

Trie

August 25, 2019

1 Building a Trie in Python

Before we start let us reiterate the key components of a Trie or Prefix Tree. A trie is a tree-like data structure that stores a dynamic set of strings. Tries are commonly used to facilitate operations like predictive text or autocomplete features on mobile phones or web search.

Before we move into the autocomplete function we need to create a working trie for storing strings. We will create two classes: * A Trie class that contains the root node (empty string) * A TrieNode class that exposes the general functionality of the Trie, like inserting a word or finding the node which represents a prefix.

Give it a try by implementing the TrieNode and Trie classes below!

```
In [19]: ## Represents a single node in the Trie
class TrieNode:
    def __init__(self):
        self.is_word = False
        self.children = {}

    def insert(self, char):
        self.children[char] = TrieNode()

    def suffixes(self, suffix = ''):
        result = list()
        self.suffixes_recursive(result)
        return result

    def suffixes_recursive(self, suffix, word=''):
        for key in self.children:
            node = self.children[key]
            if node.is_word:
                suffix.append(word + key)
            node.suffixes_recursive(suffix, word + key)

class Trie:
    def __init__(self):
        self.root = TrieNode()

    def insert(self, word):
```

```

        current = self.root
    for char in word:
        if char not in current.children:
            current.insert(char)
        current = current.children[char]
    current.is_word = True

def find(self, prefix):
    current = self.root
    for char in prefix:
        if char not in current.children:
            return None
        current = current.children[char]
    return current

```

2 Finding Suffixes

Now that we have a functioning Trie, we need to add the ability to list suffixes to implement our autocomplete feature. To do that, we need to implement a new function on the TrieNode object that will return all complete word suffixes that exist below it in the trie. For example, if our Trie contains the words ["fun", "function", "factory"] and we ask for suffixes from the f node, we would expect to receive ["un", "unction", "actory"] back from `node.suffixes()`.

Using the code you wrote for the TrieNode above, try to add the suffixes function below. (Hint: recurse down the trie, collecting suffixes as you go.)

3 Testing it all out

Run the following code to add some words to your trie and then use the interactive search box to see what your code returns.

```

In [20]: MyTrie = Trie()
        wordList = [
            "ant", "anthology", "antagonist", "antonym",
            "fun", "function", "factory",
            "trie", "trigger", "trigonometry", "tripod",
            "panda", "pandin", "pandon",
            "chango", "changuito"
        ]
        for word in wordList:
            MyTrie.insert(word)

```

```

In [18]: from ipywidgets import widgets
        from IPython.display import display
        from ipywidgets import interact
        def f(prefix):
            if prefix != '':
                prefixNode = MyTrie.find(prefix)

```

```
        if prefixNode:
            print('\n'.join(prefixNode.suffixes()))
        else:
            print(prefix + " not found")
    else:
        print('')
    interact(f,prefix='');

interactive(children=(Text(value='', description='prefix'), Output()), _dom_classes=('widget-int

In [ ]:
```