Searching and Hashing



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The Search Problem

- Find items with keys matching a given search key
 - Given an array A, containing n keys, and a search key k, find the index i such as k=A[i]

example of a record

Key other data

Problem: Search

- Given a list of records (elements).
- Each record has an associated key
- Find an efficient algorithm for searching for a record containing a particular key
- Efficiency is quantified in terms of <u>average time analysis</u> (<u>number of comparisons</u>) to retrieve the item

Applications

- Keeping track of customer account information in a bank
 - Search through records to check balances and perform transactions
- Keep track of reservations on flights
 - Search to find empty seats, cancel/modify reservations
- Search engine
 - Looks for all documents containing a given word

Sequential/Linear Search

- Step 1 Read the search element
- Step 2 Compare the search element with the first element in the list
- Step 3 If both are matched, then display "Given element is found!!!" and terminate the function
- Step 4 If both are not matched, then compare search element with the next element in the list
- Step 5 Repeat steps 3 and 4 <u>until search element is compared with last element in the list</u>
- Step 6 If last element in the list also doesn't match, then display "Element is not found!!!" and terminate the function.

Sequential Search

```
int search(int arr[], int n, int ele) {
   int i;
   for (i = 0; i < n; i++)
      if(arr[i] == ele)
      return i;
   return -1;
}</pre>
```

Sequential Search Analysis

- Time complexity is measured on the basis of number of comparisons performed.
- The items have been placed randomly into the list.
- In other words, the probability that the item we are looking for is in any particular position is exactly the same for each position of the list.
- If the item is not in the list, the only way to know it is to compare it against every item present.
- On average, we will find the item about halfway into the list; that is, we will compare against n/2 items.

Worst Case Time for Sequential Search

- For an array of n elements, the worst case time for sequential search requires n comparisons: O(n).
- Consider cases where it must loop over all n records:
 - desired record appears in the <u>last position of the array</u>
 - desired record <u>does not appear in the array at all</u>

Average Case for Sequential Search

Assumptions:

- 1. All keys are equally likely in a search
- 2. Always search for a key that is in the array

Example:

- Suppose an array of 10 records.
- If search for the first record, then it requires 1 array access; if the second, then 2 array accesses. etc.

The average of all these searches is:

$$(1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8+9+10)/10 = 5.5$$

Average Case Time for Sequential Search

- Generalize for array size n.
- Expression for average-case running time:
- (1+2+...+n)/n = n(n+1)/2n = (n+1)/2
- Therefore, average case time complexity for serial search is O(n).

Comparisons Used in a Sequential Search of an Unordered List

Case	Best Case	Worst Case	Average Case
item is present	O(1)	O(n)	O(n/2)
item is not preser	nt O(n)	O(n)	O(n)

Suppose you are doing a sequential search of the list [15, 18, 2, 19, 18, 0, 8, 14, 19, 14]. How many comparisons would you need to do in order to find the key 18?

- (A) 5
- (B) 10
- (C) 4
- (D) 2
- (E) 7

Suppose you are doing a sequential search of the list [15, 18, 2, 19, 18, 0, 8, 14, 19, 14]. How many comparisons would you need to do in order to find the key 18?

- (A) 5
- (B) 10
- (C) 4
- (D) 2
- (E) 7

Ans: (D) In this case only 2 comparisons were needed to find the key.

Suppose you are doing a sequential search of the ordered list [3, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18]. How many comparisons would you need to do in order to find the key 13?

- (A) 10
- (B) 5
- (C)7
- (D) 6
- (E) 7

Suppose you are doing a sequential search of the ordered list [3, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18]. How many comparisons would you need to do in order to find the key 13?

- (A) 10
- (B) 5
- (C) 7
- (D) 6
- (E) 8

Ans: (C) You do not need to search the entire list, since it is ordered you can stop searching when you have compared with a value larger than the key.

- Perhaps it can be done better than O(n) in the average case?
- Assume that there exists an array of records that is sorted. For instance:
 - an array of records with integer keys sorted from smallest to largest (e.g., ID numbers), or
 - an array of records with string keys sorted in alphabetical order (e.g., names).

