

String Matching

Naive Algorithm Rabin-Karp Algorithm Knuth-Morris-Pratt Algorithm Boyer-Moore Algorithm

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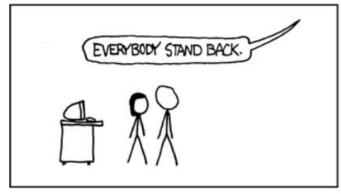
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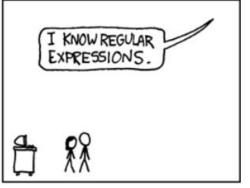


WHENEVER I LEARN A
NEW SKILL I CONCOCT
ELABORATE FANTASY
SCENARIOS WHERE IT
LETS ME SAVE THE DAY.

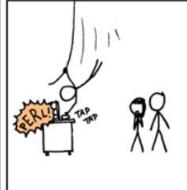








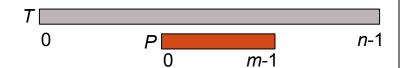






https://xkcd.com/208/

The String Matching problem



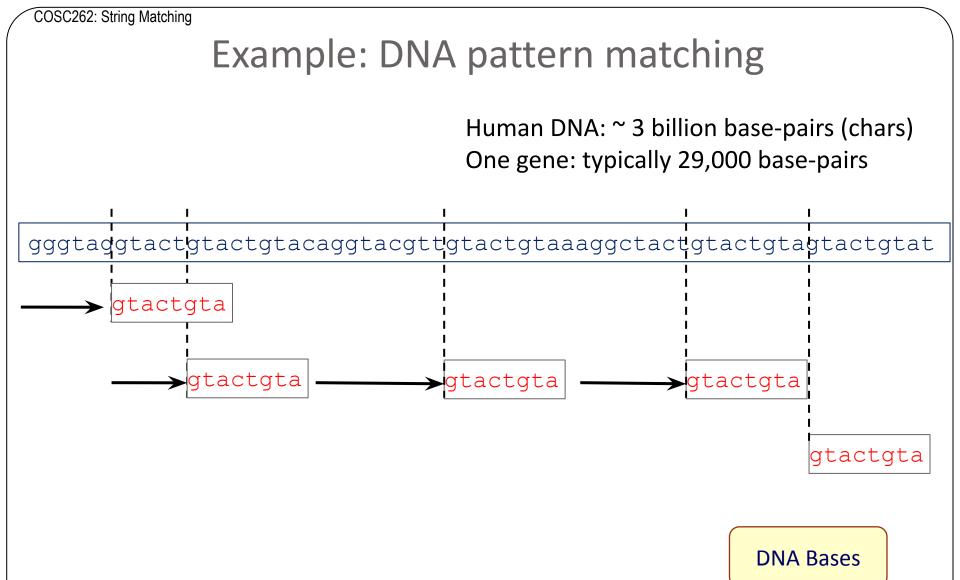
Text string containing n characters: T[0...n-1],

Search pattern containing m characters: P[0..m-1], m < n

- Determine whether P occurs in T
- Report every occurrence of P in T
- Generally, n is very large compared to m.

Applications:

- Search and replace functions in text editors
- Keyword searches in databases
- Internet applications
- DNA pattern matching

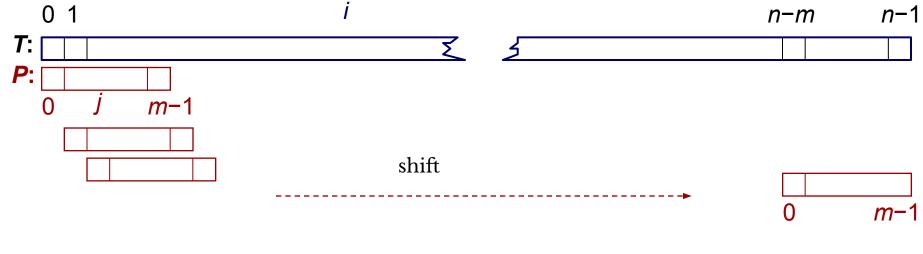


DNA strings are drawn from the alphabet $\Sigma = \{a, c, g, t\}$

Naïve Algorithm

Shift the pattern from left to right, one character position at a time, and report all matching positions i such that

$$T[shift+j] == P[j], \text{ for } j = 0, 1, ..., m-1.$$

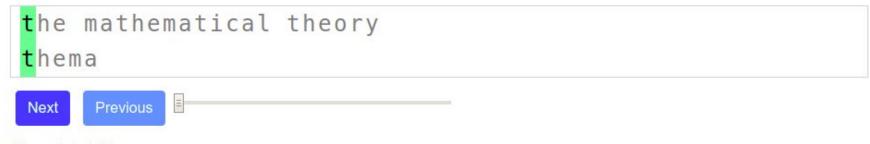


for shift in range(0, n - m + 1):
 j = 0
 while j < m and T[shift+j] == P[j]:
 j = j+1
 if j == m:
 print(shift)</pre>

