

**ALGORITHMS +  
DATA STRUCTURES =  
PROGRAMS**

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| Structure | Declaration   | Selector                                | Access to Components by                            | Component Types                           | Cardinality                         |
|-----------|---|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| Array     | $a: \text{array}[I] \text{ of } T_0$  | $a[i] \quad (i \in I)$                  | Selector with computable index $i$                 | All identical ( $T_0$ )                   | $\text{card}(T_0)^{\text{card}(I)}$ |
| Record    | $r: \text{record } s_1: T_1; \\ s_2: T_2; \\ \dots \\ s_n: T_n \\ \text{end}$ | $r.s \quad (s \in \{s_1, \dots, s_n\})$ | Selector with declared component name $s$          | May individually differ                   | $\prod_{i=1}^n \text{card}(T_i)$    |
| Set       | $s: \text{set of } T_0$   | None                                    | Membership test with relational operator <b>in</b> | All identical (and of scalar type $T_0$ ) | $2^{\text{card}(T_0)}$              |

Table 1.3 Fundamental data structures.

```

var s,t: course;
    trialset: selection;
begin s := 1;
    while  $\neg(s \text{ in remaining})$  do s := s + 1;
        session := [s]; trialset := remaining;
    for t := 1 to N do
        if t in trialset then
            begin if conflict[t] * session = [t] then
                session := session + [t];
            end
        end
    end
end
    
```

Evidently, this solution for selecting “suitable” sessions is not necessarily optimal in any special case the number of sessions may be as large as that of the feasible simultaneous scheduling were feasible.

1.10. REPRESENTATION OF ARRAY, RECORD, AND SET STRUCTURES

The essence of the use of abstractions in programming may be conceived, understood, and verified on the basis of the abstractions and that it is not necessary to have a detailed edge about the ways in which the abstractions are represented in a particular computer. Nevertheless, it is important for the programmer to have an understanding of widely used programming representing the basic concepts of programming abstractly. It is helpful in the sense that it allows the programmer to make sensible decisions about programming in the light not only of the abstract properties of structures but also of their realizations on actual computers, taking into account their capabilities and limitations.

The problem of data representation is that of representing a structure into a computer store. Computer stores are organized into words—arrays of individual storage cells called words. Words are called addresses.

```
var store: array[address] of word;
```

The cardinalities of the types *address* and *word* are related to one another. A particular problem is the great variability of the word. Its logarithm is called the *wordsize*, the number of bits that a storage cell consists of.



```

    if  $p1 \uparrow.lh$  then
    begin {RL}  $p2 := p1 \uparrow.left$ ;  $p1 \uparrow.lh := false$ ;
       $p1 \uparrow.left := p2 \uparrow.right$ ;  $p2 \uparrow.right := p1$ ;
       $p \uparrow.right := p2 \uparrow.left$ ;  $p2 \uparrow.left := p$ ;  $p := p2$ 
    end
  end else
  begin  $h := h - 1$ ; if  $h \neq 0$  then  $p \uparrow.rh := true$ 
  end
  end else
  begin  $p \uparrow.count := p \uparrow.count + 1$ ;  $h := 0$ 
  end
end {search}

```

Note that the actions to be taken for node re-arrangement very strongly resemble those developed in the balanced tree search algorithm (4.63). From (4.87) it is evident that all four cases can be implemented by simple pointer rotations: single rotations in the *LL* and *RR* cases, double rotations in the *LR* and *RL* cases. In fact, procedure (4.87) appears slightly simpler than (4.63). Clearly, the hedge-tree scheme emerges as an alternative to the AVL-balance criterion. A performance comparison is therefore both possible and desirable.

We refrain from involved mathematical analysis and concentrate on some basic differences. It can be proven that the *AVL-balanced trees are a subset of the hedge-trees*. Hence, the class of the latter is larger. It follows that their path length is on the average larger than in the AVL case. Note in this connection the “worst-case” tree (4) in Fig. 4.53. On the other hand, node re-arrangement will be called for less frequently. The balanced tree will therefore be preferred in those applications in which key retrievals are much more frequent than insertions (or deletions); if this quotient is moderate, the hedge-tree scheme may be preferred.

It is very difficult to say where the borderline lies. It strongly depends not only on the quotient between the frequencies of retrieval and structural change, but also on the characteristics of an implementation. This is particularly the case if the node records have a densely packed representation and consequently access to fields involves part word selection. Boolean fields (*lh*, *rh* in the case of hedge-trees) may be handled more efficiently on many implementations than three-valued fields (*bal* in the case of balanced trees).

#### 4.6. KEY TRANSFORMATIONS (HASHING)

The general problem addressed in the last section and used to develop solutions demonstrating dynamic data allocation techniques is the following:

Given a set  $S$  of items characterized by a key value upon which an ordering relation is defined, how is  $S$  to be organized so that

retrieval of an item with a given key  $k$  involve a minimum number of comparisons.

Clearly, in a computer store each item is ultimately associated with a storage address  $a$ . Hence, the stated problem is essentially that of finding an appropriate mapping  $H$  of keys ( $K$ ) into addresses ( $A$ ):

$$H: K \rightarrow A$$

In Sect. 4.5 this mapping was implemented in the form of an array and tree search algorithms based on different underlying principles. Here we present yet another approach that is both simpler and more efficient in many cases. The fact that it also has some disadvantages is discussed subsequently.

The data organization used in this technique is based on an array. It is therefore a mapping transforming keys into array indices. This is the reason for the term *key transformation* that is generally used. It should be noted that we shall not need to rely on the array-based procedures because the array is one of the fundamental data structures. This paragraph is thus somewhat misplaced under the heading of dynamic information structures, but since it is often used in applications where tree structures are comparable competitors, the appropriate place for its presentation.

The fundamental difficulty in using a key transformation is that the set of possible key values is very much larger than the set of possible addresses (array indices). A typical example is the use of words with, say, up to 10 letters as keys for the identification of persons. The set of, say, up to a thousand persons. Hence, there are  $10^{10}$  possible keys which are to be mapped onto  $10^3$  possible indices. This is obviously a many-to-one function. Given a key  $k$ , the (search) operation is to compute its associated index  $h$ . The next (evidently necessary) step is to verify whether or not the key  $k$  is indeed identified by  $h$  in the array (table)  $T$ . That is,  $T[h].key = k$ . We are immediately confronted with the following questions:

1. What kind of function  $H$  should be used?
2. How do we cope with the situation that  $H$  does not always identify the desired item?

The answer to question 2 is that some method must be used to find the native location, say index  $h'$ , and, if this is still not the desired one, yet a third index  $h''$ , and so on. The case in which the desired one is at the identified location is called a *collision*. Handling collisions is termed *collision handling*. We shall discuss the choice of a transformation function and collision handling in the next section.

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