



UNIT 4

Iteration: Sorting and Scalability

Sorting

The image displays three overlapping screenshots illustrating sorting functionality:

- Sort Dialog Box:** A Windows-style dialog box titled "Sort". It features two "Sort by" sections. The first section has a dropdown menu set to "DESCRIPTION" and radio buttons for "Ascending" (selected) and "Descending". The second section has an empty dropdown menu and radio buttons for "Ascending" (selected) and "Descending".
- File List Table:** A table with three columns: "Name", "Artist", and "Time". The "Time" column header is highlighted in blue, and a mouse cursor is pointing at it. The table contains the following data rows:

| Name | Artist | Time |
|-------------------------|------------------|------|
| Dig Your Grave | Modest Mouse | 0:12 |
| Ostriches & Chirping | Elliott Smith | 0:33 |
| Interlude (Milo) | Modest Mouse | 0:58 |
| We've Got a File On... | Blur | 1:02 |
| Fewer Words | Badly Drawn ... | 1:13 |
| Life's Incredible Ag... | Michael Giacc... | 1:24 |
| 30 Century Man | Scott Walker | 1:26 |
| Lava In the Afterno... | Michael Giacc... | 1:29 |
| The Chase | Stephen Trask | 1:31 |
| The Way I Feel Inside | The Zombies | 1:34 |
| Mr. Huph Will See ... | Michael Giacc... | 1:35 |
| Don't Ask Me I'm O... | Badly Drawn ... | 1:36 |
| Let Me Tell You Ab... | Mark Mothers... | 1:38 |
- YouTube Search Results Page:** A screenshot of a YouTube search results page for the query "amd". The page shows "About 83,600 results". A red circle highlights the "Search options" link. Below this, the "Result type:" section lists "All", "Videos", "Channels", and "Playlists". To the right, the "Sort by:" section lists "Relevance", "Upload date", "View count", and "Rating". A red circle highlights the "Upload date" option.

Insertion Sort

Given an array a of length n , $n > 0$.

1. Set $i = 1$.
2. While i is not equal to n , do the following:
 - a. Insert $a[i]$ into its correct position in $a[0..i]$.
 - b. Add 1 to i .
3. Return the array a which will now be sorted.

Example

a = [**53**, 26, 76, 30, 14, 91, 68, 42]

i = 1

Insert a[1] into its correct position in a[0..1]
and then add 1 to i:

53 moves to the right,

26 is inserted back into the array

a = [**26**, **53**, 76, 30, 14, 91, 68, 42]

i = 2

Example

a = [26, 53, 76, 30, 14, 91, 68, 42]

i = 2

Insert a[2] into its correct position in a[0..2]
and then add 1 to i:

76 is already in the correct place in a[0..2]

a = [26, 53, 76, 30, 14, 91, 68, 42]

i = 3

Example

a = [26, 53, 76, 30, 14, 91, 68, 42]

i = 3

Insert a[3] into its correct position in a[0..3]

and then add 1 to i:

76 moves to the right, then 53 moves to the right,

now 30 is inserted back into the array

a = [26, 30, 53, 76, 14, 91, 68, 42]

i = 4

Look Closer at Insertion Sort

Given an array a of length n , $n > 0$.

1. Set $i = 1$.
2. While i is not equal to n , do the following:
Precondition for each iteration: $a[0..i-1]$ is sorted
 - a. Insert $a[i]$ into its correct position in $a[0..i]$.
 - b. Add 1 to i .**Postcondition for each iteration: $a[0..i-1]$ is sorted**
3. Return the array a which will now be sorted.

Look Closer at Insertion Sort

Given an array a of length n , $n > 0$.

1. Set $i = 1$.
2. While i is not equal to n , do the following:
Loop invariant: $a[0..i-1]$ is sorted
 - a. Insert $a[i]$ into its correct position in $a[0..i]$.
 - b. Add 1 to i .
3. Return the array a which will now be sorted.

