

Running Time algorithm

The screenshot shows the HackerRank interface for the 'Running Time of Algorithms' challenge. The left sidebar contains navigation links: Problem, Submissions, Leaderboard, and Discussions. The main content area on the left provides a problem description and analysis of Insertion Sort's running time, concluding that the worst-case time complexity is $O(N^2)$. The right side features a code editor with a JavaScript solution for finding the insertion point. Below the editor are buttons for 'Run Code' and 'Submit Code'. A green 'Congratulations' banner indicates the user has solved the challenge. At the bottom, test cases are listed, with 'Test case 0' selected, showing a 'Success' compiler message.

Problem

In a previous challenge you implemented the Insertion Sort algorithm. It is a simple sorting algorithm that works well with small or mostly sorted data. However, it takes a long time to sort large unsorted data. To see why, we will analyze its running time.

Running Time of Algorithms

The running time of an algorithm for a specific input depends on the number of operations executed. The greater the number of operations, the longer the running time of an algorithm. We usually want to know how many operations an algorithm will execute in proportion to the size of its input, which we will call N .

What is the ratio of the running time of Insertion Sort to the size of the input? To answer this question, we need to examine the algorithm.

Analysis of Insertion Sort

For each element V in an array of N numbers, Insertion Sort compares the number to those to its left until it reaches a lower value element or the start. At that point it shifts everything to the right up one and inserts V into the array.

How long does all that shifting take?

In the best case, where the array was already sorted, no element will need to be moved, so the algorithm will just run through the array once and return the sorted array. The running time would be directly proportional to the size of the input, so we can say it will take N time.

However, we usually focus on the worst-case running time (computer scientists are pretty pessimistic). The worst case for Insertion Sort occurs when the array is in reverse order. To insert each number, the algorithm will have to shift over that number to the beginning of the array. Sorting the entire array of N numbers will therefore take $1 + 2 + \dots + (N - 1)$ operations, which is $N(N - 1)/2$ (almost $N^2/2$). Computer scientists just round that up (pick the dominant term) to N^2 and

```
24 |         arr.set(j + 1, arr.get(j));
25 |         shift++;
26 |     }
27 |     arr.set(j + 1, element);
28 |
29 |
30 | }
31 | return shift;
32 |
33 | }
34 |
35 | }
```

Line: 62 Col: 1

Upload Code as File ☐ Test against custom input **Run Code** **Submit Code**

Congratulations

You solved this challenge. Would you like to challenge your friends? [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) **Next Challenge**

Test case 0 **Compiler Message**
Success

Test case 1

Test case 2 [Download](#)

The time and space complexity:

Space complexity is constant $O(1)$ since it is using fixed variables, and the size of the arrays is not dependent on that.

Combining the outer and inner for loops you get a time complexity of $O(n^2)$ since it will run in a descending order series, $1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + (n-1)$. If the array is sorted it will run with a best time of $O(n)$ since the array is sorted