

Two Sum/HashMap

Question: <https://leetcode.com/problems/two-sum/>

Given an array of integers `nums` and an integer `target`, return indices of the two numbers such that they add up to `target`.

You may assume that each input would have exactly one solution, and you may not use the same element twice.

You can return the answer in any order.

Example 1:

Input: `nums = [2,7,11,15]`, `target = 9`

Output: `[0,1]`

Explanation: Because `nums[0] + nums[1] == 9`, we return `[0, 1]`.

Since we need 2 pieces of information about a number

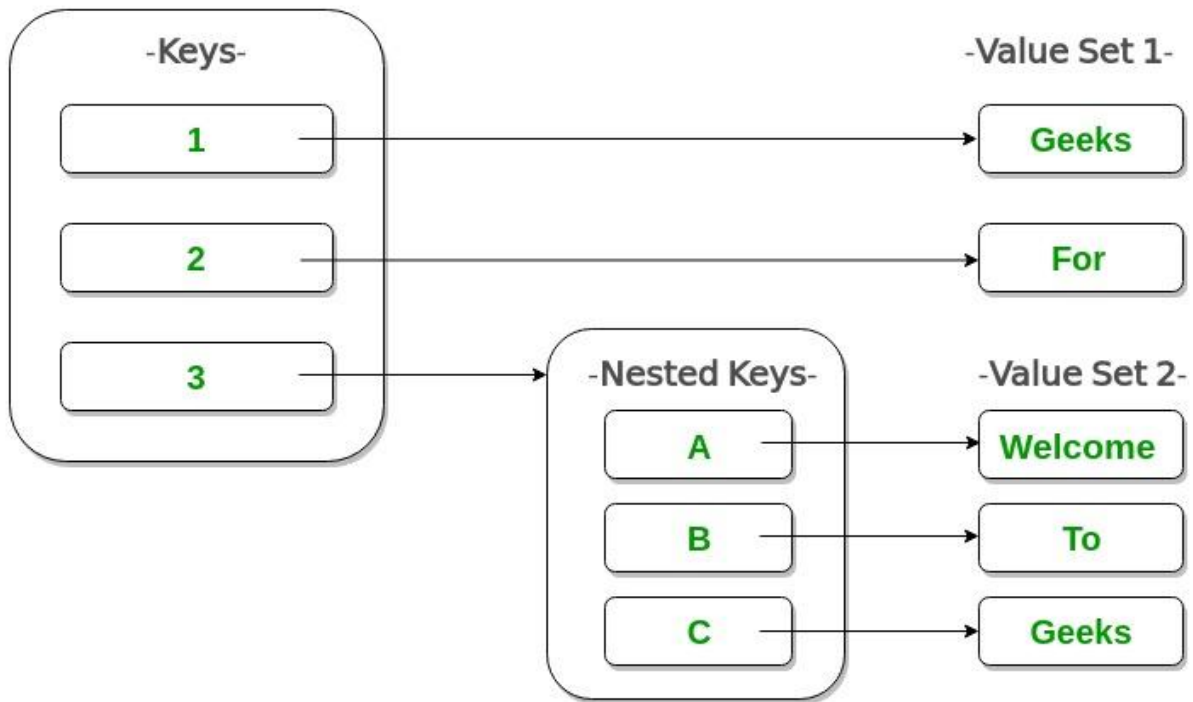
1. The number itself
2. Another number which after addition return the target Sum

Therefore we will use a hashmap for this question.

In Python, dictionaries are implemented as hashmaps in the background which allows us to directly use a dictionary as a hashmap with Key: Value pairs.

To read more on dictionaries as hashmaps:

<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/hash-map-in-python/>



PS: Whenever you need 2 pieces of information for something such as Employee Name and Employee ID use hashmaps.

The best part about hashtables or hashmaps is that data access takes $O(1)$ time hence searching takes $O(1)$ time which is really beneficial for this problem.

So my approach was to loop over the array nums and to store 2 pieces of information: the number itself and

Target-number which I stored in the adder variable

Using hashmap, I store it as key: value where the key is the number and the value is the adder

For every number, I check if the adder is already present as a key, if yes then I return the number index and adder index,

Else I store the number: index

MY SOLUTION:

```
b={}
```

```
for i in range(len(nums)):
```

```
    adder = target - nums[i]
```

```
if adder in b:  
    return [b[adder],i]  
else:  
    b[nums[i]] = i
```

Code : <https://gist.github.com/vermaayush680/4956b817287849754fdf9758a9e0127a>

The best part about hashmaps is that the line

If adder in b: takes $O(1)$ time to check because searching takes $O(1)$ time in hashmaps.

Comment any suggestions you have for me or better approaches you have for this question.