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3.4 HASH TABLES

- ▶ *hash functions*
- ▶ *separate chaining*
- ▶ *linear probing*
- ▶ *context*

Symbol table implementations: summary

implementation	guarantee			average case			ordered ops?	key interface
	search	insert	delete	search hit	insert	delete		
sequential search_[SEP] (unordered list)	N	N	N	$\frac{1}{2} N$	N	$\frac{1}{2} N$		equals()
binary search_[SEP] (ordered array)	$\lg N$	N	N	$\lg N$	$\frac{1}{2} N$	$\frac{1}{2} N$	✓	compareTo()
BST	N	N	N	$1.39 \lg N$	$1.39 \lg N$	\sqrt{N}	✓	compareTo()
red-black BST	$2 \lg N$	$2 \lg N$	$2 \lg N$	$1.0 \lg N$	$1.0 \lg N$	$1.0 \lg N$	✓	compareTo()

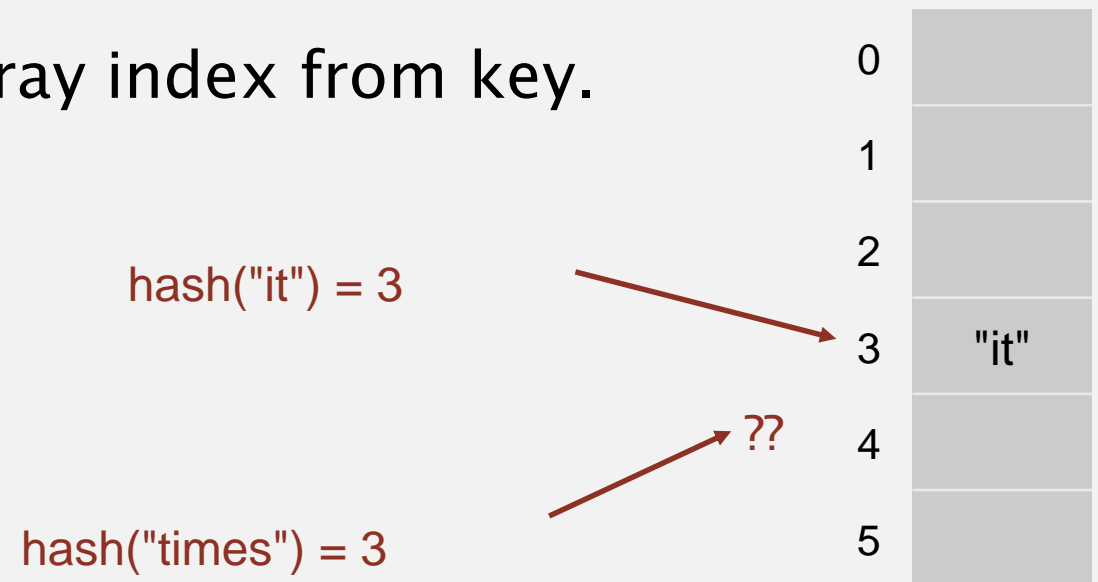
Q. Can we do better?

A. Yes, but with different access to the data.

Hashing: basic plan

Save items in a **key-indexed table** (index is a function of the key).

Hash function. Method for computing array index from key.



Issues.

- Computing the hash function.
- Equality test: Method for checking whether two keys are equal.
- Collision resolution: Algorithm and data structure to handle two keys that hash to the same array index.

