

## Introduction

## Hashing

-a hash table is merely an $\qquad$ of some fixed size
-hashing converts $\qquad$ into locations in a hash table
-searching on the key becomes something like array lookup
-hashing is typically a many-to-one map: multiple keys are mapped to the same array index
-mapping multiple keys to the same position results in a
$\qquad$ that must be resolved
-two parts to hashing:
-a hash function, which transforms keys into array indices
-a collision resolution procedure
-hashing performs basic operations, such as insertion, deletion, and finds in $\qquad$ average time
-better than other ADTs we've seen so far


## Hashing Functions

- let $K$ be the set of search keys
-hash functions map $K$ into the set of $M$ $\qquad$ in the hash table

$$
h: K \rightarrow\{0,1, \ldots, M-1\}
$$

-ideally, $h$ distributes $K$ $\qquad$ over the slots of the hash table, to minimize collisions
-if we are hashing $N$ items, we want the number of items hashed to each location to be close to $N / M$

- example: Library of Congress Classification System
-hash function if we look at the first part of the call numbers (e.g., E470, PN1995)
-collision resolution involves going to the stacks and looking through the books
-almost all of CS is hashed to QA75 and QA76 (BAD)


## Hashing Functions

-suppose we are storing a set of nonnegative integers
-given $M$, we can obtain hash values between 0 and 1 with the hash function

$$
h(k)=k \% M
$$

$\qquad$ when $k$ is divided by $M$
-fast operation, but we need to be careful when choosing $M$ -example: if $M=2^{p}, h(k)$ is just the $p$ lowest-order bits of $k$ - are all the hash values equally likely?
-choosing $M$ to be a $\qquad$ not too close to a power of 2 works well in practice

## Hashing Functions

-we can also use the hash function below for floating point numbers if we interpret the bits as an integer (cont.)
-second uses a $\qquad$ , which is a variable that can hold objects of different types and sizes
long int hash $=u . k \% M$;
$\qquad$

```
union
```

union
long int k;
long int k;
double x;
double x;
} u;
} u;
u.x = 3.1416;

```
u.x = 3.1416;
```


## Hashing Functions

-we can also use the hash function below for floating point numbers if we interpret the bits as an $\qquad$

$$
h(k)=k \% M
$$

-two ways to do this in C, assuming long int and double types have the same length
-first method uses C $\qquad$ to accomplish this task
unsigned long $* k$; double $x$; $\mathrm{k}=$ (unsigned long*) \& ; long int hash $=k \% \mathrm{M}$;

## Hashing Functions

-we can hash strings by combining a hash of each $\qquad$

```
char *s = "hello!";
unsigned long hash = 0;
for (int i = 0; i < strlen(s); i++) {
    unsigned char w = s[i];
    hash = (R * hash + w) % M;
}
\(-R\) is an additional parameter we get to choose
-if \(R\) is larger than any character value, then this approach is what you would obtain if you treated the string as a base- \(R\)
```


## Hashing Functions

-K\&R suggest a slightly simpler hash function, corresponding to $R=31$

```
char *s;
    unsigned hash;
    for (hash = 0; *s != '\0'; s++) {
    hash = 31 * hash + *s;
}
hash = hash % M;
```

-Weiss suggests $R=37$

## Hash Functions

-the choice of parameters can have a $\qquad$ effect on the results of hashing
-compare the text's string hashing algorithm for different pairs of $R$ and $M$
-plot $\qquad$ of the number of words hashed to each hash table location; we use the American dictionary from the aspell program as data ( 305,089 words)

## Hashing Functions

-we can use the idea for strings if our search key has ___ parts, say, street, city, state:

```
hash = ((street * R + city) % M) * R + state) % M;
```

-same ideas apply to hashing vectors

## Hash Functions

-example: $R=31, M=1024$
-good: words are $\qquad$


## Hash Functions

## Hash Functions

-example: $R=32, M=1024$
-very bad


## Hash Functions

-example: $R=32, M=1000$
-bad

-example: $R=31, M=1000$
-better


## Collision Resolution

-hash table collision
-occurs when elements hash to the $\qquad$ in the table
-various $\qquad$ for dealing with collision
-separate chaining
-open addressing
-linear probing
-other methods

## Separate Chaining

-separate chaining
-keep a list of all elements that $\qquad$ to the same location

- each location in the hash table is a $\qquad$
- example: first 10 squares



## Separate Chaining

-how long are the linked lists in a hash table?

