

Title: Permutations II

Overview:

This documentation provides an explanation of the problem "Permutations II" along with a solution approach. The problem requires generating unique permutations from a collection of numbers, where the collection might contain duplicates.

Problem Description:

Given a collection of numbers represented by the list `nums`, which may contain duplicate elements, the task is to generate all possible unique permutations of the numbers in any order.

Examples:

Example 1:

Input: `nums = [1,1,2]`

Output:

`[[1,1,2],`

`[1,2,1],`

`[2,1,1]]`

Example 2:

Input: `nums = [1,2,3]`

Output: `[[1,2,3],[1,3,2],[2,1,3],[2,3,1],[3,1,2],[3,2,1]]`

Constraints:

- $1 \leq \text{nums.length} \leq 8$
- $-10 \leq \text{nums}[i] \leq 10$

Solution Approach:

The solution utilizes backtracking to generate permutations while ensuring uniqueness. Here's a step-by-step breakdown of the solution approach:

1. **Sorting:** Sort the input list `nums`. Sorting the list is crucial to handle duplicate elements efficiently.

2. **Backtracking Function:**

- Define a recursive backtracking function `backtrack(nums, path, res, used)` that takes four parameters:
- `nums`: The input list of numbers.
- `path`: A list representing the current permutation being constructed.
- `res`: A list to store the resulting unique permutations.
- `used`: A boolean list to keep track of used elements during permutation generation.
- If the length of the `path` equals the length of `nums`, append a copy of `path` to `res` (this represents a valid permutation) and return.
- Iterate through each element of `nums`:
- If the element is already used or if it's a duplicate and its previous instance is unused, skip the current iteration.
- Mark the current element as used.
- Add the current element to the `path`.

- Recursively call `backtrack` with updated parameters.
- Mark the current element as unused (backtrack).
- Remove the last element from the `path`.

3. Main Function:

- Initialize an empty list `res` to store the resulting permutations.
- Initialize a boolean list `used` of length equal to the length of `nums`, where all elements are initially set to `False`.
- Call the `backtrack` function with initial parameters (`nums`, `[]`, `res`, `used`).
- Return the list `res` containing all unique permutations.

Conclusion:

This documentation provides an understanding of the "Permutations II" problem, its constraints, and a detailed solution approach using backtracking. The solution efficiently handles duplicate elements to generate all unique permutations of the given collection of numbers.