Naïve Algorithm

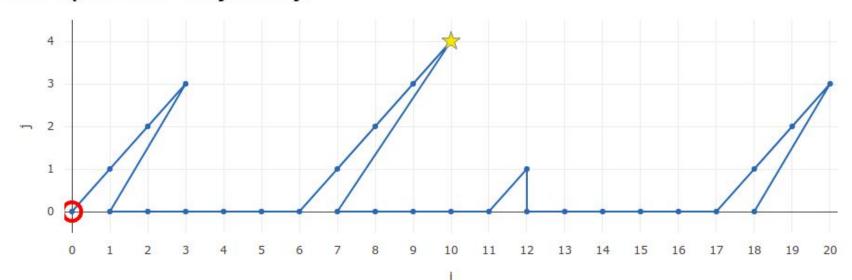
Watch it in action:

https://lobb.nz/stringmatchvisualiser/stringmatching.html



Show state table

Comparison Trajectory



Naïve Algorithm - Complexity

Best case: O(n)

aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa

bbbbbbbb

Worst case: O(nm)

aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaab

aaaaaab

Expected: O(n)

With random alphabetic text, probability of mismatch in the first character is 25/26.

A good (enough) algorithm with typical written text and shortish patterns.

Python String Matching

ASIDE

Built-in pattern matching (optimised string search) functions: str.find() (exact matching - naïve algorithm??)

```
text = 'Python string matching algorithms'
pattern = 'ing'
index = text.find(pattern)
while index > -1:
    print (index)
    index = text.find(pattern, index+1)
```

→10, 19

Sequence Matcher (partial matching - Ratcliff-Obsershelp algorithm)

```
from difflib import SequenceMatcher
text = 'ctgacttggcactcg'
pattern = 'tgactacgcac'
s = SequenceMatcher(None, text, pattern)
lyst = s.get_matching_blocks()
print(lyst)
```

Improved Pattern Matching

- The naïve algorithm does not remember the structure of previously matched strings.
- The search pattern needs to be first preprocessed in order to analyze its structure.
 - Pattern Preprocessing Algorithm
- We consider three important algorithms for exact pattern matching:
 - Rabin-Karp (RK) Algorithm
 - Knuth-Morris-Pratt (KMP) Algorithm
 - Boyer-Moore (BM) Algorithm

Matching by hashing

Consider the following code to look for a pattern in a string s:

```
s = "asdfasdfsadfadsfareadgsasdasdasaesasdfadeq"
pat = "asdfa"
m, n = len(pat), len(s)
hash_pat = hash(pat)
for i in range(n - m + 1):
   if hash(s[i : i + m]) == hash_pat:
     print(f"Possible match at position {i}")
```

which prints

```
Possible match at position 4
Possible match at position 34
```

But hash(s[i : i + m]) is O(m), so this code is O(nm) even without hash collisions. Much worse than naive algorithm.

Rabin-Karp algorithm

Precompute a hash of the pattern, hash-P O(m)

Think of the pattern as a sliding window over the text

for each possible window position: O(n)

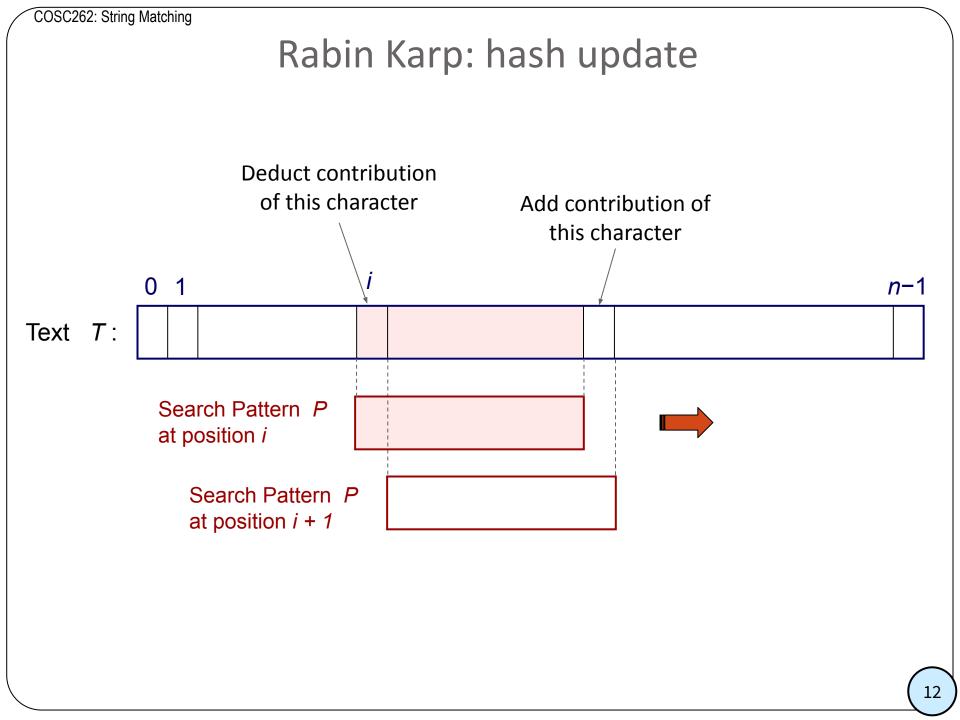
Compute hash of text in window, hash-W by updating hash from previous position O(1)

