Review from Lecture 20

- Finishing binary search trees & the ds_set class
- Operators as non-member functions, as member functions, and as friend functions.

Today’s Lecture

- “the single most important data structure known to mankind”
- Hash Tables, Hash Functions, and Collision Resolution
- Performance of: Hash Tables vs. Binary Search Trees
- Collision resolution: separate chaining
- Using a hash table to implement a set/map
  - Hash functions as functors/function objects
  - Iterators, find, insert, and erase

21.1 Definition: What’s a Hash Table?

- A table implementation with constant time access.
  - Like a set, we can store elements in a collection. Or like a map, we can store key-value pair associations in the hash table. But it’s even faster to do find, insert, and erase with a hash table! However, hash tables do not store the data in sorted order.
- A hash table is implemented with an array at the top level.
- Each element or key is mapped to a slot in the array by a hash function.

21.2 Definition: What’s a Hash Function?

- A simple function of one argument (the key) which returns an integer index (a bucket or slot in the array).
- Ideally the function will “uniformly” distribute the keys throughout the range of legal index values (0 \rightarrow k-1).

What’s a collision?
When the hash function maps multiple (different) keys to the same index.

How do we deal with collisions?
One way to resolve this is by storing a linked list of values at each slot in the array.

21.3 Example: Caller ID

- We are given a phonebook with 50,000 name/number pairings. Each number is a 10 digit number. We need to create a data structure to lookup the name matching a particular phone number. Ideally, name lookup should be O(1) time expected, and the caller ID system should use O(n) memory (n = 50,000).
- Note: In the toy implementations that follow we use small datasets, but we should evaluate the system scaled up to handle the large dataset.

The basic interface:

```cpp
// add several names to the phonebook
add(phonebook, 1111, "fred");
add(phonebook, 2222, "sally");
add(phonebook, 3333, "george");
// test the phonebook
std::cout << identify(phonebook, 2222) << " is calling!" << std::endl;
std::cout << identify(phonebook, 4444) << " is calling!" << std::endl;
```

- We’ll review how we solved this problem in Lab 8 with an STL vector then an STL map. Finally, we’ll implement the system with a hash table.
21.4 Caller ID with an STL Vector

```cpp
std::vector<std::string> phonebook(10000, "UNKNOWN CALLER");

void add(std::vector<std::string> &phonebook, int number, std::string name) {
    phonebook[number] = name;
}

std::string identify(const std::vector<std::string> &phonebook, int number) {
    return phonebook[number];
}
```

Exercise: What’s the memory usage for the vector-based Caller ID system?
What’s the expected running time for find, insert, and erase?

21.5 Caller ID with an STL Map

```cpp
std::map<int, std::string> phonebook;

void add(std::map<int, std::string> &phonebook, int number, std::string name) {
    phonebook[number] = name;
}

std::string identify(const std::map<int, std::string> &phonebook, int number) {
    auto tmp = phonebook.find(number);
    if (tmp == phonebook.end()) return "UNKNOWN CALLER";
    return tmp->second;
}
```

Exercise: What’s the memory usage for the map-based Caller ID system?
What’s the expected running time for find, insert, and erase?

21.6 Now let’s implement Caller ID with a Hash Table

```cpp
#define PHONEBOOK_SIZE 10

class Node {
public:
    int number;
    string name;
    Node* next;
};

Node* phonebook[PHONEBOOK_SIZE];

void add(Node* phonebook[PHONEBOOK_SIZE], int number, string name) {
    // add a number, name pair to the phonebook
}

void identify(Node* phonebook[PHONEBOOK_SIZE], int number) {
    // given a phone number, determine who is calling
}
```

Exercise: What’s the memory usage for the hash-based Caller ID system?
What’s the expected running time for find, insert, and erase?
21.7 Exercise: Choosing a Hash Function

- What’s a good hash function for this application?
- What’s a bad hash function for this application?

21.8 Exercise: Hash Table Performance

- What’s the memory usage for the hash-table-based Caller ID system?
- What’s the expected running time for find, insert, and erase?

21.9 What makes a Good Hash Function?

- Goals: fast $O(1)$ computation and a random-like (but deterministic), uniform distribution of keys throughout the table, despite the actual distribution of keys that are to be stored.

- For example, using: $f(k) = \text{abs}(k) \mod N$ as our hash function satisfies the first requirement, but may not satisfy the second.

- Another example of a dangerous hash function on string keys is to add or multiply the ascii values of each char:

  ```cpp
  unsigned int hash(string const& k, unsigned int N) {
    unsigned int value = 0;
    for (unsigned int i=0; i<k.size(); ++i)
      value += k[i]; // conversion to int is automatic
    return k % N;
  }
  ```

  The problem is that different permutations of the same string result in the same hash table location.

