Lecture 8 Hashing

Announcements

• HW3 is out! Due Friday.

Girls Teaching Girls to Code is looking for mentors!

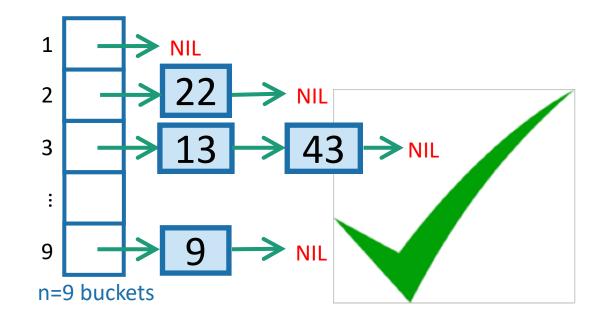
Announcement:



- Girls Teaching Girls to Code is hosting our annual Code Camp, a day-long event during spring quarter that takes place on Stanford's campus and reaches several hundred high school girls. We're looking for Stanford students who are interesting in teaching and mentoring girls interested in computer science for Code Camp.
- Check out the application here: http://bit.ly/cc19mentorapp (due by Saturday, February 9th)
- Also, check out our info session about Code Camp on Tuesday, February 5th from 4:30-5:30pm at the Women's Community Center. Each person who RSVPs will get free boba!: http://bit.ly/gtgtcinfoandboba

Today: hashing





Outline



- Hash tables are another sort of data structure that allows fast INSERT/DELETE/SEARCH.
 - like self-balancing binary trees
 - The difference is we can get better performance in expectation by using randomness.
- Hash families are the magic behind hash tables.
- Universal hash families are even more magical.

Goal: Just like last time

 We are interesting in putting nodes with keys into a data structure that supports fast

node with key "2" INSERT/DELETE/SEARCH. • INSERT • DELETE

HERE IT IS

data structure

SEARCH

Last time

- Self balancing trees:
 - O(log(n)) deterministic INSERT/DELETE/SEARCH

#prettysweet

Today:

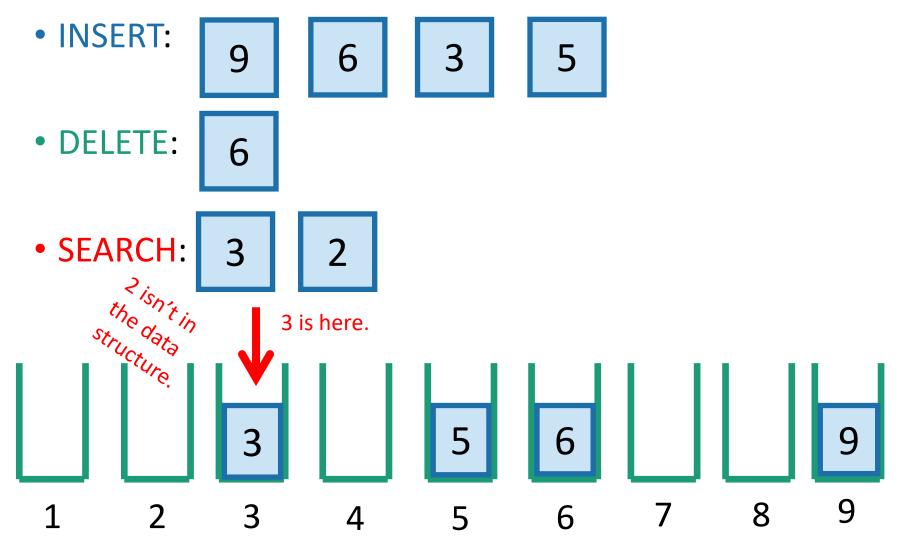
- Hash tables:
 - O(1) expected time INSERT/DELETE/SEARCH
- Worse worst-case performance, but often great in practice.

#evensweeterinpractice

eg, Python's dict, Java's HashSet/HashMap, C++'s unordered_map Hash tables are used for databases, caching, object representation, ...

One way to get O(1) time

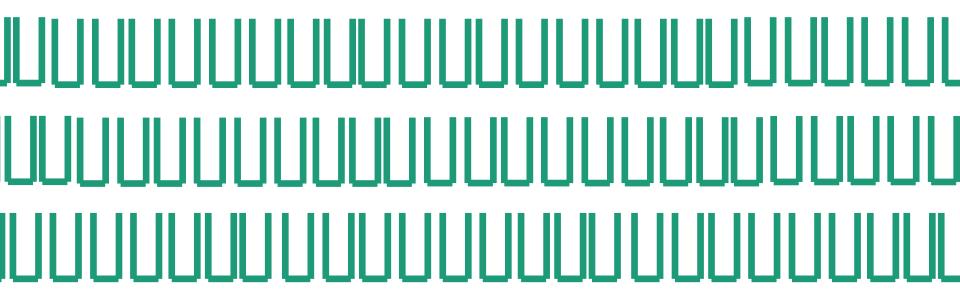
• Say all keys are in the set {1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9}.



That should look familiar

- Kind of like BUCKETSORT from Lecture 6.
- Same problem: if the keys may come from a "universe" U = {1,2,, 10000000000}....

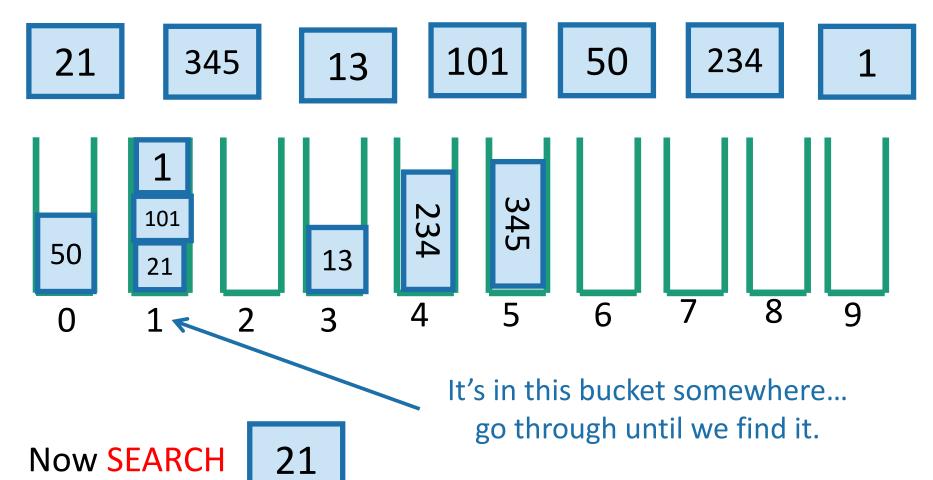




Solution?

