## **HackerRank**

# Quicksort 1 - Partition

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**

- $1 \le n \le 1000$
- $-1000 \leq arr[i] \leq 1000$  where  $0 \leq i < n$

All elements are distinct.

#### **Sample Input**

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

## Sample Output

```
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  $\bf 4$  does not need to match this answer. It is only required that  $\bf 3$  and  $\bf 2$  are to the left of  $\bf 4$ , and  $\bf 5$  and  $\bf 7$  are to the right.