

Skip Lists

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CSC220 Programming II – Spring 2020



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- ▶ That's what `java.util.TreeMap` uses.



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- ▶ We need a nice application for our Map.



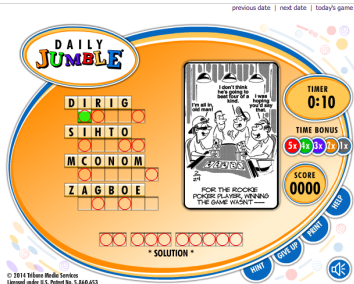
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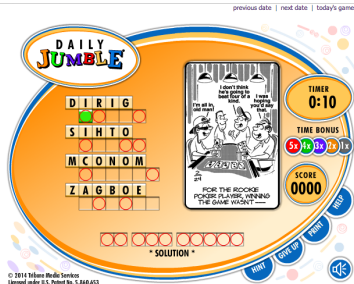
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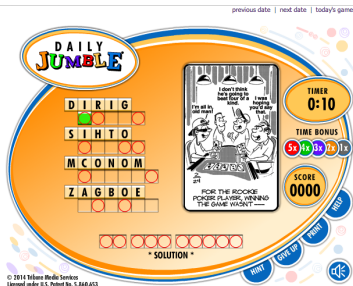
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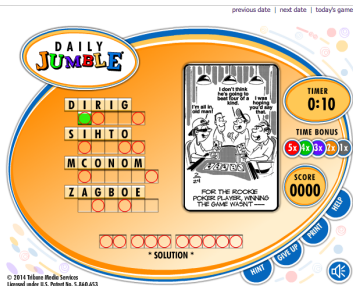
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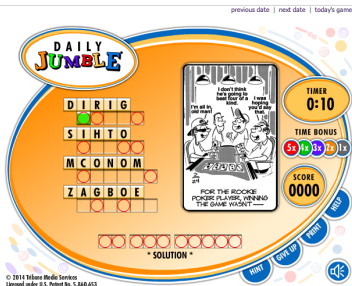
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- ▶ Need to unscramble words.
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 - ▶ Unscrambled is “computer”.
 - ▶ How can a Map help us to do that?

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 - ▶ But the number of orderings is $8! = 40,320$, bad!.



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 - ▶ That is "cemoprut".
- ▶ To get ready:



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 - ▶ Solution is to use **List<String>** as the value type.
 - ▶ But we won't do that this time.



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 - ▶ but it takes a while to get there.
 - ▶ BST is faster,
 - ▶ but still much slower than a balanced tree (TreeMap).

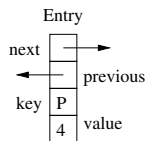
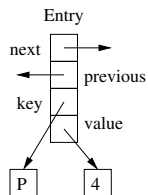


Implementation using our Map implementations

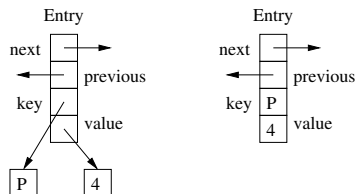
- ▶ I will run the Jumble solver for you using the different implementations of Map.
 - ▶ The lookup might be as fast as $O(\log n)$ (for SortedPD) but that's not the problem.
 - ▶ The problem is adding all the words in the dictionary.
 - ▶ We never got add faster than $O(n)$
 - ▶ If we add n words, that's $O(n^2)$,
 - ▶ which is pretty slow.
- ▶ It's even slower for a bigger dictionary, as I will show you.
 - ▶ To get to entry i in the list takes i steps.
 - ▶ An array can do it in one step (**theArray[i]**)
 - ▶ but then adding at the head will cost $O(n)$
 - ▶ The linked list lets us add quickly once we get there,
 - ▶ but it takes a while to get there.
 - ▶ BST is faster,
 - ▶ but still much slower than a balanced tree (TreeMap).
- ▶ We need a faster way.



Linked Lists

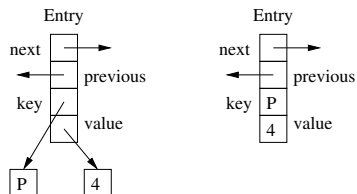


Linked Lists



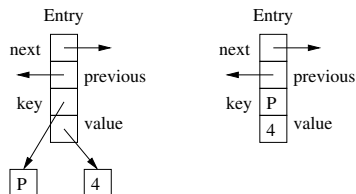
- ▶ A linked list uses an Entry class

Linked Lists



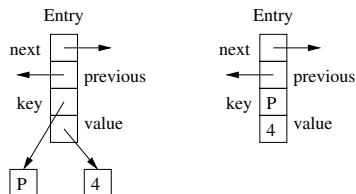
- ▶ A linked list uses an Entry class
- ▶ with next, previous, key, and value.

Linked Lists



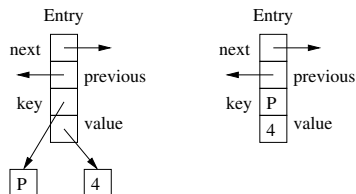
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Linked Lists



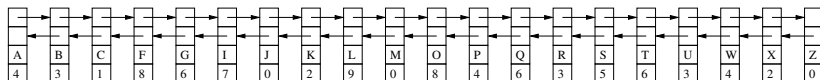
- ▶ A linked list uses an Entry class
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- ▶ but we usually just write the key and value in the boxes.

