

Problem: Implement radix sort.

Constraints

- Is the input a list?
 - Yes
- Can we assume the inputs are valid?
 - Check for None in place of an array
 - Assume array elements are ints
- Do we know the max digits to handle?
 - No
- Are the digits base 10?
 - Yes
- Can we assume this fits memory?
 - Yes

Test Cases

- None -> Exception
- [] -> []
- [128, 256, 164, 8, 2, 148, 212, 242, 244] -> [2, 8, 128, 148, 164, 212, 242, 244, 256]

Algorithm

Sample input: [1, 220, 122, 112]

- We'll evaluate each digit starting with the ones position
 - [1, 220, 122, 112]
 - Bucket 0: 220
 - Bucket 1: 1
 - Bucket 2: 122, 112
 - Result: [220, 1, 122, 112]
 - [220, 1, 122, 112]
 - Bucket 0: 1
 - Bucket 1: 112
 - Bucket 2: 220, 122
 - Result: [1, 112, 220, 122]
 - [1, 112, 220, 122]
 - Bucket 0: 1
 - Bucket 1: 112, 122
 - Bucket 2: 220
 - Result: [1, 112, 122, 220]

Bucketing example: 123

- Ones

- $123 // 10^0 = 123$
- $123 \% 10 = 3$
- **Tens**
 - $123 // 10^1 = 12$
 - $12 \% 10 = 2$
- **Hundreds**
 - $123 // 10^2 = 1$
 - $1 \% 10 = 1$

Complexity:

- Time: $O(k*n)$, where n is the number of items and k is the number of digits in the largest item
- Space: $O(k+n)$

Misc:

- Not in-place
- Most implementations are stable

If k (the number of digits) is less than $\log(n)$, radix sort can be faster than algorithms such as quicksort.

-