

Hashing



- ▶ hash functions
- ▶ separate chaining
- ▶ linear probing
- ▶ applications

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Optimize judiciously

“More computing sins are committed in the name of efficiency (without necessarily achieving it) than for any other single reason—including blind stupidity.” — William A. Wulf

“We should forget about small efficiencies, say about 97% of the time: premature optimization is the root of all evil.” — Donald E. Knuth

“We follow two rules in the matter of optimization:
 Rule 1: Don't do it.
 Rule 2 (for experts only). Don't do it yet - that is, not until you have a perfectly clear and unoptimized solution.” — M. A. Jackson

Reference: Effective Java by Joshua Bloch

ST implementations: summary

implementation	guarantee			average case			ordered iteration?	operations on keys
	search	insert	delete	search hit	insert	delete		
sequential search (linked list)	N	N	N	N/2	N	N/2	no	equals ()
binary search (ordered array)	lg N	N	N	lg N	N/2	N/2	yes	compareTo ()
BST	N	N	N	1.38 lg N	1.38 lg N	?	yes	compareTo ()
red-black tree	2 lg N	2 lg N	2 lg N	1.00 lg N	1.00 lg N	1.00 lg N	yes	compareTo ()

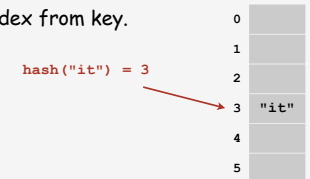
Q. Can we do better?

A. Yes, but with different access to the data.

Hashing: basic plan

Save items in a **key-indexed table** (index is a function of the key).

Hash function. Method for computing array index from key.



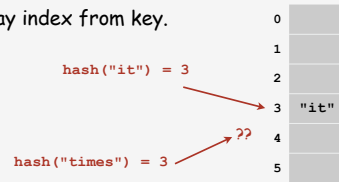
Issues.

- Computing the hash function.
- Equality test: Method for checking whether two keys are equal.

Hashing: basic plan

Save items in a **key-indexed table** (index is a function of the key).

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Issues.

- Computing the hash function.
- Equality test: Method for checking whether two keys are equal.
- Collision resolution: Algorithm and data structure to handle two keys that hash to the same array index.

Classic space-time tradeoff.

- No space limitation: trivial hash function with key as index.
- No time limitation: trivial collision resolution with sequential search.
- Limitations on both time and space: hashing (the real world).

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► hash functions

- separate chaining
- linear probing
- applications

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Equality test

Needed because hash methods do not use `compareTo()`.

All Java classes have a method `equals()`, inherited from `Object`.

Java requirements. For any references `x`, `y` and `z`:

- Reflexive: `x.equals(x)` is true.
- Symmetric: `x.equals(y)` iff `y.equals(x)`.
- Transitive: if `x.equals(y)` and `y.equals(z)`, then `x.equals(z)`.
- Non-null: `x.equals(null)` is false.

do `x` and `y` refer to the same object?

Default implementation (inherited from `Object`). (`x == y`)

Customized implementations. `Integer`, `Double`, `String`, `URI`, `Date`, ...

User-defined implementations. Some care needed.

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Implementing equals for user-defined types

Seems easy

```
public class Record
{
    private final String name;
    private final int id;
    private final double value;
    ...

    public boolean equals(Record y)
    {
        Record that = y;
        return (this.id == that.id) &&
            (this.value == that.value) &&
            (this.equals(that.name));
    }
}
```

check that all significant fields are the same

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Implementing equals for user-defined types

Seems easy, but requires some care.

```
public final class Record
{
    private final String name;
    private final int id;
    private final double value;
    ...

    public boolean equals(Object y)
    {
        if (y == this) return true;
        if (y == null) return false;
        if (y.getClass() != this.getClass())
            return false;

        Record that = (Record) y;
        return (this.id == that.id) &&
            (this.value == that.value) &&
            (this.equals(that.name));
    }
}
```

no safe way to use equals() with inheritance

must be Object.
Why? Experts still debate.

optimize for true object equality

check for null

objects must be in the same class

check that all significant
fields are the same

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Computing the hash function

Idealistic goal. Scramble the keys uniformly to produce a table index.

