Assignment No. 5: Search Operation in Hash Tables
Open Addressing with Quadratic Probing

Allocated time: 2 hours

Implementation

You are required to implement **correctly** and **efficiently** the *insert* and *search* operations in a hash table using open addressing and quadratic probing.

You may find any necessary information and pseudo-code in your course notes, or in the book[1], in section *11.4 Open addressing*.

Evaluation

! Before you start to work on the algorithms evaluation code, make sure you have a correct algorithm! You will have to prove your algorithm(s) work on a small-sized input.

You are required to evaluate the *search* operation for hash tables using open addressing and quadratic probing, in the average case (remember to perform 5 runs for this). You will do this in the following manner:

1. Select N, the size of your hash table, as a prime number around 10000 (e.g. 9973, or 10007);

2. For each of several values for the filling factor $\alpha \in \{0.8, 0.85, 0.9, 0.95, 0.99\}$, do:

    a. Insert n random elements, such that you reach the required value for α ($\alpha = n/N$)

    b. Search, in each case, m random elements ($m \sim 3000$), such that approximately half of the searched elements will be *found* in the table, and the rest will *not* be *found* (in the table). Make sure that you sample uniformly the elements in the *found* category, i.e. you should search elements which have been inserted at different moments with equal probability (there are several ways in which you could ensure this – it is up to you to figure this out)

    c. Count the operations performed by the search procedure (i.e. the number of cells accessed during the search)

[1] Thomas H. Cormen, Charles E. Leiserson, Ronald L. Rivest and Clifford Stein. *Introduction to Algorithms*

3. Output a table of the form:

Filling factor	Avg. Effort *found*	Max. Effort *found*	Avg. Effort *not-found*	Max. Effort *not-found*
0.8				
0.85				
...	...		...	

Avg. Effort = total_effort / no_elements
Max. Effort = maximum number of accesses performed by one search operation

4. Interpret your results.