A Write-friendly Hashing Scheme for Non-volatile Memory Systems

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***Abstract*—Emerging non-volatile memory technologies (NVMs) have been considered as promising candidates for replacing DRAM and SRAM, due to their advantages of high density, high scalability, and requiring near-zero standby power, while suffering from the limited endurance and asymmetric properties of reads and writes. The significant changes of low-level memory devices cause nontrivial challenges to high-level in-memory and in-cache data structure design due to overlooking the NVM device properties. In this paper, we study an important and common data structure, hash table, which is ubiquitous and widely used to construct the index and lookup table in main memory and caches. Based on the observations that existing hashing schemes cause many extra writes to NVMs, we propose a cost-efficient write-friendly hashing scheme, called path hashing, which incurs no extra writes to NVMs while delivers high performance. The basic idea of path hashing is to leverage a novel hash-collision resolution method, i.e., position sharing, which meets the needs of insertion and deletion requests without extra writes to NVMs. By further exploiting double-path hashing and path shortening techniques, path hashing delivers high performance of hash tables in terms of space utilization and request latency. We have implemented path hashing and used a gem5 full system simulator with NVMain to evaluate its performance in the context of NVMs. Extensive experimental results demonstrate that path hashing incurs no extra writes to NVMs, and achieves up to 95% space utilization ratio as well as low request latency, compared with existing state-of-the-art hashing schemes.**

I. Introduction

Traditional memory technologies, including DRAM and SRAM, have been widely used as the main memory and on-chip caches in the memory hierarchy, which however suffers from the increasing leakage power dissipation and limited scalability [1], [2]. Non-volatile memory (NVM) technologies, e.g., phase-change memory (PCM), resistive random access memory (ReRAM), and spin-transfer torque RAM (STT-RAM), are promising candidates of next-generation memory [3], [4], due to their advantages of high density, high scalability, and requiring near-zero standby power [5], [6], [7]. NVMs however have the limitations in terms of write endurance and performance. NVMs typically have limited write endurance, e.g., 10^7-10^8 writes for PCM [8]. The writes on NVMs not only consume the limited endurance, but also cause higher latency and energy than reads [9].

With the significant changes of memory characteristics in computer architecture, an important problem arises [2], [10], [11], [12], [13], i.e., *how could in-memory and in-cache data structures be modified to efficiently adapt to NVMs?* The paper focuses on the hashing-based data structures, which are ubiquitous and widely used to construct the index and lookup table in main memory (e.g., main memory database) [14], [15], [16] and caches [17], [18], due to fast query response and constant-scale addressing complexity. Designing hashing schemes on traditional memory technologies, i.e., DRAM and SRAM, mainly considers two performance parameters, including space utilization and request latency [19]. Compared with DRAM and SRAM, one main challenge in designing NVM-friendly hashing schemes is to cope with the limited write endurance and intrinsic asymmetric properties of reads and writes. NVM writes incur much higher latency (i.e., $3-8X$ [20]) and energy than reads, as well as harm the limited endurance. Hence, one important design goal of NVM-friendly hashing schemes is to reduce the NVM writes, while delivering high performance.

Hash collisions are difficult to be fully avoided in hashing-based data structures due to probabilistic property [21]. Traditional hashing techniques dealing with hash collisions generally include chained hashing [22], liner probing [23], [24], 2-choice hashing [25] and cuckoo hashing [19]. However, based on both our empirical analysis and experimental evaluation, we observe that most commonly used hashing techniques usually result in many extra writes, i.e., a single item request (e.g., insertion and deletion) to hash table writes multiple items in NVMs, which are not friendly to the NVM write endurance.

In this paper, we present a write-friendly hashing scheme, called *path hashing*, for NVMs to minimize the writes while efficiently dealing with the hash collisions. Path hashing leverages a novel solution, i.e., position sharing, for dealing with hash collisions, which is not used in any previous hashing schemes. Storage cells in the path hashing are logically organized as an inverted complete binary tree. The last level of the inverted binary tree, i.e., all leaf nodes, is addressable by the hash functions. All nodes in the remaining levels are non-addressable and considered as the shared standby positions of the leaf nodes to deal with hash collisions. When hash collisions occur in a leaf node, the empty standby positions of the leaf node are used to store the conflicting items. Thus insertion and deletion requests in path hashing only need to probe the leaf node and its standby positions for finding an empty position or the target item, resulting in no extra writes. In summary, the main contributions of this paper include:

- We investigate the influence of existing hashing schemes on the writes to NVMs based on both empirical analysis and experimental evaluation. Our main insights include most of existing hashing schemes usually result in many extra writes to NVMs. It is necessary to improve existing hashing schemes to efficiently adapt to NVMs.
- We propose a novel write-friendly hashing scheme, i.e., path hashing, which leverages position sharing technique to deal with hash collisions, allowing insertion and deletion requests to incur no extra NVM writes. By further exploiting double-path hashing and path shortening techniques, path hashing delivers high performance of hash tables in terms of space utilization ratio and request latency.
- We have implemented path hashing and evaluated it using the gem5 [26] full system simulator with NVMain [27]. Experimental results show that path hashing incurs no extra writes to NVMs, and achieves up to 95% space utilization ratio as well as low request latency, compared with existing state-of-the-art hashing schemes.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section II presents the background and motivation. Section III describes the design of path hashing. Section IV presents the evaluation methodology and results. Section V discusses the related work and Section VI concludes our paper.

II. Background and Motivation

In this section, we introduce the background of non-volatile memory technologies and existing hashing schemes. We then analyze the influence of existing hashing schemes on the number of NVM writes.

A. Non-volatile Memory Technologies

Unlike traditional DRAM and SRAM using electric charges, emerging non-volatile memory technologies, e.g., PCM, ReRAM, and STT-RAM, use resistive memory to store information, which have higher cell density and near-zero leakage power. Hence, NVMs have been considered as promising candidates of next-generation main memory and caches.