if hash-P == hash-W

if windowed text == pattern
 print matching position

Trick is to find a hash function with this property.

- Expected performance: O(n + m)
- Worst case: O(mn) checks all chars for every hash hit
- Good if multiple patterns P being matched (e.g. turnitin??)



Rabin-Karp Hashing Function

A "rolling hash"

Define

$$hash(t_i \dots t_{i+m-1}) = (t_i 2^{m-1} + t_{i+1} 2^{m-2} + \dots + t_{i+m-1} 2^0) \operatorname{mod} q$$

where t_i .. t_{i+m-1} is the text in the current window and q is a large prime number.

Then to update the hash for the window t_{i+1} .. t_{i+m} we have

$$egin{aligned} hash(t_{i+1}\mathinner{.\,.} t_{i+m}) &= (2 imes hash(t_i\mathinner{.\,.} t_{m-i+1}) - t_i 2^m + t_{i+m}) \mathsf{mod}\, q \ &= (2 imes hash(t_i\mathinner{.\,.} t_{m-i+1}) - t_i (2^m \mathsf{mod}\, q) + t_{i+m}) \mathsf{mod}\, q \end{aligned}$$

Written this way as 2^m could be massive.

Although straightforward, hash update is relatively expensive.

Precompute this

An improvement

Get far fewer hash collisions if use a bigger base, b > |alphabet| e.g. b = 256

$$hash(t_i \ldots t_{i+m-1}) = (t_i b^{m-1} + t_{i+1} b^{m-2} + \ldots + t_{i+m-1} b^0)$$
mod q

Update then becomes:

$$egin{aligned} hash(t_{i+1}\mathinner{.\,.} t_{i+m}) &= (b imes hash(t_{i}\mathinner{.\,.} t_{m-i+1}) - t_{i}b^{m} + t_{i+m}) \mathsf{mod}\, q \ &= (b imes hash(t_{i}\mathinner{.\,.} t_{m-i+1}) - t_{i}(b^{m} \mathsf{mod}\, q) + t_{i+m}) \mathsf{mod}\, q \end{aligned}$$

Written this way as b^m could be massive

Precompute this

Python code

```
BASE = 256
Q = 15487469 # Any largish prime
                                                        Searching complete works of
                                                       Shakespeare for a single string
def rabin karp search(pat, text):
  m, n = len(pat), len(text)
                                                     gave typically 0 or 1 hash mis-hits.
  i = j = 0
                                                        But naïve algorithm 3 x faster.
  hash p = 0 \# hash value for pattern
  hash t = 0 # hash value for text
  h = 1 # For calculating BASE^m % Q
  for i in range(m):
    h = (h * BASE) % Q
                                                  # Compute BASE<sup>n</sup> % Q
    hash p = (BASE * hash p + ord(pat[i])) % Q
                                                  # Computing pattern hash
    hash t = (BASE * hash t + ord(text[i])) % Q
                                                   # Computing window hash for i = 0
  for i in range(n - m + 1):
                                                   # For each window position
    if hash p == hash t:
      if pat == text[i : i + m]:
                                                   # Char-by-char comparison only on a hash hit
         print("Pattern found at index " + str(i))
    if i < n - m: # To prevent index error at end
      hash_t = (Q + BASE * hash_t - ord(text[i]) * h + ord(text[i + m])) % Q # Update hash
```

A modified version of code at https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/rabin-karp-algorithm-for-pattern-searching/

When Rabin-Karp really wins ...

- ... is when you're searching for any/all of a large number of patterns.
- Build a set of the hashes of all search patterns
- At each step, check if window hash is in the set
 - o O(1)
- Is this what *turnitin* does??