Binary Search: <u>Iterative</u>

```
int binarySearch(int arr[], int n, int ele) {
  int low = 0, high = n - 1;
  while (low <= high) {
    int mid = (low + high)/2;
    if (ele == arr[mid])
      return mid;
    else if (ele < arr[mid])
      high = mid - 1;
    else
      low = mid + 1;
  return -1;
```

Example: sorted array of integer keys. Target=7.

[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]
3	6	7	11	32	33	53

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Find approximate midpoint

Example: sorted array of integer keys. Target=7.

[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]
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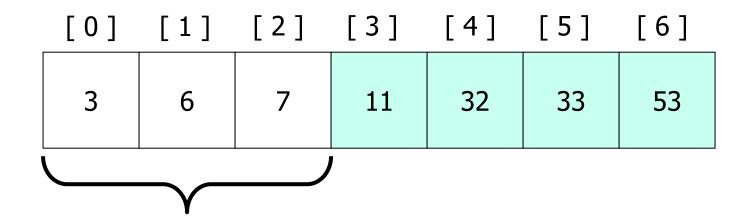
Is target, 7 = midpoint key? NO.

Example: sorted array of integer keys. Target=7.

[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]
3	6	7	11	32	33	53

Is target, 7 < midpoint key? YES.

Example: sorted array of integer keys. Target=7.



Search for the target in the area before midpoint.

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Is target, 7 > key of midpoint? YES.

Example: sorted array of integer keys. Target=7.

3	6	7	11	32	33	53
[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]

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[0]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]
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Find approximate midpoint.

Is target, 7 = midpoint key? YES.

Binary Search: Recursive

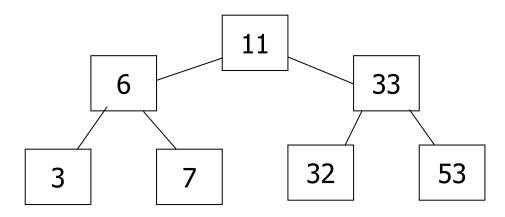
```
int binarySearch(int arr[], int low, int high, int ele) {
   if (low > high)
     return -1;
   int mid = (low + high)/2;
   if (ele == arr[mid])
     return mid;
   else if (ele < arr[mid]) {
      return binarySearch(arr, low, mid-1, ele);
   else
     return binarySearch(arr, mid+1, high, ele);
}</pre>
```

Relation to Binary Search Tree

Array of previous example:

3	6	7	11	32	33	53

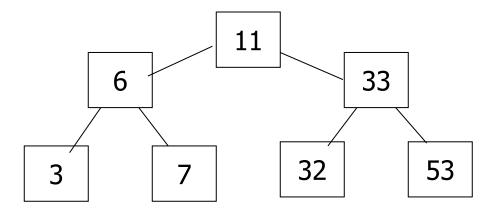
Corresponding complete binary search tree



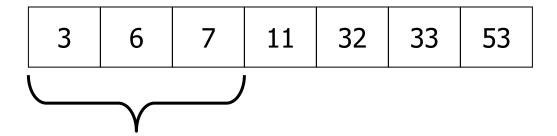
Find midpoint:

3 6 7 11 32 33 53

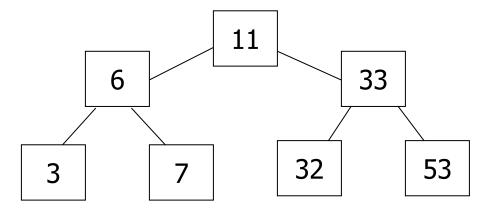
Start at root:



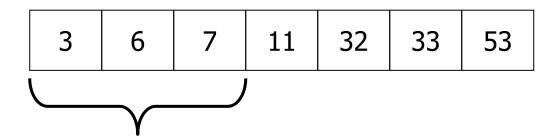
Search left subarray:



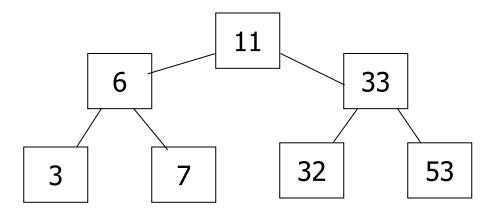
Search left subtree:



