CS61B Lecture #22: Hashing
Speeding Up Searching

• Linear search is OK for small data sets, bad for large.

• So linear search would be OK if we could rapidly narrow the search to a few items.

• Suppose that in constant time we could put any item in our data set into a numbered bucket, where # buckets stays within a constant factor of # keys.

• Suppose also that buckets contain roughly equal numbers of keys.

• Then search would be constant time in number of comparisons.
Hash functions

- To do this, must have way to convert key to bucket number: a hash function.

  “hash /ˈhæʃ/ 2a a mixture; a jumble. b a mess.” Concise Oxford Dictionary, eighth edition

- Example:
  - $N = 200$ data items.
  - keys are longs, evenly spread over the range $0..2^{63} - 1$.
  - Want to keep maximum search to $L = 2$ items.
  - Use hash function $h(K) = K \% M$, where $M = N/L = 100$ is the number of buckets: $0 \leq h(K) < M$.
  - So 100232, 433, and 10002332482 go into different buckets, but 10, 400210, and 210 all go into the same bucket.
External chaining

- Array of $M$ buckets.
- Each bucket is a list of data items.

- Not all buckets have same length, but average is $N/M = L$, the load factor.
- To work well, hash function must avoid too many collisions: keys that “hash” to equal values.
Ditching the Chains: Open Addressing

- Idea: Put one data item in each bucket.
- When there is a collision, and bucket is full, just use another.
- Various ways to do this:
  - Linear probes: If there is a collision at \(h(K)\), try \(h(K)+m, h(K)+2m, \ldots\) (wrap around at end), until you find an empty bucket.
  - Quadratic probes: \(h(K) + 1 \cdot m, h(K) + 2^2 \cdot m, h(K) + 3^2 \cdot m, \ldots\)
  - Double hashing: \(h(K) + h'(K), h(K) + 2h'(K), \ldots\)
- Example: \(h(K) = K\%M\), with \(M = 10\), linear probes with \(m = 1\).
  - Add 1, 2, 11, 3, 102, 9, 18, 108, 309 to empty table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>108</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>102</th>
<th>309</th>
<th>18</th>
<th>9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- Things can get slow, even when table is far from full.
- Lots of literature on this technique, but
- Personally, I just settle for external chaining.
Filling the Table

• To get (likely to be) constant-time lookup, need to keep #buckets within constant factor of #items.

• So resize table when load factor gets higher than some limit.

• In general, must re-hash all table items.

• Still, this operation constant time per item,

• So by doubling table size each time, get constant amortized time for insertion and lookup

• (Assuming, that is, that our hash function is good).
Hash Functions: Strings

- For String, \(s_0 s_1 \cdots s_{n-1}\) want function that takes all characters and their positions into account.
- What’s wrong with \(s_0 + s_1 + \ldots + s_{n-1}\)?
- For strings, Java uses
  \[
  h(s) = s_0 \cdot 31^{n-1} + s_1 \cdot 31^{n-2} + \ldots + s_{n-1}
  \]
  computed modulo \(2^{32}\) as in Java int arithmetic.
- To convert to a table index in \(0..N-1\), compute \(h(s) \% N\) (but don’t use table size that is multiple of 31!)
- Not as hard to compute as you might think; don’t even need multiplication!

```java
int r; r = 0;
for (int i = 0; i < s.length (); i += 1)
    r = (r << 5) - r + s.charAt (i);
```
**Hash Functions: Other Data Structures I**

- **Lists** (ArrayList, LinkedList, etc.) are analogous to strings: e.g., Java uses

  ```java
  hashCode = 1; Iterator i = list.iterator();
  while (i.hasNext()) {
      Object obj = i.next();
      hashCode =
          31*hashCode
          + (obj==null ? 0 : obj.hashCode());
  }
  ```

- Can limit time spent computing hash function by not looking at entire list. For example: look only at first few items (if dealing with a List or SortedSet).

- Causes more collisions, but does **not** cause equal things to go to different buckets.
Hash Functions: Other Data Structures II

- Recursively defined data structures ⇒ recursively defined hash functions.

- For example, on a binary tree, one can use something like

```java
hash(T):
    if (T == null)
        return 0;
    else return someHashFunction (T.label ()) ^ hash(T.left ()) ^ hash(T.right ());
```
Identity Hash Functions

• Can use address of object ("hash on identity") if distinct (\(!=\)) objects are never considered equal.

• But careful! Won’t work for Strings, because .\(\text{equals}\) Strings could be in different buckets:

  ```java
  String H = "Hello",
  S1 = H + ", world!",
  S2 = "Hello, world!";
  ```

• Here \(\text{S1.equals(S2)}, \text{but S1 \(!=\) S2.}\)
What Java Provides

• In class Object, is function `hashCode()`.
• By default, returns the identity hash function, or something similar. [Why is this OK as a default?]
• Can override it for your particular type.
• For reasons given on last slide, is overridden for type `String`, as well as many types in the Java library, like all kinds of List.
• The types Hashtable, HashSet, and HashMap use `hashCode` to give you fast look-up of objects.

```java
HashMap<KeyType,ValueType> map =
    new HashMap<>(approximate size, load factor);
map.put(key, value);       // Map KEY -> VALUE.
... map.get(someKey)       // VALUE last mapped to by SOMEKEY.
... map.containsKey(someKey) // Is SOMEKEY mapped?
... map.keySet()           // All keys in MAP (a Set)
```
Special Case: Monotonic Hash Functions

- Suppose our hash function is *monotonic*: either nonincreasing or nondecreasing.

- So, e.g., if key $k_1 > k_2$, then $h(k_1) \geq h(k_2)$.

- Example:
  - Items are time-stamped records; key is the time.
  - Hashing function is to have one bucket for every hour.

- In this case, you *can* use a hash table to speed up range queries.

- Could this be applied to strings? When would it work well?
Perfect Hashing

- Suppose set of keys is **fixed**.

- A tailor-made hash function might then hash every key to a different value: *perfect hashing*.

- In that case, there is no search along a chain or in an open-address table: either the element at the hash value is or is not equal to the target key.

- For example, might use first, middle, and last letters of a string (read as a 3-digit base-26 numeral). Would work if those letters differ among all strings in the set.

- Or might use the Java method, but tweak the multipliers until all strings gave different results.
Characteristics

- Assuming good hash function, add, lookup, deletion take $\Theta(1)$ time, amortized.

- Good for cases where one looks up \textit{equal} keys.

- Usually bad for range queries: “Give me every name between Martin and Napoli.” [Why?]

- Hashing is probably not a good idea for small sets that you rapidly create and discard [why?]