5.1 String Sorts

- strings in Java
- key-indexed counting
- LSD radix sort
- MSD radix sort
- 3-way radix quicksort
- suffix arrays
Keyword-in-context search

Given a text of \( n \) characters, preprocess it to enable fast substring search (find all occurrences of query string context).

```
% more tale.txt
it was the best of times
it was the worst of times
it was the age of wisdom
it was the age of foolishness
it was the epoch of belief
it was the epoch of incredulity
it was the season of light
it was the season of darkness
it was the spring of hope
it was the winter of despair
```
Keyword-in-context search

Given a text of $n$ characters, preprocess it to enable fast substring search (find all occurrences of query string context).

```
% java KWIC tale.txt 15

> search
  o st giless to search for contraband
  her unavailing search for your fathe
  le and gone in search of her husband
  t provinces in search of impoverishe
  dispersing in search of other carri
  n that bed and search the straw hold

better thing
  t is a far far better thing that i do than
  some sense of better things else forgotte
  was capable of better things mr carton ent
```

**Applications.** Linguistics, databases, web search, word processing, ....
Suffix sort

input string

```
input string

it was best it was w
```

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

form suffixes

```
0 i t w a s b e s t i t w a s w
1 t w a s b e s t i t w a s w
2 w a s b e s t i t w a s w
3 a s b e s t i t w a s w
4 s b e s t i t w a s w
5 b e s t i t w a s w
6 e s t i t w a s w
7 s t i t w a s w
8 t i t w a s w
9 i t w a s w
10 t w a s w
11 w a s w
12 a s w
13 s w
14 w
```

sort suffixes to bring query strings together

```
3 a s b e s t i t w a s w
12 a s w
5 b e s t i t w a s w
6 e s t i t w a s w
0 i t w a s b e s t i t w a s w
9 i t w a s w
4 s b e s t i t w a s w
7 s t i t w a s w
13 s w
8 t i t w a s w
1 t w a s b e s t i t w a s w
10 t w a s w
14 w
2 w a s b e s t i t w a s w
11 w a s w
```

array of suffix indices in sorted order
Keyword-in-context search: suffix-sorting solution

- Preprocess: suffix sort the text.
- Query: binary search for query; scan until mismatch.

KWIC search for “search” in Tale of Two Cities:

| 632698 | sealed _ my _ letter _ and _ ... |
| 713727 | seamstress _ is _ lifted _ ... |
| 660598 | seamstress _ of _ twenty _ ... |
| 67610  | seamstress _ who _ was _ wi ... |
| 4430   | search _ for _ contraband _ ... |
| 42705  | search _ for _ your _ father ... |
| 499797 | search _ of _ her _ husband _ ... |
| 182045 | search _ of _ impoverished _ ... |
| 143399 | search _ of _ other _ carrier ... |
| 411801 | search _ the _ straw _ hold _ ... |
| 158410 | seared _ marking _ about _ ... |
| 691536 | seas _ and _ madame _ dejar ... |
| 536569 | sea _ a _ terrible _ pass _ ... |
| 484763 | sea _ that _ had _ brought _ ... |
War story

Q. How to efficiently form (and sort) the $n$ suffixes?

```java
String[] suffixes = new String[n];
for (int i = 0; i < n; i++)
    suffixes[i] = s.substring(i, n);
Arrays.sort(suffixes);
```

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>input file</th>
<th>characters</th>
<th>Java 7u5</th>
<th>Java 7u6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>amendments.txt</td>
<td>18 K</td>
<td>0.25 sec</td>
<td>2.0 sec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aesop.txt</td>
<td>192 K</td>
<td>1.0 sec</td>
<td>out of memory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mobyduck.txt</td>
<td>1.2 M</td>
<td>7.6 sec</td>
<td>out of memory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chromosome11.txt</td>
<td>7.1 M</td>
<td>61 sec</td>
<td>out of memory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How much memory as a function of n?

String[] suffixes = new String[n];
for (int i = 0; i < n; i++)
    suffixes[i] = s.substring(i, n);
Arrays.sort(suffixes);

A. 1
B. n
C. n log n
D. n^2
The String data type: Java 7u5 implementation

```java
public final class String implements Comparable<String> {
    private char[] value; // characters
    private int offset;   // index of first char in array
    private int length;   // length of string
    private int hash;     // cache of hashCode()
    ...

    String s = "Hello, World";
    String t = s.substring(7, 12);
    (constant extra memory)
```
The String data type: Java 7u6 implementation

```java
public final class String implements Comparable<String> {
    private char[] value;  // characters
    private int hash;      // cache of hashCode()
    ...
}
```

String `s = "Hello, World";`

```
value[]:  H   E   L   L   L   O   ,   W   O   R   L   D
         0  1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11
```

String `t = s.substring(7, 12);`

(Linear extra memory)

```
value[]:  W   O   R   L   D
         0  1  2  3  4
```
The String data type: performance

String data type (in Java). Sequence of characters (immutable).

