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Solution

Approach #1 Using HashMap [Accepted]

In this approach, we compare every string in $list1$ and $list2$ by traversing over the whole list $list2$ for every string chosen from $list1$. We make use of a hashmap map, which contains elements of the form $(sum : list_{sum})$. Here, sum refers to the sum of indices of matching elements and $list_{sum}$ refers to the list of matching strings whose indices' sum equals sum.

Thus, while doing the comparisons, whenever a match between a string at i^{th} index of $list1$ and j^{th} index of $list2$ is found, we make an entry in the map corresponding to the sum $i + j$, if this entry isn't already present. If an entry with this sum already exists, we need to keep a track of all the strings which lead to the same index sum. Thus, we append the current string to the list of strings corresponding to sum $i + j$.

At the end, we traverse over the keys of the map and find out the list of strings corresponding to the key reprsenting the minimum sum.

Java | Copy

```java
public class Solution {
    public String[] findRestaurant(String[] list1, String[] list2) {
        HashMap < Integer, List < String >> map = new HashMap < > ();
        for (int i = 0; i < list1.length; i++) {
            for (int j = 0; j < list2.length; j++) {
                if (list1[i].equals(list2[j])) {
                    if (!map.containsKey(i + j))
                        map.put(i + j, new ArrayList < String > ());
                    map.get(i + j).add(list1[i]);
                }
            }
        }
        int min_index_sum = Integer.MAX_VALUE;
        for (int key: map.keySet())
            min_index_sum = Math.min(min_index_sum, key);
        String[] res = new String[map.get(min_index_sum).size()];
        return map.get(min_index_sum).toArray(res);
    }
}
```

Complexity Analysis

- Time complexity : $O(l_1 * l_2 * x)$. Every item of $list1$ is compared with all the items of $list2$. l_1 and l_2 are the lengths of $list1$ and $list2$ respectively. And x refers to average string length.
- Space complexity : $O(l_1 * l_2 * x)$. In worst case all items of $list1$ and $list2$ are same. In that case, hashmap size grows upto $l_1 * l_2 * x$, where x refers to average string length.

Approach #2 Without Using HashMap [Accepted]

Algorithm

Another method could be to traverse over the various sum(index sum) values and determine if any such string exists in $list1$ and $list2$ such that the sum of its indices in the two lists equals sum.

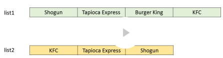
Now, we know that the value of index sum, sum could range from 0 to $m + n - 1$. Here, m and n refer to the length of lists $list1$ and $list2$ respectively. Thus, we choose every value of sum in ascending order. For every sum chosen, we iterate over $list1$. Suppose, currently the string at i^{th} index in $list1$ is being considered. Now, in order for the index sum sum to be the one corresponding to matching strings in $list1$ and $list2$, the string at index j in $list2$ should match the string at index i in $list1$, such that $sum = i + j$.

Or, stating in other terms, the string at index j in $list2$ should be equal to the string at index i in $list1$, such that $j = sum - i$. Thus, for a particular sum and i(from $list1$), we can directly determine that we need to check the element at index $j = sum - i$ in $list2$, instead of traversing over the whole $list2$.

Doing such checks/comparisons, iterate over all the indices of $list1$ for every sum value chosen. Whenver a match occurs between $list1$ and $list2$, we put the matching string in a list res.

We do the same process of checking the strings for all the values of sum in ascending order. After completing every iteration over $list1$ for a particular sum, we check if the res list is empty or not. If it is empty, we need to continue the process with the next sum value considered. If not, the current res gives the required list with minimum index sum. This is because we are already considering the index sum values in ascending order. So, the first list to be found is the required resultant list.

