Index Construction

Introduction to Information Retrieval
INF 141
Donald J. Patterson

Content adapted from Hinrich Schütze
http://www.informationretrieval.org

Overview

- Introduction
- Hardware
- BSBI - Block sort-based indexing
- SPIMI - Single Pass in-memory indexing
- Distributed indexing
- Dynamic indexing
- Miscellaneous topics

Indices

The index has a list of vector space models

Letter from dead sister haunts brothers

Every time Julie Jensen's brothers hear the letter read, it brings everything back. Most of all, they wonder if they could have saved her. Her husband now stands trial for allegedly killing her. "I pray I'm wrong + nothing happens," Julie wrote days before her 1998 death. full story

1 1998
1 Every
1 Her
1 I
1 I'm
1 Jensen's
2 Julie
1 Letter
1 Most
1 all
1 allegedly
1 back
1 before
1 brings
2 brothers
1 could
1 days
1 dead
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1 everything
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1 from
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1 it
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1 letter
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1 now
1 of
1 pray
1 read,
1 saved
1 sister
1 stands
1 story
1 the
2 they
1 time
1 trial
1 wonder
1 wrong
1 wrote

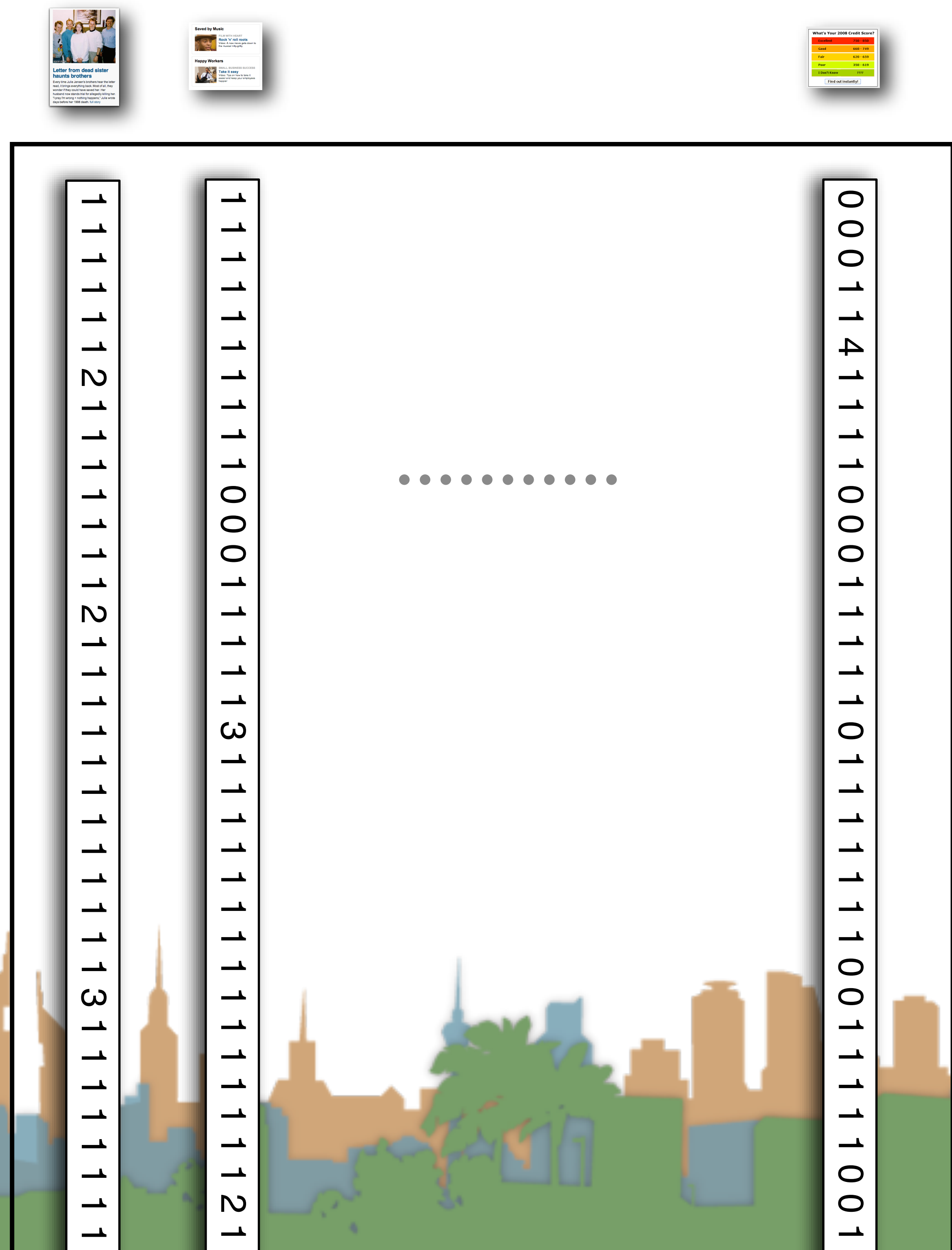
1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 3 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 1