Put things in buckets based on one digit

INSERT:





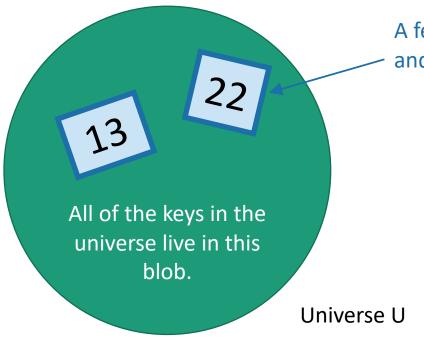
Hash tables

- That was an example of a hash table.
 - not a very good one, though.
- We will be **more clever** (and less deterministic) about our bucketing.

 This will result in fast (expected time) INSERT/DELETE/SEARCH.

But first! Terminology.

- We have a universe U, of size M.
 - M is really big.
- But only a few (say at most n for today's lecture) elements of M are ever going to show up.
 - M is waaaayyyyyyy bigger than n.
- But we don't know which ones will show up in advance.



A few elements are special and will actually show up.

Example: U is the set of all strings of at most 140 ascii characters. (128¹⁴⁰ of them).

The only ones which I care about are those which appear as trending hashtags on twitter. #hashinghashtags

There are way fewer than 128¹⁴⁰ of these.

The previous example

with this terminology

- We have a universe U, of size M.
 - at most n of which will show up.
- M is waaaayyyyyy bigger than n.
- We will put items of U into n buckets.
- There is a hash function $h: U \to \{1, ..., n\}$ which says what element goes in what bucket.

Example: h(x) = least significantdigit of x.

All of the keys in the universe live in this blob.

Universe U

For this lecture, I'm assuming that the number of things is the same as the number of buckets, both are n.

This doesn't have to be the case, although we do want:

#buckets = O(#things which show up)

This is a hash table (with chaining)

- Array of n buckets.
- Each bucket stores a linked list.
 - We can insert into a linked list in time O(1)
 - To find something in the linked list takes time O(length(list)).
- $h: U \rightarrow \{1, ..., n\}$ can be any function:
 - but for concreteness let's stick with h(x) = least significant digit of x.

INSERT:

13

22

43

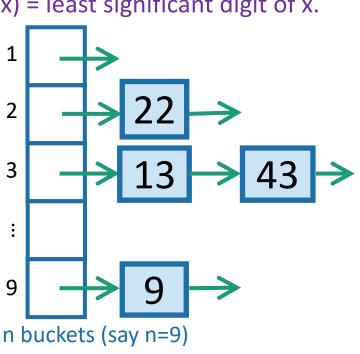
9

SEARCH 43:

Scan through all the elements in bucket h(43) = 3.

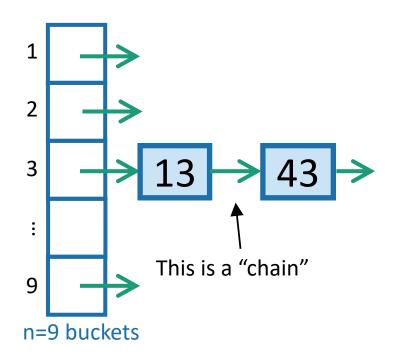


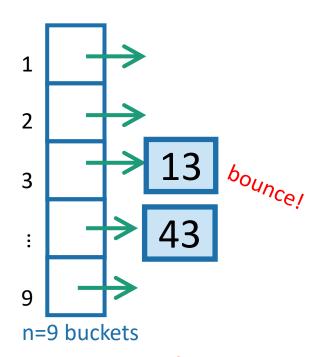
This is a terrible hash function! Don't use this!



Aside: Hash tables with open addressing

- The previous slide is about hash tables with chaining.
- There's also something called "open addressing"
- Read in CLRS if you are interested!





This is a hash table (with chaining)

- Array of n buckets.
- Each bucket stores a linked list.
 - We can insert into a linked list in time O(1)
 - To find something in the linked list takes time O(length(list)).
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INSERT:

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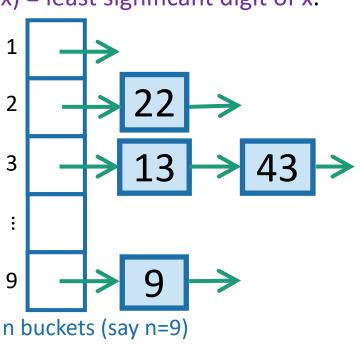
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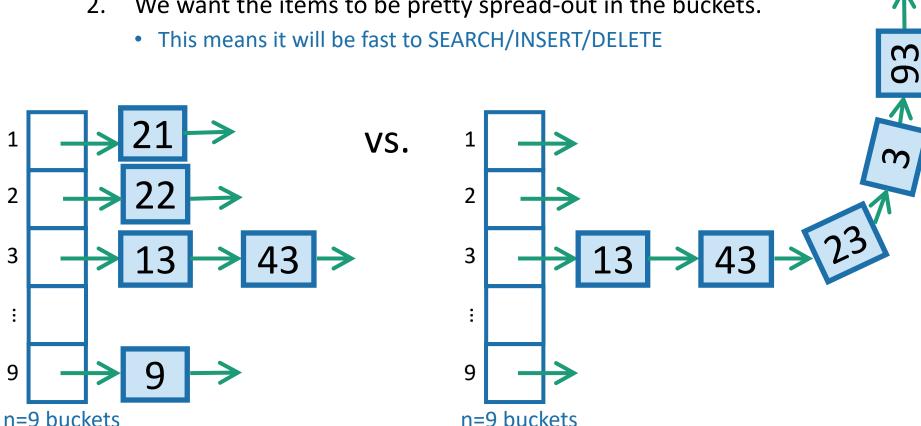


This is a terrible hash function! Don't use this!



Sometimes this a good idea Sometimes this is a bad idea

- How do we pick that function so that this is a good idea?
 - We want there to be not many buckets (say, n).
 - This means we don't use too much space
 - We want the items to be pretty spread-out in the buckets.