Linked Lists

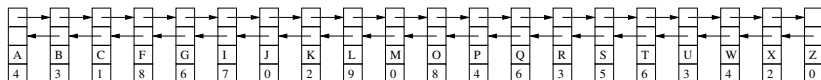


- ▶ A linked list uses an Entry class
- ▶ with next, previous, key, and value.
- ▶ They are all pointers (arrows) to other objects,
- ▶ but we usually just write the key and value in the boxes.
- ▶ For convenience of drawing the diagrams, I have put next and previous before key and value.

Map using Sorted Linked List

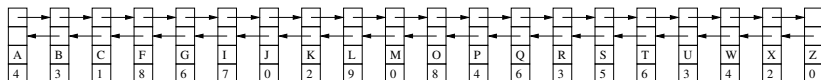


Map using Sorted Linked List



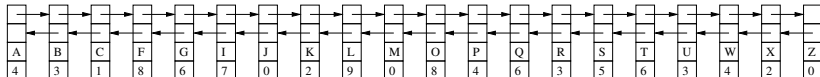
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Map using Sorted Linked List



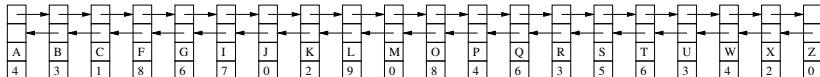
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 - ▶ unlike an array which requires $O(n)$ time

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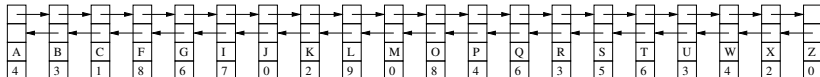
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Map using Sorted Linked List



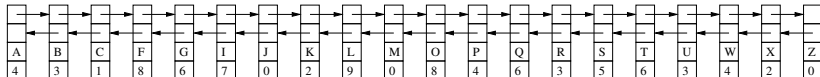
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- ▶ Unfortunately, it takes $O(n)$ time to get to an Entry in a linked list.

Map using Sorted Linked List



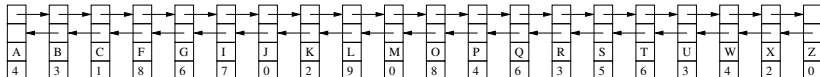
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 - ▶ Binary search would actually be $O(n \log n)$ time on a linked list.

Map using Sorted Linked List



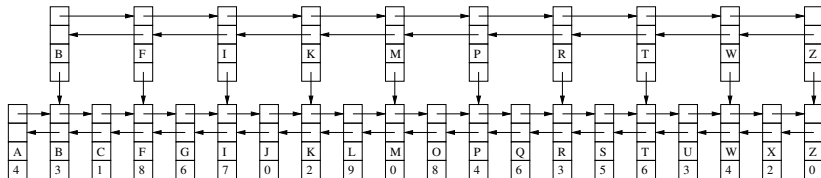
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Map using Sorted Linked List

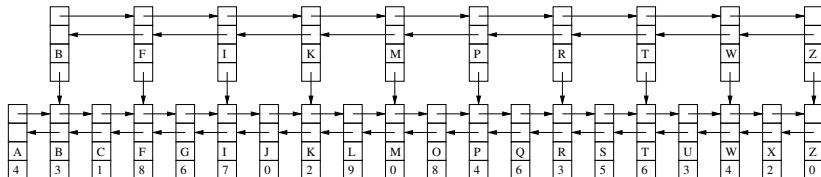


- ▶ Linked lists allow us to add or remove an Entry in $O(1)$ time,
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- ▶ Unfortunately, it takes $O(n)$ time to get to an Entry in a linked list.
 - ▶ Binary search would actually be $O(n \log n)$ time on a linked list.
 - ▶ It would do $O(\log n)$ gets, each in $O(n)$ time.
- ▶ So how can we apply the “gold coin” idea?

Skipping Keys

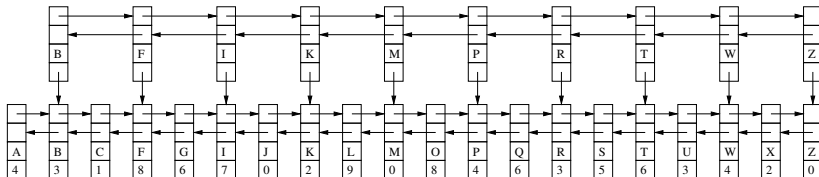


Skipping Keys



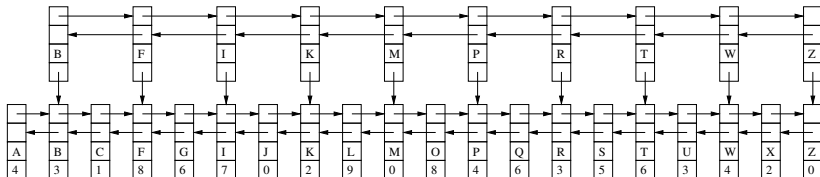
- What if we create a *second* linked list that skips every other key?

Skipping Keys



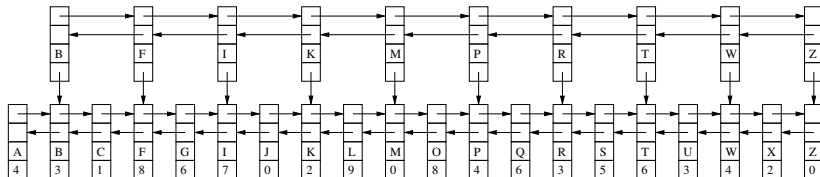
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- ▶ The value would be a pointer to the Entry with that key in the first list.

