Searching, Maps, Tables

- **Searching is a fundamentally important operation**
  - We want to do these operations quickly
  - Consider searching using google.com, altavista.com, etc.,
  - In general we want to search in a *collection* for a *key*

- **We’ve seen searching in context of the MultiSet class**
  - Tree implementation was quick
  - Table implementation wasn’t bad, how to make it better?

- **If we compare keys, we cannot do better than log n to search n elements**
  - Lower bound is $\Omega(\log n)$, provable
  - Hashing is $O(1)$ on average, not a contradiction, why?
From Google to Maps

• If we wanted to write a search engine we’d need to access lots of pages and keep lots of data
  ➤ Given a word, on what pages does it appear?
  ➤ This is a map of words->web pages

• In general a map associates a key with a value
  ➤ Look up the key in the map, get the value
  ➤ Google: key is word/words, value is list of web pages
  ➤ Multiset: key is string, value is # occurrences of string

• Interface issues
  ➤ Lookup a key, return boolean: in map or value: associated with the key (what if key not in map?)
  ➤ Insert a key/value pair into the map
Interface at work: tmapcounter.cpp

- Key is a string, Value is # occurrences (like multiset)
  - Interface in code below shows how tmap class works

```cpp
while (input >> word) {
    if (map->contains(word)) {
        map->get(word) += 1;
    } else {
        map->insert(word, 1);
    }
}
```

- What clues are there for prototype of map.get and map.contains?
  - Reference is returned by get, not a copy, why?
  - Parameters to contains, get, insert are same type, what?
Accessing values in a map

- **We can apply a function object to every element in a map**
  - Similar to MultiSet
  - Simple to implement, relatively easy to use
  - Limited: must visit every map element (can’t stop early)

- **Alternative: use an iterator (see tmapcounter.cpp)**
  - Iterator has access to “guts” of a map, iterates over it
  - Standard interface of Init, HasMore, Next, Current
  - Can have several iterators at once, can stop early

```cpp
Iterator * it = map->makeIterator();
for(it->Init(); it->HasMore(); it->Next()) {
    cout << it->Current().second << "\t";
    cout << it->Current().first << endl;
}
```
Other map examples

• **Anamap.cpp, alternative program for finding anagrams**
  - Maps Anaword: *key* to `tvector<Anaword>`: *value*
  - Look up Anaword, associate all equal Anawords with first one stored in map
  - To print, loop over all keys, grab vector, print if ???

• **Parsing arithmetic expressions**
  - Inheritance hierarchy and somewhat complex code
  - Map string/variable name: *key* to `Expression *`: *value*
    - Map `x -> y + 3`, what’s value of `x` when `y = 7`?
    - What happens if we map `x -> y` and `y -> x`?
From interface to implementation

- **First the name:** STL uses map, Java uses map, we’ll use map
  - Other books/courses use table, dictionary, symbol table
  - We’ve seen part of the map interface in tmapcounter.cpp
    - What other functions might be useful?
    - What’s actually stored internally in a map?

- **The class tmap is a templated, abstract base class**
  - Advantage of templated class (e.g., tvector, tstack, tqueue)
  - Base class permits different implementations
    - UVmap, BSTVap, HMap (stores just string->value)
  - Internally combine key/value into a pair
    - `<pair.h>` is part of STL, standard template library
    - Struct with two fields: first and second
Some tmap details (not essential)

- As tmap is used it’s templated with two parameters
  - tvector, tstack, tqueue, etc., have one template parameter
  - Templated classes aren’t hard to use, but can be hard to develop and debug
    - Errors with basic_string<…>
    - Develop without templates, then change to templates

- A templated class is a generic class, can store many kinds of object, but some constraints on the object
  - tvector, object must have default constructor and must be assignable, e.g., a = b;
  - BSTMap: keys must be comparable using < and =
Using templated classes

- **Client code includes (typically) only .h file**
  - Where is the .cpp file, why not access via `#include`?
  - Difference between compilation and linking
  - Is foo.h included in foo.cpp? Why?

