Chapter 11: Introduction to Indexing and Hashing

Indexing: Basic Concepts

- Indexing mechanisms used to speed up access to desired data.
  - E.g., author catalog in library
- **Search Key** - attribute to set of attributes used to look up records in a file.
- An **index file** consists of records (called **index entries**) of the form

search-key	pointer

- Index files are typically much smaller than the original file
- Two basic kinds of indices:
  - Ordered indices: search keys are stored in sorted order
  - Hash indices: search keys are distributed uniformly across “buckets” using a “hash function”.

Index Evaluation Metrics

- Access types supported efficiently. E.g.,
  - records with a specified value in the attribute
  - or records with an attribute value falling in a specified range of values.
- Access time
- Insertion time
- Deletion time
- Space overhead

Ordered Indices

- In an **ordered index**, index entries are stored sorted on the search key value.
  - E.g., author catalog in library.
- **Clustering index:** in a sequentially ordered file, the index whose search key specifies the sequential order of the file.
  - Also called Primary index.
  - The search key of a primary index is usually but not necessarily the primary key.
- **Secondary index**: an index whose search key specifies an order different from the sequential order of the file. Also called non-clustering index.
- Index-sequential file: ordered sequential file with a primary index.

Dense Index Files

- **Dense index** — Index record appears for every search-key value in the file.
  - E.g. index on ID attribute of instructor relation

10101	
12121	
15151	
22222	
32343	
33456	
45565	
58583	
76543	
76766	
83821	
98345	

10101	Srinivasan	Comp. Sci.	65000	
12121	Wu	Finance	90000	
15151	Mozart	Music	40000	
22222	Einstein	Physics	95000	
32343	El Said	History	60000	
33456	Gold	Physics	87000	
45565	Katz	Comp. Sci.	75000	
58583	Califieri	History	62000	
76543	Singh	Finance	80000	
76766	Crick	Biology	72000	
83821	Brandt	Comp. Sci.	92000	
98345	Kim	Elec. Eng.	80000	

Dense Index Files (Cont.)

- Dense index on dept_name, with instructor file sorted on dept_name

Biology	
Comp. Sci.	
Elec. Eng.	
Finance	
History	
Music	
Physics	

76766	Crick	Biology	72000	
10101	Srinivasan	Comp. Sci.	65000	
45565	Katz	Comp. Sci.	75000	
83821	Brandt	Comp. Sci.	92000	
98345	Kim	Elec. Eng.	80000	
12121	Wu	Finance	90000	
76543	Singh	Finance	80000	
32343	El Said	History	60000	
58583	Califieri	History	62000	
15151	Mozart	Music	40000	
22222	Einstein	Physics	95000	
33465	Gold	Physics	87000	

Sparse Index Files

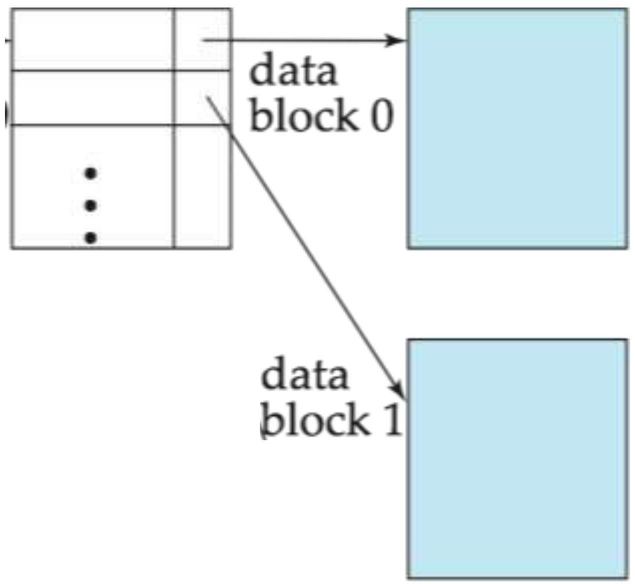
- **Sparse Index**: contains index records for only some search-key values.
  - Applicable when records are sequentially ordered on search-key
- To locate a record with search-key value K we:
  - Find index record with largest search-key value < K
  - Search file sequentially starting at the record to which the index record points

10101	
32343	
76766	

10101	Srinivasan	Comp. Sci.	65000	
12121	Wu	Finance	90000	
15151	Mozart	Music	40000	
22222	Einstein	Physics	95000	
32343	El Said	History	60000	
33456	Gold	Physics	87000	
45565	Katz	Comp. Sci.	75000	
58583	Califieri	History	62000	
76543	Singh	Finance	80000	
76766	Crick	Biology	72000	
83821	Brandt	Comp. Sci.	92000	
98345	Kim	Elec. Eng.	80000	

Sparse Index Files (Cont.)