Worst-case analysis

- Goal: Design a function $h: U \to \{1, ..., n\}$ so that:
 - No matter what input (fewer than n items of U) a bad guy chooses, the buckets will be balanced.
 - Here, balanced means O(1) entries per bucket.

• If we had this, then we'd achieve our dream of O(1)

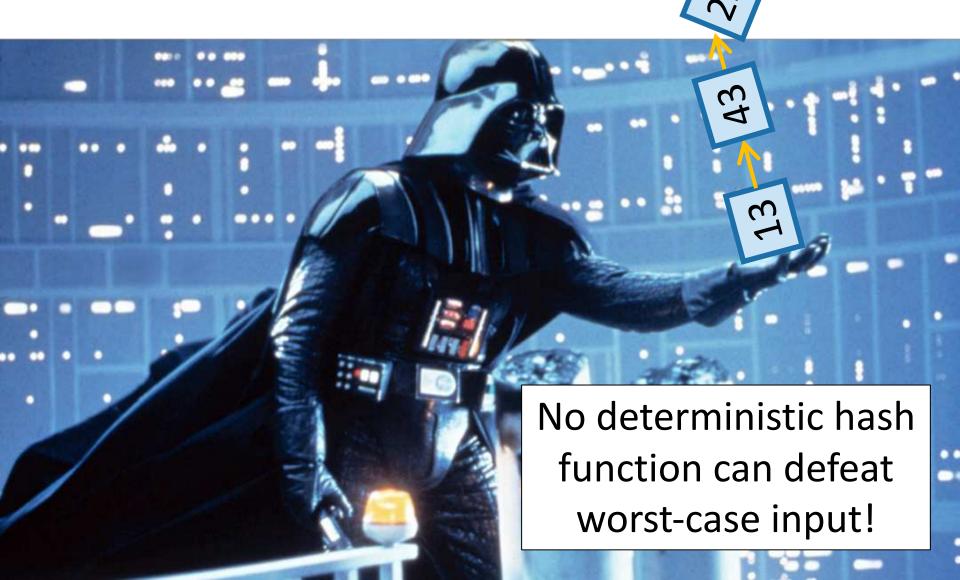
INSERT/DELETE/SEARCH

Can you come up with such a function?



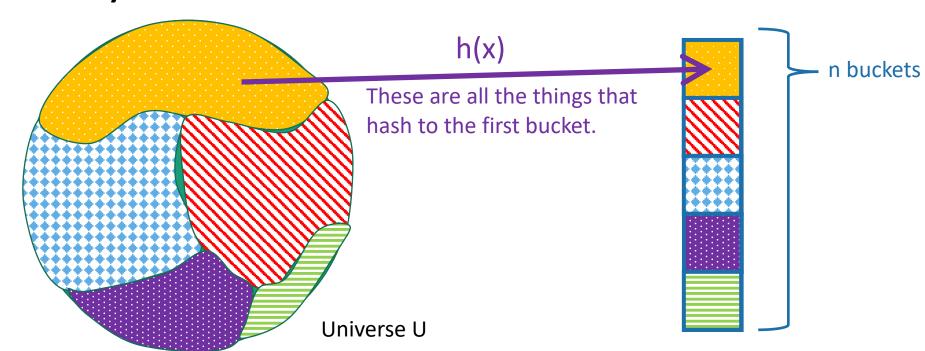
Think-Pair-Share Terrapins

This is impossible!



We really can't beat the bad guy here.

- The universe U has M items
- They get hashed into n buckets
- At least one bucket has at least M/n items hashed to it.
- M is waayyyy bigger then n, so M/n is bigger than n.
- Bad guy chooses n of the items that landed in this very full bucket.



Solution: Randomness



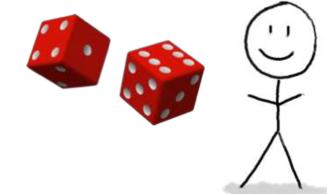
The game



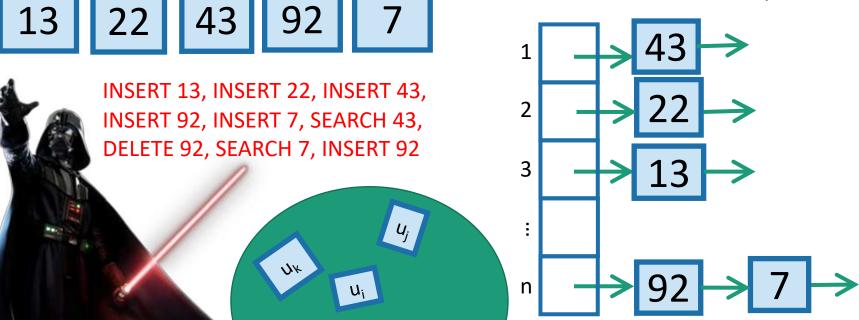
Plucky the pedantic penguin

1. An adversary chooses any n items $u_1, u_2, ..., u_n \in U$, and any sequence of INSERT/DELETE/SEARCH operations on those items.

2. You, the algorithm, chooses a **random** hash function $h: U \rightarrow \{1, ..., n\}$.



3. HASH IT OUT #hashpuns



Example



- Say that $h: U \to \{1, ..., n\}$ is a uniformly random function.
 - That means that **h(1)** is a **uniformly random** number between 1 and n.
 - h(2) is also a uniformly random number between 1 and n, independent of h(1).
 - h(3) is also a uniformly random number between 1 and n, independent of h(1), h(2).

• ...

• h(M) is also a uniformly random number between 1 and n, independent of h(1), h(2), ..., h(M-1).

Randomness helps

Intuitively: The bad guy can't foil a hash function that he doesn't yet know.





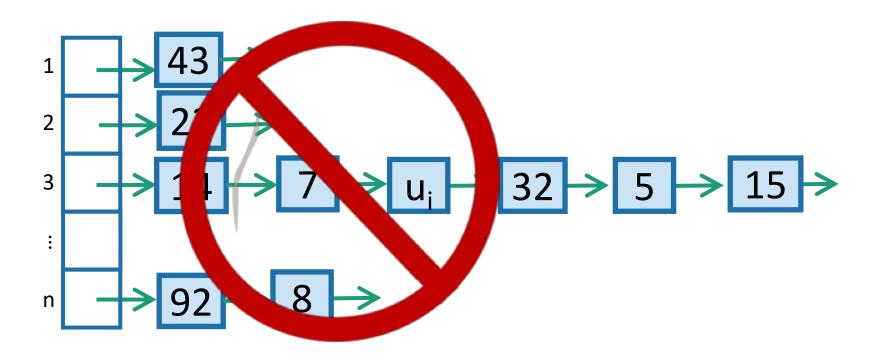
Why not? What if there's some strategy that foils a random function with high probability?

