Skip Lists

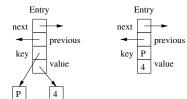
Victor Milenkovic

Department of Computer Science University of Miami

CSC220 Programming II - Spring 2022

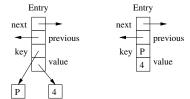








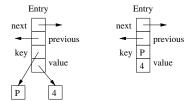




A linked list uses an Entry class

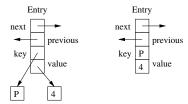






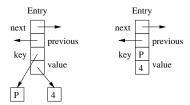
- ► A linked list uses an Entry class
- with next, previous, key, and value.





- A linked list uses an Entry class
- with next, previous, key, and value.
- They are all pointers (arrows) to other objects,

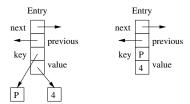




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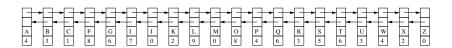




- A linked list uses an Entry class
- with next, previous, key, and value.
- They are all pointers (arrows) to other objects,
- but we usually just write the key and value in the boxes.
- For convenience of drawing the diagrams, I have put next and previous before key and value.

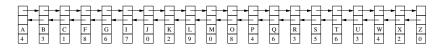








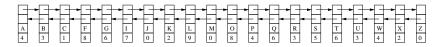




► Linked lists allow us to add or remove an Entry in O(1) time,



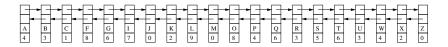




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 - unlike an array which requires O(n) time



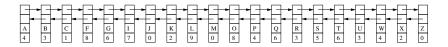




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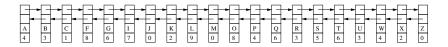




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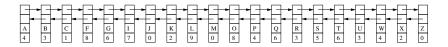






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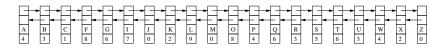




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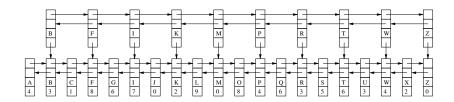




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- So how can we apply the "gold coin" idea?

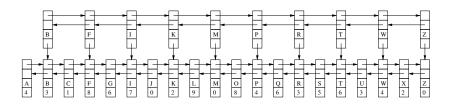








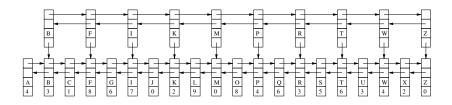




▶ What if we create a *second* linked list that skips every other key?



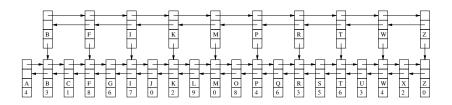




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- The value would be a pointer to the Entry with that key in the first list.



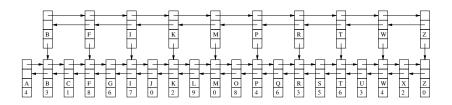




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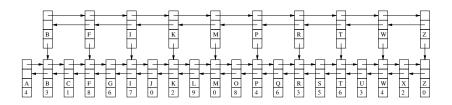




- What if we create a second linked list that skips every other key?
- The value would be a pointer to the Entry with that key in the first list.
- We could get as close as possible to a key in the second list,
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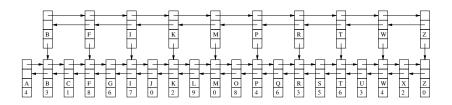




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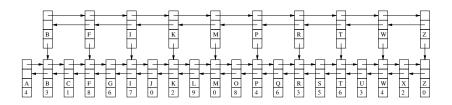




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- ▶ But that is still O(n).



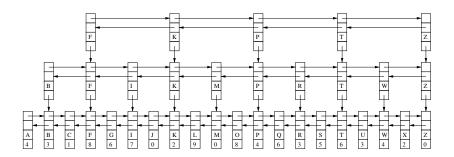




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- ▶ But that is still O(n).
- Too bad. What should we do?

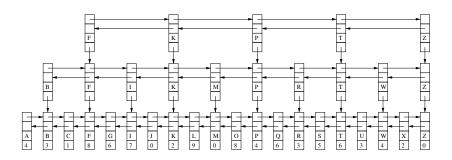








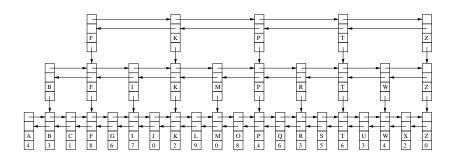




▶ OK, add a *third* list that skips every other key in the second list.