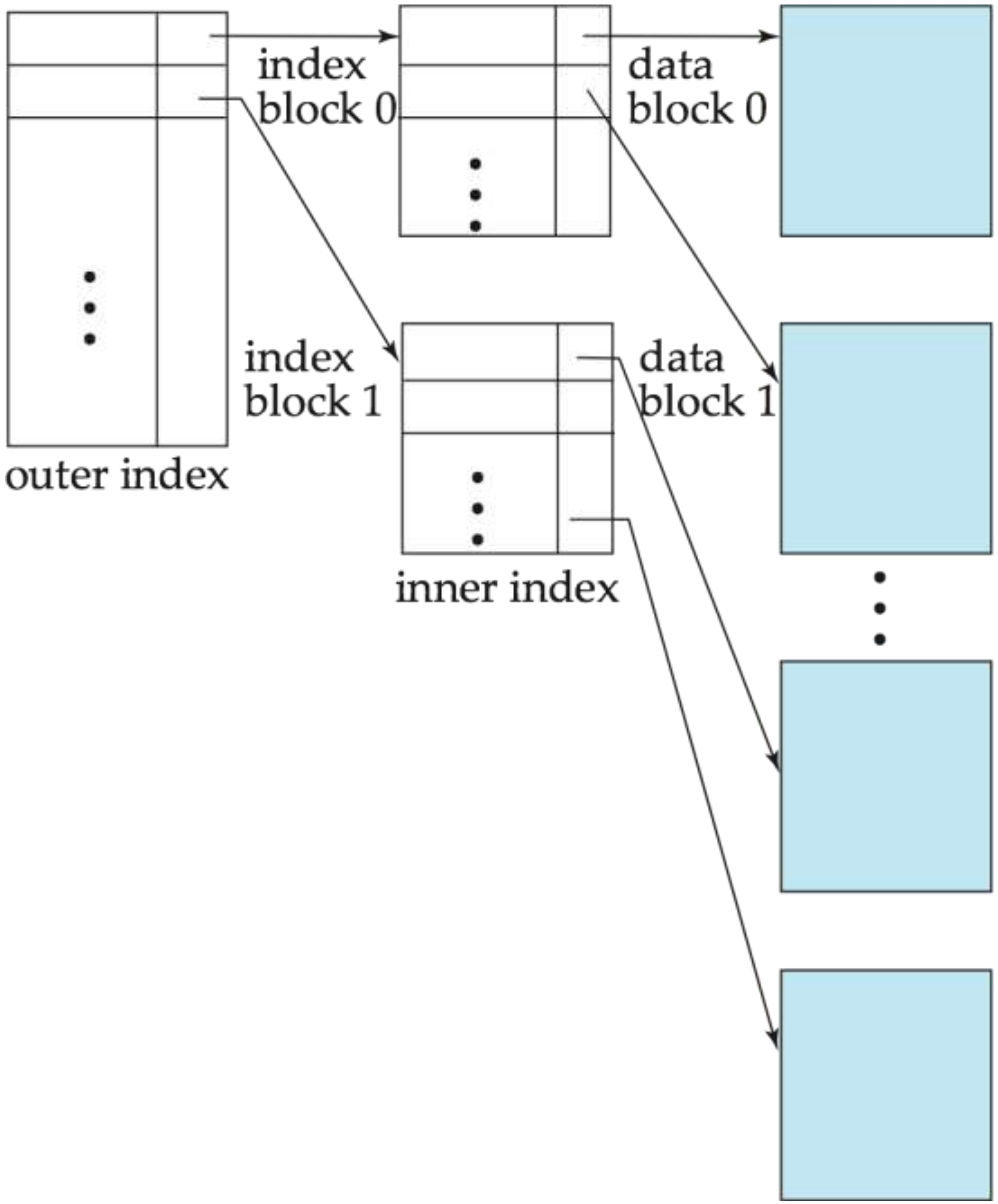
- Compared to dense indices:
  - Less space and less maintenance overhead for insertions and deletions.
  - Generally slower than dense index for locating records.
- **Good tradeoff**: sparse index with an index entry for every block in file, corresponding to least search-key value in the block.



