6.001 SICP Data abstraction revisited

- Data structures: association list, vector, hash table
- Table abstract data type
- No implementation of an ADT is necessarily "best"
- Abstract data types are a technique for information hiding
 - in the types as well as in the code

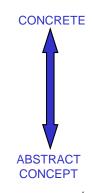


Table: a set of bindings

- binding: a pairing of a key and a value
- Abstract interface to a table:
 - make

create a new table

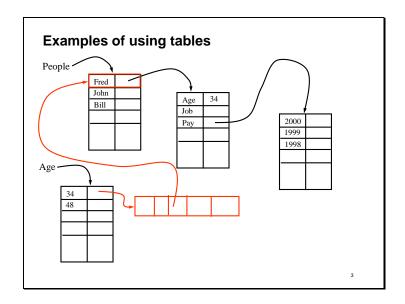
• put! key value

insert a new binding replaces any previous binding of that key

• get key

look up the key, return the corresponding value

- This definition IS the table abstract data type
 - Code shown later is an implementation of the ADT




```
Alist operation: find-assoc

(define (find-assoc key alist)
  (cond
        ((null? alist) #f)
        ((equal? key (caar alist)) (cadar alist))
        (else (find-assoc key (cdr alist))))

(define al '((x 15) (y 20)))
  (find-assoc 'y al) ==> 20
```


```
Alist operation: add-assoc

(define (add-assoc key val alist)
   (cons (list key val) alist))

(define a2 (add-assoc 'y 10 a1))

a2 ==> ((y 10) (x 15) (y 20))

(find-assoc 'y a2) ==> 10
```


Alists are not an abstract data type

- · Missing a constructor:
 - Use quote or list to construct

```
(define a1 '((x 15) (y 20)))
```

- There is no abstraction barrier:
 - Definition in scheme language manual:
 "An alist is a list of pairs, each of which is called an association. The car of an association is called the key."
- Therefore, the implementation is exposed. User may operate on alists using list operations.

```
(filter (lambda (a) (< (cadr a) 16)) a1)) ==> ((x 15))
```

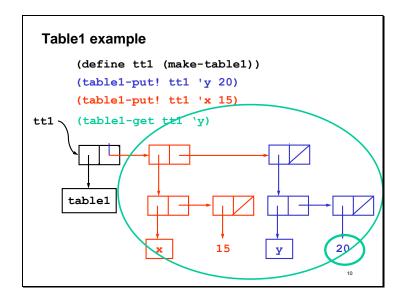
Why do we care that Alists are not an ADT?

- · Modularity is essential for software engineering
 - Build a program by sticking modules together
 - Can change one module without affecting the rest
- Alists have poor modularity
 - Programs may use list ops like filter and map on alists
 - These ops will fail if the implementation of alists change
 - Must change whole program if you want a different table
- To achieve modularity, hide information
 - Hide the fact that the table is implemented as a list
 - Do not allow rest of program to use list operations
 - ADT techniques exist in order to do this

Table1: Table ADT implemented as an Alist

```
(define table1-tag 'table1)
(define (make-table1) (cons table1-tag nil))
(define (table1-get tb1 key)
  (find-assoc key (cdr tb1)))
(define (table1-put! tb1 key val)
  (set-cdr! tb1 (add-assoc key val (cdr tb1))))
```

a



How do we know Table1 is an ADT implementation

- · Potential reasons:
 - Because it has a type tag

No

• Because it has a constructor

No

Because it has mutators and accessors

No

- · Actual reason:
 - Because the rest of the program does not apply any functions to Table1 objects other than the functions specified in the Table ADT
 - For example, no car, cdr, map, filter done to tables
- The implementation (as an Alist) is hidden from the rest of the program, so it can be changed easily

Information hiding in types: opaque names

- Opaque: type name that is defined but unspecified
- Given functions m1 and m2 and unspecified type MyType:
 (define (m1 number) ...); number → MyType
 (define (m2 myt) ...); MyType → undef
- Which of the following is OK? Which is a type mismatch?

```
(m2 (m1 10))  ; return type of m1 matches
   ; argument type of m2
(car (m1 10))  ; return type of m1 fails to match
   ; argument type of car
   ; car: pair<A,B> → A
```

• Effect of an opaque name: no functions will match except the functions of the ADT