Indices

"Term-Document Matrix" Capture Keywords

A Column for Each Web Page (or "Document")

A Row For Each Word (or "Term")



- This picture is deceptive it is really very sparse
- Our queries are terms - not documents
- We need to "invert" the vector space model
- To make "postings"

Introduction

Terms

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- Inverted index

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    - (Term, Document) pairs

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  - building blocks for working with Term-Document Matrices

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- Index construction (or indexing)
  - The process of building an inverted index from a corpus
- Indexer
  - The system architecture and algorithm that constructs the index

The index is built from term-document pairs

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- Core indexing step is to sort by terms

Indices

Term-document pairs make lists of postings

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- A posting is a list of all documents in which a term occurs.
- This is “inverted“ from how documents naturally occur

Terms

- How do we construct an index?

Interactions

- An indexer needs raw text
  - We need crawlers to get the documents
  - We need APIs to get the documents from data stores
  - We need parsers (HTML, PDF, PowerPoint, etc.) to convert the documents
- Indexing the web means this has to be done web-scale

Construction

- Index construction in main memory is simple and fast.
- But:
  - As we build the index we parse docs one at a time
  - Final postings for a term are incomplete until the end.
  - At 10-12 postings per term, large collections demand a lot of space
  - Intermediate results must be stored on disk

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Hardware in 2007

System Parameters

- Disk seek time = 0.005 sec
- Transfer time per byte = 0.00000002 sec
- Processor clock rate = 0.00000001 sec
- Size of main memory = several GB
- Size of disk space = several TB

System Parameters

- Disk Seek Time
  - The amount of time to get the disk head to the data
  - About 10 times slower than memory access
  - We must utilize caching
  - No data is transferred during seek
- Data is transferred from disk in blocks
  - There is no additional overhead to read in an entire block
    - 0.2 seconds to get 10 MB if it is one block
    - 0.7 seconds to get 10 MB if it is stored in 100 blocks

System Parameters

- Data is transferred from disk in blocks
  - Operating Systems read data in blocks, so
  - Reading one byte and reading one block take the same amount of time

Hardware in 2007

System Parameters

- Data transfers are done on the system bus, not by the processor
  - The processor is not used during disk I/O
  - Assuming an efficient decompression algorithm
    - The total time of reading and then decompressing compressed data is usually less than reading uncompressed data.

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Reuters collection example (approximate #'s)

- 800,000 documents from the Reuters news feed
- 200 terms per document
- 400,000 unique terms
- number of postings 100,000,000

REUTERS

You are here: Home > News > Science > **Article**

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Extreme conditions create rare Antarctic clouds

Tue Aug 1, 2006 3:20am ET

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[-] Text [+]

SYDNEY (Reuters) - Rare, mother-of-pearl colored clouds caused by extreme weather conditions above Antarctica are a possible indication of global warming, Australian scientists said on Tuesday.

Known as nacreous clouds, the spectacular formations showing delicate wisps of colors were photographed in the sky over an Australian meteorological base at Mawson Station on July 25.

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    - 306ish days?

