String Matching Algorithms

Topics

- Basics of Strings
- Brute-force String Matcher
- Rabin-Karp String Matching Algorithm
- KMP Algorithm

In string matching problems, it is required to find the occurrences of a pattern in a text.

These problems find applications in text processing, text-editing, computer security, and DNA sequence analysis.

- Text : $T[1..n]$ of length n and Pattern $P[1..m]$ of length m.
- The elements of P and T are characters drawn from a finite alphabet set Σ.
- For example, $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$ or $\Sigma = \{a, b, \ldots, z\}$, or $\Sigma = \{c, g, a, t\}$.
- The character arrays of P and T are also referred to as strings of characters.
- Pattern P is said to occur with shift s in text T

  if $0 \le s \le n-m$ and

  $T[s+1..s+m] = P[1..m]$ or

  $T[s+j] = P[j]$ for $1 \le j \le m$,

  such a shift is called a valid shift.

The string-matching problem is the problem of finding all valid shifts with which a given pattern P occurs in a given text T.

Brute force string-matching algorithm

To find all valid shifts or possible values of s so that
***P[1..m] = T[s+1..s+m]* ;**
There are *n-m+1* possible values of *s*.

Procedure BF_String_Matcher(T,P)

1. $n \leftarrow$ length $[T]$;
2. $m \leftarrow$ length$[P]$;
3. **for** $s \leftarrow 0$ *to* $n-m$
4. **do if** $P[1..m] = T[s+1..s+m]$
5. **then** shift s is valid

This algorithm takes $\Theta((n-m+1)m)$ in the worst case.

Rabin-Karp Algorithm

Let $\Sigma = \{0,1,2, . . .,9\}$.
We can view a string of k consecutive characters as representing a length-*k* decimal number.
Let *p* denote the decimal number for P[1..m]
Let t_s denote the decimal value of the length-m substring $T[s+1..s+m]$ of $T[1..n]$ for $s = 0, 1, . . ., n-m$.

$t_s = p$ if and only if
$T[s+1..s+m] = P[1..m]$, and *s* is a valid shift.

$$p = P[m] + 10(P[m-1] + 10(P[m-2] + . . . + 10(P[2] + 10(P[1])))$$

We can compute *p* in O(*m*) time.

Similarly we can compute t_0 from $T[1..m]$ in $O(m)$ time.

m =4

$$6378 = 8 + 7 \times 10 + 3 \times 10^2 + 6 \times 10^3$$

$$= 8 + 10\,(7 + 10\,(3 + 10(6)))$$

$$= 8 + 70 + 300 + 6000$$

$$p = P[m] + 10(P[m\text{-}1] + 10(\mathrm{P}[m\text{-}2] + \ldots + 10(P[2] + 10(P[1]))$$

t_{s+1} **can be computed from** t_s **in constant time.**

$t_{s+1} = 10(t_s - 10^{m-1}\, T[s+1]) + T[s+m+1]$

Example : $T = 314152$

$t_s = 31415$, $s = 0$, $m = 5$ **and** $T[s+m+1] = 2$

$t_{s+1} = 10(31415 - 10000 * 3) + 2 = 14152$

Thus p and $t_0, t_1, \ldots, t_{n-m}$ **can all be computed in** $O(n+m)$ **time.**

And all occurences of the pattern $P[1..m]$ **in the text** $T[1..n]$ **can be found in time** $O(n+m)$**.**

However, p **and** t_s **may be too large to work with conveniently.**

Do we have a simple solution!!

Computation of p and t_0 and the recurrence is done using modulus q.

In general, with a d-ary alphabet {0,1,…,d-1}, q is chosen such that $d \times q$ fits within a computer word.

The recurrence equation can be rewritten as

$t_{s+1} = (d(t_s - T[s+1]h) + T[s+m+1]) \bmod q,$

where $h = d^{m-1} (\bmod q)$ is the value of the digit "1" in the high order position of an m-digit text window.

Note that $t_s \equiv p \bmod q$ does not imply that $t_s = p$.

However, if t_s is not equivalent to p mod q ,

then $t_s \neq p$, and the shift s is invalid.

We use $t_s \equiv p \bmod q$ as a fast heuristic test to rule out the invalid shifts.

Further testing is done to eliminate spurious hits.

- an explicit test to check whether

$$P[1..m] = T[s+1..s+m]$$

$t_{s+1} = (d(t_s - T[s+1]h) + T[s+m+1]) \bmod q$

$h = d^{m-1} (\bmod q)$

Example :

T = 31415;   P = 26, n = 5, m = 2, q = 11

p = 26 mod 11 = 4

t0 = 31 mod 11 = 9

t1 = (10(9 - 3(10) mod 11) + 4) mod 11

= (10 (9- 8) + 4) mod 11 = 14 mod 11 = 3

Procedure RABIN-KARP-MATCHER(T,P,d,q)

Input : Text T, pattern P, radix d (which is typically $= |\Sigma|$), and the prime q.

Output : valid shifts s where P matches

$n \leftarrow$ length[T];
$m \leftarrow$ length[P];
$h \leftarrow d^{m-1} \bmod q$;
$p \leftarrow 0$;
$t_0 \leftarrow 0$;
for $i \leftarrow 1$ **to** m
    do $p \leftarrow (d \times p + P[i] \bmod q$;
        $t_0 \leftarrow (d \times t_0 + T[i] \bmod q$;
for $s \leftarrow 0$ **to** $n\text{-}m$
    do if $p = t_s$
        then if $P[1..m] = T[s+1..s+m]$
            then "pattern occurs with shift 's'
      if $s < n\text{-}m$
        then $t_{s+1} \leftarrow (d(t_s - T[s+1]h) + T[s+m+1]) \bmod q$;