

## Sample algorithms for selected Bag ADT methods

Much of the code for this assignment is available in chapter 3 of the textbook. The algorithms I provide here should help you understand how to implement the functionality for the methods which aren't covered in the book.

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1-arg/cloning constructor `LinkedBag( BagInterface<T> sourceBag )`:

1. initialize the instance state to that of an empty bag (hint: invoke the no-arg constructor)
2. 'convert' the contents of `sourceBag` to an array of entries (`T[] sourceBagContents`)
3. iterate over the entries in `sourceBagContents`
  - a. `this.add()` the entry to the bag we're constructing

This approach is universal in that it will work with any implementation of `BagInterface`. An alternate approach treats `sourceBag` more efficiently if it's a `LinkedBag`:

1. initialize the instance state to that of an empty bag
2. if `sourceBag` is a `LinkedBag`:
  - a. traverse `sourceBag`'s chain (same strategy as the other traversals)
    - i. `this.add()` the data referenced by the current `Node`
3. otherwise // `sourceBag` is a different bag implementation
  - a. 'convert' the contents of `sourceBag` to an array of entries (`T[] sourceBagContents`)
  - b. iterate over the array of entries in `sourceBagContents`
    - i. `this.add()` the entry to the bag we're constructing

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`BagInterface<T> difference( BagInterface<T> anotherBag )`:

1. instantiate `resultBag` as a new bag with its initial contents the same as ours (clone this)
2. 'convert' the contents of `anotherBag` to an array of entries (`T[] anotherBagContents`)
3. iterate over the entries in `anotherBagContents`
  - a. `resultBag.remove()` each entry from `resultBag` (we don't care whether it succeeded)
4. return `resultBag`

As with the cloning constructor, we can make this more efficient when `anotherBag` is a `LinkedBag` by traversing its chain of `Nodes` – we still use the array of entries for other bag implementations.

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BagInterface<T> intersection( BagInterface<T> anotherBag ):

1. instantiate resultBag as an empty bag
2. clone anotherBag (clonedBag) (will make life easier than copying its entries to an array because we can use our own methods to manipulate the contents)
3. traverse our (this) chain of Nodes
  - a. if clonedBag.contains() the entry our current Node references
    - i. clonedBag.delete() the entry from clonedBag
    - ii. resultBag.add() the entry to resultBag
4. return resultBag

We don't need to concern ourselves with the implementation of anotherBag – the cloning constructor deals with that and gives us a LinkedBag which we can manipulate directly.

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BagInterface<T> union( BagInterface<T> anotherBag ):

1. clone ourself (this) to get our resultBag
2. 'convert' the contents of anotherBag to an array of entries  
(T[] anotherBagContents)
3. iterate over the entries in anotherBagContents
  - a. resultBag.add() the entry to the bag we're constructing
4. return resultBag

As with the cloning constructor and difference(), we can make this more efficient when anotherBag is a LinkedBag by traversing its chain of Nodes – we still use the array of entries for other bag implementations.