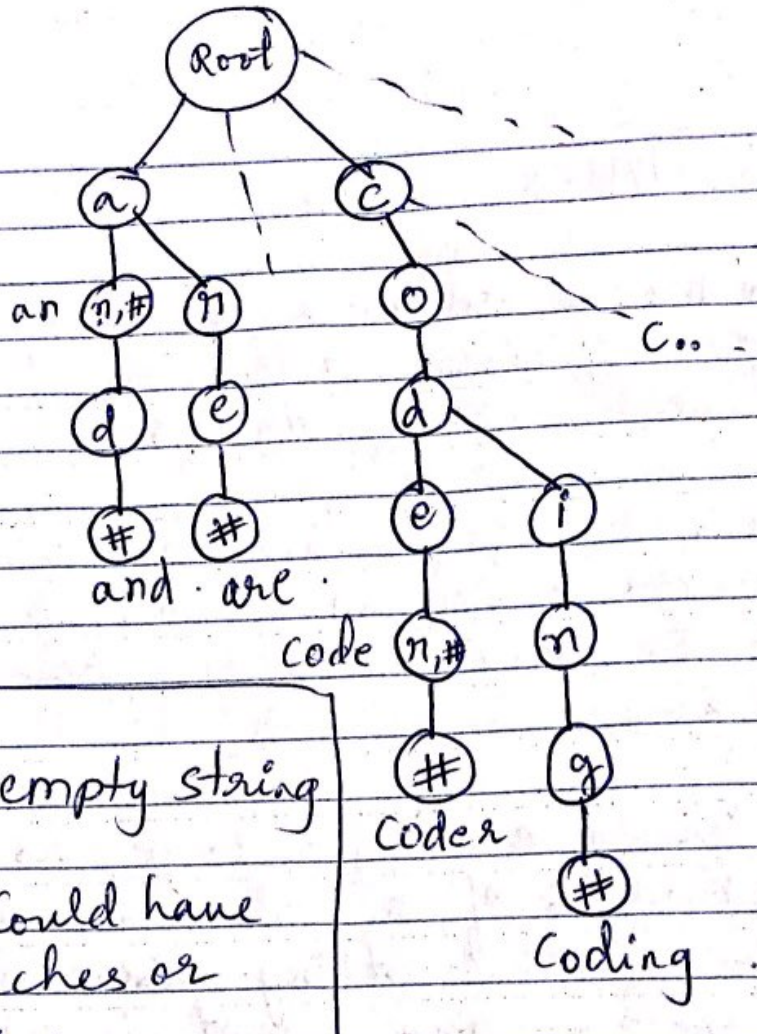
Tries

- It is a tree based data structure which is used for efficient retrieval of a key in a large data-set of strings.
- In trie, node's position in the tree defines the key with which it is associate and the key are only associated with the leaves.
- Also known as Prefix tree as all descendants of a node have a common prefix of the string associated with that node, and root is associated with an empty string.
- Basic form of trie representation is that,
  - → trie is a linked set of nodes
  - → where each node has an array of child pointers, one for each symbol in the alphabet (so for english, ⇒ 26 child pointers & for alphabet of bytes it is 256 pointers)
  - → Trie node has flag which specifies whether it corresponds to the end of the key or not.



Root ⇒ empty string

---- ⇒ Could have more branches or pointers.

Why Tries

* They can insert and find strings in O(L) time (where L represents the length of a single word).
* This is much faster than hash table & BST.

Trie implementation:

1) Trie Node
2) search string
3) Insert string

Insertion

- Every char of i/p key is inserted as an individual Trie Node.
- Children is an array or list of pointers to next level trie nodes.
- key char acts as an index into the array children.
- If input key is
  - → new or an extension of existing key ⇒ construct new nodes of the key & mark end of the word for last node
  - → a prefix of the existing key in Trie, mark the last node of the key as the end of a word.
  - → ~~key long~~
- Key length determines Trie depth.

Searching

- Like to insert operation, however we only compare the characters and move down.
- We can terminate the search due to the end of a string or lack of key in the trie.
- 'isEndOf'

Issues with Tries representation

- They need a lot of memory for storing the strings
- For each node we have too many nodes
- They are faster but needs huge memory.

There are tries Compression techniques. to Improve tries representation, but these only reduce the memory at leaves but not at the internal nodes.

CTC

Implementation

```
class TrieNode {
    boolean isEndOfString;
    TrieNode trieNodes[26];
    char data;
    public TrieNode(char c) {
        this.data = c;
        this.trieNodes = new TrieNode[26];
        isEndOfString = false;
    }

    public TrieNode subNode(char c) {
        if (trieNodes != null) {
            for (TrieNode trieNode : trieNodes) {
                if (trieNode[c - 'a']
                    != null) {
                    return trieNode[c-'a'];
                }
            }
        }
    }
class Trie {
```

CTCI Trie info.

- Trie is a variant of an n-ary tree. in which chars are stored at each node.

Hash table vs trie.

- A hash will give O(1) for lookup & insertion, but first we have to calculate the hash based on the i/p string (s) which is O(s).

In case of trie, insertion & lookup is linear with the length of i/p string s i.e., O(s).

∴ In both cases asymptotic TC is linear.

We use hash table, when we need to lookup for full words. This is easier to code, test & maintain.

When we need to find prefixes or suffixes use trie.