- This can be improved through multiplications that involve the position and value of the key:

  ```cpp
  unsigned int hash(string const& k, unsigned int N) {
    unsigned int value = 0;
    for (unsigned int i=0; i<k.size(); ++i)
      value = value*8 + k[i]; // conversion to int is automatic
    return k % N;
  }
  ```

  The 2nd method is better, but can be improved further. The theory of good hash functions is quite involved and beyond the scope of this course.

21.10 How do we Resolve Collisions? METHOD 1: Separate Chaining

- Each table location stores a linked list of keys (and values) hashed to that location (as shown above in the phonebook hashtable). Thus, the hashing function really just selects which list to search or modify.

- This works well when the number of items stored in each list is small, e.g., an average of 1. Other data structures, such as binary search trees, may be used in place of the list, but these have even greater overhead considering the (hopefully, very small) number of items stored per bin.

- NOTE: We’ll see another method for collision resolution in Lecture 22.

21.11 Building our own Hash Table: A Hash Set

- The class is templated over both the key type and the hash functor type.

  ```cpp
  template < class KeyType, class HashFunc >
  class ds_hashset {
    ...
  };
  ```

- We use separate chaining for collision resolution. Hence the main data structure inside the class is:

  ```cpp
  std::vector< std::list<KeyType> > m_table;
  ```
21.15 Hash Set Iterators

- Iterators move through the hash table in the order of the storage locations rather than the chronological order of insertion or a sorted ordering imposed by `operator<`.

- Thus, the visiting/printing order appears random-like, and depends on the hash function and the table size.
  - Hence the increment operators must move to the next entry in the current linked list or, if the end of the current list is reached, to the first entry in the next non-empty list.

- The iterator must store:
  - A pointer to the hash table it is associated with. This reflects a subtle point about types: even though the `iterator` class is declared inside the `ds_hashset`, this does not mean an iterator automatically knows about any particular `ds_hashset`.
  - The index of the current list in the hash table.
  - An iterator referencing the current location in the current list.

21.16 Implementing `begin()` and `end()`

- `begin()`: Skips over empty lists to find the first key in the table. It must tie the iterator being created to the particular `ds_hashset` object it is applied to. This is done by passing the `this` pointer to the iterator constructor.

- `end()`: Also associates the iterator with the specific table, assigns an index of -1 (indicating it is not a normal valid index), and thus does not assign the particular list iterator.

- **Exercise**: Implement the `begin()` function.

21.17 Iterator Increment, Decrement, & Comparison Operators

- The increment operators must find the next key, either in the current list, or in the next non-empty list.

- The decrement operator must check if the iterator in the list is at the beginning and if so it must proceed to find the previous non-empty list and then find the last entry in that list. This might sound expensive, but remember that the lists should be very short.

- The comparison operators must accommodate the fact that when (at least) one of the iterators is the `end`, the internal list iterator will not have a useful value.

21.18 Insert & Find

- Computes the hash function value and then the index location.

- If the key is already in the list that is at the index location, then no changes are made to the set, but an iterator is created referencing the location of the key, a pair is returned with this iterator and `false`.

- If the key is not in the list at the index location, then the key should be inserted in the list (at the front is fine), and an iterator is created referencing the location of the newly-inserted key a pair is returned with this iterator and `true`.

- **Exercise**: Implement the `insert()` function, ignoring for now the `resize` operation.

- Find is similar to insert, computing the hash function and index, followed by a `std::find` operation.

21.19 Erase

- Two versions are implemented, one based on a key value and one based on an iterator. These are based on finding the appropriate iterator location in the appropriate list, and applying the list erase function.

21.20 Resize

- Cannot simply call resize on the current vector. Must make a new vector of the correct size, and re-insert each key into the resized vector. Why? **Exercise**: Write `resize()`.