Java 7u5. Immutable char[] array, offset, length, hash cache.
Java 7u6. Immutable char[] array, hash cache.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>operation</th>
<th>Java 7u5</th>
<th>Java 7u6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>length</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>indexing</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>concatenation</td>
<td>$m + n$</td>
<td>$m + n$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>substring extraction</td>
<td>$\bullet$</td>
<td>$n$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>immutable?</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>memory</td>
<td>$64 + 2n$</td>
<td>$56 + 2n$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I'm the author of the substring() change. As has been suggested in the analysis here there were two motivations for the change

- Reduce the size of String instances. Strings are typically 20-40% of common apps footprint.
- Avoid memory leakage caused by retained substrings holding the entire character array.

Changing this function, in a bugfix release no less, was totally irresponsible. It broke backwards compatibility for numerous applications with errors that didn't even produce a message, just freezing and timeouts... All pain, no gain. Your work was not just vain, it was thoroughly destructive, even beyond its immediate effect.

http://www.reddit.com/r/programming/comments/1qw73v/til_oracle_changed_the_internal_string
Q. How to efficiently form (and sort) suffixes in Java 7u6?
A. Define `Suffix` class ala Java 7u5 `String` representation.

```java
public class Suffix implements Comparable<Suffix> {
    private final String text;
    private final int offset;
    public Suffix(String text, int offset) {
        this.text = text;
        this.offset = offset;
    }
    public int length() { return text.length() - offset; }
    public char charAt(int i) { return text.charAt(offset + i); }
    public int compareTo(Suffix that) { /* see textbook */ }
}
```
**Suffix sort**

**Q.** How to efficiently form (and sort) suffixes in Java 7u6?

**A.** Define `Suffix` class ala Java 7u5 `String` representation.

```java
Suffix[] suffixes = new Suffix[n];
for (int i = 0; i < n; i++)
    suffixes[i] = new Suffix(s, i);
Arrays.sort(suffixes);
```

**Optimizations.** [5× faster and 32× less memory than Java 7u5 version]

- Use 3-way string quicksort instead of `Arrays.sort()`.
- Manipulate suffix offsets directly instead of via explicit `Suffix` objects.
Suffix arrays: theory


"has no practical virtue... but a historic monument in the area of string processing."

LINEAR PATTERN MATCHING ALGORITHMS
Peter Weiner
The Rand Corporation, Santa Monica, California

Abstract
In 1970, Knuth, Pratt, and Morris [1] showed how to do basic pattern matching in linear time. Related problems, such as those discussed in [4], have previously been solved by efficient but sub-optimal algorithms. In this paper, we introduce an interesting data structure called a bi-tree. A linear time algorithm for obtaining a compacted version of a bi-tree associated with a given string is presented. With this construction as the basic tool, we indicate how to solve several pattern matching problems, including some from [4], in linear time.

A Space-Economical Suffix Tree Construction Algorithm

EDWARD M. McCREIGHT
Xerox Palo Alto Research Center, Palo Alto, California

Abstract. A new algorithm is presented for constructing auxiliary digital search trees to aid in exact-match substring searching. This algorithm has the same asymptotic running time bound as previously published algorithms, but it is more economical in space. Some implementation considerations are discussed, and new work on the modification of these search trees in response to incremental changes in the strings they index (the update problem) is presented.

On-line construction of suffix trees

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Suffix arrays: practice

Applications. Bioinformatics, information retrieval, data compression, ...

Many ingenious algorithms.
- Constants and memory footprint very important.
- State-of-the-art still changing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>year</th>
<th>algorithm</th>
<th>worst case</th>
<th>memory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Manber–Myers</td>
<td>$n \log n$</td>
<td>$8n$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Larsson–Sadakane</td>
<td>$n \log n$</td>
<td>$8n$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Kärkkäinen–Sanders</td>
<td>$n$</td>
<td>$13n$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Ko–Aluru</td>
<td>$n$</td>
<td>$10n$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>divsufsort2</td>
<td>$n \log n$</td>
<td>$5n$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>sais</td>
<td>$n$</td>
<td>$6n$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>