Skipping Keys



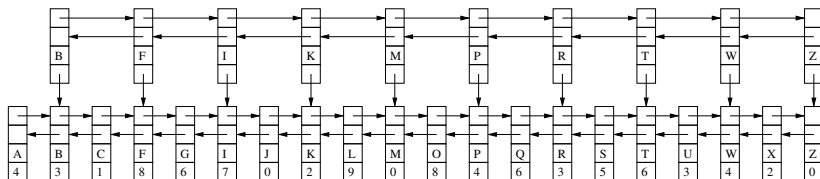
- ▶ What if we create a *second* linked list that skips every other key?
- ▶ The value would be a pointer to the Entry with that key in the first list.
- ▶ We could get as close as possible to a key in the second list,

Skipping Keys



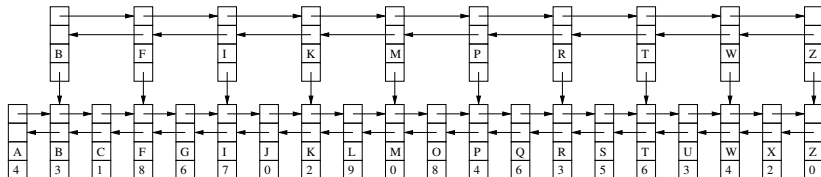
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Skipping Keys



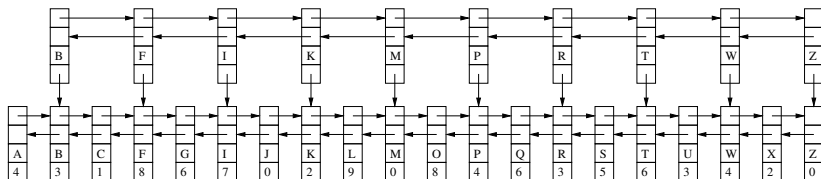
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- ▶ That reduces the number of steps from n to $n/2 + 1$.

Skipping Keys



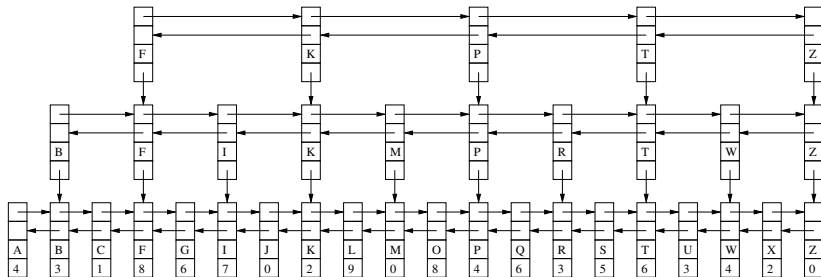
- ▶ What if we create a *second* linked list that skips every other key?
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- ▶ and then go at most *one* step in the first list to get to the key.
- ▶ That reduces the number of steps from n to $n/2 + 1$.
- ▶ But that is still $O(n)$.

Skipping Keys

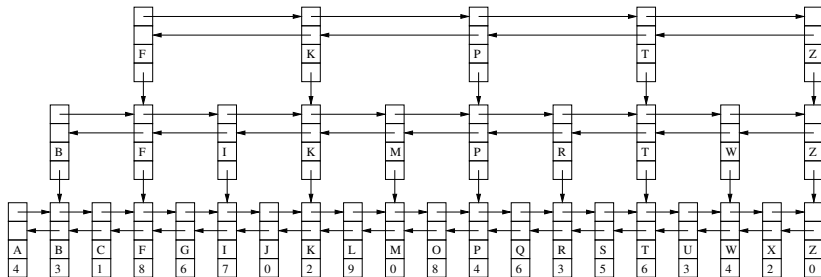


- ▶ What if we create a *second* linked list that skips every other key?
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- ▶ and then go at most *one* step in the first list to get to the key.
- ▶ That reduces the number of steps from n to $n/2 + 1$.
- ▶ But that is still $O(n)$.
- ▶ Too bad. What should we do?

Do it again!

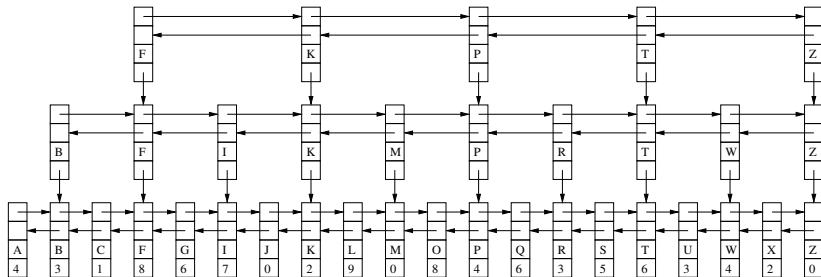


Do it again!



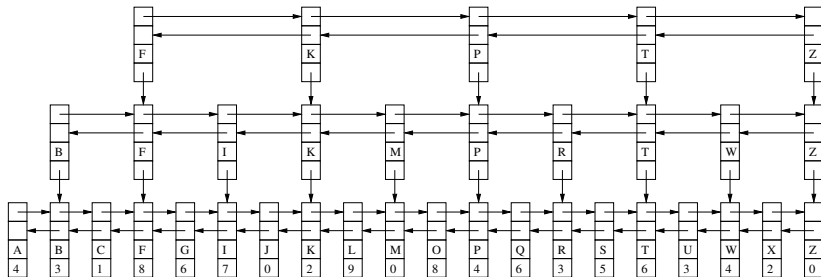
- ▶ OK, add a *third* list that skips every other key in the second list.

Do it again!



