

## Laboratory: Insertion Sort

**Summary:** In this lab, we explore a variety of issues related to the insertion sort algorithm.

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## Exercises

### Exercise 0: Preparation

- a. Start DrScheme.
- b. Copy the code from the accompanying reading into DrScheme.

### Exercise 1: Testing Insert

- a. Test both versions of the `insert-number` procedure from the reading by inserting the number 42
  - into an empty list;
  - into a list of numbers larger than 42, arranged in ascending order;
  - into a list of numbers smaller than 42, arranged in ascending order;
  - into a list of numbers both smaller and larger than 42, arranged in ascending order; and
  - into a list that contains only three copies of 42 (that is, the list created by `(list 42 42 42)`).
- b. What happens if the list is *not* in ascending order when `insert-number` is invoked?

### Exercise 2: Inserting Strings

Write a new `insert-string` procedure that inserts a string into a list of strings that are in alphabetical order:

```
> (insert-string "dog" (list "ape" "bear" "cat" "emu" "frog"))
("ape" "bear" "cat" "dog" "emu" "frog")
```

In case you've forgotten, `string<=?` and `string-ci<=?` are useful predicates for comparing strings for order.

You may not use the generalized `insert` procedure in writing this procedure.

### Exercise 3: Generalizing Insertion

- Show how to call the generalized `insert` procedure using lists of strings.
- Show how to call the generalized `insert` procedure using lists of numbers.
- Redefine `insert-string` so that it uses `insert` as a helper procedure.

### Exercise 4: Displaying Steps in Insertion Sort

- Add calls to the `display` and `newline` procedures to the body of the helper in `insertion-sort-numbers` so that it displays the values of `unsorted` and `sorted`, appropriately labeled, at each step of the sorting process.
- Use the revised `insertion-sort-numbers` procedure to sort the values 7, 6, 12, 4, 10, 8, 5, and 1.

### Exercise 5: Checking Potential Problems

Write a test suite (using `unit-test.scm`) to test the `insertion-sort-numbers` procedure on some potentially troublesome arguments:

```
(load "/home/rebelsky/Web/Courses/CS151/2007S/Examples/unit-test.ss")
(begin-tests!)
...
(end-tests!)
```

- An empty list
- A list containing only one element
- A list containing all equal values
- A list in which the elements are originally in *descending* numerical order

### Exercise 6: Generalizing Insertion Sort

Document, write, and test a procedure, `(insertion-sort list may-precede?)`, that generalizes the `insertion-sort-numbers` procedure.

## Exercise 7: Observing insert!

- a. Make a copy of the `insert!` procedure from the reading.
- b. Check that it works by using `insert!` to put the 2 in the correct place in the following vector

```
(define numbers (vector 1 5 6 7 2 8 0 3))
```

(Note that solving this step requires that you understand the parameters to `insert!`.)

- c. Extend `insert!` so that it displays the vector and the position at every step. (Add calls to `display` and `newline` in the kernel, before the `cond`.)

- d. Create the numbers vector from step b, and observe what happens when we insert the 2, then the 8, then the 0, then the 3.

- e. Make a copy of the `insertion-sort!` procedure from the reading.

- f. Observe the insertion steps in a list of about eight randomly-generated numbers.

```
(define nums (vector (random 10) (random 10) (random 10) (random 10)
                    (random 10) (random 10) (random 10) (random 10)))
```

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