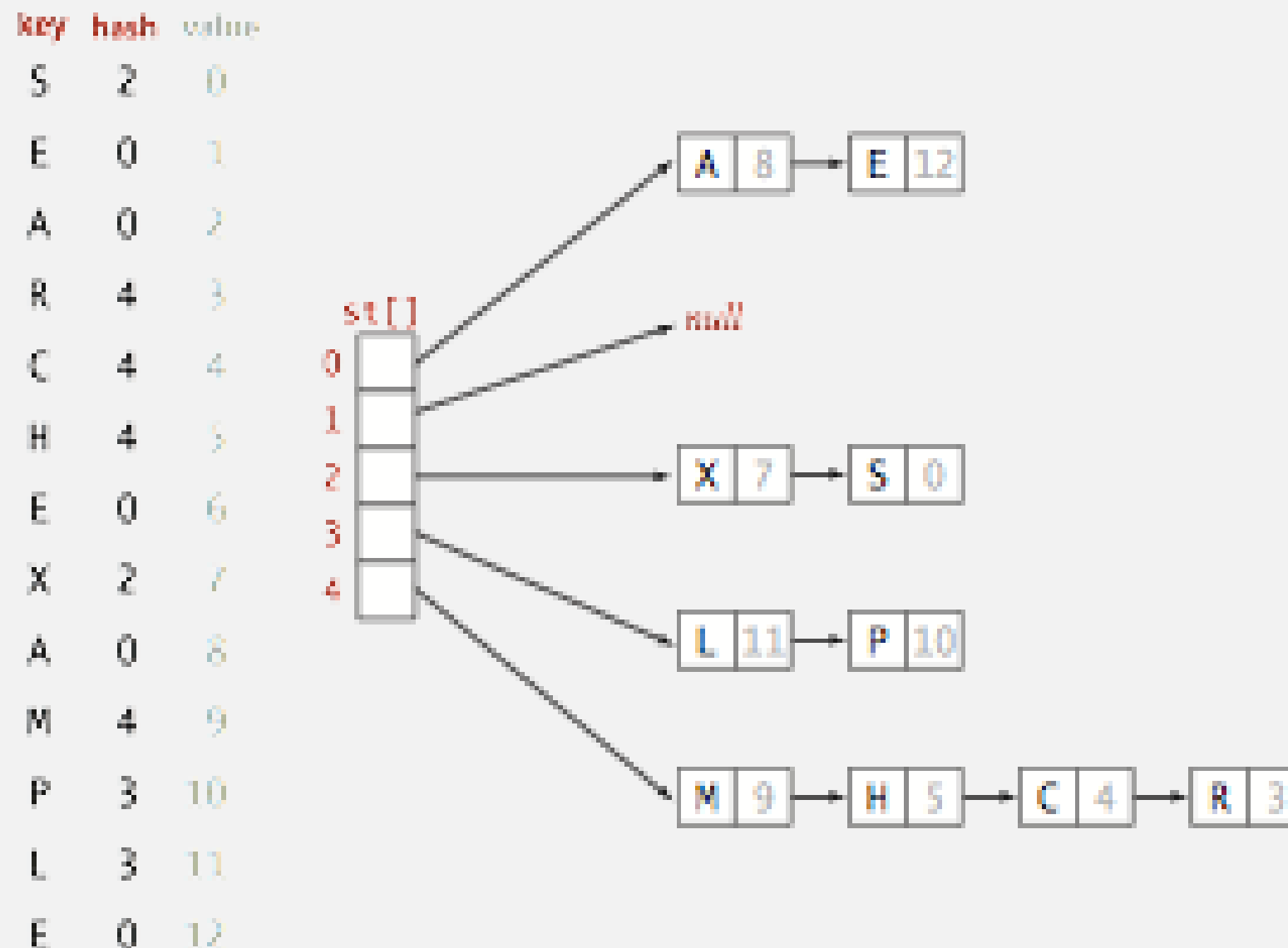
Classic space-time tradeoff.

- No space limitation: trivial hash function with key as index.
- No time limitation: trivial collision resolution with sequential search.
- Space and time limitations: hashing (the real world).

What we are attempting to do – first idea (will revisit)

Use an array of $M < N$ linked lists. [H. P. Luhn, IBM 1953]

- Hash: map key to integer i between 0 and $M - 1$.
- Insert: put at front of i^{th} chain (if not already there).
- Search: need to search only i^{th} chain.





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Computing the hash function

Idealistic goal. Scramble the keys uniformly to produce a table index.

- Efficiently computable.
- Each table index equally likely for each key.

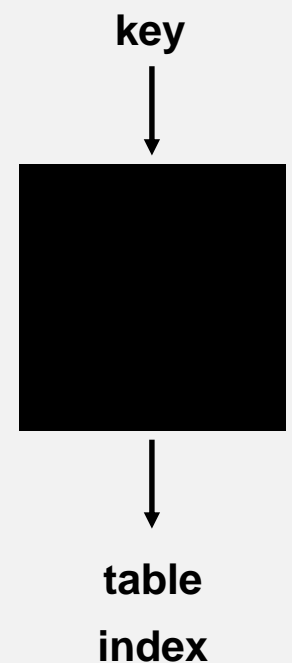
thoroughly researched problem,
still problematic in practical applications

Ex 1. Phone numbers.

- Bad: first three digits.
- Better: last three digits.

Ex 2. Social Security numbers.

- Bad: first three digits.
- Better: last three digits.



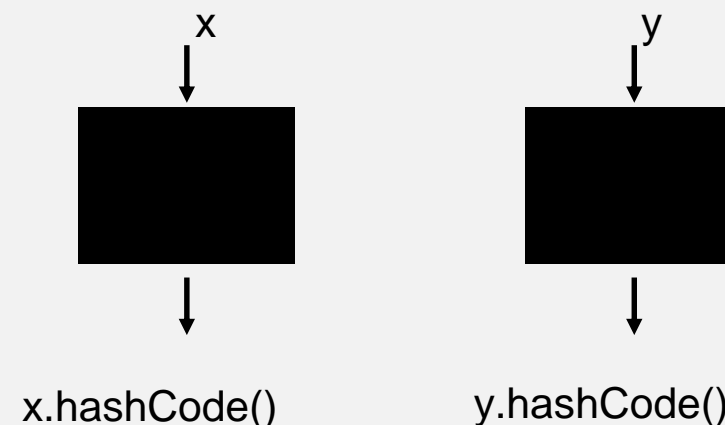
Practical challenge. Need different approach for each key type.

Java's hash code conventions

All Java classes inherit a method `hashCode()`, which returns a 32-bit int.

Requirement. If `x.equals(y)`, then `(x.hashCode() == y.hashCode())`.

Highly desirable. If `!x.equals(y)`, then `(x.hashCode() != y.hashCode())`.



Default implementation. Memory address of x.

Legal (but poor) implementation. Always return 17.

Customized implementations. Integer, Double, String, File, URL, Date, ...

User-defined types. Users are on their own.