- Efficiently computable.
- Each table index equally likely for each key.

thoroughly researched problem,
still problematic in practical applications



Ex 1. Phone numbers.

- Bad: first three digits.
- Better: last three digits.

Ex 2. Social Security numbers.

573 = California, 574 = Alaska
(assigned in chronological order within geographic region)

- Bad: first three digits.
- Better: last three digits.

Practical challenge. Need different approach for each key type.

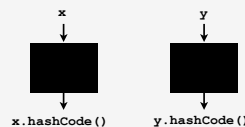
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Java's hash code conventions

All Java classes have a method `hashCode()`, which returns an `int`.

Requirement. If `x.equals(y)`, then `(x.hashCode() == y.hashCode())`.

Highly desirable. If `!x.equals(y)`, then `(x.hashCode() != y.hashCode())`.



Default implementation (inherited from Object). Memory address of `x`.

Customized implementations. `Integer`, `Double`, `String`, `URI`, `Date`, ...

User-defined types. Users are on their own.

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Implementing hash code: integers and doubles

```
public final class Integer
{
    private final int value;
    ...

    public int hashCode()
    { return value; }
}
```

```
public final class Double
{
    private final double value;
    ...

    public int hashCode()
    {
        long bits = doubleToLongBits(value);
        return (int) (bits ^ (bits >> 32));
    }
}
```

convert to IEEE 64-bit representation;
xor most significant 32-bits
with least significant 32-bits

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Implementing hash code: strings

```
public final class String
{
    private final char[] s;
    ...

    public int hashCode()
    {
        int hash = 0;
        for (int i = 0; i < length(); i++)
            hash = s[i] + (31 * hash);
        return hash;
    }
}
```

ith character of s

char	Unicode
...	...
'a'	97
'b'	98
'c'	99
...	...

- Horner's method to hash string of length L: L multiplies/adds.
- Equivalent to $h = 31^{L-1} \cdot s^0 + \dots + 31^2 \cdot s^{L-3} + 31^1 \cdot s^{L-2} + 31^0 \cdot s^{L-1}$.

Ex. `String s = "call";`
`int code = s.hashCode();` ← $3045982 = 99 \cdot 31^3 + 97 \cdot 31^2 + 108 \cdot 31^1 + 108 \cdot 31^0$
 $= 108 + 31 \cdot (108 + 31 \cdot (97 + 31 \cdot (99)))$

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A poor hash code

Ex. Strings (in Java 1.1).

- For long strings: only examine 8-9 evenly spaced characters.
- Benefit: saves time in performing arithmetic.

```
public int hashCode()
{
    int hash = 0;
    int skip = Math.max(1, length() / 8);
    for (int i = 0; i < length(); i += skip)
        hash = s[i] + (37 * hash);
    return hash;
}
```

- Downside: great potential for bad collision patterns.

```
http://www.cs.princeton.edu/introcs/13loop/Hello.java
http://www.cs.princeton.edu/introcs/13loop/Hello.class
http://www.cs.princeton.edu/introcs/13loop/Hello.html
http://www.cs.princeton.edu/introcs/13loop/index.html
http://www.cs.princeton.edu/introcs/12type/index.html
```

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Implementing hash code: user-defined types

```
public final class Record
{
    private String name;
    private int id;
    private double value;

    public Record(String name, int id, double value)
    { /* as before */ }

    ...

    public boolean equals(Object y)
    { /* as before */ }

    public int hashCode()
    {
        int hash = 17;
        hash = 31*hash + name.hashCode();
        hash = 31*hash + id;
        hash = 31*hash + Double.valueOf(value).hashCode();
        return hash;
    }
}
```

nonzero constant

typically a small prime

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Hash code design

"Standard" recipe for user-defined types.

