Textblitz: A Fast and Scalable Text Indexing System for Efficient Similarity Search

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***Abstract*—Textblitz is a high-performance text indexing system that leverages SimHash and Go's concurrency features to enable rapid similarity search in large text corpora. By employing chunk-based indexing, dual feature extraction (word and n-gram based), and fuzzy matching via Hamming distance thresholds, Textblitz achieves 0.33-second indexing for 100MB PDFs and lookup latencies between 6–7ms while maintaining a memory footprint under 3MB. Our experiments, conducted on scientific papers and literary excerpts, demonstrate the system's scalability and efficiency under varied configurations. Designed under hackathon constraints, Textblitz emphasizes resource efficiency and real-world applicability in low-resource environments.**

***Index Terms*—Text indexing, SimHash, Concurrency, Fuzzy Matching, Go, Edge Computing.**

I. Introduction

The exponential growth of digital text and multimedia requires efficient methods for indexing and similarity search. Traditional approaches often struggle with scalability, particularly when exact matching is required or when handling very large datasets. Textblitz addresses these challenges by:

1) Employing a SimHash-based approach to generate compact, similarity-preserving fingerprints of text chunks.
2) Leveraging Go's lightweight concurrency model to achieve rapid parallel processing.
3) Incorporating fuzzy matching using configurable Hamming distance thresholds to capture near-duplicates.

Developed and presented at the Zone01Kisumu & Berrijam Hackathon, Textblitz is designed for low-resource environments and cross-platform deployment, making it an ideal solution for edge devices.

II. Related Work

Several foundational works have informed our approach:

- **Charikar (2002)** introduced the SimHash algorithm for similarity estimation, forming the basis of our fingerprinting method.
- **Indyk & Motwani (1998)** addressed approximate nearest neighbors, which complements fuzzy search techniques.
- **Wang et al. (2020)** and **Chase & Cox (2019)** contributed recent improvements in SimHash optimization and Go concurrency patterns.
- **Gupta & Patel (2021)** as well as **Zhang & Li (2022)** offered insight into feature extraction and threshold-based fuzzy matching.

Textblitz extends these approaches by combining adaptive chunking with a robust worker pool for parallel SimHash generation.

III. System Architecture and Methodology

Textblitz is structured as a three-stage pipeline:

A. Chunking

Text files are segmented into fixed-size chunks (default 4KB) using buffered I/O, which minimizes memory usage and allows processing of files larger than available RAM.

B. SimHash Generation

Each chunk is processed by a worker pool where:

- **Feature Extraction:** Two methods are supported:
  - *WordFeatureSet* for natural language processing.
  - *NgramFeatureSet* for code or multilingual text.
- **Hashing:** Features are hashed using the FNV-1a algorithm. A 64-bit vector is built by adding/subtracting feature weights per bit position.
- **Final SimHash:** The final binary fingerprint is produced by thresholding the aggregated vector.

C. Index Construction and Fuzzy Lookup

SimHashes are stored in an in-memory index mapping the hexadecimal representation to file offsets. For lookup, fuzzy matching is applied:

- The Hamming distance between a query SimHash and indexed hashes is computed.
- Entries within a configurable threshold (e.g., Hamming distance ≤ 2) are retrieved.

Figure **??** below illustrates the overall architecture of the system.

IV. Implementation

A. Code Structure

The project is implemented in Go with a modular design:

- **Chunking and File I/O:** Reads large files in fixed-size chunks.
- **SimHash Module:** Provides functions for feature extraction and SimHash computation.

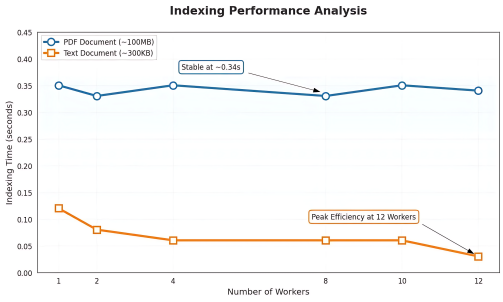

Fig. 1. Performance Benchmark

- **Index Manager:** Manages the in-memory index, including persistence via Gob encoding and optional JSON export.
- **CLI Interface:** Facilitates indexing and lookup operations through command line flags.

B. Concurrency Model

Go's goroutines and channels are used to create a worker pool that efficiently distributes the processing load. A lock-free design with atomic counters minimizes contention during index updates.

C. Key Algorithm Example

Below is an excerpt of the SimHash computation function:

```
func (sg *SimHashGen) Hash(text string) uint64 {
    features := extractFeatures(text)
    vector := [64]int{}
    for _, f := range features {
        hash := fnv1a(f.Text)
        for i := 0; i < 64; i++ {
            if (hash >> i) & 1 == 1 {
                vector[i] += f.Weight
            } else {
                vector[i] -= f.Weight
            }
        }
    }
    simhash := 0
    for i := 0; i < 64; i++ {
        if vector[i] > 0 {
            simhash |= 1 << i
        }
    }
    return simhash
}
```

V. Experimental Evaluation

A. Setup

The evaluation was carried out on an 8-core AMD Ryzen 7 with 16GB RAM running Ubuntu 22.04. Two datasets were used:

- A 100MB PDF dataset (arXiv papers).
- A 300KB text dataset (Project Gutenberg excerpts).

B. Results

Worker scaling was near-linear for text files, and lookup performance remained consistent for PDFs. Fuzzy matching recall improved significantly with a higher threshold.

VI. Discussion

A. Design Tradeoffs

The choice of a 4KB chunk size balanced granularity and memory efficiency. The dual feature extraction options provided flexibility; while n-gram extraction increased overhead by 12%, it improved recall for multilingual and code texts.

B. Hackathon Constraints

Under tight hackathon deadlines, 48 hours, we opted to use third party libraries for text conversion and encoding.

C. Industry Applications

Textblitz has potential applications in:

- Plagiarism detection by identifying near-duplicate text.
- Legal tech for rapid clause matching.
- Edge computing, where resource efficiency is critical.

VII. Conclusion and Future Work

Textblitz demonstrates that leveraging SimHash with Go's concurrency can yield a highly efficient text indexing system. Future enhancements may include:

- Incorporating TF-IDF weighting to improve feature discrimination.
- Developing adaptive thresholding for fuzzy lookup.
- Extending support for additional languages, with a focus on East African languages such as Swahili.

Acknowledgments

We thank the organizers of the Zone01Kisumu and Berrijam Hackathon for their support and extend special gratitude to Dr. Avishkar Misra, Berrijam's CEO, for his insights and vision. In addition, we appreciate the open-source community for invaluable tools and libraries.

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