

Buggy Hash

[Here is a video walkthrough of the solutions.](#)

The following classes may contain a bug in one of its methods. Identify those errors and briefly explain why they are incorrect and in which situations would the bug cause problems.

```
(a)    class Timezone {
2      String timeZone; // "PST", "EST" etc.
3      boolean dayLight;
4      String location;
5      ...
6      public int currentTime() {
7          // return the current time in that time zone
8      }
9      public int hashCode() {
10         return currentTime();
11     }
12     public boolean equals(Object o) {
13         Timezone tz = (Timezone) o;
14         return tz.timeZone.equals(timeZone);
15     }
16 }
```

Solution:

Although equal objects will have the same hashCode, but the problem here is that `hashCode()` is not deterministic. This may result in weird behaviors (e.g. the element getting lost) when we try to put or access elements.

```
(b)    class Course {
2      int courseCode;
3      int yearOffered;
4      String[] staff;
5      ...
6      public int hashCode() {
7          return yearOffered + courseCode;
8      }
9      public boolean equals(Object o) {
10         Course c = (Course) o;
11         return c.courseCode == courseCode;
12     }
13 }
```

Solution: The problem with this `hashCode()` is that not all equal objects have the same hashCode. This may produce unexpected behavior, e.g. multiple "equal" objects may exist in different buckets in the `HashMap`, the `containsKey` operation may return false, etc. One key thing to remember is that when we override the `equals()` method, we have to also override the

`hashCode()` method to ensure equal objects have the same `hashCode`.