- Combine each significant field using the $31x + y$ rule.
- If field is a primitive type, use built-in hash code.
- If field is an array, apply to each element.
- If field is an object, apply rule recursively.

In practice. Recipe works reasonably well; used in Java libraries.

In theory. Need a theorem for each type to ensure reliability.

Basic rule. Need to use the whole key to compute hash code; consult an expert for state-of-the-art hash codes.

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Hash functions

Hash code. An `int` between -2^{31} and $2^{31}-1$.

Hash function. An `int` between 0 and $M-1$ (for use as array index).

typically a prime or power of 2

Bug.

```
private int hash(Key key)
{ return key.hashCode() % M; }
```

1-in-a billion bug.

```
private int hash(Key key)
{ return Math.abs(key.hashCode()) % M; }
```

Correct.

```
private int hash(Key key)
{ return (key.hashCode() & 0x7fffffff) % M; }
```

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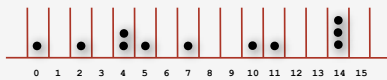
- hash functions
- separate chaining
- linear probing
- applications

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Helpful results from probability theory

Uniform hashing assumption. Each key is equally likely to hash to an integer between 0 and $M-1$.

Bins and balls. Throw balls uniformly at random into M bins.



Birthday problem. Expect two balls in the same bin after $\sim \sqrt{\pi M / 2}$ tosses.

Coupon collector. Expect every bin has ≥ 1 ball after $\sim M \ln M$ tosses.

Load balancing. After M tosses, expect most loaded bin has $\Theta(\log M / \log \log M)$ balls.

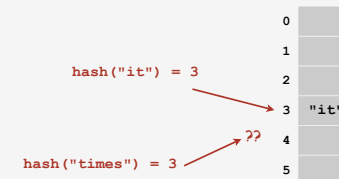
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Collisions

Collision. Two distinct keys hashing to same index.

- Birthday problem \Rightarrow can't avoid collisions unless you have a ridiculous amount (quadratic) of memory.
- Coupon collector + load balancing \Rightarrow collisions will be evenly distributed.

Challenge. Deal with collisions efficiently.

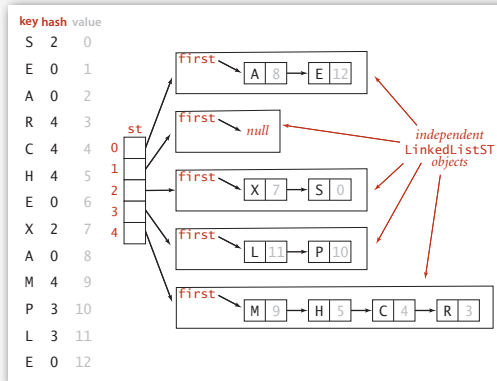


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Separate chaining ST

Use an array of $M < N$ linked lists. [H. P. Luhn, IBM 1953]

- Hash: map key to integer i between 0 and $M-1$.
- Insert: put at front of i^{th} chain (if not already there).
- Search: only need to search i^{th} chain.



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Separate chaining ST: Java implementation

```
public class SeparateChainingHashST<Key, Value>
{
    private int N;           // number of key-value pairs
    private int M;          // hash table size
    private LinkedListST[] st; // array of STs
    public SeparateChainingHashST()
    { this(997); }

    public SeparateChainingHashST(int M)
    { // Create M sequential-search-with-linked-list STs.
      this.M = M;
      st = new LinkedListST[M];
      for (int i = 0; i < M; i++)
        st[i] = new LinkedListST();
    }

    private int hash(Key key)
    { return (key.hashCode() & 0x7fffffff) % M; }

    public Value get(Key key)
    { return (Value) st[hash(key)].get(key); }

    public void put(Key key, Value value)
    { st[hash(key)].put(key, value); }

    public Iterable<Key> keys()
    { return st[i].keys(); }
}

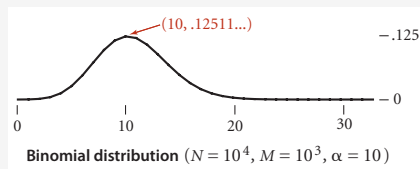
```

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Analysis of separate chaining

Proposition. Under uniform hashing assumption, probability that the number of keys in a list is within a constant factor of N/M is extremely close to 1.