PCM exploits the resistance difference between amorphous and crystalline states in phase change materials to store binary data, e.g., the high-resistance state represents '0', and the low-resistance state represents '1'. The cell of ReRAM typically has the Metal-Insulator-Metal structure which can be changed between a high-resistance state (representing '0') and a low-resistance state (representing '1'). STT-RAM is a magnetic RAM which switches the memory states using spin-transfer torque.

Although different materials and technologies are used in these NVMs, some common limitations are shared. First, they all have the intrinsic asymmetric properties of reads and writes. Write latency is much higher than read latency (i.e., $3-8X$) [5], [6], [20], and writes also consume higher energy than reads. Second, NVMs generally have the limited write endurance, e.g., $10^7 - 10^8$ writes for PCM [8]. Therefore, NVM systems are designed to reduce writes.

B. Existing Main Hashing Schemes

Hashing-based data structures have been widely used to construct the index or lookup table in the main memory [15] and caches [18], due to fast query response and constant-scale addressing complexity. Hash collisions, i.e., two or more keys being hashed to the same cell, are practically unavoidable in hashing-based data structures. Typical examples of existing hashing schemes to deal with hash collisions are described as follows.

Chained hashing stores the conflicting items in a linked list and links the list to the conflicting cell [22]. Chained hashing is popular due to the simple data structure and algorithms. However, when querying an item, the chained hashing needs to scan the list that is linked with the cell. The querying performance is poor when the linked lists are too long. Moreover, the chained hashing also inherits the weaknesses of linked lists in heavy space overhead of pointers when storing small keys and values.

Linear probing needs to probe the hash table for the closest following empty cell when the hash computation results in a collision in a cell. To search a key x, linear probing searches the cell at index $h(x)$ and the following cells, $h(x)+1$, $h(x)+2$, ..., until observing either the cell with the key x or an empty cell. Deleting an item in linear probing is complicated, which needs to rehash/move multiple items to fill the empty positions in the lookup sequence [24].

2-choice hashing uses two different hash functions $h_1(x)$ and $h_2(x)$ to compute two positions for each item [22]. An inserted item is stored in any one empty position between the two positions. The insertion fails when both two positions are occupied. The query and deletion are simple, which only need to probe two positions. However, the space utilization is usually low due to only two positions used to deal with hash collisions for an inserted item which are easily both occupied.

Cuckoo hashing uses d ($d \geq 2$) hash functions to compute d positions for each item. The inserted item is stored in any one empty position among the d positions. If all the d positions are occupied, cuckoo hashing randomly evicts the item in one of d positions. The evicted item further searches the empty position in its d positions. Cuckoo hashing has higher space utilization than 2-choice hashing due to evictions, and achieves constant lookup time, i.e., probing d positions. However, the frequent evictions for inserting an item usually result in high insertion latency and possible endless loop [19], [28]. In practice, $d = 2$ is most often used due to sufficient flexibility when using only two hash functions [14], [29].

C. The Influence of Existing Hashing Schemes on NVMs

Designing hashing schemes on traditional memory technologies, i.e., DRAM and SRAM, mainly considers two performance parameters, including space utilization and request latency [19]. When designing hashing schemes on NVMs, the third important parameter, i.e., the number of NVM writes, should be also considered due to the intrinsic asymmetric properties and the limited write endurance of NVMs. We

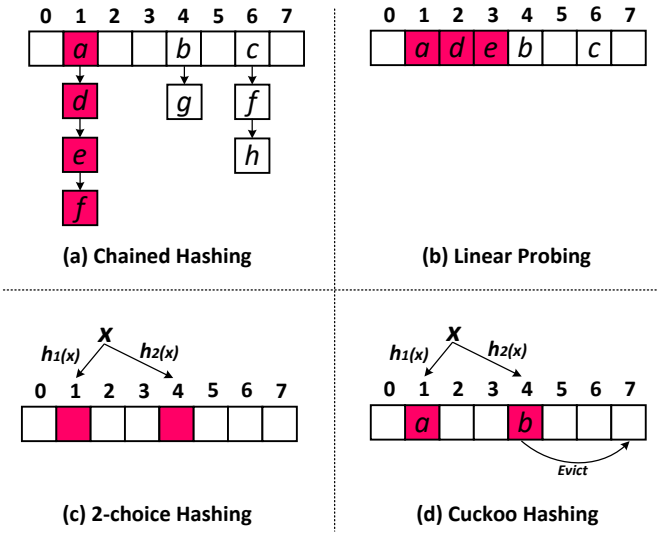


Fig. 1. Existing main hashing schemes.

analyze the influence of existing hashing schemes on the number of NVM writes.

In the **chained hashing**, when inserting and deleting an item in the linked list, besides changing the item itself, the pointers of other items also need to change, which results in extra writes to NVMs. For example, as shown in Figure 1(a), when deleting the item d, the pointer of a should point to e. In the **linear probing**, when removing an item, the following multiple items move forward, which results in multiple NVM writes. In Figure 1(b), a, d, and e have the same hashing positions, i.e., $h(a) = h(d) = h(e) = 1$. When deleting item a, d moves to the position 1 and e moves to the position 2. **2-choice hashing** does not cause extra NVM writes, due to only probing two locations for inserting/deleting an item as shown in Figure 1(c). In the **cuckoo hashing**, during inserting an item, multiple items are evicted and rewritten to new positions. When the hash table has a high load factor, e.g., $> 50\%$, an insertion usually causes tens of eviction operations, which results in the corresponding number of NVM writes. As shown in Figure 1(d), when inserting the item x, both hashing positions, i.e., 1 and 4, are occupied. Cuckoo hashing randomly evicts the item in one of the two positions, e.g., b. b further searches its another hashing position, 7. If the position 7 is also occupied, the data item in 7 will be evicted. The eviction operations may be endless, called endless loop. If endless loop occurs, the size of hash table needs to be extended and all stored items are rehashed. We also evaluate these hashing schemes in experimental evaluation in terms of the number of NVM writes as shown in Section IV-B1.

In summary, most existing hashing schemes incur extra writes which are not friendly to the NVM write performance and endurance. Even though not causing extra NVM writes, 2-choice hashing has extremely low space utilization as evaluated in Section IV-B2, since only two positions for an item are used to deal with hash collisions. The space utilization is a very important parameter especially in the context of space-limited NVM caches and main memory. Hence, it is important for designing a hashing scheme to minimize the NVM writes while ensuring the high performance in terms of space utilization and request latency.