A loop invariant is a condition that is true at the start and end of each iteration of a loop.

Example (cont'd)

a = [26, 30, 53, 76, 14, 91, 68, 42]

i = 4

Insert a[4] into its correct position in a[0..4]

and then add 1 to i:

76 moves to the right, then 53 moves to the right,
then 30 moves to the right, then 26 moves to the right,
now 14 is inserted back into the array

a = [14, 26, 30, 53, 76, 91, 68, 42]

i = 5

Example

a = [14, 26, 30, 53, 76, 91, 68, 42]

i = 5

Insert a[5] into its correct position in a[0..5]
and then add 1 to i:

91 is already in its correct position

a = [14, 26, 30, 53, 76, 91, 68, 42]

i = 6

Example

a = [14, 26, 30, 53, 76, 91, 68, 42]

i = 6

Insert a[6] into its correct position in a[0..6]

and then add 1 to i:

91 moves to the right,

76 moves to the right,

now 68 is inserted back into the array

a = [14, 26, 30, 53, 68, 76, 91, 42]

i = 7

Example

a = [14, 26, 30, 53, 68, 76, 91, 42]

i = 7

Insert a[7] into its correct position in a[0..7]

and then add 1 to i:

91 moves to the right, then 76 moves to the right,
then 68 moves to the right, then 53 moves to the right,
then 42 is inserted back into the array

a = [14, 26, 30, 42, 53, 68, 76, 91]

i = 8

Example

```
a = [14, 26, 30, 42, 53, 68, 76, 91]  
i = 8
```

The array is sorted.

But how do we know that the algorithm always sorts correctly?

Reasoning with the Loop Invariant

The loop invariant is true at the end of each iteration, including the last iteration. After the last iteration, when we go to step 3:

$a[0..i-1]$ is sorted AND i is equal to n

These 2 conditions imply that $a[0..n-1]$ is sorted, but this range covers the entire array, so the array must always be sorted when we return our final answer!

Insertion Sort in Ruby

```
def isort(list)
  a = list.clone
  i = 1
  while i != a.length do
    move_left(a, i) ← insert a[i] into a[0..i]
    i = i + 1
  end
  return a
end
```

in its correct sorted position

Moving left

To move the element x at index i “left” to its correct position, start at position $i-1$, and search left until we find the first element that is less than x .

Then insert x back into the array to the right of the first element that is less than x when you searched from right to left in the sorted part of the array.

(The insert operation does not overwrite. Think of it as “squeezing into the array”.)

Can you think of a special case for the step above?

Moving left: examples

Insert 68:

$a = [14, 26, 30, 53, 76, 91, \underline{68}, 42]$



Searching from right to left starting with 91, the first element less than 68 is 53.

Insert 68 to the right of 53.

Insert 76:

$a = [26, 53, \underline{76}, 30, 14, 91, 68, 42]$



Searching from right to left starting with 53, the first element less than 76 is 53.

Insert 76 to the right of 53 (where it was before).

Insert 14: SPECIAL CASE

$a = [26, 30, 53, 76, \underline{14}, 91, 68, 42]$



Searching from right to left starting with 76, all elements left of 14 are greater than 14. Insert 14 into the position 0.

The `move_left` algorithm

Given an array `a` of length `n`, $n > 0$ and a value at index `i` to be “moved left” in the array.

1. Remove `a[i]` from the array and store in `x`.
2. Set `j = i-1`.
3. While `j >= 0` and `a[j] > x`, do the following:
 - a. Subtract 1 from `j`.
4. Reinsert `x` into position `a[j+1]`.

How is the special case handled here?

move_left in Ruby

```
def move_left(a, i)
  x = a.slice!(i)
  j = i-1
  while j >= 0 and a[j] > x do
    j = j - 1
  end
  a.insert(j+1, x)
end
```

← remove the item at position i in array a and store it in x

← logical operator AND: both conditions must be true for the loop to continue

← insert x at position j+1 of array a, shifting all elements from j+1 and beyond over one position