

# Radix Sort

## Idea:

- Sort an array “a” of “n” integers, where each integer has “d” digits.
- 10 “bins” (vectors) corresponding to digits 0,...,9
- Loop, starting from the rightmost digit (“least significant”).  $j = d - 1, d - 2, \dots, 0$ 
  - For  $i = 0, \dots, n-1$ . Insert number  $a[i]$  at the end of bin number  $\text{digit}(j, a[i])$
  - Update array “a” by combining bins 0,...,9 (in order)
  - Clear the bins

d = 3    a:

0	329
1	457
2	657
3	839
4	436
5	720
6	355

## bins:

0	<input type="text"/>
1	<input type="text"/>
2	<input type="text"/>
3	<input type="text"/>
4	<input type="text"/>
5	<input type="text"/>
6	<input type="text"/>
7	<input type="text"/>
8	<input type="text"/>
9	<input type="text"/>

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$d = 3$       $j = 2$

a:

0	329
1	457
2	657
3	839
4	436
5	720
6	355

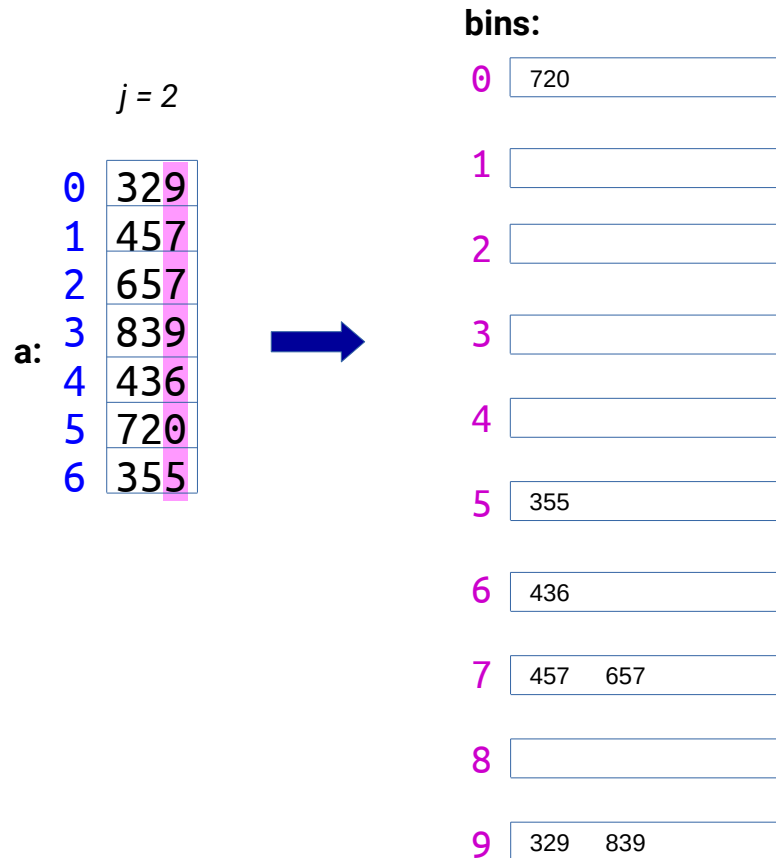
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0	<input type="text"/>
1	<input type="text"/>
2	<input type="text"/>
3	<input type="text"/>
4	<input type="text"/>
5	<input type="text"/>
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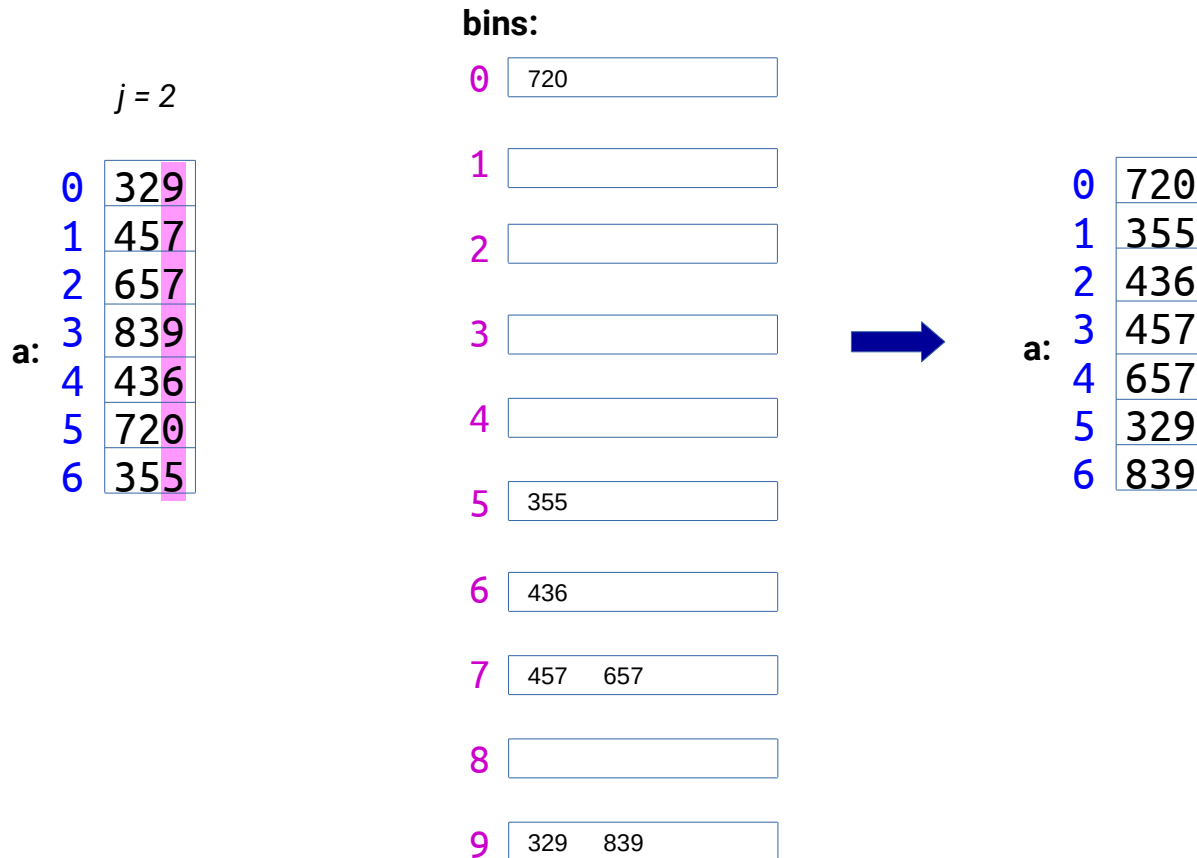
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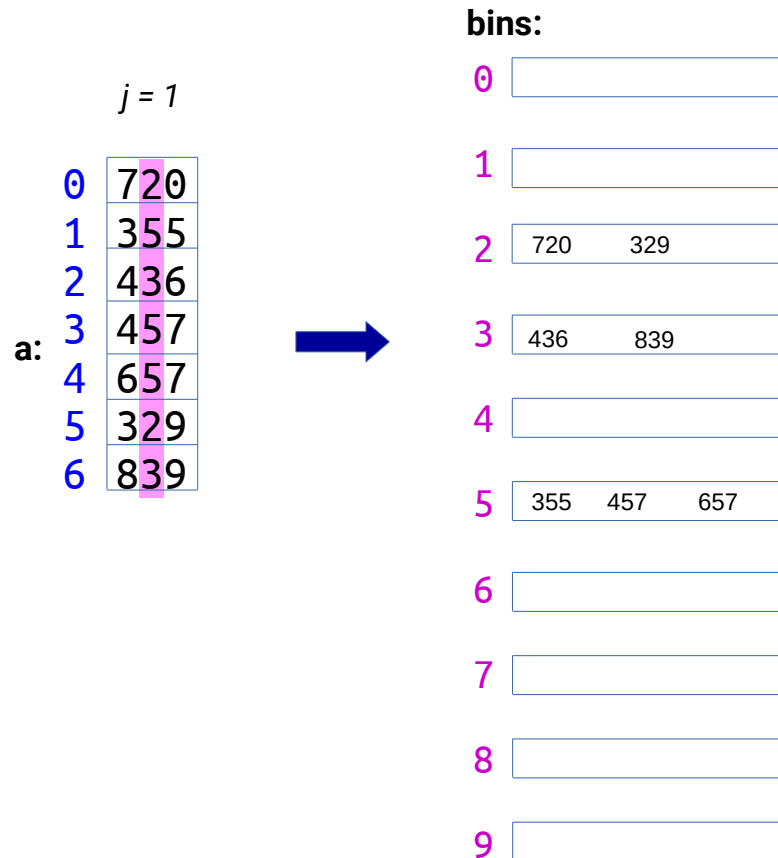
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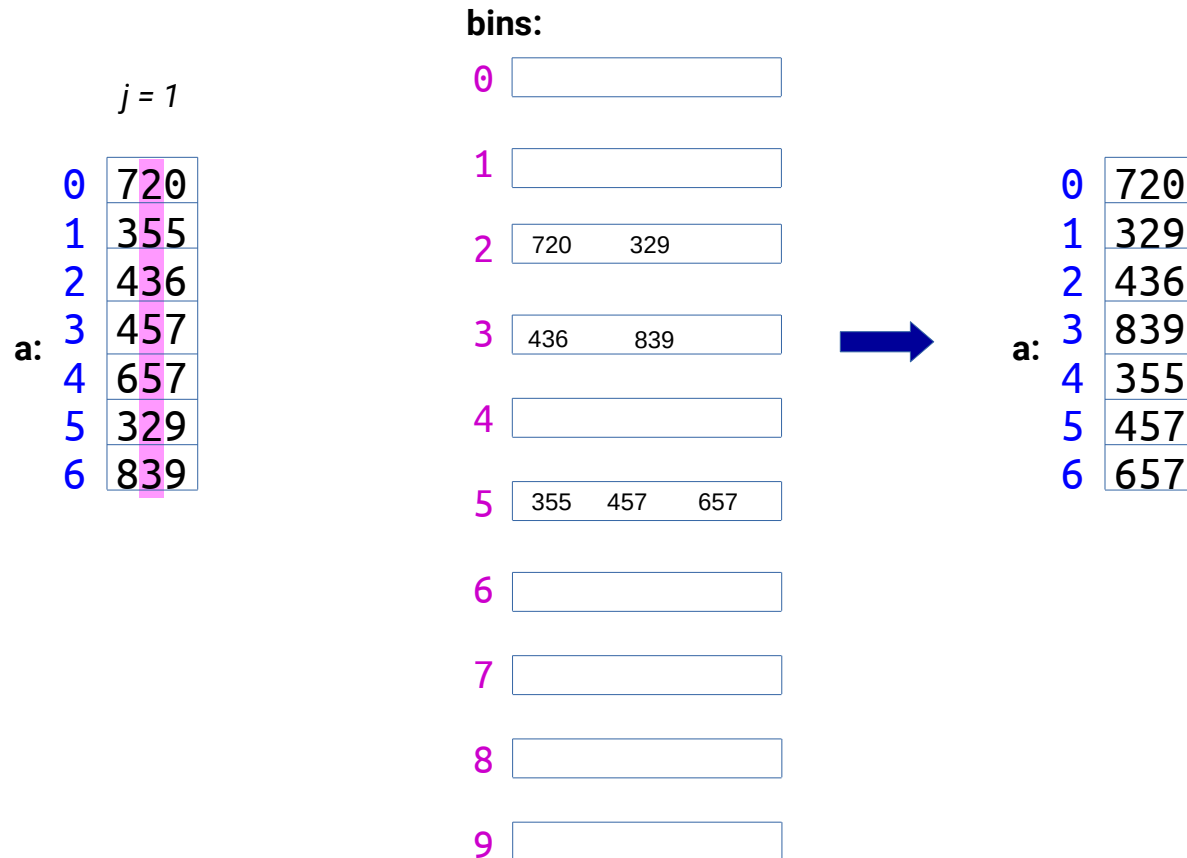