Pf sketch. Distribution of list size obeys a binomial distribution.



Consequence. Number of compares for search/insert is proportional to N/M .

- M too large \Rightarrow too many empty chains.
- M too small \Rightarrow chains too long.
- Typical choice: $M \sim N/5 \Rightarrow$ constant-time ops.

↑
M times faster than
sequential search

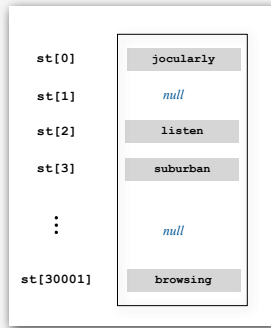
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- › hash functions
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Collision resolution: open addressing

Open addressing. [Amdahl-Boehme-Rochester-Samuel, IBM 1953]
 When a new key collides, find next empty slot, and put it there.

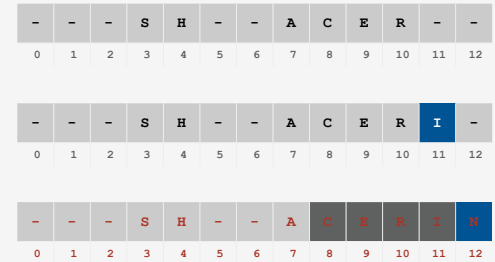


linear probing (M = 30001, N = 15000)

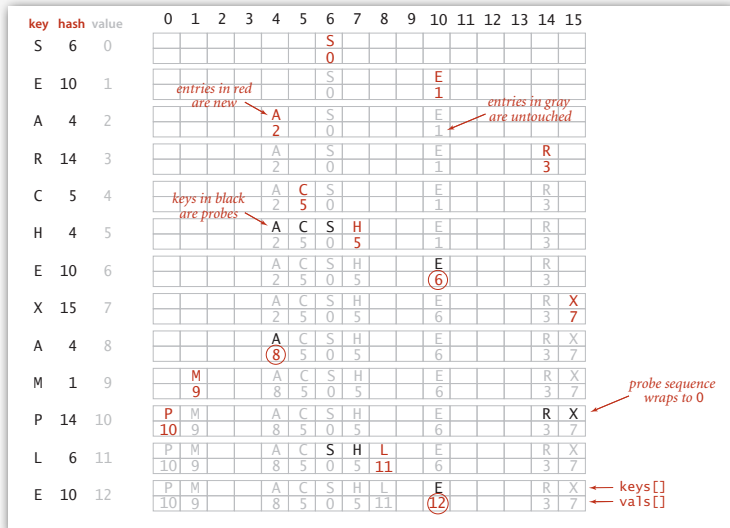
Linear probing

Use an array of size $M > N$.

- Hash: map key to integer i between 0 and $M-1$.
- Insert: put in slot i if free; if not try $i+1, i+2, etc.$
- Search: search slot i ; if occupied but no match, try $i+1, i+2, etc.$



