

Data Structures and Algorithms

Tutorial 6. Counting, radix, and bucket sorting

Today's topic is covered in detail in

T. H. Cormen, C. E. Leiserson, R. L. Rivest, and C. Stein.
Introduction to Algorithms. The MIT Press 2009.

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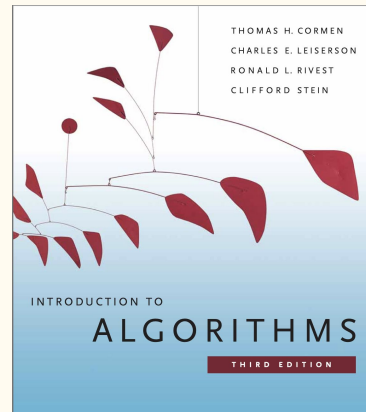
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Objectives

- Counting sort
- Radix sort
- Bucket sort

Counting sort: naive approach

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Input	2	5	3	0	2	3	0	3

We want to sort an array of integers.

All values are in **range from 0 to 5**.

Idea: count how many 0s, 1s, 2s, 3s, 4s, and 5s we have!

Counting sort: naive approach

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Input	2	5	3	0	2	3	0	3

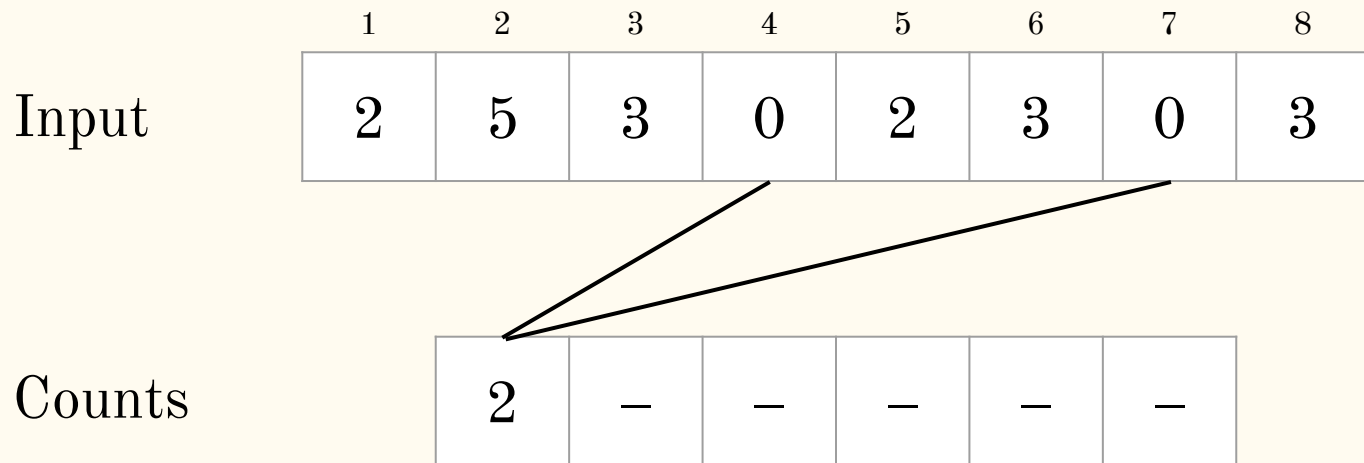
Counts	—	—	—	—	—	—
--------	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Counting sort: naive approach

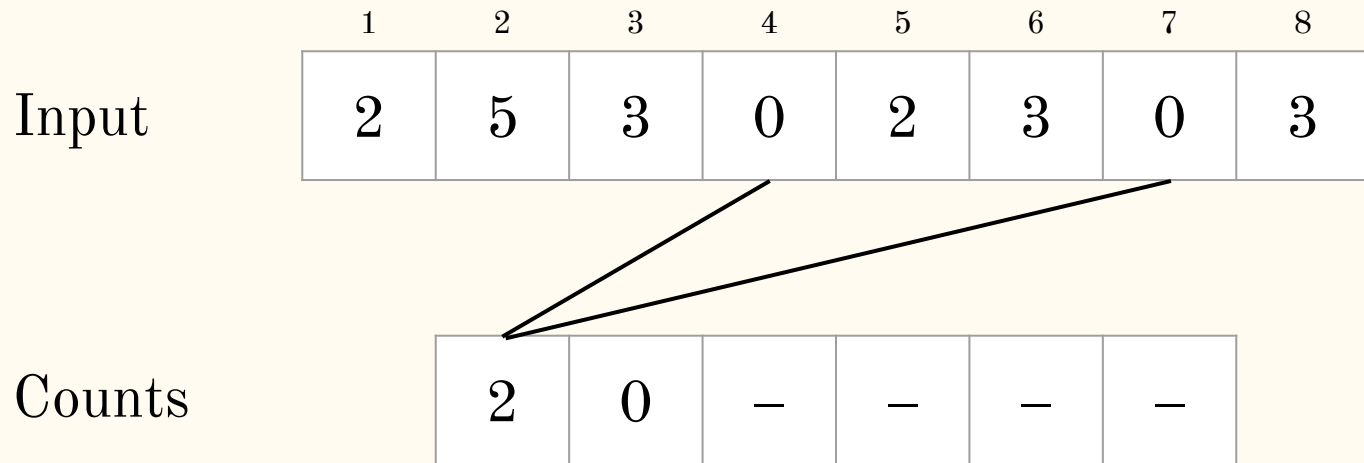


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Counting sort: naive approach

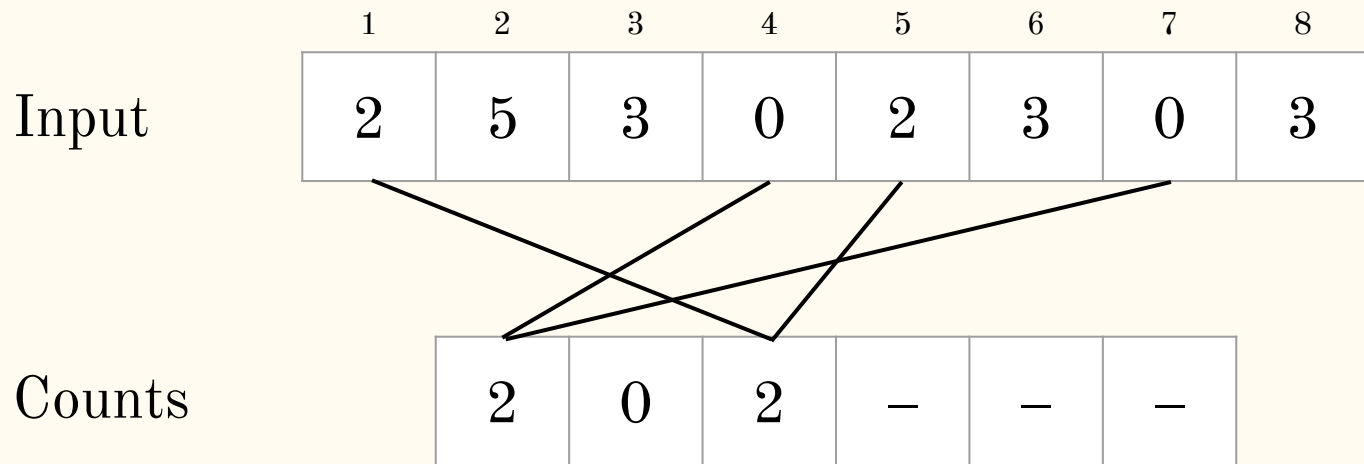


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Counting sort: naive approach