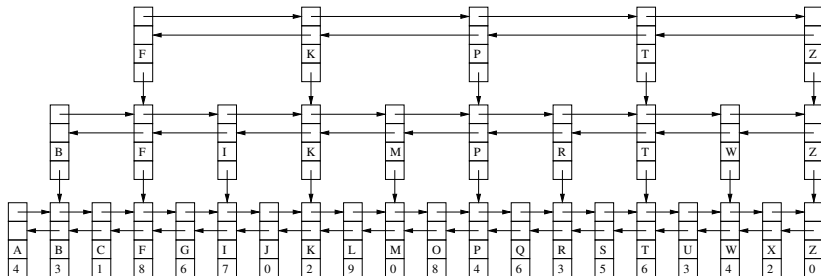
- ▶ OK, add a *third* list that skips every other key in the second list.
- ▶ So we will only have to go at most *one* step in the second list.

Do it again!



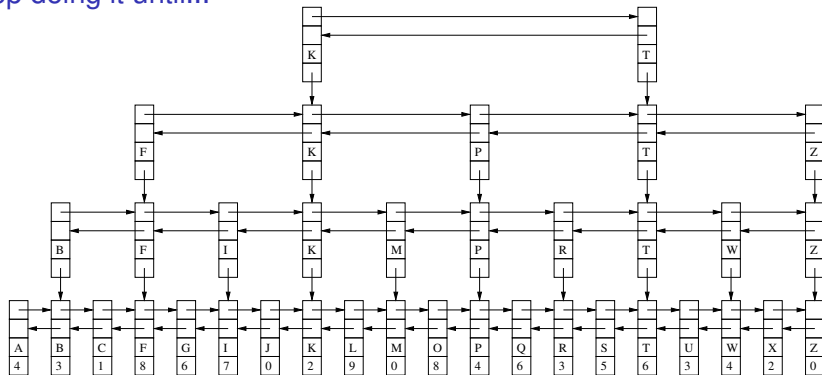
- ▶ OK, add a *third* list that skips every other key in the second list.
- ▶ So we will only have to go at most *one* step in the second list.
- ▶ And as before at most one step in the first list.

Do it again!

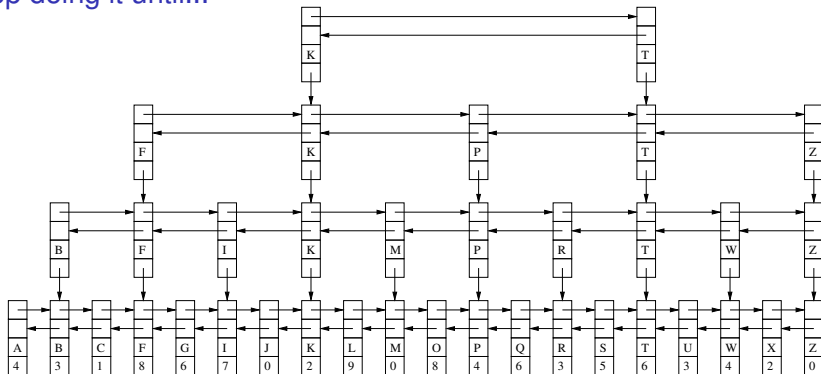


- ▶ OK, add a *third* list that skips every other key in the second list.
- ▶ So we will only have to go at most *one* step in the second list.
- ▶ And as before at most one step in the first list.
- ▶ $n/4 + 2$ is still $O(n)$.

Keep doing it until...

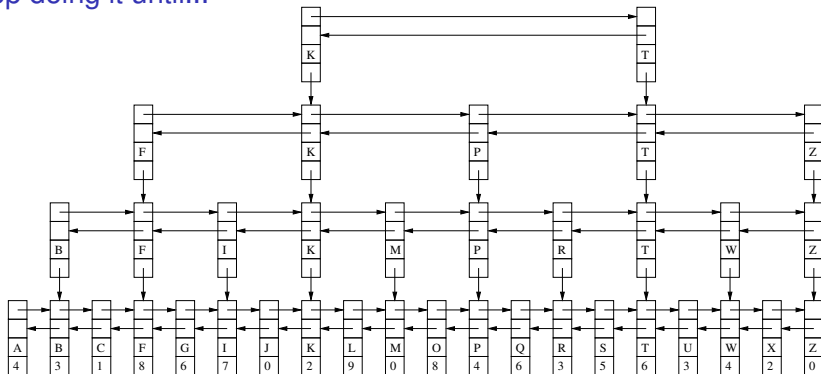


Keep doing it until...



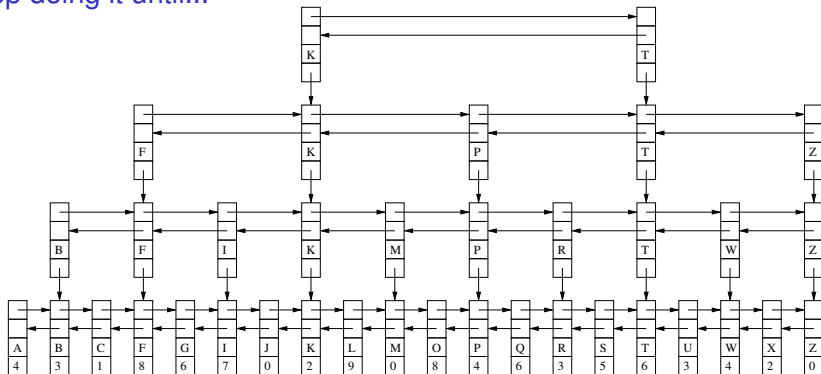
- But what if we keep doing this until there is only a *constant* number in the topmost list?