Implementing hash code: integers, booleans, and doubles

Java library implementations

```
public final class Integer
{
    private final int value;
    ...

    public int hashCode()
    { return value; }
}

public final class Boolean
{
    private final boolean value;
    ...

    public int hashCode()
    {
        if (value) return 1231;
        else      return 1237;
    }
}
```

```
public final class Double
{
    private final double value;
    ...

    public int hashCode()
    {
        long bits = doubleToLongBits(value);
        return (int) (bits ^ (bits >>> 32));
    }
}
```

convert to IEEE 64-bit representation;
xor most significant 32-bits
with least significant 32-bits

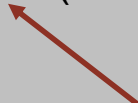
Warning: -0.0 and +0.0 have different hash codes

Implementing hash code: strings

Java library implementation

```
public final class String
{
    private final char[] s;
    ...

    public int hashCode()
    {
        int hash = 0;
        for (int i = 0; i < length(); i++)
            hash = s[i] + (31 * hash);
        return hash;
    }
}
```


 *i*th character of s

char	Unicode
...	...
'a'	97
'b'	98
'c'	99
...	...

- Horner's method to hash string of length L : L multiplies/adds.
- Equivalent to $h = s[0] \cdot 31^{L-1} + \dots + s[L-3] \cdot 31^2 + s[L-2] \cdot 31^1 + s[L-1] \cdot 31^0$.

Ex.

```
String s = "call";
int code = s.hashCode();
```



$$\begin{aligned} 3045982 &= 99 \cdot 31^3 + 97 \cdot 31^2 + 108 \cdot 31^1 + 108 \cdot 31^0 \\ &= 108 + 31 \cdot (108 + 31 \cdot (97 + 31 \cdot (99))) \end{aligned}$$

(Horner's method)

Implementing hash code: strings

Performance optimization.

- Cache the hash value in an instance variable.
- Return cached value.

```
public final class String
{
    private int hash = 0;
    private final char[] s;
    ...
    public int hashCode()
    {
        int h = hash;
        if (h != 0) return h;
        for (int i = 0; i < length(); i++)
            h = s[i] + (31 * h);
        hash = h;
        return h;
    }
}
```

← cache of hash code

← return cached value

← store cache of hash code

Q. What if hashCode() of string is 0?

Implementing hash code: user-defined types

```
public final class Transaction implements Comparable<Transaction>
{
    private final String who;
    private final Date when;
    private final double amount;

    public Transaction(String who, Date when, double amount)
    { /* as before */ }
    ...

    public boolean equals(Object y)
    { /* as before */ }

    public int hashCode()
    {
        int hash = 17;
        hash = 31*hash + who.hashCode();
        hash = 31*hash + when.hashCode();
        hash = 31*hash + ((Double) amount).hashCode();
        return hash;
    }
}
```

nonzero constant


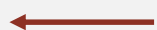
for reference types,
use hashCode()

for primitive types,
use hashCode()
of wrapper type

typically a small prime

Hash code design

"Standard" recipe for user-defined types.

- Combine each significant field using the $31x + y$ rule.
- If field is a primitive type, use wrapper type `hashCode()`.
- If field is `null`, return 0.
- If field is a reference type, use `hashCode()`.  applies rule recursively
- If field is an array, apply to each entry.  or use `Arrays.deepHashCode()`

In practice. Recipe works reasonably well; used in Java libraries.

In theory. Keys are bitstring; "universal" hash functions exist.

Basic rule. Need to use the whole key to compute hash code; consult an expert for state-of-the-art hash codes.

Modular hashing

Hash code. An int between -2^{31} and $2^{31} - 1$.

Hash function. An int between 0 and $M - 1$ (for use as array index).

typically a prime or power of 2

```
private int hash(Key key)
{ return key.hashCode() % M; }
```

bug

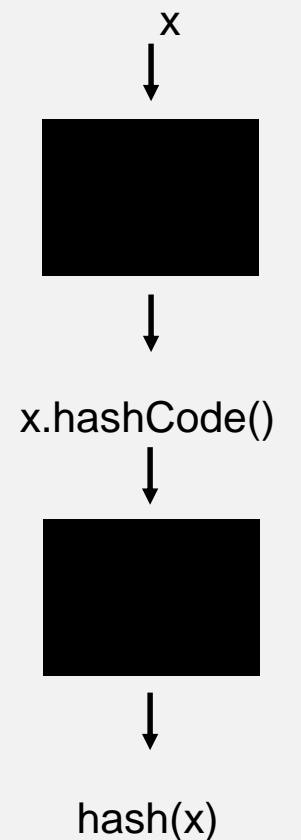
```
private int hash(Key key)
{ return Math.abs(key.hashCode()) % M; }
```

1-in-a-billion bug

Sign bit problem for signed ints hashCode() of "polygenelubricants" is -2^{31}

```
private int hash(Key key)
{ return (key.hashCode() & 0x7fffffff) % M; }
```

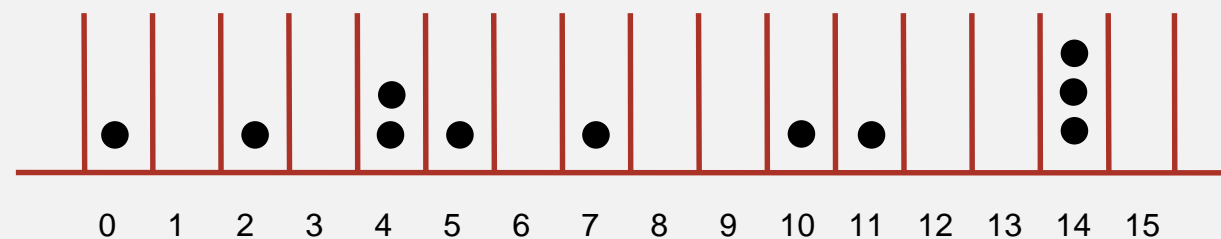
correct



Uniform hashing assumption

Uniform hashing assumption. Each key is equally likely to hash to an integer between 0 and $M - 1$.