Improving naive algorithm on a mismatch

Consider Mismatch

T: aaaaaabaaaaabaaaaabaaaaabaaaaab

aaaaaaa

aaaaaaa

Clearly, on a mismatch in this case, we can restart at P'

Mismatch But with

T: aaaaaaabaaaaabaaaaabaaaaabaaaaab

P: aaaaaab

P': aaaaaab

Now on a mismatch we can only move the pattern 1 step, but we **don't** need to go back to check P[0], P[1], ... P[m - 2]

DFA pattern recognisers

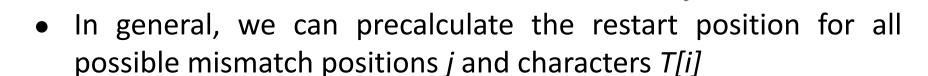
Mismatch

T: aaaaaabaaaaabaaaaabaaaaabaaaaab

P: aaaaaaa

P': aaaaaaa

i.e. the next *shift* to try

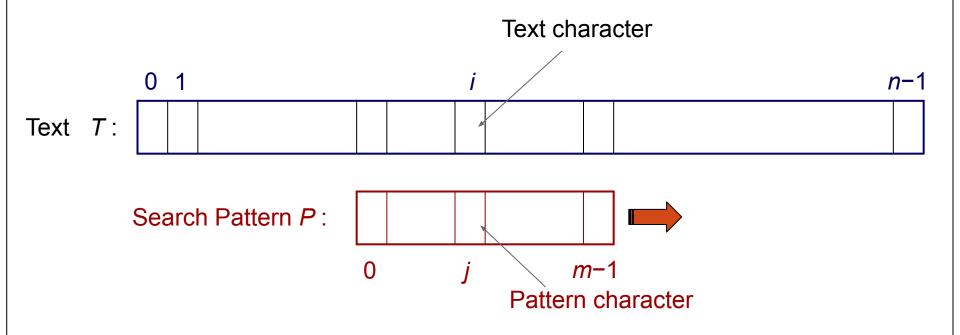


- Build a Deterministic Finite State Automaton (DFA)
 - See COSC261
- Checks T[i] exactly once O(n)
- But the DFA is usually too expensive to build (space and time)
- So we trade off slightly slower searching for faster preprocessing.

Knuth-Morris-Pratt (KMP) Algorithm

- Uses a pre-process to skip forwards after a failed match
 - Identifies repeated sequences in the pattern
 - Like a DFA, but with a fast approximate preprocess
- We *never* back up in the text, only in the pattern.
- Pre-process O(m) in space and time
- Searching: O(n) in time
 - At most 2n 1 character comparisons
- Overall: O(n + m)

String Matching Notation



Note: Here i represents the current character position in the text. P[j] is compared with T[i].

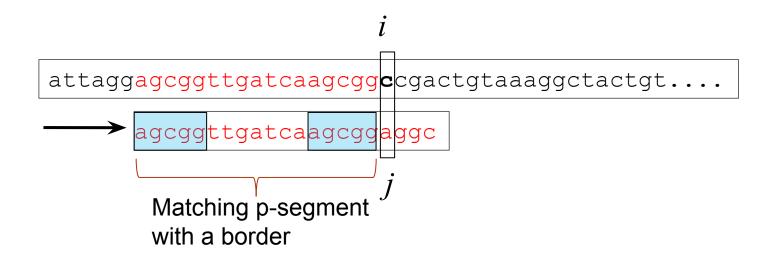
Text:
$$T = t_0 t_1 ... t_{n-1} = T[0: n]$$

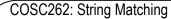
Pattern: $P = p_0 p_1 ... p_{m-1} = P[0: m]$

Matching Prefix Segment ("P-segment")

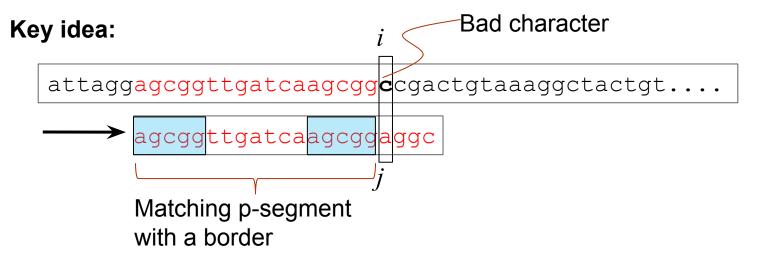
I introduce this term to reduce confusion with other prefixes in the algorithm.

