

Correctness

Mars Rovers - \$2.5B budget  
7/8 years (so far)

software updates

2 GB flash

10 kbps <https://marsmobile.jpl.nasa.gov/msl/mission/communicationwithearth/data/>  
~ 18 days

NASA is a big sponsor of formal verification

<https://shemesh.larc.nasa.gov/fm/>

Therac-25

radiation therapy machine

hardware interlocking mechanism replaced with <sup>buggy</sup> software

3 people killed

formal verification important for safety- and mission-critical systems

## Invariants

Loop Invariant: something true at beginning of every iteration of loop

Loop Invariant Then:

For predicate  $P$ , if  
base case  $\rightarrow$  a)  $P$  true before loop starts (after 0 iteration)  
induction step  $\rightarrow$  b) if  $P$  true before one iteration and guard also T  
then  $P$  is truly a loop invariant then  $P$  true after next iteration

$\rightarrow$  some predicate involving variables, and # iterations of loop

prove by induction that

$\forall n \geq 0$ , if there is an  $n$ th iteration, then  $P$  is true after the  $n$ th iteration

Also want loop terminates (guard is eventually false)

$P$  true when loop terminates (and guard is false)  
guarantees that the postconditions are met  $(INV \wedge G) \rightarrow POST$

Sum(A)

```
total = 0
for i = 0 to n-1
    total = total + A[i]
return total
```

Sorting

SelectionSort(A, n)

i = 0

while i < n-1

find min among A[i], ..., A[n-1]

swap min with A[i]

i = i + 1

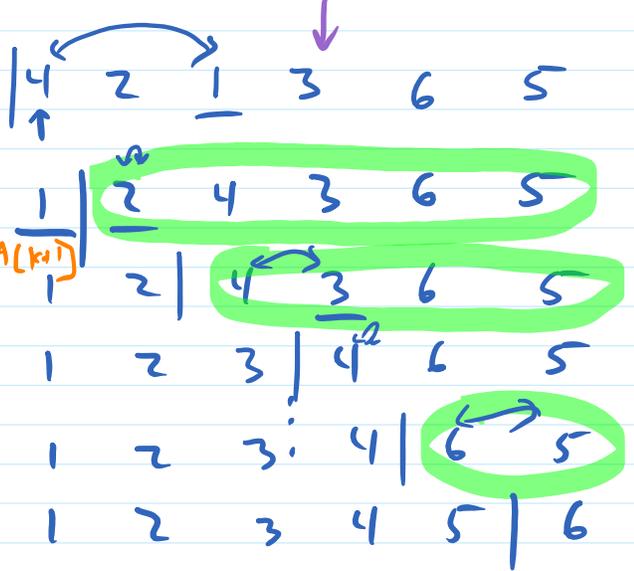
worst case  $\Theta(n^2)$

guard

$\forall k, 0 \leq k < i \rightarrow A[k] \leq A[k+1]$

in final locations

not sorted yet



LOOP INVARIANT:  $A[0] \leq A[1] \leq \dots \leq A[i-1]$   
 and  
 $A[i-1] \leq A[i], \dots, A[n-1]$   
 and  
 A has original values in possibly different order

Postcondition for sorting:  $A[0] \leq \dots \leq A[n-1]$   
 and  
 A has same elements as at start (but in diff order)

InsertionSort(A, n)

worst case  $\Theta(n^2)$

i = 1

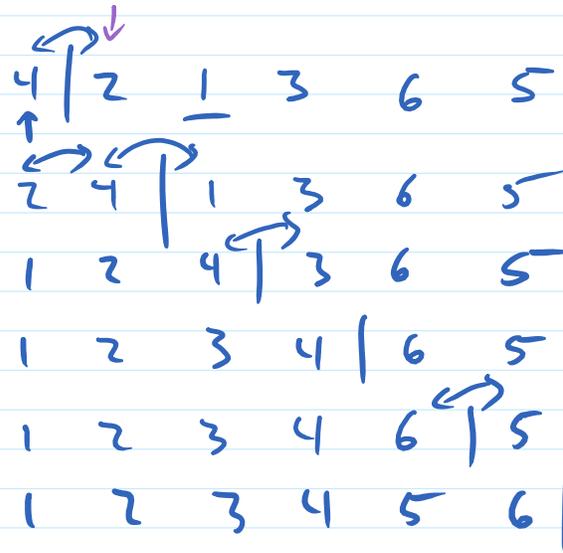
while i < n

insert A[i] into correct location among A[0], ..., A[i-1]

i = i + 1

guard

INV:  $A[0] \leq \dots \leq A[i-1]$  (1<sup>st</sup> i in order)  
 and  
 $A[0], \dots, A[i-1]$  are original 1<sup>st</sup> i elements, reordered  
 and  
 $A[i], \dots, A[n-1]$  have original values in original order



Sorting

SelectionSort(A, n) precondition: A is non-empty (so  $n \geq 1$ ) (or change INV part d to " $n > 0 \rightarrow i \leq n-1$ ")

```

i = 0
while i < n-1
  find min among A[i], ..., A[n-1]
  swap min with A[i]
  i = i + 1
    
```

formal versions of informal statement of invariant (no ...)