Plucky the Pedantic Penguin

We'll need to do some analysis...

What do we want?

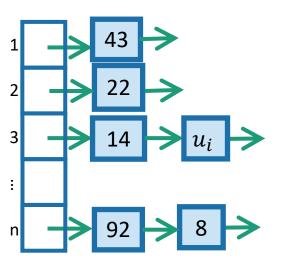
It's **bad** if lots of items land in u_i's bucket. So we want **not that**.



More precisely

We could replace "2" here with any constant; it would still be good. But "2" will be convenient.

- We want:
 - For all ways a bad guy could choose $u_{1,}u_{2},\ldots,u_{n}$, to put into the hash table, and for all $i\in\{1,\ldots,n\}$, E[number of items in u_{i} 's bucket] \leq 2.
- If that were the case:
 - For each INSERT/DELETE/SEARCH operation involving u_i ,



E[time of operation] = O(1)

This is what we wanted at the beginning of lecture!

So we want:

• For all i=1, ..., n, E[number of items in u_i 's bucket $] \le 2$.

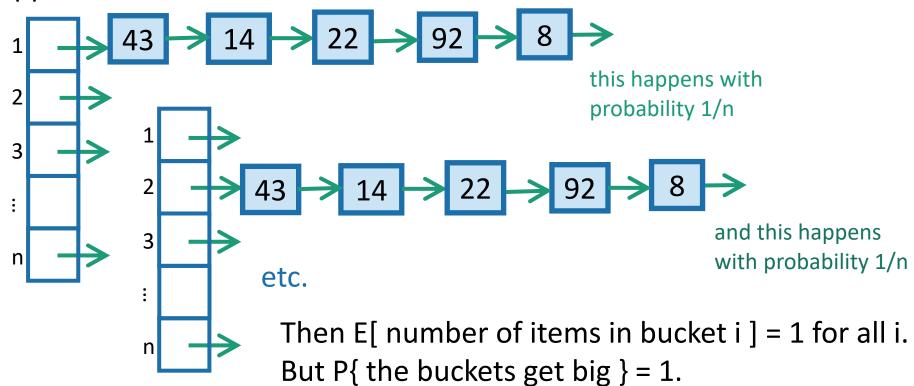
Aside: why not:

This slide skipped in class

• For all i=1,...,n:

E[number of items in bucket i] \leq ____?

Suppose that:



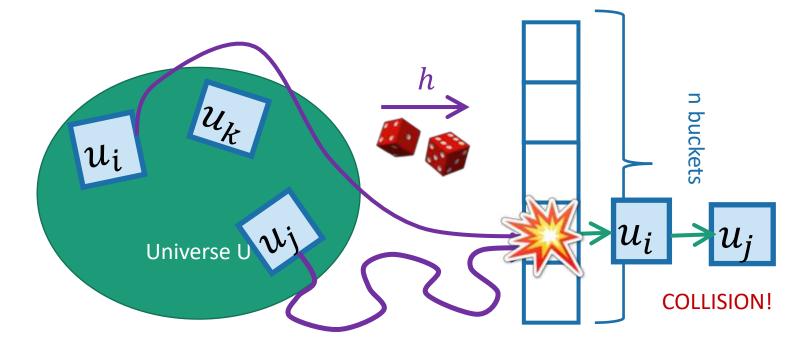
Expected number of items in u_i 's bucket?

•
$$E[^{\checkmark}] = \sum_{j=1}^{n} P\{h(u_i) = h(u_j)\}$$

$$= 1 + \sum_{j \neq i} P\{h(u_i) = h(u_j)\}$$

$$=1+\sum_{j
eq i} 1/n$$
 (You will verify this on HW.)

$$= 1 + \frac{n-1}{n} \le 2.$$
 That's what we wanted!



That's great!

- We just showed:
 - For all ways a bad guy could choose $u_{1,}u_{2},...,u_{n}$, to put into the hash table, and for all $i \in \{1,...,n\}$, E[number of items in u_{i} 's bucket] ≤ 2 .
- Which implies:
 - No matter what sequence of operations and items the bad guy chooses,

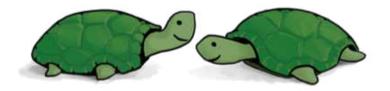
E[time of INSERT/DELETE/SEARCH] = O(1)

So our solution is:

Pick a uniformly random hash function?

What's wrong with this plan?

• Hint: How would you implement (and store) and uniformly random function $h: U \to \{1, ..., n\}$?



Think-Pair-Share Terrapins

- If h is a uniformly random function:
 - That means that h(1) is a uniformly random number between 1 and n.
 - h(2) is also a uniformly random number between 1 and n, independent of h(1).
 - h(3) is also a uniformly random number between 1 and n, independent of h(1), h(2).
 - ...
 - h(n) is also a uniformly random number between 1 and n, independent of h(1), h(2), ..., h(n-1).

A uniformly random hash function is not a good idea.

 In order to store/evaluate a uniformly random hash function, we'd use a lookup table:

X	h(x)
AAAAA	1
AAAAAB	5
AAAAAC	3
AAAAAD	3
ZZZZZY	7
ZZZZZZ	3

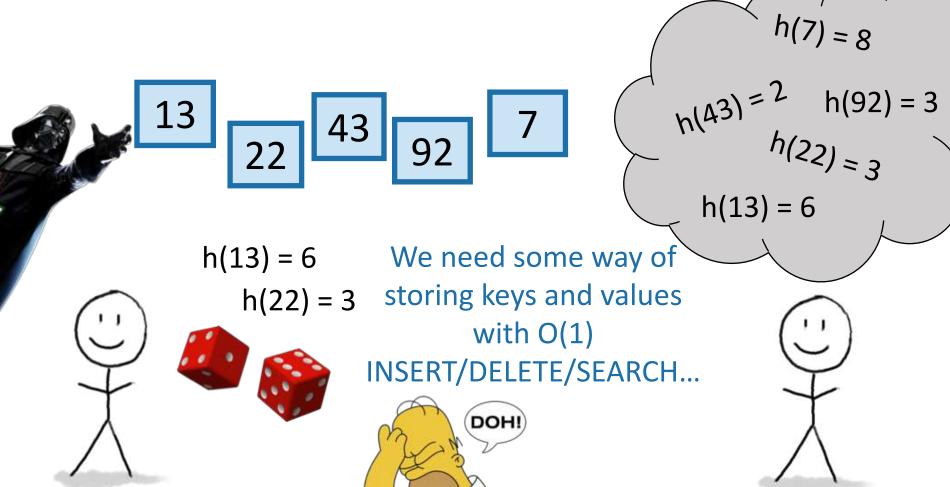
- Each value of h(x) takes log(n) bits to store.
- Storing M such values requires Mlog(n) bits.
- In contrast, direct addressing (initializing a bucket for every item in the universe) requires only M bits....

