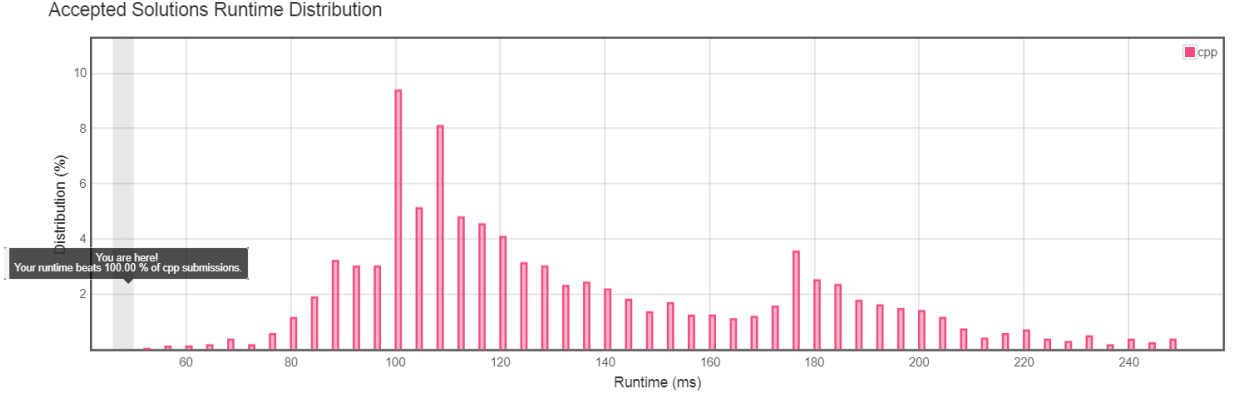


in the worst case, wlog assume all strings have the same length  $\ell$ .

1. for each query, dfs on Trie.  $O(n\ell)$  per query.
2. for each query, enumerate all  $n$  strings and compare them. speedup this step by word operations. in the worst case, if the answer is no, there are at most  $\binom{\ell}{i} \cdot |\Sigma|^i$  strings that differs with the query string in  $i$  positions, for all  $i \geq 1$  and  $\binom{\ell}{i} \cdot |\Sigma|^i \leq n$ . assume  $\ell \gg i$ , we approximately have  $i \approx \frac{\log n}{\log(\ell|\Sigma|)}$ . if we randomly permute the indices in a string globally, in expectation we only need to check  $\frac{\ell}{i}$  positions to find the two strings are different, in  $O(\frac{\ell \log |\Sigma|}{iw})$  by word operations. in the worst case  $\ell = n^{\Theta(1)}$  and  $i = O(1)$ , in total  $O(\frac{n\ell \log |\Sigma|}{w})$  time per query.
3. if we pack the result of  $O(\frac{\log n}{\log |\Sigma|})$  consecutive characters into  $n$ -bit vectors by method of four russians in  $O(n^\epsilon)$  per add, and query by word operations (taking & of  $\frac{\ell \log |\Sigma|}{\log n}$   $n$ -bit vectors), we can get  $O(\frac{n\ell \log |\Sigma|}{w \log n})$  time per query.

note. we can also get a running time sensitive to the number of “.”s.



## References