Bins and balls. Throw balls uniformly at random into M bins.



Birthday problem. Expect two balls in the same bin after $\sim \sqrt{\pi M / 2}$ tosses.

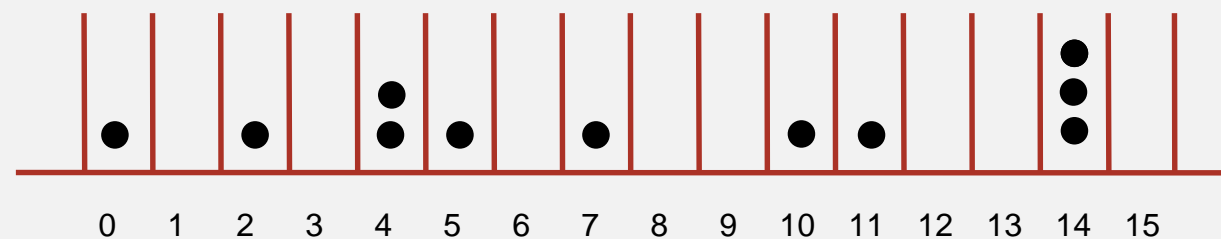
Coupon collector. Expect every bin has ≥ 1 ball after $\sim M \ln M$ tosses.

Load balancing. After M tosses, expect most loaded bin has $\Theta(\log M / \log \log M)$ balls.

Uniform hashing assumption

Uniform hashing assumption. Each key is equally likely to hash to an integer between 0 and $M - 1$.

Bins and balls. Throw balls uniformly at random into M bins.



Java's String data uniformly distribute the keys of Tale of Two Cities



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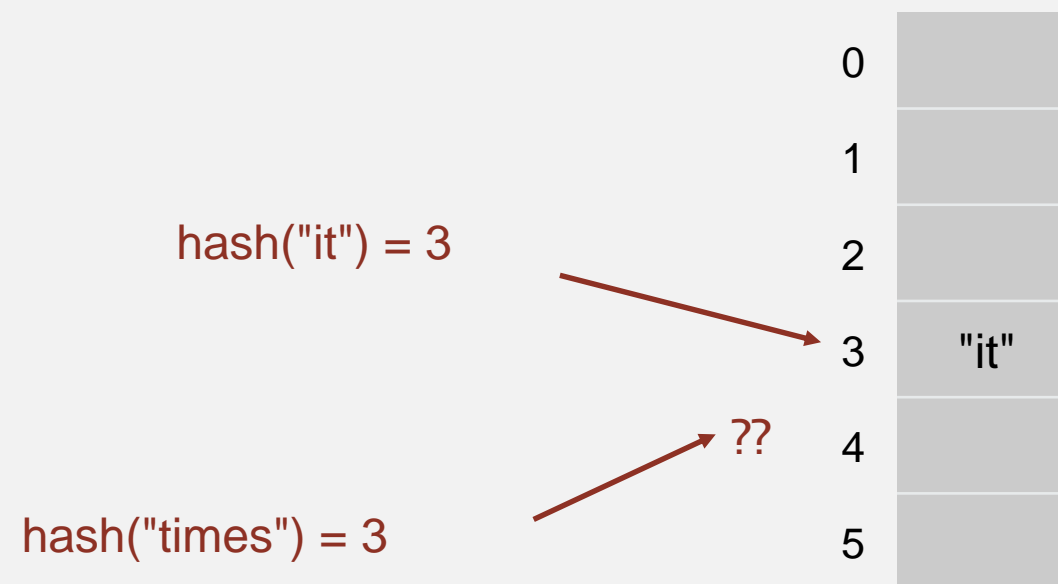
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- *context*

Collisions

Collision. Two distinct keys hashing to same index.

- Birthday problem \Rightarrow can't avoid collisions unless you have a ridiculous (quadratic) amount of memory.
- Coupon collector + load balancing \Rightarrow collisions are evenly distributed.

