CSE 326
Lecture 14

Hashing I

Winter Quarter 1999

Hashing

- Hashing is a family of data structures used to efficiently support the operations of insert, delete, and find.
- It cannot be used efficiently for other operations where the order of the data is important. No list-all, range queries, successor, predecessor.
- General Idea:

  We have a key space of size M and we wish to store N keys where N << M

  Examples:

  1. keys are identifiers in a program and we need to store them in a "symbol table" during compilation.

  2. keys are student names and we wish to store student records using their names to look them up.

  3. keys are chess configurations used in a chess playing program.

  4. keys are URLs in database of web pages.

Simple Hash Table

T

0	
1	
2	**John Smith**
3	
4	**Judy Jones**
5	
6	**Peter Doe**
7	**Henry Ford**
8	
9	

- Hash function

  h: set of possible keys to {0,1,...,HSize-1}

  h("name") is called the hash value of "name"
- Example:

  h(Judy Jones) = 4
  h(Henry Ford) = 7
- To find the entry for "name" we simply calculate T(h("name")).

Hashing Properties

- Generally, hash tables have some unused entries.

$$LoadFactor = \lambda = \frac{N}{HSize}$$

- A good quality hash function distributes the data as evenly as possible over the hash table.
- Upon insertion we may have a collision, h(inserted key) = h(existing key).

  There are different strategies for dealing with collisions.

Some Good Hash Functions

- Integers: Division Method

  Choose HSize to be a prime and h(n) = n mod HSize

  Example: HSize = 23: h(50) = 4, h(1257) = 15, ...
- Character Strings:

  Think of the character string $x=a_0a_1a_2...a_m$ as the integer int(x) = a_0 + $a_1128 + a_2128^2 + ... + a_m128^m$. We calculate h(x) = int(x) mod HSize.

  This is done using Horner's rule without computing large integers. Simply take the mod after each operation in Horner's rule.
- Computing h(x)

  h := 0;
  for i = m to 0 by -1 do h := (a_i + 128h) mod HSize;
  return(h)

A Bad Hash Function

- Keys able1, able2, able3,..., able4.
- HSize = 128

  int(ablex) mod 128 = int(a) = 97

  Thus, h(ablex) = h(ableу) for all x and y.

Multiplication Method

- Hash function defined by HSize and floating point number A.

  Integer case: h(k) = $\lfloor$ HSize (k A mod 1) $\rfloor$ where 0 < A < 1.

  Example: HSize = 10, A = .485

  h(50) = $\lfloor$ 10 (50 x .485 mod 1) $\rfloor$ = $\lfloor$ 10 (24.25 mod 1) $\rfloor$ = $\lfloor$ 10 x .25 $\rfloor$ = 2

  + HSize can be any integer not just a prime

  + For a static table several A's can be tried to find the best one

  - Method requires more operations than a simple integer division

Universal Hash Functions

- Universal hash function defined by prime HSize and a vector
  a = (a_0, a_1,...,a_r) where $0 \le a_i <$ HSize
- Each key can be represented by r + 1 integers, that is, k = (k_0, k_1,...,k_r) where each component $0 \le k_i <$ HSize.

$$h_a(k) = \left(\sum_{i=0}^{r} a_i \cdot k_i \right) mod\ HSize$$

- Example: Hashing strings of length 3 in a hash table of size 131.

  Let a = (35,100,21).

  h_a(xyz) = (35x120 + 100x121 + 21x122) mod 131 = 129

  + For a static table several a's can be tried to find the best one

  + HSize can be any prime number bigger than the component of the keys

  + A random universal hash function has guaranteed good properties no matter what set is to be hashed.

