- *** Indexes also don't particularly like outlier values as they prevent space efficient 9010 splits
- *** First create a simple table with a primary key on the ID column

SQL> CREATE TABLE outlier2 (id NUMBER CONSTRAINT outlier2_pk_i PRIMARY KEY, name VARCHAR2(20));

Table created.

*** Now populate the table with monotonically increasing values for the ${\tt ID}$ column

SQL> INSERT INTO outlier2 SELECT rownum, 'RADIOHEAD' FROM dual CONNECT BY LEVEL <= 1000000;

1000000 rows created.

SOL> COMMIT;

Commit complete.

*** Let's see just how compact and efficient our index is on the primary key

SQL> ANALYZE INDEX outlier2 pk i VALIDATE STRUCTURE;

Index analyzed.

SQL> SELECT LF BLKS, BTREE SPACE, PCT USED FROM INDEX STATS;

LF_BLKS	BTREE_SPACE	PCT_USED
1875	15032128	100

- *** As expected, the index is entirely used with no free space as Oracle has been generating 90-10 splits,
- *** leaving behind totally full index leaf blocks. Perfect !!

*** Now let's repeat the demo, but this time introduce an outlier value before inserting in all the data

SQL> CREATE TABLE outlier3 (id NUMBER CONSTRAINT outlier3_pk_i PRIMARY KEY, name VARCHAR2(20));

Table created.

- *** Here's the outlier value, 99999999999999999 which is going to be way way outside the normal range of values
- $\ensuremath{^{***}}$ and unfortunately, the maximum value in the table now and always moving forward ...

SQL> INSERT INTO outlier3 VALUES (99999999999, 'DAVID BOWIE');

1 row created.

SQL> COMMIT;

Commit complete.

*** Therefore as a leaf block is filled, a 50-50 block split is performed

SQL> INSERT INTO outlier3 SELECT rownum, 'RADIOHEAD' FROM dual CONNECT BY LEVEL <= 1000000;

1000000 rows created.

SQL> COMMIT;

Commit complete.

*** The impact on the space efficiency of the index is significant ...

SQL> ANALYZE INDEX outlier3 pk i VALIDATE STRUCTURE;

Index analyzed.

SQL> SELECT LF BLKS, BTREE SPACE, PCT USED FROM INDEX STATS;

LF_BLKS	BTREE_SPACE	PCT_USED
3681	29528320	51

- *** Where previously we had a fully utilised index structure, now we are only using 51% of the index
- *** The other 49% is totally wasted and redundant as this space cannot be used be subsequent inserts
- *** Unless subsequent deletes totally empty an index leaf block and the block is placed again on the freelist \dots