61A Extra Lecture 4

Announcements

Encoding Strings

Representing Strings: UTF-8 Encoding

UTF (UCS (Universal Character Set) Transformation Format)

Unicode: Correspondence between characters and integers

UTF-8: Correspondence between those integers and bytes

A byte is 8 bits and can encode any integer 0-255.

bytes			integers
	00000000	0	
	00000001	1	
	00000010	2	
	00000011	3	

Variable-length encoding: integers vary in the number of bytes required to encode them.

In Python: string length is measured in characters, bytes length in bytes.

(Demo)

Fixed-Length Encodings

A First Attempt

- Let's use an encoding

Letter	Binary	Letter	Binary
a	0	n	1
b	1	o	0
c	0	p	1
d	1	q	1
e	1	r	0
f	0	s	1
g	0	t	0
h	1	u	0
i	1	v	1
j	1	w	1
k	0	x	1
l	1	y	0
m	1	z	0

Decoding

- An encoding without a deterministic decoding procedure is not very useful
- How many bits do we need to encode each letter uniquely?
  - lowercase alphabet
  - 5 bits

A Second Attempt

- Let's try another encoding

Letter	Binary	Letter	Binary
a	00000	n	01101
b	00001	o	01110
c	00010	p	01111
d	00011	q	10000
e	00100	r	10001
f	00101	s	10010
g	00110	t	10011
h	00111	u	10100
i	01000	v	10101
j	01001	w	10110
k	01010	x	10111
l	01011	y	11000
m	01100	z	11001

Analysis

Pros

- Encoding was easy
- Decoding was deterministic

Cons

- Takes more space…

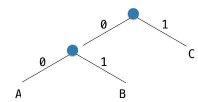
- What restriction did we place that's unnecessary?
  - Fixed length

Variable-Length Encodings

Variable Length Encoding

- Encoding Candidate 1: A: 1, B:01, C: 10, D: 11, E: 100, F: 101, ...
  - What does 01111 encode?
- Encoding Candidate 2: A: 00, B: 01, C: 100, D: 101, E: 1100, F: 1101, ...
  - What does 0100101 encode? How about 10111001101001001100?
- Deterministic decoding from left to right is possible if the encoding of one character is **never** a proper prefix of the decoding of another character.

Deterministic Codes Have a Tree Structure



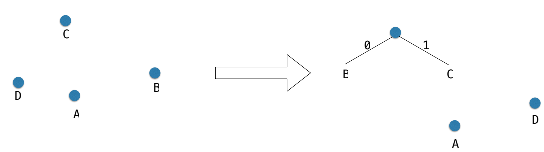
Letter	Binary
A	00
B	01
C	1

Huffman Encoding

- Let's pretend we want to come up with the optimal encoding:
  - AAAAAAAAAABBBBBCCCCCCCDDDDDDDDD
  - A appears 10 times
  - B appears 5 times
  - C appears 7 times
  - D appears 9 times

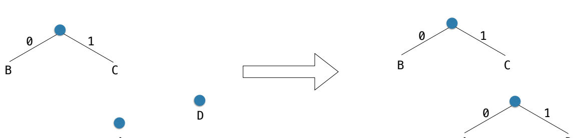
Huffman Encoding

- Start with the two smallest frequencies
  - A appears 10 times, B appears 5 times, C appears 7 times, D appears 9 times



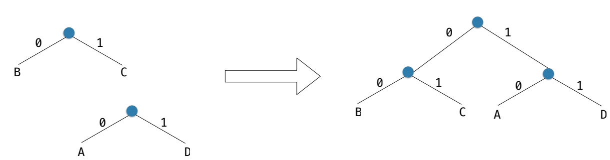
Huffman Encoding

- Continue…
  - A appears 10 times, B & C appear a combined 12 times, D appears 9 times



Huffman Encoding

- And finally…

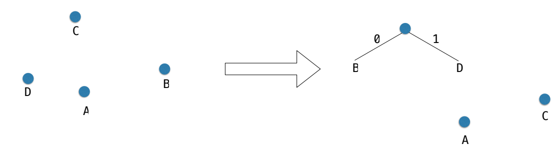


Huffman Encoding

- Another example…
  - AAAAAAAAAABCCD
  - A appears 10 times
  - B appears 1 time
  - C appears 2 times
  - D appears 1 time

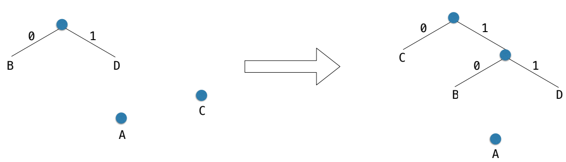
Huffman Encoding

- Start with the two smallest frequencies
  - A appears 10 times, B appears 1 time, C appears 2 times, D appears 1 time



Huffman Encoding

- Start with the two smallest frequencies
  - A appears 10 times, B & D appear a combined 2 times, C appears 2 times



Huffman Encoding

- And finally…