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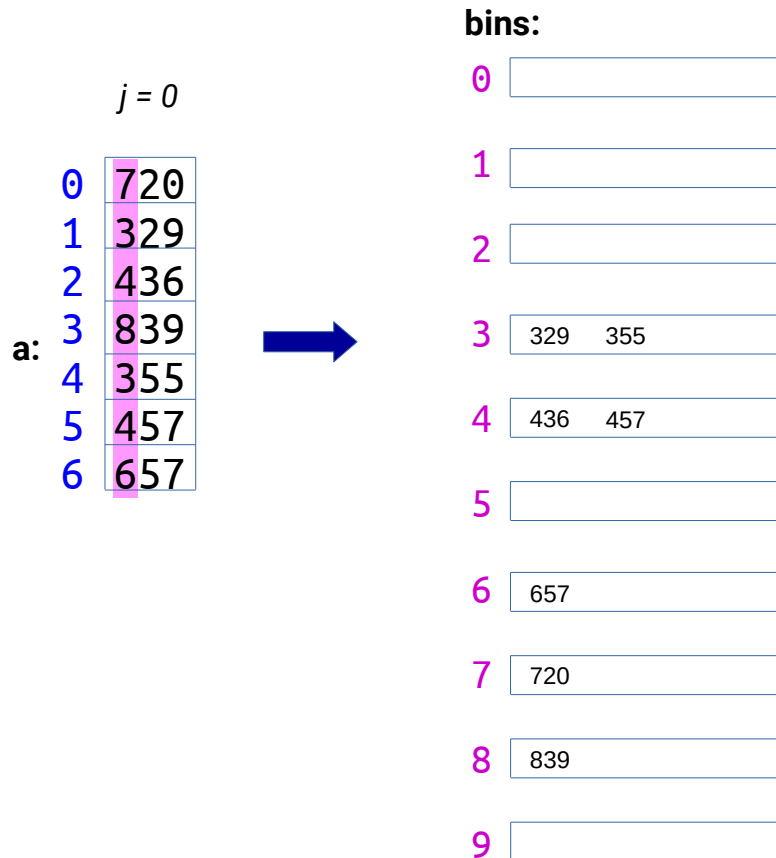
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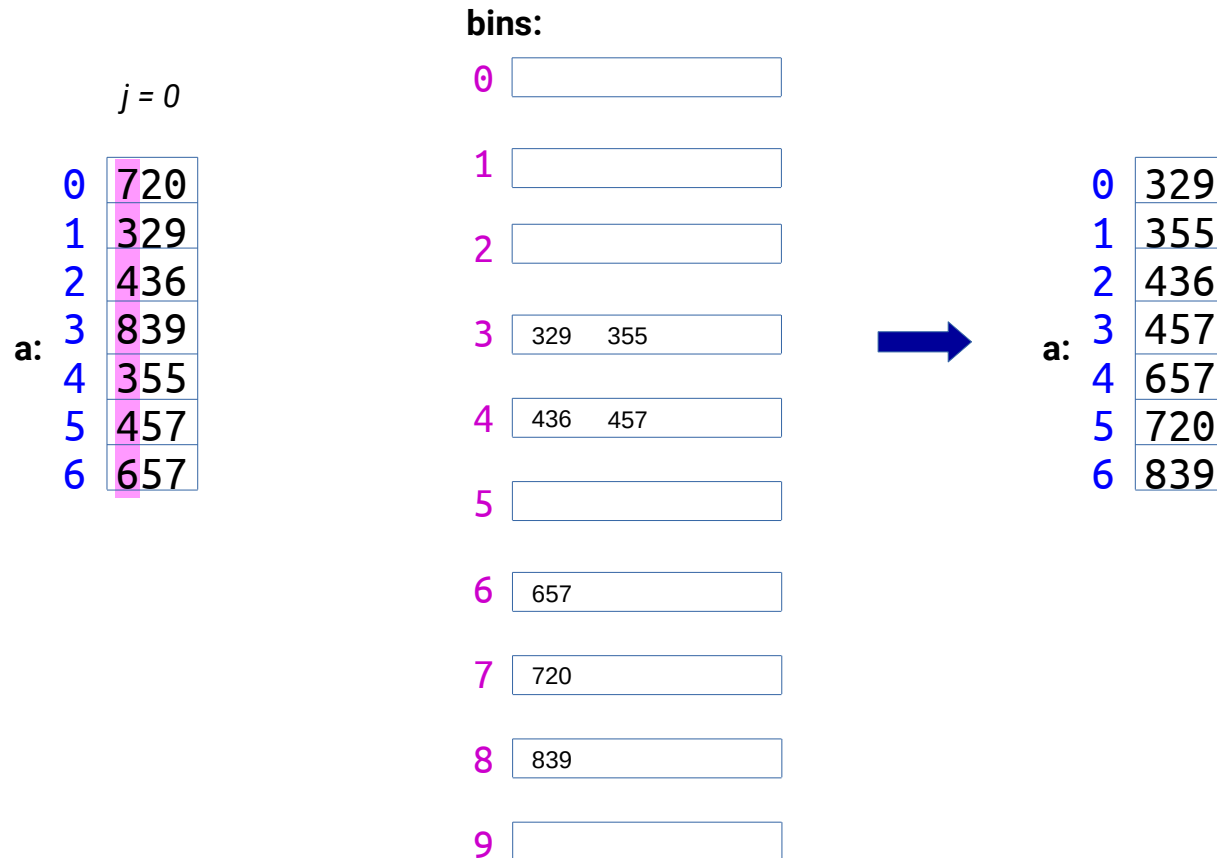


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$O(n*d)$  for  $n$  numbers of  $d$  digits

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# Exercise

**Implement the RadixSort algorithm to sort a vector of n strings.**

**input:**

```
std::vector<std::string> v = {"COW", "DOG", "SEA", "RUG", "ROW", "MOB", "BOX", "TAB", "BAR", "EAR", "TAR", "DIG", "BIG", "TEA", "NOW", "FOX"};
```

**output:**

BAR BIG BOX COW DIG DOG EAR FOX MOB NOW ROW RUG SEA TAB TAR TEA

**Notes/Hints:**

- You are free to use C++ or Python! :-)
- You can assume all strings have the same number of chars!
- To ease the work, consider only uppercase letters (or only lowercase letters)
- In C++, you could create the bins as written below.

```
using Bins = std::map<char, std::vector<std::string>>;  
Bins bins;
```
- How many pairs (char, std::vector) in the map (how many bins) should be initialized in the map before starting to sort the vector?
- Remember to clean the bins in your map after each iteration.
  - For C++ users, you can use `bins[c].clear()` to remove all elements from the bin of letter c.