

An inversion count of an element k in a sequence of integers is how many numbers to the right of k that are greater than it.

ex. $1, 2, 3, 4$: the element 2 has an inversion count of 2 .

The sequence $1, 2, 3, \dots, 10$ has a total inversion count of $9+8+7+6+\dots+1 = 45$ (add up inversion count of each element).

The reverse sequence $10, 9, 8, \dots, 1$ has a total inversion count of 0 .

I claim that every swap changes the total inversion count by an odd number.



Assume $p > q$ where p and q are elements to be swapped. Let there be x numbers in Area R greater than p , y numbers between p and q , z numbers less than q .

By moving p to where q is, the sequence loses x inversions and gains $y+z+1$ (the $+1$ represents $p > q$).

By moving q to where p is, the sequence loses

~~x~~ z inversions and gains $x+y$.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Thus, the total change per swap is } & -x + z + y + 1 - z + x + y \\ & = 2y + 1,\end{aligned}$$

an odd number.

Swapping 20 times will change the total inversion count by an odd \times even = even number. Thus, the transition between 45 to 0 inversion totals will never be achieved.