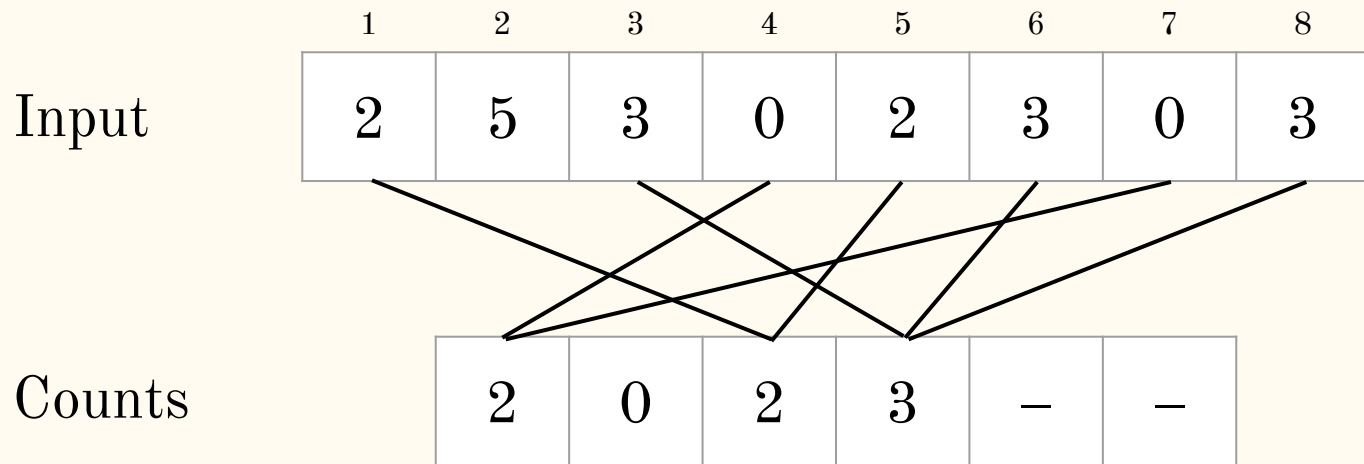


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Counting sort: naive approach

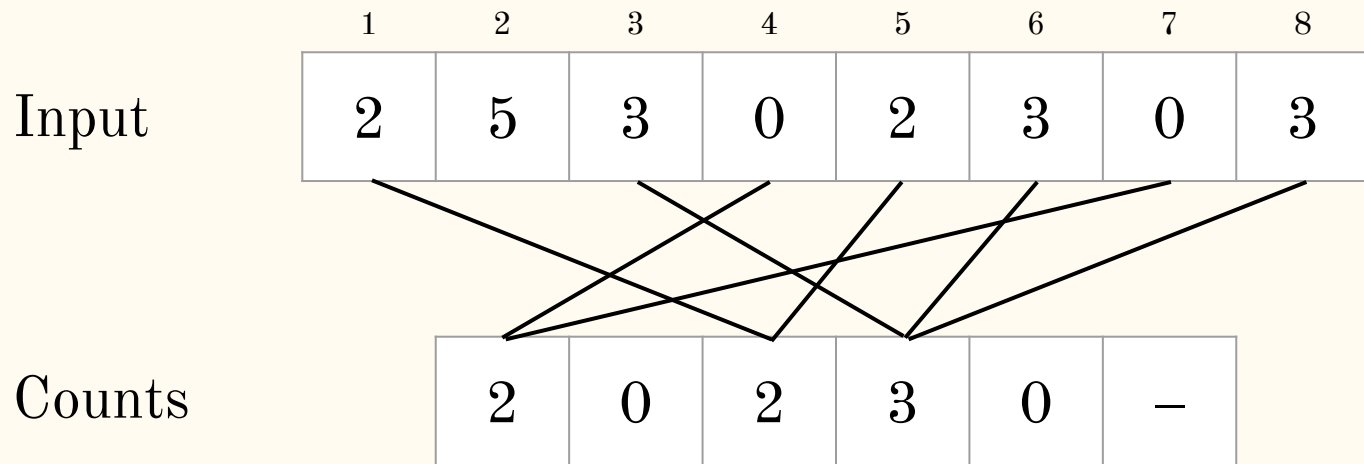


We want to sort an array of integers.

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Counting sort: naive approach

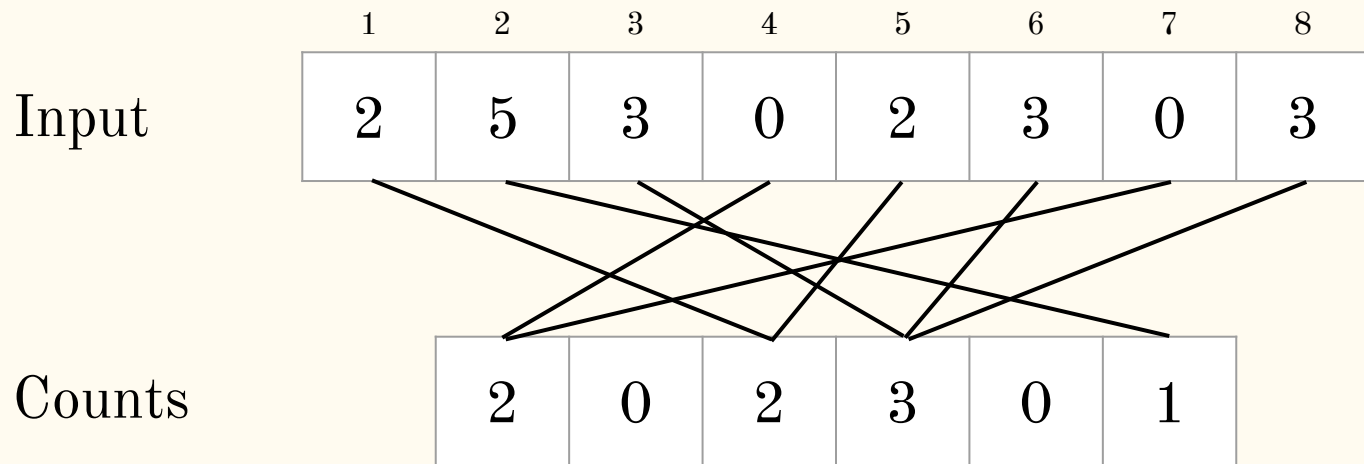


We want to sort an array of integers.

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Counting sort: naive approach

