Hashing

CSE 373
Data Structures
Winter 2007

Readings

- Reading
  - Chapter 5

The Need for Speed

- Data structures we have looked at so far
  - Use comparison operations to find items
  - Need O(log N) time for Find and Insert
- In real world applications, N is typically between 100 and 100,000 (or more)
  - log N is between 6.6 and 16.6
- Maps and their implementation as Hash tables are an abstract data type designed for O(1) Find and Inserts

The Map ADT

- Usual: `size()` and `isEmpty()`
- Search: `find(k)` (or `get(k)`) returns v
- Add an entry: `insert(k,v)` (or `put(k,v)`)
- Delete an entry: `delete(k)` (or `remove(k)`) returns v
- The cases where for insert/delete when the key is already there/not there

Fewer Functions Faster

- compare lists and stacks
  - by reducing the flexibility of what we are allowed to do, we can increase the performance of the remaining operations
  - insert(L,X) into a list versus push(S,X) onto a stack
- compare bst's and hash tables
  - trees provide for known ordering of all elements
  - maps just let you (quickly) find an element but can't list elements in order "fast"

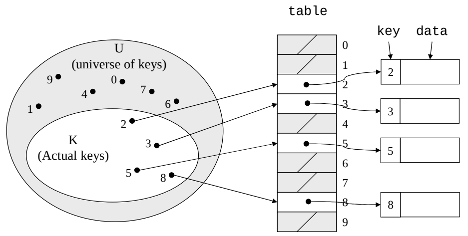
Limited Set of Map Operations

- For many applications, a limited set of operations is all that is needed
  - Insert, Find, and Delete
  - Note that no ordering of elements is implied
- For example, a compiler needs to maintain information about the symbols in a program
  - user defined
  - language keywords

Direct Address Tables

- Direct addressing using an array is very fast
- Assume
  - keys are integers in the set U={0,1,…*m*-1}
  - *m* is small
  - no two elements have the same key
- Then just store each element at the array location array[key] (a bucket for the key)
  - search, insert, and delete are trivial

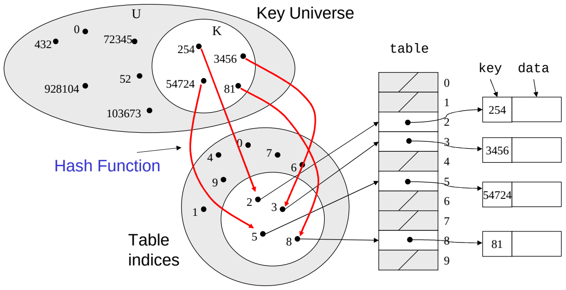
Direct Access Table



An Issue

- If most keys in U are used
  - direct addressing can work very well (m small)
- The largest possible key in U , say m, may be much larger than the number of elements actually stored (|U| much greater than |K|)
  - the table is very sparse and wastes space
  - in worst case, table too large to have in memory
- If most keys in U are not used
  - need to map U to a smaller set closer in size to K

Mapping the Keys



Hashing Schemes

- We want to store N items in a table of size M, at a location computed from the key K
- Hash function
  - Method for computing table index from key
- Need of a collision resolution strategy
  - How to handle two keys that hash to the same index

"Find" an Element in an Array

Key element

- Data records can be stored in arrays.
  - A[0] = {"CHEM 110", Size 89}
  - A[3] = {"CSE 142", Size 251}
  - A[17] = {"CSE 373", Size 42}
- Class size for CSE 373?
  - Linear search the array – O(N) worst case time
  - Binary search - O(log N) worst case

Go Directly to the Element

- What if we could directly index into the array using the key?
  - › A[“CSE 373”] = {Size 42}
- Main idea behind hash tables
  - › Use a key based on some aspect of the data to index directly into an array
  - › O(1) time to access records

Indexing into Hash Table

- Need a fast *hash function* to convert the element key (string or number) to an integer (the *hash value*) (i.e, map from U to index)
  - › Then use this value to index into an array
  - › Hash(“CSE 373”) = 157, Hash(“CSE 143”) = 101
- Output of the hash function
  - › must always be less than size of array
  - › should be as evenly distributed as possible

Choosing the Hash Function

- What properties do we want from a hash function?
  - › Want universe of hash values to be distributed randomly to minimize collisions
  - › Don’t want systematic nonrandom pattern in selection of keys to lead to systematic collisions
  - › Want hash value to depend on all values in entire key and their positions

The Key Values are Important

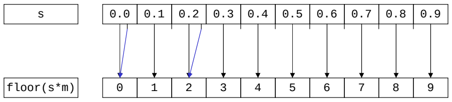
- Notice that one issue with all the hash functions is that the actual content of the key set matters
- The elements in K (the keys that are used) are quite possibly a restricted subset of U, not just a random collection
  - › variable names, words in the English language, reserved keywords, telephone numbers, etc, etc

Simple Hashes

- It's possible to have very simple hash functions if you are certain of your keys
- For example,
  - › suppose we know that the keys *s* will be real numbers uniformly distributed over $0 \le s < 1$
  - › Then a very fast, very good hash function is
    - hash(s) = floor($s \cdot m$)
    - where *m* is the size of the table

Example of a Very Simple Mapping

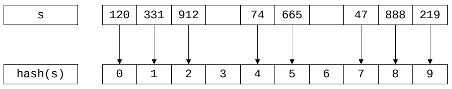
- hash(s) = floor($s \cdot m$) maps from $0 \le s < 1$ to 0..m-1
  - › m = 10



Note the even distribution. There are collisions, but we will deal with them later.

