

Each time `elapsed` is incremented, the error in its value is changed by ± 1 tick. When the `while` loop terminates, the error is $\pm \text{counter}$ ticks. So the accuracy depends on the terminal value of `elapsed`. This terminal value may be as low as zero as, for small `n`, it is possible that the clock reading does not change between the calls to `clock` made just before and just after invoking `InsertionSort`. As a result, no accuracy guarantee can be made.