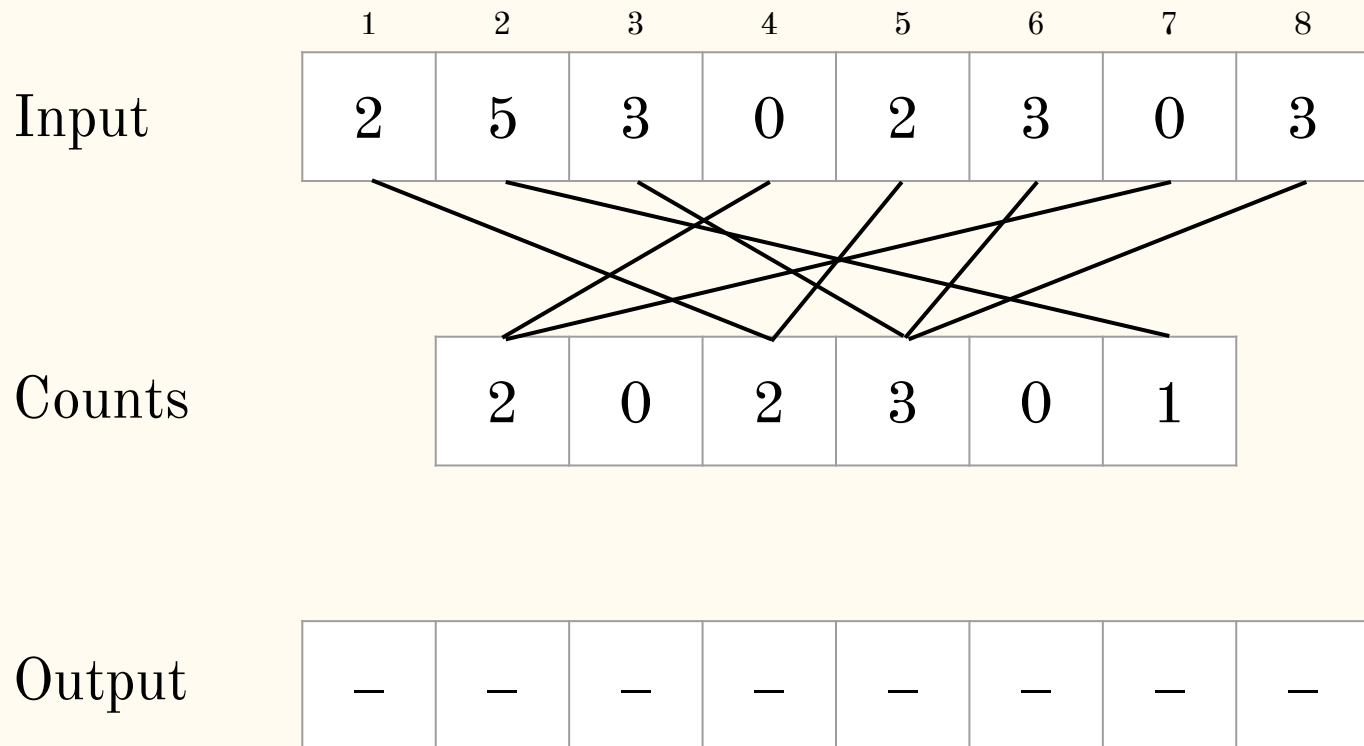


We want to sort an array of integers.

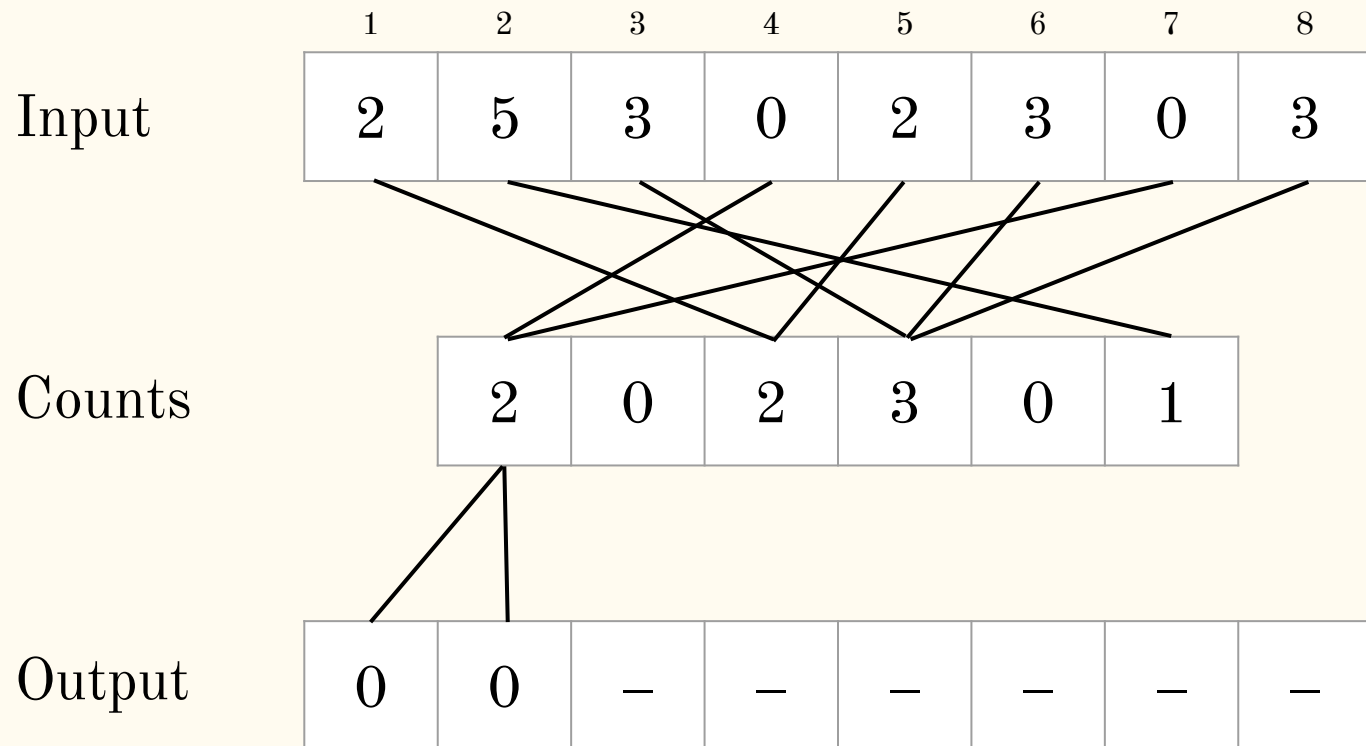
All values are in **range from 0 to 5**.

Idea: count how many 0s, 1s, 2s, 3s, 4s, and 5s we have!

