Methods of Minimizing Pre-processing Cost

Text Pre-processing has become a very important task in modern Computer Science fields such as Artificial Intelligent and Machine Learning. For example, in 2013, E. Haddi et. al have used multiples Text Pre-processing methods to analyze the sentiment of online movie reviews [1]. However, it is a very expensive process, and it becomes extremely expensive when the dataset becomes bigger. For example, In one of the research on extracting Named Entities from text, the data scientists have to process millions of online news articles from multiple online publishers including the Los Angeles Times, Routers, and the New York Times [2].

There are three main components of Pre-processing including *Tokenization*, *Normalization*, and *Substitution* [3] and their output results can be reused many times. However, those tasks require very high computational resources. So that, in order to minimize the computing cost, we can save the output results to file and then we can reload them while needed. So that saving results to a file is a popular problem and is becoming a necessary task.

The general definition of this problem is called *Serialization* which basically a process that transforms *(Seriallize)* an Object to a format that can be stored on disk or database [7], and then it can be transform back *(Deserialize)* to the original Object using *Deserialization* methods. The core mechanism of these methods is to flatten the multi-dimensional Objects into a one- dimensional stream of characters or bits, so then they can decode these data stream in order to reconstruct the original Object.

There are many method described in *Object Persistence Techniques* [4] is used to address this problem, and the methods’ technique can be variable which depends on the data structure of the results. The methods can be put into two main categories which are *Human-readable* (text-based) and *Non-human-readable* (binary). Since all the results of Text Pre-processing in this assignment is stored in Java Data Structure so the problem is narrowed down to “How to store a Java Object to a file” and it can be solved using these feasible methods:

1. The first approach is to use the Build-in Java Serialization which makes use of object stream classes including *ObjectInputStream* and *ObjectOutputStream* [5] to convert and write an object to a binary file.
2. The second approach is to transform the Objects to a human-readable string using the *Data Markup Language* such as XML or *Data Serialization Language* such as JSON and YAML and then those strings to a text file.
3. The third approach is to convert the preprocessed data into *Comma-Separated Value* (CSV) format and then write to a text file.

I will use the third approach for my implementation, although it may not be as efficient as using Java Serialization in term of run time and space, however, it is a multi-platforms method that can be used with multiple programming languages and it is also human-readable that is easier for error checking. For each section, I will convert the Map of sanitized lines into a CSV file named *<startLine>.data.csv*, another index CSV named *<startLine>.index.csv* will store the Trie of words as well as the index tables of occurrences.

One other reason that makes me prefer this method is that I can implements the *serialization* and *deserialization* methods by myself so that I can fully analyze the time complexity of my algorithms. It helps me to understand more about Object Persistent process.

By loading data directly from the document, the *loadDocument()* method runs with the time complexity of **O(c)** with **c** is the number of characters in the documents. However, by loading the data from the stored CSV files, it only runs with the time-complexity of **O(w)** with **w** is the number of words in the document. That is a significant improvement because of **c** >> **w**. The detailed time complexity analysis is described in the following pseudo-code fragments.

To verify the efficiency of implementing load and store Text Pre-processing Result in to CSV files, I conducted some experiments which are shown in the *Experiment Results Section* to derived the actual running time of each try including i) read content directly from document, ii) road content and then store the result to files and iii) load the result from files. The running time of using stored pre-processing results can be reduced by around 35% (from 5.56s to 3.59s), however, the time for reading and loading at the first time is increased by nearly 50% (from 5.56s to 8.22s).

In conclusion, storing the Text Pre-processing results for reusing can significantly reduce the cost of Pre-processing tasks. However, we have to trade off some other resources that are the increase of the disk space needed to store the files and the increase in running time of the first run.

# Time Complexity Analysis

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| Load directly from Document Pseudo Code | #Operations |
| Indexes <- GetIndexes()  SectionMap <- Empty Map of Sections  LineNo <- 0  For each Entry in Indexes:  Section <- New Section  Trie <- New Trie  Lines <- Empty Map of Lines  Files <- New File(“document.txt”)  While LineNumber < Entry.LastLine():  Line <- Files.ReadLine()  Text <- Sanitize(Line)  Lines.Add(LineNo, Text)  Words <- Tokenize(Text)  For each Word, Pos in Words:  Trie.Insert(Word)  Table <- Trie.Get(Word)  If Table == Null:  Table <- New IndexTable  Trie.Set(Word, Table)  Table.Add(Pos)  Section.Trie <- Trie  Section.Lines <- Lines  SectionMap.Add(Entry.Title(), Section) | #sections (s)  1  1  #sections (s)  1  1  1  1  #lines in sect. (n)  1  #chars in line (c)  1 (expected)  1 (expected)  #chars in line (m)  #chars in word (c)  #chars in word (c)  1  1  #chars in word (c)  1 (expected)  1  1  1 (expected) |
| Accumulated: s + s(n(m + m(3c))) ≈ snmc. Since c can be considered as constant, then the time complexity can be considered as O(snm) which is actually the number of character in the document. | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Load from Stored Result Pseudo Code | #Operations |
| Indexes <- GetIndexes()  Sections <- Empty Map of Sections  For each Index in Indexes:  Section <- New Section  Trie <- New Trie  Lines <- Empty Map of Lines  DFile <- New File(Index.startLine()+”.data.csv”)  While !DFile.EOF:  LineNo, Text <- DFile.ReadLine()  Lines.Add(LineNo, Text)  IFile <- New File(Index.startLine()+”.index.csv”)  Word <- Null;  Table <- Null;  While !IFile.EOF:  NextWord, Pos <- IFile.ReadLine()  If NextWord != Word:  Trie.Insert(Word)  Table <- New IndexTable  Trie.Set(Word, Table)  If Table != Null:  Table.Add(Pos)  Section.Trie <- Trie  Section.Lines <- Lines  SectionMap.Add(Entry.Title(), Section) | #sections (s)  1  #sections (s)  1  1  1  1  #lines in sect. (n)  2  1 (expected)  1  1  1  #words in sect. (w)  2  1  #chars in word (c)  1  #chars in word (c)  1  1 (expected)  1  1  1 |
| Accumulated: s + s(n + w(2c)) ≈ swc. Since c can be considered as constant, then the time complexity can be considered as O(sw) which is actually the number of words in the document. | |

# Experiment Results

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| *Fig. 1: Read from Document* | *Fig. 2 Read and Store the Results* | *Fig. 3 Load Results from File* |

# References

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