Multilevel Index

- If primary index does not fit in memory, access becomes expensive.
- Solution: treat primary index kept on disk as a sequential file and construct a sparse index on it.
  - outer index – a sparse index of primary index
  - inner index – the primary index file
- If even outer index is too large to fit in main memory, yet another level of index can be created, and so on.
- Indices at all levels must be updated on insertion or deletion from the file.

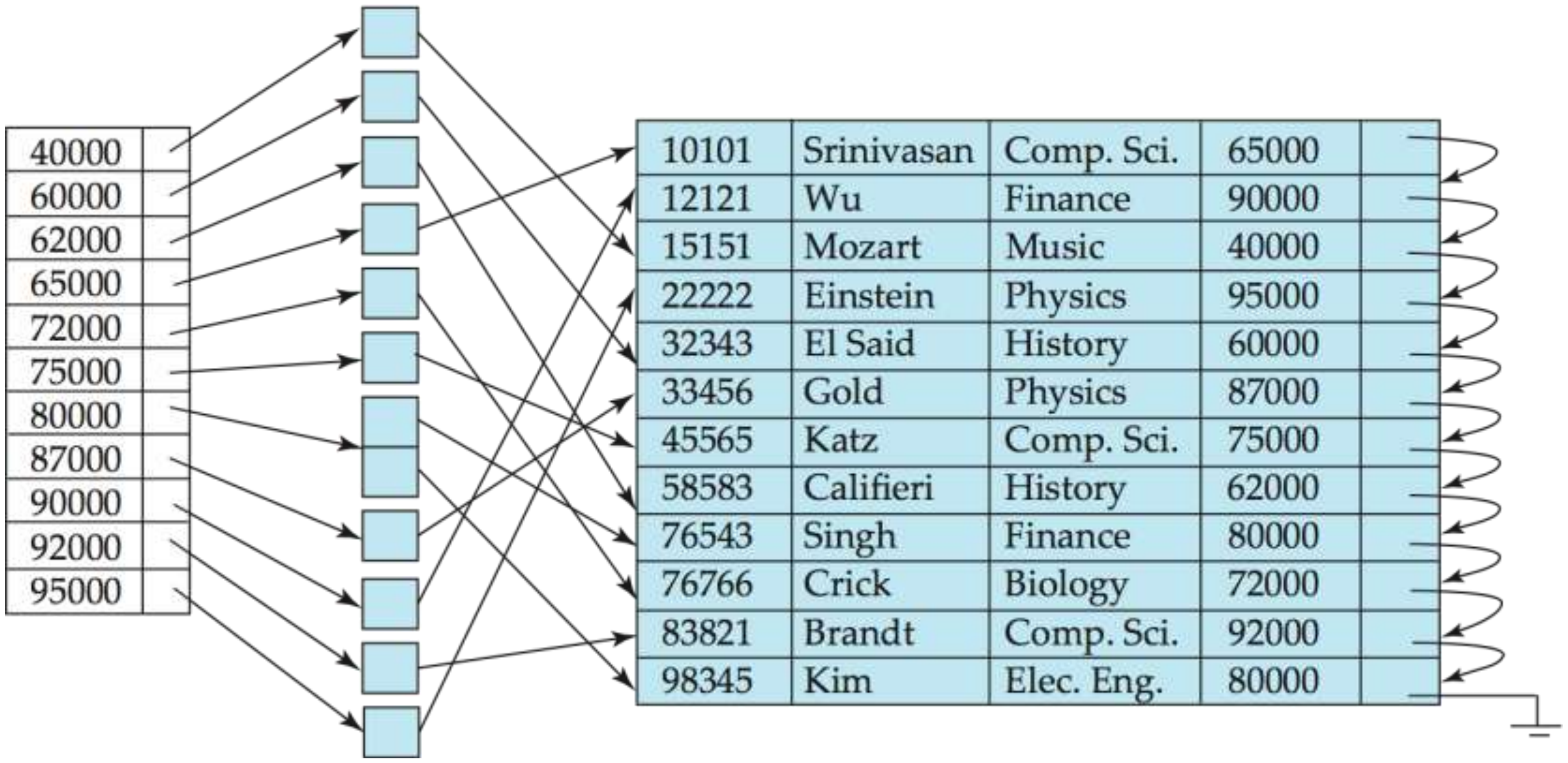
Multilevel Index



Secondary Indices

- Frequently, one wants to find all the records whose values in a certain field (which is not the search-key of the primary index) satisfy some condition.
  - Example 1: In the instructor relation stored sequentially by ID, we may want to find all instructors in a particular department
  - Example 2: as above, but where we want to find all instructors with a specified salary or with salary in a specified range of values
