



# CSE 332: Data Abstractions

## Lecture 11: More Hashing

Ruth Anderson

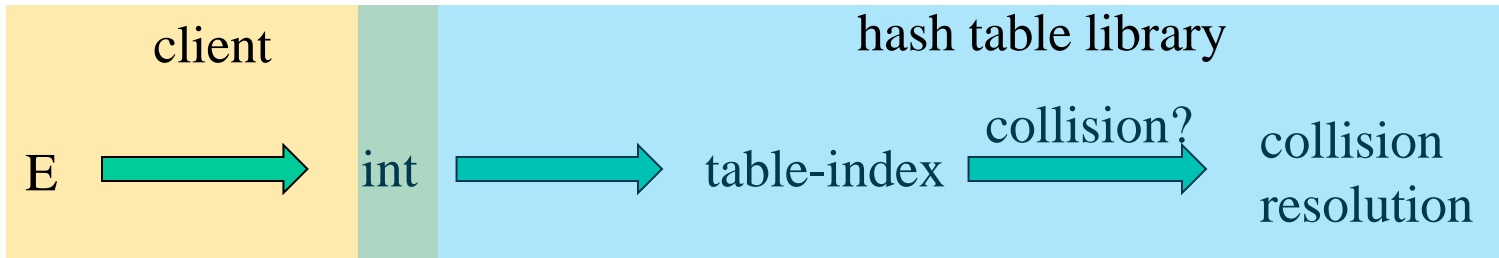
Spring 2014

# *Today*

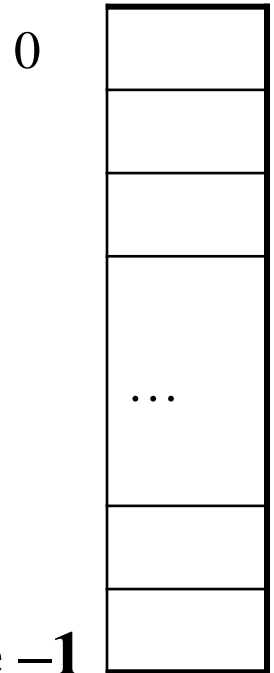
- Dictionaries
  - Hashing

# Hash Tables: Review

- Aim for constant-time (i.e.,  $O(1)$ ) **find**, **insert**, and **delete**
  - “On average” under some reasonable **assumptions**
- A hash table is an array of some fixed size
  - But growable as we’ll see



**hash table**



# *Hashing Choices*

1. Choose a Hash function
  2. Choose TableSize
  3. Choose a Collision Resolution Strategy from these:
    - Separate Chaining
    - Open Addressing
      - Linear Probing
      - Quadratic Probing
      - Double Hashing
- Other issues to consider:
    - Deletion?
    - What to do when the hash table gets “too full”?

# Open Addressing: Linear Probing

- Why not use up the empty space in the table?
- Store directly in the array cell (no linked list)
- How to deal with collisions?
- If  $h(\text{key})$  is already full,
  - try  $(h(\text{key}) + 1) \% \text{TableSize}$ . If full,
  - try  $(h(\text{key}) + 2) \% \text{TableSize}$ . If full,
  - try  $(h(\text{key}) + 3) \% \text{TableSize}$ . If full...
- Example: insert 38, 19, 8, 109, 10

0	/
1	/
2	/
3	/
4	/
5	/
6	/
7	/
8	38
9	/

# Open Addressing: Linear Probing

- Another simple idea: If  $h(\text{key})$  is already full,
  - try  $(h(\text{key}) + 1) \% \text{TableSize}$ . If full,
  - try  $(h(\text{key}) + 2) \% \text{TableSize}$ . If full,
  - try  $(h(\text{key}) + 3) \% \text{TableSize}$ . If full...
- Example: insert 38, 19, 8, 109, 10

0	/
1	/
2	/
3	/
4	/
5	/
6	/
7	/
8	38
9	19

# Open Addressing: Linear Probing

- Another simple idea: If  $h(\text{key})$  is already full,
  - try  $(h(\text{key}) + 1) \% \text{TableSize}$ . If full,
  - try  $(h(\text{key}) + 2) \% \text{TableSize}$ . If full,
  - try  $(h(\text{key}) + 3) \% \text{TableSize}$ . If full...
- Example: insert 38, 19, 8, 109, 10

0	8
1	/
2	/
3	/
4	/
5	/
6	/
7	/
8	38
9	19

# Open Addressing: Linear Probing

- Another simple idea: If  $h(\text{key})$  is already full,
  - try  $(h(\text{key}) + 1) \% \text{TableSize}$ . If full,
  - try  $(h(\text{key}) + 2) \% \text{TableSize}$ . If full,
  - try  $(h(\text{key}) + 3) \% \text{TableSize}$ . If full...
- Example: insert 38, 19, 8, 109, 10

