Solution 9: Data structures

ETH Zurich

1 Choosing data structures

1. You can use a doubly-linked list. An arrayed list is also suitable if it is implemented as a circular buffer (that is, the list can start from any element in the array), in which case inserting in the beginning of the list is also efficient. A disadvantage of an arrayed list is that adding a station will sometimes take longer (when the array does not have any more free slots and has to be reallocated), an advantage is fast access by index, which is not mentioned in the scenario, but is always good to have.

A disadvantage of a doubly-linked list is high memory overhead: in addition to the reference to a station object each list element stores two other references (to the next and the previous element). Arrayed list also has a memory overhead (free array slots), however for common implementations this overhead will not be as high.

2. A hash table with names (strings) as keys and phone numbers as values, because hash table allows efficient access by key.

3. A stack, because the step that was added last is always the first to roll back.

4. A linked list, because it supports efficient insertion of the elements of the second list into the proper place inside the first list while merging. The insertion is done by re-linking existing cells and does not require creating a copy of either of the lists.

5. A queue, because the first call added to the data structure should be the first one to be processed.

2 Short trips: take two

Listing 1: Class SHORT_TRIPS

```

note
  description: "Short trips."

class SHORT_TRIPS

inherit ZURICH_OBJECTS

feature -- Explore Zurich

  highlight_short_distance (s: STATION)
    -- Highlight stations reachable from 's' within 3 minutes.

require
```
station_exists: s /= Void
  do
    create times
    highlight_reachable (s, 3 * 60)
  end

feature {NONE} -- Implementation

times: V_HASH_TABLE [STATION, REAL_64]
  -- Table that maps a station to the maximum time that was left after visiting that
  -- station.
  -- Stations that were never visited, are not in the table.

highlight_reachable (s: STATION; t: REAL_64)
  -- Highlight stations reachable from ‘s’ within ‘t’ seconds.
  require
    station_exists: s /= Void
    times_exists: times /= Void
  local
    line: LINE
    next: STATION
  do
    if t >= 0.0 and (not times.has_key (s) or else times [s] < t) then
      times [s] := t
      Zurich_map.station_view (s).highlight
      across
        s.lines as li
      loop
        line := li.item
        next := line.next_station (s, line.north_terminal)
        if next /= Void then
          highlight_reachable (next, t – s.position.distance (next.position) / line.speed)
        end
      next := line.next_station (s, line.south_terminal)
      if next /= Void then
        highlight_reachable (next, t – s.position.distance (next.position) / line.speed)
      end
    end
  end
end

3 Bags

Listing 2: Class LINKED_BAG

class
  LINKED_BAG [G]

feature -- Access
occurrences (v; G): INTEGER
   -- Number of occurrences of ‘v’.
local
c: BAG_CELL [G]
do
   from c := first until c = Void or else c.value = v loop
c := c.next end
if c /= Void then
   Result := c.count
end
ensure
   non_negative_result: Result \geq 0
end

feature -- Element change

add (v; G; n: INTEGER)
   -- Add ‘n’ copies of ‘v’.
require
   n_positive: n > 0
local
c: BAG_CELL [G]
do
   from c := first until c = Void or else c.value = v loop
c := c.next end
if c /= Void then
   c.set_count (c.count + n)
else
   create c.make (v)
c.set_count (n)
c.set_next (first)
first := c end
ensure
   n_more: occurrences (v) = old occurrences (v) + n
end

remove (v; G; n: INTEGER)
   -- Remove as many copies of ‘v’ as possible, up to ‘n’.
require
   n_positive: n > 0
local
\[c, \text{ prev}: \text{BAG\_CELL} [G]\]

\begin{verbatim}
do from 
c := first until 
c = Void or else c.value = v loop 
prev := c 
c := c.next 
end 
if c /= Void then 
if c.count > n then 
c.set_count (c.count - n) 
elseif c = first then 
first := first.next 
else 
prev.set_next (c.next) 
end 
end 
ensure 
n_less: occurrences (v) = (old occurrences (v) - n).max (0) 
end
\end{verbatim}