Perfect Hashing

- In some cases it's possible to map a known set of keys uniquely to a set of index values
- You must know every single key beforehand and be able to derive a function that works *one-to-one*



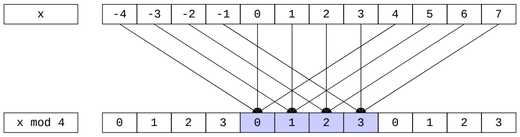
s	120	331	912		74	665		47	888	219
hash(s)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Mod Hash Function

- One solution for a less constrained key set
  - › modular arithmetic
- a **`mod`** `size`
  - › remainder when "a" is divided by "size"
  - › in Java this is written as **`r = a % size;`**
  - › If TableSize = 251
    - 408 mod 251 = 157
    - 352 mod 251 = 101

Modulo Mapping

- *a* mod *m* maps from integers to 0..m-1
  - › one to one? no
  - › onto? Yes (for every bucket there is a possible key)



x	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
x mod 4	0	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	0	1	2	3

Hashing Integers

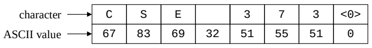
- If keys are integers, we can use the hash function:
  - › Hash(key) = key mod TableSize
- Problem 1: What if TableSize is 11 and all keys are 2 repeated digits? (eg, 22, 33, …)
  - › all keys map to the same index
  - › Need to pick TableSize carefully: often, a prime number

Nonnumerical Keys

- Many hash functions assume that the universe of keys is the natural numbers **N**={0,1,…}
- Need to find a function to convert the actual key to a natural number quickly and effectively before or during the hash calculation
- Generally work with the ASCII character codes when converting strings to numbers

Characters to Integers

- If keys are strings can get an integer by adding up ASCII values of characters in *key*
- We are converting a very large string $c_0c_1c_2 \ldots c_n$ to a relatively small number $c_0+c_1+c_2+\ldots+c_n$ mod size.



character	C	S	E		3	7	3	<0>
ASCII value	67	83	69	32	51	55	51	0

Hash Must be Onto Table

- Problem 2: What if *TableSize* is 10,000 and all keys are 8 or less characters long?
  - chars have values between 0 and 127
  - Keys will hash only to positions 0 through 8*127 = 1016
- Need to distribute keys over the entire table or the extra space is wasted

Problems with Adding Characters

- Problems with adding up character values for string keys
  - If string keys are short, will not hash evenly to all of the hash table
  - Different character combinations hash to same value
    - “abc”, “bca”, and “cab” all add up to the same value (recall this was Problem 1)

Characters as Integers

- An character string can be thought of as a base 256 number. The string $c_1c_2\ldots c_n$ can be thought of as the number
  $c_n + 256c_{n-1} + 256^2c_{n-2} + \ldots + 256^{n-1}c_1$
- Use Horner’s Rule to Hash!

```
r= 0;
for i = 1 to n do
r := (c[i] + 256*r) mod TableSize
```

Collisions

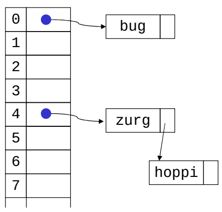
- A collision occurs when two different keys hash to the same value
  - E.g. For *TableSize* = 17, the keys 18 and 35 hash to the same value for the mod17 hash function
  - 18 mod 17 = 1 and 35 mod 17 = 1
- Cannot store both data records in the same slot in array!

Collision Resolution

- Separate Chaining
  - Use data structure (such as a linked list) to store multiple items that hash to the same slot
- Open addressing (or probing)
  - search for empty slots , e.g., using a second function and store item in first empty slot that is found

Resolution by Chaining

- Each hash table cell holds pointer to linked list of records with same hash value
- Collision: Insert item into linked list
- To Find an item: compute hash value, then do Find on linked list
- Note that there are potentially as many as TableSize lists



Why Lists?