0	8
1	109
2	/
3	/
4	/
5	/
6	/
7	/
8	38
9	19



# Open Addressing: Linear Probing

- Another simple idea: If  $h(\text{key})$  is already full,
  - try  $(h(\text{key}) + 1) \% \text{TableSize}$ . If full,
  - try  $(h(\text{key}) + 2) \% \text{TableSize}$ . If full,
  - try  $(h(\text{key}) + 3) \% \text{TableSize}$ . If full...
- Example: insert 38, 19, 8, 109, 10

0	8
1	109
2	10
3	/
4	/
5	/
6	/
7	/
8	38
9	19

# Open addressing

Linear probing is *one example* of open addressing

In general, **open addressing** means resolving collisions by trying a sequence of other positions in the table.

Trying the *next* spot is called **probing**

– We just did **linear probing**:

- $i^{\text{th}}$  probe:  $(h(\text{key}) + i) \% \text{TableSize}$

– In general have some **probe function  $f$**  and :

- $i^{\text{th}}$  probe:  $(h(\text{key}) + f(i)) \% \text{TableSize}$

Open addressing does poorly with high load factor  $\lambda$

– So want larger tables

– Too many probes means no more  $O(1)$

# *Terminology*

We and the book use the terms

- “chaining” or “separate chaining”
- “open addressing”

Very confusingly,

- “open hashing” is a synonym for “chaining”
- “closed hashing” is a synonym for “open addressing”

# *Open Addressing: Linear Probing*

What about **find**? If value is in table? If not there? Worst case?

What about **delete**?

How does open addressing with linear probing compare to separate chaining?

# Open Addressing: Other Operations

**insert** finds an open table position using a probe function

What about **find**?

- Must use same probe function to “retrace the trail” for the data
- Unsuccessful search when reach empty position

What about **delete**?

- **Must** use “lazy” deletion. Why?
  - Marker indicates “no data here, but don’t stop probing”

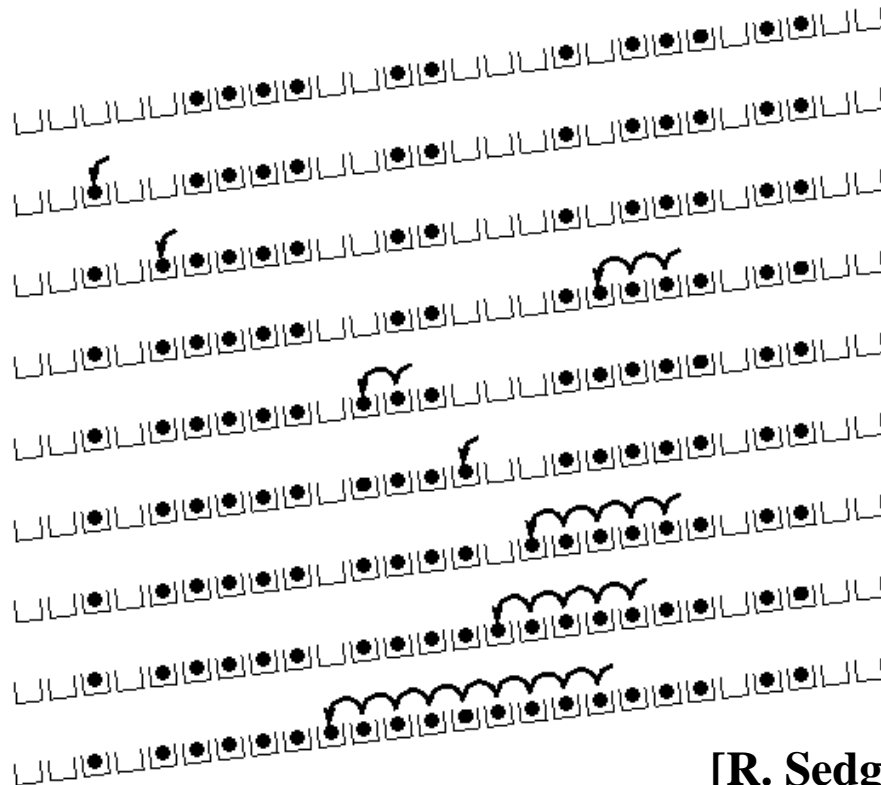
10	x	/	23	/	/	16	x	26
----	---	---	----	---	---	----	---	----

- Note: **delete** with chaining is plain-old list-remove

# Primary Clustering

It turns out linear probing is a *bad idea*, even though the probe function is quick to compute (a good thing)

- Tends to produce *clusters*, which lead to long probe sequences
- Called **primary clustering**
- Saw the start of a cluster in our linear probing example



