Hashing

CSE 373
Data Structures
Lecture 10
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

• Hash tables are an abstract data type designed for O(1) Find and Inserts
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 trees and hash tables
  › trees provide for known ordering of all elements
  › hash tables just let you (quickly) find an element
Limited Set of Hash 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]
  › search, insert, and delete are trivial
Direct Access Table

U (universe of keys)

K (Actual keys)

table

key  data

2  5  0

3  8

4

5

6

7

8

9
Direct Address Implementation

Delete(Table T, ElementType x)

    T[key[x]] = NULL  //key[x] is an integer

Insert(Table t, ElementType x)

    T[key[x]] = x

Find(Table t, Key k)

    return T[k]
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

Key Universe

Hash Function

Table indices

Table

U

K

254 3456 54724 81

Hashing - Lecture 10

2/3/03
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
Data records can be stored in arrays.

- A[0] = {"CHEM 110", Size 89}

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 85}

• 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 $0 \leq s < 1$
  - Then a very fast, very good hash function is
    - $\text{hash}(s) = \text{floor}(s \cdot m)$
    - where $m$ is the size of the table
Example of a Very Simple Mapping

- \( \text{hash}(s) = \text{floor}(s \cdot m) \) maps from \( 0 \leq s < 1 \) 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.
Mod Hash Function

- One solution for a less constrained key set
  - modular arithmetic
- \( a \mod size \)
  - remainder when "a" is divided by "size"
  - in C or 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

$$x \mod 4$$
Hashing Integers

- If keys are integers, we can use the hash function:
  \[ \text{Hash}(\text{key}) = \text{key mod TableSize} \]

- 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 \( \mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, \ldots\} \)
- 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 $c_0+c_1+c_2+\ldots+c_n \mod \text{size}$.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>character</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>&lt;0&gt;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASCII value</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hash Must be Onto Table

- Problem 2: What if \( \text{TableSize} \) 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 \( 8 \times 127 = 1016 \)
- 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 $c_1c_2…c_n$ 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!

```plaintext
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 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(N) runtime where N is the number of elements in the particular chain
- Can also use Binary Search Trees
  - O(log N) time instead of O(N)
  - But the number of elements to search through 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 $\lambda = \frac{N}{\text{TableSize}}$
  - $\text{TableSize} = 101$ and $N = 505$, then $\lambda = 5$
  - $\text{TableSize} = 101$ and $N = 10$, then $\lambda = 0.1$
- Average length of chained list $= \lambda$ and so average time for accessing an item $= O(1) + O(\lambda)$
  - Want $\lambda$ to be smaller than 1 but close to 1 if good hashing function (i.e. $\text{TableSize} \approx N$)
  - 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 \( h_1(x), h_2(x), h_3(x), \ldots \) 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.

- \( h_i(X) = (\text{Hash}(X) + F(i)) \mod \text{TableSize} \)
  - Define \( F(0) = 0 \)
- \( F \) is the collision resolution function. Some possibilities:
  - Linear: \( F(i) = i \)
  - Quadratic: \( F(i) = i^2 \)
  - Double Hashing: \( F(i) = i \cdot \text{Hash}_2(X) \)
Linear Probing

- When searching for \( k \), check locations \( h(k), h(k) + 1, h(k) + 2, \ldots \) \( \mod \) 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 \( \Rightarrow \) 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 \( h_1(x) \), \( h_1(x) + h_2(x) \), \( h_1(x) + 2 \cdot h_2(x) \), ... \( \mod \) 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, \( h_1(k) = k \mod m_1 \), \( h_2(k) = 1 + (k \mod m_2) \)
    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 $\lambda$ 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
  › Not good for real-time safety critical applications
Rehashing Example

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

  $\lambda = 1$

  \[
  \begin{array}{cccc}
  0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\
  25 & 37 & 83 & 52 \\
  \end{array}
  \]

  $\lambda = 5/11$

  \[
  \begin{array}{ccccccccc}
  0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 & 10 \\
  25 & 37 & 83 & 52 & 98 \\
  \end{array}
  \]
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