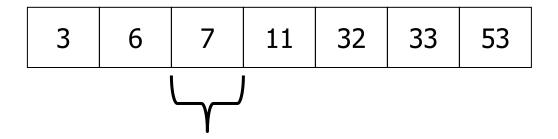
Find approximate midpoint of subarray:



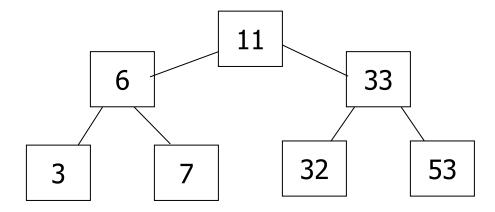
Visit root of subtree:



Search right subarray:



Search right subtree:



Binary Search: Analysis

- Worst case complexity?
- What is the maximum depth of recursive calls in binary search as function of n?
- Each level in the recursion, split the array in half (divide by two).
- Therefore maximum recursion depth is floor($log_2 n$) and worst case = O($log_2 n$).
- Average case is also = $O(\log_2 n)$.

Can we do better than O(log₂n)?

- Average and worst case of <u>serial/ linear search</u> = O(n)
- Average and worst case of <u>binary search</u> = O(log₂n)
- Can we do better than this?

YES. Use a hash table!

What is Hashing

- Hashing is a technique that is used to uniquely search a given key from a group of similar keys.
- The keys are stored in a data structure called <u>hash table</u>.
- <u>Idea</u>: To distribute <u>entries</u> (<u>key/value pairs</u>) uniformly across the hash table.
- Hashing uses a special function called the <u>Hash function</u>.
 - The efficiency of searching a key depends of the efficiency of the hash function used.

Hash Tables

- A <u>hash table</u> is a data structure that is used to store <u>keys/value</u> <u>pairs</u>.
- It uses a <u>hash function</u> to compute an index into an array in which an element will be inserted or searched.
- By using a good hash function, hashing can work well.
- Under <u>reasonable assumptions</u>, the <u>average time</u> required to search for an element in a hash table is O(1).

Hash Tables

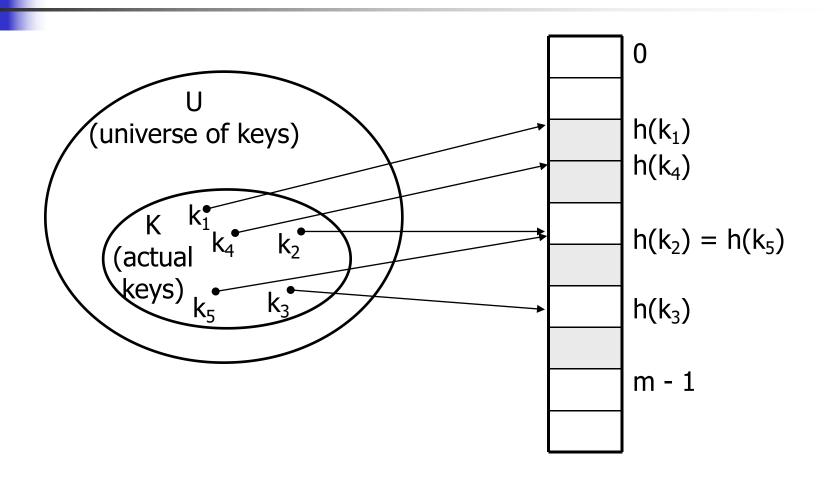
Idea:

- Use a function h to compute the slot for each key in the hash table.
- Store the element in slot h(k).
- A <u>hash function</u> h transforms a key into an index in a hash table
 T[0...m-1]:

$$h: U \to \{0, 1, \ldots, m-1\}$$

- Say, k hashes to slot h(k)
- Advantages:
 - Reduce the range of array indices handled: m instead of |U|
 - Storage is also reduced.

Example: Hash Table



Another Example

Suppose that the keys are nine-digit social security numbers

Possible hash function

 $h(ssn) = sss \mod 100 \text{ (last 2 digits of ssn)}$

e.g., if ssn = 10123411 then h(10123411) = 11)

Hash Functions

- A hash function transforms a key into a table address
- What makes a good hash function?
 - i. Easy to compute
 - ii. <u>Approximates a random function</u>: for every input, every output is equally likely (<u>simple uniform hashing</u>)
- In practice, it is <u>very hard to satisfy</u> the simple uniform hashing property
 - i.e., it is not known in advance the probability distribution that keys are drawn from

Good Approaches for Hash Functions

- Minimize the chance that closely related keys hash to the same slot
 - Strings such as <u>pt</u> and <u>pts</u> should hash to different slots
- Derive a hash value that is <u>independent from any patterns</u> that may exist in the distribution of the keys.

