

How fast can we sort?

depends on model of what you can do with the elements.

e.g. quicksort, heapsort, mergesort, insertion sort

$\Theta(n \lg n)$ raw / $\Theta(n \lg n)$ $\Theta(n \lg n)$ $\Theta(n^2)$
or $\Theta(n^2)$

Can we do better than $\Theta(n \lg n)$?

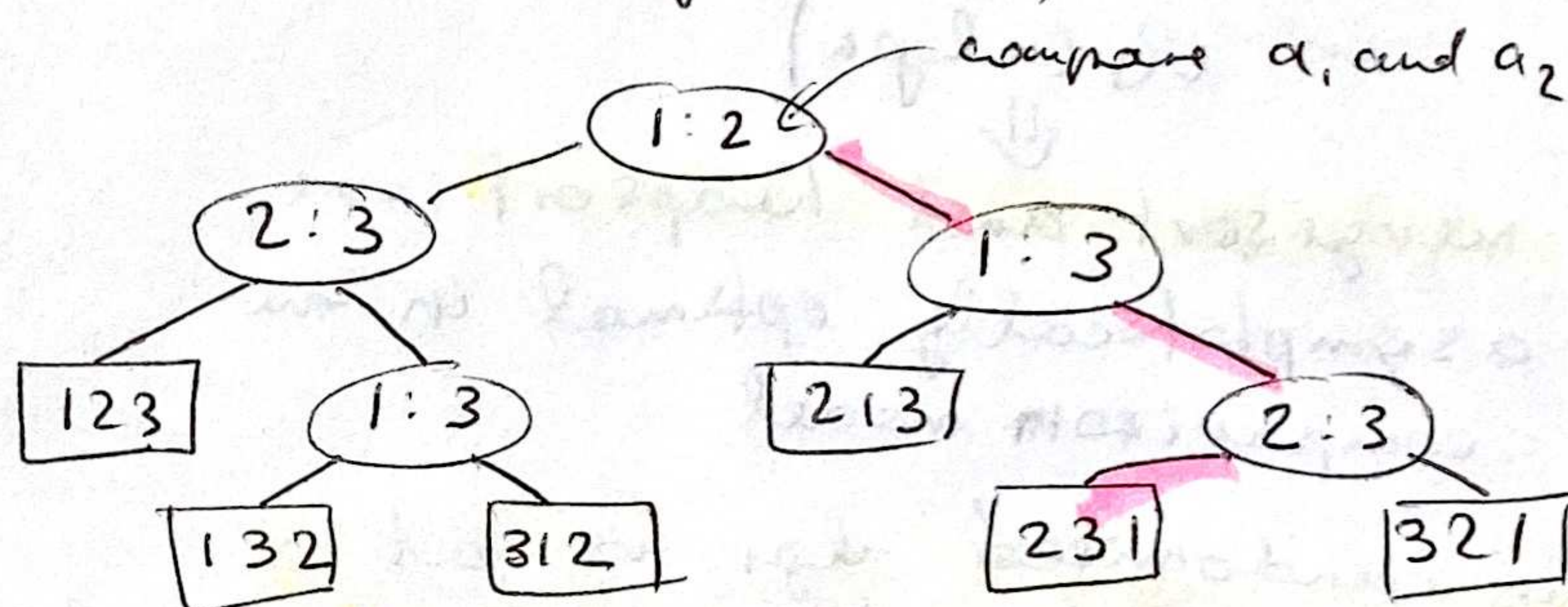
Comparison sorting (model):

only use comparisons to determine rel. order of elements

Decision-tree model:

Example: sort $\langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle$

e.g. 9 4 6



in general $\langle a_1, \dots, a_n \rangle$

- each internal node has label $i:j$ $i, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$
- mean: compare a_i vs. a_j
- left subtree gives subsequent comparisons if $a_i \leq a_j$
- right subtree gives subsequent comparisons if $a_i > a_j$
- even leaf gives a permutation $\langle \pi(1), \pi(2), \dots, \pi(n) \rangle$ such that $a_{\pi(1)} \leq a_{\pi(2)} \leq \dots \leq a_{\pi(n)}$

permutation function

any comparison sort can be reduced to a decision tree on input n

Decision tree model comparison sorts:

- one tree for each n ← one tree assumption breaks in randomised
- view algorithm as splitting whenever it makes a comparison
- tree with comparisons along all possible instruction traces

size of tree: leaves have to represent each permutation of list of size $n \Rightarrow n!$ permutations (exponential)

\Rightarrow graphical representation as decision tree is not practical as a representation of a comp. sort algorithm
pseudocode is constant length representation

- running time (# comparisons) = length of path
- worst case run time = height of tree

Lower bound on decision-tree sorting:

