

Fundamental Algorithms 4

Exercise 1

Consider the algorithm

```
CountingSort(A: Array[1..n], N:Integer) {  
  for i from 1 to n do {  
    C[A[i]] := C[A[i]] + 1  
  }  
  for i from 2 to N do {  
    C[i] := C[i] + C[i-1]  
  }  
  for i from n downto 1 to {  
    B[C[A[i]]] := A[i];  
    C[A[i]] := C[A[i]] - 1  
  }  
  for i from 1 to n do {  
    A[i] := B[i]  
  }  
}.
```

CountingSort will sort the array A , if all array elements are between 1 and N .

- (a) for the input array $[6, 3, 7, 5, 4, 3, 3, 2, 8, 9, 1, 6]$, and $N = 9$, specify the contents of the arrays B and C
- after the first for-loop;
 - after the second for-loop;
 - after each of the first three iterations of the third loop;
 - after finishing the third loop.

- (b) compute the number of arithmetic operations of CountingSort depending on the values of n and N .
- (c) in the third for-loop, replace the statement 'for i from n downto 1 do' by 'for i from 1 to n do'. Show that the algorithm is still correct. What is the difference between the two versions?

Solution:

- (a) After the first for-loop, the array C will contain the number of occurrences of each value in the array $[6, 3, 7, 5, 4, 3, 3, 2, 8, 9, 1, 6]$:

$$C = [1, 1, 3, 1, 1, 2, 1, 1, 1]$$

After the second for-loop, each element $C[i]$ will contain the number of elements in A that are smaller or equal to i :

$$C = [1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12]$$

The third loop will copy the elements from A into their correct positions in array B . The contents of B and C will be

– after the first iteration:

$$B = [*, *, *, *, *, *, *, *, 6, *, *, *], \quad C = [1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12]$$

– after the second iteration:

$$B = [1, *, *, *, *, *, *, *, 6, *, *, *], \quad C = [0, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12]$$

– after the third iteration:

$$B = [1, *, *, *, *, *, *, *, 6, *, *, 9], \quad C = [0, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 11]$$

The $*$ indicates that the respective value will depend on the initialization of the array B (the initial values of the array B are not explicitly defined in the algorithm). After the third for-loop has finished, the contents of B will be the sorted array: $B = [1, 2, 3, 3, 3, 4, 5, 6, 6, 7, 8, 9]$

- (b) There are three loops over all elements (n iterations) plus one loop of the possible element values ($N - 1$ iterations). Hence, the number of arithmetic operations is $\Theta(N) + \Theta(n) = \Theta(N + n)$.
- (c) The final array will be sorted regardless of the sequence of loop executions. However, if the loop is executed as given on the worksheet, the elements retain their relative order – i.e., elements with the same values will stay in the same relative order. For a loop 'for i from 1 to n do', their relative order will be exactly inverted.