

Github:

<https://github.com/ddbl/FLCD>

Github lab 1 PR:

<https://github.com/ddbl/FLCD/pull/1>

Symbol table – hash table implementation

Our hash table will need a few fields to keep it together. It needs a `size`, which will be the number of elements that have been inserted. It needs a `capacity`, which will determine the size of our internal arrays. Last, it needs `table` - this is a collection of arrays, storing each inserted value in a list based on the provided value.

Node

Because the hash table uses **separate chaining**, each list will actually contain a LinkedList of nodes containing the objects stored at that index. This is one method of **collision resolution**.

Collisions

Whenever two keys have the same hash value, it is considered a collision. With separate chaining, we create a Linked List at each index of our `buckets` array, containing all keys for a given index.

When we need to look up one of those items, we iterate the list until we find the Node matching the requested key.

Insert

To insert a key/value pair into our hash table, we will follow these steps:

1. Increment size of hash table.
2. Compute `index` of key using hash function.
3. If the bucket at `index` is empty, create a new node and add it there.
4. Otherwise, a collision occurred: there is already a linked list of at least one node at this index. Iterate to the end of the list and add a new node there.

Find

After storing data in our hash table, we will surely need to retrieve it at some point. To do this, we'll perform the following steps:

1. Compute the `index` for the provided key using the hash function.
2. Go to the bucket for that `index`.
3. Iterate the nodes in that linked list until the key is found, or the end of the list is reached.
4. Return the value of the found node, or `None` if not found.