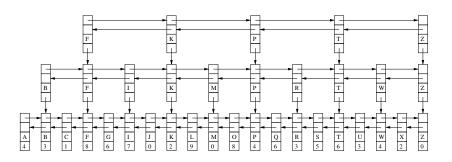






- ▶ OK, add a *third* list that skips every other key in the second list.
- ▶ So we will only have to go at most *one* step in the second list.

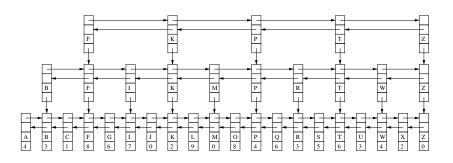




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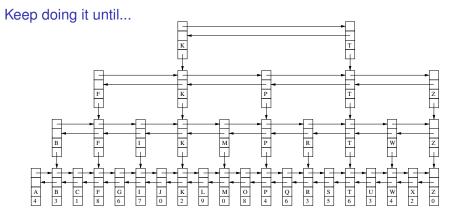






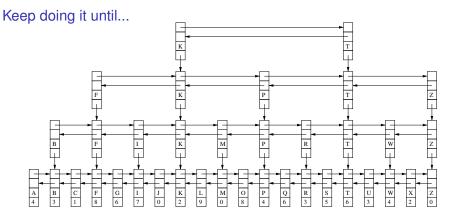
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- ightharpoonup n/4 + 2 is still O(n).







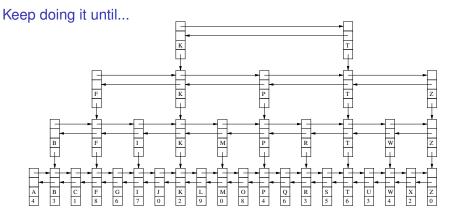




But what if we keep doing this until there is only a constant number in the topmost list?



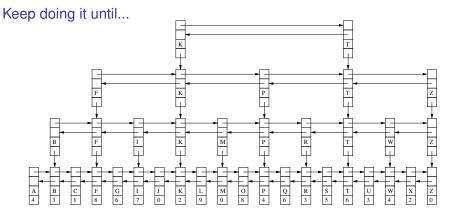




- But what if we keep doing this until there is only a constant number in the topmost list?
- ► So we will go at most one step in *every* list.



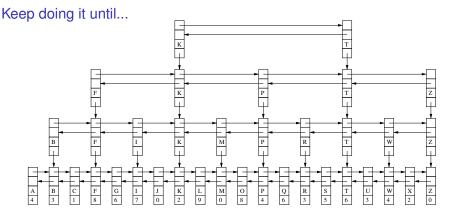




- But what if we keep doing this until there is only a constant number in the topmost list?
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- How many lists will there be?



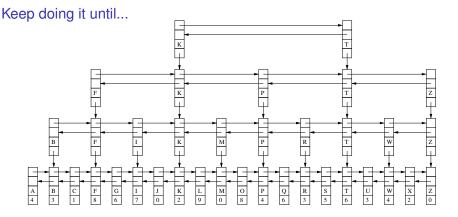




- But what if we keep doing this until there is only a constant number in the topmost list?
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- ▶ Hint: each list has half as many elements as the one below it.



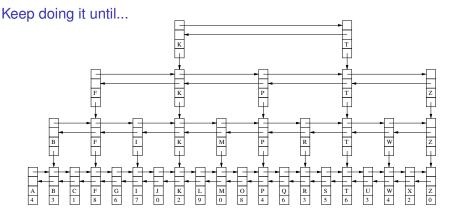




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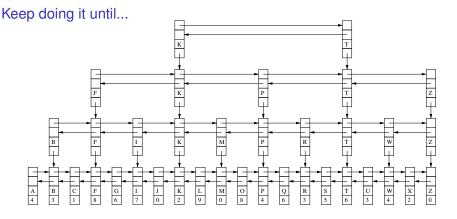




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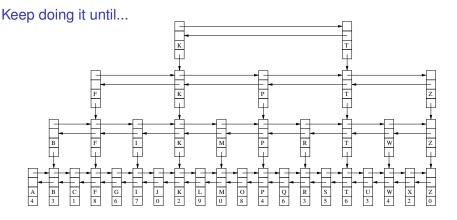




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- So getting the (original) Entry for a key takes O(log n) time.

