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CS2420 Assignment 12 Huffman

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In this assignment I learned a lot more about the low-level functions of a computer. I learned how to properly use a bit set, and Byte classes. I learned how to easily construct a Huffman tree. It took a bit of work to get this assignment going, but overall I learned a lot. A Huffman tree is like a binary search tree, except data is only in the leaf nodes. The root node acts as a starter. To find something in the tree you use a bit code, a string of 1’s and 0’s. If there is a 0 you go left in the tree, a 1 you go right. This should lead to a leaf node with the value you are looking for.

## Complexity Experiment

For my experiments I tried to find out if this was a good compression algorithm. The first experiment I did was to see if the file was getting compressed well. I tested word count along with this. In the actual experiment I iterated through 0 to 100 words being used as symbols. Then recorded the time it took, the initial file size, and the compressed file size. I did this for each of the files provided.

## Graphs-File Size

## Graphs-Time

## Graphs-Summary

The above graphs show that this algorithm depends heavily on the size of the file. When the algorithm is run on a file with one or two words/letters the compressed file ended up being much bigger that the original(a\_few\_letters, alphabet, alphabetplus, simple). The Declaration of independence file however was only smaller when using 0 words as symbols. For every file, the size when using 0 words was vastly different from the size when using 1-100 words as symbols. The very large files(constitution, two\_cities, and green\_eggs\_and\_ham) came out with smaller compressed files. The conclusion drawn from this is that this algorithm is better the larger the file. If the file is only a few words than it creates a bigger file and that isn’t compression. The timing graphs all show a complexity of O(NlogN) with N being the number of words used as symbols. The more words being used as symbols the longer it takes to process the file.

## Software Engineering

This assignment took me 15 – 20 hours. It was a much harder assignment than the rest. I struggled getting the bits to write properly for the body of the text. The easiest part was getting the tree working though. I did attempt to make a gui for this, but it just wasn’t coming together fast enough. I did trim down my timing tests even more for this assignment, streamlining them into a single parent class, and then a child class. This was simplest for the timing because I ran only one style of test, so all I had to do was make on class to do the testing instead of multiple like the previous assignment. I also update the parent class to have more functionality.

#### Bitsets

I learned a lot about bit sets in this assignment. I knew nothing about them except for the basic, it’s a string of zeroes and ones. The functionality wasn’t easy for me to get at first, but I got it down after studying the api. I learned how to get what you wanted out of the bitset.

#### ByteBuffer

I learned about how a byte buffer reads and processes bytes. The functionality of the buffer was fairly easy to get the hang of, but it didn’t seem to be working correctly in my code. I had to work on it for a bit to figure out exactly how to fix it. The buffer didn’t function the way that I originally assumed that it did.

#### ByteArrayInputStream

This was used to write bytes to a file. First time using it I learned how it stored everything and what was written into the array it contained. Learning how this functioned properly made it easy for me to get the writing correct for the header.