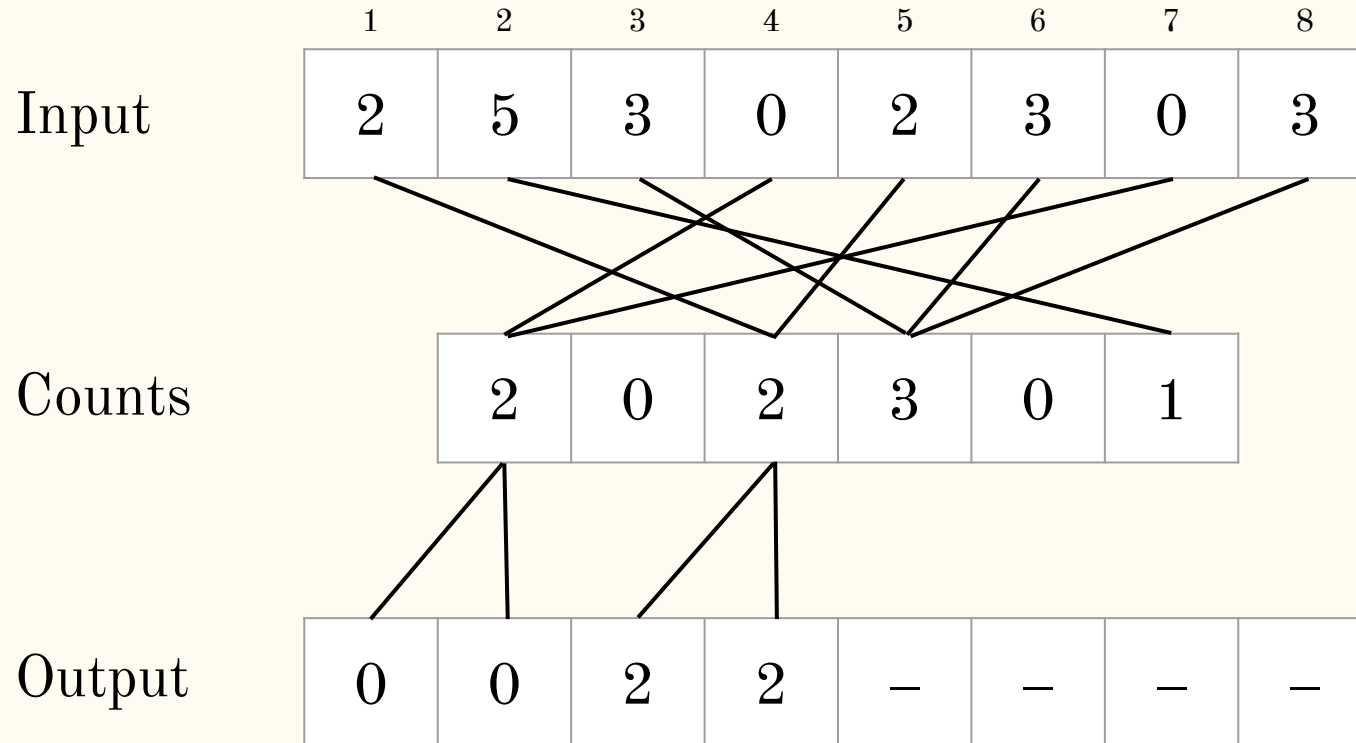
Counting sort: naive approach



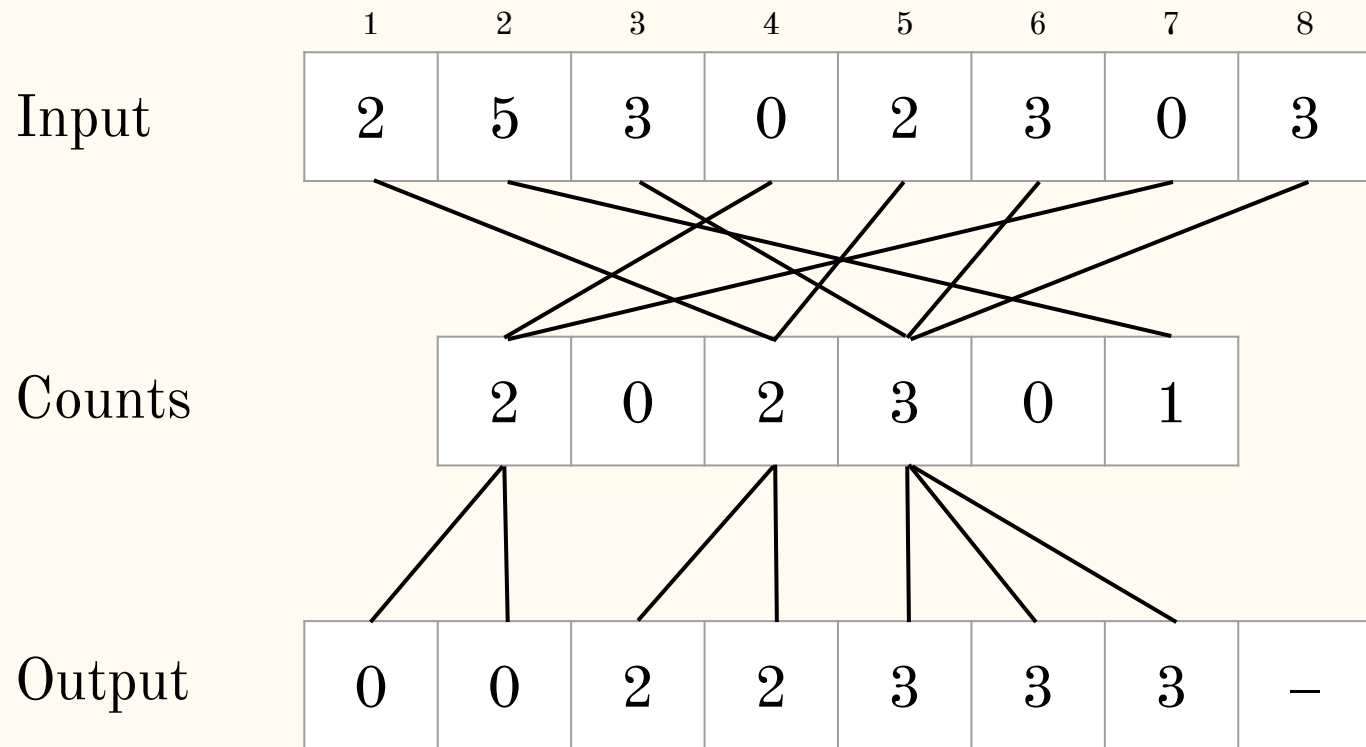
Counting sort: naive approach



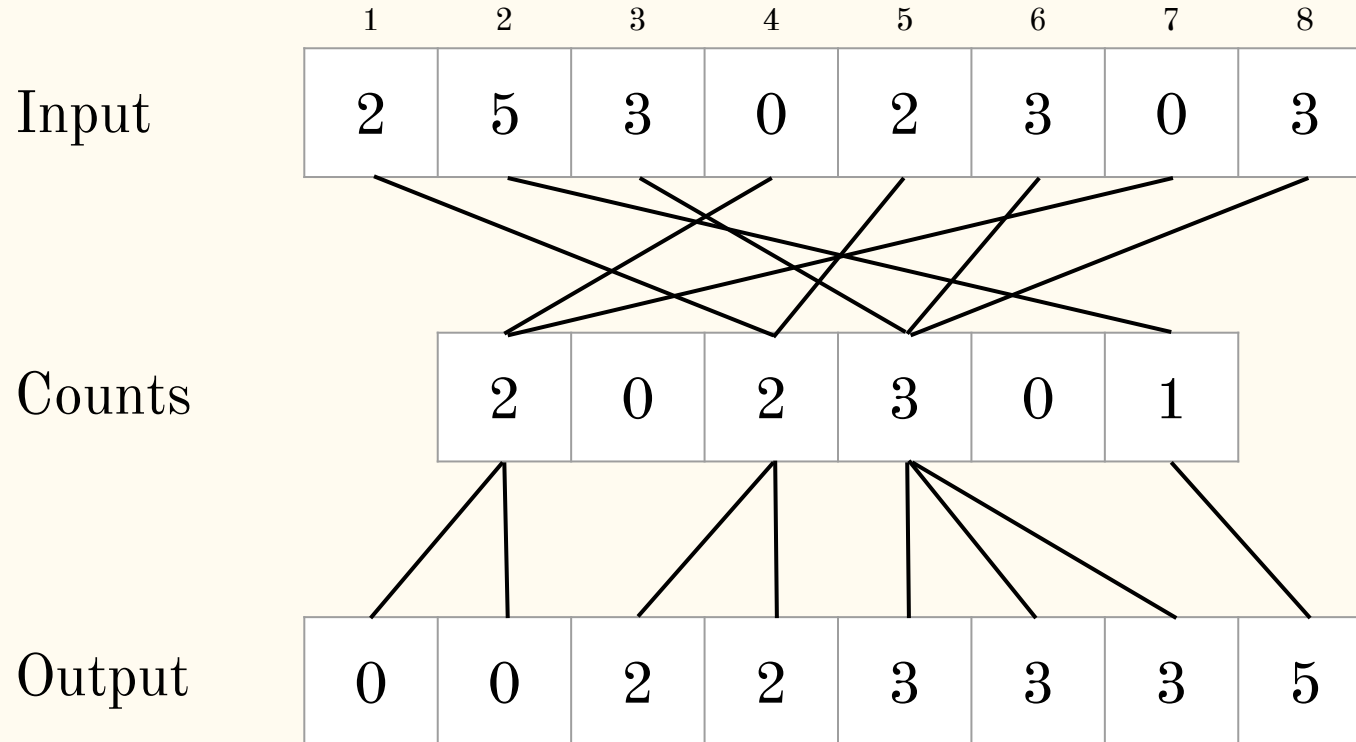
Counting sort: naive approach



Counting sort: naive approach



Counting sort: naive approach



Counting sort: what about satellite data?

Input

2	5	3	0	2	3	0	3
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h

Counts

2	0	2	3	0	1
---	---	---	---	---	---

Output

0	0	2	2	3	3	3	5
?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?

