DSC 190

DATA STRUCTURES & ALGORITHMS

Lecture 15 | Part 1

Today's Lecture

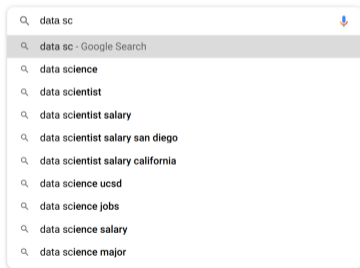# String Data Structures

- One of the themes of this quarter:

- If you're doing something once, use an algorithm.

- If you're doing it over and over, use an appropriate data structure.

String Data Structures

▶ Over the next two lectures, we'll look at data structures for strings.

▶ Today: **tries** for efficient repeated **prefix queries**.

Autocompletion

Google

data sc	
data sc - Google Search	
data science	
data scientist	
data scientist salary	
data scientist salary san diego	
data scientist salary california	
data science ucsd	
data science jobs	
data science salary	
data science major	

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Lecture 15 | Part 2

Tries

Trie

- A data structure for storing strings.

- Pronounced "try", short for "re**trie**val".

- Supports fast **prefix query** and **membership query**.

Prefixes

▶ A **prefix** p of a string s is a contiguous slice of the form `s[0:t]`, for some *t*.

▶ Examples:
  ▶ `"test"` is a prefix of `"testing"`
  ▶ `"te"` is a prefix of `"testing"`
  ▶ `"sa"` is a prefix of `"san diego"`
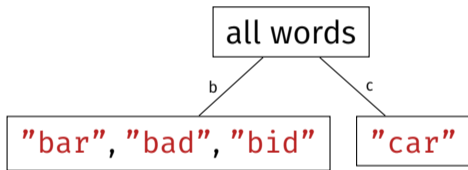 ▶ `"di"` is **not** a prefix of `"san diego"`

Prefix Query

▶ **Given**: a collection of *n* strings and a prefix, p.

▶ **Find**: all strings in the collection for which p is a prefix.

▶ Example:
  ▶ "bar", "bad", "bid", "car"
  ▶ p = "ba"

Brute Force

▶ Loop over each of *n* strings, compare against prefix p.
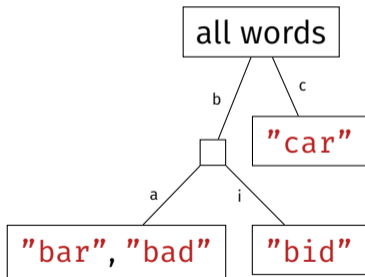
▶ Worst-case time: $\Theta(n \cdot |p|)$
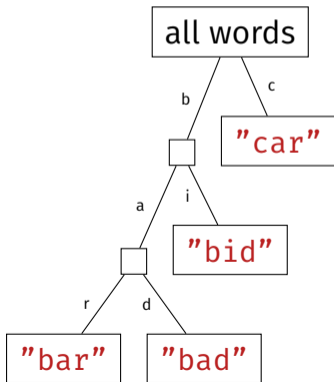
Trie: Motivation

"bar", "bad", "bid", "car"

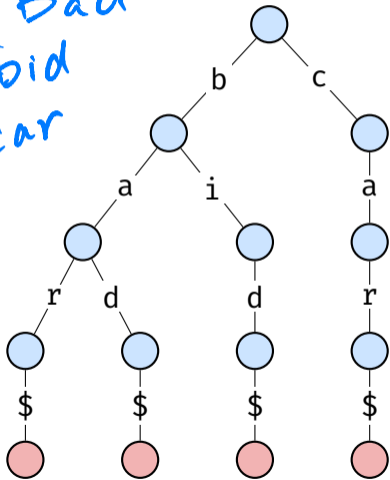# Trie: Motivation

"bar", "bad", "bid", "car"

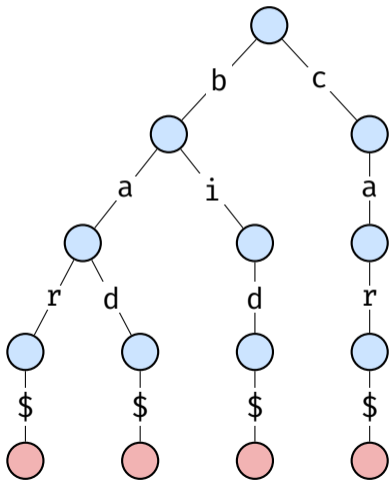# Trie: Motivation

"bar", "bad", "bid", "car"

Tries

- ▶ Internal nodes represent prefixes.