Keep doing it until...



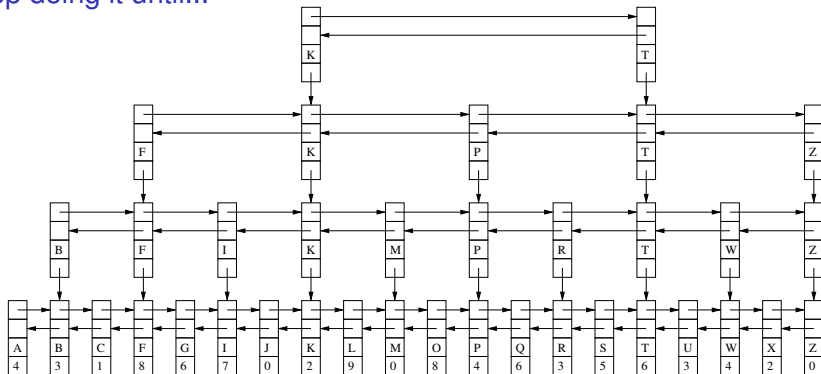
- ▶ But what if we keep doing this until there is only a *constant* number in the topmost list?
- ▶ So we will go at most one step in *every* list.

Keep doing it until...



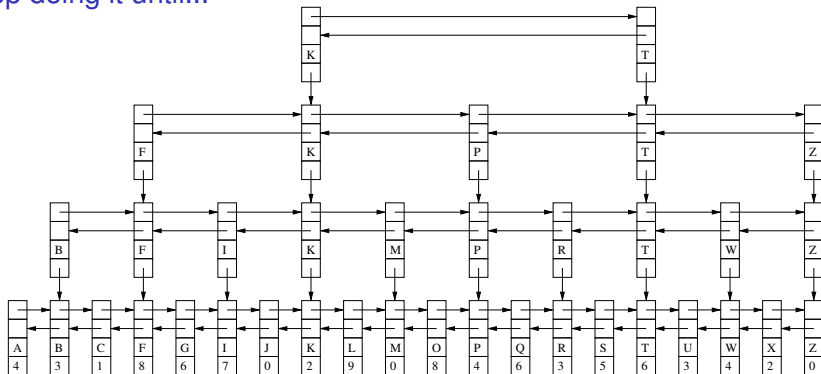
- ▶ But what if we keep doing this until there is only a *constant* number in the topmost list?
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- ▶ How many lists will there be?

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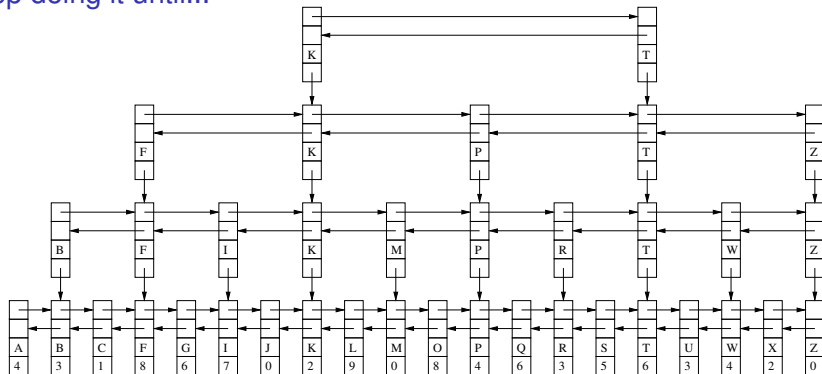
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- ▶ Hint: each list has half as many elements as the one below it.

Keep doing it until...



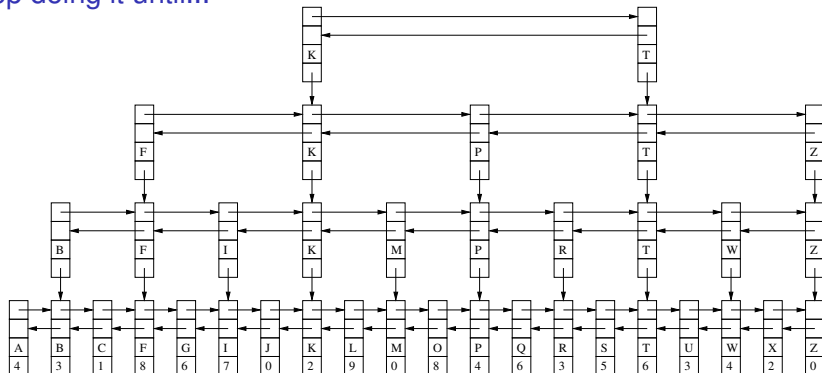
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- ▶ I hope you all *immediately* thought $\log_2 n$.

Keep doing it until...



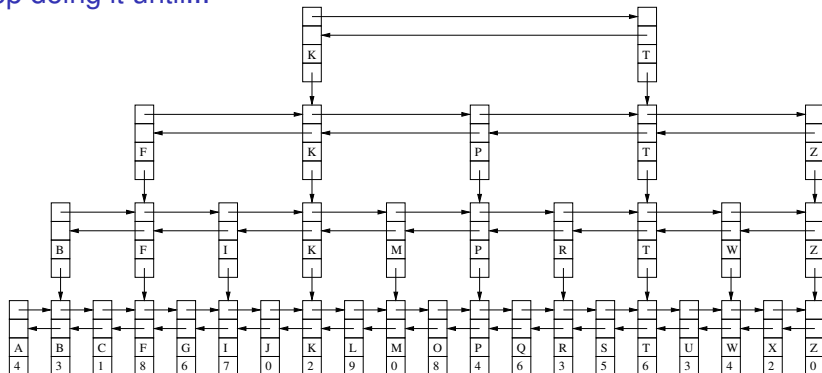
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Keep doing it until...