The Division Method

<u>Idea</u>:

 Map a key k into one of the m slots by taking the remainder of k divided by m.

$$h(k) = k \mod m$$

Advantage:

fast, requires only one operation

Disadvantage:

- Certain values of m are bad, e.g.,
 - power of 2
 - non-prime numbers

Example - The Division Method

- If $m = 2^p$, then h(k) is just the least significant p bits of k
 - $p = 1 \Rightarrow m = 2$ $\Rightarrow h(k) = \{0, 1\}$, least significant 1 bit of k
 - $p = 2 \Rightarrow m = 4$ $\Rightarrow h(k) = \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$, least significant 2 bits of k
- Choose m to be a prime, not close to a power of 2
 - Column 2: k mod 97
 - Column 3: k mod 100

```
m m 97 100
```

```
16838
        57
            38
 5758
        35
            58
10113
        25
            13
17515
        55
            15
31051
        11
            51
 5627
        1
            27
23010
            10
        21
 7419
            19
        47
            12
16212
        13
 4086
        12
            86
            49
 2749
        33
12767
        60
            67
 9084
        63
            84
12060
        32
            60
            25
32225
        21
            43
17543
        83
25089
        63
            89
21183
        37
            83
25137
        14
            37
25566
        55
            66
            66
26966
        0
 4978
        31
            78
20495
        28
            95
10311
        29
            11
```

Digit Extraction Method

- Digits are extracted from key and used as address.
- Example: Six digit employee number is used to hash three digit address: range (000-999)
- Select first, third and fourth digits use them as address:

379452-394

121267-112

378845-388

160252-102

045128-051

Midsquare Method

- Key is squared and the address is selected from the middle of the squared number.
- Example: Given a key of 9452, midsquare address calculation is shown using four digit address (0000-9999)
- 9452²=89340304: address is 3403
- Select first three digits and then use midsquare method

```
379452:379^2=143641-364
```

$$121267:121^2=014641-464$$

$$378845:378^2=142884-288$$

$$160252:160^2=025600-560$$

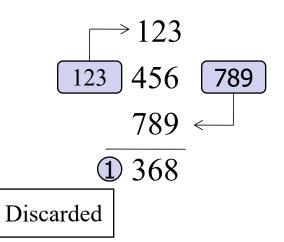
$$045128:045^2=002025-202$$

Folding Methods

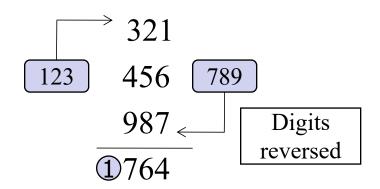
- Breaks up a key value into precise segments that are added to form a hash value
- Two <u>folding methods</u>:
 - Fold shift
 - Fold boundary
- Fold shift: key value is divided into parts whose size matches size of required address
- Left and right parts are shifted and added with middle part
- Fold boundary: left and right numbers are folded on a fixed boundary between them and center number.

Hash Fold examples

123456789



Fold Shift



Fold boundary

Rotation Method

- Rotate the numbers according to their number of ciphers (123 gets 312, 1234 gets 4123)
- Rotating last character to front of key and minimize the effect.
- Rotation is used in combination with <u>folding</u> and <u>pseudorandom</u> <u>hashing</u>.
- Example: Consider case of six digit employee number that is used in large company.