- NOTE: Any insert operation invalidates all `ds_hashset` iterators because the insert operation could cause a resize of the table. The erase function only invalidates an iterator that references the current object.
#ifndef ds_hashset_h_
#define ds_hashset_h_

// The set class as a hash table instead of a binary search tree.  The
// primary external difference between ds_set and ds_hashset is that
// the iterators do not step through the hashset in any meaningful
// order.  It is just the order imposed by the hash function.
#include <iostream>
#include <list>
#include <string>
#include <vector>

// The ds_hashset is templated over both the type of key and the type
// of the hash function, a function object.

template < class KeyType, class HashFunc >
class ds_hashset {
private:
    typedef typename std::list<KeyType>::iterator hash_list_itr;
public:
    // =================================================================
    // THE ITERATOR CLASS
    // Defined as a nested class and thus is not separately templated.
    class iterator
    {
    friend class ds_hashset;
    // allows access to private variables
    private:
        // ITERATOR REPRESENTATION
        ds_hashset* m_hs; // current index in the hash table
        int m_index;      // current iterator at the current index
        hash_list_itr m_list_itr; // current list iterator

    private:
        // private constructors for use by the ds_hashset only
        iterator() : m_hs(0), m_index(-1) {}
        iterator(ds_hashset* hs, int index, hash_list_itr loc)
          : m_hs(hs), m_index(index), m_list_itr(loc) {}

    public:
        // Ordinary constructors & assignment operator
        iterator(const iterator& old) {
            m_hs = old.m_hs;
            m_index = old.m_index;
            m_list_itr = old.m_list_itr;
            return *this;
        }

        // The dereference operator need only worry about the current
        // list iterator, and does not need to check the current index.
        const KeyTypes operator*() const { return *m_list_itr; }

        // The comparison operators must account for the list iterators
        // being unassigned at the end.
        friend bool operator==(const iterator& lft, const iterator& rgt)
        { return lft.m_hs == rgt.m_hs && lft.m_index == rgt.m_index &&
          (lft.m_index == -1 || lft.m_list_itr == rgt.m_list_itr); }
        friend bool operator!=(const iterator& lft, const iterator& rgt)
        { return lft.m_hs != rgt.m_hs || lft.m_index != rgt.m_index ||
          (lft.m_index != -1 && lft.m_list_itr != rgt.m_list_itr); }

    // increment and decrement
    iterator operator++() { this->next(); return *this; }
    iterator operator++(int) { iterator temp(*this);
        this->next(); return temp; }
    iterator & operator--() { this->prev(); return *this; }
    iterator operator--(int) { iterator temp(*this);
        this->prev(); return temp; }
    iterator & operator++(int) { iterator temp(*this);
        this->prev(); return temp; }

    // Find the next entry in the table
    void next() { ++m_list_itr; // next item in the list
        if (m_list_itr == m_hs->m_table[m_index].end()) {
            // Find the next non-empty list in the table
            for (m_index = 0; m_index < int(m_hs->m_table.size()) &&
              m_hs->m_table[m_index].empty(); ++m_index) {}
            // If one is found, assign the m_list_itr to the start
            if (m_index != -1) {
                m_list_itr = m_hs->m_table[m_index].begin();
                // Otherwise, we at the end
                else m_index = -1;
            }
        }
        // Find the previous entry in the table
        void prev() { // If we aren’t at the start of the current list, just decrement
            if (m_list_itr == m_hs->m_table[m_index].begin())
                m_list_itr = m_list_itr->prev();
            else { // Otherwise, back down the table until the previous
                while (m_list_itr != m_hs->m_table[m_index].end())
                    m_list_itr = m_list_itr->prev();
            }
        }
    // end of ITERATOR CLASS
    // ==============================================================
    }
private:
// HASH SET REPRESENTATION
std::vector<std::list<KeyType>> m_table;  // actual table
HashFunc m_hash;  // hash function
unsigned int m_size;  // number of keys

public:
// HASH SET IMPLEMENTATION

// Constructor for the table accepts the size of the table. Default constructor for the hash function object is implicitly used.
ds_hashset(unsigned int init_size = 10) : m_table(init_size), m_size(0) {}  // implemented in Lecture 21 & Lab 11

copy constructor just uses the member function copy constructors.

// Copy constructor just uses the member function copy constructors.

// Find the key, using hash function, indexing and list find

// Insert the key if it is not already there.

// Erase the key
int erase(const KeyType& key) {
  // Find the key and use the erase iterator function.
  iterator p = find(key);
  if (p == end())
    return 0;
  else {
    erase(p);
    return 1;
  }
}

// Erase at the iterator

// Find the first entry in the table and create an associated iterator
iterator begin() {
  // implemented in Lab 11
}

// Create an end iterator.

// A public print utility.
void print(std::ostream & ostr) {
  for (unsigned int i=0; i<m_table.size(); ++i) {
    ostr << i << ': ';
    for (hash_list_itr p = m_table[i].begin(); p != m_table[i].end(); ++p)
      ostr << *p;
    ostr << std::endl;
  }
}

private:
// resize the table with the same values but a
void resize_table(unsigned int new_size) {
  // implemented in Lab 11
}