- Can use List ADT for Find/Insert/Delete in linked list
  - O(M) runtime where M is the number of elements in the particular chain
- Can also use Binary Search Trees
  - O(log M) time instead of O(M)
  - But the number of elements to search through, M, should be small (otherwise the hashing function is bad or the table is too small)
  - generally not worth the overhead of BSTs

Load Factor of a Hash Table

- Let N = number of items to be stored
- Load factor λ = N/TableSize
  - TableSize = 101 and N =505, then $\lambda = 5$
  - TableSize = 101 and N = 10, then $\lambda = 0.1$
- Average length of chained list = λ and so average time for accessing an item = O(1) + O(λ)
  - Want λ to be smaller than 1 but close to 1 if good hashing function (i.e. TableSize $\approx$ N)
  - With chaining hashing continues to work for $\lambda > 1$

Resolution by Open Addressing

- No links, all keys are in the table
  - reduced overhead saves space
- When searching for **X**, check locations $h_1(X)$, $h_2(X)$, $h_3(X)$, … until either
  - **X** is found; or
  - we find an empty location (**X** not present)
- Various flavors of open addressing differ in which probe sequence they use

Cell Full? Keep Looking.

- $h_i(X)=(Hash(X)+F(i)) \bmod TableSize$
  - Define F(0) = 0
- F is the collision resolution function. Some possibilities:
  - Linear: F(i) = i
  - Quadratic: F(i) = i^2
  - Double Hashing: F(i) = i·$Hash_2$(X)

Linear Probing

- When searching for **K**, check locations `h(K), h(K)+1, h(K)+2, …` mod TableSize until either
  - **K** is found; or
  - we find an empty location (**K** not present)
- If table is very sparse, almost like separate chaining.
- When table starts filling, we get clustering but still constant average search time.
- Full table ⇒ infinite loop.

Primary Clustering Problem

- Once a block of a few contiguous occupied positions emerges in table, it becomes a “target” for subsequent collisions
- As clusters grow, they also merge to form larger clusters.
- Primary clustering: elements that hash to different cells probe same alternative cells

Quadratic Probing

- When searching for `X`, check locations $h_1(X)$, $h_1(X)+1^2$, $h_1(X)+2^2$,… `mod TableSize` until either
  - `X` is found; or
  - we find an empty location (`X` not present)
- No primary clustering but secondary clustering possible

Double Hashing

- When searching for `X`, check locations $h_1(X)$, $h_1(X)+h_2(X)$, $h_1(X)+2*h_2(X)$,… `mod Tablesize` until either
  - `X` is found; or
  - we find an empty location (`X` not present)
- Must be careful about $h_2(X)$
  - Not 0 and not a divisor of `M`
  - eg, $h_1(k) = k \bmod m_1$, $h_2(k)=1+(k \bmod m_2)$ where m_2 is slightly less than m_1

Rules of Thumb

- Separate chaining is simple but wastes space…
- Linear probing uses space better, is fast when tables are sparse
- Double hashing is space efficient, fast (get initial hash and increment at the same time), needs careful implementation
- For average cost (i.e., number of comparisons) of about t
  - Max load for Linear Probing is $1-1/\sqrt{t}$
  - Max load for Double Hashing is $1-1/t$

Rehashing – Rebuild the Table

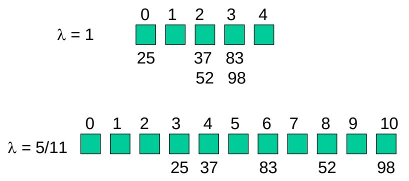
- Need to use lazy deletion if we use probing (why?)
  - Need to mark array slots as deleted after Delete
  - consequently, deleting doesn't make the table any less full than it was before the delete
- If table gets too full ($\lambda \approx 1$) or if many deletions have occurred, running time gets too long and Inserts may fail

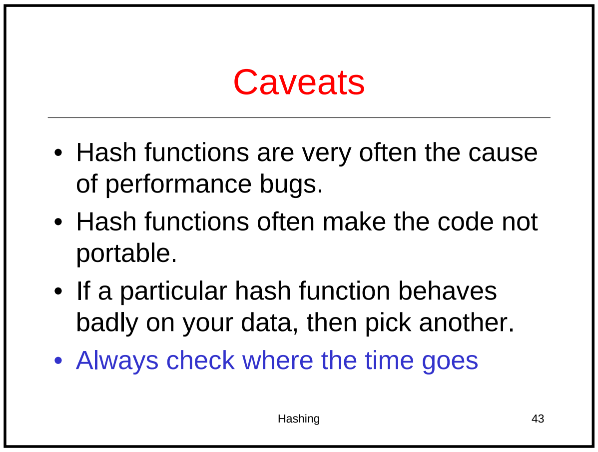
Rehashing

- Build a bigger hash table of approximately twice the size when λ exceeds a particular value
  - Go through old hash table, ignoring items marked deleted
  - Recompute hash value for each non-deleted key and put the item in new position in new table
  - Cannot just copy data from old table because the bigger table has a new hash function
- Running time is O(N) but happens very infrequently

Rehashing Example

- Open hashing – $h_1(x) = x \bmod 5$ rehashes to $h_2(x) = x \bmod 11$.





Caveats

- Hash functions are very often the cause of performance bugs.
- Hash functions often make the code not portable.
- If a particular hash function behaves badly on your data, then pick another.
- Always check where the time goes