Given the worst case, every partition would result in one sub-array containing one element, and another sub-array containing the remaining elements. The algorithm will continue partitioning until left with two elements where it no longer will need to traverse the sub-array. This results in a formula of the form:

$$n + (n - 1) + (n - 2) + ... + 3 + 2$$

which simplifies to

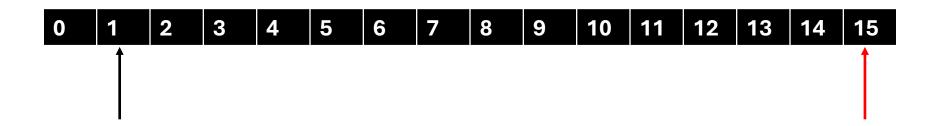
$$[n * (n + 1)] / 2 - 1$$

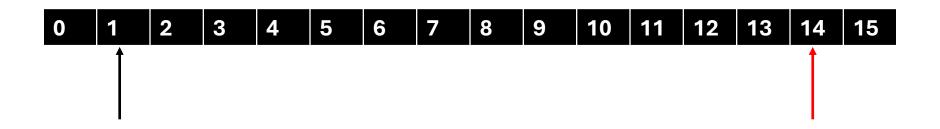
and is simply $O(n^2)$.

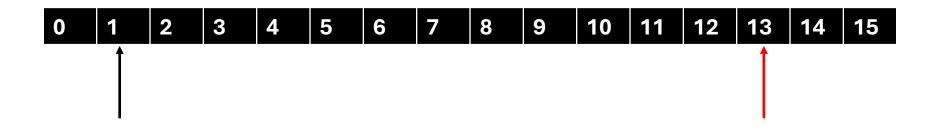
An example of the worst case would be an already sorted list and an implementation of quick sort that takes the pivot from the lower index.

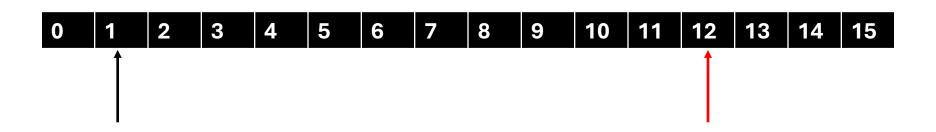
[0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15]

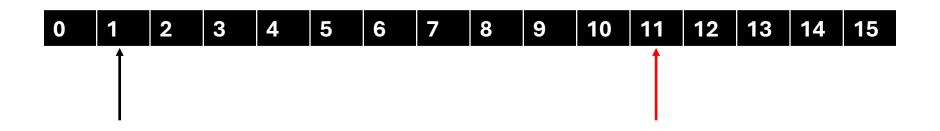
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

