

# Loop Invariants: Prove loops are correct

setup

while (condition) {

stuff

}

Great output

← Induction tailored to loops

## Parts of Loop Invariant Proof

1. State Invariant: thing(s) that is true before & after each loop iteration
2. Base Case : Show invariant is true before loop starts.
3. Maintenance : Show if invariant is true before an iteration, it is true after an iteration
4. Termination : argue loop ends. Given status of invariant after final loop, argue great output.

**Input** : Array  $A$  of integers of  
length  $n$

**Output:** Smallest value of  $A$

```
1  $min = A[1];$ 
2  $i = 2;$ 
3 while  $i \leq n$  do
4   if  $A[i] < min$  then
5      $min = A[i]$ 
6   end
7    $i++;$ 
8 end
9 return  $min;$ 
```

Algorithm 1: **Smallest**( $A$ )

# Loop Invariants

ex:

MIN(array A of length n)

- $\min = A[1]$
- $i = 2$
- while ( $i \leq n$ )
  - if ( $A[i] < \min$ ) :
  - $\min = A[i]$
  - $i++$
- return  $\min$

## Loop invariant

- $\min$  is minimum of  $A[1:i-1]$

Base Case: Before loop starts:  $i=2$ ,  $\min = A[1]$ .

- $\min$  is minimum of  $A[1:1]$

## Maintenance

$\min = \min\{A[1:i-1]\}$  at start of loop. But  
 $\min\{A[1:i]\} = \min\{A[1:i-1], A[i]\} = \min\{\min, A[i]\}$ ,  
which is what  $\min$  becomes at the end of the loop.

Termination : • loop terminates at  $i=n+1$   
•  $i$  increases, so termination will occur

Invariant:  $\min = \min\{A[1:n]\}$

\* Make sure your invariant gives you the \* result you want at end of loop

**Input** : Array  $A$  of integers of length  $n$

**Output:** Array containing sorted elements of  $A$

```
1 for  $k = 1$  to  $n - 1$  do
2   | for  $j = n$  to  $k + 1$  do
3     |   | if  $A[j] < A[j - 1]$  then
4       |     | Swap  $A[j]$  and  $A[j - 1]$ ;
5     |   | end
6   | end
7 end
8 return  $A$ ;
```

Algorithm 2: BubbleSort( $A$ )