\textit{subtract (other: LINKED\_BAG [G])}

\begin{itemize}
\item Remove all elements of ‘other’.
\end{itemize}

\textbf{require}

\textbf{other\_exists:} other /= Void

\textbf{local}

c: \text{BAG\_CELL} [G]

\textbf{do}

\begin{verbatim}
from 
c := other.first until 
c = Void loop 
remove (c.value, c.count) 
c := c.next 
end
\end{verbatim}

\textbf{feature \{LINKED\_BAG\} -- Implementation}

\textit{first: \text{BAG\_CELL} [G]}

\begin{itemize}
\item First cell.
\end{itemize}
4 MOOC: Genericity, Data Structures

Genericity

- Assume you have a class `SORTED_LIST [G -> COMPARABLE]` with, among others, routine

```eiffel
sort
  -- Sort the elements of current.
  do
  ...
  end
```

Assume to have, in another class, the variable definition `slp: SORTED_LIST [PERSON]`. The following statement is true: the definition would compile if class `PERSON` does inherit from `COMPARABLE`.

- Assume you have just created an object of type `LIST [PERSON]`. What happens if you try to add an object of type `CAR` to the list? Assume `CAR` does not inherit from `PERSON`. The answers that apply are: “It will not work. I will get a compile time error” and “It will not work. The only objects allowed into the list are those of type `PERSON` and its descendants”.

- Assume you have just created an object of type `LIST [PERSON]`. What happens if you try to add an object of type `STUDENT` to the list? Assume `STUDENT` does inherit from `PERSON`. The answers that apply are: “It will work: I can add a `STUDENT` to a `LIST [PERSON]` if `STUDENT` inherits from `PERSON` and “It will work: not only I can add a `STUDENT` to a `LIST [PERSON]` if `STUDENT` inherits from `PERSON`, but I can always add to the list an object of class `PERSON` and of any class inheriting from `PERSON`.”

- Assume you have created an object of type `LIST [PERSON]`, and filled it in with objects of types `STUDENT` and `TEACHER`. What happens if you try to retrieve an object from the list? Assume `STUDENT` and `TEACHER` do inherit from `PERSON`. The answers that apply are: “It will work: I can retrieve a `STUDENT` from a `LIST [PERSON]`, and the same for a `TEACHER`, given that I know that `STUDENT` and `TEACHER` both inherit from `PERSON`” and “It will work: it’s just that every time I retrieve an object, I don’t know if it will be of type `STUDENT` or `TEACHER`”.

- The true statements about classes and types are: “Any non-generic class is a type”, “For a generic class to be a type, we need to provide an actual type for the generic parameter”, and “Any type is a class.”.

- Declaring a class as `ARRAY [ARRAY [STRING]]` is legal for the Eiffel compilers you are using in this course: True.

Data Structures

- Which basic data structure stores items in contiguous memory locations, each identified by an integer index? An array, an arrayed list (a list implemented using an array)

- Which basic data structure does not provide access to all stored items, but only to the one which was added first? An arrayed queue (a queue implemented using an array), a linked queue (a queue implemented using a linked list).
• The following statements about hash tables are true: Hash tables are a particular kind of associative arrays; A hash table allows to access items via integer keys; Which hash function we use can influence the efficiency of all operations in a hash table.

• Assume you need a data structure in which you can insert elements in the middle efficiently. Which data structure and which implementation would you choose? A linked list.

• Assume you have to write a program that has to find the exit of a labyrinth. You have to store the path you are currently exploring, be able to go back one step whenever you find yourself in a dead-end, and explore a new possibility from there. Assuming you don’t want to use recursion, which data structure would you choose? A stack.

• Assume you have to write a program supporting the operation of merging two sorted lists into one "in place" (without creating a copy of the lists). Which kind of data structure would be more efficient to use? A linked list.