- We can have a secondary index with an index record for each search-key value

Secondary Indices Example



Secondary index on *salary* field of *instructor*

- Index record points to a bucket that contains pointers to all the actual records with that particular search-key value.
- Secondary indices have to be dense

Primary and Secondary Indices

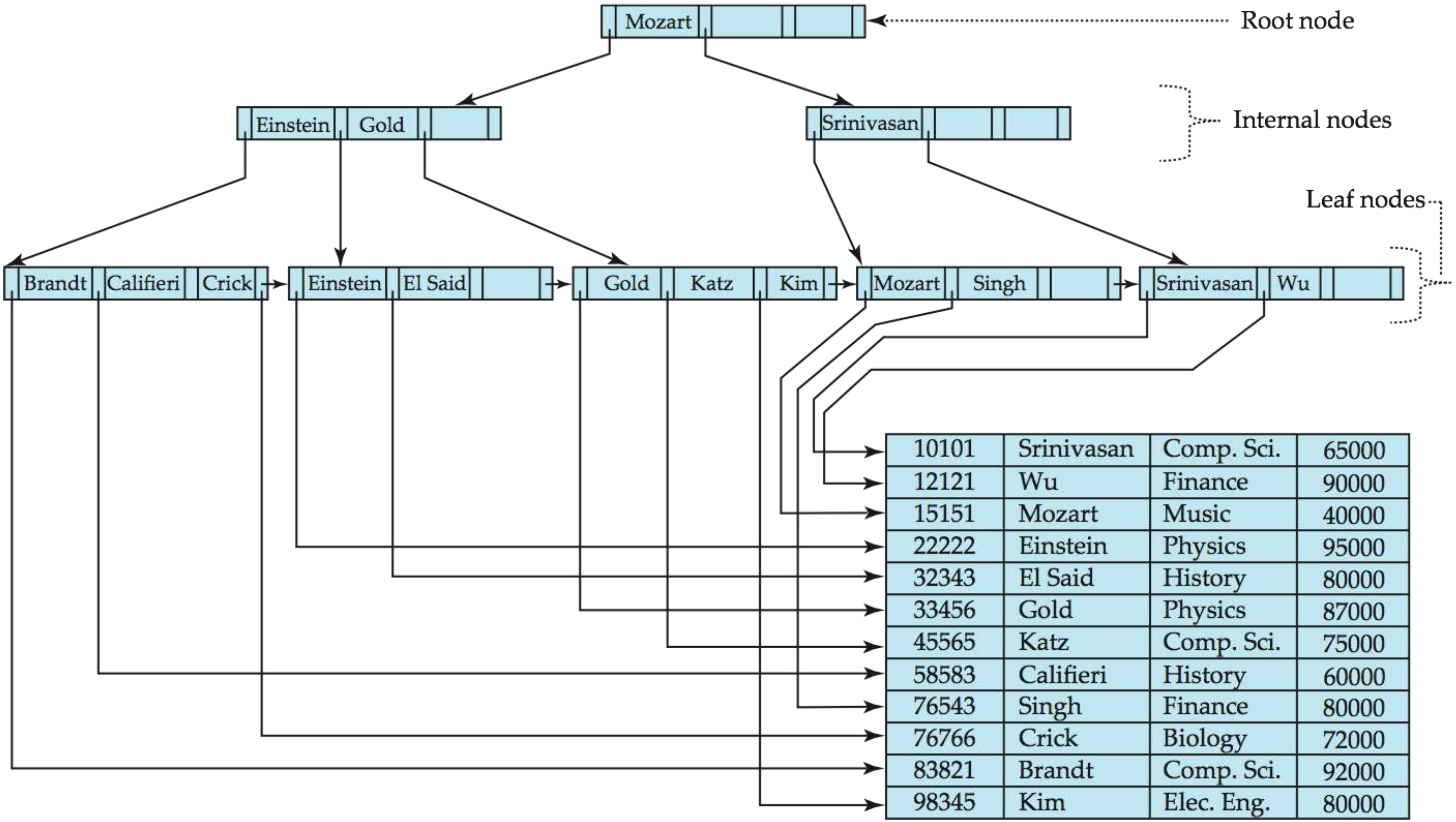
- Indices offer substantial benefits when searching for records.
- BUT: Updating indices imposes overhead on database modification --when a file is modified, every index on the file must be updated,
- Sequential scan using primary index is efficient, but a sequential scan using a secondary index is expensive
  - Each record access may fetch a new block from disk
  - Block fetch requires about 5 to 10 milliseconds, versus about 100 nanoseconds for memory access