Linear probing: trace of standard indexing client



Linear probing ST implementation

```
public class LinearProbingST<Key, Value>
{
    private int M = 30001;
    private Value[] vals = (Value[]) new Object[M];
    private Key[] keys = (Key[]) new Object[M];

    private int hash(Key key) { /* as before */ }

    public void put(Key key, Value val)
    {
        int i;
        for (i = hash(key); keys[i] != null; i = (i+1) % M)
            if (key.equals(keys[i]))
                break;
        vals[i] = val;
        keys[i] = key;
    }

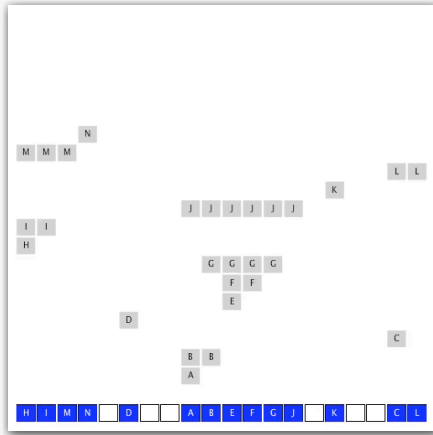
    public Value get(Key key)
    {
        for (int i = hash(key); keys[i] != null; i = (i+1) % M)
            if (key.equals(keys[i]))
                return vals[i];
        return null;
    }
}
```

array doubling code omitted

Clustering

Cluster. A contiguous block of items.

Observation. New keys likely to hash into middle of big clusters.



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Knuth's parking problem

Model. Cars arrive at one-way street with M parking spaces. Each desires a random space i : if space i is taken, try $i+1, i+2, \dots$

Q. What is mean displacement of a car?



Empty. With $M/2$ cars, mean displacement is $\sim 3/2$.

Full. With M cars, mean displacement is $\sim \sqrt{\pi M / 8}$

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Analysis of linear probing

Proposition. Under uniform hashing assumption, the average number of probes in a hash table of size M that contains $N = \alpha M$ keys is:

$$\underbrace{\sim \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \frac{1}{1-\alpha} \right)}_{\text{search hit}} \quad \underbrace{\sim \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \frac{1}{(1-\alpha)^2} \right)}_{\text{search miss / insert}}$$

Pf. [Knuth 1962] A landmark in analysis of algorithms.

Parameters.

- M too large \Rightarrow too many empty array entries.
- M too small \Rightarrow search time blows up.
- Typical choice: $\alpha = N/M < 1/2 \Rightarrow$ constant-time ops.

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ST implementations: summary

implementation	guarantee			average case			ordered iteration?	operations on keys
	search	insert	delete	search hit	insert	delete		
sequential search (linked list)	N	N	N	$N/2$	N	$N/2$	no	<code>equals()</code>
binary search (ordered array)	$\lg N$	N	N	$\lg N$	$N/2$	$N/2$	yes	<code>compareTo()</code>
BST	N	N	N	$1.38 \lg N$	$1.38 \lg N$?	yes	<code>compareTo()</code>
red-black tree	$2 \lg N$	$2 \lg N$	$2 \lg N$	$1.00 \lg N$	$1.00 \lg N$	$1.00 \lg N$	yes	<code>compareTo()</code>
hashing	$\lg N^*$	$\lg N^*$	$\lg N^*$	$3-5^*$	$3-5^*$	$3-5^*$	no	<code>equals()</code>

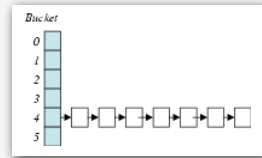
* under uniform hashing assumption

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Algorithmic complexity attacks

Q. Is the uniform hashing assumption important in practice?

- A. Obvious situations: aircraft control, nuclear reactor, pacemaker.
A. Surprising situations: **denial-of-service** attacks.



malicious adversary learns your hash function (e.g., by reading Java API) and causes a big pile-up in single slot that grinds performance to a halt

Real-world exploits. [Crosby-Wallach 2003]

- Bro server: send carefully chosen packets to DOS the server, using less bandwidth than a dial-up modem.
- Perl 5.8.0: insert carefully chosen strings into associative array.
- Linux 2.4.20 kernel: save files with carefully chosen names.

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Algorithmic complexity attack on Java

Goal. Find family of strings with the same hash code.

