Bucket Sort When You Know The Distribution.

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Abstract

We propose a new simple construction based on Tanner Codes, which yields a good LDPC code with testability query complexity of $\Theta\left(n^{1-\varepsilon}\right)$ for any $\varepsilon > 0$.

The problem. Let $f:[0,1] \to [0,1]$ a fixed distribution function. Write an algorithm that sort n draws $x_1...x_n$ at linear expectation time.

Solution. We will define a partition of the input into a serie of n buckets $\mathcal{B} = \{B_k = [t_k, t_{k+1}] : k \in [n]\}$ such that $\Pr[x \in B_i] = \frac{1}{n}$ for any bucket. Assume that we seccussed to compute the buckets efficiently. Let the X_{ij} be the indecator of the event that x_j fall to B_i . Then we have:

$$\mathbf{Pr}\left[\sum_{i}|B_{i}|^{2} \geq t\right] = \mathbf{Pr}\left[\sum_{i}\left(\sum_{j}X_{ij}\right)^{2} \geq t\right]$$

$$= \mathbf{Pr}\left[\sum_{i,j,j'}X_{i,j}X_{i,j'} \geq t\right] = \mathbf{Pr}\left[\sum_{i,j\neq j'}X_{i,j}X_{i,j'} \geq t - n\right]$$

$$\leq \frac{\sum_{i,j\neq j'}\mathbf{E}\left[X_{ij}X_{ij'}\right]}{t - n} = \frac{n}{(t - n)n^{2}}2\binom{n}{2} \leq \frac{n}{t - n}$$

It follows that for any function $t: \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R}$, such that n = o(t), sorting quaderic each bucket at turn would last almost surly less than t(n). It lefts to show that knowing the distribution enables to compute efficiently the buckets. Ensuring the uniform partitionized prtoperty leads for the follow requrisive relation:

$$\frac{1}{n} = \mathbf{Pr}\left[x \in B_k\right] = f\left(t_{k+1}\right) - f\left(t_k\right)$$
$$\Rightarrow t_{k+1} \leftarrow f^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{n} + f\left(t_k\right)\right)$$

Hence, if f can be computed in sublinear time then we obtained am expected linear time algorithm for sorting.