Counting sort: adjusted idea

Input

2	5	3	0	2	3	0	3
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h

Count

2	0	2	3	0	1
---	---	---	---	---	---

Accum

—	—	—	—	—	—
---	---	---	---	---	---

Output

—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Counting sort: adjusted idea

Input

2	5	3	0	2	3	0	3
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h

Count

2	0	2	3	0	1
---	---	---	---	---	---

Accum

2	—	—	—	—	—
---	---	---	---	---	---

Output

—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Counting sort: adjusted idea

Input

2	5	3	0	2	3	0	3
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h

Count

2	0	2	3	0	1
---	---	---	---	---	---

Accum

2	→ 2	—	—	—	—
---	-----	---	---	---	---

Output

—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Counting sort: adjusted idea

Input

2	5	3	0	2	3	0	3
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h

Count

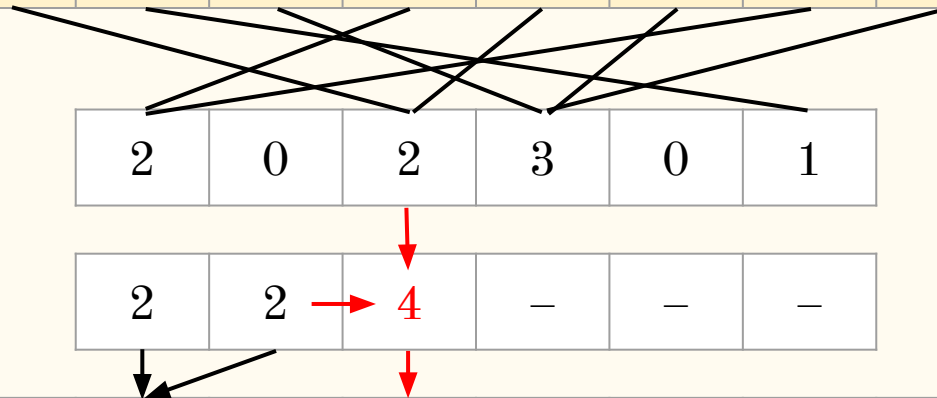
2	0	2	3	0	1
---	---	---	---	---	---

Accum

2	2	4	—	—	—
---	---	---	---	---	---

Output

—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—



Counting sort: adjusted idea

Input

2	5	3	0	2	3	0	3
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h

Count

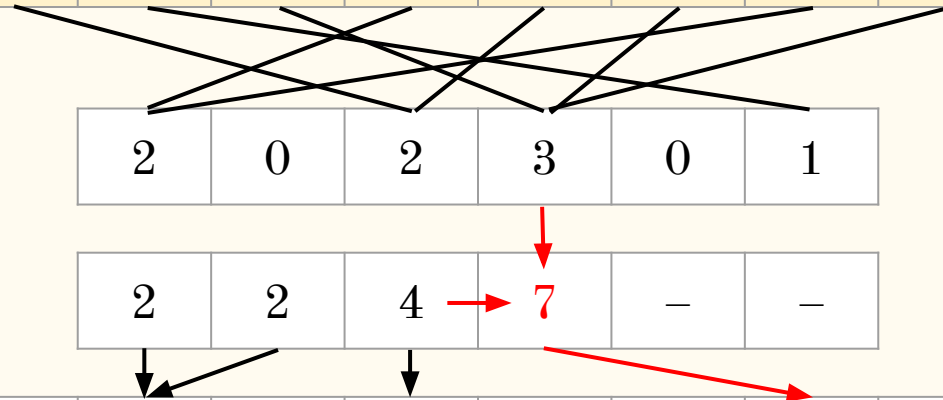
2	0	2	3	0	1
---	---	---	---	---	---

Accum

2	2	4	7	—	—
---	---	---	---	---	---

Output

—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—



Counting sort: adjusted idea

Input

2	5	3	0	2	3	0	3
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h

Count

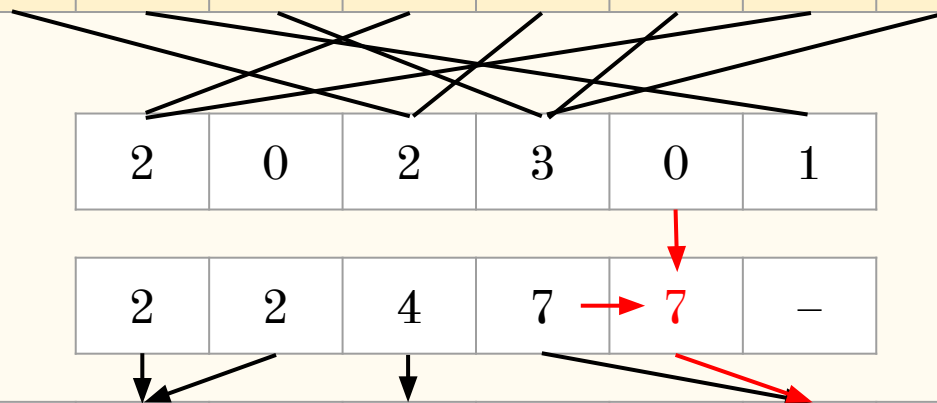
2	0	2	3	0	1
---	---	---	---	---	---

Accum

2	2	4	7	7	—
---	---	---	---	---	---

Output

—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—



Counting sort: adjusted idea

Input

2	5	3	0	2	3	0	3
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h

Count

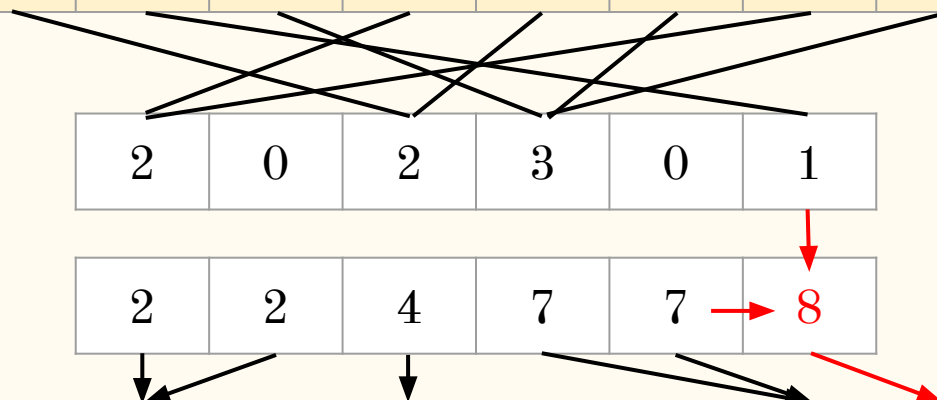
2	0	2	3	0	1
---	---	---	---	---	---

Accum

2	2	4	7	7	8
---	---	---	---	---	---

Output

—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—



Counting sort: adjusted idea

Input

2	5	3	0	2	3	0	3
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h

Count

2	0	2	3	0	1
0	1	2	3	4	5

Accum

2	2	4	7	7	8
---	---	---	---	---	---

Output

—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Counting sort: adjusted idea

