Building the index

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Have seen

- Given Inverted index, how compute the results for a query
  - Merge-based algorithms
- Data structure for accessing inverted index
  - Hash table
  - B+ tree

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Now

- How construct inverted index from "raw" document collection?
  - Don't worry about getting into final index data structure

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Preliminary decisions

- Define "document": level of granularity?
  - Book versus Chapter of book
  - Individual html files versus combined files that composed one Web page
- Define "term"
  - Include phrases?
    - How determine which adjacent words -- or all?
  - Stop words?

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Pre-processing text documents

- Give each document a unique ID: docID
- Tokenize text
  - Distinguish terms from punctuation, etc.
- Normalize tokens
  - Stemming
    - Remove endings: plurals, possessives, "ing",
      - cats -> cat; accessible -> access
    - Porter's algorithm (1980)
  - Lemmatization
    - Use knowledge of language forms
      - am, are, is -> be
    - More sophisticated than stemming

(See *Intro IR* Chapter 2)

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Useful tree structure: tries

- Strictly for character strings
- Each edge out of node labeled with one character
- Follow path root to leaf to spell word
- Leaf contain data for word
  - Usually pointer

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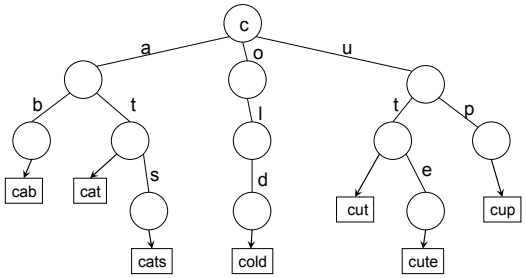
Example



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Tries: remarks

- Large height
  - slow look-up
  - can contract strings without fanout
- Useful for lexicon construction

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Construction of posting lists

- Overview
  - "document" now means preprocessed document
  - One pass through collection of documents
  - Gather postings for each document
  - Reorganize for final set of lists: one for each term
- Look at algorithms when can't fit everything in memory
  - Main cost file page reads and writes
    - Terminology: file page minimum unit can read from disk

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Memory- disk management

- Have buffer in main memory
  - Size = B file pages
  - Read from disk to buffer, page at a time
    - Disk cost = 1 per page
  - Write from buffer to disk, page at at time
    - Disk cost = 1 per page

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Sorting List on Disk - External Sorting General techique

- Divide list into size-B blocks of contiguous entries
- Read each block into buffer, sort, write out to disk
- Now have $\lceil L/B \rceil$ sorted sub-lists
  where L is size of list in file pages
- Merge sorted sub-lists into one list

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Merging Lists on Disk: General technique

- K sorted lists on disk to merge into one
- If K+1 <= B:
  - Dedicate one buffer page for output
  - Dedicate one buffer page for each list to merge input from different lists
  - Algorithm:
    Fill 1 buffer page from each list on disk
    Repeat until merge complete:
      Merge buffer input pages to output buffer pg
      When output buffer pg full, write to disk
      When input buffer pg empty, refill from its list

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- If K+1 > B:
  - Dedicate one buffer page for output
  - B-1 buffer page for input from different lists
  - Define “level-0 lists”: lists need to merge

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If K+1 > B: Algorithm

```
j=0
Repeat until one level-j list:
   { Group level-j lists into groups of B-1 lists
            // ⌈K/(B-1)⌉ gps for j=0
     For each group, merge into one level-(j+1) list by:
      { Fill 1 buffer page from each level-j list in group
        Repeat until level-j merge complete:
          Merge buffer input pages to output buffer pg
          When output buffer pg full,
              write to group's level-(j+1) list on disk
          When input buffer pg empty, refill from its list
      }
    j++
   }
```

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Number of file page read/writes?

- Merge lists?
- External sort?

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Index building Algorithm: “Block Sort-based”

1. Repeat until entire collection read:
   - Read documents, building (term, <attributes>, doc) tuples until buffer full
   - Sort tuples in buffer by term value as primary, doc as secondary
     - Tuples for one doc already together
     - Use sort algorithm that keeps appearance order for = keys: stable sorting
   - Build posting lists for each unique term in buffer
     - Re-writing of sorted info
   - Write partial index to disk
2. Merge partial indexes on disk into full index

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Merging partial indexes in “Blocked Sort-based”

- Lists of (term:postings list) entries must be merged
- Partial postings lists for one term must be merged
  - Concatenate
    - Keep documents sorted within posting list
- If postings for one document broken across partial lists, must merge

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What about anchor text?

- Complication
- Build separate anchor text index
  - strong relevance indicator
  - keeps index building less complicated

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Other separate indexes?

Examples

- Other strong relevance indicators
  - abstracts of documents
    - compare listing abstract positions 1st in main index
  - tiered indexes based on term weights
- types of documents
  - volatility
    - news articles
    - blogs
    - etc.

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Remarks: Index Building

- Aggregate Information on terms, e.g. document frequency, also needs to be computed as compute index
  - store w/ dictionary
- May not actually keep every occurrence, maybe just first k.
  - Early Google did this for k=4095. Why?
- What happens if dictionary not fit in main memory as build inverted index?

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