Algorithm later

Another thought...

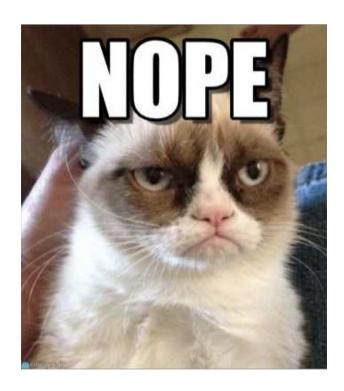
Algorithm now

Just remember h on the relevant values



Could we store a uniformly random h without using a lookup table?

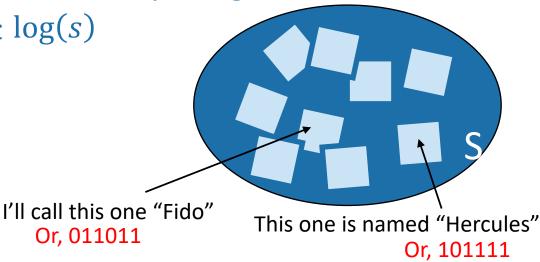
 Maybe there's a different way to store h that uses less space?



Aside: description length

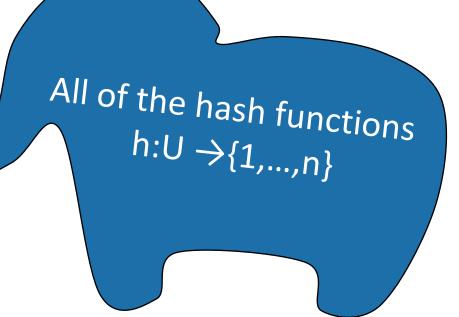
- Say I have a set S with s things in it.
- I get to write down the elements of S however I like, in binary using b bits.
- Then $b \ge \log(s)$:
 - There are 2^b binary strings of length b.
 - I need to have at least as many strings as I have items in S.

• So $s \le 2^b$ aka $b \ge \log(s)$



We need Mlog(n) bits to store a random hash function h:U -> {1,...,n}

- Say that this elephant-shaped blob represents the set of all hash functions.
- It has size n^M. (Really big!)
- To write down a random hash function, we need log(n^M) = Mlog(n) bits.
- A random hash function is just a random element in this set.

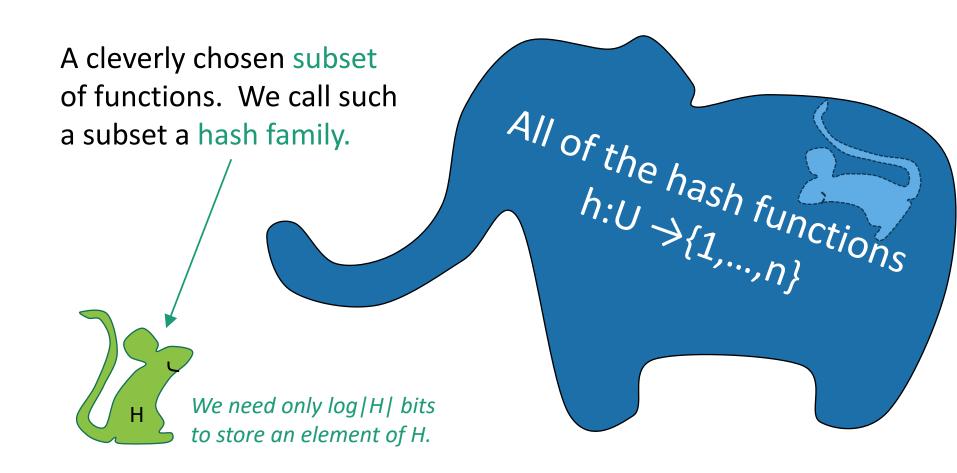




Technically we should argue that we need at least Mlog(n) bits on average when we draw a random hash function... why can't one item have a really long name and others have shorter names?

Solution

• Pick from a smaller set of functions.

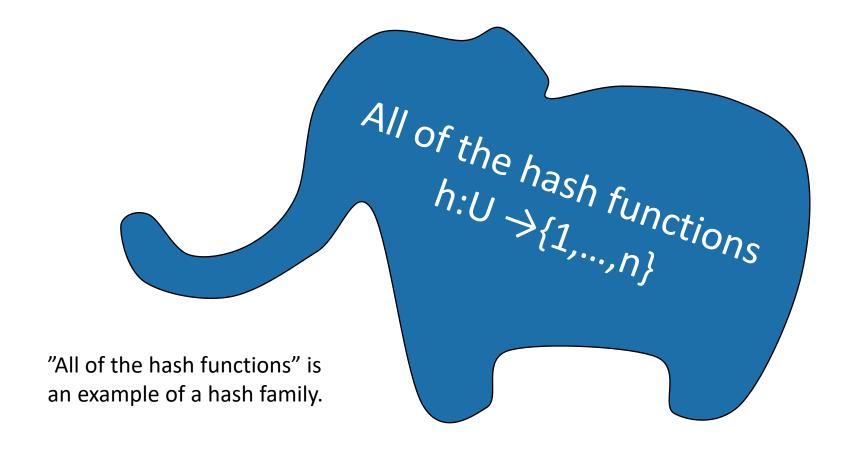


Outline

- Hash tables are another sort of data structure that allows fast INSERT/DELETE/SEARCH.
 - like self-balancing binary trees
 - The difference is we can get better performance in expectation by using randomness.
- Hash families are the magic behind hash tables.
- Universal hash families are even more magic.

