

Countingsort and Radixsort

COMS10017 - Algorithms 1

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Countingsort

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- For each element $x \in \{0, 1, \dots, k\}$, count # elements $\leq x$

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- For each element $x \in \{0, 1, \dots, k\}$, count # elements $\leq x$
- Put elements $A[i]$ directly into correct position
- **Difficulty:** Multiple elements have the same value

Algorithm

Require: Array A of n integers from $\{0, 1, 2, \dots, k\}$, for some integer k

Let $C[0 \dots k]$ be a new array with all entries equal to 0

Store output in array $B[0 \dots n - 1]$

for $i = 0, \dots, n - 1$ **do** {Count how often each element appears}

$C[A[i]] \leftarrow C[A[i]] + 1$

for $i = 1, \dots, k$ **do** {Count how many smaller (or equal) elements appear}

$C[i] \leftarrow C[i] + C[i - 1]$

for $i = n - 1, \dots, 0$ **do**

$B[C[A[i]] - 1] \leftarrow A[i]$

$C[A[i]] \leftarrow C[A[i]] - 1$

return B

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- Decrementing $C[A[i]]$: Next element of value $A[i]$ should be left of the current one

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Example: $n = 8$, $k = 5$

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Stable? In-place? Yes, it is stable,

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Stable? In-place? Yes, it is stable, No, not in-place

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- Iterate through the d digits

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Examples

- $b = 2, d = 5$. E.g. 01101 (binary numbers)
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Idea

- Iterate through the d digits
- Sort according to the current digit

Radixsort Algorithm

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for $i = 1, \dots, d$ **do**

Use a stable sort algorithm to
sort array A on digit i

(least significant digit is digit 1)

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Example

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839	→	457
436		657
720		329
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657		436		436
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Lemma

We are given n d -digit numbers in which each digit can take on up to b possible values. Radixsort correctly sorts these numbers in $O(d(n + b))$ time if the stable sort (e.g. Countingsort) it uses takes $O(n + b)$ time.

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Proof Runtime is obvious. Correctness follows by induction on the columns being sorted. □

Observe: If $d = O(1)$ and $b = O(n)$ then the runtime is $O(n)$!