Any decision tree sorting n elements has height $\Omega(n \lg n)$

Proof: - # leaves must be $\geq n!$

- height $h \Rightarrow \# \text{ leaves} \leq 2^h \Rightarrow n! \leq 2^h$

$\Omega(n \lg n)$ for height of any decision tree



all comparison sorts run in $\Omega(n \lg n)$



mergesort and heapsort are asymptotically optimal in the comparison model

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow h &\geq \lg n! && (\lg \text{ is monotonically increasing}) \\ \text{Stirling} &\Rightarrow \geq \lg \left(\frac{n}{e}\right)^n && \Rightarrow \text{ineq. stays the same} \\ &= n \lg \left(\frac{n}{e}\right) \\ &= n (\lg(n) - \lg(e)) \end{aligned}$$

actually $\rightarrow \Omega(n \lg n)$ ✓
 Θ but we care only about Ω

in randomised algs we get a probability distr. over trees, due to coin flips

\hookrightarrow proof applies to any tree \Rightarrow lower bound also for randomised comparison sorts

randomised quicksort is asymptotically optimal in expectation \Leftarrow

Sorting in linear time:

cannot sort better than $\Theta(n)$ \rightarrow need to look at data

Counting sort:

Input: $A[1 \dots n]$
 each $A[i] \in \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$

Output: $B[1 \dots n]$ sorting of A

Aux storage: $C[1 \dots k]$

Counting sort:

for $i \leftarrow 1$ to k
 do $C[i] \leftarrow 0$

for $j \leftarrow 1$ to n
 do $C[A[j]] \leftarrow C[A[j]] + 1$

// $C[i] = |\{ \text{key} = i \}|$

for $i \leftarrow 2$ to k
 do $C[i] \leftarrow C[i] + C[i-1]$

// $C[i] = |\{ \text{key} \leq i \}|$

for $j \leftarrow n$ down to 1
 do $B[C[A[j]]] \leftarrow A[j]$

distribution $\rightarrow C[A[j]] \leftarrow C[A[j]] - 1$

Ex:

1st for loop

A = [4 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 3]

C = [0 | 0 | 0 | 0]