Solution. The base-31 hash code is part of Java's string API.

key	hashCode ()
"Aa"	2112
"BB"	2112

key	hashCode ()
"AaAaAaAa"	-540425984
"AaAaAaBB"	-540425984
"AaAaBBAa"	-540425984
"AaAaBBBB"	-540425984
"AaBBAaAa"	-540425984
"AaBBAaBB"	-540425984
"AaBBBBAa"	-540425984
"AaBBBBBB"	-540425984

key	hashCode ()
"BBAaAaAa"	-540425984
"BBAaAaBB"	-540425984
"BBAaBBAa"	-540425984
"BBAaBBBB"	-540425984
"BBBBAaAa"	-540425984
"BBBBAaBB"	-540425984
"BBBBBAaA"	-540425984
"BBBBBBBB"	-540425984

2^N strings of length $2N$ that hash to same value!

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Diversion: one-way hash functions

One-way hash function. Hard to find a key that will hash to a desired value, or to find two keys that hash to same value.

Ex. MD4, MD5, SHA-0, SHA-1, SHA-2, WHIRLPOOL, RIPEMD-160.

known to be insecure

```
String password = args[0];
MessageDigest sha1 = MessageDigest.getInstance("SHA1");
byte[] bytes = sha1.digest(password);

/* prints bytes as hex string */
```

Applications. Digital fingerprint, message digest, storing passwords.

Caveat. Too expensive for use in ST implementations.

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Separate chaining vs. linear probing

Separate chaining.

- Easier to implement delete.
- Performance degrades gracefully.
- Clustering less sensitive to poorly-designed hash function.

Linear probing.

- Less wasted space.
- Better cache performance.

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Hashing: variations on the theme

Many improved versions have been studied.

Two-probe hashing. (separate chaining variant)

- Hash to two positions, put key in shorter of the two chains.
- Reduces average length of the longest chain to $\log \log N$.

Double hashing. (linear probing variant)

- Use linear probing, but skip a variable amount, not just 1 each time.
- Effectively eliminates clustering.
- Can allow table to become nearly full.

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Hashing vs. balanced trees

Hashing.

- Simpler to code.
- No effective alternative for unordered keys.
- Faster for simple keys (a few arithmetic ops versus $\log N$ compares).
- Better system support in Java for strings (e.g., cached hash code).

Balanced trees.

- Stronger performance guarantee.
- Support for ordered ST operations.
- Easier to implement `compareTo()` correctly than `equals()` and `hashCode()`.

Java system includes both.

- Red-black trees: `java.util.TreeMap`, `java.util.TreeSet`.
- Hashing: `java.util.HashMap`, `java.util.IdentityHashMap`.

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Set API

Mathematical set. A collection of distinct keys.

```
public class SET<Key extends Comparable<Key>>
{
    SET() create an empty set
    void add(Key key) add the key to the set
    boolean contains(Key key) is the key in the set?
    void remove(Key key) remove the key from the set
    int size() return the number of keys in the set
    Iterator<Key> iterator() iterator through keys in the set
}
```

Q. How to implement?

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Matrix-vector multiplication (standard implementation)

$$\begin{matrix}
 & \mathbf{a}[][] & & \mathbf{x}[] & & \mathbf{b}[] \\
 \begin{bmatrix} 0 & .90 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & .36 & .36 & .18 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & .90 & 0 \\ .90 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ .47 & 0 & .47 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} & & \begin{bmatrix} .05 \\ .04 \\ .36 \\ .37 \\ .19 \end{bmatrix} & = & \begin{bmatrix} .036 \\ .297 \\ .333 \\ .045 \\ .1927 \end{bmatrix}
 \end{matrix}$$

```

...
double[][] a = new double[N][N];
double[] x = new double[N];
double[] b = new double[N];
...
// Initialize a[][] and x[]
...
for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
{
    sum = 0.0;
    for (int j = 0; j < N; j++)
        sum += a[i][j]*x[j];
    b[i] = sum;
}
    
```

nested loops
N² running time

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Vector representations

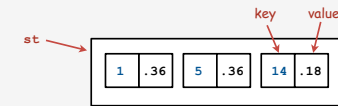
1D array (standard) representation.

