

Introduction to Information Retrieval

<http://informationretrieval.org>

IIR 4: Index Construction

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Overview

- 1 Recap
- 2 Introduction
- 3 BSBI algorithm
- 4 SPIMI algorithm
- 5 Distributed indexing
- 6 Dynamic indexing

Outline

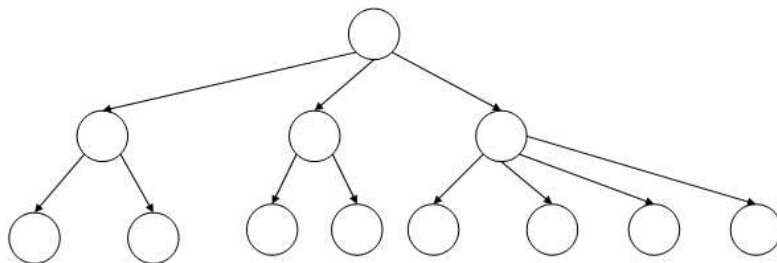
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Dictionary as array of fixed-width entries

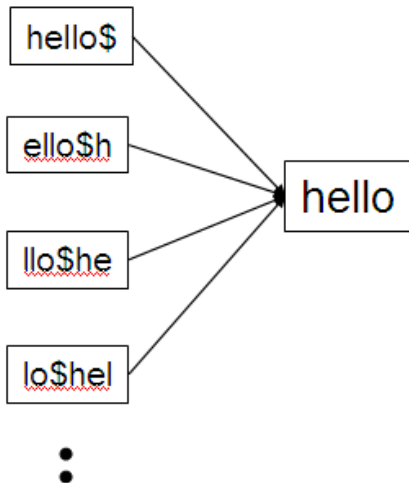
term	document frequency	pointer to postings list
a	656,265	→
aachen	65	→
...
zulu	221	→

space needed: 20 bytes 4 bytes 4 bytes

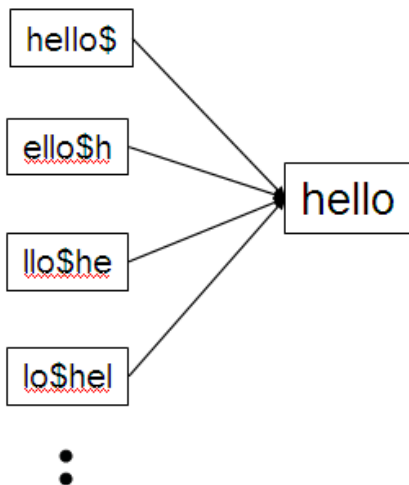
B-tree for looking up entries in array



Wildcard queries using a permuterm index



Wildcard queries using a permuterm index



Queries:

- For X, look up X\$
- For X*, look up X*\$
- For *X, look up X\$*
- For *X*, look up X*
- For X*Y, look up Y\$X*

Levenshtein distance for spelling correction

LEVENSHTEINDISTANCE(s_1, s_2)

```

1  for  $i \leftarrow 0$  to  $|s_1|$ 
2  do  $m[i, 0] = i$ 
3  for  $j \leftarrow 0$  to  $|s_2|$ 
4  do  $m[0, j] = j$ 
5  for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $|s_1|$ 
6  do for  $j \leftarrow 1$  to  $|s_2|$ 
7      do if  $s_1[i] = s_2[j]$ 
8          then  $m[i, j] = \min\{m[i-1, j] + 1, m[i, j-1] + 1, m[i-1, j-1]\}$ 
9          else  $m[i, j] = \min\{m[i-1, j] + 1, m[i, j-1] + 1, m[i-1, j-1] + 1\}$ 
10 return  $m[|s_1|, |s_2|]$ 

