Unit 3.2 Sorts

Algorithms

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Sorting Problem

- ullet Given a set of n elements, arrange the elements in a nondecreasing order.
- ullet For simplicity, we assume the input is an array A[1:n] of n elements.
- The brute force approach to solve the sorting problem has been demonstrated in the SelectionSort algorithm.
- ullet The time complexity is $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ due to two nested for loops.
- In this unit, we will study more sorting algorithms such that appropriate sorting algorithms can be applied for specific problems to gain the best efficiency.

Merge Sort

• Merge Sort is a good example of divide and conquer approach.

Algorithm 3.2.1. Merge Sort

```
// Sort A[low:high] into nondecreasing order.
  // Input: array A, int low, high
  // Output: A rearranged.
1 Algorithm MergeSort(A, low, high)
2 {
3
       if (low < high) then {
            mid := | (low + high)/2 |;
4
5
            MergeSort(A, low, mid);
            MergeSort(A, mid + 1, high);
6
7
           Merge(A, low, mid, high);
8
       }
9 }
```

- This algorithm should be invoked by MergeSort(A, 1, n) in the main function.
- The following algorithm assumes a global array B[1:n] of n elements and uses it as a temporary storage.

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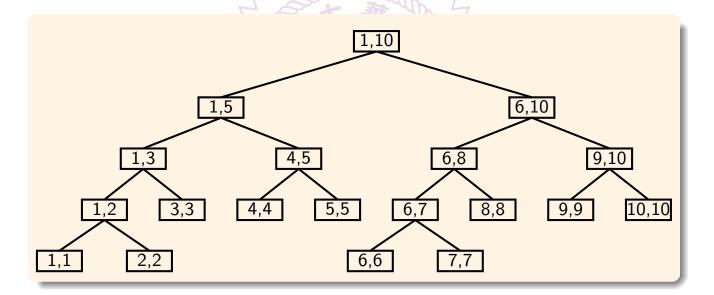
Merge Sort - Merge

Algorithm 3.2.2. Merge Process

```
// Merge sorted A[low:mid] and A[mid+1:high] to nondecreasing order.
   // Input: A[low: high], int low, mid, high
   // Output: A[low:high] sorted.
 1 Algorithm Merge(A, low, mid, high)
 2 {
 3
         h := low; i = low; j := mid + 1; // Initialize looping indices.
         while ((h \leq mid) \text{ and } (j \leq high)) do \{//\text{ Store smaller one to } B[i].
 4
               if (A[h] \leq A[j]) then \{ // A[h]  is smaller.
                     B[i] := A[h]; h := h + 1;
 6
 7
               } else { // A[j] is smaller.
 8
                     B[i] := A[j]; j := j + 1;
 9
               i := i + 1;
10
11
12
         if (h > mid) then //A[j:high] remaining.
13
               for k := j to high do {
14
                     B[i] = A[k]; i := i + 1;
15
         else // A[h:mid] remaining.
16
17
               for k := h to mid do {
                     B[i] := A[k]; i := i + 1;
18
19
         for k := low to high do A[k] := B[k]; // Copy B to A.
20
21 }
```

Merge Sort – Divide-and-Merge Recursion

- The following tree shows the divide-and-merge recursion.
 - ullet Array A is assumed to have 10 elements.



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Merge Sort – Example

Example

- ullet A is partitioned into two sets and each set is sorted into nondecreasing order
 - This process is carried out through the recursive calls

$$A = \{ 179, 285, 310, 351, 652, 254, 423, 450, 520, 861 \}$$

$$[1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10]$$

Merging the two sets together

Merge Sort – Example II

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Merge Sort – Example III

• Then B is copied into A to get the sorted result.