600101	$^{\scriptscriptstyle V}$ 60010 $^{\stackrel{\scriptscriptstyle 1}{\scriptstyle 1}}$	1 60010
600102	600102	260010
600103	600103	360010
600104	600104	4 60010
600105	600105	5 60010
riginal Key	Rotation	Rotated Key

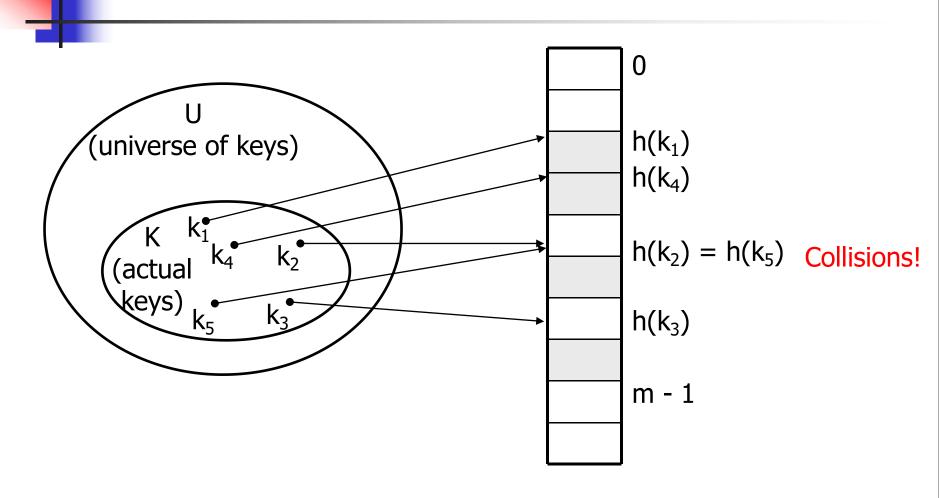
Pseudorandom Hashing

- Key is used as seed in pseudorandom number generator and the random number is <u>scaled into possible address range</u> using modulo-division.
- Pseudorandom number generator generates same number of series.
- A <u>common random number generator</u> is y = ax + c.

Example:

```
Assume a=17, c=7, x=121267, Prime number=307
y= ((17*121267) + 7) % 307
y= (2061539 + 7) % 307
y= 2061546 % 307
y= 41
```

Do you see any problems with this approach?



Collisions

- Two or more keys hash to the same slot!!
- For a given set K of keys
 - If |K| ≤ m, collisions may or may not happen, depending on the hash function.
 - If |K| > m, collisions will definitely happen (i.e., there must be at least two keys that have the same hash value).
- Avoiding collisions completely is hard, even with a good hash function

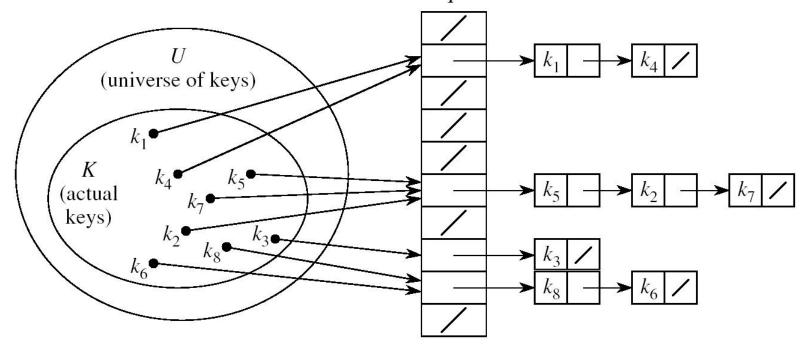
Handling Collisions

- Methods to handle collision:
 - <u>Chaining</u>: Use a <u>linked list</u> to store multiple items that hash to the same slot. Also known as <u>Open hashing</u>.
 - Closed Hashing (or <u>probing</u>): search for empty slots using a second function and store item in first empty slot that is found. Also known as <u>Open addressing</u>.
 - Linear probing
 - Quadratic probing
 - Double hashing

Handling Collisions Using Chaining

Idea:

Put all elements that hash to the same slot into a linked list



 Slot j contains a pointer to the head of the list of all elements that hash to j

Collision with Chaining

- Choosing the size of the table
 - Small enough not to waste space.
 - Large enough such that lists remain short.
 - Typically 1/5 or 1/10 of the total number of elements.
- How should we keep the lists: ordered or not?
 - Not ordered!
 - Insert is fast
 - Can easily remove the most recently inserted elements