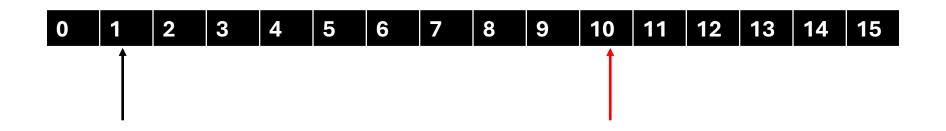


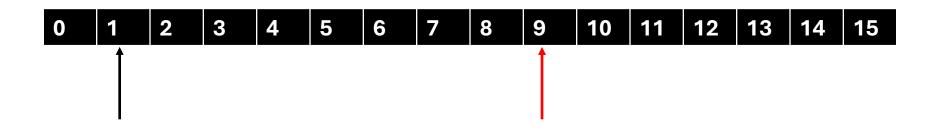


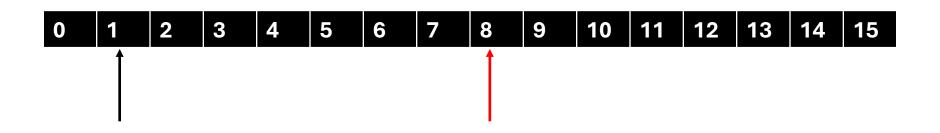


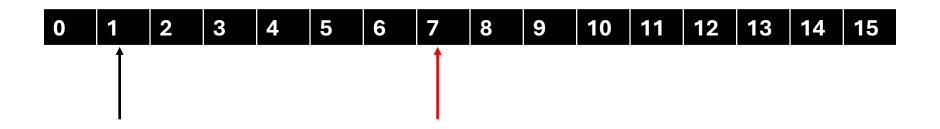


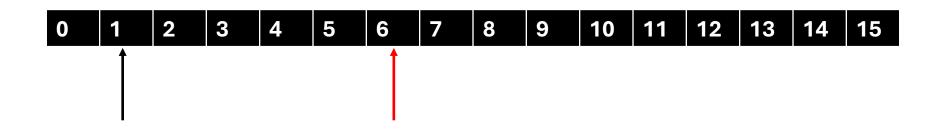


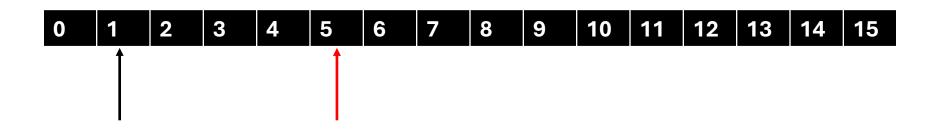


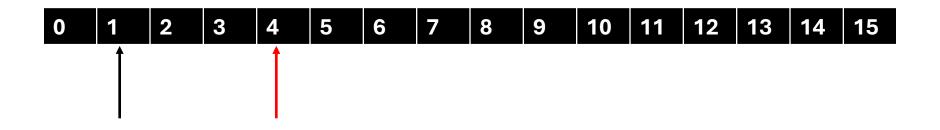


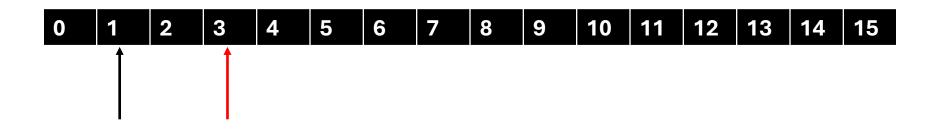


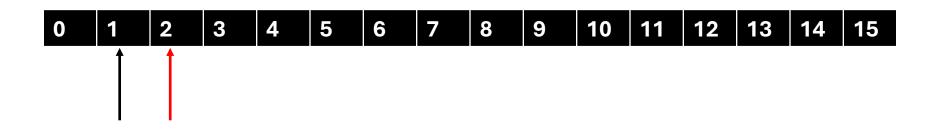


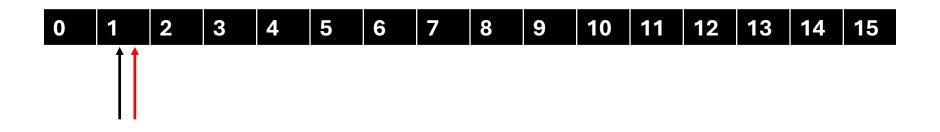






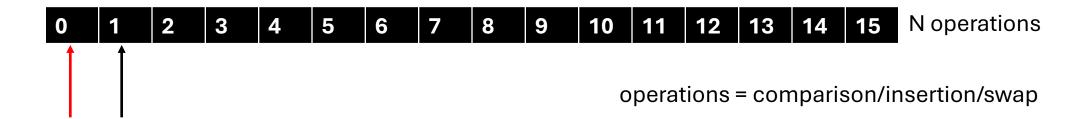






Left ptr Right ptr

Pivot: 0



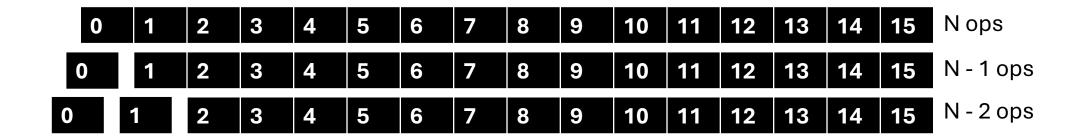
Pivot: 1

Left ptr Right ptr

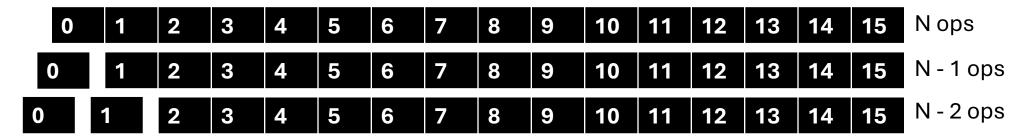
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	N ops
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	N - 1 ops

Pivot: 1

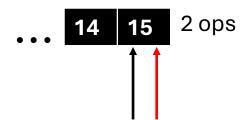
Question 2



Question 2



•



The plot displays a quadratic function, inline with what we expect of $O(n^2)$.