Merge Sort – Complexity

ullet Let T(n) be the computing time of merge sort applying to a data set of n elements, then

$$T(n) = \begin{cases} a, & n = 1, a \text{ is a constant,} \\ 2T(n/2) + c \cdot n, & n > 1, c \text{ is a constant.} \end{cases}$$
 (3.2.1)

• If $n=2^k$, then

$$T(n) = 2(2T(n/4)) + c \cdot n/2) + c \cdot n$$

$$= 4T(n/4) + 2c \cdot n$$

$$= 4(2T(n/8) + c \cdot n/4) + 2c \cdot n$$

$$= 2^{k}T(1) + k \cdot c \cdot n$$

$$= a \cdot n + c \cdot n \cdot \lg n$$
(3.2.2)

• If $2^k < n \le 2^{k+1}$, then $T(n) \le T(2^{k+1})$. Therefore,

$$T(n) = \mathcal{O}(n \lg n). \tag{3.2.3}$$

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Merge Sort – Improvement

- The Merge Sort, Algorithm (3.2.1), continues to divide the input into smaller subsets until each subset contains only one element.
- The CPU time mostly spent on recursive function calls
 - With each function doing very little operations
- This inefficiency can be improved as the following

Algorithm 3.2.3. Improved Merge Sort

```
// Sort A[low: high] into nondecreasing order with better efficiency.
   // Input: A, int low, high
   // Output: rearranged A.
 1 Algorithm MergeSort1(A, low, high)
        if (high - low < 15) then // When A is small, perform insertion sort.
 3
 4
             return InsertionSort(A, low, high);
         else \{ // \text{ For large } A, \text{ divide-and-conquer merge sort. } \}
 5
             mid := | (low + high)/2 |;
 7
             MergeSort(A, low, mid);
             MergeSort(A, mid + 1, high);
 8
 9
             Merge(A, low, mid, high);
10
11 }
```

Algorithm 3.2.4. Insertion Sort

```
// Sort A[low:high] into nondecreasing order.
   // Input: A, int low, high
   // Output: rearranged A.
 1 Algorithm InsertionSort(A, low, high)
 2 {
         for j := low + 1 to high do \{ / / Check for every <math>low < j \le high \}
 3
              item := A[j]; // Compare A[i] and A[j], i < j.
              i := j - 1;
 5
              while ((i \ge low) \text{ and } (item < A[i])) do \{ // \text{ Make room for } item = A[j] \}
 6
                   A[i+1] := A[i];
                   i := i - 1;
 8
 9
              A[i+1] = item; // Store item.
10
11
12 }
```

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Insertion Sort, Complexity

ullet Line 6 can be executed at most j-low times, thus the time complexity is

$$T(n) = \sum_{j=2}^{n} j = \frac{n(n+1)}{2} - 1 = \mathcal{O}(n^2).$$
 (3.2.4)

- The best-case complexity is $\Theta(n)$.
- ullet Though the InsertionSort has high computation time complexity, for small n this function executes very fast.
 - Note that the number 15 can be fine tuned to gain better efficiency.
- Thus, Algorithm MergeSort1 is usually more efficient.

• Another divide and conquer approach in sorting an array.

Algorithm 3.2.5. Quick Sort

```
// Sort A[low: high] into nondecreasing order.
  // Input: A[low:high], int low, high
  // Output: A[low:high] sorted.
1 Algorithm QuickSort(A, low, high)
2 {
3
       if (low < high) then {
            mid := Partition(A, low, high + 1);
4
            QuickSort(A, low, mid - 1);
5
            QuickSort(A, mid + 1, high);
6
7
       }
8 }
```

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Quick Sort, II

Algorithm 3.2.7. Partition

```
// Partition A into A[low: mid - 1] \leq A[mid] and A[mid + 1: high] \geq A[mid].
   // Input: A, int low, high
   // Output: j \text{ that } A[low: j-1] \le A[j] \le A[j+1: high].
 1 Algorithm Partition (A, low, high)
 2 {
         v := A[low]; i := low; j := high; // Initialize
 3
        repeat { // Check for all elements.
 4
             repeat i := i+1; until (A[i] \ge v); // Find i such that A[i] \ge v.
 5
             repeat j := j-1; until (A[j] \le v); // Find j such that A[j] \le v.
 6
             if (i < j) then Swap(A, i, j); // Exchange A[i] and A[j].
 7
 8
         \} until (i \geq j);
         A[low] := A[j]; A[j] = v; // Move v to the right position.
 9
10
        return j;
11 }
12 Algorithm Swap(A, i, j)
13 {
         t := A[i]; A[i] := A[j]; A[j] := t;
14
15 }
```

