

sort colors

↳ Red, green, blue
↓ ↓ ↓
0 1 2

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} [1, 1, 0, 2, 0, 2] \leftarrow \text{Input} \\ [0, 0, 1, 1, 2, 2] \leftarrow \text{output} \end{array} \right.$

1) MergeSort/QuickSort

↳ $\Theta(n \log n)$

Optimized approach

2) Two pointers — $P_0 \rightarrow$ to store 0's in extreme left
— $P_2 \rightarrow$ to store 2's in extreme right
 $n \rightarrow$ size of an array

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} P_0 = 0 \\ P_2 = 5 \end{array} \right.$

0 1 2 3 4 5
[2, 0, 2, 1, 1, 0]
↑

$\Theta(n)$

$P_0, \text{curr} = 0$

$P_2 = n - 1$

while $\text{curr} \leq P_2$:

if $\text{nums}(\text{curr}) == 0$:

Swap($\text{nums}(\text{curr})$, $\text{nums}(P_0)$)

$P_0 += 1$

$\text{curr} += 1$

elif nums[curr] == 2:

swap(nums[curr], nums[p2])

p2 -= 1

else:

curr += 1

return nums