- $\qquad$ value: $N / M$ where $N$ is the number of keys and $M$ is the size of the table
- is it reasonable to assume the hash table would exhibit this behavior?
-load factor $\lambda=N / M$
-average length of a list $=\lambda$
-time to search: $\qquad$ time to evaluate the hash function + time to $\qquad$ the list
-unsuccessful search: $1+\lambda$
-successful search: $1+(\lambda / 2)$


## Separate Chaining

-insert, search, delete in lists
-all proportional to $\qquad$ of linked list
-insert
-new elements can be inserted at $\qquad$ of list
-duplicates can increment $\qquad$

- other structures could be used instead of lists
-binary search tree
- another hash table
- linked lists good if table is $\qquad$ and hash function is good


## Separate Chaining

-observations

- $\qquad$ more important than table size
- general rule: make the table as large as the number of elements to be stored, $\lambda \approx 1$
-keep table size prime to ensure good $\qquad$


## Separate Chaining

## -declaration of hash structure

```
template <typename Hashed0bj>
class HashTable
l
    public:
        explicit HashTable( int size - 101);
        bool contains(const HashedOhj & x ) const;
        void makeEmpty( );
        bool insert( const HashedObj & x);
        bool insert( Hashed0oj && x );
        bool renove( const HashedObj & x );
    private:
        vector<list<Hashed0hj>> thelists; // The array of Lists
        int currentSize;
    void rehash( );
    size t myhash( const HashedOhj & X ) const;
};
```


## Separate Chaining

## -hash member function

```
size_t myhash(const HashedObj & x ) cons
```

size_t myhash(const HashedObj \& x ) cons
{
{
static hash<HashedObj> hf;
static hash<HashedObj> hf;
return hf( x ) % theLists.size( );
return hf( x ) % theLists.size( );
}

```
}
```


## Separate Chaining

## -routines for separate chaining

```
vold makeumpty(
for( auto & thislist : thel ists)
        thisList.clear();
    1
hool conlains(const. HashedOLyj & x ) consL
    1
    auto & whichList = theLists[ myhash( x ) ];
    return find( begin( whichList), end(whichList), x) !- end(whichList ):
    1
bool remove( const HashedObj & x )
l
    autos whichl ist = thel ists[ ryhash(x)];
    auto itr = find( begin('whichList), end(whichList ), x );
    if( ttr -- and(whichl 1st ))
        return false;
    nhichList.erase( itr );
    --currentsize;
    retarn Lrue;
```

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## Separate Chaining

## -routines for separate chaining

```
bool insert( const Hashed0bj & x )
1
auto & whichList = theLists[ myhash( x ) ];
    if( find( hegin(whichl ist.), end(whichlist), x ) != end(whichl ist))
        relurn 「alse;
    whichList.push_back( x );
        // Rchash; see Sect1on b.b
    ir( ++currentSize = theLists.size())
        rchash();
    return true;
J
```


## Linear Probing

- linear probing insert operation
- when $k$ is hashed, if slot $h(k)$ is open, place $k$ there
-if there is a collision, then start looking for an empty slot starting with location $h(k)+1$ in the hash table, and proceed $\qquad$ through $h(k)+2, \ldots, m-1,0,1,2$, $\ldots, h(k)-1$ wrapping around the hash table, looking for an empty slot
-search operation is similar
-checking whether a table entry is vacant (or is one we seek) is called a $\qquad$
- linear probing
-quadratic probing
-double hashing


## Linear Probing

-example: add $89,18,49,58,69$ with $h(k)=k \% 10$ and $f(i)=i$

|  | Empty lable | After y9 | After 18 | After 49 | After 38 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0 |  |  | 49 | 49 | After 69 |
| 1 |  |  |  | 58 | 58 |
| 2 |  |  |  |  | 69 |
| 3 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6 |  | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 |
| 7 | 89 | 89 | 89 | 89 | 89 |
| 8 |  |  |  |  |  |