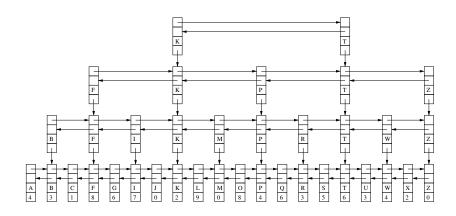






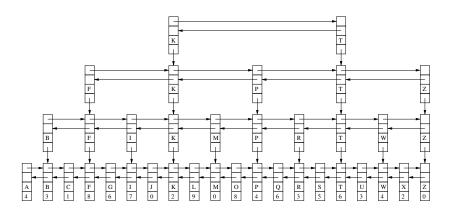
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- Hint: each list has half as many elements as the one below it.
- ▶ I hope you all *immediately* thought log₂ *n*.
- ▶ So $log_2 n$ lists and we go at most one step in each one?
- ► So getting the (original) Entry for a key takes O(log *n*) time.
- ► This is a SKIP LIST.







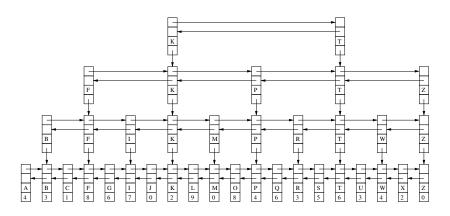




▶ By the way, how much extra *space* does a skip list use?



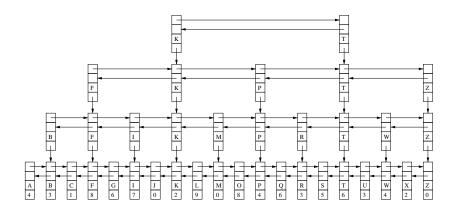




- ▶ By the way, how much extra *space* does a skip list use?
- $n/2 + n/4 + n/8 + \cdots = ???$

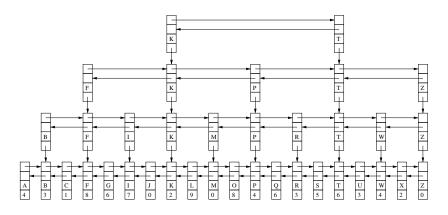










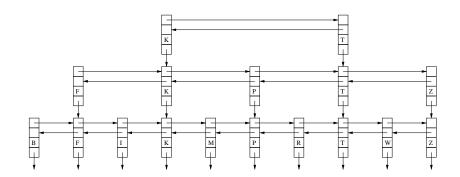


► So if this is a

SkipList < String , Integer >

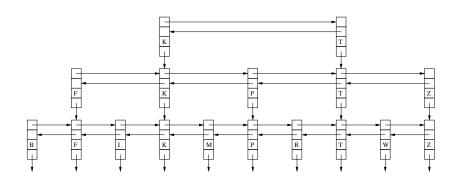












Isn't this a

SkipList < String, Entry >

?





Skip List Implementation So a

SkipList < String , Integer >

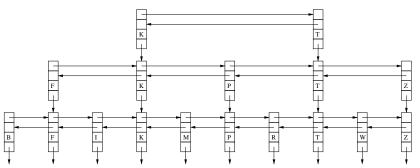
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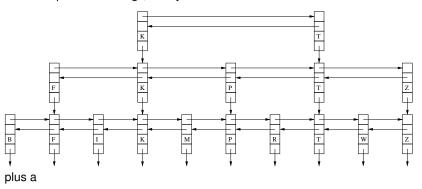
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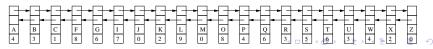
SkipList < String , Integer >

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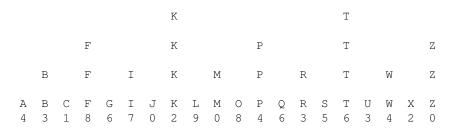
LinkedMap<String,Integer>







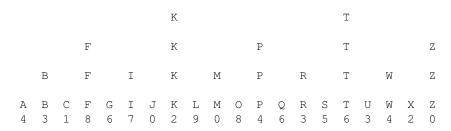




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			K				Т			
	F		K		P		Т			Z
В	F	Ι	K	М	P	R	Т	W		Z
									X 2	

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- You have to imagine the boxes.





