Searching, Maps, Tables (hashing)

- Searching is a fundamentally important operation
  - We want to search quickly, very very quickly
  - Consider searching using google.com, ACES, issues?
  - In general we want to search in a collection for a key

- We saw some search with readset3.cpp, readset4.cpp
  - Tree implementation was quick
  - Vector of linked lists was fast, but how to make it faster?

- 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
  - Anagram: key is string, value is words that are anagrams

- 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
  - 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 (e.g., print)

- We can apply a function object to every element in a map, this is called an internal iterator
  - Simple to implement (why?), relatively easy to use
    - See Printer class in tmapcounter.cpp
  - Limited: must visit every map element (can’t stop early)

- Alternative: use Iterator subclass (see tmapcounter.cpp), this is called an external iterator
  - Iterator has access to “guts” of a map, iterates over it
    - Must be a friend-class to access guts
    - Tightly coupled: container and iterator
  - Standard interface of Init, HasMore, Next, Current
  - Can have several iterators at once, can stop early, can pass iterators around as parameters/objects
Internal iterator (applyAll/applyOne)

- **Applicant** subclass: applied to key/value pairs stored in a map
  - The applicant has an `applyOne` function, called from the map/collection, in turn, with each key/value pair
  - The map/collection has an `applyAll` function to which is passed an instance of a subclass of Applicant

```cpp
class Printer : public Applicant<string, int>
{
    public:
        virtual void applyOne(string& key, int& value) {
            cout << value << "\t" << key << endl;
        }
};
```

- Applicant class is templated on the type of key and value
  - See tmap.h, tmapcounter.cpp, and other examples

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

External Iterator

- The Iterator base class is templated on pair<key,value>, makes for ugly declaration of iterator pointer
  - (note: space between > > in code below is required why?)

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

- We ask a map/container to provide us with an iterator
  - We don't know how the map is implemented, just want an iterator
  - Map object is an iterator factory: makes/creates iterator

Map example: finding anagrams

- `mapanagram.cpp`, alternative program for finding anagrams
  - Maps string (normalized): key to tvector<string>: value
  - Look up normalized string, associate all "equal" strings with normalized form
  - To print, loop over all keys, grab vector, print if ???

- Each value in the map is list/collection of anagrams
  - How do we look up this value?
  - How do we create initial list to store (first time)
  - We actually store pointer to vector rather than vector
    - Avoid map->get()[k], can't copy vector returned by get
  - See also mapanastl.cpp for standard C++ using STL
    - The STL code is very similar to tapestry (and to Java!)
Hashing: 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
    - Hash 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 tablesize)
  - Insert 24, 12, 45, 14, delete 24, insert 23 (where?)
  - 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;
}
```

- Consider `total += (k+1)*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?

Coding to an interface in RSG

- Grammar consists of several parts, each has different behavior for the same concept/name/idea
  - Parse different parts of the grammar
  - Expand different parts of the grammar

- Object-oriented solution is arguably much simpler
  - Everything is a GrammarElement that can be parsed and expanded
    - Terminal
    - NonTerminal
    - Definition
    - Production

Eric Raymond

- Open source evangelist
  - The Cathedral and the Bazaar
  - How to construct software
    - “Good programmers know what to write. Great ones know what to rewrite (and reuse).”
  - How to convince someone that guns are a good idea? Put this sign up:
    - THIS HOME IS A GUN-FREE ZONE