

CS 240 Tutorial - LZW Example

Given the string ABBCBBABBCCCCCAB and the original dictionary perform an LZW encoding and a decoding. Also calculate the compression achieved.

A,B, and C are in the original dictionary.

FINAL DICTIONARY

Character	Code	Character	Code
A	0000	ABB	1000
B	0001	BCC	1001
C	0010	CC	1010
AB	0011	CCC	1011
BB	0100	CA	1100
BC	0101		
CB	0110		
BBA	0111		

Encoding:

Take longest string W in Dictionary, output code, then ADD W+1 to dictionary

Step	Character	Code
1	W=A, add AB to dictionary	0000
2	W=B, add BB to dictionary	0001
3	W=B, add BC to dictionary	0001
4	W=C, add CB to dictionary	0010
5	W=BB, add BBA to dictionary	0100
6	W=AB, add ABB to dictionary	0011
7	W=BC, add BCC to dictionary	0101
8	W=C, add CC to dictionary	0010
9	W=CC, add CCC to dictionary	1010
10	W=C, add CA to dictionary	0010
11	W=AB, done.	0011

Final Encoded String: 00000001000100100100001101010010101000100011

Bits in original string are $16 \times 4 = 64$

Bits in compressed string are $11 \times 4 = 44$

$44/64 = 0.69$ or a 31% compression.

Now to do the decoding remember the dictionary only starts with A,B, and C in it.

LZW Decompression

Decode: 0000 0001 0001 0010 0100 0011 0101 0010 1010 0010 0011

With the initial dictionary:

A	0000
B	0001
C	0010

Decoding

- add to the dictionary the longest suffix in the dictionary of the previous code, plus the current code's first letter

Step	Procedure	Dictionary Action	Decoded String So Far
1	Decode 0000	none	A
2	Decode 0001	add AB = 0011	B
3	Decode 0001	add BB = 0100	B
4	Decode 0010	add BC = 0101	C
5	Decode 0100	add CB = 0110	BB
6	Decode 0011	add BBA = 0111	AB
7	Decode 0101	add ABB = 1000	BC
8	Decode 0010	add BC C = 1001	C
9	Decode 1010	add CC = 1010	CC
10	Decode 0010	add CCC = 1011	C
11	Decode 0011	add CA = 1100	AB

For the step 9, you get a dictionary miss. So you must append the last character of your last dictionary addition to the last thing you decoded and add that to the dictionary.