

Problem Set #6

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1.

Suppose we use a hash function h to hash n distinct keys into an array T of length m . Assuming simple uniform hashing --- that is, with each key mapped independently and uniformly to a random bucket --- what is the expected number of keys that get mapped to the first bucket? More precisely, what is the expected cardinality of the set $\{k : h(k) = 1\}$.

- ☐ $1/n$
- ☐ $m/(2n)$
- ☐ $1/m$
- ☐ $n/(2m)$
- ☐ m/n



 n/m



Correct Response

Use linearity of expectation, with one indicator variable for each key. The probability that one key hashes to the first bucket is $1/m$, and by linearity of expectation the total expected number of keys that hash to the first bucket is just n/m .



1 / 1
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2.

You are given a binary tree (via a pointer to its root) with n nodes, which may or may not be a binary search tree. How much time is necessary and sufficient to check whether or not the tree satisfies the search tree property?

- ☐ $\Theta(\log n)$
- ☐ $\Theta(\text{height})$
- ☐ $\Theta(n \log n)$
- ☒ $\Theta(n)$



Correct Response

For the lower bound, if there is a violation of the search tree property, you might need to examine all of the nodes to find it (in the worst case).



1 / 1
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3.

You are given a binary tree (via a pointer to its root) with n nodes. As in lecture, let $\text{size}(x)$ denote the number of nodes in the subtree rooted at the node x . How much time is necessary and sufficient to compute $\text{size}(x)$ for every node x of the tree?

- ☐ $\Theta(n^2)$
- ☐ $\Theta(n \log n)$

☐ $\Theta(\text{height})$

☒ $\Theta(n)$

Correct Response

For the lower bound, note that a linear number of quantities need to be computed. For the upper bound, recursively compute the sizes of the left and right subtrees, and use the formula $\text{size}(x) = 1 + \text{size}(y) + \text{size}(z)$ from lecture.



1 / 1
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4.

Which of the following is *not* a property that you expect a well-designed hash function to have?

☐ The hash function should be easy to compute (constant time or close to it).

☐ The hash function should be easy to store (constant space or close to it).

☐ The hash function should "spread out" most (i.e., "non-pathological") data sets (across the buckets/slots of the hash table).

☒ The hash function should "spread out" every data set (across the buckets/slots of the hash table).

Correct Response

As discussed in lecture, unfortunately, there is no such hash function.



1 / 1
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5.

Suppose we relax the third invariant of red-black trees to the property that there are no *three* reds in a row. That is, if a node and its parent are both red, then both of its children must be black. Call these *relaxed* red-black trees. Which of the following statements is *not* true?

- ☒ Every binary search tree can be turned into a relaxed red-black tree (via some coloring of the nodes as black or red).



Correct Response

A chain with four nodes is a counterexample.

- ☐ There is a relaxed red-black tree that is not also a red-black tree.
- ☐ The height of every relaxed red-black tree with n nodes is $O(\log n)$.
- ☐ Every red-black tree is also a relaxed red-black tree.
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