UNIVERSITY "ALEXANDRU-IOAN CUZA" FROM IAȘI

FACULTY OF COMPUTER SCIENCE



BACHELOR THESIS

Verification of Boyer-Moore algorithm in F*

proposed by

Daniel-Antoniu Dumitru

Session: july, 2024

Scientific coordinator

Associate Professor Ciobâcă Ștefan

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Cuprins

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Motivation

One of my favourite courses from the faculty was functional programming.

Introducere

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Capitolul 1

Boyer-Moore algorithm

Boyer-Moore is one of the most efficient algorithms used in practice. It is used in text editors for functions like find and replace, but also in instruments like grep.[1] This algorithm is based on two heuristics: the bad character and the good suffix. Each of them can be used independently and helps in shifting the pattern such that we can find a match(if there exists one) in an efficient amount of time. One particularity is that the instructions are executed faster as the size of the input data increases.

1.1 The bad character heuristic

To use this heuristic, it is necessary to preprocess the pattern string. In order to do that, an array of the same length as the alphabet is created. Let's call this array bc. Each index from bc corresponds to the character from the alphabet stored in the same index (for example, the second index from bc corresponds to the second character from the alphabet). In each index is stored the last position of the character in pattern. To treat the case where a value from the alphabet is not in the pattern, all of the indices from bc will be initially set to -1. After that, we go through each index from the pattern, from the first one to the last one, and we store the position of the character in bc. If a value appears in more than one position, the last one will overwrite the other ones.

1.2 The good suffix heuristic

As in the bad character heuristic, the pattern is preprocessed and the values are stored in an array. Let's call this array gs.

Capitolul 2

F* language

2.1 Titlul secțiunii 1

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2.2 Titlul secțiunii 2

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Capitolul 3

Proof for Boyer-Moore algorithm

One of the problems

3.1 Defining the input data

A key element in Boyer-Moore algorithm is the alphabet array. All of the characters from text and pattern needs to be elements from this vector. In order to define it, I created a type in F* which contains the first 2 letters from the english alphabet.

```
type englishLetters = | A | B
```

Then I defined the alphabet array as a list which contains both of the englishLetters. I used a refinement type to specify that the list cannot be empty and all of the elements of type englishLetters are in the array.

```
val alphabet : (l:list englishLetters(forall (x:englishLetters). mem x = true) / 1 <> []) let alphabet = [A;B]
```

The next two global variables are text and pattern. Like alphabet, each of these variables are lists of englishLetters. Text is a non-empty list and pattern is a list of length less or equal than the length of text. From the definition, the second list can be null.

```
val text : (l:list englishLettersl <> []) let text = [A;A;A;A;B;A;
val pattern : (l:list englishLetterslength l <= length text) let
pattern = [A;B;B]</pre>
```

Length and mem are functions defined in FStar.List.Tot.Base library. The first function (length l) returns the length of the list l and the second function (mem x l)

verifies if x is in the list l (x has the same type as the elements from l).

3.2 Defining the bad character list

Initially, all of the values from bc list are equal with -1. In F*, this property can be achieved with a recursive function.

```
let rec create_bc(i:nat)

: Tot(listint)(decreasesi)

= matchiwith

|0->[]

|_->(-1)::(create_bc(i-1))
```

Tot is an effect label which indicates that the function will always return a result. The label is optional. The instruction (decreases i) is used to ensure that the recursive call will end, since i decreases until it arrives to 0, the least natural number.[2]

To ensure that the function gives the correct result, I proved that the length of the generated list is at least zero and is equal with the value of the parameter i. I also proved that each value is equal with -1. For each of these properties, I made a separate Lemma. For example, for the last property, the proof looks like this:

```
let rec index_{nb}c_is_minusone(i:nat)

: Lemma(ensures

(letl = (create_bci)in

forall(n:nat).n < lengthl ==> indexln = -1))

= matchiwith

|0->()|_-> index_{nb}c_is_minusone(i-1)
```

A Lemma is a function which always returns the ():unit value. The type of it carries usefull information about certain properties which are provable. If the proof was verified and no errors were given, then the proof is valid.[2]

Index (index 1 n) is another function from the FStar.List.Tot.Base library. It returns the n-th item from the list 1. As a constraint, the value of n needs to be less than the length of 1.

3.3 Defining a function which stores a list of indices

```
Some usefull functions for the lists are defined in F* libraries.
However, there was no function which returns the index where a certain
element is stored in a list, so I made one which returns a list with
all of the indices where a value can be found, named item_indices.Themainus
    let rec item_indices(a:eqtype)(item:a)(l:lista)(i:nat)
: listnat
= matchlwith
||->||
|hd::tl->ifhd=item
theni::item_indicesitemtl(i+1)
elseitem_indicesitemtl(i+1)
    In order to return the correct result, the i parameter needs
to start with the value 0. In this way, item, indices will have for each item from the
    let rec item_list_has_correct_length(a:eqtype)(l:lista)(i:nat)
: Lemma (ensures for all (item : a).
length(item_indicesitemli) = countiteml)
= matchlwith
|||->()|
|hd:: tl-> item_list_has_correct_lengthtl(i+1)
    This is a proof by induction. The base case of the lemma is
when l is an empty list. The result of (item_indicesitem li)isal so an empty list, and
ithe property is true and we prove the criteria for the value i. The following equalities hold:
    if hd = item then (
length (item_indicesitemli) =
1 + length(tail(item_indicesitemli)) =
1 + length(tail(i :: item_indicesitemtl(i + 1))) =
1 + length(item_indicseitemtl(i + 1));
countiteml =
1 + countitemtl
else(
length(item_indicesitemli) =
```

```
length(item_indicesitemtl(i + 1));

countiteml = countitemtl
```

The equality remains valid due to the recursive call in the lemma. After a number of steps, the recursion arrives to the base case, where the property is proved. The second criteria of the output data is that each value from the resulted list needs to be in the interval [i, i + length 1). For this, I made another lemma.

```
let rec item_indices_is_in_interval(a : eqtype)(item : a)
(l : lista)(i : nat)(x : nat)
: Lemma(ensuresmemx(item_indicesitemli) ==>
i <= xx < i + lengthl)
= matchlwith
|[]->()
|hd :: tl-> item_indices_is_in_intervalitemtl(i+1)x
```

As in the previous lemma, I used proof by induction. Here, the property is valid for an arbitrary natural number x. We want to demonstrate the implication for all possible values of x. To achieve this, I used forall_introfunction from the FStar. Classical library.

Concluzii

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