- Constant time access to elements.
- Space proportional to N.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
0	.36	0	0	0	.36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.18	0	0	0	0	0

Symbol table representation.

- key = index, value = entry
- Efficient iterator.
- Space proportional to number of **nonzeros**.



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Sparse vector data type

```

public class SparseVector
{
    private HashST<Integer, Double> v;
    public SparseVector()
    { v = new HashST<Integer, Double>(); }

    public void put(int i, double x)
    { v.put(i, x); }

    public double get(int i)
    { if (!v.contains(i)) return 0.0; else return v.get(i); }

    public Iterable<Integer> indices()
    { return v.keys(); }

    public double dot(double[] that)
    { double sum = 0.0; for (int i : v.indices()) sum += that[i]*this.get(i); return sum; }
}
    
```

HashST because order not important

empty ST represents all 0s vector

a[i] = value

return a[i]

dot product is constant time for sparse vectors

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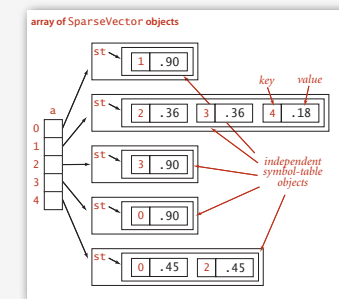
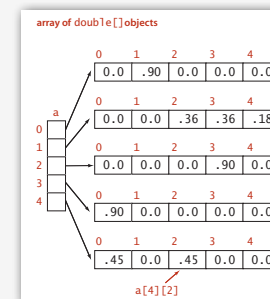
Matrix representations

2D array (standard) representation: Each row of matrix is an array.

- Constant time access to elements.
- Space proportional to N².

Sparse representation: Each row of matrix is a sparse vector.

- Efficient access to elements.
- Space proportional to number of **nonzeros** (plus N).



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Sparse matrix-vector multiplication

$$\begin{matrix}
 & \mathbf{a}[] [] & & \mathbf{x}[] & & \mathbf{b}[] \\
 \begin{bmatrix}
 0 & .90 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 0 & 0 & .36 & .36 & .18 \\
 0 & 0 & 0 & .90 & 0 \\
 .90 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 .47 & 0 & .47 & 0 & 0
 \end{bmatrix}
 & \cdot &
 \begin{bmatrix}
 .05 \\
 .04 \\
 .36 \\
 .37 \\
 .19
 \end{bmatrix}
 & = &
 \begin{bmatrix}
 .036 \\
 .297 \\
 .333 \\
 .045 \\
 .1927
 \end{bmatrix}
 \end{matrix}$$

```

..
SparseVector[] a;
a = new SparseVector[N];
double[] x = new double[N];
double[] b = new double[N];
...
// Initialize a[] and x[]
...
for (int i = 0; i < N; i++)
    b[i] = a[i].dot(x);
    
```

one loop
linear running time
for sparse matrix

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Searching challenge 7

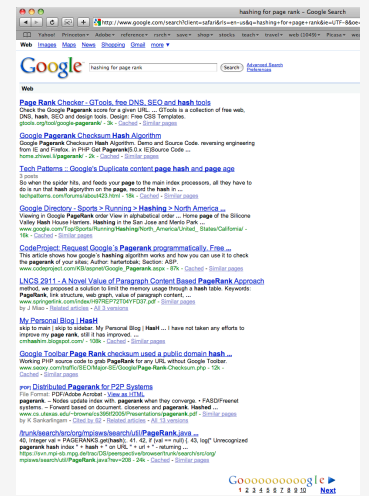
Problem. Rank pages on the web.

Assumptions.

- Matrix-vector multiply
- 10 billion+ rows
- sparse

Which "searching" method to use to access array values?

1. Standard 2D array representation
2. Symbol table
3. Doesn't matter much.



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