```

Operations: insert, delete, replace, copy

Peter Norvig's spell corrector

```

import re, collections

def words(text): return re.findall('[a-z]+', text.lower())

def train(features):
    model = collections.defaultdict(lambda: 1)
    for f in features:
        model[f] += 1
    return model

NWORDS = train(words(file('big.txt').read()))

alphabet = 'abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz'

def edits1(word):
    n = len(word)
    return set([word[0:i]+word[i+1:] for i in range(n)] + # deletion
               [word[0:i]+word[i+1]+word[i]+word[i+2:] for i in range(n-1)] + # transposition
               [word[0:i]+c+word[i+1:] for i in range(n) for c in alphabet] + # alteration
               [word[0:i]+c+word[i:] for i in range(n+1) for c in alphabet]) # insertion

def known_edits2(word):
    return set(e2 for e1 in edits1(word) for e2 in edits1(e1) if e2 in NWORDS)

def known(words): return set(w for w in words if w in NWORDS)

def correct(word):
    candidates = known([word]) or known(edits1(word)) or known_edits2(word) or [word]
    return max(candidates, key=lambda w: NWORDS[w])

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Hardware basics

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- We begin by reviewing hardware basics that we'll need in this course.

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- Disk I/O is block-based: Reading and writing of entire blocks (as opposed to smaller chunks). Block sizes: 8KB to 256 KB
- Servers used in IR systems typically have several GB of main memory, sometimes tens of GB. Available disk space is several orders of magnitude larger.
- Fault tolerance is very expensive: It's much cheaper to use many regular machines rather than one fault tolerant machine.

Hardware basics: Summary

symbol	statistic	value
s	average seek time	5 ms = 5×10^{-3} s
b	transfer time per byte	$0.02 \mu\text{s} = 2 \times 10^{-8}$ s
	processor's clock rate	10^9 s^{-1}
p	lowlevel operation (e.g., compare & swap a word)	$0.01 \mu\text{s} = 10^{-8}$ s
	size of main memory	several GB
	size of disk space	1 TB or more

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- As an example for applying scalable index construction algorithms, we will use the Reuters RCV1 collection.
- English newswire articles sent over the wire in 1995 and 1996 (one year).

A Reuters RCV1 document



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Extreme conditions create rare Antarctic clouds

Tue Aug 1, 2006 3:20am ET

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SYDNEY (Reuters) - Rare, mother-of-pearl colored clouds caused by extreme weather conditions above Antarctica are a possible indication of global warming, Australian scientists said on Tuesday.

Known as nacreous clouds, the spectacular formations showing delicate wisps of colors were photographed in the sky over an Australian meteorological base at Mawson Station on July 25.

Reuters RCV1 statistics

symbol	statistic	value
N	documents	800,000
L	avg. # word tokens per document	200
M	terms (= word types)	400,000
	avg. # bytes per word token (incl. spaces/punct.)	6
	avg. # bytes per word token (without spaces/punct.)	4.5
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4.5 bytes per word token vs. 7.5 bytes per word type: why?

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Index construction in IIR 1: Sort postings in memory

term	docID		term	docID
I	1		ambitious	2
did	1		be	2
enact	1		brutus	1
julius	1		brutus	2
caesar	1		capitol	1
I	1		caesar	1
was	1		caesar	2
killed	1		caesar	2
i'	1		did	1
the	1		enact	1
capitol	1		hath	1
brutus	1		I	1
killed	1		I	1
me	1	⇒	i'	1
so	2		it	2
let	2		julius	1
it	2		killed	1
be	2		killed	1
with	2		let	2
caesar	2		me	1
the	2		noble	2
noble	2		so	2
brutus	2		the	1
hath	2		the	2
told	2		told	2
you	2		you	2
caesar	2		was	1
was	2		was	2
ambitious	2		with	2

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- How can we construct an index for very large collections?
- Taking into account the hardware constraints we just learned about ...
- Memory, disk, speed etc.

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- Actually, we can do 100,000,000 in memory, but typical collections are much larger than RCV1.
- Thus: We need to store intermediate results on disk.

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- No: Sorting $T = 100,000,000$ records on disk is too slow – too many disk seeks.
- We need an external sorting algorithm.

“External” sorting algorithm (using few disk seeks)

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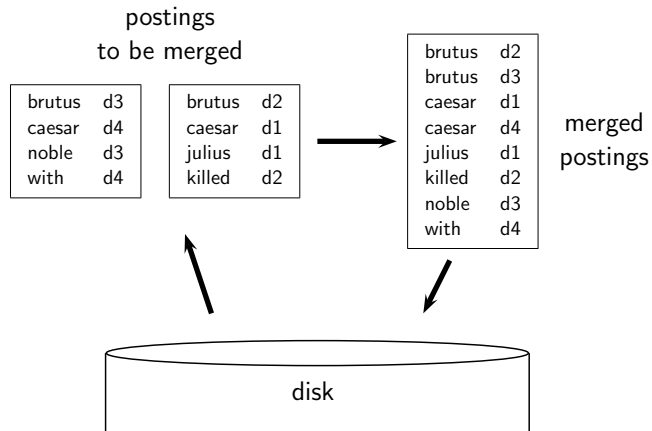
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 - Accumulate postings for each block, sort, write to disk.
 - Then merge the blocks into one long sorted order.

Merging two blocks



Blocked Sort-Based Indexing

BSBIINDEXCONSTRUCTION()