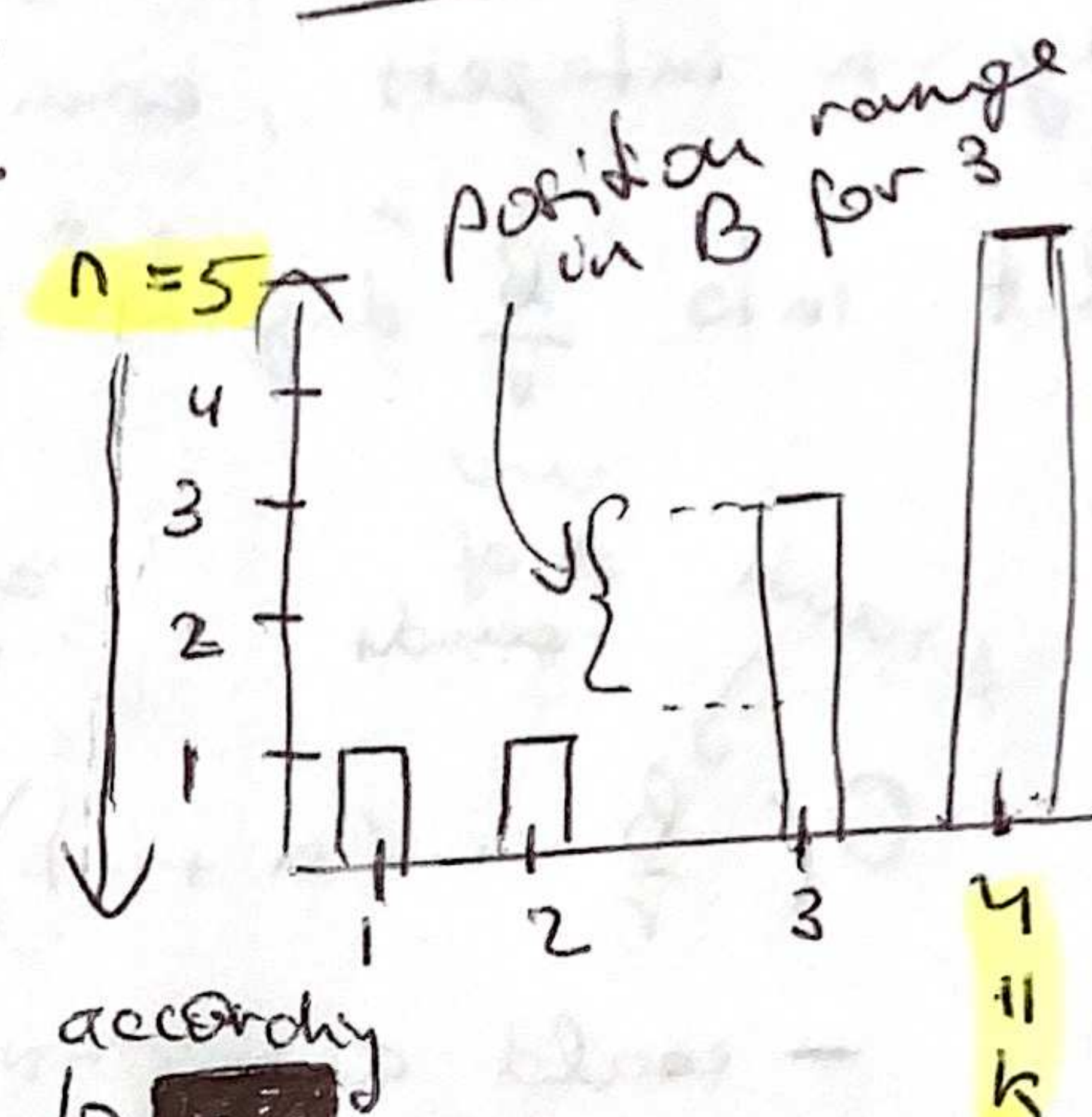
2nd for loop

C = [0 | 0 | 0 | 0]

3rd for loop

C = [1 | 0 | 2 | 2]
C = [1 | 0 | 2 | 2]
C = [1 | 1 | 3 | 5]

4th for loop



according to order in A

B = [1 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4]

- get value from A
- get position of value in B according to cum. distr. in C
- update distr. in C

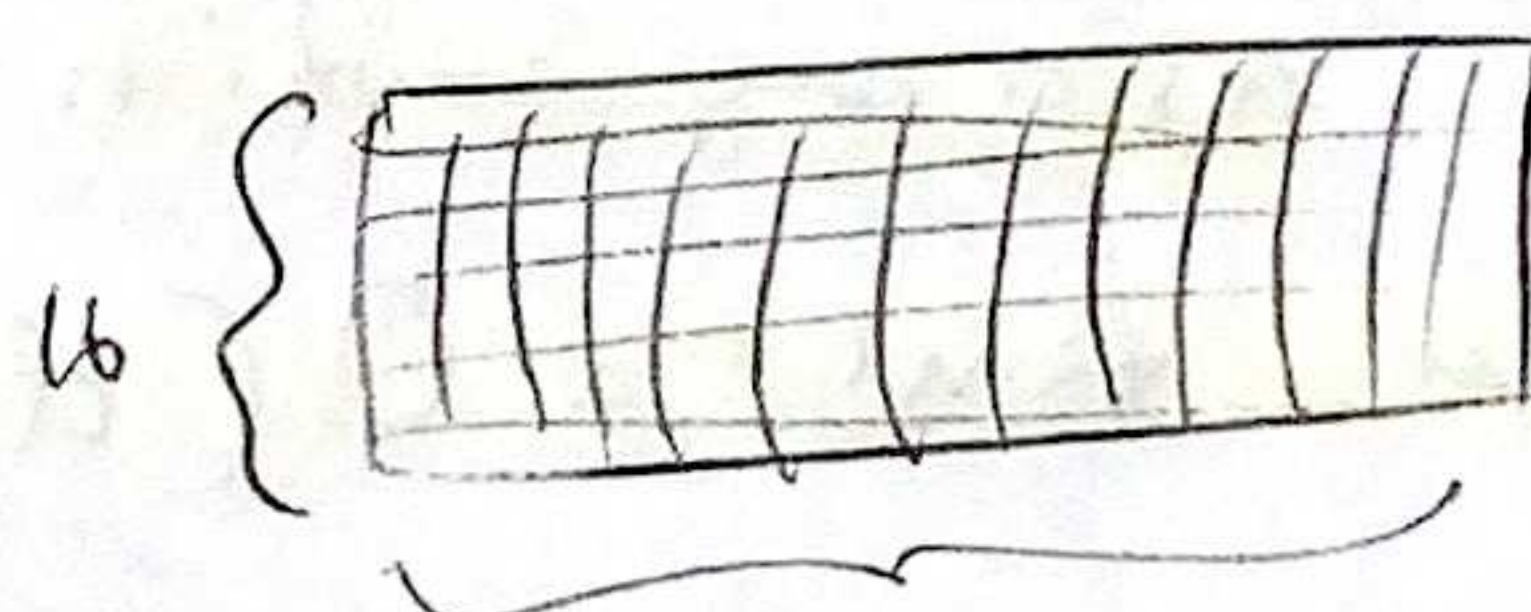
Time $O(k+n)$

if $k = O(n)$ then $O(n)$

but as soon as $k = O(n \log n) \rightarrow$ can switch to comparison sorting

stable sort: preserves the relative order of equal elements

Radix sort (Hollerith - 1890)



digit-by-digit

first: sort by most sig. digit first

right: sort by least sig. digit first

Ex: (3-digit As)