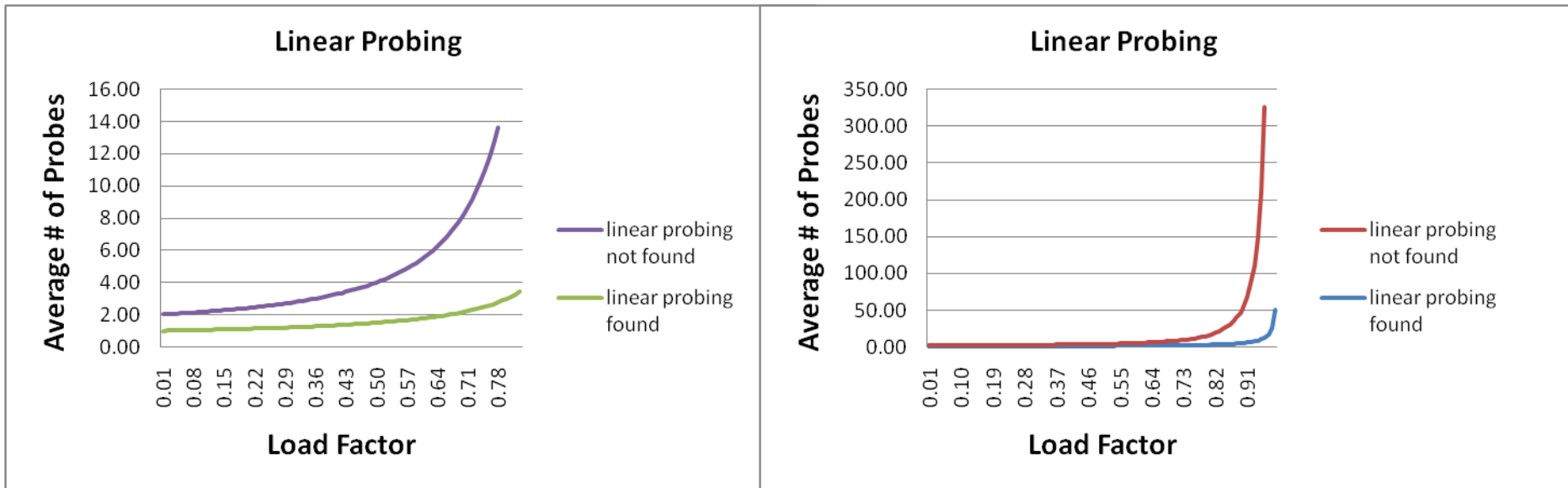
[R. Sedgewick]

# *Analysis of Linear Probing*

- **Trivial fact:** For any  $\lambda < 1$ , linear probing will find an empty slot
  - It is “safe” in this sense: no infinite loop unless table is full
- **Non-trivial facts** we won't prove:  
Average # of probes given  $\lambda$  (in the limit as **TableSize**  $\rightarrow \infty$ )
  - Unsuccessful search:  $\frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{(1-\lambda)^2} \right)$
  - Successful search:  $\frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{(1-\lambda)} \right)$
- This is pretty bad: need to leave sufficient empty space in the table to get decent performance (see chart)

# Analysis in chart form

- Linear-probing performance degrades rapidly as table gets full
  - (Formula assumes “large table” but point remains)



- By comparison, separate chaining performance is linear in  $\lambda$  and has no trouble with  $\lambda > 1$



# Open Addressing: Linear probing

$$(h(\text{key}) + f(i)) \% \text{TableSize}$$

- For linear probing:

$$f(i) = i$$

- So probe sequence is:

- 0<sup>th</sup> probe:  $h(\text{key}) \% \text{TableSize}$
- 1<sup>st</sup> probe:  $(h(\text{key}) + 1) \% \text{TableSize}$
- 2<sup>nd</sup> probe:  $(h(\text{key}) + 2) \% \text{TableSize}$
- 3<sup>rd</sup> probe:  $(h(\text{key}) + 3) \% \text{TableSize}$
- ...
- $i^{\text{th}}$  probe:  $(h(\text{key}) + i) \% \text{TableSize}$

# Open Addressing: Quadratic probing

- We can avoid primary clustering by changing the probe function...

$$(h(\text{key}) + f(i)) \% \text{TableSize}$$

- For quadratic probing:

$$f(i) = i^2$$

- So probe sequence is:

- 0<sup>th</sup> probe:  $h(\text{key}) \% \text{TableSize}$
- 1<sup>st</sup> probe:  $(h(\text{key}) + 1) \% \text{TableSize}$
- 2<sup>nd</sup> probe:  $(h(\text{key}) + 4) \% \text{TableSize}$
- 3<sup>rd</sup> probe:  $(h(\text{key}) + 9) \% \text{TableSize}$
- ...
- $i^{\text{th}}$  probe:  $(h(\text{key}) + i^2) \% \text{TableSize}$

