

977. Squares of a sorted array:

I/P: nums = [-4, -1, 0, 3, 10]

O/P: [0, 1, 9, 16, 100]

Explanation: After squaring, the array becomes [16, 1, 0, 9, 100]. After sorting

Brute force approach:

1. Create a new array
2. Square each element
3. sort new array
4. return it.

class Solution {

```
public int[] sortedSquares(int[] nums) {
```

```
    int n = nums.length;
```

```
    int[] result = new int[n];
```

```
    for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
```

```
        result[i] = nums[i] * nums[i];
```

```
        Arrays.sort(result);
```

```
    }
    return result;
```

```
}
```

```
}
```

Time \rightarrow squaring $\rightarrow O(n)$ sorting $\rightarrow O(n \log n)$
Space $\rightarrow O(n)$

optimized approach (two pointers):

```
class Solution {  
    public int[] sortedSquares (int[] nums) {  
        int n = nums.length;  
        int left = 0;  
        int right = n - 1;  
        int[] result = new int[n];  
        int pos = n - 1;  
        while (left <= right) {  
            int leftSq = nums[left] * nums[left];  
            int rightSq = nums[right] * nums[right];  
            if (leftSq > rightSq) {  
                result[pos] = leftSq;  
                left++;  
            } else {  
                result[pos] = rightSq;  
                right--;  
            }  
            pos--;  
        }  
        return result;  
    }  
}
```

3.

Time $\rightarrow O(n)$

space $\rightarrow O(n)$