3 2 9
4 5 7
6 5 7
8 3 9
4 3 6
7 2 0
3 5 5

\rightarrow

sorted
7 2 0
3 5 5
4 3 6
4 5 7
6 5 7
3 2 9
8 3 9

same order is stable

\rightarrow

sorted
7 2 0
3 2 9
4 3 6
8 3 9
3 5 5
4 5 5
6 5 7

\rightarrow

3 2 9
3 5 5
4 3 6
4 5 5
6 5 7
7 2 0
8 3 9

Correctness: induct on digit position t

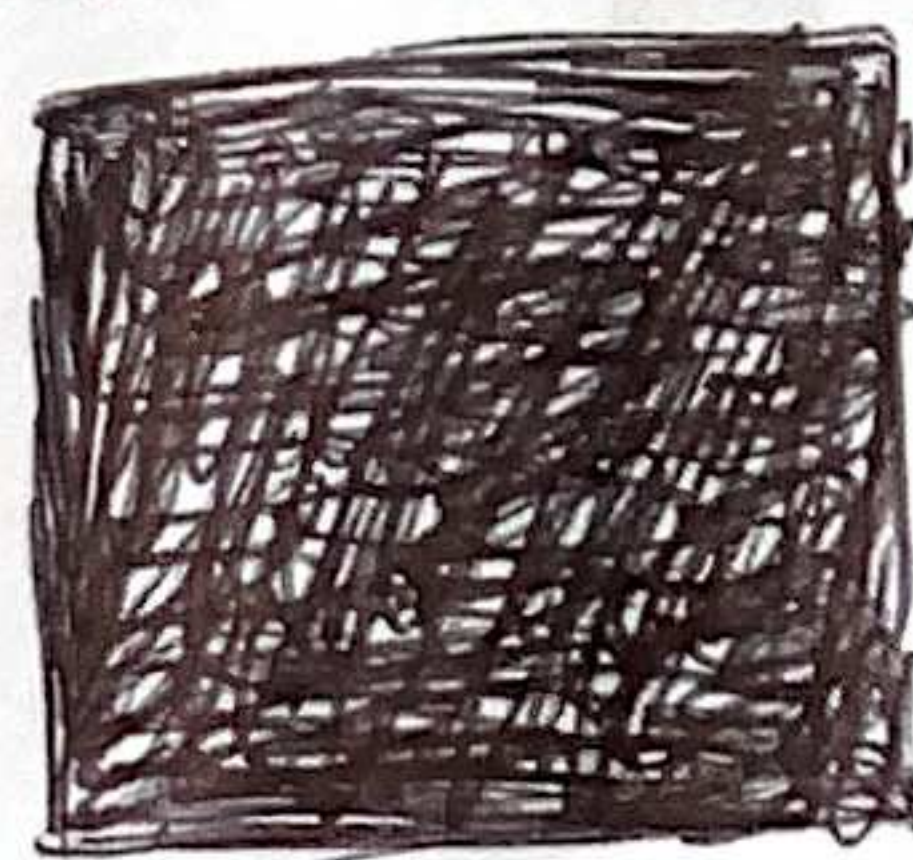
- assume sorted on low order $t-1$ digits

- sort on digit t

- if two elts have same t th digit \rightarrow same order by stability \rightarrow by $t-1$ are sorted
- if different t th digit, \Rightarrow sorted order

Analysis:

- use counting sort / digit $O(k+n)$ ← each round counting sort
- say n integers, each b bits (range $= 0 \dots 2^b - 1$)
- split into $\frac{b}{r}$ "digits" each r bits (base 2^r)



Time: $O(\frac{b}{r} \cdot (n+k)) = O(\frac{b}{r} (n + 2^r))$

Annotations:
 - $\frac{b}{r}$: # of rounds
 - $(n+k)$: counting sort run
 - 2^r : k

My comment resembles the idea of Bloom filters

- $\frac{b}{r} \cdot n$ wants r big, $\frac{b}{r} 2^r$ wants r small

⇒ choose r max, subject to $n \geq 2^r$

$r = \lg n$ (get some via differentiation)

$$\Rightarrow O\left(\frac{bn}{\lg n}\right)$$

if numbers in range $0 \dots 2^b - 1$,
 size of problem b

as a polynomial in $0 \dots n^d - 1$

then time $= O(dn)$

$O(\lg n)$
bits long
#s



advantage over

$O(n \lg n)$
comparison sort

advantage over $O(n \lg n)$

Counting sort

$$k = O(n \lg n)$$

radix sort

$$d = O(\lg n)$$

$$k = O(n \lg n)$$

if we know that
numbers are $O(\lg n)$ bits long
consider radix