The **MapFile** is a directory that contains two SequenceFile: the data file (“/data”) and the index file (“/index”). The data contains all the key, value records but key N + 1 must be greater then or equal to the key N. This condition is checked during the append() operation, if checkKey fail it throws an IOException “Key out of order”.

The Index file is populated with the key and a LongWritable that contains the starting byte position of the record. Index does’t contains all the keys but just a fraction of the keys, you can specify the indexInterval calling setIndexInterval() method. The Index is read enteirely into memory, so if you’ve large map you can set a index skip value that allows you to keep in memory just a fraction of the index keys