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- And the next and previous arrows.





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- ▶ 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.
- And the downward arrow when the value is an Entry in a lower list.







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





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Answer: flip a coin!



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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!





В							0			Τ			
В		F	G				0			Т	U		
В	С	F	G		K	М	0	Q		Т	U	W	Z
												W	



В							0			Τ				
В		F	G				0			Т	U			
В	С	F	G		K	M	0	Q		Т	U	W	Z	
				I 7										

▶ On average you take one step on each level.





В							0			Τ				
В		F	G				0			Т	U			
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В							0			Τ				
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В		F	G				0			Т	U			
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				I 7										

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- Why? Suppose all n of you flipped a coin.
- About n/2 of you get tails and are allowed to flip again.
- About n/4 of you get tails and are allowed to flip again.





В							0			Τ				
В		F	G				0			Т	U			
В	С	F	G		K	М	0	Q		Т	U	W	Z	
				I 7										

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В							0			Τ				
В		F	G				0			Т	U			
В	С	F	G		K	M	0	Q		Τ	U	W	Z	
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В		F	G				0			Τ	U			
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				I 7										

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- Why? Suppose all n of you flipped a coin.
- About n/2 of you get tails and are allowed to flip again.
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- About n/8 of you get tails and are allowed to flip again.
- ► Etc. Total number of tails flipped is $n/2 + n/4 + n/8 + \cdots = n$
- 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.

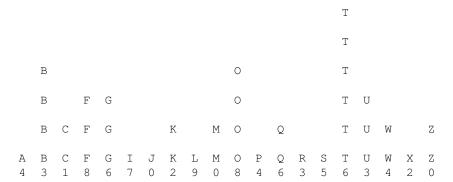




В							0			Τ				
В		F	G				0			Т	U			
В	С	F	G		K	M	0	Q		Τ	U	W	Z	
				I 7										

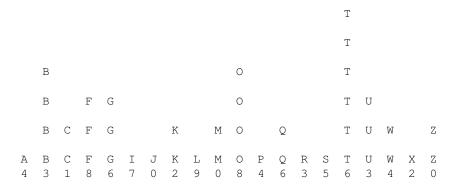
- On average you take one step on each level.
- Why? Suppose all n of you flipped a coin.
- About n/2 of you get tails and are allowed to flip again.
- About n/4 of you get tails and are allowed to flip again.
- About n/8 of you get tails and are allowed to flip again.
- ► Etc. Total number of tails flipped is $n/2 + n/4 + n/8 + \cdots = n$
- 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.







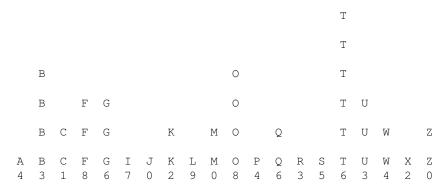




Actually, it usually looks more like this.



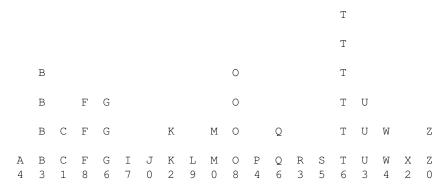




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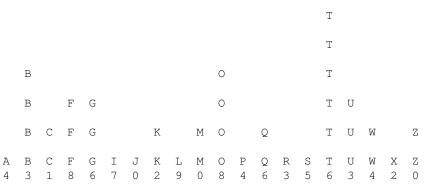




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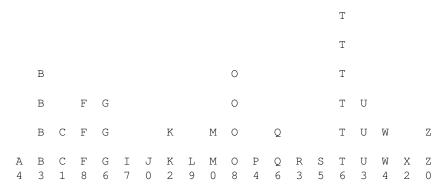




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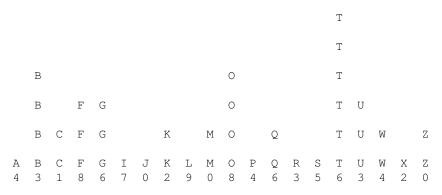




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- If the list doesn't exist already, you have to create it.







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- ▶ that throw "heads" when we add them to the LinkedMap.







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- It has to allocate the SkipMap the first time this happens.







If find(key) needs to search the list





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- From there is only has to go one Entry forward (on average).







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- ▶ If the SkipMap ends up empty, it sets it to null.







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