Input

2	5	3	0	2	3	0	3
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h

Count

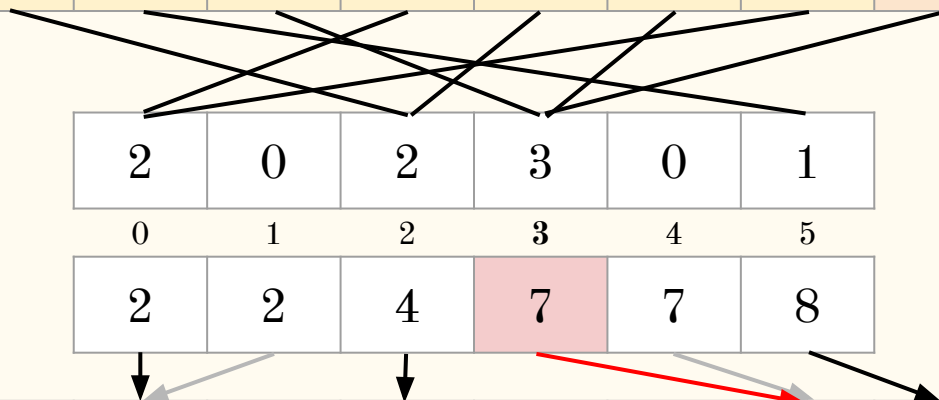
2	0	2	3	0	1
0	1	2	3	4	5

Accum

2	2	4	7	7	8
---	---	---	---	---	---

Output

—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—



Counting sort: adjusted idea

Input

2	5	3	0	2	3	0	3
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h

Count

2	0	2	3	0	1
0	1	2	3	4	5

Accum

2	2	4	7	7	8
---	---	---	----------	---	---

Output

—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	h	—

Counting sort: adjusted idea

Input

2	5	3	0	2	3	0	3
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h

Count

2	0	2	3	0	1
0	1	2	3	4	5

Accum

2	2	4	6	7	8
----------	---	---	---	---	---

Output

—	0	—	—	—	—	3	—
—	g	—	—	—	—	h	—

Counting sort: adjusted idea

Input

2	5	3	0	2	3	0	3
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h

Count

2	0	2	3	0	1
0	1	2	3	4	5

Accum

1	2	4	6	7	8
---	---	---	----------	---	---

Output

—	0	—	—	—	3	3	—
—	g	—	—	—	f	h	—

Counting sort: adjusted idea

Input

2	5	3	0	2	3	0	3
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h

Count

2	0	2	3	0	1
0	1	2	3	4	5

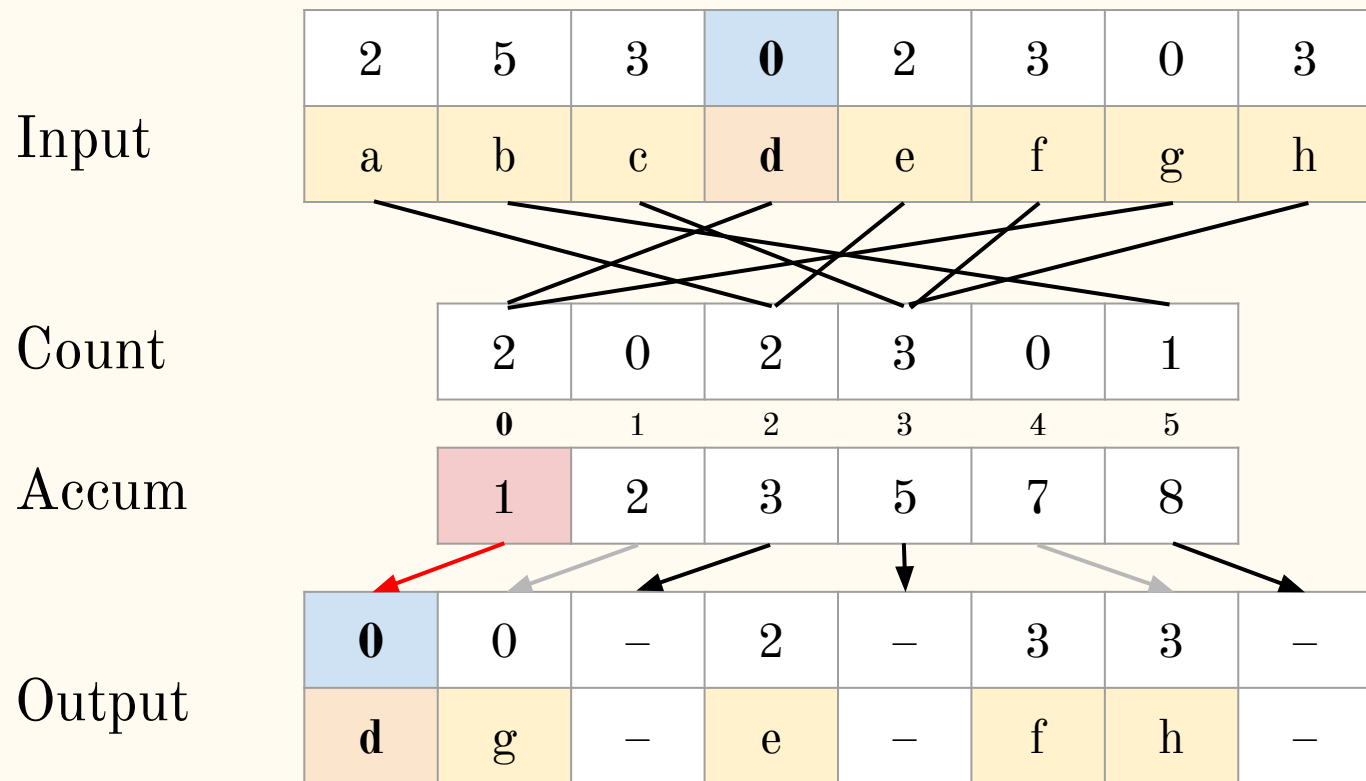
Accum

1	2	4	5	7	8
---	---	---	---	---	---

Output

–	0	–	2	–	3	3	–
–	g	–	e	–	f	h	–

Counting sort: adjusted idea



Counting sort: adjusted idea

Input

2	5	3	0	2	3	0	3
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h

Count

2	0	2	3	0	1
0	1	2	3	4	5

Accum

0	2	3	5	7	8
---	---	---	---	---	---

Output

0	0	—	2	3	3	3	—
d	g	—	e	c	f	h	—

Counting sort: adjusted idea

Input

2	5	3	0	2	3	0	3
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h

Count

2	0	2	3	0	1
0	1	2	3	4	5

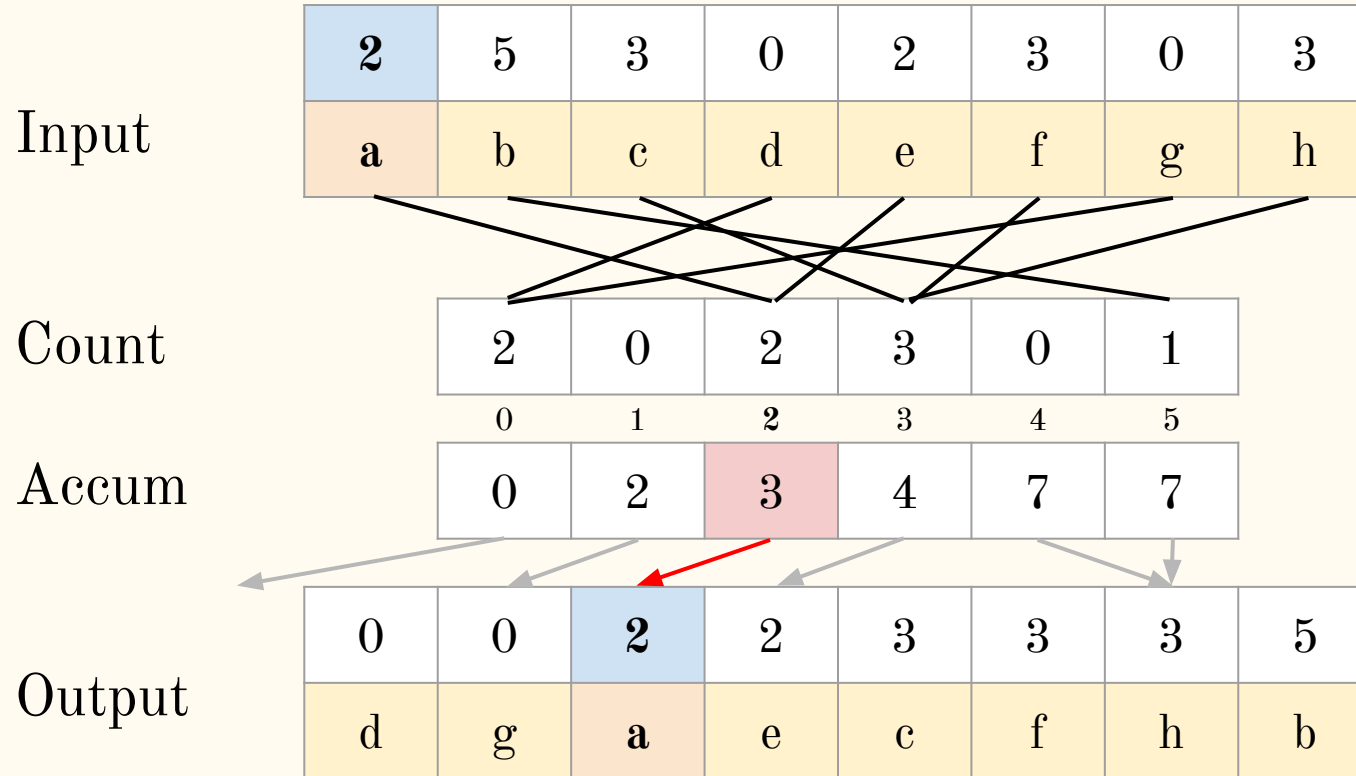
Accum

0	2	3	4	7	8
---	---	---	---	---	----------

Output

0	0	—	2	3	3	3	5
d	g	—	e	c	f	h	b

Counting sort: adjusted idea



Counting sort: adjusted idea

Input

2	5	3	0	2	3	0	3
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h

Count

2	0	2	3	0	1
0	1	2	3	4	5

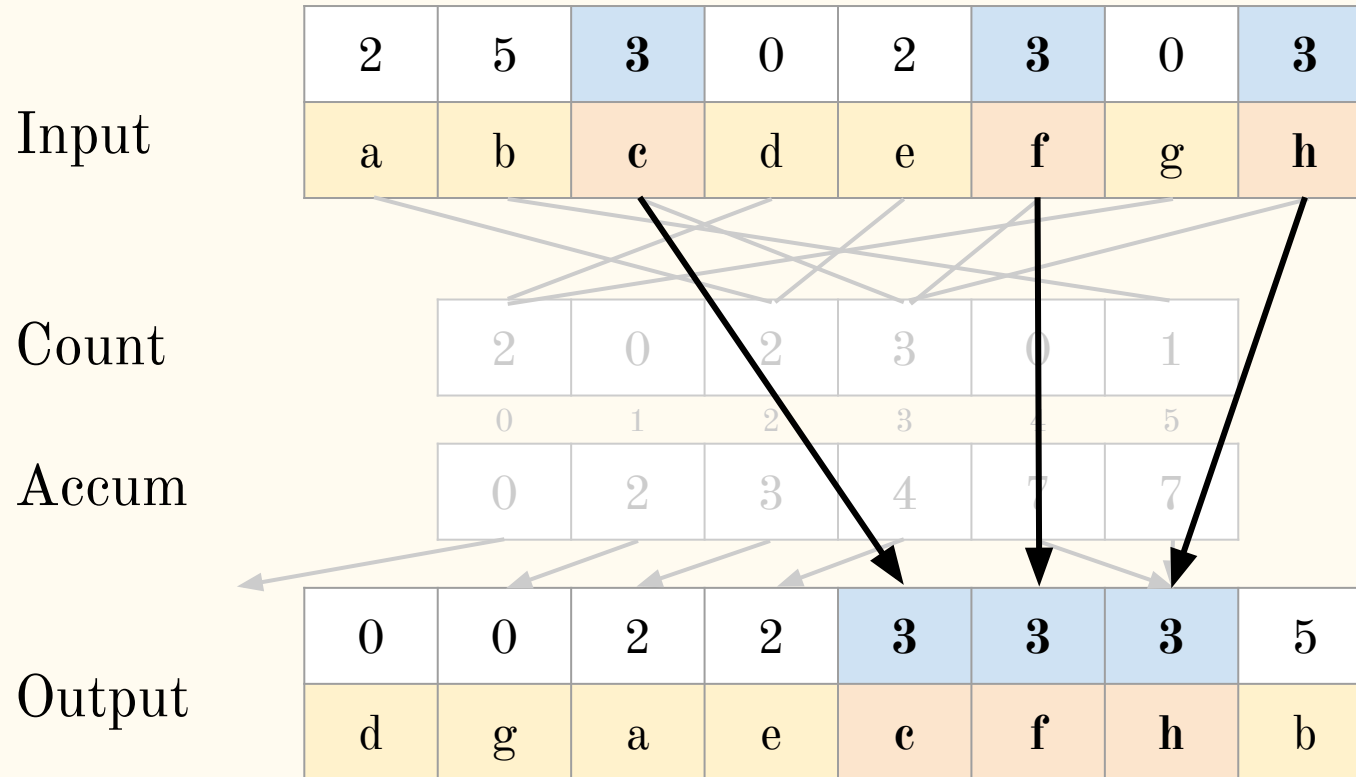
Accum

0	2	3	4	7	7
---	---	---	---	---	---