Collision Resolution by Closed Hashing

- Given an item X, try cells h₀(X), h₁(X), h₂(X), ..., h_i(X)
- hash(X) = X % TableSize
- $h_i(X) = (hash(X) + F(i)) \%$ TableSize
 - Define F(0) = 0
- F is the collision resolution function.
- Some possibilities:
 - Linear: F(i) = i
 - Quadratic: F(i) = i²
 - Double Hashing: $F(i) = i \times Hash_2(X)$

Closed Hashing I: Linear Probing

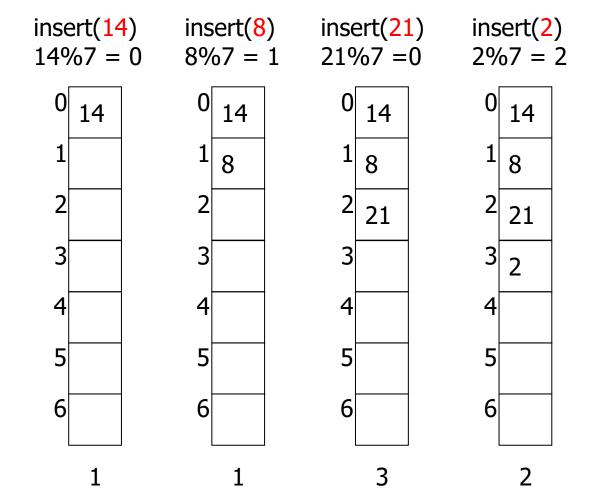
- Main Idea: When collision occurs, scan down the array one cell at a time looking for an empty cell
 - $h_i(X) = (hash(X) + i) \%$ TableSize (i = 0, 1, 2, ...)
 - Compute hash value and increment it until a free cell is found

Probe sequence:

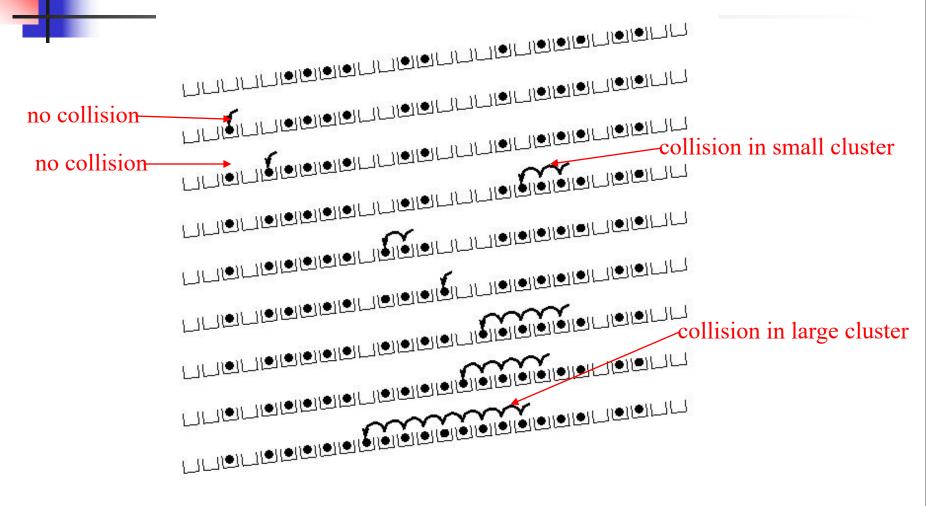
```
0th probe = hash(X) % TableSize
1th probe = (hash(X) + 1) % TableSize
2th probe = (hash(X) + 2) % TableSize
ith probe = (hash(X) + i) % TableSize
```

Linear Probing Example

probes:



Linear Probing – Clustering



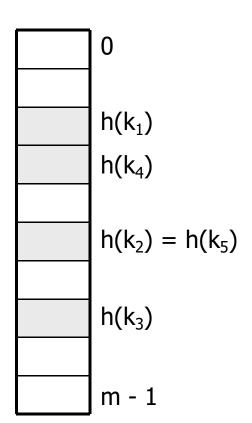
Drawbacks of Linear Probing

- Works until array is full, but as number of items N approaches TableSize, access time approaches O(N)
- Very prone to <u>cluster formation</u> (as shown example)
 - If a key hashes anywhere into a cluster, finding a free cell involves going through the entire cluster – and <u>making it grow!</u>
 - <u>Primary clustering</u> clusters grow when keys hash to values close to each other
- Can have cases where table is empty except for a few clusters
 - Does not satisfy good hash function criterion of distributing keys uniformly