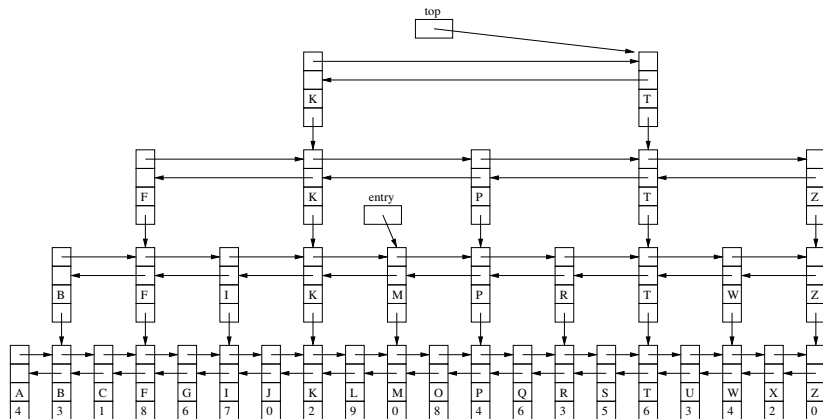
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- ▶ So getting the (original) Entry for a key takes $O(\log n)$ time.

Keep doing it until...

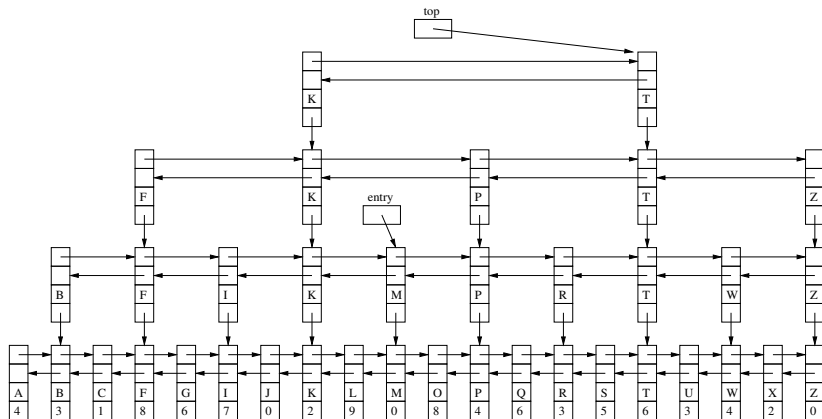


- ▶ But what if we keep doing this until there is only a *constant* number in the topmost list?
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- ▶ Hint: each list has half as many elements as the one below it.
- ▶ I hope you all *immediately* thought $\log_2 n$.
- ▶ So $\log_2 n$ lists and we go at most one step in each one?
- ▶ So getting the (original) Entry for a key takes $O(\log n)$ time.
- ▶ This is a SKIP LIST.

Skip List

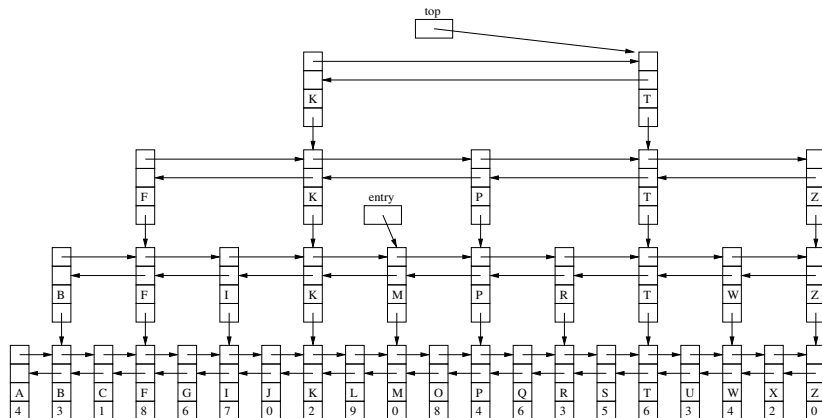


Skip List



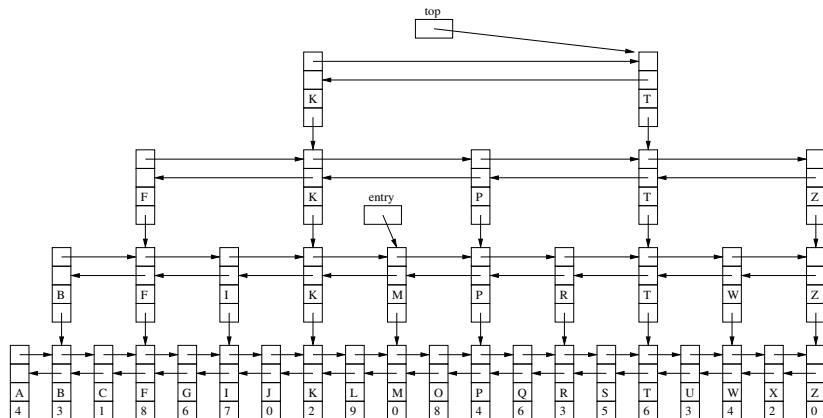
- Here is a skip list. The “top” Entry can be any entry in the top list.