- ▶ Leaf nodes represent full words.

- ▶ Edges are characters.

- ▶ Words are encoded as paths.

Sentinels

- ▶ $ is a **sentinel**.

- ▶ It is different from the dollar sign character.

- ▶ It marks the end of a word.

- ▶ Used to show that "bar" in trie, but "ba" not.

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Implementing Tries
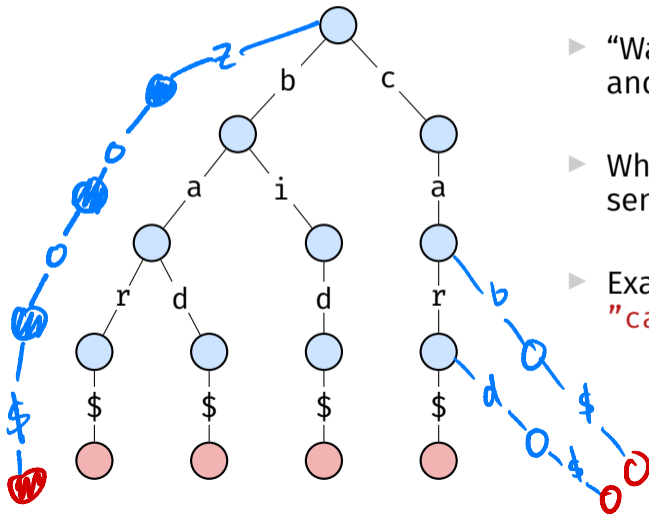
Representation

S = "$"

▶ Each node has a hash table / array mapping characters to a child nodes.

▶ Sentinel represented with a singleton object?

```python
END_OF_STRING = object()

class TrieNode:

    def __init__(self):
        self.children = {}
```
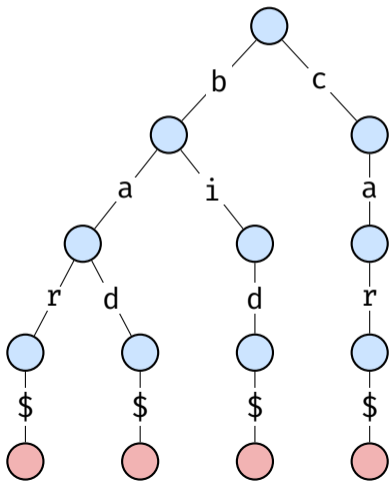
Insertion

- ▶ "Walk" down tree, creating edges and nodes as necessary.

- ▶ When no more letters left, add sentinel.

- ▶ Example: insert "cab", "card", "zoo"

Insertion (Recursive)

- ▶ Suppose we `.insert(s)` on root node.

- ▶ If `s[0]` not in `self.children`, create a new node.

- ▶ Otherwise, let child be `self.children[s[0]]`.

- ▶ Recursively insert `s[1:]` into child.

```python
def insert(self, s, start=0, stop=None):
    """Insert s[start:stop] into the trie."""
    if stop is None:
        stop = len(s)

    if start >= stop:
        self.children[END_OF_STRING] = TrieNode()
        return

    if s[start] not in self.children:
        self.children[s[start]] = TrieNode()

    child = self.children[s[start]]
    child.insert(s, start + 1, stop)
```
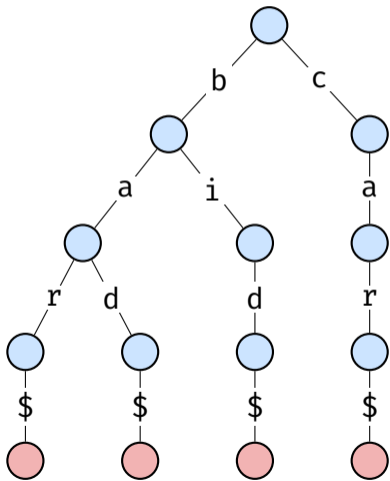
Insertion Time Complexity

▶ $\Theta(|w|)$ time, where w is the string inserted.

▶ No matter how many elements in trie!

Walk

- Useful operation.

- Given a prefix, "walk" down tree.

- If we "fall off", raise error.

- Otherwise, return last node seen.