Partition Example

[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]	[10]	i	j
65	70	75	80	85	60	55	50	45	$+\infty$	2	9
65	45	75	80	85	60	55	50	70	$+\infty$	3	8
65	45	50	80	85	60	55	75	70	$+\infty$	4	7
65	45	50	55	85	60	80	75	70	$+\infty$	5	6
65	45	50	55	60	85	80	75	70	$7+\infty$	6	5
60	45	50	55	65	85	80	75	70	$+\infty$		

- Algorithm Partition returns j = 5.
- Note that

$$A[i] \le A[j], \qquad \text{if } i < j, \ A[i] \ge A[j], \qquad \text{if } i > j.$$

- ullet Therefore, QuickSort can be applied to A[low:j-1] and A[j+1:high]
- Also note that $A[high+1] = \infty$ is assumed.
 - For the next recursion level
 - A[j] serves as a[high+1] in QuickSort(A, low, j-1)
 - A[high + 1] is still used in QuickSort(A, j + 1, high).

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Quick Sort – Complexity

- Assume that element comparison dominates the CPU time
- The number of element comparisons in Partition algorithm is high-low+1
- Worst-case complexity
 - At the top level, Partition(A, 1, n + 1) is called with n + 1 comparisons
 - ullet At the next level, the worst-case scenario has one of the partition with n-1 elements and n comparisons
 - Thus the total number of comparisons would be

$$C_W(n) = \sum_{i=2}^{n} (i+1) = \mathcal{O}(n^2)$$
 (3.2.5)

Quick Sort – Complexity, II

Average-case complexity

$$C_A(n) = n + 1 + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \left(C_A(k-1) + C_A(n-k) \right)$$
 (3.2.6)

• Note that $C_A(0)=C_A(1)=0$, and

$$nC_A(n) = n(n+1) + 2\Big(C_A(0) + C_A(1) + \dots + C_A(n-1)\Big)$$
 (3.2.7)

Replacing n by n-1, we have

$$(n-1)C_A(n-1) = n(n-1) + 2\Big(C_A(0) + C_A(1) + \dots + C_A(n-2)\Big)$$
 (3.2.8)

Subtract Eq. (3.2.8) from Eq. (3.2.7)

$$nC_A(n) - (n-1)C_A(n-1) = 2n + 2C_A(n-1)$$

$$nC_A(n) = (n+1)C_A(n-1) + 2n$$

$$\frac{C_A(n)}{n+1} = \frac{C_A(n-1)}{n} + \frac{2}{n+1}$$
(3.2.9)

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Quick Sort – Complexity, III

$$\frac{C_A(n)}{n+1} = \frac{C_A(n-1)}{n} + \frac{2}{n+1}$$

$$= \frac{C_A(n-2)}{n-1} + \frac{2}{n} + \frac{2}{n+1}$$

$$= \frac{C_A(n-3)}{n-2} + \frac{2}{n-1} + \frac{2}{n} + \frac{2}{n+1}$$

$$= \frac{C_A(1)}{2} + 2\sum_{k=3}^{n+1} \frac{1}{k}$$

$$= 2\sum_{k=3}^{n+1} \frac{1}{k}$$

$$= \sum_{k=3}^{n+1} \frac{1}{k} \le \int_{2}^{n+1} \frac{1}{x} dx = \log(n+1) - \log(2)$$
(3.2.10)

$$\sum_{k=3}^{n+1} \frac{1}{k} \le \int_{2}^{n+1} \frac{1}{x} dx = \log(n+1) - \log(2)$$

And, we have

$$C_A(n) \le 2(n+1) \Big(\log(n+1) - \log(2) \Big) = \mathcal{O}(n \log n) = \mathcal{O}(n \lg n)$$
 (3.2.11)

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Quick Sort – Space Complexity