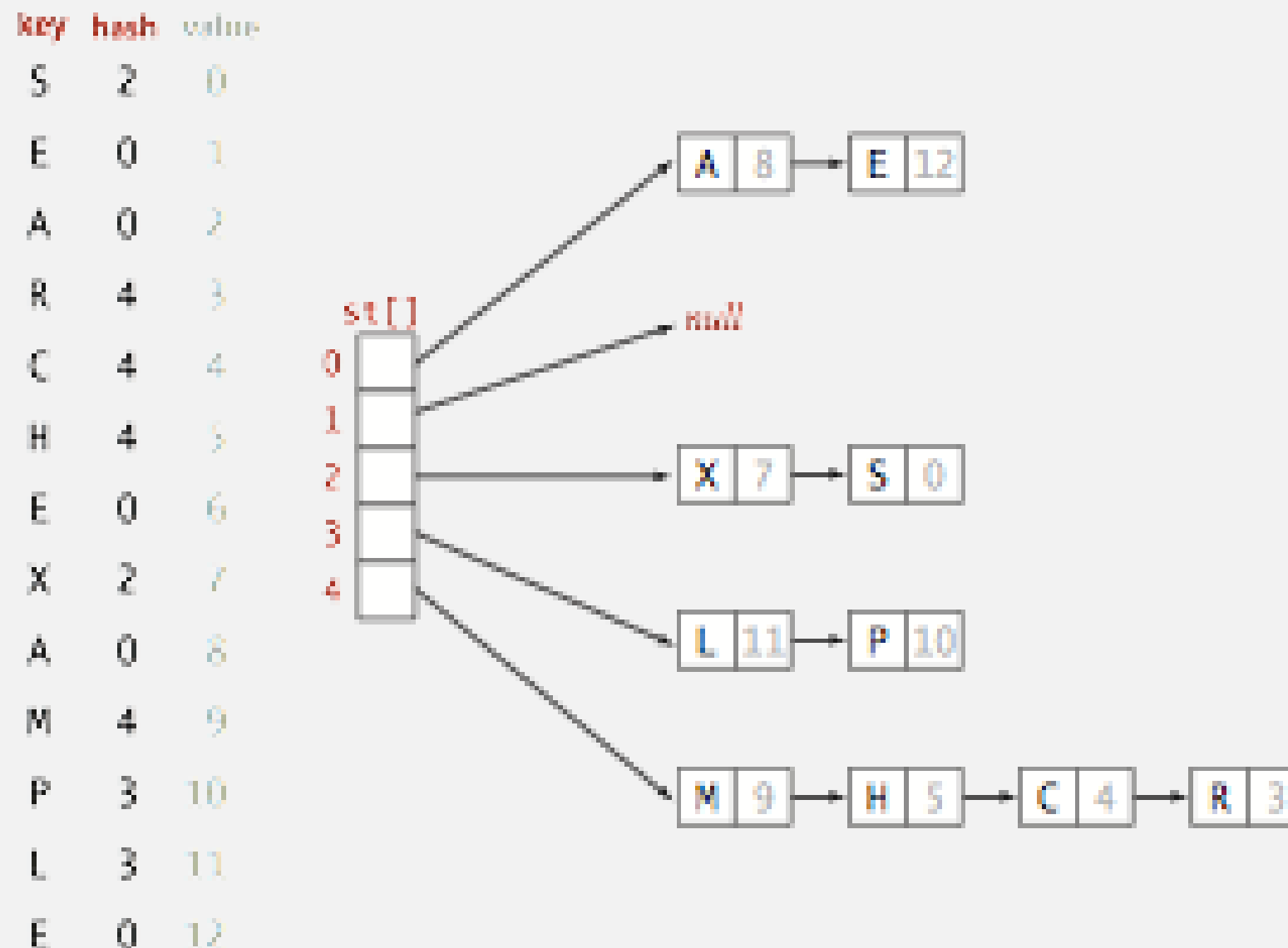


Challenge. Deal with collisions efficiently.

Separate-chaining symbol table

Use an array of $M < N$ linked lists. [H. P. Luhn, IBM 1953]

- Hash: map key to integer i between 0 and $M - 1$.
- Insert: put at front of i^{th} chain (if not already there).
- Search: need to search only i^{th} chain.



Separate-chaining symbol table: Java implementation

```
public class SeparateChainingHashST<Key, Value>
{
    private int M = 97;          // number of chains
    private Node[] st = new Node[M]; // array of chains
```

← array doubling and
halving code omitted

```
    private static class Node
```

```
    {
        private Object key;
        private Object val;
        private Node next;
```

← no generic array creation
← (declare key and value of type Object)

```
        ...
    }
```

```
    private int hash(Key key)
    { return (key.hashCode() & 0x7fffffff) % M; }
```

```
    public Value get(Key key) {
        int i = hash(key);
        for (Node x = st[i]; x != null; x = x.next)
            if (key.equals(x.key)) return (Value) x.val;
        return null;
    }
```

