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3/4/18

**Collection Type Justification Paragraph**

Initially I used the HashMap as the collection type for the instances per month. I started here because we had the example from class, and I knew I could get it to work. What I did not like about this collection type was that the months had no order. It was difficult to locate a month from the list, despite the small number of values (12 months). After doing some research, I found that the TreeMap maintain ascending order. For me, this is was a suitable solution because there are only 12 possible entries. With the TreeMap they are in ascending order alphabetically. While the entries are not sorted by month number (January 01, Feb 02, etc) since there are only 12 entries and they are alphabetical, the user can easily locate which month they would like to find the number of instances. In addition there TreeMaps access and retrieval times are fast so there is no loss in performance. I’d be interested in an approach that would have the order of the months be in chronological order (Jan, Feb, Mar, etc).