- Examples: "ba", "bo"

```python
def walk(self, s, start=0, stop=None):
    """Walk the trie following s[start:stop].
    Raises ValueError if falls off tree.
    Returns last node encountered otherwise."""
    if stop is None:
        stop = len(s)

    if start >= stop:
        return self

    if s[start] not in self.children:
        raise ValueError('Fell off tree.')
    else:
        child = self.children[s[start]]
        return child.walk(s, start + 1, stop)
```
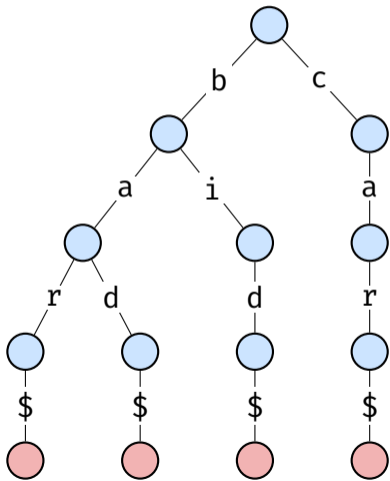
Walk Time Complexity

▶ Worst-case $\Theta(|p|)$ time, where p is the prefix searched.

▶ No matter how many elements in trie!

Membership Query

- ▶ Given p, return True/False if p in collection.

- ▶ "Walk" down tree.

- ▶ If we "fall off", return False.

- ▶ If not, check that sentinel in children.
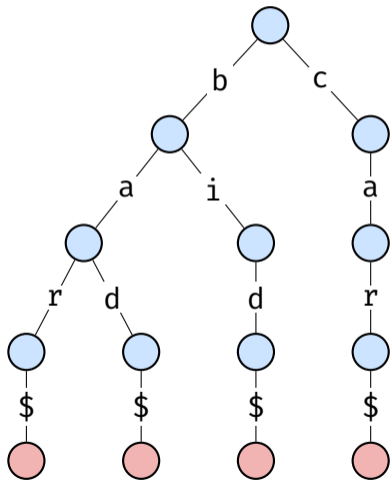
- ▶ Examples: "ba", "bad"

```python
def membership_query(self, s, start=0, stop=None):
    """Determine if s[start:stop] is in trie."""
    try:
        node = self.walk(s, start, stop)
    except ValueError:
        return False

    return END_OF_STRING in node.children
```

Membership Query Time Complexity

▶ Worst-case $\Theta(|w|)$ time, where w is the prefix searched.

▶ No matter how many elements in trie!

Produce

- ▶ Goal: generate all words in subtrie.

- ▶ Perform a DFS, keeping track of letters along path.

- ▶ If we find a sentinel, print path.

```python
def produce(self, pathchars=''):
    """Generate the words in the trie."""
    for letter, child in self.children.items():
        if letter is END_OF_STRING:
            yield pathchars
        else:
            yield from child.produce(pathchars + letter)
```
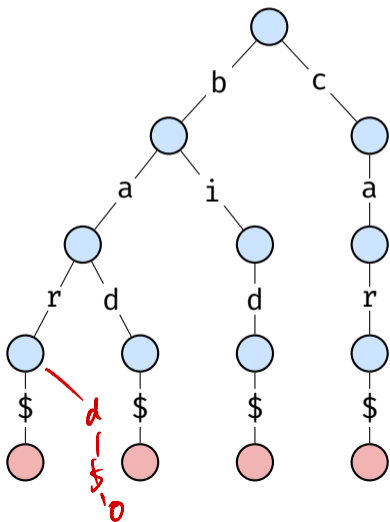
def even_numbers():   for x in even_numbers():
    x = 0   print(x)
    while True:
        yield x
        x += 2

Produce Time Complexity

▶ Worst-case $\Theta(\ell)$ time, where ℓ is total length of all strings stored in the `trie`.

▶ If length strings is considered a constant, this is $\Theta(n)$.

Prefix Query (Complete)

- ▶ Given p, return all completions.

- ▶ "Walk" down tree.

- ▶ If we "fall off", return empty list..

- ▶ If not, produce all nodes in subtrie.

- ▶ Examples: "ba", "bad"

$$\text{sum}[x**2 \text{ for } x \text{ in range}(1000000)]$$

```python
def complete(self, prefix):
    try:
        node = self.walk(prefix)
    except ValueError:
        return []
    return list(node.produce())
```

list(prefix + s for s in node.produce())

Prefix Query Time Complexity

▶ Worst-case $\Theta(|p| + \ell_p)$ time, where p is the prefix searched and ℓ_p is the total length of all matches.

▶ If length is considered constant, this is $\Theta(|p| + z)$, where z is number of matches.

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Demo