III. The Design of Path Hashing

In this section, we present the path hashing, which leverages position sharing technique to deal with hash collisions without extra NVM writes, and double-path hashing and path shortening techniques to deliver high performance in terms of space utilization and request latency.

Path hashing leverages *position sharing* to allocate several standby cells for each addressable cell in the hash table to deal with hash collisions. The addressable cells in the hash table are addressable by the hash functions and the standby cells are not addressable. When the hash collisions occur in an addressable cell in the hash table, the conflicting items can be stored in its standby cells. An insertion/deletion request only needs to search an addressable cell in the hash table and its standby cells for an empty position or the target item, without extra writes. The standby cells of each addressable cell in the hash table are shared by other addressable cells, which prevents uneven hashing to produce lots of empty standby cells, thus improving the space utilization. An addressable cell and all its standby cells are likely to be occupied, which results in insertion failure. Path hashing leverages *double-path hashing* to compute two addressable cells for each item by using two hash functions, which further alleviates hash collisions and improves space utilization. Moreover, a read request needs to probe multiple standby cells in two paths to find the target item. *Path shortening* is proposed to reduce the number of probed cells in a request. We present the physical storage structure of path hashing in Section III-D, which allows that all nodes in a read path can be accessed in parallel with the time complexity of $O(1)$.

A. Position Sharing

Path hashing leverages a novel collision-resolution scheme to deal with hash collisions, i.e., *position sharing*. Storage cells in the path hashing is logically organized as an inverted complete binary tree. As shown in Figure 2, the binary tree has $L + 1$ levels ranging from the root level 0 to the leaf level L. Only the leaf nodes in the level L can be addressable by the hash functions, i.e., **addressable cells**. The nodes in

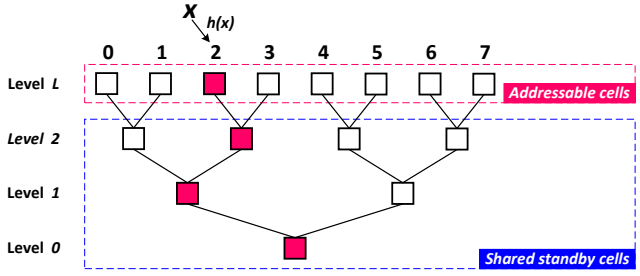


Fig. 2. An illustration of path hashing architecture with $L = 3$.

the remaining levels ranging from level 0 to level $L-1$ are the shared standby positions to deal with hash collisions, i.e., **standby cells**. When an item is inserted into an occupied leaf node ℓ, path hashing searches for an empty standby cell in the path-ℓ. **Path-ℓ** is defined as the path descending from the occupied leaf node ℓ to the root.

For example, as shown in Figure 2, a new item x is hashed in the position of the leaf node 2. If the leaf node 2 is occupied, path hashing scans the path-2 from the leaf node 2 to the root for an empty position. Path hashing leverages the overlaps among different paths to share the standby positions in the level 0 to level $L-1$. As shown in Figure 2, each node in the level 2 is shared by two leaf nodes to deal with hash collisions. Each node in level 1 is shared by four leaf nodes. The root node is shared by all leaf nodes.

Insertion and deletion requests in path hashing only need to read the nodes in a path for finding an empty position or the target item, which hence do not cause any extra writes. The nodes in the levels from 0 to $L-1$ are shared to deal with hash collisions, which prevents uneven hashing to produce lots of empty standby cells, thus improving the space utilization.

B. Double-path Hashing

Since a path in the binary tree only has $L+1$ positions, the use of one path can only deal with at most L hash collisions in an addressable position. The hashing scheme using one path fails when more than $L+1$ items are hashed into the same position. To address this problem, we propose the *double-path hashing* which uses two hash functions for each item in the path hashing. Different from 2-choice hashing which seeks two cells for an item using two hash functions, double-path hashing seeks two paths.

As shown in Figure 3, a new item x has two hashing positions, i.e., 2 and 5, computed by two different hash functions, $h_1(x)$ and $h_2(x)$. The item x is inserted into an empty position between the leaf nodes 2 and 5. If both two nodes are occupied, the path hashing simultaneously scans the path-2 and path-5 to find an empty position. It is important that the two hash functions should be independent and not related with each other.

Based on the position sharing, double-path hashing can further alleviate the hash collisions via providing more available positions for conflicting items. Moreover, due to the randomization of two independent hash functions, the two paths for an inserted item have no empty position with a low probability, which enables path hashing to maintain a high space utilization, as evaluated in Section IV-B2.

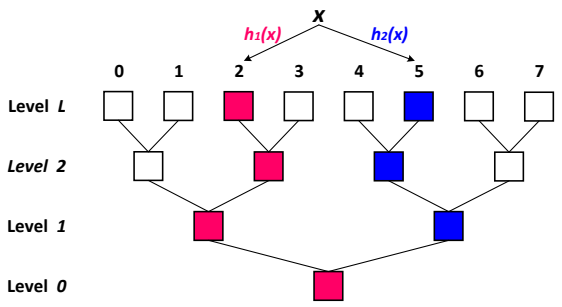


Fig. 3. An illustration of path hashing (L = 3) with two hash functions.

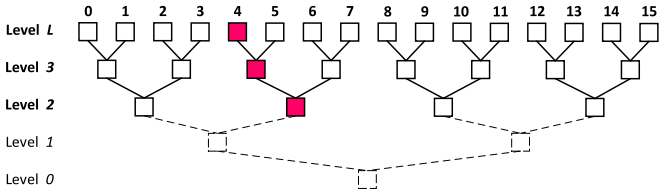


Fig. 4. An illustration of path hashing (L = 4) with path shortening.

C. Path Shortening

For the path hashing with $L+1$ levels, each query request needs to probe two paths with $L+1$ nodes. We observe that the nodes in the bottom levels of the inverted binary tree provide a few standby positions to deal with hash collisions, while increasing the length of the read path. For example, the level 0 only contains 1 position but adds by 1 in the length of the read path, as shown in Figure 4.