- Note that for small n, the InsertionSort can be very fast and the QuickSort can be combined with InsertionSort to gain better performance (the same way as the MergeSort case).
- Let the stack space needed by the QuickSort(A, low, high) is S(n)
- Worst-case: the number of recursion is n-1, thus

$$S_W(n) = 2 + S_W(n-1) = \mathcal{O}(n)$$
 (3.2.12)

Best-case:

$$S_B(n) = 2 + S_W(|(n-1)/2|) = \mathcal{O}(\lg n)$$
 (3.2.13)

• Average-case: it can be shown that

$$S_A(n) = \mathcal{O}(\lg n). \tag{3.2.14}$$

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Randomized Quick Sort

- ullet If the array A is already in order, then the QuickSort can have worst-case performance.
- The following randomized QuickSort can improve the performance.

Algorithm 3.2.8. Randomized Quick Sort

```
// Sort A[low: high] into nondecreasing order.
   // Input: A[low: high], int low, high
   // Output: A[low:high] sorted.
 1 Algorithm RQuickSort(A, low, high)
 2 {
        if (low < high) then {
 3
 4
             if ((high - low) > 5) then
                 Swap(A, low + (Random() mod (high - low + 1)), low);
 5
             mid := Partition(A, low, high + 1);
 6
             QuickSort(A, low, mid - 1);
 7
 8
             QuickSort(A, mid + 1, high);
        }
 9
10 }
```

Comparison-based Sorts

- We have studied several sorting algorithms, and here are their time complexities
 - Selection Sort: $\Theta(n^2)$,
 - Heap sort: worst-case $\mathcal{O}(n \lg n)$,
 - Merge sort: worst-case $\mathcal{O}(n \lg n)$,
 - Quick sort: average-case $\mathcal{O}(n \lg n)$.
- All these algorithms use element comparisons as the basic operations to sort the array.
- It can be shown that using comparison based sorting algorithms the best time complexity one can get is $\mathcal{O}(n \lg n)$.
- In the following, we digress from the divide and conquer approach to show some linear time sorting algorithms.
- These algorithms do not use comparison operations and thus they can achieve even low time complexities.

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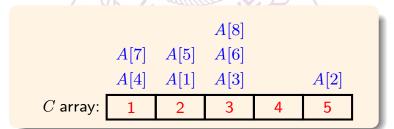
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Counting Sort

- The counting sort assumes the elements to be sorted are all integers in the range [1:k].
- Thus, if array A[1:n] contains the integer elements to be sorted, $1 \le A[i] \le k$, $1 \le i \le n$.
- ullet Let C[1:k] be an array. Then we can place A[i] into array C[A[i]].
- ullet After that is done, we simply trace C array once to get the sorted order.
- Example: n=8, $A[1:8]=\{2,5,3,1,2,3,1,3\}$ to be sorted. Then, we need a C[1:5] array to perform counting sort. Placing A[i] elements into C array, we have



Thus, the sorting result is: A[4], A[7], A[1], A[5], A[3], A[6], A[8], A[2], which is: 1, 1, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3, 5.

Counting Sort – Algorithm

Algorithm 3.2.9. Counting Sort.

```
// Sort A[1:n] and put results into B[1:n]. Assume 1 \leq A[i] \leq k, \forall i.
    // Input: A, int n, k
    // Output: B contains sorted results.
 1 Algorithm CountingSort(A, B, n, k)
 2 {
 3
         for i := 1 to k do \{ // \text{ Initialize } C \text{ to all } 0. \}
               C[i] := 0;
 4
 5
         for i := 1 to n do \{ / / \text{ Count } \# \text{ elements in } C[A[i]].
 6
               C[A[i]] := C[A[i]] + 1;
 7
 8
         for i := 1 to k do \{ // C[i]  is the accumulate \# of elements.
 9
               C[i] := C[i] + C[i-1];
10
11
         for i := n to 1 step -1 do \{ / / \text{ Store sorted order in array } B.
12
              B[C[A[i]]] := A[i];
13
               C[A[i]] := C[A[i]] - 1;
14
         }
15
16 }
```