- Suppose that the p-segment of the pattern *P*[0:*j*] has matched with the corresponding portion of the text.
- Match failed at P[j], i.e. $T[i] \neq P[j]$

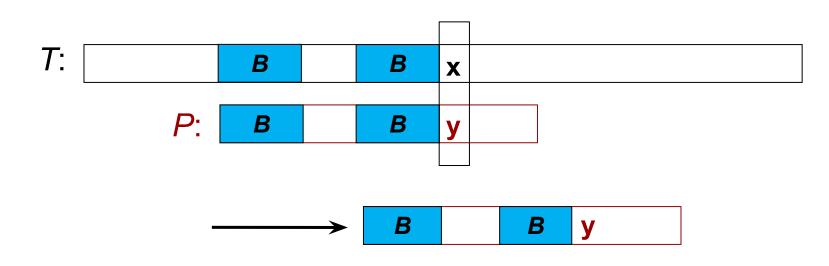




Matching P-segment and Bad Character

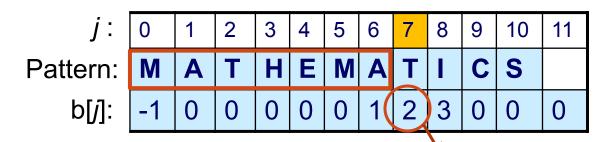


If B is the **widest** border of the matched p-segment of the pattern, the *minimum* shift worth trying is j - len(B) to align B again. No border => shift by j.



P-segment Borders

- We can use the information about the border of a matching prefix to shift a pattern.
- We will develop a method to pre-compute the widest borders of all p-segments of a given pattern, and store the border lengths in an array b[j]:



The length of the widest border of matching prefix MATHEMA

- We can use b[j] to shift the pattern when a bad character in the text corresponding to location j is found.
- b[0] = -1 for use as a terminator; see later.

Calculating borders: a brute-force approach

The brute-force way to calculate the length of the maximum borders of s is to try all border lengths from 1 up to len(s) - 1.

Need to do this for all P-segments.

But this is O(m³) - unacceptable. We need a better algorithm ...

Prefixes and Suffixes

Let $P = p_0 p_1 \dots p_{m-1}$ be a string of length m.

Let $p_{-1} = p_m = \varepsilon$ (null string of length 0).

A proper prefix of P is a substring S of P such that

$$S = p_0 ... p_{k-1}$$
, (or P[: k]), $0 \le k < m$.

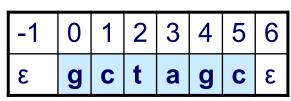
A proper suffix of P is a substring V of P such that

$$V = p_{m-k} ... p_{m-1}$$
, (or P[-k:]), $0 < k < m$.

Example:

Proper prefixes: ε, g, gc, gct, gcta, gctag

Proper suffixes: ε, c, gc, agc, tagc, ctagc



m = 6

Border of a String

A string that is both a proper prefix and a proper suffix of *P* is called a **border of** *P*.

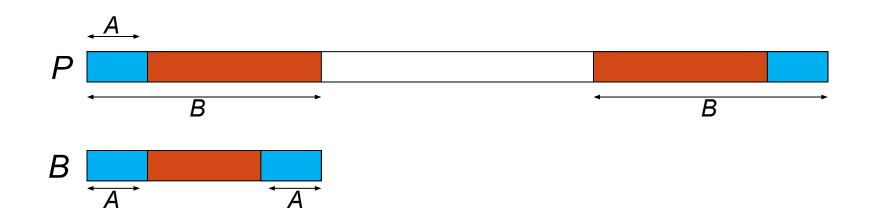
Example: P = gctgcacggctgc

Borders of P: ϵ , gc, gctgc

(ε is a border of every string).

If A, B are both borders of P, and if |A| < |B|, then A is also a border of B.

(In the above example, 'gc' is a border of 'gctgc')



Nested Borders

In general, if a string has several borders, they will always be nested within each other in a hierarchical structure.



Example:

tagtacgtgtagtagcttagaggcttagtacgtgtagta

From the definition of a proper prefix/suffix, a string cannot be a border of itself.

So a single character cannot have a border other than ε.

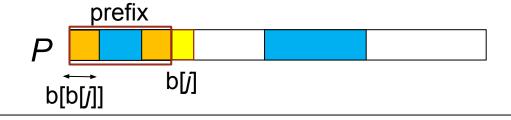
Fast Computation of P-segment Borders b[j]

Note: Here, by 'p-segment' at j, we mean the portion of the text $p_0...p_{i-1}$. (P[0:j])



b[j] represents the length of the widest border of the p-segment at position j.

b[b[j]] represents the length of the widest border nested within the previous border of length b[j], and so on...



Computation of P-segment Borders b[j]

- Initialization: b[0] = -1; b[1] = 0.
- Sequential computation:



Can we compute b[j+1], given b[j]?

