

# Data Structures

## How To Design A Good HAsH Function

Cain Susko

Queen's University  
School of Computing

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## Algorithms

The djb2 algorithm was first reproted by Dan Berstien many years ago.

```
djb2(s): # s is a string
    a = 5381
    for x in s:
        a = a*33 + x
    return a
```

$a = 32 * a + a + x$   
 multiplying by a power of 2 is  
 just a left shift of the bits.

**Python Hash** In python, a hhash function could look like so:

**hash(object)**

**object** - the object whose hash value is to be returned  
 (integer, string, float)

```
# hash for integer unchanged
print('Hash for 181 is:', hash(181))

# hash for decimal
print('Hash for 181.23 is:', hash(181.23))

# hash for string
print('Hash for Python is:', hash('Python'))
```

Hash for 181 is: 181  
 Hash for 181.23 is:  
 530343892119126197  
 Hash for Python is:  
 2230730083538390373

## Designing Your Own Hash Function

When Creating a Hash Function a large part of the process is figureing out what data to use from the input it hash the data. This is because is is

common for the Hash Table to contain a bespoke data type for storing a specific class of data. The convention is to design your algorithm, *analyze it*, and **iterate it**

**Tip 1** Make Use of All Data, as this help avoid collisions

**Tip 2** Try to Spread Out Values so that they are more Evenly Distributed.

In practice, it is very hard to derive the hash values independent of any patterns (which is what we were trying to do with the quadratic probing and double hashing).

There are a few methods we can use in order to try and achieve this even distribution.

**Division Method** The idea is to map a key  $k$  to one of the slots by taking the remainder of  $k$  divided by  $m$ .

$$h(k) = k \mod m$$

Although this method is fast, prime values of  $m$  cannot be used.

**Multiplication Method** The algorithm for this method is generally as follows:

1. Multiply each key  $k$  by a constant  $A$ , where  $0 < A < 1$
2. extract the fractional part of  $A$ ,  $kA$
3. multiply fractional part  $kA$  by  $m$
4. take the floor of the above result:

$$h(k) = \lfloor m(kA - \lfloor kA \rfloor) \rfloor$$

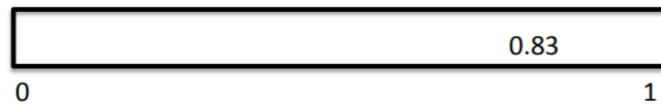
## Examples

for Division

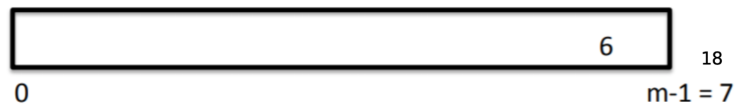
Key  $k = 3$ ;  $m = 8$  slots

(1)  $A = .61$

(2)  $kA = 3 \times .61 = 1.83$  fractional part



(3)  $\text{Floor}(f \ m) = \text{Floor}(.83 \times 8)$   
 $= \text{Floor}(6.64) = 6$



and Multiplication

- The value of  $m$  is not critical now (e.g.,  $m = 2^p$ )

assume  $m = 2^3$

```

      .101101 (A)
      110101 (k)
      -----
1001010 011 0011 (kA)
  
```

discard: 1001010

shift .0110011 by 3 bits to the left

011.0011

take integer part: 011

thus,  $h(110101) = 011$