

# Bucket-Sort and Radix-Sort

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# Bucket-Sort

- Let  $S$  be a sequence of  $n$  (key, element) items with keys in the range  $[0, N - 1]$
- Bucket-sort uses the keys as indices into an auxiliary array  $B$  of sequences (buckets)
  - Phase 1:** Empty sequence  $S$  by moving each entry  $(k, o)$  into its bucket  $B[k]$
  - Phase 2:** For  $i = 0, \dots, N - 1$ , move the entries of bucket  $B[i]$  to the end of sequence  $S$
- Analysis:**
  - Phase 1 takes  $O(n)$  time
  - Phase 2 takes  $O(n + N)$  time
  - Bucket-sort takes  $O(n + N)$  time

**Algorithm** bucketSort( $S$ ):

**Input:** Sequence  $S$  of entries with integer keys in the range  $[0, N - 1]$     **Output:** Sequence  $S$  sorted in nondecreasing order of the keys

let  $B$  be an array of  $N$  sequences, each of which is initially empty

**for** each entry  $e$  in  $S$  **do**

$k =$  the key of  $e$

remove  $e$  from  $S$

insert  $e$  at the end of bucket  $B[k]$

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# Example

- Key range  $[0, 9]$**

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# Properties and Extensions

- Key-type Property**
  - The keys are used as indices into an array and cannot be arbitrary objects
  - No external comparator
- Stable Sort Property**
  - The relative order of any two items with the same key is preserved after the execution of the algorithm


**Extensions**

- Integer keys in the range  $[a, b]$ 
  - Put entry  $(k, o)$  into bucket  $B[k - a]$
- String keys from a set  $D$  of possible strings, where  $D$  has constant size (e.g., names of the 50 U.S. states)
  - Sort  $D$  and compute the rank  $r(k)$  of each string  $k$  of  $D$  in the sorted sequence
  - Put entry  $(k, o)$  into bucket  $B[r(k)]$

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## Lexicographic Order



- A  $d$ -tuple is a sequence of  $d$  keys  $(k_1, k_2, \dots, k_d)$ , where key  $k_i$  is said to be the  $i$ -th dimension of the tuple
- Example:
  - The Cartesian coordinates of a point in space are a 3-tuple
- The lexicographic order of two  $d$ -tuples is recursively defined as follows
$$(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_d) < (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_d) \iff x_1 < y_1 \vee x_1 = y_1 \wedge (x_2, \dots, x_d) < (y_2, \dots, y_d)$$

I.e., the tuples are compared by the first dimension, then by the second dimension, etc.

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## Lexicographic-Sort

- Let  $C_i$  be the comparator that compares two tuples by their  $i$ -th dimension
- Let  $\text{stableSort}(S, C)$  be a stable sorting algorithm that uses comparator  $C$
- Lexicographic-sort sorts a sequence of  $d$ -tuples in lexicographic order by executing  $d$  times algorithm  $\text{stableSort}$ , one per dimension
- Lexicographic-sort runs in  $O(dT(n))$  time, where  $T(n)$  is the running time of  $\text{stableSort}$

**Algorithm  $\text{lexicographicSort}(S)$**   
**Input** sequence  $S$  of  $d$ -tuples  
**Output** sequence  $S$  sorted in lexicographic order  
  
**for**  $i \leftarrow d$  **downto** 1  
     $\text{stableSort}(S, C_i)$

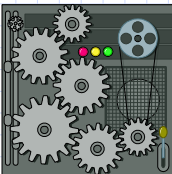
**Example:**  
 $(7,4,6) (5,1,5) (2,4,6) (2, 1, 4) (3, 2, 4)$   
 $(2, 1, 4) (3, 2, 4) (5,1,5) (7,4,6) (2,4,6)$   
 $(2, 1, 4) (5,1,5) (3, 2, 4) (7,4,6) (2,4,6)$   
 $(2, 1, 4) (2,4,6) (3, 2, 4) (5,1,5) (7,4,6)$

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## Radix-Sort



- Radix-sort is a specialization of lexicographic-sort that uses bucket-sort as the stable sorting algorithm in each dimension
- Radix-sort is applicable to tuples where the keys in each dimension  $i$  are integers in the range  $[0, N - 1]$
- Radix-sort runs in time  $O(d(n + N))$

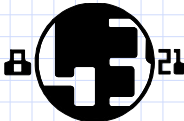
**Algorithm  $\text{radixSort}(S, N)$**   
**Input** sequence  $S$  of  $d$ -tuples such that  $(0, \dots, 0) \leq (x_1, \dots, x_d)$  and  $(x_1, \dots, x_d) \leq (N - 1, \dots, N - 1)$   
**Output** sequence  $S$  sorted in lexicographic order  
  
**for**  $i \leftarrow d$  **downto** 1  
     $\text{bucketSort}(S, N)$

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## Radix-Sort for Binary Numbers



- Consider a sequence of  $n$   $b$ -bit integers
$$x = x_{b-1} \dots x_1 x_0$$
- We represent each element as a  $b$ -tuple of integers in the range  $[0, 1]$  and apply radix-sort with  $N = 2$
- This application of the radix-sort algorithm runs in  $O(bn)$  time
- For example, we can sort a sequence of 32-bit integers in linear time

**Algorithm  $\text{binaryRadixSort}(S)$**   
**Input** sequence  $S$  of  $b$ -bit integers  
**Output** sequence  $S$  sorted  
replace each element  $x$  of  $S$  with the item  $(0, x)$   
  
**for**  $i \leftarrow 0$  **to**  $b - 1$   
    replace the key  $k$  of each item  $(k, x)$  of  $S$  with bit  $x_i$  of  $x$   
     $\text{bucketSort}(S, 2)$

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Example

Sorting a sequence of 4-bit integers

1001

0010

1101

0001

1110

0010

1110

1001

1101

0001

1001

1101

0001

0010

1110

1001

0001

0010

1101

1110

0001

0010

1001

1101

1110

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