Linear probing: Searching for a key

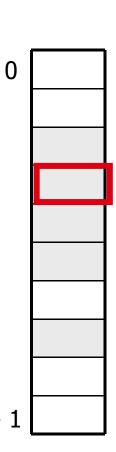
Three cases:

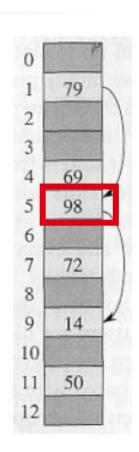
- i. Position in table is occupied with an element of equal key.
- ii. Position in table is empty.
- iii. Position in table occupied with a <u>different element</u>.
- Case iii: probe the next higher index until the element is found or an empty position is found in a wrap around fashion.
- i.e. Keep moving through the array, <u>wrapping</u>
 <u>around</u> at the end, until a free spot is found.



Linear probing: Deleting a key

- <u>Deletions</u> are a <u>bit trickier</u> than in chained hashing.
- We cannot just do a search and remove the element where we find it.
- Problems
 - Cannot mark the slot as empty
 - Impossible to retrieve keys inserted after that slot was occupied
- Solution
 - Mark the slot with a <u>sentinel value DELETED</u>
- The deleted slot can later be used for insertion
- Searching will be able to find all the keys





Linear probing: weakness

- Linear probing exhibits severe <u>performance degradations</u> when the <u>load factor gets high</u>.
- The number of collisions tends to grow as a function of the number of existing collisions.
- This is called primary clustering.

Closed Hashing II: Quadratic Probing

- Main Idea: Spread out the search for an empty slot: Increment by i² instead of i
- $h_i(X) = (Hash(X) + i^2)$ % TableSize $h_0(X) = (Hash(X) + 0)$ % TableSize $h_1(X) = (Hash(X) + 1)$ % TableSize $h_2(X) = (Hash(X) + 4)$ % TableSize $h_3(X) = (Hash(X) + 9)$ % TableSize

Quadratic Probing Example

insert(<mark>14</mark>) 14%7 = 0	insert(<mark>8</mark>) 8%7 = 1	insert(<mark>21</mark>) 21%7 =0	insert(2) 2%7 = 2
0 14	0 14	0 14	0 14
1	1 8	1 8	1 8
2	2	2	2 2
3	3	3	3
4	4	4 21	4 21
5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6
1	1	3	1

probes:

Problem With Quadratic Probing

insert(21)

insert(<mark>14</mark>) 14%7 = 0				
0	14			
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				

	0.7	
0	14	
1	8	
2	2	
3		
4	21	
5		
6		

insert(2)

2%7 = 2

7%	67 =	0
0	14	
1	8	
2	2	
3		
4	21	
5		
6		
		•

insert(7)

probes:

1

3

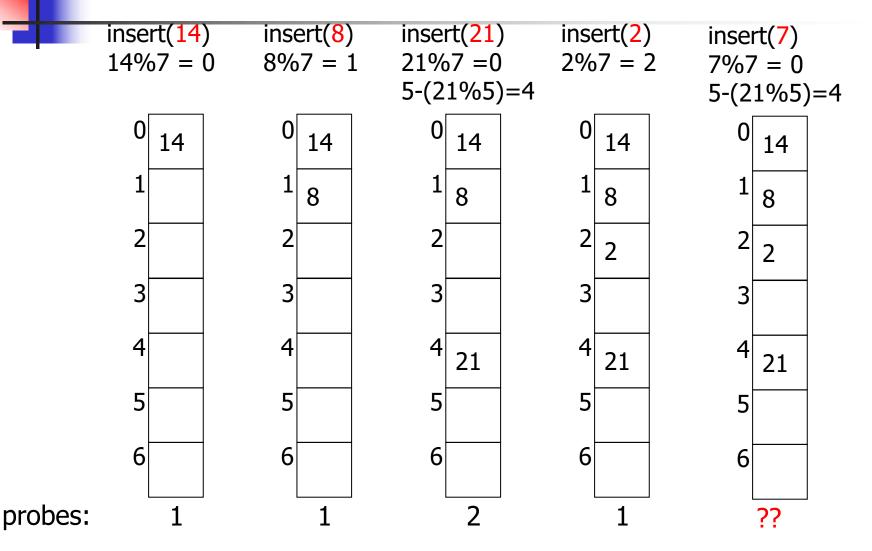
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Closed Hashing III: Double Hashing