- **Template .cpp file is NOT code, it’s a code generator/template**
  - When template is *instantiated* by client, code is generated
  - To instantiate, need access to template source
  - Templated foo.h typically has `#include “foo.cpp”`
    - Why is this better in foo.h than in client program?

- **If you don’t call a templated function it’s not generated**
  - Template instantiation creates code, but not every member function (not created if not called)
Log (google) is a big number

• **Comparison based searches are too slow for lots of data**
  - How many comparisons needed for a billion elements?
  - What if one billion web-pages indexed?

• **Hashing is a search method that has average case O(1) search**
  - Worst case is very bad, but in practice hashing is good
  - Associate a number with every key, use the number to store the key
    • Like catalog in library, given book title, find the book
  - **A hash function generates the number from the key**
    - Goal: Efficient to calculate
    - Goal: Distributes keys evenly in hash table
Hashing details

- There will be collisions, two keys will hash to the same value
  - We must handle collisions, still have efficient search
  - What about birthday “paradox”: using birthday as hash function, will there be collisions in a room of 25 people?
- Several ways to handle collisions, in general array/vector used
  - Linear probing, look in next spot if not found
    - Hash to index $h$, try $h+1$, $h+2$, $...$, wrap at end
    - Clustering problems, deletion problems, growing problems
  - Quadratic probing
    - Has to index $h$, try $h+1^2$, $h+2^2$, $h+3^2$, $...$, wrap at end
    - Fewer clustering problems
  - Double hashing
    - Hash to index $h$, with another hash function to $j$
    - Try $h$, $h+j$, $h+2j$, $...$
Chaining with hashing

- With n buckets each bucket stores linked list
  - Compute hash value h, look up key in linked list table[h]
  - Hopefully linked lists are short, searching is fast
  - Unsuccessful searches often faster than successful
    - Empty linked lists searched more quickly than non-empty
  - Potential problems?

- Hash table details
  - Size of hash table should be a prime number
  - Keep load factor small: number of keys/size of table
  - On average, with reasonable load factor, search is O(1)
  - What if load factor gets too high? Rehash or other method
Hashing problems

- Linear probing, hash(x) = x, (mod tableszie)
  - Insert 24, 12, 45, 14, delete 24, insert 23

- Same numbers, use quadratic probing (clustering better?)

- What about chaining, what happens?
What about hash functions

- Hashing often done on strings, consider two alternatives

```cpp
unsigned hash(const string& s) {
    unsigned int k, total = 0;
    for (k = 0; k < s.length(); k++) {
        total += s[k];
    }
    return total;
}
```

- What about `total += k*s[k]`, why might this be better?
  - Other functions used, always mod result by table size

- What about hashing other objects?
  - Need conversion of key to index, not always simple
  - HMap (subclass of tmap) maps string->values
  - Why not any key type (only strings)?
Why use inheritance?

- **We want to program to an interface (an abstraction, a concept)**
  - The interface may be concretely implemented in different ways, consider stream hierarchy

  ```cpp
  void readStuff(istream& input){...}
  
  // call function
  ifstream input("data.txt");
  readStuff(input);
  readStuff(cin);
  ```

- **What about new kinds of streams, ok to use?**

- **Open/closed principle of code development**
  - Code should be open to extension, closed to modification
  - Why is this (usually) a good idea?
Two examples

- **Consider the expression example (expression.h/.cpp)**
  - What do we need to do to add a Multiplication class?
  - What code must be modified vs. extended?

- **Consider the tags assignment**
  - How do we print/access the text of a web page, e.g., suppose we want to implement a search engine?
    - Should we ignore tags? All tags?
  - How could we access just the links on a web page?
  - The **WebParser** class has **hook** methods, also called the **template pattern**
    - Nomenclature confusing? Not a C++ template.
Tags and the class WebParser

- The base class has a `process()` method to access a web page
  - Client subclasses implement some of
    - `processTag(...)` called for each tag on a web page
    - `processText(...)` called for each non-tag/non-comment word
    - `processChar(...)` called for every character
  - These are the hook methods (aka template pattern)
  - How can we process a file rather than a web page?

- We inherit some behavior from parent class, don’t modify it, but extend the class by implementing new behavior
  - Good example of open/closed principle