- Intuition: Probes quickly “leave the neighborhood”

ith probe:  $(h(\text{key}) + i^2) \% \text{TableSize}$

## *Quadratic Probing Example*

0	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	

**TableSize=10**

**Insert:**

**89**

**18**

**49**

**58**

**79**

# Quadratic Probing Example

**TableSize = 10**

**insert(89)**

0	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	

# Quadratic Probing Example

**TableSize = 10**

**insert(89)**

**insert(18)**

0	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	89

# Quadratic Probing Example

**TableSize = 10**

**insert(89)**

**insert(18)**

**insert(49)**

0	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	18
9	89

# Quadratic Probing Example

0	49
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	18
9	89

TableSize = 10

insert(89)

insert(18)

insert(49)

$49 \% 10 = 9$  collision!

$(49 + 1) \% 10 = 0$

insert(58)

# Quadratic Probing Example

0	49
1	
2	58
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	18
9	89

TableSize = 10

insert(89)

insert(18)

insert(49)

insert(58)

$58 \% 10 = 8$  collision!

$(58 + 1) \% 10 = 9$  collision!

$(58 + 4) \% 10 = 2$

insert(79)



# Quadratic Probing Example

0	49
1	
2	58
3	79
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	18
9	89

TableSize = 10

insert(89)

insert(18)

insert(49)

insert(58)

insert(79)

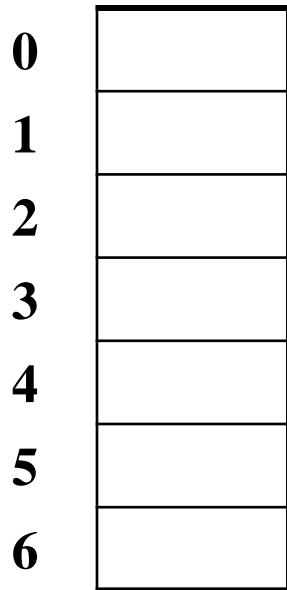
**$79 \% 10 = 9$  collision!**

**$(79 + 1) \% 10 = 0$  collision!**

**$(79 + 4) \% 10 = 3$**

ith probe:  $(h(\text{key}) + i^2) \% \text{TableSize}$

## Another Quadratic Probing Example



**TableSize = 7**

**Insert:**

**76**                    **(76 % 7 = 6)**

**40**                    **(40 % 7 = 5)**

**48**                    **(48 % 7 = 6)**

**5**                      **( 5 % 7 = 5)**

**55**                    **(55 % 7 = 6)**

**47**                    **(47 % 7 = 5)**

$$i\text{th probe: } (h(\text{key}) + i^2) \% \text{ TableSize}$$

## Another Quadratic Probing Example

0	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	76

TableSize = 7

Insert:

**76**                      (**76 % 7 = 6**)

**40**                      (**40 % 7 = 5**)

**48**                      (**48 % 7 = 6**)

**5**                        (**5 % 7 = 5**)

**55**                      (**55 % 7 = 6**)

**47**                      (**47 % 7 = 5**)

ith probe:  $(h(\text{key}) + i^2) \% \text{TableSize}$

## Another Quadratic Probing Example

TableSize = 7

Insert:

0		76	$(76 \% 7 = 6)$
1		40	$(40 \% 7 = 5)$
2		48	$(48 \% 7 = 6)$
3		5	$(5 \% 7 = 5)$
4		55	$(55 \% 7 = 6)$
5	40	47	$(47 \% 7 = 5)$
6	76		

$$i\text{th probe: } (h(\text{key}) + i^2) \% \text{ TableSize}$$

## Another Quadratic Probing Example

TableSize = 7

Insert:

0	48		
1		76	(76 % 7 = 6)
2		40	(40 % 7 = 5)
3		48	(48 % 7 = 6)
4		5	(5 % 7 = 5)
5	40	55	(55 % 7 = 6)
6	76	47	(47 % 7 = 5)

ith probe:  $(h(\text{key}) + i^2) \% \text{TableSize}$

## Another Quadratic Probing Example

TableSize = 7

Insert:

0	48		
1		76	$(76 \% 7 = 6)$
2	5	40	$(40 \% 7 = 5)$
3		48	$(48 \% 7 = 6)$
4		5	$(5 \% 7 = 5)$
5	40	55	$(55 \% 7 = 6)$
6	76	47	$(47 \% 7 = 5)$

ith probe:  $(h(\text{key}) + i^2) \% \text{TableSize}$

## Another Quadratic Probing Example

TableSize = 7

Insert:

0	48		
1		76	$(76 \% 7 = 6)$
2	5	40	$(40 \% 7 = 5)$
3	55	48	$(48 \% 7 = 6)$
4		5	$(5 \% 7 = 5)$
5	40	55	$(55 \% 7 = 6)$
6	76	47	$(47 \% 7 = 5)$

ith probe:  $(h(\text{key}) + i^2) \% \text{TableSize}$

## Another Quadratic Probing Example

0	48
1	
2	5
3	55
4	
5	40
6	76

TableSize = 7

Insert:

76  $(76 \% 7 = 6)$

40  $(40 \% 7 = 5)$

48  $(48 \% 7 = 6)$

5  $(5 \% 7 = 5)$

55  $(55 \% 7 = 6)$

47  $(47 \% 7 = 5)$

$(47 + 1) \% 7 = 6$  **collision!**

$(47 + 4) \% 7 = 2$  **collision!**

$(47 + 9) \% 7 = 0$  **collision!**

$(47 + 16) \% 7 = 0$  **collision!**

$(47 + 25) \% 7 = 2$  **collision!**

**Will we ever get a 1 or  
4???**



# Another Quadratic Probing Example

insert(47) will always fail here. Why?

0	48
1	
2	5
3	55
4	
5	40
6	76

**For all  $i$ ,  $(5 + i^2) \% 7$  is 0, 2, 5, or 6**

**Proof uses induction and**

$$(5 + i^2) \% 7 = (5 + (i - 7)^2) \% 7$$

**In fact, for all  $c$  and  $k$ ,**

$$(c + i^2) \% k = (c + (i - k)^2) \% k$$

# *From bad news to good news*

Bad News:

- After **TableSize** quadratic probes, we cycle through the same indices

Good News:

- If **TableSize** is *prime* and  $\lambda < \frac{1}{2}$ , then quadratic probing will find an empty slot in at most **TableSize**/2 probes
- So: If you keep  $\lambda < \frac{1}{2}$  and **TableSize** is *prime*, no need to detect cycles
- Proof posted in **lecture11.txt** (slightly less detailed proof in textbook)
  - For prime **T** and  $0 \leq i, j \leq \mathbf{T}/2$  where  $i \neq j$ ,  
$$(\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{key}) + i^2) \% \mathbf{T} \neq (\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{key}) + j^2) \% \mathbf{T}$$

That is, if **T** is prime, the first **T**/2 quadratic probes map to different locations

# Quadratic Probing:

## Success guarantee for $\lambda < 1/2$

- If size is prime and  $\lambda < 1/2$ , then quadratic probing will find an empty slot in size/2 probes or fewer.

- show for all  $0 \leq i, j \leq \text{size}/2$  and  $i \neq j$

$$(h(x) + i^2) \bmod \text{size} \neq (h(x) + j^2) \bmod \text{size}$$

- by contradiction: suppose that for some  $i \neq j$ :

$$(h(x) + i^2) \bmod \text{size} = (h(x) + j^2) \bmod \text{size}$$

$$\Rightarrow i^2 \bmod \text{size} = j^2 \bmod \text{size}$$

$$\Rightarrow (i^2 - j^2) \bmod \text{size} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow [(i + j)(i - j)] \bmod \text{size} = 0$$

BUT size does not divide  $(i-j)$  or  $(i+j)$

How can  $i+j = 0$  or  $i+j = \text{size}$  when:

$$i \neq j \quad \text{and} \quad 0 \leq i, j \leq \text{size}/2?$$

Similarly how can  $i-j = 0$  or  $i-j = \text{size}$  ?

# *Clustering reconsidered*

- Quadratic probing does not suffer from primary clustering:  
No problem if keys initially hash to the same ***neighborhood***
- But it's no help if keys initially hash *to the same **index***
  - Any 2 keys that hash to the same value will have the same series of moves after that
  - Called **secondary clustering**
- Can avoid secondary clustering with *a probe function that depends on the key: **double hashing**...*

# Open Addressing: Double hashing

**Idea:** Given two good hash functions  $h$  and  $g$ , it is very unlikely that for some  $key$ ,  $h(key) == g(key)$

$$(h(key) + f(i)) \% TableSize$$

– For double hashing:

$$f(i) = i * g(key)$$

– So probe sequence is:

- 0<sup>th</sup> probe:  $h(key) \% TableSize$
  - 1<sup>st</sup> probe:  $(h(key) + g(key)) \% TableSize$
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> probe:  $(h(key) + 2 * g(key)) \% TableSize$
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> probe:  $(h(key) + 3 * g(key)) \% TableSize$
  - ...
  - $i^{\text{th}}$  probe:  $(h(key) + i * g(key)) \% TableSize$
- Detail: Make sure  $g(key)$  can't be 0

ith probe:  $(h(\text{key}) + i * g(\text{key})) \% \text{TableSize}$

# Open Addressing: Double Hashing

0	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	

$T = 10$  (TableSize)

