

Step 1:

In your notes document, take note of the timing result for the `extraLargeArray` results– comparing when the `extraLargeArray` is passed to `doublerAppend` and `doublerInsert`.

| Array | doublerAppend runtime (ms) | doublerInsert runtime (ms) |
|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| extraLargeArray | 4.645327 | 974.952411 |

Next, edit the code in `runtime.js` to obtain timing results for calling the two functions with all of the differently sized arrays– `tinyArray`, `smallArray`, `mediumArray`, `largeArray`, and `extraLargeArray`. Notate these in your document in some kind table so that you can easily compare the different values for the timers in relation to the size of the array that was passed into each function.

| Array | doublerAppend runtime (ms) | doublerInsert runtime (ms) |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| tinyArray | 0.10928 | 0.045086 |
| smallArray | 0.113154 | 0.05285 |
| mediumArray | 0.155877 | 0.166403 |
| largeArray | 0.613829 | 6.750396 |
| extraLargeArray | 4.645327 | 974.952411 |
| doubleXtraLargeArray = <code>getSizedArray(1000000)</code> | 38.019932 | 180000 |

How does each function “scale”? Which of the two functions scales better? How can you tell?

We can tell from both the data collected and the way the functions are coded that `doublerAppend`’s time complexity is $O(n)$ and scales better, while `doublerInsert` runs $O(n^2)$ and scales worse.

Based on the runtime results, `doublerInsert` outperformed `doublerAppend` only to a point - at about the `mediumArray` where they performed almost equally fast. Beyond that size, `doublerAppend` drastically outperformed `doublerInsert` and clearly scales better. This is painfully evident with the additional runtime data provided by an array I added to the code out of curiosity - “`doubleXtraLargeArray`” which was 10 times larger than “`extraLargeArray`”. While `doublerAppend` processed it in a tidy 38 ms, `doublerInsert` by contrast took over 3 minutes to run.

Given that both functions are coded with a for-loop - starting them both off at a baseline best-case time complexity of $O(n)$ - the reason `doubleAppend` scales better at higher inputs (and stays $O(n)$) is because it utilizes `.push` which does *not* affect the indexes of the previous elements in the array since it simply appends an item to the *end* of the array. Thus, its runtime is only based on the size of the original input.

The `doubleInsert` function however uses `.unshift` which adds an item to the beginning of the array at index 0, thereby ‘unshifting’ the index of every single other item already inside the array each time an item is added. Thus, `doubleInsert`’s use of both the for-loop and the `.unshift` method make its runtime dependent on the size of the input multiplied by the number of times the previous array items are re-indexed with each input - time complexity $O(n^2)$.