Output

0	0	2	2	3	3	3	5
d	g	a	e	c	f	h	b

Counting sort is **stable**



Counting sort: algorithm

COUNTING-SORT(A, B, k)

```
1  let  $C[0..k]$  be a new array
2  for  $i = 0$  to  $k$ 
3       $C[i] = 0$ 
4  for  $j = 1$  to  $A.length$ 
5       $C[A[j]] = C[A[j]] + 1$ 
6  //  $C[i]$  now contains the number of elements equal to  $i$ .
7  for  $i = 1$  to  $k$ 
8       $C[i] = C[i] + C[i - 1]$ 
9  //  $C[i]$  now contains the number of elements less than or equal to  $i$ .
10 for  $j = A.length$  downto 1
11      $B[C[A[j]]] = A[j]$ 
12      $C[A[j]] = C[A[j]] - 1$ 
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Count elements



Counting sort: algorithm

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```

Count elements

Accumulate

Counting sort: algorithm

COUNTING-SORT(A, B, k)

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```

Count elements

```
6  //  $C[i]$  now contains the number of elements equal to  $i$ .
```

```
7  for  $i = 1$  to  $k$ 
8       $C[i] = C[i] + C[i - 1]$ 
```

Accumulate

```
9  //  $C[i]$  now contains the number of elements less than or equal to  $i$ .
```

```
10 for  $j = A.length$  downto 1
11      $B[C[A[j]]] = A[j]$ 
12      $C[A[j]] = C[A[j]] - 1$ 
```

Populate output array

Counting sort: time complexity

COUNTING-SORT(A, B, k)

```
1  let  $C[0..k]$  be a new array
2  for  $i = 0$  to  $k$ 
3       $C[i] = 0$ 
4  for  $j = 1$  to  $A.length$ 
5       $C[A[j]] = C[A[j]] + 1$ 
6  //  $C[i]$  now contains the number of elements equal to  $i$ .
7  for  $i = 1$  to  $k$ 
8       $C[i] = C[i] + C[i - 1]$ 
9  //  $C[i]$  now contains the number of elements less than or equal to  $i$ .
10 for  $j = A.length$  downto 1
11      $B[C[A[j]]] = A[j]$ 
12      $C[A[j]] = C[A[j]] - 1$ 
```

$O(k)$

$O(n)$

$O(k)$

$O(n)$

$O(n+k)$

Counting sort: exercise

Exercise 6.1. Suppose that we were to rewrite the **for** loop in line 10 of the COUNTING-SORT as

for j = 1 to A.length

1. Is the algorithm still correct?
2. If yes, it is stable?

COUNTING-SORT(A, B, k)