Hash Functions:

$$h(\text{key}) = \text{key} \bmod T$$

$$g(\text{key}) = 1 + ((\text{key}/T) \bmod (T-1))$$

**Insert these values into the hash table in this order. Resolve any collisions with double hashing:**

**13**

**28**

**33**

**147**

**43**

ith probe:  $(h(\text{key}) + i * g(\text{key})) \% \text{TableSize}$

# Double Hashing

0	
1	
2	
3	13
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	

$T = 10$  (TableSize)

Hash Functions:

$$h(\text{key}) = \text{key} \bmod T$$

$$g(\text{key}) = 1 + ((\text{key}/T) \bmod (T-1))$$

**Insert these values into the hash table in this order. Resolve any collisions with double hashing:**

**13**

**28**

**33**

**147**

**43**

ith probe:  $(h(\text{key}) + i * g(\text{key})) \% \text{TableSize}$

# Double Hashing

0	
1	
2	
3	13
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	28
9	

$T = 10$  (TableSize)

Hash Functions:

$$h(\text{key}) = \text{key} \bmod T$$

$$g(\text{key}) = 1 + ((\text{key}/T) \bmod (T-1))$$

**Insert these values into the hash table in this order. Resolve any collisions with double hashing:**

**13**

**28**

**33**

**147**

**43**



ith probe:  $(h(\text{key}) + i * g(\text{key})) \% \text{TableSize}$

# Double Hashing

0	
1	
2	
3	13
4	
5	
6	
7	33
8	28
9	

$T = 10$  (TableSize)

Hash Functions:

$$h(\text{key}) = \text{key} \bmod T$$

$$g(\text{key}) = 1 + ((\text{key}/T) \bmod (T-1))$$

**Insert these values into the hash table in this order. Resolve any collisions with double hashing:**

13

28

33  $\rightarrow$   $g(33) = 1 + 3 \bmod 9 = 4$

147

43

ith probe:  $(h(\text{key}) + i * g(\text{key})) \% \text{TableSize}$

# Double Hashing

0	
1	
2	
3	13
4	
5	
6	
7	33
8	28
9	147

$T = 10$  (TableSize)

Hash Functions:

$$h(\text{key}) = \text{key} \bmod T$$

$$g(\text{key}) = 1 + ((\text{key}/T) \bmod (T-1))$$

**Insert these values into the hash table in this order. Resolve any collisions with double hashing:**

13

28

33

147  $\rightarrow g(147) = 1 + 14 \bmod 9 = 6$

43

ith probe:  $(h(\text{key}) + i * g(\text{key})) \% \text{TableSize}$

# Double Hashing

0	
1	
2	
3	13
4	
5	
6	
7	33
8	28
9	147

$T = 10$  (TableSize)

Hash Functions:

$$h(\text{key}) = \text{key} \bmod T$$

$$g(\text{key}) = 1 + ((\text{key}/T) \bmod (T-1))$$

**Insert these values into the hash table in this order. Resolve any collisions with double hashing:**

**13**

**28**

**33**

**147**  $\rightarrow g(147) = 1 + 14 \bmod 9 = 6$

**43**  $\rightarrow g(43) = 1 + 4 \bmod 9 = 5$

**We have a problem:**

**$3 + 0 = 3$**

**$3 + 5 = 8$**

**$3 + 10 = 13$**

**$3 + 15 = 18$**

**$3 + 20 = 23$**

# Double-hashing analysis

- **Intuition:** Since each probe is “jumping” by  $g(\text{key})$  each time, we “leave the neighborhood” *and* “go different places from other initial collisions”

But, as in quadratic probing, we could still have a problem where we are not "safe" due to an infinite loop despite room in table

- It is known that this cannot happen in at least one case:

For primes  $p$  and  $q$  such that  $2 < q < p$

$$h(\text{key}) = \text{key} \% p$$

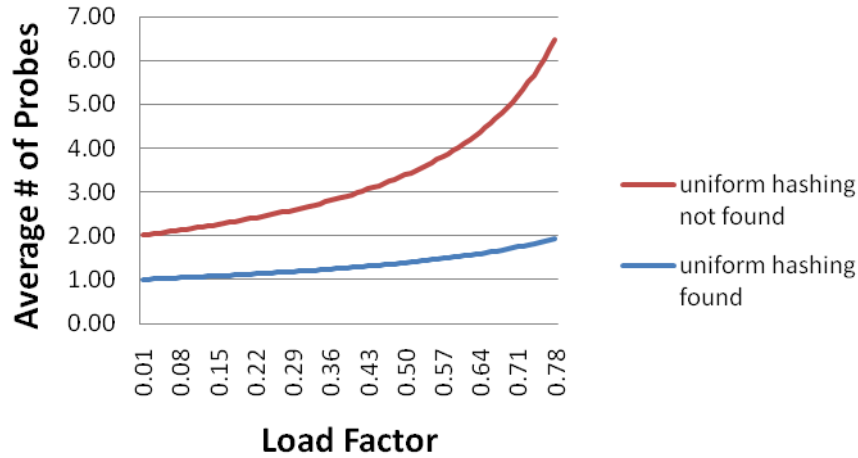
$$g(\text{key}) = q - (\text{key} \% q)$$

