Problem G. Quicksort 1 - Partition

OS Linux

The previous challenges covered Insertion Sort, which is a simple and intuitive sorting algorithm with a running time of $O(n^2)$. In these next few challenges, we're covering a *divide-and-conquer* algorithm called Quicksort (also known as *Partition Sort*). This challenge is a modified version of the algorithm that only addresses partitioning. It is implemented as follows:

Step 1: Divide
Choose some pivot element, p, and partition your unsorted array, arr, into three smaller arrays: $left$, $right$, and $equal$, where each element in $left < p$, each element in $right > p$, and each element in $equal = p$.

Example
$arr = [5, 7, 4, 3, 8]$

In this challenge, the pivot will always be at $arr[0]$, so the pivot is 5.

arr is divided into $left = \{4, 3\}$, $equal = \{5\}$, and $right = \{7, 8\}$.
Putting them all together, you get $\{4, 3, 5, 7, 8\}$. There is a flexible checker that allows the elements of $left$ and $right$ to be in any order. For example, $\{3, 4, 5, 8, 7\}$ is valid as well.

Given arr and $p = arr[0]$, partition arr into $left$, $right$, and $equal$ using the *Divide* instructions above. Return a 1-dimensional array containing each element in $left$ first, followed by each element in $equal$, followed by each element in $right$.

Function Description

Complete the *quickSort* function in the editor below.

quickSort has the following parameter(s):

- *int arr[n]:* $arr[0]$ is the pivot element

Returns

- *int[n]:* an array of integers as described above

Input Format

The first line contains n, the size of arr.
The second line contains n space-separated integers $arr[i]$ (the unsorted array). The first integer, $arr[0]$, is the pivot element, p.

Constraints

- $1 \leq n \leq 1000$
- $-1000 \leq arr[i] \leq 1000$ where $0 \leq i < n$
- All elements are distinct.

Input	Output
STDIN Function ----- -------- 5 arr[] size n =5 4 5 3 7 2 arr =[4, 5, 3, 7, 2]	3 2 4 5 7

Explanation

$arr = [4, 5, 3, 7, 2]$ *Pivot*: $p = arr[0] = 4$.
$left = \{\}; equal = \{4\}; right = \{\}$

$arr[1] = 5 > p$, so it is added to $right$.
$left = \{\}; equal = \{4\}; right = \{5\}$

$arr[2] = 3 < p$, so it is added to $left$.
$left = \{3\}; equal = \{4\}; right = \{5\}$

$arr[3] = 7 > p$, so it is added to $right$.
$left = \{3\}; equal = \{4\}; right = \{5, 7\}$

$arr[4] = 2 < p$, so it is added to $left$.
$left = \{3, 2\}; equal = \{4\}; right = \{5, 7\}$

Return the array $\{32457\}$.

The order of the elements to the left and right of 4 does not need to match this answer. It is only required that 3 and 2 are to the left of 4, and 5 and 7 are to the right.