If P[j]==P[b[j]], then the border can be extended by one character:

$$b[j+1] = b[j]+1$$



 Else, if P[j]==P[b[b[j]]], the nested border can be extended by one character:

$$b[j+1] = b[b[j]] + 1$$

And so on



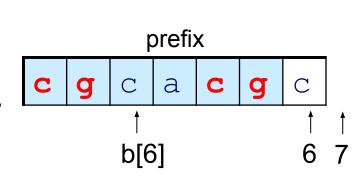
Preprocessing Patterns: Example (m = 1)

b[6]=2 (The p-segment "cgcacg" has a widest border of length 2)

Computation of b[7] from b[6]:

$$j = 6$$

Is $P[j] == P[b[j]]$?
Yes: the border can be extended to 'cgc'
Therefore, $b[7] = b[6] + 1 = 3$.



Example (cont'd)

$$j$$
: 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Pattern: c g c a c g c g c C Border length b[j]: -1 0 0 1 0 1 2 3 2 3 1

$$j = 7$$

Is $P[j] == P[b[j]] ?$

No: the border 'cgc' cannot be extended.

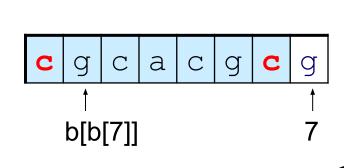
Does the border have a sub-border? If so, can it be extended? i.e.,

Is
$$P[j] == P[b[b[j]]]$$
? (b[b[7]]=b[3]=1)

Yes. We extend the sub-border.

b[8] = b[b[7]] + 1 = 2.

Therefore,



a c g

b[7]

Preprocessing Patterns

Another Example:

b[/]

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
C	g	а	С	g	g	С	þ	а	С	g	a	
-1	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	2	3	4	5	?

To compute b[12], we first check if the previous border can be extended: Is P[11]==P[b[11]]? If not we compare the character at position b[b[11]].

They match. So b[12] = b[b[11]] + 1 = 3

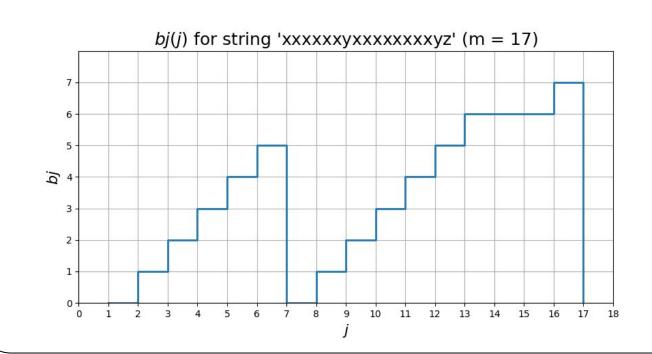
Efficient Computation of Prefix Borders

Although the explanation and proof is complicated, the code is quite simple:

```
def border lengths(p):
     "" Computes lengths of p-segment borders
    b = [0] * (len(p) + 1)
    b[0:2] = [-1, 0]
    i, bi = 1, 0
    while j < len(p):
       while bj \ge 0 and (p[j] != p[bj]):
            bi = b[bi]
       j, bj = j+1, bj+1
       b[i] = bi
    return b
```

Preprocessing - Complexity

- The outer while-loop executes exactly m-1 times.
- The inner loop can decrease the value of bj at most as often as it has been increased previously by the outer loop.
- The overall number of executions of the nested loops follow a staircase pattern with an overall complexity of O(m).

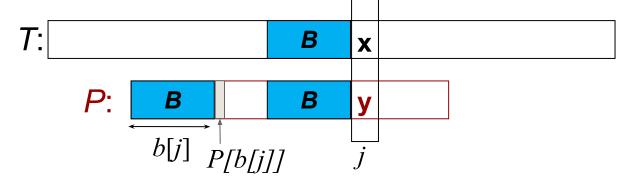




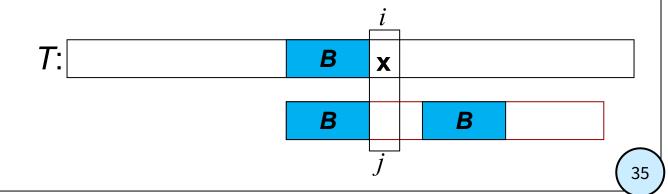
"Amortised complexity" (See COSC261)

Shifting Pattern Using P-segment Borders

- ullet We now consider the procedure for shifting the pattern as previously shown earlier. $\it i$
- $T[i] \neq P[j]$

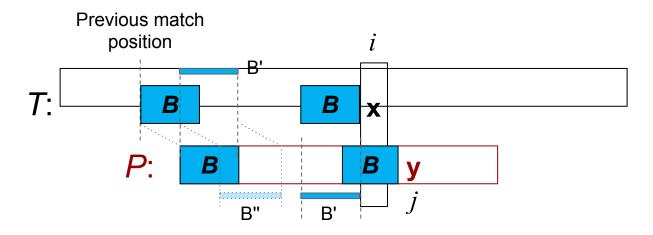


- We change the value of j to b[j] thereby **effectively** shifting the pattern as shown below. i does not change.
- T[i] and P[j] are now compared.