## Linear Probing

-as long as the table is $\qquad$ , a vacant cell can be found
-but time to locate an empty cell can become large
-blocks of occupied cells results in primary $\qquad$
-deleting entries leaves $\qquad$
-some entries may no longer be found
-may require moving many other entries
-expected number of probes
-for search hits: $\sim \frac{1}{2}\left(1+\frac{1}{(1-\lambda)}\right)$
-for insertion and search misses: $\sim \frac{1}{2}\left(1+\frac{1}{(1-\lambda)^{2}}\right)$

- for $\lambda=0.5$, these values are $3 / 2$ and $5 / 2$, respectively


## Linear Probing

- performance of linear probing (dashed) vs. more random collision resolution
-adequate up to $\lambda=0.5$
-Successful, Unsuccessful, Insertion



## Quadratic Probing

-in linear probing, letting table get nearly $\qquad$ greatly hurts performance
-quadratic probing
-no $\qquad$ of finding an empty cell once the table gets larger than half full
-at most, $\qquad$ of the table can be used to resolve collisions
-if table is half empty and the table size is prime, then we are always guaranteed to accommodate a new element
-could end up with situation where all keys map to the same table location

## Quadratic Probing

-quadratic probing
-eliminates $\qquad$
-collision function is quadratic
-example: add 89, 18, 49, 58, 69 with $h(k)=k \% 10$ and $f(i)=i^{2}$


## Quadratic Probing

-quadratic probing
-collisions will probe the same alternative cells

- $\qquad$ clustering
-causes less than half an extra probe per search



## Double Hashing

-double hashing example
$-\operatorname{hash}_{2}(x)=R-(x \bmod R)$ with $R=7$
$-R$ is a prime smaller than table size
-insert 89, 18, 49, 58, 69

|  | Empty Table | After 89 | After 18 | After 49 | After 58 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0 |  | After 69 |  |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |  | 69 |
| 2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 |  |  | 49 | 49 | 49 |
| 5 |  | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 |
| 5 |  | 89 | 89 | 89 | 89 |
| 7 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9 |  |  |  |  |  |

## Double Hashing

-double hashing example (cont.)

- note here that the size of the table (10) is not prime
-if 23 inserted in the table, it would collide with 58
-since hash $_{2}(23)=7-2=5$ and the table size is 10, only one alternative location, which is taken



## Rehashing

-table may get $\qquad$

- run time of operations may take too long
-insertions may $\qquad$ for quadratic resolution
-too many removals may be intermixed with insertions
- solution: build a new table $\qquad$ (with a new hash function)
-go through original hash table to compute a hash value for each (non-deleted) element
-insert it into the new table


## Rehashing

-example: insert 13, 15, 24, 6 into a hash table of size 7

- with $h(k)=k \% 7$


## Rehashing

-example (cont.)
-insert 23
-table will be over $70 \%$ full; therefore, a new table is created

## Rehashing

-example (cont.)
-new table is size 17
-new hash function $h(k)=k \% 17$
-all old elements are inserted into new table

## Rehashing

-rehashing run time $O(N)$ since $N$ elements and to rehash the entire table of size roughly $2 N$
-must have been $N / 2$ insertions since last rehash
-rehashing may run OK if in $\qquad$ _
-if interactive session, rehashing operation could produce a slowdown
-rehashing can be implemented with $\qquad$
-could rehash as soon as the table is half full
-could rehash only when an insertion fails

- could rehash only when a certain $\qquad$ is reached -may be best, as performance degrades as load factor increases


## Hash Tables with Worst-Case O (1) Access

-hash tables so far

- O(1) average case for insertions, searches, and deletions
-separate chaining: worst case $\Theta(\log N / \log \log N)$ -some queries will take nearly logarithmic time
-worst-case $O$ (1) time would be better
-important for applications such as lookup tables for routers and memory caches
-if $N$ is known in advance, and elements can be , worst-case $O(1)$ time is achievable


