
On string representation for efficient mining and searching over string database

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One of the most important primitive data types in modern data processing is strings. String data is ubiquitous, and its management has taken on particular importance in the past few years. An important research topic in string processing is string similarity join. A string similarity join finds all similar pairs between two collections of strings. It is an essential operation in many applications, such as data integration and cleaning, web page detection, and pattern recognition. Many similarity functions have been proposed to quantify the similarity between two strings. In this thesis, we study string similarity joins with edit distance constraints. There exist many algorithms to support string similarity join with edit distance constraint, such as All-Pairs-Ed, PPJoin, and ED-Join. Most of these algorithms follow the filter and verification paradigm, where indexes are used to filter many of the unpromising string pairs and generate candidate pairs, then these candidates are verified to output the final result. Recently, a verification-free, trie-based similarity join framework is proposed. It uses a trie structure to index all strings in a given dataset. Though, this framework has shown many advantages over the filter-and-verify framework, the main problem with current trie-based join algorithms is that they generate and maintain lots of candidate prefixes called active-nodes which need to be further removed. With large edit distance, active-node sets become large as well. To overcome this problem, they use many pruning techniques to remove false positive prefixes in a subsequent phase. This makes the existing algorithms inefficient for processing very large data sets with long strings, and higher edit distance threshold. In this thesis, we propose a new trie-based join algorithm called PreJoin, which improves upon current trie-based join methods. It efficiently finds all similar string pairs using a new active-node set generation method, and a dynamic preorder traversal of the trie index. We improve PreJoin in order to be suitable to deal with large edit distance. This improvement is called PreJoin-Plus algorithm. Experiments show that our approach is highly efficient for processing short as well as long strings, and outperforms the state-of-the-art trie-based join approaches by a factor of five.