MATH 182: Homework #6

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Assignment: 3.2.3, 3.2.6, 3.3.2, 3.3.4, 3.3.13

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Exercise 3.4.4
Write a program to find values `a, m` with `m` as small as possible, such that the hash function `(a * k) mod m` for transforming the kth letter of the alphabet into table index produces distinct values for keys `S E A R C H X M P L`.

Solution. We first convert the keys to their corresponding numeric values as the kth letter of the alphabet. The keys then become

$$[18, 4, 0, 17, 2, 7, 10, 12, 15, 11]$$

The first step is to find values of `a, m` so that we can obtain a unique encoding (no collisions). This is accomplished in the first loop below. After finding values `a, m` that give us this property, we then minimize `m`. This is done accomplished in the second loop. The results were: `m = 19, a = 23`. □

```
import java.util.*;

public class HashFunction {
   public static void findPerfectHash(int[] k) {
      ArrayList<Integer> hCodes = new ArrayList<Integer>();
      int a = 1, m = k.length, iter = 0, result;
      while(hCodes.size() != k.length && iter < 100) {
         hCodes.clear();
         for (int i = 0; i < k.length; i++) {
            result = (k[i] * a) % m;
            if (hCodes.contains(result))
               break;
            hCodes.add(result);
         }
         iter++; a += 2; m++;
      }
      iter = 0;
      int last_m = 0;
      ArrayList<Integer> goodHash = new ArrayList<Integer>();
      // minimize m, while fixing k
      while(hCodes.size() == k.length && iter < 100) {
         last_m = m;
         goodHash.clear(); goodHash.addAll(hCodes);
         hCodes.clear();
         m--;
         for (int i = 0; i < k.length; i++) {
            result = (k[i] * a) % m;
            if (!hCodes.contains(result))
               hCodes.add(result);
         }
         iter++;
      }
      System.out.println("m = " + last_m + ", a = " + a);
   }

   public static void main(String[] args) {
      int[] input = {18, 4, 0, 17 ,2, 7, 10, 12, 15, 11};
      findPerfectHash(input);
   }
}
```