Hash families

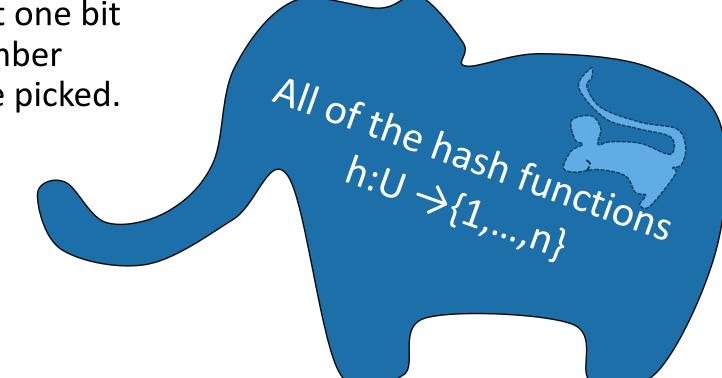
A hash family is a collection of hash functions.

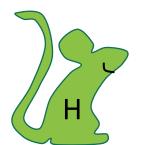


a smaller hash family

- H = { function which returns the least sig. digit,
 function which returns the most sig. digit }
- Pick h in H at random.

 Store just one bit to remember which we picked.





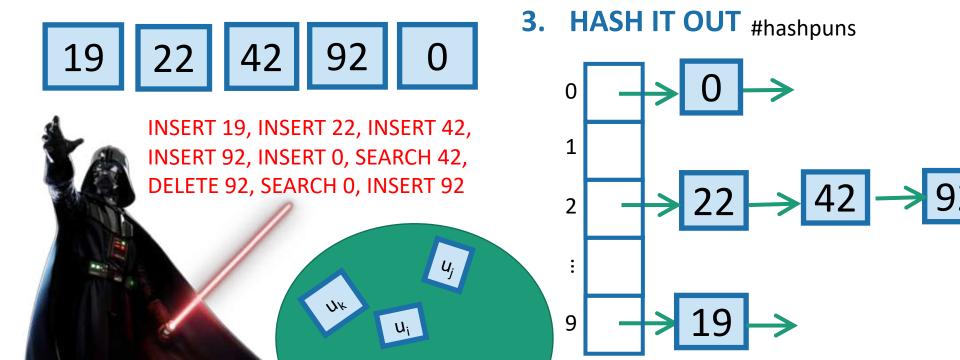
The game

 $h_0 = Most_significant_digit$ $h_1 = Least_significant_digit$ $H = \{h_0, h_1\}$

2. You, the algorithm, chooses a **random** hash function $h: U \to \{0, ..., 9\}$. Choose it randomly from H.

I picked h₁

1. An adversary (who knows H) chooses any n items $u_1, u_2, ..., u_n \in U$, and any sequence of INSERT/DELETE/SEARCH operations on those items.



This is not a very good hash family

- H = { function which returns least sig. digit,
 function which returns most sig. digit }
- On the previous slide, the adversary could have been a lot more adversarial...

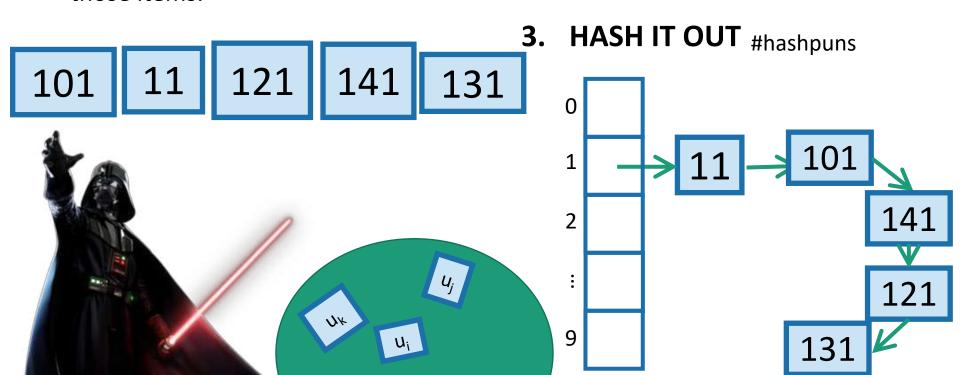
The game

 $h_0 = Most_significant_digit$ $h_1 = Least_significant_digit$ $H = \{h_0, h_1\}$

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I picked h

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Outline

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How to pick the hash family?

- Definitely not like in that example.
- Let's go back to that computation from earlier....



Expected number of items in ui's bucket?

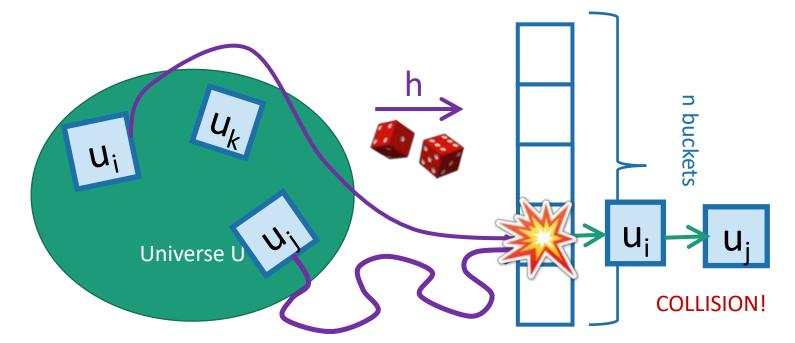
•
$$E[^{\downarrow}] = \sum_{j=1}^{n} P\{h(u_i) = h(u_j)\}$$

$$= 1 + \sum_{j \neq i} P\{h(u_i) = h(u_j)\}$$

$$\bullet = 1 + \sum_{j \neq i} 1/n$$

$$\bullet = 1 + \frac{n-1}{n} \le 2.$$

All that we needed was that this is 1/n



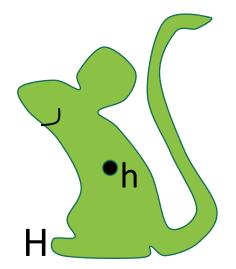
Strategy

 Pick a small hash family H, so that when I choose h randomly from H,

for all
$$u_i, u_j \in U$$
 with $u_i \neq u_j$,
$$P_{h \in H} \{ h(u_i) = h(u_j) \} \leq \frac{1}{n}$$

In English: fix any two elements of U.
The probability that they collide under a random h in H is small.

- A hash family H that satisfies this is called a universal hash family.
- Then we still get O(1)-sized buckets in expectation.
- But now the space we need is log(|H|) bits.
 - Hopefully pretty small!



