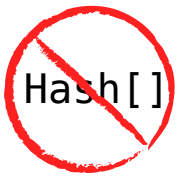


Easy hash creation



Specify the values

```
(1..3).associate(&:to_s) # => {1 => "1", 2 => "2", 3 => "3"}  
[:a, :b, :a].associate(:+){1} # => { :a => 2, :b => 1 }
```

Use cases:

- So many, this margin is too narrow to contain them.

Specify the keys

```
(1..3).index_by(&:to_s) # => {"1" => 1, "2" => 2, "3" => 3}  
(1..3).index_by(:+, &:odd?) # => { true => 4, false => 1 }
```

Specify keys and values

```
%w[foo bar baz foo].categorize(:+) do |word|  
  [*word.chars, word]  
end # => {'f' => {'o' => {'o' => 'foofoo'},  
         'b' => {'a' => {'r' => 'bar', 'z' => 'baz'}}}}
```

Super useful
More efficient

Argument is used for merging, can also be lambda

Some special cases

Hash specialized:

```
{:hello => 42}.index_by{|k, _| k.to_s} # => {'hello' => 42}, not {'hello' => [:hello, 42]}  
{:hello => 42}.associate{|_, v| v.to_s} # => {:hello => "42"}, not {[:hello, 42] => "42"}
```

Categorize requires array:

```
[1].categorize{ 42 } # => TypeError, expected Array (fail early)  
[1].categorize{ [42] } # => {nil => 42}
```

Feature #4151 also related to #6669, #5662, #5008, #666, I think that's it!