An Alternative Universal Hash Function

- HSize can be any integer. Choose k (usually a power of 2) so that k*Hsize fits in a computer integer. Now choose random numbers a and b with $0 \leq a,b < k*HSize$.

$$H_{a,b}(x) = \left((ax + b) \bmod kHSize \right) / k$$

- Example: HSize = 16, k = 32, a = 100, b = 200
- H(1000) = ((100 * 1000 + 200) mod 512) / 32
  = (100,200 mod 512) / 32
  = 360 / 32
  = 11
- Has the good features of universal hashing, but without primes
- Can be very efficient if k and HSize chosen to be powers of 2. Mod is masking and division is shifting.
- Horner's rule is needed when applying this method to strings.

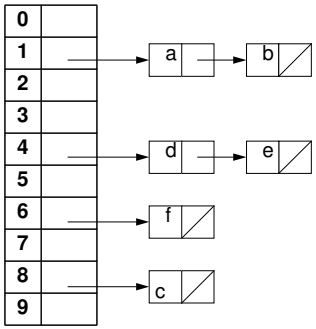
What to do About Collisions

- Open Hashing - Collisions overflow into linked lists

  Load factors > 1 possible.
- Closed Hashing - If a collision occurs find another place in the table for the entry.

  Load factor must be ≤ 1

Open Hashing or Hashing using Chaining



- Collisions h(a) = h(b), h(d) = h(e)
- Choose ordered or unordered chain where appropriate. Common case is the unordered chain because equality checks are easier and there is little advantage with the ordered chain.

Open Hashing Properties

- Load Factor λ

  Unsuccessful search costs λ comparisons on average

  Successful search costs $1 + \lambda/2$ comparisons on average
- Generally, comparisons are to be avoided so choosing λ between 1/2 and 1 is a wise choice.

Closed Hashing (Open Addressing)

- General method of insertion: Let h: keys to {0,...,HSize - 1}

  1. Given a key k we first try to hash to h(k). This is the first "probe".

  2. If h(k) is occupied then we hash to (h(k) + f(1)) mod HSize. This is the second probe.

  3. If (h(k) + f(1)) mod HSize is occupied then we hash to (h(k) + f(2)) mod HSize. This is the third probe.

  Etc.

- The probe sequence is (h(k) + f(i)) mod HSize for i = 0,1,2,... assuming f(0)=0.

  If i reaches HSize -1 then the insertion fails, but it may happen for some f's that there is still space in the table.

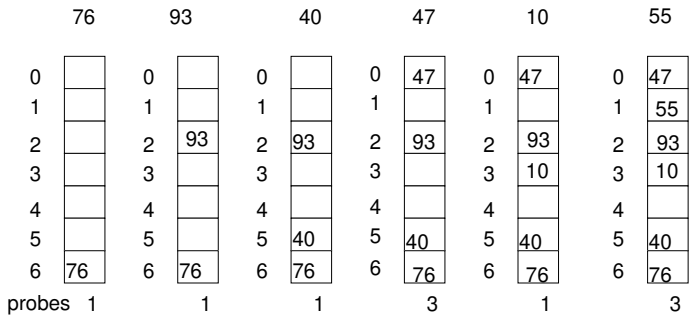
  It is important to avoid long sequences of probes, so that load factors < 1/2 are commonly used in closed hashing.

Linear Probing

- f(i) = i is linear probing
- Probe sequence is:
  h(k), (h(k) + 1) mod HSize, (h(k) + 2) mod HSize, ...
- Linear probing insertion algorithm, assuming T is not full.

  compute h = h(k);
  while T(h) is not empty do h := (h + 1) mod HSize;
  T(h) := k

Linear Probing Example



Performance of Linear Probing

- If there is an available slot then linear probing will find it.
- For large N the expected number of probes on insertion is roughly

$$\frac{1}{2}\left(1 + \frac{1}{(1-\lambda)^2}\right)$$

  Examples: $\lambda = .5$: expected number of probes is 2.5
  $\lambda = .9$: expected number of probes is 50.5

- The expected number of probes in a successful search is

$$\frac{1}{2}\left(1 + \frac{1}{(1-\lambda)}\right)$$

- Linear probing suffers from primary clustering
- Do not use linear probing if load factor is > 1/2
- Linear probing or any other closed hashing method does not allow physical deletions. We must do lazy deletion.