B+-Tree Index Files

B^+-tree indices are an alternative to indexed-sequential files.

- Disadvantage of indexed-sequential files
  - performance degrades as file grows, since many overflow blocks get created.
  - Periodic reorganization of entire file is required.
- Advantage of B+-tree index files:
  - automatically reorganizes itself with small, local, changes, in the face of insertions and deletions.
  - Reorganization of entire file is not required to maintain performance.
- (Minor) disadvantage of B+-trees:
  - extra insertion and deletion overhead, space overhead.
- Advantages of B+-trees outweigh disadvantages
  - B+-trees are used extensively

Example of B+-Tree



Static Hashing

- A **bucket** is a unit of storage containing one or more records (a bucket is typically a disk block).
- In a **hash file organization** we obtain the bucket of a record directly from its search-key value using a **hash function**.
- Hash function *h* is a function from the set of all search-key values K to the set of all bucket addresses B.
- Hash function is used to locate records for access, insertion as well as deletion.
- Records with different search-key values may be mapped to the same bucket; thus entire bucket has to be searched sequentially to locate a record.

Example of Hash File Organization

Hash file organization of *instructor* file, using *dept_name* as key (See figure in next slide.)

- There are 10 buckets,
- The binary representation of the ith character is assumed to be the integer i.
- The hash function returns the sum of the binary representations of the characters modulo 10
  - E.g. h(Music) = 1   h(History) = 2
    h(Physics) = 3   h(Elec. Eng.) = 3

Example of Hash File Organization

bucket 0

bucket 1

15151	Mozart	Music	40000

bucket 2

32343	El Said	History	80000
58583	Califieri	History	60000

bucket 3

22222	Einstein	Physics	95000
33456	Gold	Physics	87000
98345	Kim	Elec. Eng.	80000

bucket 4

12121	Wu	Finance	90000
76543	Singh	Finance	80000

bucket 5

76766	Crick	Biology	72000

bucket 6

10101	Srinivasan	Comp. Sci.	65000
45565	Katz	Comp. Sci.	75000
83821	Brandt	Comp. Sci.	92000

bucket 7

Hash file organization of *instructor* file, using *dept_name* as key (see previous slide for details).