Skip List



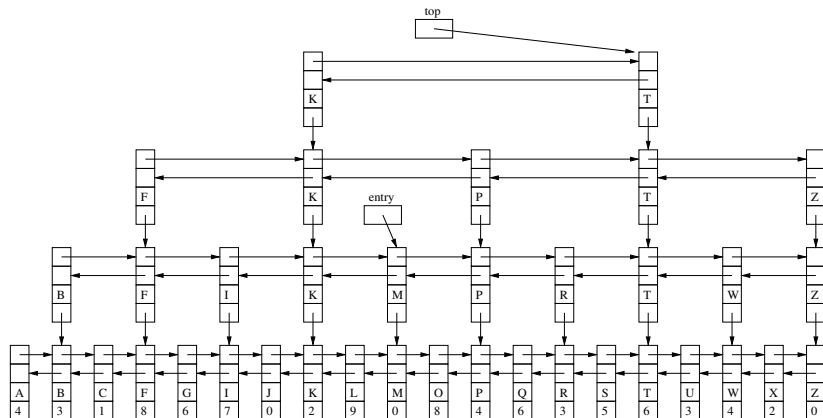
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- ▶ As we move around the skip list, we have a variable entry that moves left or right on a level or goes down to the next lower list.

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- ▶ By the way, how much extra *space* does a skip list use?

Skip List



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- ▶ As we move around the skip list, we have a variable entry that moves left or right on a level or goes down to the next lower list.
- ▶ By the way, how much extra *space* does a skip list use?
- ▶ $n/2 + n/4 + n/8 + \dots = ???$



Switching to ASCII

							K								@T												
				F					K					P					T	Z							
		B			F			I			K			*M			P			R	T			W			Z
A	B	C	F	G	I	J	K	L	M	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	W	X	Z								
4	3	1	8	6	7	0	2	9	0	8	4	6	3	5	6	3	4	2	0								



Switching to ASCII

							K						@T						
			F				K			P			T					Z	
	B		F		I		K		*M		P		R		T		W	Z	
A	B	C	F	G	I	J	K	L	M	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	W	X	Z
4	3	1	8	6	7	0	2	9	0	8	4	6	3	5	6	3	4	2	0

- The figures take a lot of time to draw.

Switching to ASCII

							K						@T						
			F				K			P			T				Z		
	B		F		I		K		*M		P		R		T		W	Z	
A	B	C	F	G	I	J	K	L	M	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	W	X	Z
4	3	1	8	6	7	0	2	9	0	8	4	6	3	5	6	3	4	2	0

- ▶ The figures take a lot of time to draw.
- ▶ Here is an ASCII version.



Switching to ASCII

							K							@T					
			F				K			P				T				Z	
	B		F		I		K		*M		P		R		T		W	Z	
A	B	C	F	G	I	J	K	L	M	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	W	X	Z
4	3	1	8	6	7	0	2	9	0	8	4	6	3	5	6	3	4	2	0

- ▶ The figures take a lot of time to draw.
- ▶ Here is an ASCII version.
- ▶ You have to imagine the boxes.



Switching to ASCII

										K												@T			
				F						K						P						T		Z	
B		F		I		K		*M		P		R		T		W		Z							
A	B	C	F	G	I	J	K	L	M	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	W	X	Z						
4	3	1	8	6	7	0	2	9	0	8	4	6	3	5	6	3	4	2	0						

- ▶ The figures take a lot of time to draw.
- ▶ Here is an ASCII version.
- ▶ You have to imagine the boxes.
- ▶ And the next and previous arrows.



Switching to ASCII

										K		@T																			
						F						K						P						T						Z	
B			F			I			K			*M			P			R			T			W			Z				
A	B	C	F	G	I	J	K	L	M	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	W	X	Z												
4	3	1	8	6	7	0	2	9	0	8	4	6	3	5	6	3	4	2	0												

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- ▶ You have to imagine the boxes.
- ▶ And the next and previous arrows.
- ▶ And the downward arrow when the value is an Entry in a lower list.
- ▶ @ is the top.

Switching to ASCII

										K		@T																			
						F						K						P						T						Z	
B			F			I			K			*M			P			R			T			W			Z				
A	B	C	F	G	I	J	K	L	M	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	W	X	Z												
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- ▶ You have to imagine the boxes.
- ▶ And the next and previous arrows.
- ▶ And the downward arrow when the value is an Entry in a lower list.
- ▶ @ is the top.
- ▶ * is the Entry we are currently looking at, meaning a variable points to it.



Every Other?

Every Other?

- ▶ What if someone *removes* every other key: B, F, I, K, M, P, R, T, W, Z?



Every Other?

- ▶ What if someone *removes* every other key: B, F, I, K, M, P, R, T, W, Z?
- ▶ Then we are left with just one sorted linked list.



Every Other?

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- ▶ Answer: flip a coin!
- ▶ For each key in a list, I flip a coin. If it is heads, it goes into the next higher list.
- ▶ If you can predict which of my keys will flip heads, you don’t need to be studying Computer Science!

Randomized Skip List

	B									O				@T									
	B			F		G											O		T			U	
	B	C	F	G					K	M	O	Q					T	U	W	Z			
A	B	C	F	G	I	J	K	L	M	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	W	X	Z				
4	3	1	8	6	7	0	2	9	0	8	4	6	3	5	6	3	4	2	0				



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- ▶ So on average everyone flips one tail before getting heads.
- ▶ So on average you skip one key before promoting the next one to a higher level.
- ▶ You will learn this more formally in MTH224.



