

Inverted-index-walkthrough

September 3, 2020

In this example, instead of actual terms, we use letters to represent any arbitrary unique term.

```
In [1]: # Task: construct an inverted index from this
# For simplicity: lets pretend that these letters are terms
corpus = [
    "a a b c", # id 0
    "a b c d c", # id 1
    "b a a b d", # id 2
    "c c c b e f g" # id 3
]

In [2]: # We can use enumerate to see the ids with the corresponding documents
for doc_id, document in enumerate(corpus):
    print(f"document {doc_id}: {document}")

document 0: a a b c
document 1: a b c d c
document 2: b a a b d
document 3: c c c b e f g
```

What we want to create from this corpus:
Assign each term a posting list of document ids

```
In [3]: # An inverted index could look like this:

sample_index = {
    "a": [0, 1, 2],
    "b": [0, 1, 2, 3],
    "c": [0, 1, 3],
    "d": [1, 2],
    "e": [3],
    "f": [3],
    "g": [3]
}

In [4]: # print every document containing c:
for i in sample_index["c"]:
    print("Document", i, ": ", corpus[i])
```

Document 0 : a a b c
Document 1 : a b c d c
Document 3 : c c c b e f g

How to build the index programatically

```
In [5]: index = {}  
        # Code here  
        for doc_id, document in enumerate(corpus):  
            for token in set(document.split()):  
                if token not in index:  
                    index[token] = [doc_id]  
                else:  
                    index[token].append(doc_id)  
index
```

```
Out[5]: {'b': [0, 1, 2, 3],  
        'a': [0, 1, 2],  
        'c': [0, 1, 3],  
        'd': [1, 2],  
        'f': [3],  
        'g': [3],  
        'e': [3]}
```

Here is another way to do it

```
In [6]: terms = set(" ".join(corpus).split())  
terms
```

```
Out[6]: {'a', 'b', 'c', 'd', 'e', 'f', 'g'}
```

```
In [7]: index = {t: [i for i in range(len(corpus)) if t in corpus[i]] for t in terms}  
index
```

```
Out[7]: {'c': [0, 1, 3],  
        'a': [0, 1, 2],  
        'f': [3],  
        'd': [1, 2],  
        'g': [3],  
        'b': [0, 1, 2, 3],  
        'e': [3]}
```

0.1 Note:

in the mandatory assignment: * The inverted index is not implemented as a dictionary, like in this notebook * The postings are objects containing both document ids and term frequencies, instead of single integers denoting only document ids * The documents are divided into fields and have their own class