Hash Tables

https://cs.pomona.edu/classes/cs140/
Outline

Topics and Learning Objectives

• Discuss hash tables
• Discuss collision handling methods

Exercise

• Collision probabilities
Programming Languages

Python (2 and 3): Built-In ({} and set())

C++: unordered_map and unordered_set

Java: HashMap and HashSet

Rust: HashMap and HashSet

Swift: Dictionary and Set

JavaScript: Built-In hash map {} and a set object Set()

C#: Dictionary and HashSet
“To get this out of the way: you should probably just use Vec or HashMap.”

-- Rust Documentation
hash_table = {}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indices</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Entries</th>
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<tr>
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</table>
hash_table = {}

hash_table["Tony"] = 1
hash_table = {}

hash_table["Tony"] = 1
hash_table = {}

hash_table["Tony"] = 1
hash_table["Anthony"] = ("a", "b", "c")
hash_table = {}

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hash_table = {}

hash_table["Tony"] = 1
hash_table["Anthony"] = ("a", "b", "c")
hash_table["Antonius"] = "Marcus"

Create a sequence of hash values.
hash_table = {}

hash_table["Tony"] = 1
hash_table["Anthony"] = ("a", "b", "c")
hash_table["Antonius"] = "Marcus"
hash_table = {}
hash_table["Tony"] = 1
hash_table["Anthony"] = ("a", "b", "c")
hash_table["Antonius"] = "Marcus"
hash_table["Antonio"] = [1, "two", [3]]
```python
hash_table = {}

hash_table["Tony"] = 1
hash_table["Anthony"] = ("a", "b", "c")
hash_table["Antonius"] = "Marcus"
hash_table["Antonio"] = [1, "two", [3]]
```

**Indices**

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**Entries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>i</th>
<th>Hash Value</th>
<th>Key</th>
<th>p</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>2513555521146574408</td>
<td>&quot;Tony&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>-5449849882770900115</td>
<td>&quot;Anthony&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>845797555091548595</td>
<td>&quot;Antonius&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>-654445414666121116</td>
<td>&quot;Antonio&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Diagram**

- **Hash Table Visualization**
  - Indices:
    - 0
    - 1: Tony
    - 2
    - 3: Antonius
    - 4
    - 5: 1
    - 6: 3
    - 7
    - 8: 0
    - 9
  - Entries:
    - 0: Hash Value 2513555521146574408, Key "Tony"
    - 1: Hash Value -5449849882770900115, Key "Anthony"
    - 2: Hash Value 845797555091548595, Key "Antonius"
    - 3: Hash Value -654445414666121116, Key "Antonio"
hash_table = {}

hash_table["Tony"] = 1
hash_table["Anthony"] = ("a", "b", "c")
hash_table["Antonius"] = "Marcus"
hash_table["Antonio"] = [1, "two", [3]]

# Perform a Lookup
get_value = hash_table["Anthony"]

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</table>

get_value = hash_table["Anthony"]

get_value = ("a", "b", "c")

get_value = [1, "two", [3]]
```python
hash_table = {}
hash_table["Tony"] = 1
hash_table["Anthony"] = ("a", "b", "c")
hash_table["Antonius"] = "Marcus"
hash_table["Antonio"] = [1, "two", [3]]

# Perform a Lookup
get_value = hash_table["Anthony"]

# Remove an element
del hash_table["Anthony"]
```
hash_table = {}

hash_table["Tony"] = 1
hash_table["Anthony"] = ("a", "b", "c")
hash_table["Antonius"] = "Marcus"
hash_table["Antonio"] = [1, "two", [3]]

# Perform a Lookup
get_value = hash_table["Anthony"]

# Remove an element
del hash_table["Anthony"]

get_value2 = hash_table["Antonius"]
hash_table = {}

hash_table["Tony"] = 1
hash_table["Anthony"] = ("a", "b", "c")
hash_table["Antonius"] = "Marcus"
hash_table["Antonio"] = [1, "two", [3]]

some_list = [1, "two", (1, 1, 1)]
hash_table[some_list] = "Antonio"
some_list.append("hi class")
get_value = hash_table[some_list]

Should this work? What would it do?

https://github.com/python/cpython/blob/master/Objects/dictobject.c
Common Hash Function

```python
def djb2(s):
    hash = 5381  # some prime number
    magic = 33   # magic number that works well
    for c in s:
        hash = hash * magic + ord(c)
    return hash & 0xFFFFFFFF
```

https://softwareengineering.stackexchange.com/questions/49550/which-hashing-algorithm-is-best-for-uniqueness-and-speed
Hash Tables

• One of the most useful and used data structures
• They do **not** support many operations
• But they are amazing at the operations they do support

• They act like an array with a couple of key differences
Hash Tables

Operations:
- Insert
- Delete
- Look-up

Guaranteed constant running time for those operations if:
1. If the hash table is properly implemented, and
2. The data is non-pathological.
Example Applications

Removing Duplicates
• Given a stream of objects
• Don’t add object if it already exists

• Distinct visitors to a web site
• Blacklist or whitelist
• Creating an efficient web crawler

Two-Sum Problem
• Given an array of integers $A$ and a target sum $T$
• Goal: determine if any two numbers sum to $T$

• What is a naïve approach to this problem?
• What is a slightly better approach?
• What is an optimal approach based on hash-tables?
Other applications

• Used for symbol tables in compilers
• In search algorithms you can ensure that you don’t test the same configuration twice
Great Data Structure—Easy to butcher

• Let $U$ be the universe of all possible objects
  • (all possible IP address, all possible student names, all chess configurations, etc.)