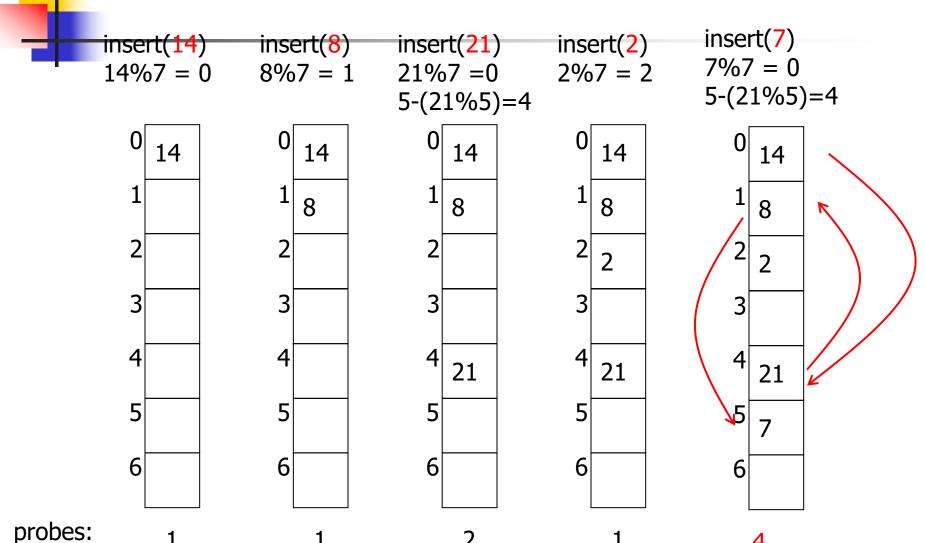
- Idea: Spread out the search for an empty slot by using a second hash function
 - No primary or secondary clustering
- $h_i(X) = (Hash_1(X) + i \times Hash_2(X))$ % TableSize
 - for i = 0, 1, 2, ...
- Good choice of Hash₂(X) can guarantee does not get "stuck".
 - Integer keys:

```
Hash_2(X) = R - (X \% R)
where R is a prime smaller than TableSize
```

Double Hashing Example



Double Hashing Example



Closed Hashing III: Double Hashing

$$h_1(k) = k \% 7$$

$$h_2(k) = 5 - (k \% 5)$$

$$h(k, i) = (h_1(k) + i h_2(k)) \% 7$$
Insert key 7:
$$h_1(7, 0) = 7 \mod 7 = 0$$

$$h(7, 1) = (h_1(7) + h_2(21)) \% 7$$

$$= (0 + 4) \% 7 = 4$$

$$h(7, 2) = (h_1(7) + 2 h_2(21)) \% 7$$

$$= (0 + 8) \% 7 = 1$$

$$h(7, 3) = (h_1(7) + 3 h_2(21)) \% 7$$

$$= (0 + 12) \% 7 = 5$$

Double Hashing: Example

$$h_1(k) = k \% 13$$

 $h_2(k) = 1 + (k \% 11)$
 $h(k, i) = (h_1(k) + i h_2(k)) \mod 13$

Insert key 14:

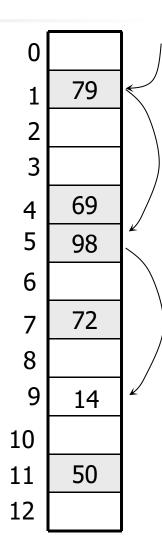
```
h_1(14, 0) = 14 \mod 13 = 1

h(14, 1) = (h_1(14) + h_2(14)) \mod 13

= (1 + 4) \mod 13 = 5

h(14, 2) = (h_1(14) + 2 h_2(14)) \mod 13

= (1 + 8) \mod 13 = 9
```



Double Hashing

- Advantage: avoids clustering
- Disadvantage: harder to delete an element
- Can generate m² probe sequences maximum