The following example depicts the process:



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Java | Copy

```java

public class Solution {
    public String[] findRestaurant(String[] list1, String[] list2) {
        List < String > res = new ArrayList < > ();
        for (int sum = 0; sum < list1.length + list2.length - 1; sum++) {
            for (int i = 0; i <= sum; i++) {
                if (i < list1.length && sum - i < list2.length && list1[i].equals(list2[sum - i]))
                    res.add(list1[i]);
            }
            if (res.size() > 0)
                break;
        }
        return res.toArray(new String[res.size()]);
    }
}
```

Complexity Analysis

- Time complexity : $O((l_1 + l_2)^2 * x)$. There are two nested loops upto $l_1 + l_2$ and string comparison takes x time. Here, x refers to the average string length.
- Space complexity : $O(r * x)$. res list is used to store the result. Assuming r is the length of res.

Approach #3 Using HashMap (linear) [Accepted]

We make use of a HashMap to solve the given problem in a different way in this approach. Firstly, we traverse over the whole $list1$ and create an entry for each element of $list1$ in a HashMap map, of the form $(list[i], i)$. Here, i refers to the index of the i^{th} element, and $list[i]$ is the i^{th} element itself. Thus, we create a mapping from the elements of $list1$ to their indices.

Now, we traverse over $list2$. For every element ,$list2[j]$, of $list2$ encountered, we check if the same element already exists as a key in the map. If so, it means that the element exists in both $list1$ and $list2$. Thus, we find out the sum of indices corresponding to this element in the two lists, given by $sum = map.get(list[j]) + j$. If this sum is lesser than the minimum sum obtained till now, we update the resultant list to be returned, res, with the element $list2[j]$ as the only entry in it.

If the sum is equal to the minimum sum obtained till now, we put an extra entry corresponding to the element $list2[j]$ in the res list.

Below code is inspired by @cloud.runner

Java | Copy

```java
public class Solution {
    public String[] findRestaurant(String[] list1, String[] list2) {
        HashMap < String, Integer > map = new HashMap < String, Integer > ();
        for (int i = 0; i < list1.length; i++)
            map.put(list1[i], i);
        List < String > res = new ArrayList < > ();
        int min_sum = Integer.MAX_VALUE, sum;
        for (int j = 0; j < list2.length && j <= min_sum; j++) {
            if (map.containsKey(list2[j])) {
                sum = j + map.get(list2[j]);
                if (sum < min_sum) {
                    res.clear();
                    res.add(list2[j]);
                    min_sum = sum;
                } else if (sum == min_sum)
                    res.add(list2[j]);
            }
        }
        return res.toArray(new String[res.size()]);
    }
}
```

Complexity Analysis

- Time complexity : $O(l_1 + l_2)$. Every item of $list2$ is checked in a map of $list1$. l_1 and l_2 are the lengths of $list1$ and $list2$ respectively.
- Space complexity : $O(l_1 * x)$. hashmap size grows upto $l_1 * x$, where x refers to average string length.

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Post

ryanleitaiwan ★ 65 Last Edit: October 15, 2018 10:34 AM

To reduce space complexity to O(min(l1, l2) * x), we can force list1 to be no longer than list2.

```
if (list1.length > list2.length) return findRestaurant(list2, list1);
```

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Subhadeep2704 ★ 366 June 1, 2018 10:48 AM

I think the last solution is most intuitive, and j<= sum is not required.

7 | Show 1 reply | Reply

ronaldabellano ★ 49 May 23, 2019 7:15 AM

Can somebody explain to me what is minimum sum index of two list? Because what I thought was sum of two list count. I couldn't start

Python3

Autocomplete

```python
class Solution:
    def findRestaurant(self, list1: List[str], list2: List[str]) -> List[str]:

        di1, di2 = {}, {}
        di = {}
        output = []

        for i,v in enumerate(list1) :
            di1.update({v: i})

        for i,v in enumerate(list2) :
            di2.update({v: i})

        print(di1)
        set1= set(di1)
        set2= set(di2)

        for key in set1.intersection(set2) :
            di.update({key: (di1[key] + di2[key])})

        for key,v in di.items() :
            if v == min(di.values()) :
                output.append(key)

        return output
```

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