So the whole scheme will be Choose h randomly from a universal hash family H We can store h in small space since H is so small. **Probably** U_k these buckets will be pretty 11 balanced. Universe U

Universal hash family

• H is a *universal hash family* if, when h is chosen uniformly at random from H,

for all
$$u_i, u_j \in U$$
 with $u_i \neq u_j$,
$$P_{h \in H} \{ h(u_i) = h(u_j) \} \leq \frac{1}{n}$$

Pick a small hash family H, so that when I choose h randomly from H,

Example

for all
$$u_i, u_j \in U$$
 with $u_i \neq u_j$,
$$P_{h \in H} \{ h(u_i) = h(u_j) \} \leq \frac{1}{n}$$

- H is all of the functions $h: U \to \{1, ..., n\}$
 - We saw this earlier it corresponds to picking a uniformly random hash function.
 - Unfortunately this H is really really large.

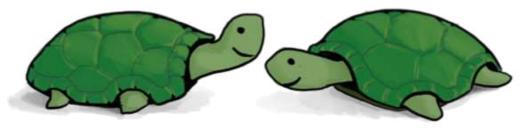
Pick a small hash family H, so that when I choose h randomly from H,

Non-example

for all
$$u_i, u_j \in U$$
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$$P_{h \in H} \{ h(u_i) = h(u_j) \} \leq \frac{1}{n}$$

- h₀ = Most_significant_digit
- h₁ = Least_significant_digit
- $H = \{h_0, h_1\}$

Prove that this choice of H is NOT a universal hash family!



 Pick a small hash family H, so that when I choose h randomly from H,

Non-example

for all
$$u_i, u_j \in U$$
 with $u_i \neq u_j$,
$$P_{h \in H} \{ h(u_i) = h(u_j) \} \leq \frac{1}{n}$$

- h₀ = Most_significant_digit
- h₁ = Least_significant_digit
- $H = \{h_0, h_1\}$

NOT a universal hash family:

$$P_{h\in H}\{h(101) = h(111)\} = 1 > \frac{1}{10}$$

A small universal hash family??

- Here's one:
 - Pick a prime $p \ge M$.
 - Define

$$f_{a,b}(x) = ax + b \mod p$$

$$h_{a,b}(x) = f_{a,b}(x) \mod n$$

• Define:

$$H = \{ h_{a,b}(x) : a \in \{1, ..., p-1\}, b \in \{0, ..., p-1\} \}$$

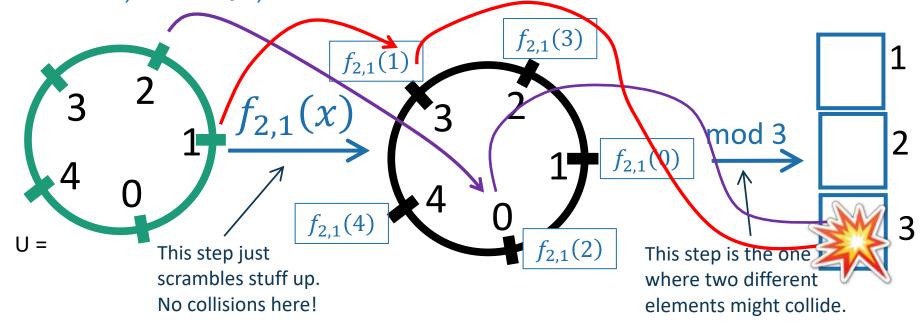
• Claim:

H is a universal hash family.



Say what?

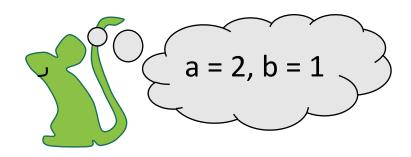
- Example: M = p = 5, n = 3
- To draw h from H:
 - Pick a random a in {1,...,4}, b in {0,...,4}
- As per the definition:
 - $f_{2,1}(x) = 2x + 1 \mod 5$
 - $h_{2,1}(x) = f_{2,1}(x) \mod 3$



a = 2, b = 1

Ignoring why this is a good idea

Can we store h with small space?



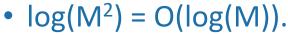
- Just need to store two numbers:
 - a is in {1,...,p-1}
 - b is in {0,...,p-1}
 - So about 2log(p) bits
 - By our choice of p, that's O(log(M)) bits.

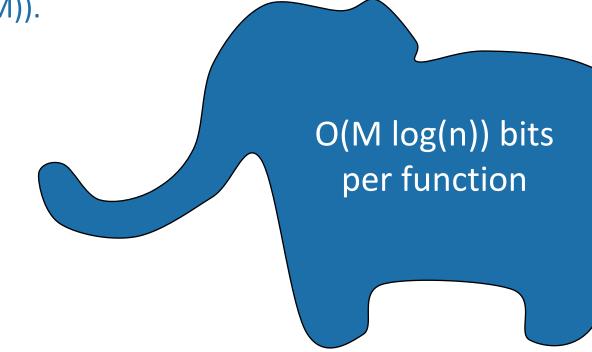
Compare: direct addressing was M bits!

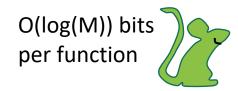
Twitter example: $log(M) = 140 log(128) = 980 vs M = 128^{140}$

Another way to see that We only need log(M) bits to store h

- We have p-1 choices for a, and p choices for b.
 - So $|H| = p(p-1) = O(M^2)$
- Space needed to store an element h:







Why does this work?

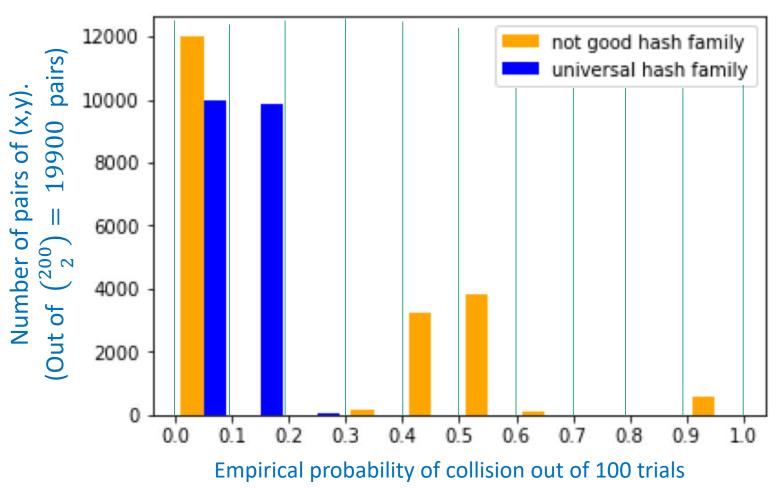
- This is actually a little complicated.
 - See CLRS (Thm 11.5) if you are curious.
 - You are NOT RESPONSIBLE for the proof in this class.
 - But you should know that a universal hash family of size O(M²) exists.