To reduce the length of the read path, we propose the *path shortening* to reduce the number of read nodes in a read path. Path shortening removes multiple levels in the bottom of the inverted binary tree and only reserves several top levels. For a query request which is hashed in the leaf ℓ, path hashing only reads the nodes in the reserved levels in the path-ℓ, which reduces the length of the read path. As shown in Figure 4, the levels 0 and 1 are removed. The levels 2, 3, and 4, are reserved levels. When reading a path, e.g., path-4, we only read the nodes in the reserved levels 2, 3, and 4 in the path. Removing the bottom levels reduces the length of paths, but also reduces the number of positions to deal with hash collisions, thus decreasing the space utilization of hash table. We investigate the influence of the number of reserved levels on space utilization as shown in Section IV-B3, and observe that reserving a small part of levels can also achieve a high space utilization in path hashing.

D. Physical Storage Structure

Even though storage cells in path hashing are logically organized as a binary tree, the physical storage structure of path hashing is simple and efficient. Unlike the traditional binary tree built via pointers, the path hashing can be stored in a flat-addressed one-dimensional structure, e.g., a one-dimensional array. Figure 5 shows the physical storage

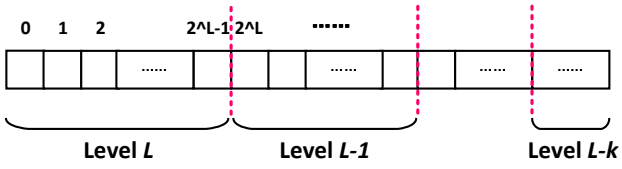


Fig. 5. Physical storage structure of path hashing.

structure of the path hashing with $L+1$ levels and $k+1$ reserved levels ($k \leq L$). The leaf nodes in the level L are stored in the first 2^L positions in the one-dimensional structure. The level $L-1$ is stored in the following 2^{L-1} positions, and so on. The removed bottom levels by path shortening do not need to be stored. In the storage structure, given a leaf node ℓ, it is easy to find all nodes of the path-ℓ in the one-dimensional structure, as described in Algorithm 1.

The flat-addressed storage structure allows all nodes in a path to be read in parallel from NVMs since the node accesses are independent to each other, which has the time complexity of $O(1)$. The node access pattern of path hashing is different from that of chained hashing in which the nodes in a chain can only be sequentially accessed. For example, as shown in Figure 1, for a query request to position 2, the chained hashing first reads a and then obtains the storage position of d according to the pointer stored in a. The storage position of e can be only obtained by the pointer stored in d. The structure of linked lists in the chained hashing results in low access performance.

Algorithm 1 Computing the storage locations of all nodes in path-ℓ

Input: The number of levels $L+1$, the number of reserved levels $k+1$, and the leaf node ℓ (stored in the ℓ-th position in the one-dimensional structure);
Output: The storage locations of all nodes in path-ℓ: $P[\,]$

```
P[0] = ℓ
for (i = 1; i < k + 1; i++) do
    ℓ = ⌊ℓ/2⌋
    P[i] = ℓ + 2^{L+1} − 2^{L−i+1}
return P[ ]
```

E. Practical Operations

For a path hashing with $L+1$ levels and $k+1$ reserved levels ($k \leq L$), its physical storage structure is a one-dimensional array with $2^{L+1} - 2^{L-k}$ cells. Each cell stores a *<key, value, token>*, where the *token* denotes whether the cell is empty or not, e.g., *'token == 0'* represents empty and *'token == 1'* represents non-empty. Path hashing determines whether a cell is empty by checking the value of its *token*. We present the practical operations in path hashing including insertion, query and deletion.

1) Insertion: For inserting a new item *<Key, Value>*, path hashing first computes two locations, ℓ_1 and ℓ_2, by using two different hash functions, $h_1()$ and $h_2()$, as shown in Algorithm 2. If an empty cell exists in the leaf nodes ℓ_1 and ℓ_2 in the level L, path hashing inserts the new item into the empty cell and changes the *token* of the cell to '1'. If both the two leaf nodes are non-empty, path hashing further iteratively checks the nodes of path-ℓ_1 and path-ℓ_2 in the next level until finding an empty cell. In Algorithm 2, *Path-ℓ(i)* denotes the node of path-ℓ in the level i, whose storage location in the one-dimensional array can be computed by Algorithm 1.

Algorithm 2 Insert(*Key*, *Value*)

```
ℓ1 = h1(Key)
ℓ2 = h2(Key)
for (i = L; i > L − k − 1; i − −) do
    if Path-ℓ1(i) != NULL then
        Insert <Key, Value> in Path-ℓ1(i)
        Return TRUE
    if Path-ℓ2(i) != NULL then
        Insert <Key, Value> in Path-ℓ2(i)
        Return TRUE
Return FALSE
```

2) Query: In the query operation, path hashing first computes its two paths, path-ℓ_1 and path-ℓ_2, based on the key of the queried item. Path hashing then checks the nodes of two paths from the level L to level $L-k$ until finding the target item, as shown in Algorithm 3. If the item can not be found in the two paths, it means the item does not exist in the hash table.

Algorithm 3 Query(*Key*)

```
ℓ1 = h1(Key)
ℓ2 = h2(Key)
for (i = L; i > L − k − 1; i − −) do
    if Path-ℓ1(i) != NULL && Path-ℓ1(i).key == Key then
        Return Path-ℓ1(i).value
    if Path-ℓ2(i) != NULL && Path-ℓ2(i).key == Key then
        Return Path-ℓ2(i).value
Return NULL
```

3) Deletion: In the deletion operation, path hashing first queries the cell storing the item to be deleted, and then deletes the item from the cell by changing the *token* of the cell to '0', as shown in Algorithm 4.

