CS61B Lecture #24: Hashing
Back to Simple Search

- 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 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.
Hash functions

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

  "hash /hæʃ/ 2 a 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.

![Diagram of external chaining]

- Not all buckets have same length, but average is $N/M = L$, the load factor.
- To work well, hash function must avoid 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 $h(K) + m$, $h(K) + 2m$, etc. (wrap around at end).
  - Quadratic probes: $h(K) + m$, $h(K) + m^2$, …
  - Double hashing: $h(K) + h'(K)$, $h(K) + 2h'(K)$, etc.
- 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>
</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 \textit{re-hash} all table items.
- Still, this operation constant time per item,
- So by doubling table size each time, get constant \textit{amortized} time for insertion and lookup
- (Assuming, that is, that our hash function is good).
Hash Functions: Strings

- For String, "s_0s_1\ldots 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 $\Rightarrow$ 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 .equals Strings could be in different buckets:

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

- Here S1.equals(S2), 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 nondescreasing.

• 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 [How?]

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

• Suppose set of keys is \textit{fixed}.

• A tailor-made hash function might then hash every key to a different value: \textit{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 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?]
Comparing Search Structures

Here, $N$ is #items, $k$ is #answers to query.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Unordered List</th>
<th>Sorted Array</th>
<th>Bushy Search Tree</th>
<th>“Good” Hash Table</th>
<th>Heap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>find</td>
<td>$\Theta(N)$</td>
<td>$\Theta(lg N)$</td>
<td>$\Theta(lg N)$</td>
<td>$\Theta(1)$</td>
<td>$\Theta(N)$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>add (amortized)</td>
<td>$\Theta(1)$</td>
<td>$\Theta(N)$</td>
<td>$\Theta(lg N)$</td>
<td>$\Theta(1)$</td>
<td>$\Theta(lg N)$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>range query</td>
<td>$\Theta(N)$</td>
<td>$\Theta(k + lg N)$</td>
<td>$\Theta(k + lg N)$</td>
<td>$\Theta(N)$</td>
<td>$\Theta(N)$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>find largest</td>
<td>$\Theta(N)$</td>
<td>$\Theta(1)$</td>
<td>$\Theta(lg N)$</td>
<td>$\Theta(N)$</td>
<td>$\Theta(1)$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>remove largest</td>
<td>$\Theta(N)$</td>
<td>$\Theta(1)$</td>
<td>$\Theta(lg N)$</td>
<td>$\Theta(N)$</td>
<td>$\Theta(lg N)$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>