```
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <string.h>
Fdefine MAXPAROLA 30
#define MAXRIGA 80
nt main(int arge, char "argv[])
   int freq[ALAXPAROLA]; /* vetfore di confatori
delle frequenze delle lunghezze delle prode
   char nga[MAXRIGA] ;
Int i, inizio, lunghezza ;
```

Symbol Tables

Direct Access Tables

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Definition

- A Symbol Table is a data structure with records including a key and allowing operations such as
 - > Insertion of a new record
 - > Search of a record with a given key
 - > Delete, select, order, union
- Sometimes symbol tables are denoted with the term dictionary
 - Many applications need fast searches
 - Dictionaries are very important in computer engineering

Applications

Symbol tables have several applications

Applications	Target, i.e., searching	Key	Return Value
Dictionary	Definition	Word	Definition
Book index	Relevant pages	Word	Page list
DNS Lookup	IP address given its URL	URL	IP address
Reverse DNS Lookup	URL given its IP address	IP address	URL
File system	File on disk	File name	Disk location
Web search	Web page	Keyword	Page list

Implementations

- Symbol tables have several implementations
- Linear structures
 - Direct Access Tables
 - Arrays
 - Unordered
 - Ordered
 - Lists
 - Unordered
 - Ordered
 - Hash Tables

- Tree structures
 - Binary Search Trees (BSTs)
 - Balanced Trees
 - **2-3-4**
 - RB-tree
 - B-tree

Complexity

Different data structures have different performances

Worst case complexity

Data Structure Search Insert **Direct Access Table Unordered Array** n **Ordered Array Linear Search** n n Ordered Array Binary Search log n n **Unordered List** n **Ordered List** n n **BST** n n RB-tree log n log n Hashing n

Complexity

Average case complexity

Data Structure	Insert	Search	
Data Structure		Hit	Miss
Direct Access Table	1	1	1
Unordered Array	1	n/2	n
Ordered Array Linear Search	n/2	n/2	n/2
Orderer Array Binary Search	n/2	log n	log n
Unordered List	1	n/2	n
Ordered List	n/2	n/2	n/2
BST	log n	log n	log n
RB-tree	log n	log n	log n
Hashing	1	1	1

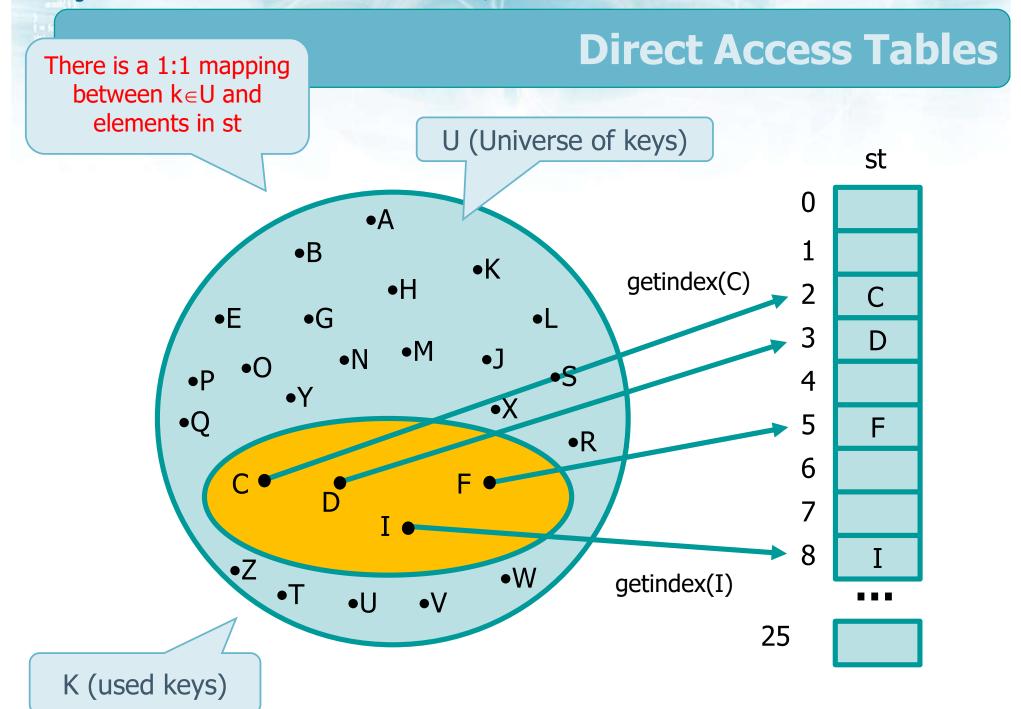
- All search algorithms analyzed so far in the course are based on comparisons
 - For example searching for a key into an array, a list or a BST implies comparing this key with the element or node keys visiting the data structure with a specific logic
- Direct Access Tables and Hash Tables use a different paradigm
 - They compute the position of the key within the data structure by applying a function to the key