Try to prove that this is a universal hash family!

But let's check that it does work

Check out the IPython notebook for lecture 8

M=200, n=10



So the whole scheme will be Choose a and b at random and form the function h_{a,b} We can store h in space O(log(M)) since we just need to store a and b. **Probably** these buckets will be pretty V) balanced. Universe U

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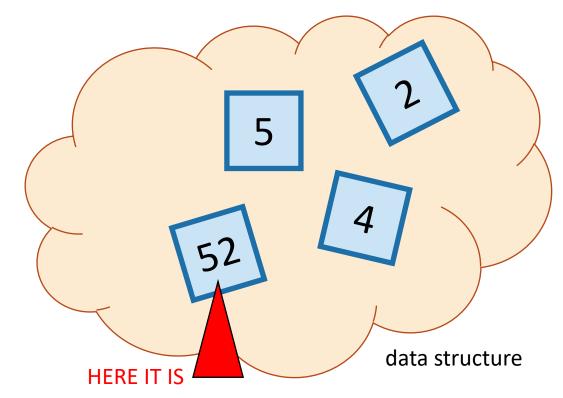
Want O(1) INSERT/DELETE/SEARCH

 We are interesting in putting nodes with keys into a data structure that supports fast INSERT/DELETE/SEARCH.



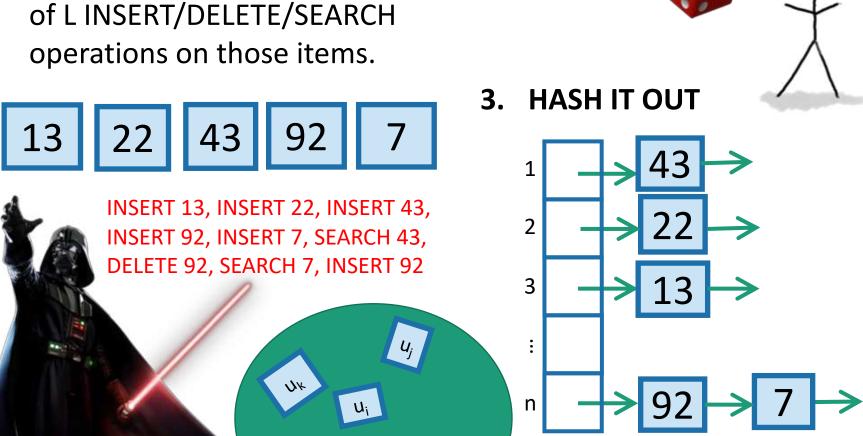
• DELETE 4

• SEARCH 52



We studied this game

- 2. You, the algorithm, chooses a **random** hash function $h: U \rightarrow \{1, ..., n\}$.
- 1. An adversary chooses any n items $u_1, u_2, ..., u_n \in U$, and any sequence of L INSERT/DELETE/SEARCH operations on those items.



Uniformly random h was good

If we choose h uniformly at random,

for all
$$u_i, u_j \in U$$
 with $u_i \neq u_j$,
$$P_{h \in H} \left\{ h(u_i) = h(u_j) \right\} \leq \frac{1}{n}$$

• That was enough to ensure that all INSERT/DELETE/SEARCH operations took O(1) time in expectation, even on adversarial inputs.

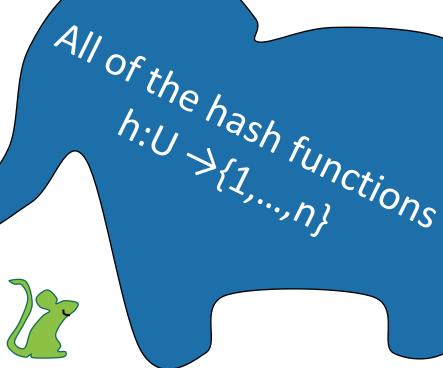
Uniformly random h was bad

• If we actually want to implement this, we have to store the hash function h.

That takes a lot of space!

 We may as well have just initialized a bucket for every single item in U.

• Instead, we chose a function randomly from a smaller set.



We needed a smaller set that still has this property

If we choose h uniformly at random in H,

for all
$$u_i, u_j \in U$$
 with $u_i \neq u_j$,
$$P_{h \in H} \{ h(u_i) = h(u_j) \} \leq \frac{1}{n}$$

This was all we needed to make sure that the buckets were balanced in expectation!

- We call any set with that property a universal hash family.
- We gave an example of a really small one ☺



Hashing a universe of size M into n buckets, where at most n of the items in M ever show up.

Conclusion:

- We can build a hash table that supports INSERT/DELETE/SEARCH in O(1) expected time
- Requires O(n log(M)) bits of space.
 - O(n) buckets
 - O(n) items with log(M) bits per item
 - O(log(M)) to store the hash function

That's it for data structures (for now)



Achievement unlocked

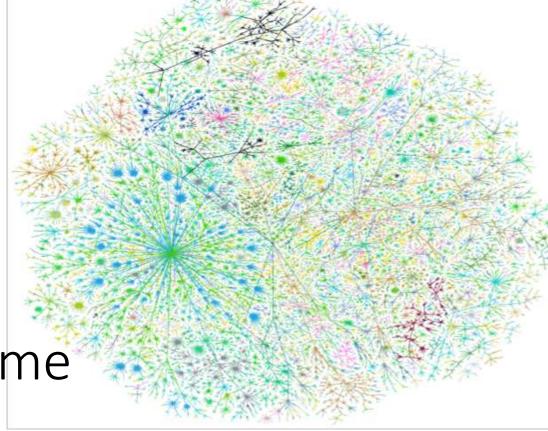
Data Structure: RBTrees and Hash Tables

Now we can use these going forward!

Next Time

Graph algorithms!

Before Next Time



- Pre-lecture exercise for Lecture 9
 - Intro to graphs