Separate-chaining symbol table: Java implementation

```
public class SeparateChainingHashST<Key, Value>
{
    private int M = 97;          // number of chains
    private Node[] st = new Node[M]; // array of chains

    private static class Node
    {
        private Object key;
        private Object val;
        private Node next;
        ...
    }

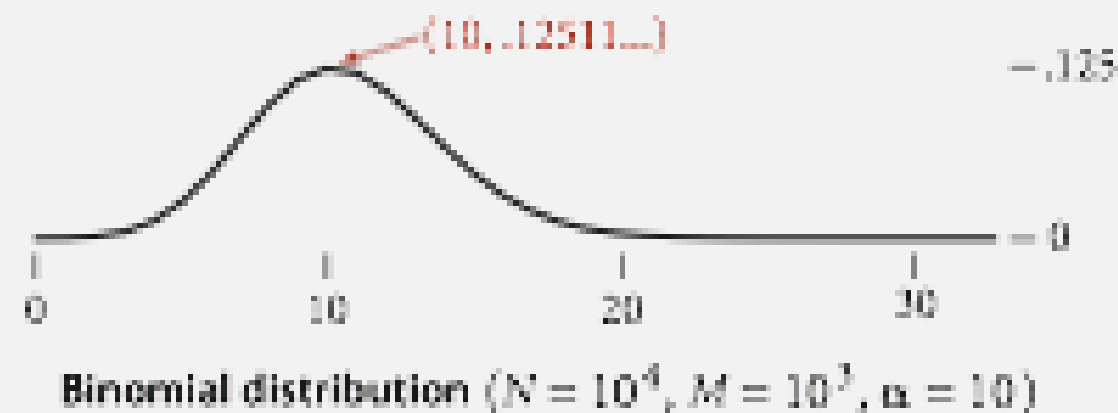
    private int hash(Key key)
    { return (key.hashCode() & 0x7fffffff) % M; }

    public void put(Key key, Value val) {
        int i = hash(key);
        for (Node x = st[i]; x != null; x = x.next)
            if (key.equals(x.key)) { x.val = val; return; }
        st[i] = new Node(key, val, st[i]);
    }
}
```

Analysis of separate chaining

Proposition. Under uniform hashing assumption, prob. that the number of keys in a list is within a constant factor of N/M is extremely close to 1.

Pf sketch. Distribution of list size obeys a binomial distribution.



Consequence. Number of probes for search/insert is proportional to N/M .

- M too large \Rightarrow too many empty chains.
- M too small \Rightarrow chains too long.
- Typical choice: $M \sim N/4 \Rightarrow$ constant-time ops.

\swarrow equals() and hashCode()

\uparrow
M times faster than
sequential search

Resizing in a separate-chaining hash table

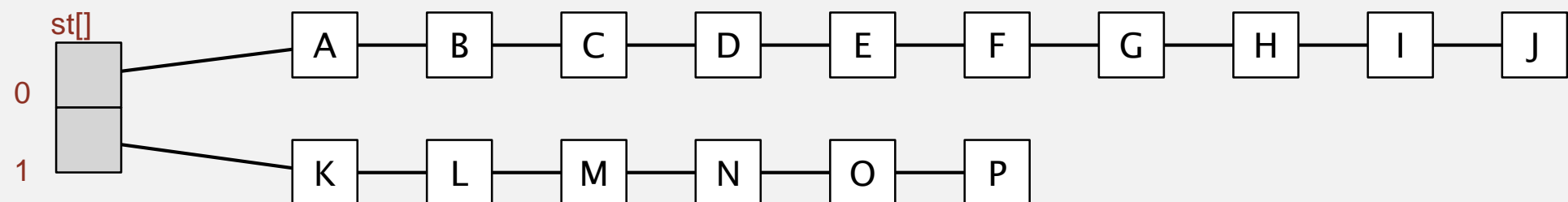
Goal. Average length of list $N/M = \text{constant}$.

- Double size of array M when $N/M \geq 8$.
- Halve size of array M when $N/M \leq 2$.
- Need to rehash all keys when resizing.