Algorithm 4 Delete(*Key*)

```
ℓ1 = h1(Key)
ℓ2 = h2(Key)
for (i = L; i > L − k − 1; i − −) do
    if Path-ℓ1(i) != NULL && Path-ℓ1(i).key == Key then
        Delete the item in Path-ℓ1(i)
        Return TRUE
    if Path-ℓ2(i) != NULL && Path-ℓ2(i).key == Key then
        Delete the item in Path-ℓ2(i)
        Return TRUE
Return FALSE
```

Note that we present only the algorithms (Algorithms 2, 3 and 4) of insertion, query and deletion operations under the non-parallel mode. In practice, all nodes in the two paths can be accessed in parallel as described in Section III-D.

IV. Performance Evaluation

In this section, we evaluate our proposed path hashing by being compared with existing hashing schemes in terms of the

TABLE I
EXPERIMENTAL CONFIGURATIONS

Processor and Cache	
CPU	4 cores, X86-64 processor, 2 GHz
Private L1 cache	32 KB (each core), 2-way, LRU, 2-cycle latency
Shared L2 cache	4 MB, 8-way, LRU, 20-cycle latency
Shared L3 cache	32 MB, 8-way, LRU, 50-cycle latency
Memory Controller	FCFRFS
Main Memory using PCM	
Capacity	16 GB
Read latency	75 ns
Write latency	150 ns

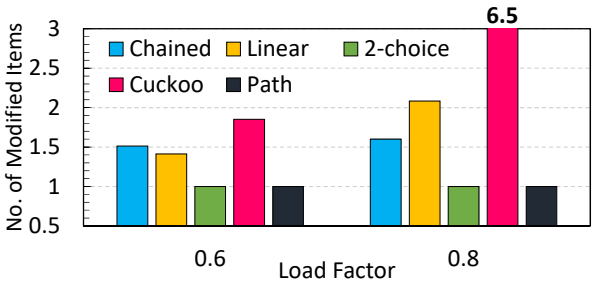
number of NVM writes, space utilization ratio, and request latency.

A. Experimental Configurations

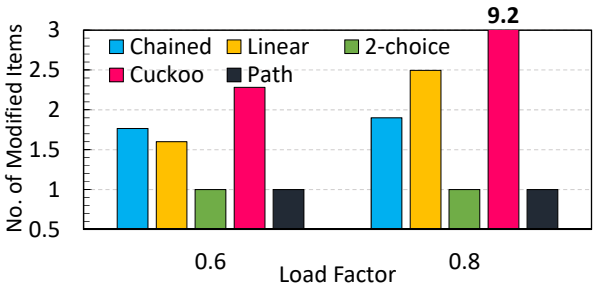
Since real NVM devices are not available for us yet, we implement path hashing and existing hashing schemes in the gem5 [26] full-system simulator with NVMain [27] to evaluate their performance in the context of NVMs. NVMain is a timing-accurate main memory simulator for emerging non-volatile memory technologies. The configuration parameters of the system are shown in Table I. The system has a three-level cache hierarchy. L1 cache is private and L2 cache is shared. L3 cache is DRAM, whose capacity is equally partitioned among all the cores [30]. The size of all cache lines is 64 bytes. Without loss of generality, we model PCM technologies [31] as the main memory to evaluate path hashing that in fact can be also used in other NVMs. The read latency of the PCM is 75 ns and the write latency is 150 ns, like the configurations in [30], [32].

We compare path hashing with existing hashing schemes described in Section II-B, i.e., chained hashing, linear probing, 2-choice hashing, and cuckoo hashing. We use three datasets including a random-number dataset and two real-world datasets as follows.

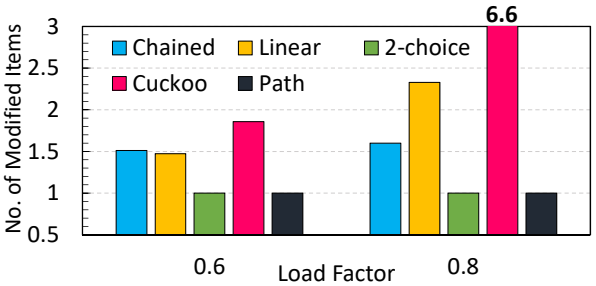
- **RandomNum.** We generate the random integer data ranging from $0 - 2^{26}$ via a pseudo-random number generator. We use the randomly generated numbers as the keys of the items in hash tables. The randomly generated integer is a commonly used dataset for evaluating the performance of hashing schemes [14], [19], [33].
- **DocWord.** The dataset consists of five text collections in the form of bags-of-words [34], in which we use the largest collection, *PubMed abstracts*, for evaluation. *PubMed abstracts* contains 8.2 million documents and about 730 million words in total. We use the combinations of document IDs and word IDs as the keys of the items in hash tables.
- **Fingerprint.** The dataset is extracted from MacOS [35], [36] which contains the daily snapshots of a Mac OS X server running in an academic computer lab collected by File system and Storage Lab at Stony Brook University. We use the MD5 fingerprints of data chunks in MacOS as the keys of the items in hash tables.



(a) RandomNum



(b) DocWord



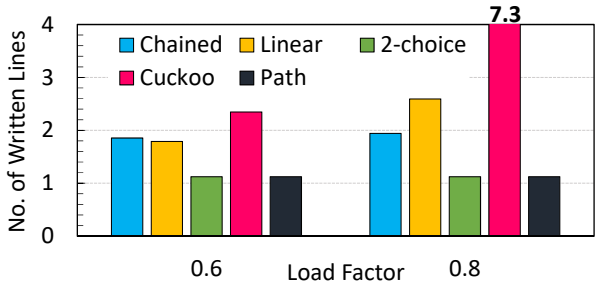
(c) Fingerprint

Fig. 6. The normalized number of modified items.