- LOOP INVARIANT: a)  $A[0] \leq A[1] \leq \dots \leq A[i-1]$   $\forall k \in \mathbb{N}, 0 \leq k \leq i-2 \rightarrow A[k] \leq A[k+1]$   
 b)  $A[i-1] \leq A[i], \dots, A[n-1]$   $i \geq 1 \rightarrow \forall k \in \mathbb{N}, i \leq k \leq n-1 \rightarrow A[i-1] \leq A[k]$   
 c) A has original values in possibly a different order  
 d)  $i \leq n-1$  (added for the pedants; will use to determine what i is at termination; since i is the loop counter, that isn't the interesting part of the proof)

- Basis: a) i is initialized to 0, which makes part a empty (no k satisfies  $0 \leq k \leq -1$ ) so vacuously true  
 b) i is initialized to 0, which means there is no  $A[i-1]$ , so b is automatically true (or, in the formal version,  $i \geq 1$  is F, making the  $\rightarrow$  T)  
 c) no assignments to A yet  
 d) i is initialized to 0, and by the precondition on n,  $n \geq 1$  so  $n-1 \geq 0 = i$   
 $\therefore i \leq n-1$

for the old values of the variables

Inductive step: suppose INV is true before the loop, and the guard  $i < n-1$  is true [want to show that INV is true after the loop with the new values of the variables]

a) INV-a true before the loop means  $A[0] \leq \dots \leq A[i_{old}-1]$  [want to append  $\leq A[i_{new}-1]_{new}$ ]

choice of min means  $\min \leq A[i_{old}], \dots, A[n-1]_{old}$   
 INV-b makes  $\min \geq A[i_{old}-1]$  since it is selected from things each of which is  $\geq A[i_{old}-1]$   
 swap makes  $A[i_{old}]_{new} = \min$   
 increment makes  $i_{new} = i_{old} + 1$

So:  $A[0] \leq \dots \leq A[i_{old}-1] \leq \min = A[i_{old}]_{new}$   
 and  $A[0] \leq \dots \leq A[i_{new}-2] \leq A[i_{new}-1]_{new}$  [rewrite using  $i_{new} = i_{old} + 1$  which is INV-a using the new values]

b) choice of min makes  $A[i_{old}] = \min \leq A[i_{old}+1]_{new}, \dots, A[n-1]_{new}$  [using "new" since one of these values may have changed after the swap]  
 [rewrite using  $i_{new} = i_{old} + 1$ ]  
 all of these are  $A[k]_{old}$  for some k in  $i_{old}+1 \dots n$ ; see \*

and so  $A[i_{new}-1] \leq A[i_{new}], \dots, A[n-1]$   
 this is INV-b using the new variables

c) only change to A is a swap, which preserves values but reorders (technically, this is from the postcondition of swap: two elts change)

c) only change to  $A$  is a swap, which preserves values but reorders  
(technically, this is from the postcondition of swap: two elts change places and nothing else changes)

d) the guard is true, so  $i_{old} < n-1$  and  $i_{old} + 1 < n-1 + 1$   
the increment makes  $i_{new} = i_{old} + 1$   
so which means  $i_{new} < n$   
 $i_{new} \leq n-1$  since  $i, n$  are integers  
(pedants: add that to the invariant)

Termination:  $i$  increases each time through the loop (technically, part of INV is " $i \neq$  times through loop")  
and so eventually  $i < n-1$  is false

Postcondition: At termination, we have  $i \geq n-1$  from the guard being false (that's why the loop terminated)  
and  $i \leq n-1$  from INV-d

$$i. \quad i = n-1$$

plugging  $i = n-1$  into INV-a and INV-b gives

$$\underbrace{A[0] \leq A[1] \leq \dots \leq A[n-2]}_{\text{INV-a}} \leq \underbrace{A[n-1]}_{\text{INV-b}} \quad \text{so } A \text{ is sorted}$$

INV-c says it contains the original elements.

These are the required postconditions for sorting