• We want to maintain an evolving subset $S$ of $U$ that is a *reasonable* size

• Naïve solution #1: is to create an array that has equal to $|U|$
  • No collisions but requires a huge amount of space

• Naïve solution #2: use a linked list instead
  • Relatively memory efficient, but everything collides
Great Data Structure—Easy to butcher

• Let $U$ be the universe of all possible objects
  • (all possible IP address, all possible student names, all chess configurations, etc.)

• We want to maintain an evolving subset $S$ of $U$ that is a reasonable size

Hash table:
• Let $n$ be approximately equal to $|S|$, where $n$ is the # of buckets
• Choose a hash function $h(x) \rightarrow \{0, 1, \ldots, n-1\}$ where $x$ is an object in $U$
• Use an array $A$ of length $n$, and store objects at $A[h(x)]$
Hash Table

A with n buckets

X

U

0

1

2

3

4

5

6

7
A hash table is a data structure that maps keys to values using a hash function. It has a set of buckets, and each bucket stores one or more elements. The hash function, $\text{h}(x)$, takes a key $x$ and maps it to a bucket index in the hash table. For an input $x$, the hash function computes an index $\text{h}(x)$, which is then used to store or retrieve the associated value. The diagram illustrates a hash table with $n$ buckets, and the hash function maps an element $x$ to a specific bucket.
Hash Table

A with n buckets

With n buckets

h(x)

h(z)

h(y)
Collisions

• What if two keys (objects) result in the same index?
• Is this really a problem? Does it happen very often?

Birthday problem
• Consider $n$ people with birthdays distributed uniformly at random.
• How large does $n$ need to be before there is at least a 50% chance that two people have the same birthday?
Birthday Problem

50% Change of Collision

\[ n \]

\[
\begin{array}{c}
1 \\
2 \\
3 \\
\vdots \\
365 \\
\end{array}
\]
Exercise Question 1

- What if two keys (objects) result in the same index?
- Is this really a problem? Does it happen very often?

Birthday problem
- Consider \( n \) people with birthdays distributed uniformly at random.
- How large does \( n \) need to be before there is at least a 50% chance that two people have the same birthday?
Exercise Question 1

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Birthday problem
• Consider $n$ people with birthdays distributed uniformly at random.
• How large does $n$ need to be before there is at least a 50% chance that two people have the same birthday?
  a. 367
  b. 57
  c. 184
  d. 23
Break Video
Exercise Question 1

• What if two keys (objects) result in the same index?
• Is this really a problem?

Birthday problem
• Consider $n$ people with birthdays distributed uniformly at random.
• How large does $n$ need to be before there is at least a 50% chance that two people have the same birthday?
  a. 367 $\rightarrow$ 100%
  b. 57 $\rightarrow$ 99%
  c. 184 $\rightarrow$ 99.9999%
  d. 23 $\rightarrow$ 50%
Exercise Question 2

• We have a hash table implemented using an array with 100 buckets.
• Assume that we have a perfect hash function (generates hash values uniformly at random).

• What is the probability of any collisions if we try to store:
  • 10 objects?
  • 20 objects?
  • 30 objects?

• Let’s use a slightly more accurate equation.

\[ \prod_{i=1}^{x} \frac{n-i}{n} \sim e^{-x(x-1)/2n} \]
Exercise Question 2

- We have a hash table implemented using an array with 100 buckets.
- Assume that we have a perfect hash function (generates hash values uniformly at random).
- What is the probability of any collisions if we try to store:
  - 10 objects? 36%
  - 20 objects? 85%
  - 30 objects? 99%

- Let’s use a slightly more accurate equation.

\[ \prod_{i=1}^{x} \frac{n-i}{n} \sim e^{-x(x-1)/2n} \]
Collisions

• Even with a uniformly random hash function you still get quite a few collisions with a small data set.
• **Collisions occur often, so we need to handle them carefully.**

Two common methods for resolving collisions

1. Separate Chaining
2. Open Addressing

In practice, we use something similar to these (e.g., the Python example)
Method 1: Separate Chaining

Array

0: NULL
1: NULL
2: NULL
3: NULL
4: NULL
Method 1: Separate Chaining

Array

0  →  B
1  →  A
2  →  NULL
3  →  NULL
4  →  NULL

h(A) = 53 726
h(A) % 5 = 1

h(B) = 224 930
h(B) % 5 = 0

h(C) = 23 321
h(C) % 5 = 1
Method 1: Separate Chaining

- $h(A) = 53,726$
- $h(A) \mod 5 = 1$
- $h(B) = 224,930$
- $h(B) \mod 5 = 0$
- $h(C) = 23,321$
- $h(C) \mod 5 = 1$
- $h(D) = 7,894$
- $h(D) \mod 5 = 4$
- $h(E) = 919,271$
- $h(E) \mod 5 = 1$
Method 1: Separate Chaining