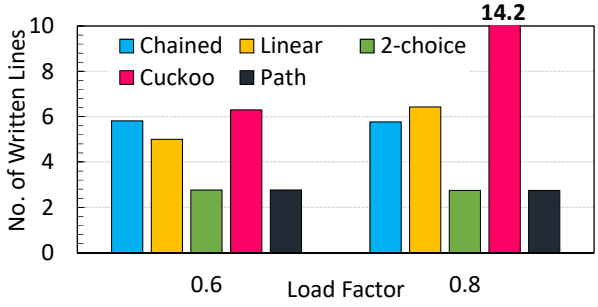
B. Evaluation Results

1) NVM Writes: Only insertion and deletion requests cause the writes to NVMs. We first insert n items into a hash table and then delete $0.5n$ items from this hash table, using the five hashing schemes respectively. We use the hash tables with 2^{23} cells for random-number dataset, with 2^{24} cells for DocWord dataset, and with 2^{25} cells for Fingerprint dataset. Load factor in hash table is defined as the ratio of the number of the inserted items to the total number of cells in hash table [19]. We evaluate the performance under two load factors, i.e., 0.6 and 0.8. The higher load factor naturally produces higher hash collision ratio. For 2-choice hashing and cuckoo hashing with a high load factor, many items fail to be inserted into the hash table due to their low space utilizations. We store these insertion-failure items in an extra stash, like ChunkStash [37], and continue to insert other items. The total number of modified items is normalized to the total number of requests (i.e., $1.5n$), as shown in Figure 6.

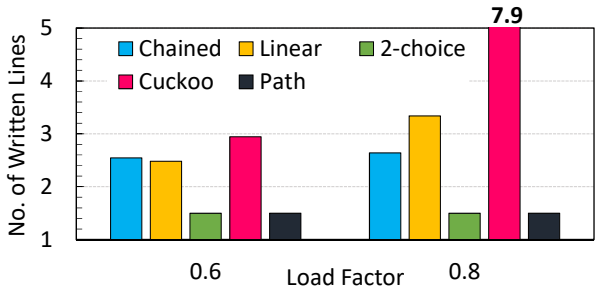
As shown in Figure 6, chained hashing, linear probing, and cuckoo hashing modify extra items which naturally incur more writes to NVMs. Higher load factor results in more extra modified items. Among these hashing schemes, cuckoo



(a) RandomNum



(b) DocWord



(c) Fingerprint

Fig. 7. The average number of written cache lines for each request.

hashing needs to modify most items, due to frequently evicting and rewriting items during insertion. Linear probing moves many items to deal with deletion requests especially when the hash table is in a relatively high load factor, i.e., 0.8. Chained hashing needs to modify the pointers of other items when inserting and deleting an item in the linked lists. To execute a deletion/insertion request, path hashing and 2-choice hashing only write the deleted/inserted item without modifying extra items, which are write-friendly for NVMs.

We also evaluate the average number of the written cache lines to NVMs for each request, as shown in Figure 7. The average number of written cache lines is approximatively proportional to the average number of modified items in each scheme. The average number of written cache lines in the DocWord dataset is much larger than those of the RandomNum and Fingerprint datasets due to the larger item size.

2) Space Utilization: Space utilization ratio is defined as the load factor of hash tables when insertion failure occurs. Higher space utilization ratio means that more items can be stored in a given-size hash table, which is a significant parameter in the context of main memory and the caches with

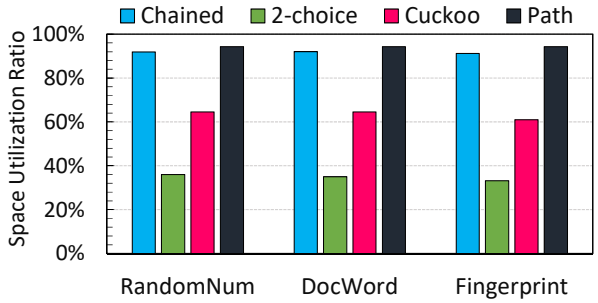


Fig. 8. Space utilization ratios of hashing schemes.

limited space. For chained hashing, a half of memory is used for hash table positions, and a half for list positions [19]. If the chained hashing runs out of list positions, the insertion failure occurs. For cuckoo hashing and 2-choice hashing, we respectively allocate a stash with the 1% size of hash table, which is not large. Otherwise, linearly searching the items stored in the stash results in high latency. For cuckoo hashing, when the number of evictions for an item achieves 100 [33], we store the item into the stash. For 2-choice hashing, when both the two positions of an item are occupied, we store the items in the stash. When the space of the stash runs out, the insertion failure occurs. For path hashing, when all nodes in the two paths for an item are occupied, the insertion failure occurs. Their space utilization ratios are shown in Figure 8.

As shown in Figure 8, 2-choice hashing has extremely low space utilization ratio since only two positions for an item are used to deal with hash collisions, which are easily occupied by other items. Cuckoo hashing obtains higher space utilization ratio than 2-choice hashing, due to further evicting one of items in the occupied positions when both positions of an item are occupied. Linear probing is not shown in the figure, since linear probing does not have a fixed space utilization ratio. Its load factor can be up to 1, while the query performance is close to that of the linear list. Chained hashing has a high space utilization ratio since the conflicting items can always link with the lists until running out of list positions. The space utilization ratio of our proposed path hashing achieves about 95% in the three datasets, which is more than that of chained hashing, due to efficiently dealing with hash collisions via

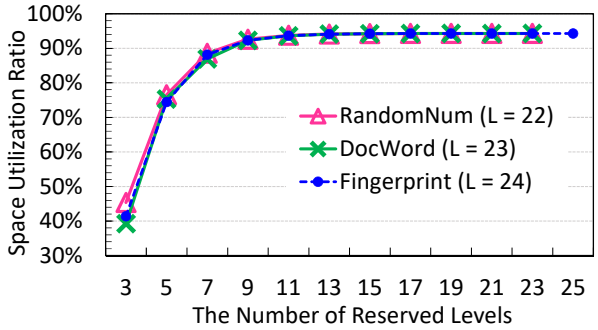
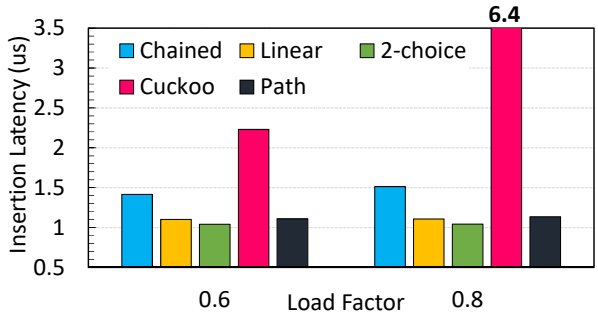
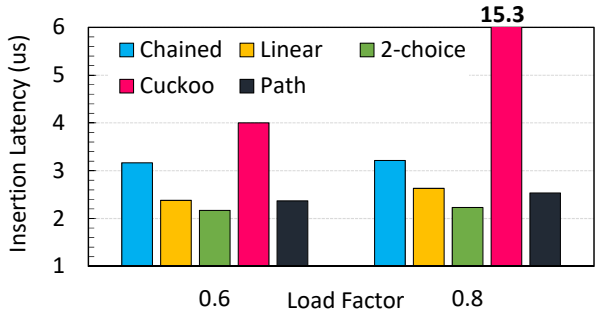