Types for table1

• Here is everything the rest of the program knows

Table1<k,v> opaque type

make-table1 void \rightarrow Table1<anytype,anytype>

table1-put! Table1< $k,v>, k, v \rightarrow undef$ table1-get Table1< $k,v>, k \rightarrow (v \mid null)$

• Here is the hidden part, only the implementation knows it:

Table1<k,v> = symbol \times Alist<k,v> Alist<k,v> = list< k \times v \times null >

Lessons so far

- Association list structure can represent the table ADT
- The data abstraction technique (constructors, accessors, etc) exists to support information hiding
- Information hiding is necessary for modularity
- · Modularity is essential for software engineering
- Opaque type names denote information hiding

Hash tables

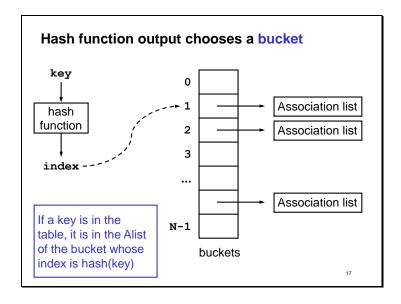
- Suppose a program is written using Table1
- Suppose we measure that a lot of time is spent in table1-get
- Want to replace the implementation with a faster one
- Standard data structure for fast table lookup: hash table
- Idea:
 - keep N association lists instead of 1
 - choose which list to search using a hash function
 - given the key, hash function computes a number x where 0 <= x <= (N-1)</p>

Example hash function

• A table where the keys are points

point	graphic object
(5,5)	(circle 4)
(10,6)	(square 8)

```
(define (hash-a-point point N)
    (modulo (+ (x-coor point) (y-coor point))
        N))
; modulo x n = the remainder of x + n
; 0 <= (modulo x n) <= n-1 for any x</pre>
```

Store buckets using the vector ADT

· Vector: fixed size collection with indexed access

vector<A> opaque type

make-vectornumber, $A \rightarrow \text{vector} < A >$ vector-refvector<A>, number $\rightarrow A$ vector-set!vector<A>,number, $A \rightarrow \text{undef}$

(make-vector size value) ==> a vector with size locations; each initially contains value

(vector-ref v index) ==> whatever is stored at that index of v

(error if index >= size of v)

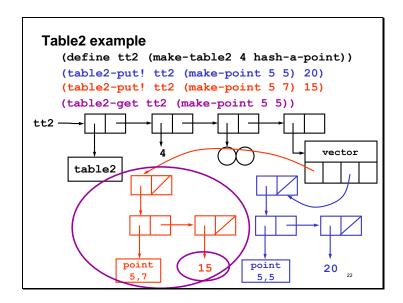
(vector-set! v index val) stores val at that index of v

(error if index >= size of v)

Table2: Table ADT implemented as hash table

```
(define t2-tag 'table2)
(define (make-table2 size hashfunc)
  (let ((buckets (make-vector size nil)))
      (list t2-tag size hashfunc buckets)))
(define (size-of tbl) (cadr tbl))
(define (hashfunc-of tbl) (caddr tbl))
(define (buckets-of tbl) (caddr tbl))
```

- · For each function defined on this slide, is it
 - a constructor of the data abstraction?
 - an accessor of the data abstraction?
 - an operation of the data abstraction?
 - · none of the above?



Is Table1 or Table2 better?

• Answer: it depends!

• Table1: make extremely fast put! extremely fast

get O(n) where n=# calls to put!

• Table2: make space N where N=specified size

put! must compute hash function get compute hash function plus O(n)

where n=average length of a bucket

- Table1 better if almost no gets or if table is small
- Table2 challenges: predicting size, choosing a hash function that spreads keys evenly to the buckets

End of lecture

- Introduced three useful data structures
 - association lists
 - vectors
 - hash tables
- Operations not listed in the ADT specification are internal
- The goal of the ADT methodology is to hide information
- Information hiding is denoted by opaque type names

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```
(define (add-assoc key val alist)
  (cons (list key val) alist))
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  (cons (list key val) alist))

(define table1-tag 'table1)
(define (make-table1) (cons table1-tag nil))
(define (table1-get tbl key)
  (find-assoc key (cdr tbl)))

(define (table1-put! tbl key val)
  (set-cdr! tbl (add-assoc key val (cdr tbl))))
```