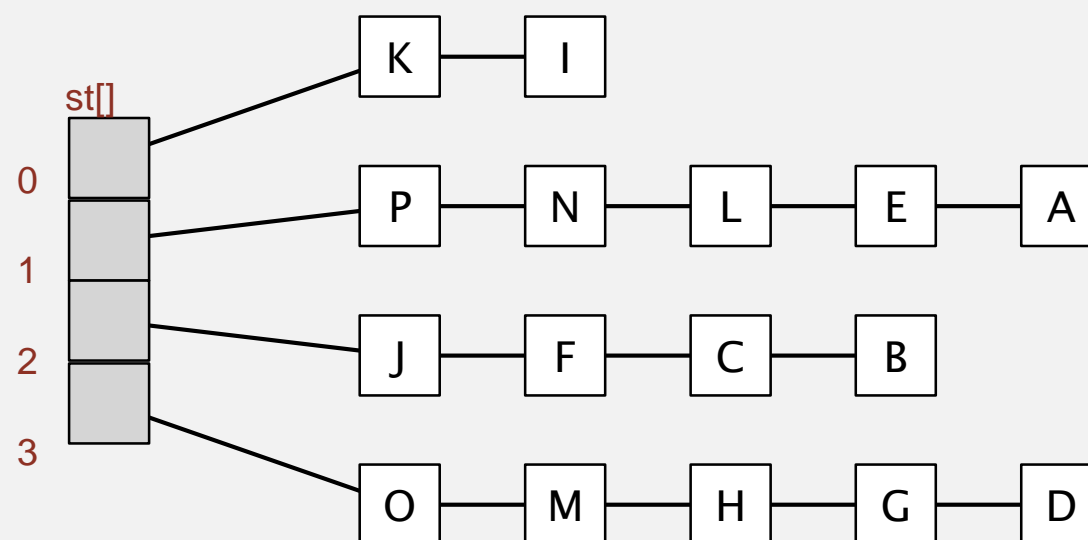
← $x.\text{hashCode}()$ does not change

but $\text{hash}(x)$ (i.e. where x is placed in the array) can change

before resizing



after resizing

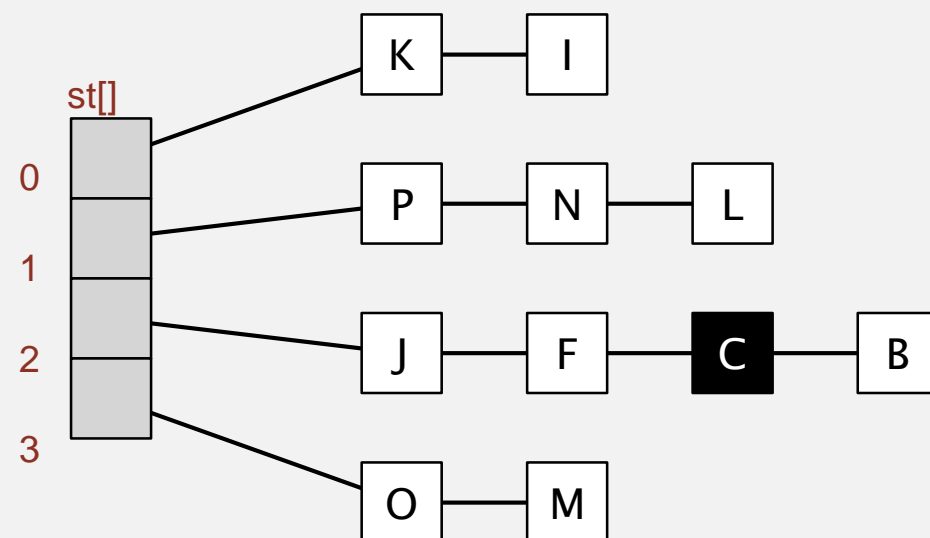


Deletion in a separate-chaining hash table

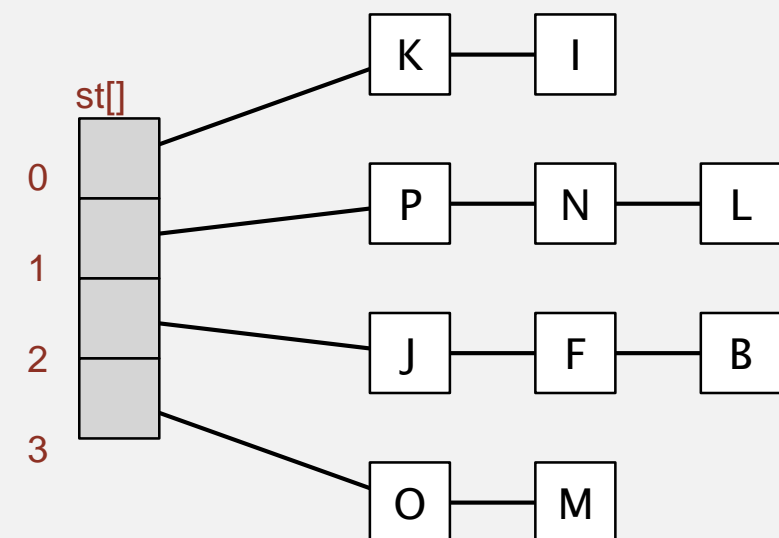
Q. How to delete a key (and its associated value)?

A. Easy: need only consider chain containing key.

before deleting C



after deleting C



Symbol table implementations: summary

implementation	guarantee			average case			ordered ops?	key interface
	search	insert	delete	search hit	insert	delete		
sequential search_[SEP] (unordered list)	N	N	N	$\frac{1}{2} N$	N	$\frac{1}{2} N$		equals()
binary search_[SEP] (ordered array)	$\lg N$	N	N	$\lg N$	$\frac{1}{2} N$	$\frac{1}{2} N$	✓	compareTo()
BST	N	N	N	$1.39 \lg N$	$1.39 \lg N$	\sqrt{N}	✓	compareTo()
red-black BST	$2 \lg N$	$2 \lg N$	$2 \lg N$	$1.0 \lg N$	$1.0 \lg N$	$1.0 \lg N$	✓	compareTo()
separate chaining	N	N	N	$3-5 *$	$3-5 *$	$3-5 *$		equals() hashCode()

