

Methodology:

I generated the arrays by first picking the four different sizes I wanted to test. I settled with 20, 35, 50, and 100 since the quadratic sorting algorithms are best used for smaller data sets, but I also wanted to with large sizes that you can still reasonably visualize. Then I would let a function input random numbers into the arrays that will then get sorted via the three sorting algorithms. I will then take notes of each trial to calculate the average runtime for each algorithm.

Results:

Bubble sort:

Array size	Trial 1	Trial 2	Trial 3	Trial 4	Trial 5	Average comparisons
20	107	115	118	135	90	113
35	289	335	273	316	319	306.4
50	642	661	765	664	655	677.4
100	2671	2568	2586	2781	2707	2662.6

Selection sort:

Array size	Trial 1	Trial 2	Trial 3	Trial 4	Trial 5	Average comparisons
20	190	190	190	190	190	190
35	595	595	595	595	595	595
50	1225	1225	1225	1225	1225	1225
100	4950	4950	4950	4950	4950	4950

Insertion sort:

Array size	Trial 1	Trial 2	Trial 3	Trial 4	Trial 5	Average comparisons
20	105	115	118	131	88	111.4
35	288	330	272	312	315	303.4
50	637	661	759	660	652	673.8
100	2669	2563	2584	2779	2699	2658.8

Analysis:

- No matter how elements are arranged, selection sort consistently makes the same number of comparisons for each array size. Selection sort makes about $(n^2/2)$ comparisons.
- Bubble sort and insertion sort tend to make about $(n^2/4)$ comparisons, although insertion sort is slightly faster on average.
- While selection sort on average makes about twice the number of comparisons as bubble and insertion sort, in general, all the quadratic sorting algorithms tend to match the Big O growth of $O(n^2)$.