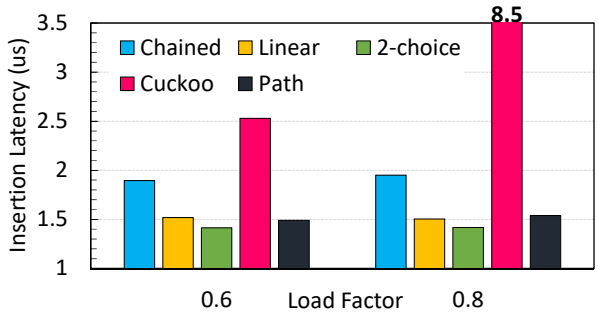
Fig. 9. The number of reserved levels vs. space utilization ratio.



(a) RandomNum

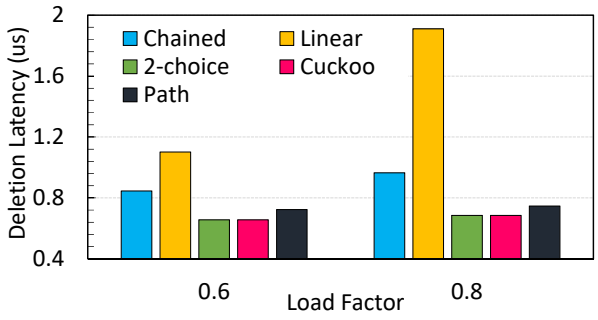


(b) DocWord

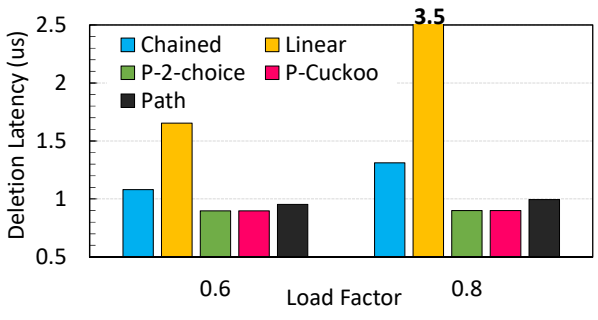


(c) Fingerprint

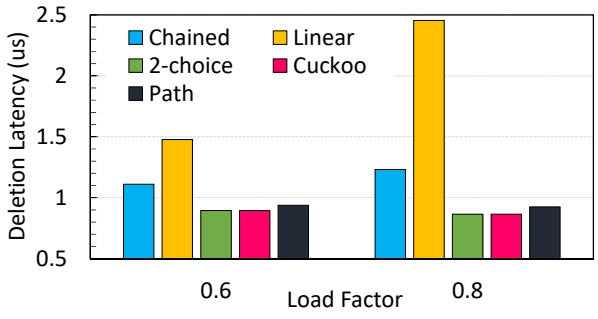
Fig. 10. Average latency of inserting an item.



(a) RandomNum



(b) DocWord



(c) Fingerprint

Fig. 11. Average latency of deleting an item.

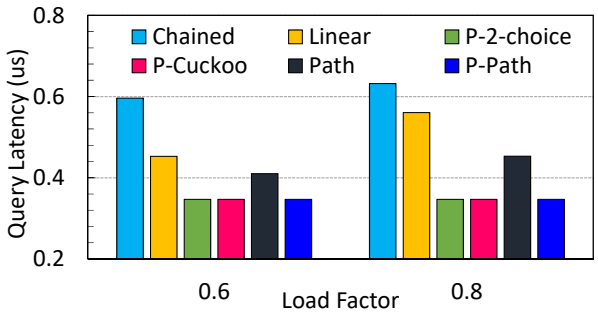
position sharing and double-path hashing.

3) The Number of Reserved Levels vs. Space Utilization: As described in Section III-C, we remove multiple levels in the bottom of path hashing to reduce the length of the read path. However, removing the bottom levels also reduces the number of positions to deal with hash collisions, thus reducing the space utilization ratio. We hence investigate the relationship between the number of the reserved levels and space utilization ratio of path hashing.

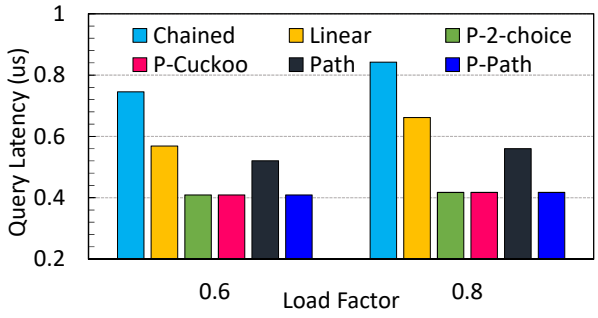
As shown in Figure 9, we observe that reserving a small part of levels can also achieve a high space utilization ratio in path hashing. For example, reserving 9 levels achieves over 92% space utilization ratio for a binary tree with 25 levels in the Fingerprint dataset. Reserving 11 levels can achieve the space utilization ratio close to that of a full binary tree.