* under uniform hashing assumption



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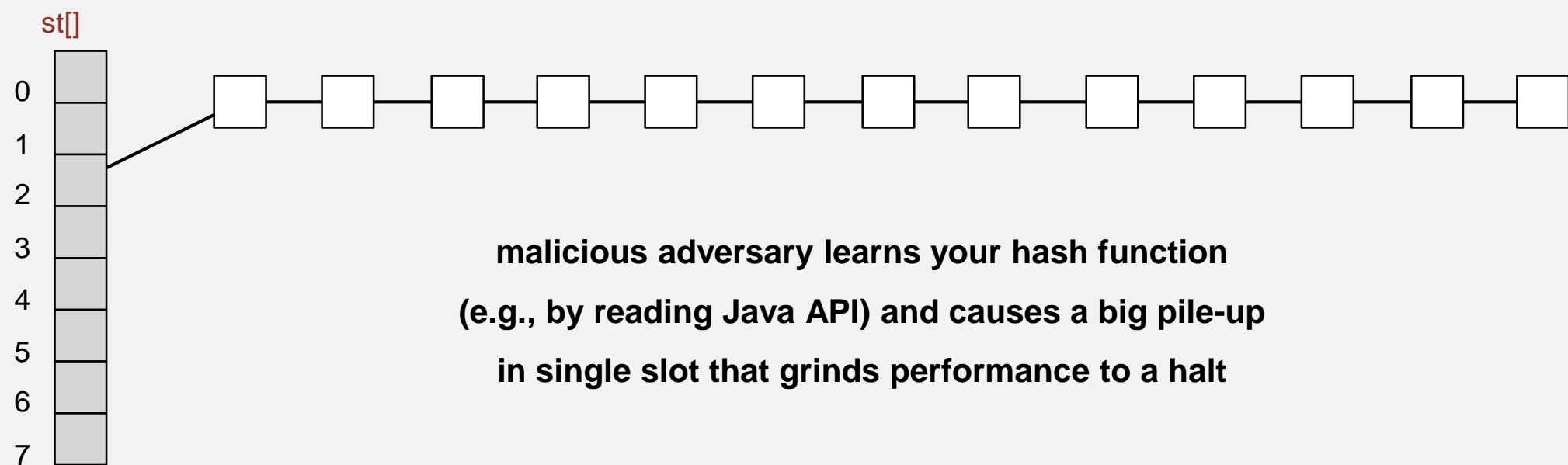
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War story: algorithmic complexity attacks

Q. Is the uniform hashing assumption important in practice?

A. Obvious situations: aircraft control, nuclear reactor, pacemaker.

A. Surprising situations: **denial-of-service** attacks.



Real-world exploits. [Crosby-Wallach 2003]

- Bro server: send carefully chosen packets to DOS the server, using less bandwidth than a dial-up modem.
- Perl 5.8.0: insert carefully chosen strings into associative array.
- Linux 2.4.20 kernel: save files with carefully chosen names.

War story: algorithmic complexity attacks

A Java bug report.

Jan Lieskovsky 2011-11-01 10:13:47 EDT

Description

Julian Wilde and Alexander Klink reported that the `String.hashCode()` hash function is not sufficiently collision resistant. `hashCode()` value is used in the implementations of `HashMap` and `Hashtable` classes:

<http://docs.oracle.com/javase/6/docs/api/java/util/HashMap.html>
<http://docs.oracle.com/javase/6/docs/api/java/util/Hashtable.html>

A specially-crafted set of keys could trigger hash function collisions, which can degrade performance of `HashMap` or `Hashtable` by changing hash table operations complexity from an expected/average $O(1)$ to the worst case $O(n)$. Reporters were able to find colliding strings efficiently using equivalent substrings and meet in the middle techniques.

This problem can be used to start a denial of service attack against Java applications that use untrusted inputs as `HashMap` or `Hashtable` keys. An example of such application is web application server (such as `tomcat`, see [bug #750524](#)) that may fill hash tables with data from HTTP request (such as GET or POST parameters). A remote attack could use that to make JVM use excessive amount of CPU time by sending a POST request with large amount of parameters which hash to the same value.

This problem is similar to the issue that was previously reported for and fixed in e.g. perl:

http://www.cs.rice.edu/~scrosby/hash/CrosbyWallach_UsenixSec2003.pdf

Algorithmic complexity attack on Java

Goal. Find family of strings with the same hash code.

Solution. The base-31 hash code is part of Java's string API.

key	hashCode()
"Aa"	2112
"BB"	2112

key	hashCode()
"AaAaAaAa"	-540425984
"AaAaAaBB"	-540425984
"AaAaBBAa"	-540425984
"AaAaBBBB"	-540425984
"AaBBAaAa"	-540425984
"AaBBAaBB"	-540425984
"AaBBBBAa"	-540425984
"AaBBBBBB"	-540425984


key	hashCode()
"BBAaAaAa"	-540425984
"BBAaAaBB"	-540425984
"BBAaBBAa"	-540425984
"BBAaBBBB"	-540425984
"BBBBAaAa"	-540425984
"BBBBAaBB"	-540425984
"BBBBBBaAa"	-540425984
"BBBBBBBB"	-540425984

2^N strings of length $2N$ that hash to same value!

Diversion: one-way hash functions

One-way hash function. "Hard" to find a key that will hash to a desired value (or two keys that hash to same value).

Ex. MD4, MD5, SHA-0, SHA-1, SHA-2, WHIRLPOOL, RIPEMD-160,



known to be insecure

```
String password = args[0];  
MessageDigest sha1 = MessageDigest.getInstance("SHA1");  
byte[] bytes = sha1.digest(password);  
  
/* prints bytes as hex string */
```

Applications. Digital fingerprint, message digest, storing passwords.

Caveat. Too expensive for use in ST implementations.

Hash tables vs. balanced search trees

Hash tables.

- Simpler to code.
- No effective alternative for unordered keys.
- Faster for simple keys (a few arithmetic ops versus $\log N$ compares).
- Better system support in Java for strings (e.g., cached hash code).

Balanced search trees.

- Stronger performance guarantee.
- Support for ordered ST operations.
- Easier to implement `compareTo()` correctly than `equals()` and `hashCode()`.

Java system includes both.

- Red-black BSTs: `java.util.TreeMap`, `java.util.TreeSet`.
- Hash tables: `java.util.HashMap`, `java.util.IdentityHashMap`.