

CALCUTTA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
MASTER IN COMPUTER APPLICATION

CA-2
SEM-2

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TOPIC: DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LINEAR & QUADRIC
PROBING

SUBJECT: DSA THROUGH PYTHON

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Difference between linear probing and quadratic probing.

Introduction:

Hashing is a technique used for efficient data storage and retrieval.

When a collision occurs in a hash table, we use it to resolve it.

Linear probing and quadratic probing are two common methods for handling collisions.

Linear probing:

A collision resolution method where the next available slot is searched. The step size is constant. If a collision occurs, check the next slot and repeat so on.

Advantages:-

- 1) Simple and easy to implement.
- 2) Does not require extra memory.
- 3) Works well with small load factors.

Dis advantages:-

- 1) Suffer from primary clustering
- 2) Slower retrieval
- 3) Performance degrades.

Quadratic probing:

A collision resolution method where next slot found using quadratic formula.

Step in case of slot $1^2, 2^2, 3^2, 4^2$. etc.

Primary clustering,

Advantages:-

- 1) Reduces primary clustering
- 2) More efficient.

Dis advantage:-

- 1) can still cause Secondary clustering
- 2) require careful choice of table size.
- 3) more complex.

Comparison:-

Feature	Linear probing	Quadratic probing
Step size	constant (1)	quadratic (n^2)
Complexity	Simple	Complex
Clustering	Primary	Secondary

Conclusion:-

Linear probing is simple but suffer from primary clustering. Quadratic probing reduce clustering but more complex, the best choice depends on load factor hash function use case.