# More double-hashing facts

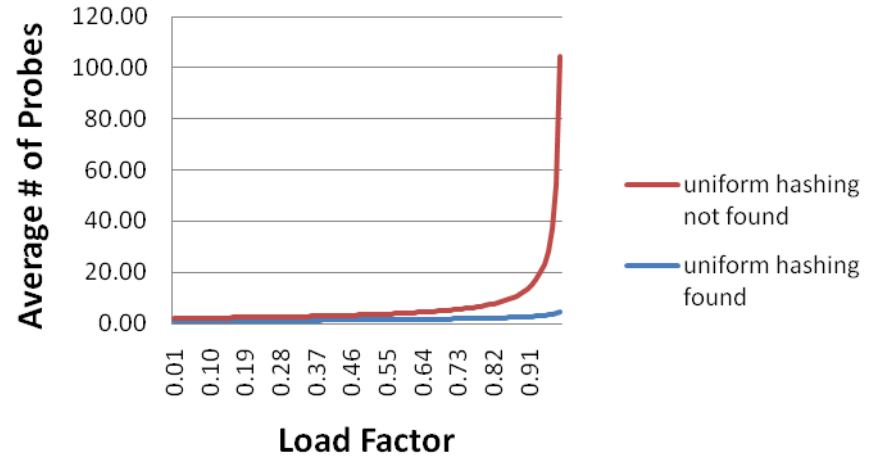
- Assume “uniform hashing”
  - Means probability of  $g(\text{key1}) \% p == g(\text{key2}) \% p$  is  $1/p$
- Non-trivial facts we won't prove:  
Average # of probes given  $\lambda$  (in the limit as **TableSize**  $\rightarrow \infty$ )
  - Unsuccessful search (intuitive):  $\frac{1}{1-\lambda}$
  - Successful search (less intuitive):  $\frac{1}{\lambda} \log_e \left( \frac{1}{1-\lambda} \right)$
- Bottom line: unsuccessful bad (but not as bad as linear probing), but successful is not nearly as bad