Randomized Skip List

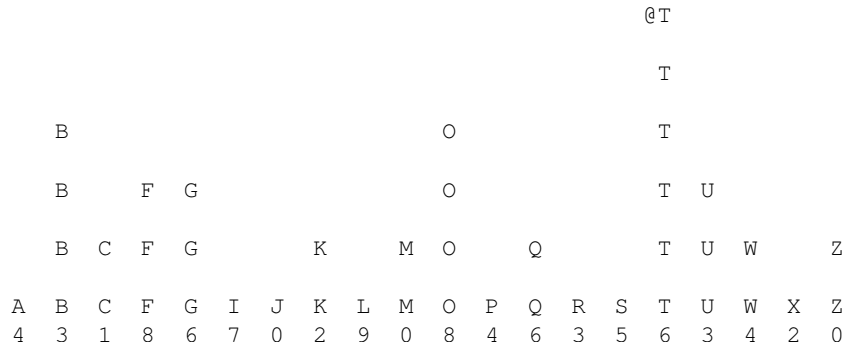
														@T					
														T					
	B									O				T					
	B		F	G						O				T	U				
	B	C	F	G			K		M	O		Q		T	U	W		Z	
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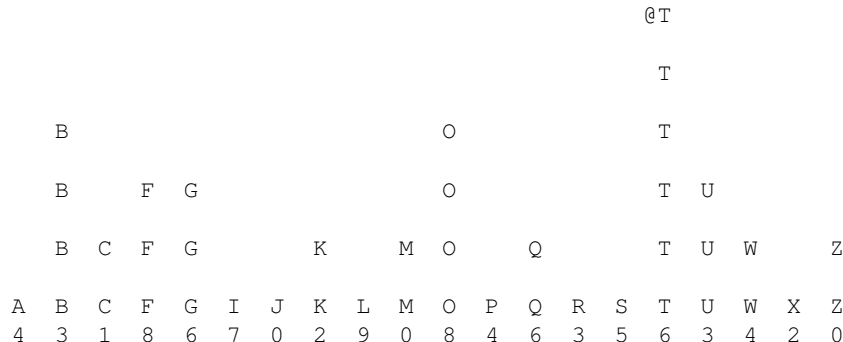
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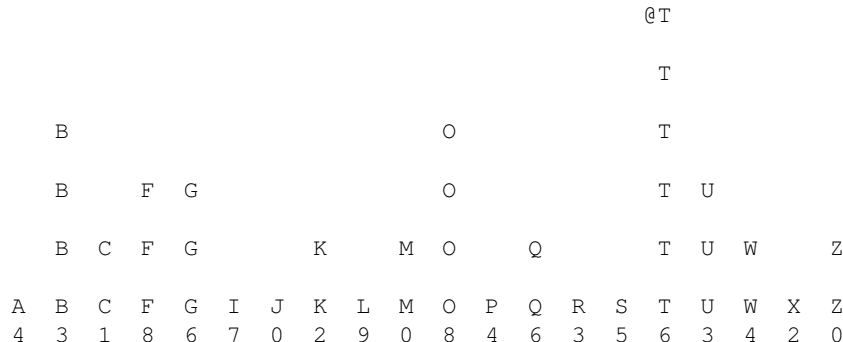
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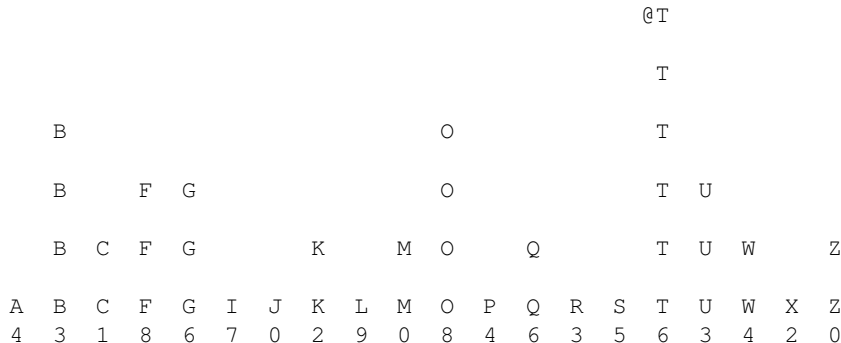
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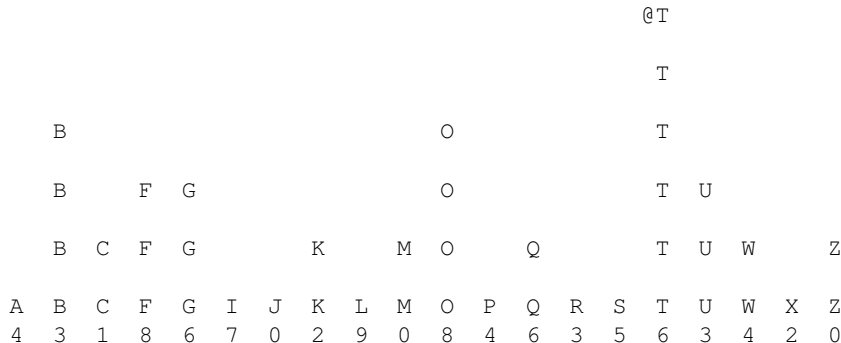
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- ▶ If the list doesn't exist already, you have to create it.



Lab and Homework



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 - ▶ get calls rFind and put calls rFind and rAdd.



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- ▶ Remove is extra credit: earn 50 points towards any assignment you earned less than 50 points.



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- ▶ The amount of space $2n$ (expected), still $O(n)$.



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