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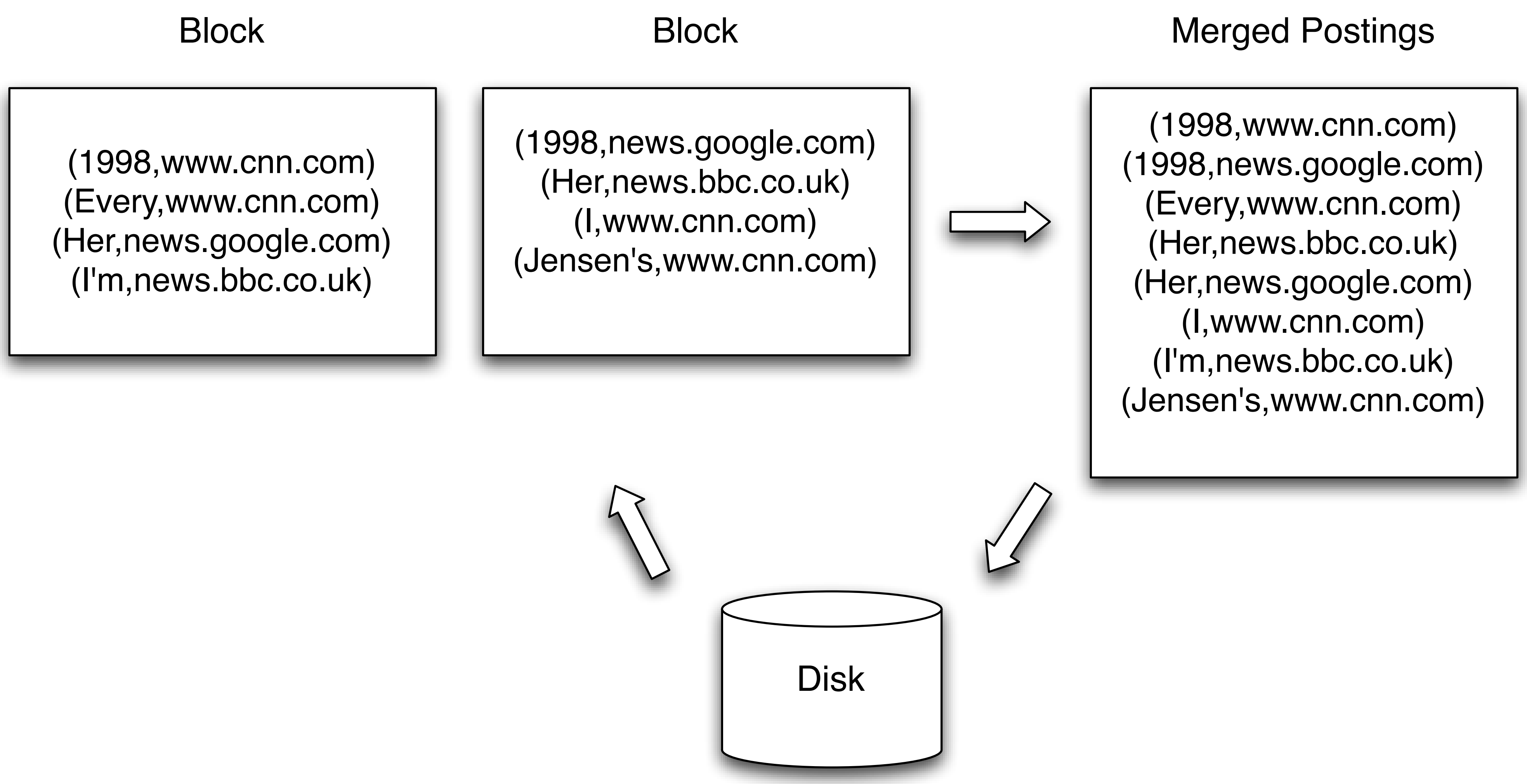
- = 84% of a year
- = 1% of your life

Different way to sort index

- 12-byte records (term, doc, meta-data)
- Need to sort T= 100,000,000 such 12-byte records by term
- Define a block to have 1,600,000 such records
  - can easily fit a couple blocks in memory
  - we will be working with 64 such blocks
- Accumulate postings for each block (real blocks are bigger)
- Sort each block
- Write to disk
- Then merge

BSBI - Block sort-based indexing

Different way to sort index



BSBI - Block sort-based indexing

BlockSortBasedIndexConstruction

```
BlockSortBasedIndexConstruction()
  n ← 0
  while (all documents not processed)
        do block ← ParseNextBlock()
              BSBI-Invert(block)
              WriteBlockToDisk(block, f_n)
  MergeBlocks(f_1, f_2..., f_n, f_merged)
```

Block merge indexing

- Parse documents into (TermID, DocID) pairs until “block” is full
- Invert the block
  - Sort the (TermID,DocID) pairs
  - Compile into TermID posting lists
- Write the block to disk
- Then merge all blocks into one large postings file
  - Need 2 copies of the data on disk (input then output)

Analysis of BSBI

- The dominant term is O(TlogT)
  - T is the number of TermID,DocID pairs
- But in practice ParseNextBlock takes the most time
- Then MergingBlocks
- Again, disk seeks times versus memory access times

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