# Charts

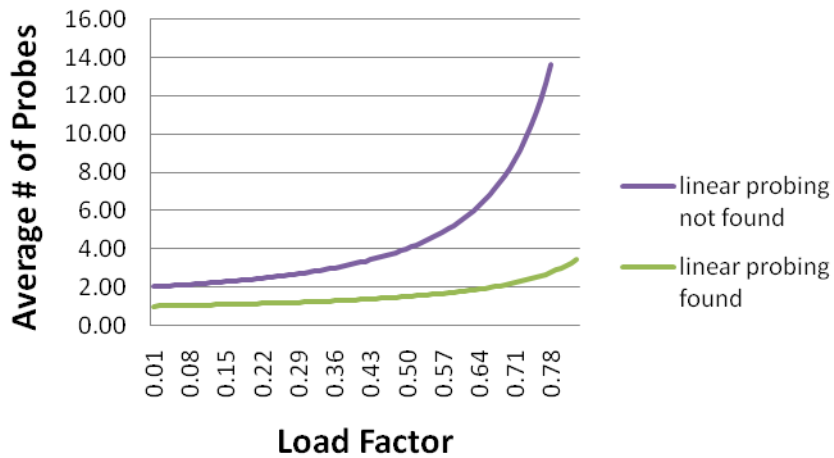
## Uniform Hashing



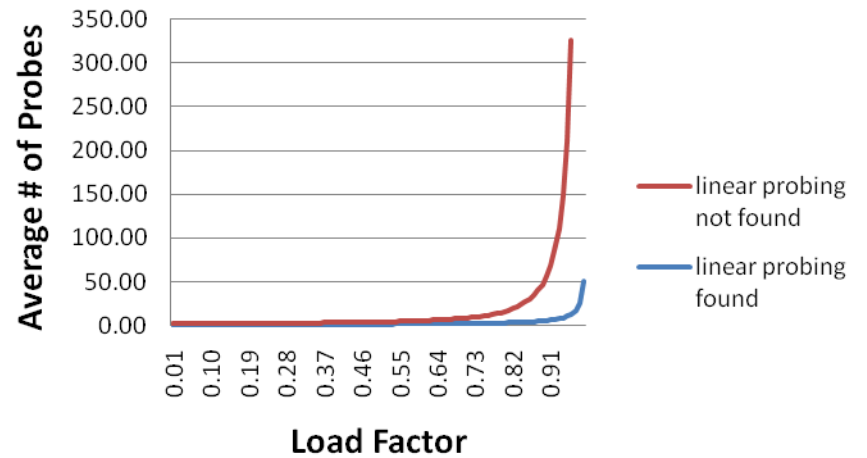
## Uniform Hashing



## Linear Probing



## Linear Probing



# Where are we?

- Separate Chaining is easy
  - **find, delete** proportional to load factor on average
  - **insert** can be constant if just push on front of list
- Open addressing uses probing, has clustering issues as table fills  
Why use it:
  - Less memory allocation?
    - Some run-time overhead for allocating linked list (or whatever) nodes; open addressing could be faster
  - Easier data representation?
- Now:
  - Growing the table when it gets too full (aka “rehashing”)
  - Relation between hashing/comparing and connection to Java

# Rehashing

- As with array-based stacks/queues/lists, if table gets too full, create a bigger table and copy everything over
- With **separate chaining**, we get to decide what “too full” means
  - Keep load factor reasonable (e.g.,  $< 1$ )?
  - Consider average or max size of non-empty chains?
- For **open addressing**, half-full is a good rule of thumb
- New table size
  - Twice-as-big is a good idea, except, uhm, that won't be prime!
  - So go *about* twice-as-big
  - Can have a list of prime numbers in your code since you probably won't grow more than 20-30 times, and then calculate after that



## *More on rehashing*

- What if we copy all data to the same indices in the new table?
  - Will not work; we calculated the index based on **TableSize**
- Go through table, do standard insert for each into new table
  - Iterate over old table:  $O(n)$
  - $n$  inserts / calls to the hash function:  $n \cdot O(1) = O(n)$
- Is there some way to avoid all those hash function calls?
  - Space/time tradeoff: Could store  **$h(\text{key})$**  with each data item
  - Growing the table is still  $O(n)$ ; only helps by a constant factor

# Hashing and comparing

- Our use of int key can lead to us overlooking a critical detail:
  - We initially *hash* **E** to get a table index
  - While chaining or probing we *compare* to **E**
    - Just need equality testing (i.e., “is it what I want”)
- So a hash table needs a hash function and a comparator
  - In Project 2, you will use two function objects
  - The Java library uses a more object-oriented approach: each object has an **equals** method and a **hashCode** method

```
class Object {  
    boolean equals(Object o) {...}  
    int hashCode() {...}  
    ...  
}
```

# *Equal objects must hash the same*

- The Java library (and your project hash table) make a very important assumption that clients must satisfy...
- Object-oriented way of saying it:  
If `a.equals(b)`, then we must require  
`a.hashCode() == b.hashCode()`
- Function object way of saying it:  
If `c.compare(a,b) == 0`, then we must require  
`h.hash(a) == h.hash(b)`
- If you ever override equals
  - You need to override hashCode also in a consistent way
  - See CoreJava book, Chapter 5 for other "gotchas" with equals

## *By the way: comparison has rules too*

We have not emphasized important “rules” about comparison for:

- All our dictionaries
- Sorting (next major topic)

Comparison must impose a consistent, total ordering:

For all **a**, **b**, and **c**,

- If **compare(a, b) < 0**, then **compare(b, a) > 0**
- If **compare(a, b) == 0**, then **compare(b, a) == 0**
- If **compare(a, b) < 0** and **compare(b, c) < 0**,  
then **compare(a, c) < 0**

# *A Generally Good hashCode()*

```
int result = 17; // start at a prime
```

```
foreach field f
```

```
    int fieldHashCode =
```

```
        boolean: (f ? 1: 0)
```

```
        byte, char, short, int: (int) f
```

```
        long: (int) (f ^ (f >>> 32))
```

```
        float: Float.floatToIntBits(f)
```

```
        double: Double.doubleToLongBits(f), then above
```

```
        Object: object.hashCode( )
```

```
        result = 31 * result + fieldHashCode;
```

```
return result;
```



# *Final word on hashing*

- The hash table is one of the most important data structures
  - Efficient find, insert, and delete
  - Operations based on sorted order are not so efficient
  - Useful in many, many real-world applications
  - Popular topic for job interview questions
- Important to use a good hash function
  - Good distribution, Uses enough of key's values
  - Not overly expensive to calculate (bit shifts good!)
- Important to keep hash table at a good size
  - Prime #
  - Preferable  $\lambda$  depends on type of table
- What we skipped: Perfect hashing, universal hash functions, hopscotch hashing, cuckoo hashing
- Side-comment: hash functions have uses beyond hash tables
  - Examples: Cryptography, check-sums