Array

- **0**: B
- **1**: E -> C -> A
- **2**: NULL
- **3**: NULL
- **4**: D

Hash values:

- \( h(A) = 53\,726 \)
- \( h(A) \mod 5 = 1 \)
- \( h(B) = 224\,930 \)
- \( h(B) \mod 5 = 0 \)
- \( h(C) = 23\,321 \)
- \( h(C) \mod 5 = 1 \)
- \( h(D) = 7\,894 \)
- \( h(D) \mod 5 = 4 \)
- \( h(E) = 919\,271 \)
- \( h(E) \mod 5 = 1 \)
Method 2: Open Addressing

Only one object per bucket

Hash functions now specify a sequence

1. Linear probing: call the hash function and find the next available spot in the array

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Array</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>h(A)</td>
<td>h(B)</td>
<td>h(A) % 5 = 1</td>
<td>h(B) % 5 = 1</td>
<td>(h(B) + 1) % 5 = 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Method 2: Open Addressing

Only one object per bucket

Hash functions now specify a sequence

1. Linear probing: call the hash function and find the next available spot in the array

\[ h(A) = 53\,726 \]
\[ h(A) \mod 5 = 1 \]

\[ h(B) = 224\,936 \]
\[ h(B) \mod 5 = 1 \]

\[ (h(B) + 1) \mod 5 = 2 \]
Method 2: Open Addressing

Only one object per bucket

Hash functions now specify a sequence

1. Linear probing: call the hash function and find the next available spot in the array

2. Double hashing:
   • Requires **two** hash functions
   • Call the first hash function to get an **index**
   • Call the second hash function on collision to get an **offset**
   • Add the **offset** to the **index**
   • If there is another collision add the **offset** again
Method 2: Open Addressing

Only one object per bucket

Hash functions now specify a sequence

1. Linear probing: call the hash function and find the next available spot in the array

2. Double hashing:
   • Requires **two** hash functions
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   • Add the **offset** to the **index**
   • If there is another collision add the **offset** again

---

Array

`h1(A) = 53 726`
`h1(A) % 5 = 1`

`h1(B) = 224 936`
`h1(B) % 5 = 1`

`(h1(B) + h2(B)) % 5 = 4`
Python 3.6 Dictionaries Advantages

https://stackoverflow.com/questions/39980323/are-dictionaries-ordered-in-python-3-6

d = {'timmy': 'red', 'barry': 'green', 'guido': 'blue'}

# Old version
entries = [
    ['--', '--', '--'],
    [-8522787127447073495, 'barry', 'green'],
    ['--', '--', '--'],
    ['--', '--', '--'],
    ['--', '--', '--'],
    [-909279151155847987, 'timmy', 'red'],
    ['--', '--', '--'],
    [-6480567542315338377, 'guido', 'blue']
]
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    ['--', '--', '--'],
    ['--', '--', '--'],
    [-909279151155847987, 'timmy', 'red'],
    ['--', '--', '--'],
    [-6480567542315338377, 'guido', 'blue']
]

# New version
indices = [None, 1, None, None, None, 0, None, 2]
entries = [
    [-909279151155847987, 'timmy', 'red'],
    [-8522787127447073495, 'barry', 'green'],
    [-6480567542315338377, 'guido', 'blue']
]
Python 3.6 Dictionaries Advantages

• Uses 30% to 95% less memory

• Resizing the hash table only changes the location of the indices, the indices themselves do not change

• Better cache utilization
Hash Functions

• What makes a good hash function?

• Properties of a good hash function
  1. Should lead to the smallest number of collisions as possible
  2. It shouldn’t be too much work to compute the hash (required for every lookup, insertion, or deletion)

• What is the worst case for a hash function?

```python
def hash_fcn(obj):
    return 1
```
Example

Keys are 10-digit phone numbers, \(|U| = 10^{10}\), we select \(n = 10^3\)

- Terrible hash function: \(h(x) = \text{1st 3 digits of } x\)
- OK (not great) hash function: \(h(x) = x \mod 1000\) (final 3 digits of \(x\))

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>417-836-6646</th>
<th>417-836-8745</th>
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<tr>
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<td>417-836-5930</td>
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<tr>
<td>417-836-5026</td>
<td>417-836-4157</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Passable Hash Function

Take strings as objects for example
• Hash code could be to create a unique number from the characters
• Compression function would be to take the integer mod n

How do you choose n (the number of buckets)?
• Choose n to be a prime number (on the order of the # of objects to store)
• Don’t choose a value too near to a power of 2
• Don’t choose a value too near to a power of 10
Hash Table Summary

1. Make a big array

2. Create a function that converts elements into integers (hashing)

3. Store elements in the array at the index specified by the hash function

4. Do something interesting if two elements get the same index (collision)

5. Rehash (resize):
   • when the load factor exceeds 75% (rule of thumb)
   • by increasing size by a factor of 1.5 (rule of thumb)