Hash Functions

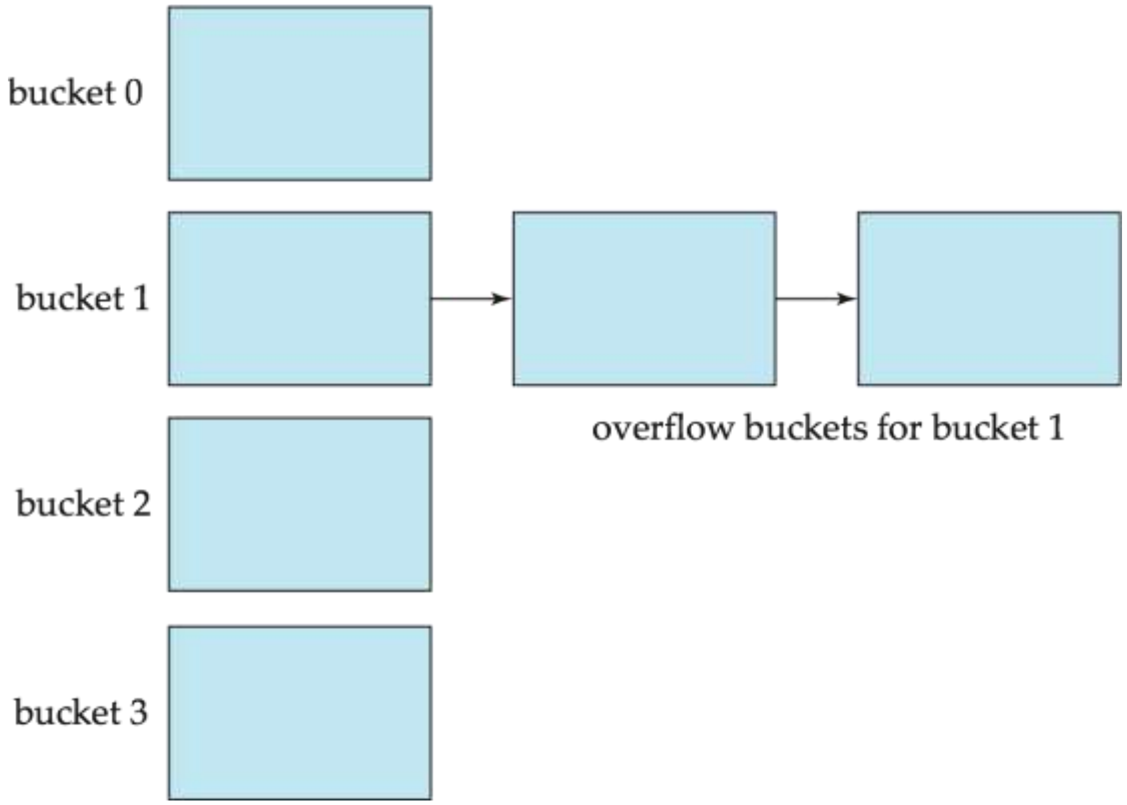
- Worst hash function maps all search-key values to the same bucket; this makes access time proportional to the number of search-key values in the file.
- An ideal hash function is **uniform**, i.e., each bucket is assigned the same number of search-key values from the set of all possible values.
- Ideal hash function is **random**, so each bucket will have the same number of records assigned to it irrespective of the actual distribution of search-key values in the file.
- Typical hash functions perform computation on the internal binary representation of the search-key.
  - For example, for a string search-key, the binary representations of all the characters in the string could be added and the sum modulo the number of buckets could be returned. .

Handling of Bucket Overflows

- Bucket overflow can occur because of
  - Insufficient buckets
  - Skew in distribution of records. This can occur due to two reasons:
    - multiple records have same search-key value
    - chosen hash function produces non-uniform distribution of key values
- Although the probability of bucket overflow can be reduced, it cannot be eliminated; it is handled by using **overflow buckets**.

Handling of Bucket Overflows (Cont.)

- **Overflow chaining** – the overflow buckets of a given bucket are chained together in a linked list.
- Above scheme is called **closed hashing**.
  - An alternative, called open hashing, which does not use overflow buckets, is not suitable for database applications.



Bitmap Indices

- Bitmap indices are a special type of index designed for efficient querying on multiple keys
- Records in a relation are assumed to be numbered sequentially from, say, 0
  - Given a number *n* it must be easy to retrieve record *n*
    - Particularly easy if records are of fixed size
- Applicable on attributes that take on a relatively small number of distinct values
  - E.g. gender, country, state, …
  - E.g. income-level (income broken up into a small number of levels such as 0-9999, 10000-19999, 20000-50000, 50000- infinity)
- A bitmap is simply an array of bits

Bitmap Indices (Cont.)

- In its simplest form a bitmap index on an attribute has a bitmap for each value of the attribute
  - Bitmap has as many bits as records
  - In a bitmap for value v, the bit for a record is 1 if the record has the value v for the attribute, and is 0 otherwise

record number	*ID*	*gender*	*income_level*
0	76766	m	L1
1	22222	f	L2
2	12121	f	L1
3	15151	m	L4
4	58583	f	L3

Bitmaps for *gender*

m	10010
f	01101

Bitmaps for *income_level*

L1	10100
L2	01000
L3	00001
L4	00010
L5	00000