## Hash Tables with Worst-Case O (1) Access

-perfect hashing
-assume all $N$ items known $\qquad$
-separate chaining
-if the number of lists continually increases, the lists will become shorter and shorter
-with enough lists, high probability of $\qquad$
-two problems
-number of lists might be unreasonably $\qquad$
-the hashing might still be unfortunate
$-M$ can be made large enough to have probability $\frac{1}{2}$ of no collisions
-if collision detected, clear table and try again with a different hash function (at most done 2 times)

## Hash Tables with Worst-Case O (1) Access

-perfect hashing (cont.)
-how large must $M$ be?
-theoretically, $M$ should be $N^{2}$, which is $\qquad$
-solution: use $N$ lists
-resolve collisions by using hash tables instead of linked lists
-each of these lists can have $n^{2}$ elements
-each secondary hash table will use a different hash function until it is $\qquad$
-can also perform similar operation for primary hash table
-total size of secondary hash tables is at most $2 N$

## Hash Tables with Worst-Case O (1) Access

-perfect hashing (cont.)
-example: slots 1, 3, 5, 7 empty; slots $0,4,8$ have 1 element each; slots 2,6 have 2 elements each; slot 9 has 3 elements


## Hash Tables with Worst-Case O (1) Access

-cuckoo hashing
$-\Theta(\log N / \log \log N)$ bound known for a long time
-researchers surprised in 1990s to learn that if one of two tables were $\qquad$ chosen as items were inserted, the size of the largest list would be $\Theta(\log \log N)$, which is significantly smaller

- main idea: use 2 tables
-neither more than $\qquad$ full
-use a separate hash function for each
-item will be stored in one of these two locations
-collisions resolved by $\qquad$ elements


## Hash Tables with Worst-Case O (1) Access

-cuckoo hashing (cont.)
-insertion
-ensure item is not already in one of the tables
-use first hash function and if first table location is
$\qquad$ , insert there
-if location in first table is occupied - $\qquad$ element there and place current item in correct position in first table
-displaced element goes to its alternate hash position in the second table

## Hash Tables with Worst-Case O (1) Access

## -cuckoo hashing (cont.)

-example: 6 items; 2 tables of size 5 ; each table has randomly chosen hash function


- A can be placed at position 0 in Table 1 or position 2 in Table 2
-a search therefore requires at most 2 table accesses in this example
-item deletion is trivial


## Hash Tables with Worst-Case $O$ (1) Access

-cuckoo hashing (cont.)
-example: insert A

-insert B (displace A)


## Hash Tables with Worst-Case O (1) Access

-cuckoo hashing (cont.)
-insert C

-insert D (displace C) and E

| Table 1 |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| 0 | B |
| 1 | D |
| 2 |  |
| 3 | E |
| 4 |  |



A: 0,2
B: 0,0
C: 1,4
D. 1,0

F: 3,2

## Hash Tables with Worst-Case O (1) Access

-cuckoo hashing (cont.)
-insert G

| table 1 |  | Lable 2 |  | A: 0.2 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0 | B | 0 | 1 | 0,0 |
| 1 | C | 1 |  | C. 1,4 |
| 2 |  | 2 | A |  |
| 3 | E | 3 |  |  |
| 4 |  | 4 | F | 1 |

-displacements are $\qquad$
-GDBAEFCG
-can try G's second hash value in second table, but it also results in a displacement cycle

## Hash Tables with Worst-Case O (1) Access

-cuckoo hashing (cont.)
-insert F (displace E)


A: 0,2
B: 0,0
C: 1,4
D: 1,0
E: 3,2
F: 3,4
-(A displaces $B$ )

| Table 1 |  | Table 2 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0 | A | 0 |  |
| 1 | D | 1 |  |
| 2 |  | 2 | F |
| 3 | F | 3 |  |
| 4 |  | 4 | C |

A: 0,2
B: 0,0
C: 1,4
D: 1,0
E: 3,2
F: 3, 4

## Hash Tables with Worst-Case O (1) Access

-cuckoo hashing (cont.)
-cycles
-if table's load value $<0.5$, probability of a cycle is very
-insertions should require $<O(\log N)$ displacements -if a certain number of displacements is reached on an insertion, tables can be $\qquad$ with new hash functions
.


## Hash Tables with Worst-Case O (1) Access

-cuckoo hashing (cont.)