```
1  let  $C[0..k]$  be a new array
2  for  $i = 0$  to  $k$ 
3       $C[i] = 0$ 
4  for  $j = 1$  to  $A.length$ 
5       $C[A[j]] = C[A[j]] + 1$ 
6  //  $C[i]$  now contains the number
7  for  $i = 1$  to  $k$ 
8       $C[i] = C[i] + C[i - 1]$ 
9  //  $C[i]$  now contains the number
10 for  $j = A.length$  downto 1
11      $B[C[A[j]]] = A[j]$ 
12      $C[A[j]] = C[A[j]] - 1$ 
```

Counting sort: exercise

Exercise 6.2. Describe an algorithm that, given n integers in the range from 0 to k , preprocesses its input and then answers **any** query about how many of the n integers fall into a range (a, b) in $O(1)$ time. Your algorithm should use $O(n + k)$ preprocessing time.

Radix sort: idea

Assumptions:

1. Input is a sequence of “numbers” (strings of digits)
2. Each number has d digits
3. Each digit can range from 0 to k

Radix sort: idea

Assumptions:

1. Input is a sequence of “numbers” (strings of digits)
2. Each number has d digits
3. Each digit can range from 0 to k

Radix sort idea:

1. Sort numbers by **least significant** digit first using a **stable** sort
2. Then sort again, by second least significant digit using a **stable** sort
3. ...
4. Sort by **most significant** digit using a **stable** sort
5. We have a sorted sequence of numbers!

Radix sort: example

329	457	657	839	436	720	355
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Radix sort: example

329	457	657	839	436	720	355
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

329	355	436	457	657	720	839
------------	------------	------------	-----	-----	------------	------------

Radix sort: example

329	457	657	839	436	720	355
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

329	355	436	457	657	720	839
------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

720	355	436	457	657	329	839
------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

Radix sort: example

329	457	657	839	436	720	355
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

329	355	436	457	657	720	839
------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

720	355	436	457	657	329	839
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Radix sort: example

329	457	657	839	436	720	355
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

329	355	436	457	657	720	839
------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

720	355	436	457	657	329	839
------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

Radix sort: example

329	457	657	839	436	720	355
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

329	355	436	457	657	720	839
------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

720	355	436	457	657	329	839
------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

720	329	436	839	355	457	657
------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

Radix sort: example

329	457	657	839	436	720	355
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

329	355	436	457	657	720	839
------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

720	355	436	457	657	329	839
------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

720	329	436	839	355	457	657
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Radix sort: example

329	457	657	839	436	720	355
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

329	355	436	457	657	720	839
------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

720	355	436	457	657	329	839
------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

720	329	436	839	355	457	657
------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

Radix sort: example

329	457	657	839	436	720	355
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

329	355	436	457	657	720	839
------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

720	355	436	457	657	329	839
------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

720	329	436	839	355	457	657
------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

329	355	436	457	657	720	839
------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

Radix sort: example

329	457	657	839	436	720	355
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

329	355	436	457	657	720	839
------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

720	355	436	457	657	329	839
------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

720	329	436	839	355	457	657
------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

329	355	436	457	657	720	839
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Radix sort: time complexity

RADIX-SORT(A, d)

1 **for** $i = 1$ **to** d

2 use a stable sort to sort array A on digit i

Radix sort: time complexity

RADIX-SORT(A, d)

1 **for** $i = 1$ **to** d

2 use a stable sort to sort array A on digit i

Assuming that sorting on digit i takes $\Theta(n+k)$,
time complexity of radix sort is $\Theta(d(n+k))$.

Radix sort: exercise

Exercise

6.3.

Sort n integers in the range from 0 to (n^3-1) in $O(n)$ time.

Attendance

<https://baam.duckdns.org>

Bucket sort: idea

Assumptions:

1. Input comes from a **uniform distribution** (e.g. over a real interval).
2. Input values can be **easily truncated** to discrete values (e.g. via floor/ceiling).
3. Truncated values fit in a small **range from 0 to k**.

Bucket sort: idea

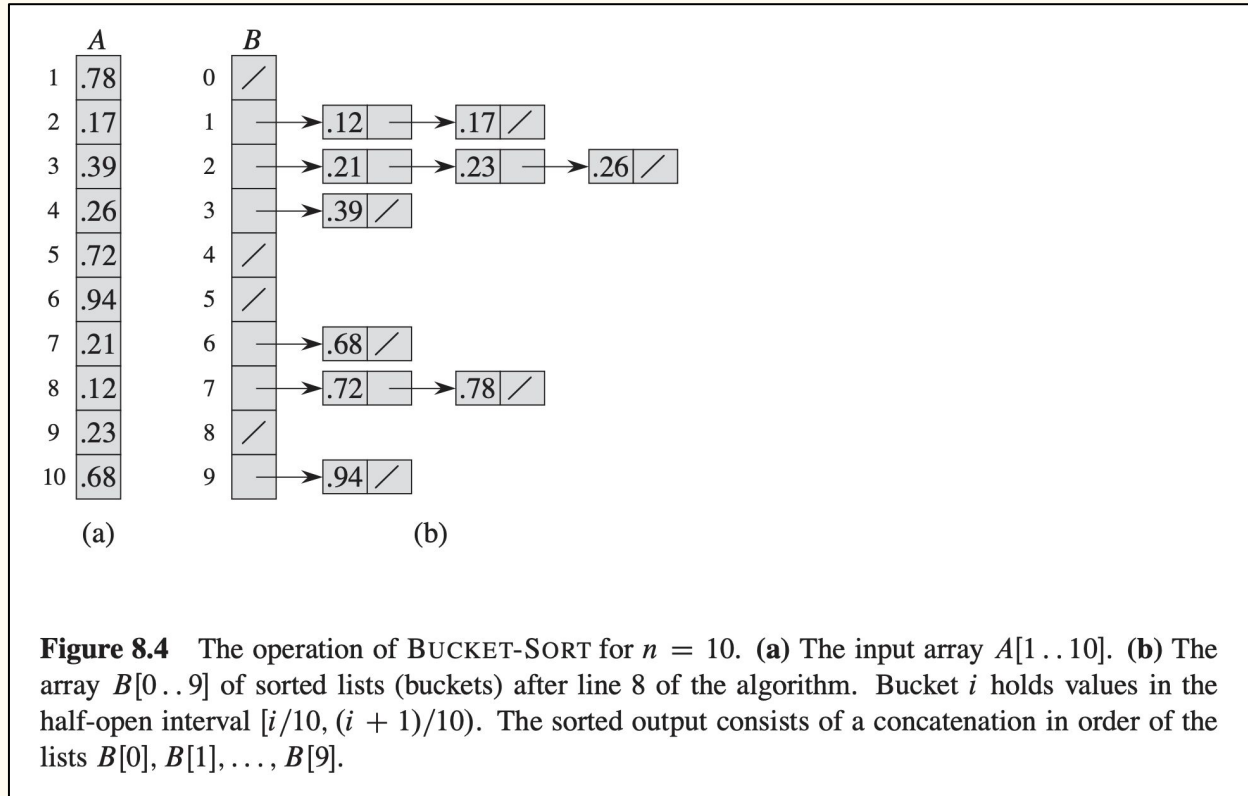
Assumptions:

1. Input comes from a **uniform distribution** (e.g. over a real interval).
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3. Truncated values fit in a small **range from 0 to k**.

Bucket sort idea:

1. **Split input values** into lists (**buckets**) by their truncated values.
2. **Sort each bucket** using comparison-based sorting algorithm.
3. **Concatenate sorted buckets** to produce final sorted result.

Bucket sort: example with real numbers in $[0,1)$



Bucket sort: algorithm for real numbers in $[0,1)$

BUCKET-SORT(A)

1 let $B[0..n-1]$ be a new array

2 $n = A.length$

3 **for** $i = 0$ **to** $n - 1$

4 make $B[i]$ an empty list

$O(n)$

5 **for** $i = 1$ **to** n

6 insert $A[i]$ into list $B[\lfloor nA[i] \rfloor]$

$O(n)$

7 **for** $i = 0$ **to** $n - 1$

8 sort list $B[i]$ with insertion sort

$O(?)$

9 concatenate the lists $B[0], B[1], \dots, B[n-1]$ together in order

$O(n)$

Bucket sort: complexity analysis

Let $\mathbf{n_i}$ be a random variable denoting the number of elements placed in bucket \mathbf{i} .

Then overall running time of bucket sort is

$$T(n) = \Theta(n) + \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} O(n_i^2)$$

We then compute **expected** running time to be (see details in 8.4)

$$\Theta(n) + n \cdot O(2 - 1/n) = \Theta(n)$$

Thus, **average** running time of bucket sort is $\Theta(n)$.

Bucket sort: exercise

Exercise 6.4. Explain why the worst-case running time for bucket sort is $O(n^2)$. What simple change to the algorithm preserves its linear average-case running time and makes its worst-case running time $O(n \lg n)$?

Summary

- Sorting algorithms do not have to rely (only) on comparison, if we know extra information about input
- We can achieve $\Theta(1)$ sorting for many situations:
 - **Counting sort** — for small integers (and enumerations)
 - **Radix sort** — for big integers (and sequences of enumerations)
 - **Bucket sort** — for uniformly distributed “continuous” data

Summary

- Sorting algorithms do not have to rely (only) on comparison, if we know extra information about input
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 - **Counting sort** — for small integers (and enumerations)
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See you next week!