

# Worksheet: Parallelizing the Split step in Radix Sort

The Radix Sort algorithm loops over the bits in the binary representation of the keys, starting at the lowest bit, and executes a split operation for each bit as shown below. The split operation packs the keys with a 0 in the corresponding bit to the bottom of a vector, and packs the keys with a 1 to the top of the same vector. It maintains the order within both groups.

The sort works because each split operation sorts the keys with respect to the current bit and maintains the sorted order of all the lower bits. Your task is to show how the split operation (complete I-down) can be performed in parallel

		[101 111 011 001 100 010 111 010]
1.A =	[5 7 3 1 4 2 7 2]	
2.A<0> =	[1 1 1 1 0 0 1 0]	//lowest bit
3.A←split(A,A<0>) =	[4 2 2 5 7 3 1 7]	
4.A<1> =	[0 1 1 0 1 1 0 1]	// middle bit
5.A←split(A,A<1>) =	[4 5 1 2 2 7 3 7]	
6.A<2> =	[1 1 0 0 0 1 0 1]	// highest bit
7.A←split(A,A<2>) =	[1 2 2 3 4 5 7 7]	

procedure split(A, Flags)											
I-down ←											
I-up ← <b>rev(n - scan(+, rev(Flags)) // rev = reverse</b>											
in parallel for each index <i>i</i>											
if (Flags[ <i>i</i> ])											
Index[ <i>i</i> ] ← I-up[ <i>i</i> ]											
else											
Index[ <i>i</i> ] ← I-down[ <i>i</i> ]											
result ← permute(A, Index)											
<hr/>											
A	=	[	5	7	3	1	4	2	7	2	]
Flags	=	[	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	]
I-down	=	[	0	0	0	0	<span style="border: 1px solid black;">0</span>	<span style="border: 1px solid black;">1</span>	2	<span style="border: 1px solid black;">2</span>	]
I-up	=	[	<span style="border: 1px solid black;">3</span>	<span style="border: 1px solid black;">4</span>	<span style="border: 1px solid black;">5</span>	<span style="border: 1px solid black;">6</span>	6	6	<span style="border: 1px solid black;">7</span>	7	]
Index	=	[	3	4	5	6	0	1	7	2	]
permute(A, Index)	=	[	4	2	2	5	7	3	1	7	]

FIGURE 1.9  
The split operation packs the elements with a 0 in the corresponding flag position to the bottom of a vector, and packs the elements with a 1 to the top of the same vector. The permute writes each element of A to the index specified by the corresponding position in Index.

