Bellevue University

Designing Efficient Hash Tables

Timothy Jelinek

CS420-T301 Data Structures

7/11/2024

When working with data structures it is important to consider hash tables, hash functions, and collision resolution. Each of these has its own roles, and they all have relationships with each other. Hash functions are used with hash tables, and collision resolution is used when issues arise with hash tables. It is important to keep data organized and to have it be able to be easily maintained in an efficient manner. When performing hash functions, collisions can happen, which can mess up the integrity of the data. To fix these collisions, preventions have been made, as well as resolution techniques. Hash tables are a popular data structure to use, and people can insert data and look up that data quickly by using them.

Hash tables are useful, easy to use data structure that allow for efficient modification of data as well as efficient searching of the data. These data structures are very efficient and are often used in various situations, from indexing, to cryptography, and to search big databases. Hash tables are very efficient and normally require the time of O(1), but sometimes things may take longer and result in O(n). It is very important to learn how to use hash tables when learning about managing data. Hash functions are used on hash tables to manage the data.

Hash functions are popular and very useful. They are used for storing data, retrieving data, and when utilizing cryptography. Hash functions are used to return hash codes. This is especially useful to map data. There are many different types of hash functions, but it is important to be careful when managing data in order to avoid collision, but when collision does occur, there are collision resolution techniques to fix them.

Collisions happen fairly frequently. Collisions are when a returned hash value from a hash function has two or more keys that have the same hash value. With collisions being so detrimental, techniques have been created to handle them. Sperate chaining has a linked list created in the spot where there’s a collision, and it got its name because the linked lists are like a chain. Another resolution technique is open addressing. Open addressing helps stop collisions from happening. Utilizing these techniques are great ways to keep the integrity of your data.

When working with data, it is important to understand the concepts of hash tables, hash functions, and collision resolution techniques. Hash tables are popular to use for databases for efficient manipulation and searching of data through hash functions, but using the hash functions may cause collisions, which you need to use collision resolution techniques to repair. Collisions are not uncommon, which makes it important to know how to repair them. It is important to try preventing collisions before they happen to save time that would be spent incorporating resolution techniques to fix the collisions. There are many resources online and in person to learn how to manage and store data with hash tables. Hash tables are very efficient, which will help them keep their popularity for a long time to come.

Sources:

GeeksforGeeks. (2024, May 8). *Hash table data structure*. GeeksforGeeks. https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/hash-table-data-structure/

GeeksforGeeks. (2024, May 20). *Hash Functions and Types of Hash functions*. GeeksforGeeks. https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/hash-functions-and-list-types-of-hash-functions/

GeeksforGeeks. (2024, April 5). *Collision resolution techniques*. GeeksforGeeks. https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/collision-resolution-techniques/