Lecture 19

Last time

- Hashing
- Universal hash families

Today

- Perfect hashing
- Bloom filters
Static dictionary problem

Motivating example
Password checker to prevent people from using common passwords.

- $S$ is the set of common passwords

- **Universe**: set $U$
- $S \subseteq U$ and $m = |S|$
- $m \ll |U|$

**Goal:** A data structure for storing $S$ that supports the search query "Is $w \in S$?" for all words $w \in U$. 
Solutions

Deterministic solutions

• Store $S$ as a sorted array (or as a binary search tree)

Search time: $O(\log m)$, \quad Space: $O(m)$

• Store an array that for each $w \in U$ has 1 if $w \in S$ and 0 otherwise.

Search time: $O(1)$, \quad Space: $O(|U|)$

A randomized solution

• Hashing
Chain Hashing

- **Hash table**: \( n \) bins, words that fall in the same bin are chained into a linked list.
- **Hash function**: \( h : U \rightarrow [n] \)

To construct the table:
- hash all elements of \( S \)

To search for word \( w \):
- check if \( w \) is in bin \( h(w) \)

**Desiderata for \( h \):**
- \( O(1) \) evaluation time.
- \( O(1) \) space to store \( h \).
Universal hash family

- A set $\mathcal{H}$ of hash functions is **universal** if for every pair $w_1, w_2 \in U$ and for $h$ chosen uniformly from $\mathcal{H}$

$$\Pr[h(w_1) = h(w_2)] \leq \frac{1}{n}$$

Constructing a universal hash family

- Fix a prime $p \geq |U|$ and think of the range as $\{0, 1, \ldots, n - 1\}$.
- Define $h_{a,b}(x) = ((ax + b) \mod p) \mod n$
  $$\mathcal{H} = \{h_{a,b} \mid a \in [p - 1], 0 \leq b \leq p - 1\}$$

**Theorem**

$\mathcal{H}$ is universal.
Using a universal family

As before:
• If \( w \notin S \), expected number of words in bin \( h(w) \) is \( \leq \frac{m}{n} \)
• If \( w \in S \), expected number of words in bin \( h(w) \) is \( \leq 1 + \frac{m - 1}{n} \)

The previous guarantee on max load no longer holds!

Goal: Given \( S \), find a hash function with no collisions for words in \( S \).

Recall: Two elements \( w_1, w_2 \in U \) collide under a hash function \( h \) if \( h(w_1) = h(w_2) \).

A hash function \( h \) is perfect for set \( S \) if no elements of \( S \) collide under \( h \).
Perfect hashing: no collisions

**Theorem**

If $h : U \rightarrow \{0, 1, \ldots, n - 1\}$ is chosen uniformly at random from a universal hash family, then $\forall S$ of size $m$, such that $n \geq m^2$, $\Pr[h \text{ is perfect}] \geq 1/2$.

**Proof:** Let $s_1, \ldots, s_m$ be elements of $S$.  

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Perfect hashing

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\[
\Pr[h \text{ is perfect}] \geq 1/2.
\]

- Select \( h \in \mathcal{H} \) until a perfect \( h \) for a given \( S \) is found.
- Expected number of tries is at most 2.
- Each try takes \( O(m) \) time.
- **Drawback**: \( \Omega(m^2) \) space.
2-level scheme for perfect hashing

- Set \( m = n \).
- Select \( h \in \mathcal{H} \) until \( h \) with at most \( m \) collisions is found.
- For each bin \( i \) with collisions, that is, with \( k > 1 \) items:
  - select a new hash function \( h_i \) with \( k^2 \) bins from a universal family until \( h_i \) has no collisions.
2-level scheme for perfect hashing

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- For each bin $i$ with collisions, that is, with $k > 1$ items:
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Theorem

2-level scheme achieves perfect hashing with $O(m)$ space.

A solution for static dictionary problem with:

- $O(1)$ worst case guarantee on search time.
- $O(m)$ space.
- Expected $O(m)$ preprocessing time.
Analysis of 2-level scheme

Theorem

2-level scheme achieves perfect hashing with $O(m)$ space.

Proof:

• Let $X =$ # of collisions in Stage 1.

• We showed before: $\Pr \left[ X > \frac{m^2}{n} \right] \leq \frac{1}{2}$.

• Now $m = n$: $\Pr[X > m] \leq \frac{1}{2}$.

• So at least half of $h \in \mathcal{H}$ have $\leq m$ collisions.

• Assume we found such $h$. 

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Analysis of 2-level scheme

Theorem
2-level scheme achieves perfect hashing with $O(m)$ space.

Proof (continued): Assume we found $h \in \mathcal{H}$ with $\leq m$ collisions.

- Let $k_i = \text{number of items in bin } i$.
- Then $\text{# of collisions between items in bin } i$ is
Conclusion: 2-level hashing

A solution for static dictionary problem with:

- $O(1)$ worst case guarantee on search time.
- $O(m)$ space.
- Expected $O(m)$ preprocessing time.
Approximate solutions for static dictionary problem
(or dynamic with insertions only)

- **False positives:** If $w \in S$, our data structure must answer correctly. If $w \notin S$, we may err with small probability.
- E.g, we prevent all unsuitable passwords and some suitable ones, too.

**Fingerprints**
- Use hash function $h$
- Store sorted list $L$ of fingerprints $h(x), x \in S$.
- To see if $w \in S$, perform binary search for $h(w)$. 
Bloom filters

- Trade off between space and false positive probability
- Parameters $k, n$
- Bloom filter: array of $n$ bits $A[1], \ldots, A[n]$
  - Initially: all bits are 0
  - $k$ independent random hash functions $h_1, \ldots, h_k$ with range $[n]$
- To represent set $S$
  - For each $x \in S$ and $i \in [k]$, set bits $A[h_i(x)]$ to 1.
- To decide if $w \in S$:
  - If for all $i \in [k]$, bits $A[h_i(w)] = 1$, accept, o.w. reject.
For any $n$, we can set $k = \frac{n}{m} \ln 2$.

Consider $w \in U - S$.

Let $b_i = A[h_i(w)]$ for all $i \in [k]$.

After $m$ elements hashed into Bloom filter, $\Pr[b_i = 0] =$