- variations
-higher number of tables (3 or 4)
-place item in second hash slot immediately instead of
$\qquad$ other items
-allow each cell to store $\qquad$ keys -space utilization increased

|  | 1 item per cell | 2 items per cell | 4 items per cell |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2 hash functions | 0.49 | 0.86 | 0.93 |
| 3 hash functions | 0.91 | 0.97 | 0.98 |
| 4 hash functions | 0.97 | 0.99 | 0.999 |

## Hash Tables with Worst-Case $O$ (1) Access

-hopscotch hashing
-improves on linear probing algorithm
-linear probing tries cells in sequential order, starting from hash location, which can be long due to primary and secondary clustering
-instead, hopscotch hashing places a bound on
$\qquad$ of the probe sequence
-results in worst-case constant-time lookup
-can be parallelized

## Hash Tables with Worst-Case O (1) Access

-cuckoo hashing (cont.)
-benefits
-worst-case $\qquad$ lookup and deletion times
-avoidance of $\qquad$
-potential for $\qquad$
-potential issues
-extremely sensitive to choice of hash functions
-time for insertion increases rapidly as load factor approaches 0.5

## Hash Tables with Worst-Case O (1) Access

-hopscotch hashing (cont.)
-if insertion would place an element too far from its hash location, go backward and $\qquad$ other elements
-evicted elements cannot be placed farther than the maximal length
-each position in the table contains information about the current element inhabiting it, plus others that
$\qquad$ to it

## Hash Tables with Worst-Case O (1) Access

-hopscotch hashing (cont.)
-example: MAX_DIST = 4

|  | Item | Hop |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ... |  |  |
| $\sigma$ | C | 1000 |
| 7 | A | 1100 |
| 8 | D | 0010 |
| 9 | B | 1000 |
| 10 | E | 0000 |
| 11 | G | 1000 |
| 12 | F | 1000 |
| 13 |  | 0000 |
| 14 |  | 0000 |
| $\ldots$ |  |  |

-each bit string provides 1 bit of information about the current position and the next 3 that follow
-1 : item hashes to current location; 0: no

## Hash Tables with Worst-Case $O$ (1) Access

-hopscotch hashing (cont.)
-example: insert I in 6

|  |  | Item |  |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Hop |  |
| $\sigma$ | C | 1000 |  |
| 1 | A | 1100 |  |
| 8 | D | 0010 |  |
| 9 | B | 1010 |  |
| 10 | F | 0000 |  |
| 11 | I1 | 0010 |  |
| 12 | F | 1000 |  |
| 13 | G | 0000 |  |
| 14 |  | 0000 |  |
| $\ldots$ |  |  |  |


-position 14 too far, so try positions 11, 12, 13
-G can move down one
-position 13 still too far; F can move down one

## Hash Tables with Worst-Case O (1) Access

-hopscotch hashing (cont.)
-example: insert H in 9

-try in position 13, but too far, so try candidates for eviction (10, 11, 12)
-evict G in 11

## Hash Tables with Worst-Case O (1) Access

-hopscotch hashing (cont.)
-example: insert I in 6

|  |  | Item |  |
| ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Hop |  |  |  |
| 0 | C | 1000 |  |
| 7 | A | 1100 |  |
| 8 | D | 0010 |  |
| 9 | B | 1010 |  |
| 10 | F | 0000 |  |
| 11 | H | 0001 |  |
| 12 |  | 0100 |  |
| 13 | F | 0000 |  |
| 14 | G | 0000 |  |
| $\ldots$ |  |  |  |


|  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Item |  | Hop |  |  |
| $\ldots$ |  |  |  |  |
| 0 | C | 1000 |  |  |
| 7 | A | 1100 |  |  |
| 8 | D | 0010 |  |  |
| 9 |  | 0011 |  |  |
| 10 | F | 0000 |  |  |
| 11 | H | 0001 |  |  |
| 12 | B | 0100 |  |  |
| 13 | F | 0000 |  |  |
| 14 | $G$ | 0000 |  |  |
| $\ldots$ |  |  |  |  |


|  | ltem | Hop |
| ---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\ldots$ |  |  |
| 6 | C | 1001 |
| 7 | $A$ | 1100 |
| 8 | D | 0010 |
| 9 | 1 | 0011 |
| 10 | F | 0000 |
| 11 | $H$ | 0001 |
| 12 | H | 01001 |
| 13 | F | 0000 |
| 14 | $G$ | 0000 |
| $\ldots$ |  |  |