```
1   $n \leftarrow 0$ 
2  while (all documents have not been processed)
3  do  $n \leftarrow n + 1$ 
4       $block \leftarrow \text{PARSENEXTBLOCK}()$ 
5       $\text{BSBI-INVERT}(block)$ 
6       $\text{WRITEBLOCKTODISK}(block, f_n)$ 
7   $\text{MERGEBLOCKS}(f_1, \dots, f_n; f_{\text{merged}})$ 
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- Key decision: What is the size of one block?

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- We need the dictionary (which grows dynamically) in order to implement a term to termID mapping.
- Actually, we could work with term,docID postings instead of termID,docID postings ...
- ... but then intermediate files become very large. (We would end up with a scalable, but very slow index construction method.)

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- These separate indexes can then be merged into one big index.

SPIMI-Invert

```
SPIMI-INVERT(token_stream)
1  output_file = NEWFILE()
2  dictionary = NEWHASH()
3  while (free memory available)
4  do token  $\leftarrow$  next(token_stream)
5      if term(token)  $\notin$  dictionary
6          then postings_list = ADDTODICTIONARY(dictionary, term(token))
7          else postings_list = GETPOSTINGSLIST(dictionary, term(token))
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Merging of blocks is analogous to BSBI.

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- For web-scale indexing (don't try this at home!): must use a distributed computer cluster
- Individual machines are fault-prone.
 - Can unpredictably slow down or fail.
- How do we exploit such a pool of machines?

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- Calculate the number of servers failing per minute for an installation of 1 million servers.

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- Break up indexing into sets of parallel tasks
- Master machine assigns each task to an idle machine from a pool.

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- Each split is a subset of documents.

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 - E.g., a-f, g-p, q-z (here: $j = 3$)

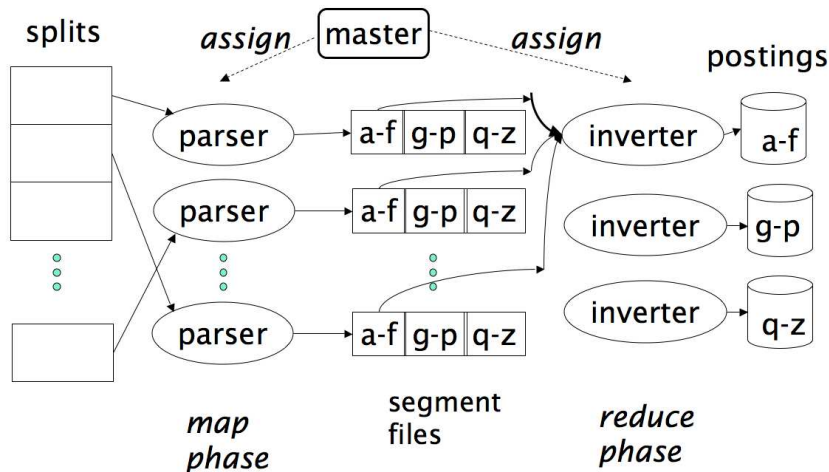
Inverters

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- Sorts and writes to postings lists

Data flow



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- MapReduce is a robust and conceptually simple framework for distributed computing ...
- ... without having to write code for the distribution part.
- The Google indexing system (ca. 2002) consisted of a number of phases, each implemented in MapReduce.

MapReduce

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- MapReduce is a robust and conceptually simple framework for distributed computing ...
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- Index construction was just one phase.
- Another phase: transform term-partitioned into document-partitioned index.

MapReduce schema

Index construction in MapReduce

Schema of map and reduce functions

$$\text{map: } \text{input} \rightarrow \text{list}(k, v)$$

reduce: $(k, \text{list}(v)) \rightarrow \text{output}$

Instantiation of the schema for index construction