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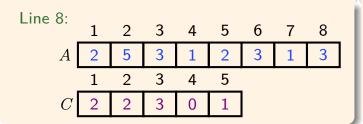
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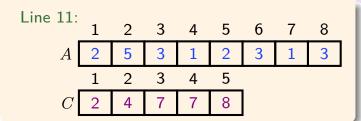
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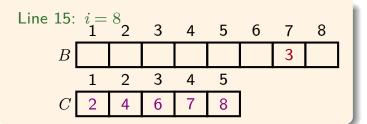
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Counting Sort – Example

• Example: n = 8, $A[1:8] = \{2, 5, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1, 3\}$ to be sorted.





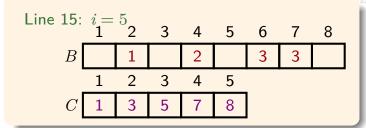


Line 15:
$$i = 7$$
 $1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4 \quad 5 \quad 6 \quad 7 \quad 8$
 $B \quad 1 \quad 0 \quad 3 \quad 0$
 $1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4 \quad 5$
 $C \quad 1 \quad 4 \quad 6 \quad 7 \quad 8$

Counting Sort – Example



Line 15:	i = 1	³ 2	3	4	5	6	7	8
B	1	1		2	3	3	3	
	1	2	3	4	5			
C	0	3	4	7	8			



Line 15:
$$i = 2$$
 $1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4 \quad 5 \quad 6 \quad 7 \quad 8$
 $B \quad 1 \quad 1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 3 \quad 5$
 $1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4 \quad 5$
 $C \quad 0 \quad 3 \quad 4 \quad 7 \quad 7$

Line 15:
$$i = 4$$
 $B = 1 = 1 = 2 = 3 = 4 = 5 = 6 = 7 = 8$
 $B = 1 = 1 = 2 = 2 = 3 = 3 = 3 = 3 = 3 = 3 = 5$
 $C = 0 = 3 = 5 = 7 = 8 = 5 = 6 = 7 = 8$



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Counting Sort – Complexity

- Four for loops in CountingSort algorithm
 - Lines 3-5, $\Theta(k)$,
 - Lines 6-8, $\Theta(n)$,
 - Lines 9-11, $\Theta(k)$,
 - Lines 12-15, $\Theta(n)$,
 - Overall time complexity, $\Theta(n+k)$
 - When $k = \mathcal{O}(n)$, then it is $\Theta(n)$.
- Thus, counting sort has the time complexity lower than $\mathcal{O}(n \lg n)$.
 - This is because that counting sort is not a comparison-based sorting algorithm.
- Algorithm CountingSort is stable.
 - A sorting algorithm is stable if the elements of the same value appear in the output in the same order as they do in the input array.

Radix Sort

- Given a set of n integers of d digits, then radix sort, which uses counting sort function, can perform the sorting efficiently.
- ullet For the d digits, let the least significant digit be digit 1, and the most significant digit be digit d.

Algorithm 3.2.10. Radix sort.

```
// Sort the n d-digit integers in array A.
// Input: A, int n, d
// Output: sorted A.

1 Algorithm RadixSort(A, d)
2 {
3     for i := 1 to d do {
        Sort array A by digit i using CountingSort;
5     }
6 }
```

• Note that any stable sort can be used in position of CountingSort and one gets the same result.

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Radix Sort, Example

Example

Original order	Sort digit 1	Sort digit 2	Sort digit 3
329	720	7 <mark>2</mark> 0	3 29
457	35 <mark>5</mark>	3 <mark>2</mark> 9	3 55
657	436	436	4 36
839	457	839	4 57
436	657	355	<mark>6</mark> 57
720	329	4 <mark>5</mark> 7	7 20
355	839	6 <mark>5</mark> 7	<mark>8</mark> 39

Lemma 3.2.11.

Given n d-digit numbers in which each digit can take on up to k possible values, then RadixSort correctly sorts these numbers in $\Theta(d \times (n+k))$ time since CountingSort takes $\Theta(n+k)$ time for each digit.