A: 1
B: 9
C: 6
D: 7
E: 8
F: 12
G: 11
1I: 9
I: 6
-position 12 still too far, so try positions $9,10,11$
-B can move down three
-now slot is open for I, fourth from 6

## Hash Tables with Worst-Case O (1) Access

-universal hashing
-in principle, we can end up with a situation where all of our keys are hashed to the $\qquad$ in the hash table (bad)
-more realistically, we could choose a hash function that does not $\qquad$ distribute the keys
-to avoid this, we can choose the hash function
$\qquad$ so that it is independent of the keys being stored
-yields provably good performance on average

## Hash Tables with Worst-Case O (1) Access

- universal hashing (cont.)
-let $H$ be a finite collection of $\qquad$ functions mapping our set of keys $K$ to the range $\{0,1, \ldots, M-1\}$
$-H$ is a $\qquad$ collection if for each pair of distinct keys $k, l \in K$, the number of hash functions $h \in H$ for which $h(k)=h(l)$ is at most $|H| / M$
-that is, with a randomly selected hash function $h \in H$, the chance of a $\qquad$ between distinct $k$ and $l$ is not more than the probability $(1 / M)$ of a collision if $h(k)$ and $h(l)$ were chosen randomly and independently from $\{0,1, \ldots, M-1\}$


## Hash Tables with Worst-Case O (1) Access

-universal hashing (cont.)
-example: choose a prime $p$ sufficiently large that every
key $k$ is in the range 0 to $p-1$ (inclusive)
-let $A=\{0,1, \ldots, p-1\}$ and $B=\{1, \ldots, p-1\}$
then the family
$h_{a, b}(k)=((a k+b) \bmod p) \bmod M a \in A, b \in B$
is a universal class of hash functions

## Hash Tables with Worst-Case $O$ (1) Access

-extendible hashing
-amount of data too large to fit in $\qquad$
-main consideration is then the number of disk accesses
-assume we need to store $N$ records and $M=4$ records fit in one disk block
-current problems
-if probing or separate chaining is used, collisions could cause $\qquad$ to be examined during a search
-rehashing would be expensive in this case

## Hash Tables with Worst-Case O (1) Access

-extendible hashing (cont.)
-allows search to be performed in $\qquad$ disk accesses
-insertions require a bit more
-use B-tree
-as $M$ increases, height of $B$-tree $\qquad$
-could make height $=1$, but multi-way branching would be extremely high

## Hash Tables with Worst-Case O (1) Access

-extendible hashing (cont.)
-example: 6-bit integers

-root contains 4 pointers determined by first 2 bits
-each leaf has up to 4 elements

## Hash Tables with Worst-Case O (1) Access

-extendible hashing (cont.)
-example: insert 100100
-place in third leaf, but full
-split leaf into 2 leaves, determined by 3 bits


## Hash Tables with Worst-Case O (1) Access

-extendible hashing (cont.)
-example: insert 000000
-first leaf split


## Hash Tables with Worst-Case O (1) Access

-extendible hashing (cont.)
-considerations
-several directory $\qquad$ may be required if the elements in a leaf agree in more than $D+1$ leading bits
-number of bits to distinguish bit strings -does not work well with $\qquad$ ( > M duplicates: does not work at all)

## Hash Tables with Worst-Case O (1) Access

-final points
-choose hash function carefully
-watch $\qquad$ _
-separate chaining: close to 1
-probing hashing: 0.5
-hash tables have some $\qquad$
-not possible to find $\min / \max$
-not possible to $\qquad$ for a string unless the exact string is known
-binary search trees can do this, and $O(\log N)$ is only slightly worse than $O(1)$

## Hash Tables with Worst-Case O (1) Access

-final points (cont.)
-hash tables good for
-symbol table
-gaming
-remembering locations to avoid recomputing through transposition table
-spell checkers