```
map:      web collection                                → list(termID, docID)
```

reduce: $(\langle \text{termID}_1, \text{list}(\text{docID}) \rangle, \langle \text{termID}_2, \text{list}(\text{docID}) \rangle, \dots) \rightarrow (\text{postings_list}_1, \text{postings_list}_2, \dots)$

Example for index construction

$$\text{map: } d_2 : \text{C DIED. } d_1 : \text{C CAME, C C'ED.} \rightarrow (\langle \text{C}, d_2 \rangle, \langle \text{DIED}, d_2 \rangle, \langle \text{C}, d_1 \rangle, \langle \text{CAME}, d_1 \rangle, \langle \text{C}, d_1 \rangle, \langle \text{C}$$

reduce: $(\langle C, (d_2, d_1, d_1) \rangle, \langle DIED, (d_2) \rangle, \langle CAME, (d_1) \rangle, \langle C'ED, (d_1) \rangle) \rightarrow (\langle C, (d_1:2, d_2:1) \rangle, \langle DIED, (d_2:1) \rangle, \langle CAME, (d_1:1) \rangle, \langle C'ED, (d_1:1) \rangle)$

Outline

- 1 Recap
- 2 Introduction
- 3 BSBI algorithm
- 4 SPIMI algorithm
- 5 Distributed indexing
- 6 Dynamic indexing**

Dynamic indexing

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- They rarely are.
- Documents are inserted, deleted and modified.
- This means that the dictionary and postings lists have to be modified.

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- Periodically, merge auxiliary index into one main index
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 - Filter docs returned by index using this invalidation bit-vector; only return “valid” docs to user

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 - Merge is the same as a simple append.
 - But then we would need a lot of files – inefficient.
- Assumption for the rest of the lecture: The index is one big file.
- In reality: Use a scheme somewhere in between (e.g., split very large postings lists, collect postings lists of length 1 in one file etc.)

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- or merge with I_0 (if I_0 already exists) and write merger to I_1 etc.

```

LMERGEADDTOKEN(indexes,  $Z_0$ , token)
1   $Z_0 \leftarrow \text{MERGE}(Z_0, \{\text{token}\})$ 
2  if  $|Z_0| = n$ 
3    then for  $i \leftarrow 0$  to  $\infty$ 
4      do if  $l_i \in \text{indexes}$ 
5        then  $Z_{i+1} \leftarrow \text{MERGE}(l_i, Z_i)$ 
6          ( $Z_{i+1}$  is a temporary index on disk.)
7           $\text{indexes} \leftarrow \text{indexes} - \{l_i\}$ 
8        else  $l_i \leftarrow Z_i$  ( $Z_i$  becomes the permanent index  $l_i$ .)
9           $\text{indexes} \leftarrow \text{indexes} \cup \{l_i\}$ 
10         BREAK
11      $Z_0 \leftarrow \emptyset$ 

```

```

LOGARITHMICMERGE()
1   $Z_0 \leftarrow \emptyset$  ( $Z_0$  is the in-memory index.)
2   $\text{indexes} \leftarrow \emptyset$ 
3  while true
4  do LMERGEADDTOKEN(indexes,  $Z_0$ , GETNEXTTOKEN())

```

Binary numbers: $l_3l_2l_1l_0 = 2^32^22^12^0$

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- So logarithmic merging is an order of magnitude more efficient.

Dynamic indexing at large search engines

- Often a combination

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 - Frequent incremental changes

Dynamic indexing at large search engines

- Often a combination
 - Frequent incremental changes
 - Occasional complete rebuild

Building positional indexes

Building positional indexes

- Basically the same problem except that the intermediate data structures are large.

Resources

- Chapter 4 of IIR

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