare the current element (key) to its predecessor.
- If the key element is smaller than its predecessor, compare it to the elements before. Move the greater elements one position up to make space for the swapped element.



```
void insertionSortII(vector<int> &arr)
{
    for (size_t i = 1; i < arr.size(); i++)
    {
        int current = i;
        int currentElement = arr[current];
        while (currentElement < arr[current - 1] && current > 0)
        {
            arr[current] = arr[current - 1];
            current--;
        }
        arr[current] = currentElement;
    }
}
```