• This lemma can be easily generalized for any stable sort to be used in the place of CountingSort.

Radix Sort, Property

Lemma 3.2.12.

Given n b-bit numbers and any positive integer $r \leq b$, RadixSort correctly sorts these numbers in $\Theta((b/r) \times (n+2^r))$ time since CountingSort takes $\Theta(n+k)$ time for inputs in the range 0 to k.

Proof. For any $r \leq b$, one can divide the b-bit numbers to $d = \lceil b/r \rceil$ digits of r bits each. Each digit is an integer in the range of 0 to $2^r - 1$, so one can use CountingSort with $k = 2^r$. Therefore, sorting those numbers takes $\Theta(d \times (n+2^r)) = \Theta((b/r) \times (n+2^r))$ time.

- Again, any stable sort can be used in place of CountingSort.
- RadixSort, which is not comparison based algorithm, has lower complexity, $\Theta(n)$, while the best comparison based algorithm achieve $\mathcal{O}(n \lg n)$ time.
- In using RadixSort on sets with large size, memory swapping can be a limiting factor for performance. On the other hand, many comparison based algorithm using in-place sorts can have much fewer memory swapping.
- Computer hardware and compiler can impact on the performance of these algorithms.

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Bucket Sort

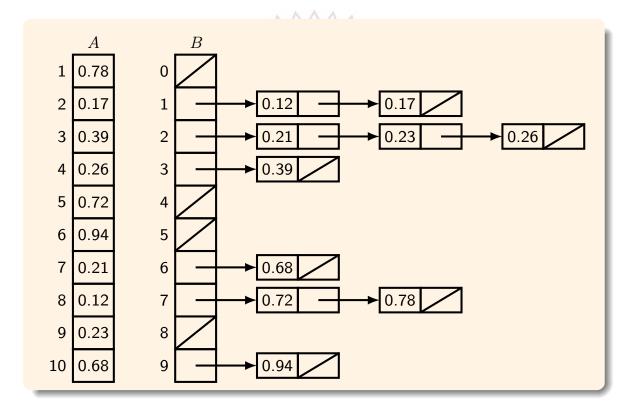
- BucketSort is an average-case $\mathcal{O}(n)$ sorting algorithm.
- BucketSort is not comparison based algorithm and it assumes the n numbers being sorted in uniformly distributed in the range [0,1).

Algorithm 3.2.13. Bucket Sort.

```
// Sort n-element array A assuming A[i] is uniformly in [0,1).
  // Input: A, int n
  // Output: sorted A.
1 Algorithm BucketSort(A, n)
2 {
       Initialize array B[0:n-1] to be all NULL;
3
       for i := 1 to n do // Append A[i] to B[|n \times A[i]|]
4
            insertList(B[|n \times A[i]|], A[i]);
5
       for i := 0 to n-1 do // Sort each B[i].
6
7
            insertionSort(B[i]);
       concatenate n lists B[0:n-1] and store back to array A;
8
9 }
```

Bucket Sort, Example

Example



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Bucket Sort, Complexities

- In BucketSort
 - Line 3 executes *n* times
 - Loop in line 4 executes n times
 - Line 8 also executes n times
 - Line 6 loop executes *n* times
 - Each InsertionSort executes n_i^2 times
 - But, $E(n_i) = \mathcal{O}(1)$, therefore this loop executes $\mathcal{O}(n)$ times
- Overall time complexity: $\mathcal{O}(n)$.
- Space complexity is also $\mathcal{O}(n)$.
 - Array B is $\mathcal{O}(n)$,
 - Linked list is $\mathcal{O}(n)$.
- Note the assumption of the elements are uniformly distributed in a range.
- If the range is not [0,1), it can be scaled and the BucketSort can still perform well.

Summary

- Sorting problem.
- Comparison-based sorts.
 - Merge sort.
 - Improved merge sort.
 - Insertion sort.
 - Quick sort.
 - Randomized quick sort.
- Non-comparison based sorts.
 - Counting sort.
 - Radix sort.
 - Bucket sort.