IB047

Unix Text Tools for Corpus Processing

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Unix Text Tools Tradition

- Unix has tools for text processing from the very beginning (1970s)
- Small, simple tools, each tool doing only one operation
- Pipe (pipeline): powerful mechanism to combine tools

Short Description of Basic Text Tools

cat concatenate files and print on the standard output

head output the first part (few lines) of files

tail output the last part (few lines) of files

sort sort lines of text files

uniq remove duplicate lines from a sorted file

comm compare two sorted files line by line

wc print the number of newlines, words, and bytes in files

cut remove sections (columns) from each line of files

join join lines of two files on a common field

paste merge lines of files

tr translate or delete characters

Short Description of Basic Text Tools

egrep	prints lines matching a pattern
(g)awk	pattern scanning and processing language
sed	stream editor, use for substring replacement

Text Tools Documentation

info run `info` and select from a menu or run directly:

- info coreutils
- info head, info sort, . . .
- info gawk

man

- man 7 regex
- man grep, man awk, man tail, . . .

–help most tools display a short help message on the `--help` option

- sort --help, uniq --help, . . .

Unix Text Tools Packages

Where to find it

- set of system tools
- different sets and different features/options on each Unix type
- GNU textutils
- GNU coreutils – textutils + shellutils + fileutils
- other GNU packages: grep, sed, gawk

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Where to find it

- set of system tools
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- GNU textutils
- GNU coreutils – textutils + shellutils + fileutils
- other GNU packages: grep, sed, gawk
- installed on all Linux machines
- on Windows: install mingw32/cygwin, then coreutils, grep, …

Text Tools Usage

- command line tools – enter command in a terminal (console) window
- command name followed by options and arguments
- options start with -
- quote spaces and metacharacters: ', ", $
- redirect input and output from/to files using `<`, `>`
- use `| less` to only display a result without saving

Text Tools Example 1

task Convert plain text file to a vertical text.

input plain.txt

output plain.vert

solutions

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```
tr -s ' ' '\n' <plain.txt >plain.vert
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tr -sc a-zA-Z0-9 ’\n’ <plain.txt >plain.vert
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```

```
tr -sc a-zA-Z0-9 '\n' <plain.txt >plain.vert
```

```
perl -ne 'print "$&\n" while /(\w+|[^\w\s]+)/g' \
                  plain.txt >plain.vert
```

Text Tools Example 2

task Create a word list

input vertical text

output list of all unique words with frequencies

solutions

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output list of all unique words with frequencies

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```
sort plain.vert | uniq -c >dict
sort plain.vert | uniq -c | sort -rn | head -10
```

Text Tools Example 3

task	Corpus/list size
input	vertical text/word list
output	number of tokens/different words
solutions	

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```
wc -l plain.vert
wc -l dict
grep -c -i '^[a-z0-9]*$' plain.vert
```

Text Tools Example 4

task	Create a list of bigrams
input	vertical text
output	list of bigrams
solution	

Text Tools Example 4

task Create a list of bigrams

input vertical text

output list of bigrams

solution

```
tail +2 plain.vert |paste plain.vert - \
                |sort |uniq -c >bigram
```

Text Tools Example 5

task	Filtering
input	word list
output	selected values from word list
solutions	

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output	selected values from word list
solutions	

```
grep '^[0-9]*$' dict
awk '$1 > 100' dict
```

Text Tools Debuging

- data driven programming
- cut the pipline and display partial results
- try single command with a test input

Text Tools Exercise

task Find all words from a word list differing with s/z alternation only:
apologize/apologise

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solutions

```
tr s z < dict | sort |uniq -d >szaltern
```

Text Tools Exercises

- Find all words from a word list differing with
  s/z alternation only,
  and each alternation has higher frequency than 50

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- and display their frequences

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  s/z alternation only,
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- Find all words which occurs in the word list
  only with capital letter (names).

XML processing

- XML is a text
  - use same tools (textutils, grep, sort, ...)
- API
  - SAX – Simple API for XML
  - DOM – Document Object Model
- analogy of ”text” tools for XML

XML API - SAX

- Simple API for XML
- event driven computation
- events
  - begin/end of an element
  - element attribute
  - text
- a method/function is called for each event
- minimal resources required

XML API - DOM

- Document Object Model
- XML document is represented by a tree
- methods for accessing items of a document
- methods for editing (making changes)
- all in main memory
- good for a random access