Proof that this is the minimum shift

Suppose we try some smaller shift in P and get a match



- Sections B' in T and P must match B as well.
- Hence the B/B' union is a border of the p-segment P[j]
- But it's wider than just B
- So B wasn't the widest border of the p-segment P[j]
- CONTRADICTION => aligning borders is the minimum shift

KMP Algorithm (Code)

```
b = border lengths(pattern)
i, j = 0, 0
while i < len(text):</pre>
    while j >= 0 and text[i] != pattern[j]:
        j = b[j]
    i, j = i+1, j+1
    if j == len(pattern):
        # Match found. Print position.
        print (i-j)
        j = b[j]
```

KMP Example with Visualiser

https://lobb.nz/stringmatchvisualiser/stringmatching.html

Use the string match visualiser on the following:

Text: cgacggcgacggcgaccgacgacgac

Pattern: cgacggcgacga

Border table (slide 33):

j	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
pattern	С	g	a	C	þ	g	С	g	а	С	Ŋ	a	
b[<i>j</i>]	-1	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	2	3	4	5	3

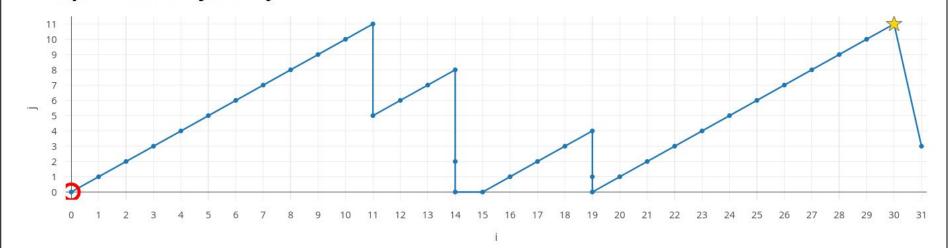
COSC262: String Matching

KMP Algorithm visualised



Show state table

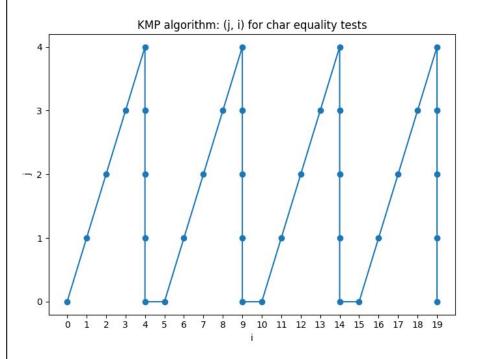
Comparison Trajectory

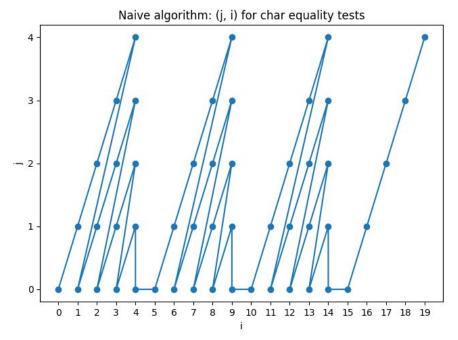


KMP: Another example (worst case)

XXXXOXXXXOXXXXO

XXXXX





KMP Algorithm Complexity

• The previous examples show that comparisons form a "sawtooth" pattern. There are two cases:

T[i] = P[j]. Here i and j are both incremented in the outer while loop.

T[i] \neq P[j]. Here the value of j is repeatedly reduced to b[j] in the inner loop, effectively moving the pattern towards the right. i does not change (until j = -1 when the inner loop terminates).