4) Insertion Latency: We insert the same number of items in the five kinds of hash tables and store the insertion-failure items in the stashes for 2-choice hashing and cuckoo hashing. We compare the average insertion latency of different hashing schemes, as shown in Figure 10. Cuckoo hashing has the highest insertion latency, due to frequently evicting and rewriting items. Its insertion latency dramatically increases with increasing the load factor from 0.6 to 0.8, since the higher hash collision ratio causes much more evictions. Chained hashing incurs high insertion latency due to modifying extra items during insertion. 2-choice hashing has the lowest insertion latency due to only probing two positions for each insertion. Path hashing and linear hashing have the low latency close to 2-choice hashing, due to only probing empty positions for insertion.

5) Deletion Latency: We compare the average deletion latency of different hashing schemes, as shown in Figure 11. We observe that linear probing has the highest deletion latency due to moving multiple items when deleting an item, which dramatically increases with the growing load factor of hash tables. Chained hashing incurs high deletion latency due to traversing the linked lists and modifying other items. 2-choice hashing and cuckoo hashing have the low deletion latency due



(a) RandomNum



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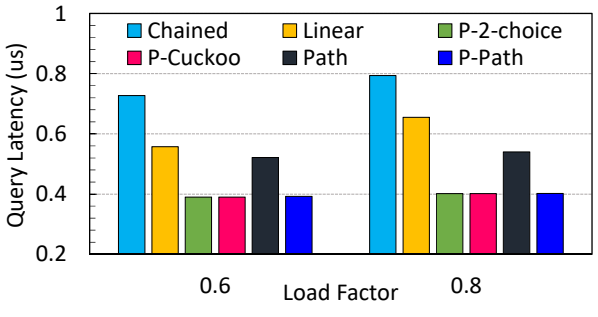

(c) Fingerprint

Fig. 12. Average latency of querying an item.

to only probing two positions. Path hashing has the slightly higher latency than 2-choice hashing due to probing multiple positions in several levels. Note that for cuckoo hashing and 2-choice hashing, we do not evaluate their delete/query latency to the stash due to only focusing on the delete/query latency to hash table.

6) Query Latency: Cuckoo hashing and 2-choice hashing require two memory accesses for querying an item. The two memory accesses are independent and can be executed in parallel. To evaluate their parallel query performance, i.e., P-Cuckoo and P-2-choice, we only evaluate the second hash query after the first hash query fails, like the method in [19]. For path hashing, the node accesses in the read paths are also independent and can be executed in parallel as descried in Section III-D. We also evaluate the parallel query performance of path hashing, i.e., P-Path.

We compare the average query latency of different hashing schemes, as shown in Figure 12. We observe that chained hashing causes the highest query latency, due to serially accessing the long linked lists which results in multiple random memory accesses. Comparing the results of the load factors 0.6 and 0.8, higher load factor results in longer linked lists in chained hashing, thus causing higher query latency. Linear probing has high query latency due to scanning the successive table cells, which increases with the growing of the load factor. We observe that P-Cuckoo and P-2-choice have the lowest query latency due to the time complexity of $O(1)$ when executed in parallel. Path hashing without parallelism has the higher query latency than cuckoo hashing due to probing multiple nodes in the read paths, while being still lower than those of linear probing and chained hashing. Parallel path hashing (P-Path) has the approximate query latency as P-Cuckoo and P-2-choice.

V. Related Work

As emerging NVMs become promising to play an important role in the memory hierarchy, e.g., main memory and caches. The changes of the memory characteristics bring the challenges to the in-memory or in-cache data structure design. In order to efficiently adapt to the new memory characteristics and support hardware-software co-design in memory systems, data structures have been improved to enhance the endurance and performance of NVM systems.

Existing work has mainly focused on the tree-based data structures stored in NVMs. Chen et al. [10] propose unsorted-node schemes to improve B^+-tree algorithm for PCM. They show that the use of unsorted nodes, instead of sorted nodes in B^+-tree, can reduce PCM writes. Chi et al. [12] observe that using unsorted nodes in B^+-tree suffers from several problems, e.g., CPU-costly for insertion and wasting space for deletion. They further improve B^+-tree algorithm for NVMs via three techniques including the sub-balanced unsorted node, overflow node, and merging factor schemes. CDDS B-Tree [2] and NV-Tree [11] aim to reduce the consistency cost of B^+-tree when maintained in NVMs. Chen et al. [13] propose wB^+-tree to minimize the movement of index entries from insertion and deletion requests by achieving write atomicity, thus reducing the extra NVM writes. Oukid et al. [38] consider B^+-tree in a hybrid NVM-DRAM main memory and propose the FP-tree, in which the leaf nodes of B^+-tree are persisted in NVM while the inner nodes are stored in DRAM to deliver high performance. Lee et al. [39] focus on the radix tree data structure and analyze the limitations of the radix tree for NVMs. They then propose the WORT (Write Optimal Radix Tree) to eliminate the duplicate-copy writes for logging or copy-on-write in the radix tree.

Hashing-based data structures are also popular and widely used to construct the index and lookup table in main memory (e.g., main memory databases) [14], [15], [16] and caches [17], [18]. Debnath et al. [40] propose a PCM-friendly cuckoo hashing variant called PFHB which prohibits the eviction operations of cuckoo hashing and uses larger buckets. PFHB reduces the writes of cuckoo hashing to PCM at the expense of significantly reducing the lookup performance. Our work investigates the influence of hashing-based data structures on

the writes to NVMs, and proposes a write-friendly hashing scheme, path hashing, which allows insertion and deletion requests of hash table do not cause any extra writes to NVMs while delivers high performance in terms of space utilization and request latency.

VI. Conclusion

In this paper, we propose a cost-efficient write-friendly hashing scheme, called path hashing, for NVMs to minimize the NVM writes while maintaining high performance of hash table. Path hashing leverages position sharing technique to deal with hash collisions without extra NVM writes, and double-path hashing and path shortening techniques to deliver high performance in terms of space utilization and request latency. We have implemented path hashing and evaluated it in gem5 with NVMain using a random-number dataset and two real-world datasets. Extensive experimental results show that path hashing incurs no extra NVM writes, and achieves up to 95% space utilization ratio as well as low request latency, compared with existing state-of-the-art hashing schemes.

Acknowledgement

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