Problem definition

- Suppose we need to store a key k belonging to a universe U of key in a table, with
 - k ∈ U
 - No two elements have the same key
 - U has cardinality |U|

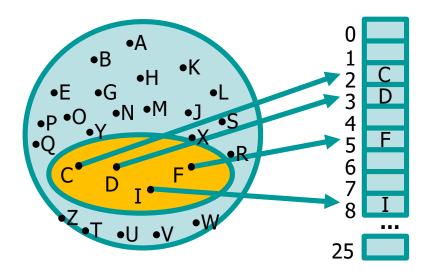
Core ideas

- We can use an array to store the keys (and the related data fields)
 - The array (st) has size equal to |U|
- We need to map each key (k∈U) into a specific element of the array



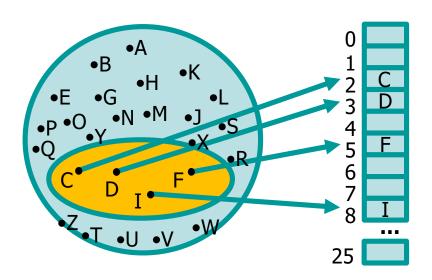
We have two problems

- As the array **st** has size equal to **|U|**, the cardinality of U must be small to be able to allocate the array st
- ➤ We always use |U| elements even when we want to store a small subset of |U|



We have two problems

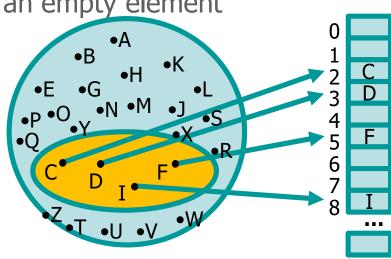
- We need to understand how to map keys into elements
 - This may be simple in specific cases, but the keys are not necessarily integer values
 - The mapping between keys and array indices may be complex



- * To create the mapping key-index we have to design a function (**getindex**) that given a key k
 - ➤ Returns an integer from 0 to |U|-1, acting as an array index
 - If the key k is in the table
 - st[getindex(k)] stores it
 - If the key k is not in the table

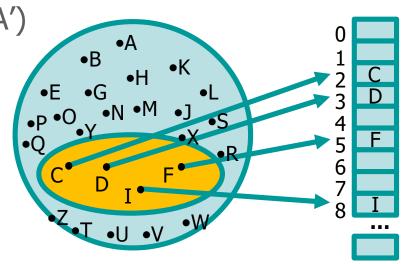
st[getindex(k)] stores an empty element

There is a 1:1 mapping between k∈U and elements in st

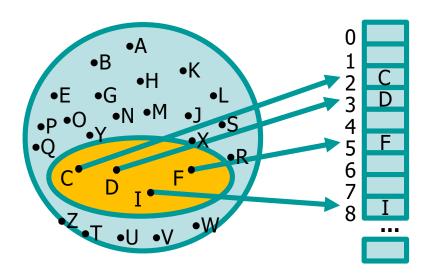


- This looks simple enough, but getindex must be general
 - > If keys are integers from 0 to |U|-1
 - getindex (k) = k
 - ➤ If keys are small (capital) letters in the English alphabet (i.e., a-z or A-Z)
 - getindex (k) = k − ((int) 'a')
 - getindex (k) = k − ((int) 'A')

ASCII for 'a' is 97, thus 'a' is mapped onto 0 and 'z' is mapped onto 26. Same consideration for 'A' (ASCII 65).



- > If keys are generic values
 - Function getindex has to map those keys into integer values in the range [0, |U|-1]
 - This may be very complex



Advantages

- Complexity plays in favour of direct access tables
 - > Insert, search, and delete complexity
 - $T(n) = \Theta(1)$
 - > Init complexity
 - $T(n) = \Theta(|U|)$
 - Memory usage
 - $S(n) = \Theta(|U|)$

Disadvantages

- Limits are due to
 - > For large |U| the array st cannot be allocated
 - Direct access tables can be used only for small |U|
 - Thus, if |U| is large direct tables cannot be used
 - ➤ If |K| << |U| there is a memory loss
- Funcion getindex has to be properly designed depending on the key type

Disadvantages

- Direct access tables have restricted practical applications
 - Used to convert keys into integers (and vice-versa) with a cost equal to 1
- When |U| is large or keys are complex, direct access tables must be extended into Hash Tables
 - With hash-tables the 1:1 mapping between keys and array indices is lost
 - > We must map "many" elements in a "small" table