CMSC 132:
OBJECT-ORIENTED PROGRAMMING II

Hashing

Department of Computer Science
University of Maryland, College Park
Announcements

• Video “What most schools don’t teach”
  • http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKlu9yen5nc
Introduction

• If you need to find a value in a list what is the most efficient way to perform the search?
  • Linear search
  • Binary search
  • Can we have O(1)?
Hashing

• Remember that modulus allows us to map a number to a range
  • \( X \% N \rightarrow \text{value between 0 and } N - 1 \)
• Suppose you have 4 parking spaces and need to assign each resident a space. How can we do it?
• \( \text{parkingSpace}(ssn) = ssn \% 4 \)
• Problems??
  • What if two residents are assigned the same spot?
• What if we want to use name instead of ssn?
  • Generate integer out of the name
Hashing

- Hashing
  - **Hashing function** → function that maps data to a value (e.g., integer)
  - **Hash Code/Hash Value** → value returned by a hash function
  - **Hash Table** → Array indexed using hash values
  - Hash functions can be used to speed up data access
  - We can achieve $O(1)$ data access using hashing

- Approach
  - Use hash function to convert **key** (e.g., name, ssn) into number (hash Value) used as index in hash table (store in $A[\text{hashValue} \% N]$)
Hashing

• **Bucket**
  - Each table entry can be referred to as a bucket
  - In some implementations the bucket is represented by a list (those elements hashing to the same bucket are placed in the same list)

• **Properties of a Good Hash Function**
  - Distributes (scatters) values uniformly across range of possible values
  - It is not expensive to compute
  - Hash function should **scatter** hash values uniformly across range of possible values
    - Reduces likelihood of conflicts between keys
  - Hash( <everything> ) = 0
    - Satisfies definition of hash function
    - But not very useful (all keys at same location)
  - Could use Math.abs(keyValue % N)
    - Might not distribute values well
    - Particularly if N is a power of 2
  - Multiplicative congruency method
    - Produces good hash values
    - Hash value = Math.abs((a * keyValue) % N)
    - Where N is table size, a is large prime number
Hash Function

• Example
  hash("apple") = 5
  hash("watermelon") = 3
  hash("grapes") = 8
  hash("kiwi") = 0
  hash("strawberry") = 9
  hash("mango") = 6
  hash("banana") = 2

• Perfect hash function
  • Unique values for each key
Hash Function

• Suppose now
  hash("apple") = 5
  hash("watermelon") = 3
  hash("grapes") = 8
  hash("kiwi") = 0
  hash("strawberry") = 9
  hash("mango") = 6
  hash("banana") = 2
  hash("orange") = 3

• Collision
  • Same hash value for multiple keys
Beware of % (Modulo Operator)

- The `%` operator is integer remainder
  \[ x \mod y = x - y \times \left( \frac{x}{y} \right) \]
- Result may be negative
  \[ -|y| < x \mod y < +|y| \]
- \( x \mod y \) has same sign as \( x \)
  - \(-3 \mod 2 = -1\)
  - \(-3 \mod -2 = -1\)
- Use `Math.abs( x \mod N )` and not `Math.abs( x ) \mod N`
- About absolute value in Java
  - `Math.abs(Integer.MIN_VALUE) == Integer.MIN_VALUE`!
  - Will happen 1 in \(2^{32}\) times (on average) for random int values
Hashing in Java

- **hashCode() method**
  - Part of the `Object` class
  - Provides hashing support by returning a hash value for any object
  - 32-bit signed int
- **Default hashCode( ) implementation** → Usually just address of object in memory
- **Using hashCode**
  ```java
  static int hashBucket(Object x, int N) {
    int h = x.hashCode();
    h += ~(h << 9);
    h ^= (h >>> 14);
    h += (h << 4);
    h ^= (h >>> 10);
    return Math.abs(h % N);
  }
  ```
- **If you override equals you need to make sure the “hash code contract” is satisfied**
Java Hash Code Contract

• Java Hash Code Contract
  if a.equals(b) == true, then we must guarantee
  a.hashCode() == b.hashCode()

• Inverse is not true
  !a.equals(b) does not imply
  a.hashCode() != b.hashCode()
  (Though Java libraries may be more efficient)

• Converse is also not true
  a.hashCode() == b.hashCode()
  does not imply a.equals(b) == true

• hashCode()
  • Must return same value for object in each execution, provided
    information used in equals( ) comparisons on the object is not modified
When to Override hashCode

- You must write classes that satisfy the Java Hash Code Contract.
- You will run into problems if you don’t satisfy the Java Hash Code Contract and use classes that rely on hashing (e.g., HashMap, HashSet).
  - Possible problem → You add an element to a set but cannot find it during a lookup operation.
  - **Example:** See code distribution example.
- Does the default equals and hashCode satisfy the contract? **Yes!**
- If you implement the Comparable interface you should provide the appropriate equals method which leads to the appropriate hashCode method.
Java `hashCode()`

- Implementing `hashCode()`
  - Include only information used by `equals()`
    - Else 2 “equal” objects → different hash values
  - Using all/more of information used by `equals()`
    - Help avoid same hash value for unequal objects
- Example `hashCode()` functions
  - For pair of Strings
    - 1\textsuperscript{st} letter of 1\textsuperscript{st} str
    - 1\textsuperscript{st} letter of 1\textsuperscript{st} str + 1\textsuperscript{st} letter of 2\textsuperscript{nd} str
    - Length of 1\textsuperscript{st} str + length of 2\textsuperscript{nd} str
    - $\sum$ letter(s) of 1\textsuperscript{st} str + $\sum$ letter(s) of 2\textsuperscript{nd} str
Art and Magic of `hashCode()`

- There is no “right” `hashCode` function
  - Art involved in finding good `hashCode` function
  - Also for finding `hashCode` to `hashBucket` function
- From `java.util.HashMap`
  ```java
  static int hashBucket(Object x, int N) {
      int h = x.hashCode();
      h += ~(h << 9);
      h ^=  (h >>> 14);
      h +=  (h << 4);
      h ^=  (h >>> 10);
      return Math.abs(h % N);
  }
  ```