Hash Tables: String Search

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Data Structures
Data Structures and Algorithms

Outline

1. Search Pattern in Text
2. Rabin-Karp's Algorithm
3. Improving Running Time

Searching for Patterns

Given a text T (book, website, facebook profile) and a pattern P (word, phrase, sentence), find all occurrences of P in T.

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Examples

- Your name on a website
- Twitter messages about your company
- Detect files infected by virus — code patterns

Substring Notation

Definition

Denote by $S[i..j]$ the substring of string S starting in position i and ending in position j.

Examples

If $S =$ "abcde", then

$S[0..4] =$ "abcde",

$S[1..3] =$ "bcd",

$S[2..2] =$ "c".

Find Pattern in Text

Input: Strings T and P.

Output: All such positions i in T, $0 \leq i \leq |T| - |P|$ that $T[i..i + |P| - 1] = P$.

Naive Algorithm

For each position i from 0 to $|T| - |P|$, check character-by-character whether $T[i..i + |P| - 1] = P$ or not.
If yes, append i to the result.

AreEqual(S_1, S_2)

```
if |S_1| ≠ |S_2|:
  return False
for i from 0 to |S_1| − 1:
  if S_1[i] ≠ S_2[i]:
    return False
return True
```

FindPatternNaive(T, P)

```
result ← empty list
for i from 0 to |T| − |P|:
    if AreEqual(T[i..i + |P| − 1], P):
        result.Append(i)
return result
```

Running Time

Lemma

Running time of `FindPatternNaive`(T, P) is $O(|T||P|)$.

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Running time of `FindPatternNaive`(T, P) is $O(|T||P|)$.

Proof

- Each `AreEqual` call is $O(|P|)$
- $|T| - |P| + 1$ calls of `AreEqual` total to $O((|T| - |P| + 1)|P|) = O(|T||P|)$ $\square$

Bad Example

If $T =$ "$\texttt{aaa}\ldots\texttt{aa}$" and $P =$ "$\texttt{aaa}\ldots\texttt{ab}$", and $|T| \gg |P|$, then for each position i in T from 0 to $|T| - |P|$ the call to `AreEqual` has to make all $|P|$ comparisons.

This is because $T[i..i + |P| - 1]$ and P differ only in the last character.

Thus, in this case the naive algorithm runs in time $\Theta(|T||P|)$.

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- Idea: use hashing to quickly compare P with substrings of T

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Rabin-Karp's Algorithm

- If $h(P) \neq h(S)$, then definitely $P \neq S$
- If $h(P) = h(S)$, call $\texttt{AreEqual}(P, S)$
- Use polynomial hash family $\mathcal{P}_p$ with prime p
- If $P \neq S$, the probability $Pr[h(P) = h(S)]$ is at most $\frac{|P|}{p}$ for polynomial hashing

RabinKarp(T, P)

```
p ← big prime, x ← random(1, p − 1)
result ← empty list
pHash ← PolyHash(P, p, x)
for i from 0 to |T| − |P|:
  tHash ← PolyHash(T[i..i+|P|−1], p, x)
  if pHash ≠ tHash:
    continue
  if AreEqual(T[i..i + |P| − 1], P):
    result.Append(i)
return result
```

False Alarms

"False alarm" is the event when P is compared with $T[i..i+|P|-1]$, but $P \neq T[i..i+|P|-1]$.

The probability of "false alarm" is at most $\frac{|P|}{p}$

On average, the total number of "false alarms" will be $(|T|-|P|+1)\frac{|P|}{p}$, which can be made small by selecting $p \gg |T||P|$.

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AreEqual Running Time

- `AreEqual` is computed in $O(|P|)$
- `AreEqual` is called only when $h(P) = h(T[i..i + |P| - 1])$, meaning that either an occurrence of P is found or a "false alarm" happened
- By selecting $p \gg |T||P|$ we make the number of "false alarms" negligible

Total Running Time

- If P is found q times in T, then total time spent in `AreEqual` is $O((q + \frac{(|T|-|P|+1)|P|}{p})|P|) = O(q|P|)$ for $p \gg |T||P|$

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- Total running time is $O(|T||P|) + O(q|P|) = O(|T||P|)$ as $q \leq |T|$
- Same as naive algorithm, but can be improved!

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Idea: polynomial hashes of two consecutive substrings of T are very similar

For each i denote $h(T[i..i+|P|-1])$ by $H[i]$

Consecutive substrings

$$T = \quad \text{a} \quad \text{b} \quad \text{c} \quad \text{b} \quad \text{d}$$

$$T' = \boxed{0}\boxed{1}\boxed{2}\boxed{1}\boxed{3} \qquad |P| = 3$$

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$$h(\texttt{"cbd"}) =$$

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Consecutive substrings

$$
\begin{array}{rl}
T = & \begin{array}{ccccc} \mathrm{a} & \mathrm{b} & \mathrm{c} & \mathrm{b} & \mathrm{d} \end{array} \\
T' = & \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline 0 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 3 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad |P| = 3
\end{array}
$$

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$$H[2] = h(\texttt{"cbd"}) = 2 + x + 3x^2$$

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$$= x \sum_{j=i+1}^{i+|P|} T[j]x^{j-i-1} + (T[i] - T[i+|P|]x^{|P|}) \bmod p$$

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$$H[i] = xH[i+1] + (T[i] - T[i+|P|]x^{|P|}) \bmod p$$

PrecomputeHashes($T, |P|, p, x$)

```
H ← array of length |T| − |P| + 1
S ← T[|T| − |P|..|T| − 1]
H[|T| − |P|] ← PolyHash(S, p, x)
y ← 1
for i from 1 to |P|:
   y ← (y × x) mod p
for i from |T| − |P| − 1 down to 0:
   H[i] ← (xH[i + 1] + T[i] − yT[i + |P|]) mod p
return H
```

$\texttt{PrecomputeHashes}(T, |P|, p, x)$

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$H[|T| - |P|] \leftarrow \texttt{PolyHash}(S, p, x)$
$y \leftarrow 1$
`for` i `from 1 to` $|P|$`:`
  $y \leftarrow (y \times x) \bmod p$
`for` i `from` $|T| - |P| - 1$ `down to 0:`
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$$O(|P|+|P|+|T| - |P|) = O(|T| + |P|)$$

Precomputing H

- `PolyHash` is called once — $O(|P|)$
- First for loop runs in $O(|P|)$
- Second for loop runs in $O(|T| - |P|)$
- Total precomputation time $O(|T| + |P|)$

RabinKarp(T, P)

```
p ← big prime, x ← random(1, p − 1)
result ← empty list
pHash ← PolyHash(P, p, x)
H ← PrecomputeHashes(T, |P|, p, x)
for i from 0 to |T| − |P|:
  if pHash ≠ H[i]:
    continue
  if AreEqual(T[i..i + |P| − 1], P):
    result.Append(i)
return result
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- Average running time $O(|T| + (q + 1)|P|)$
- Usually q is small, so this is much less than $O(|T||P|)$

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- Must use good hash families and randomization
- Hashes are also useful while working with strings and texts
- There are many more applications in distributed systems and data science