- Each "tooth" has at most as many points in the vertical bit as in the sloped bit, so at most 2n comparisons in total.
- Preprocessing requires O(m) comparisons.
- The overall complexity of KMP algorithm is O(m+n)

Boyer-Moore Algorithm

- A very efficient string matching algorithm
- Often implemented in search and replace functions in text editors.
- Preprocesses the search string to derive information about its structure
- Compares the search pattern from right to left of the search string
- Uses two types of heuristics:
 - "Bad character" heuristics
 - "Good suffix" heuristics

Bad Character Heuristics

If a mismatch occurs for the **rightmost character** P[m-1] of the search pattern, and if the corresponding character in the text does not appear in the pattern at all, then the whole pattern can be shifted by m positions.

agtacg**t**gctcaaccgagtatagccgagatacg gccgaga

gccgaga

Shift

Boyer-Moore Complexity (Best Case)

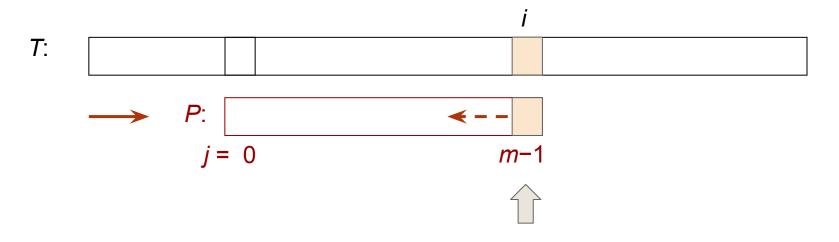
If the first compared text symbol does not occur in the pattern for each attempt, the number of comparisons would be of the order of O(n/m) (Sub-linear complexity!)

Example:

aaaaaaa aaaaaaa

Comparison of characters

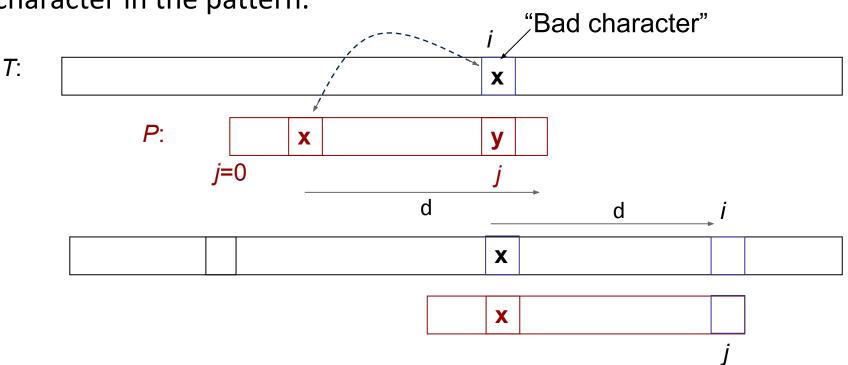
- In Boyer-Moore algorithm, we always start comparisons from the rightmost end of the pattern and work backwards.
- The pattern is always moved from left to right.



Start comparing here and move left

Bad Character Heuristics

If a text symbol that causes a mismatch at P[j] is found somewhere in the pattern, then the pattern can be shifted so that the text symbol aligns with the rightmost occurrence of that character in the pattern.



Restart comparisons at i = i + d, j = m - 1 where d is the distance of 'x' from the end of the pattern.

Shift array delta1 ('d' in previous slide)

We create an array "delta1[]" that contains the distance from the end of the pattern of the last (rightmost) occurrence of each character (m, if the character does not appear in the pattern).

Example: Pattern: gccgaga

m = 7



Symbol s	ʻa'	'c'	ʻg'	't'
delta1[s]	0	4	1	7

agtacgtgctcaaccgagtatacg gccgaga gccgaga gccgaga

Shift distance = 4

Shift distance = 1

Shift distance = 7

gccgaga

Computation of "delta1" array

Code for computing the values of "delta1" array:

pat = "agccgcaga"



Symbol s	ʻa'	'c'	ʻg'	't'
delta1[s]	0	3	1	9

```
LEN ALPHABET = 256 # Assume ASCII
def bad char shifts (pattern):
  m = len(pattern)
   delta1 = LEN ALPHABET * [m]
   for i, c in enumerate (pattern):
       delta1[ord(c)] = m - i - 1
   return delta1
```

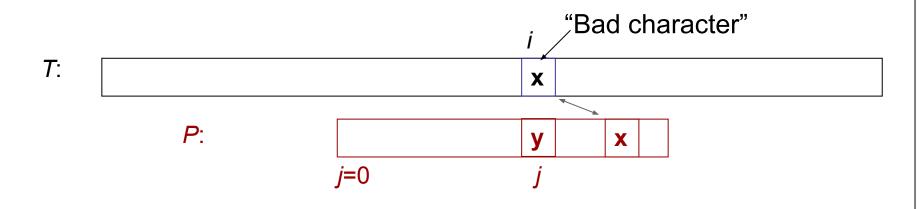
Complexity = $O(m + |\Sigma|)$



Size of alphabet (4 for a DNA sequence if encode a, c, g, t as 0, 1, 2, 3)

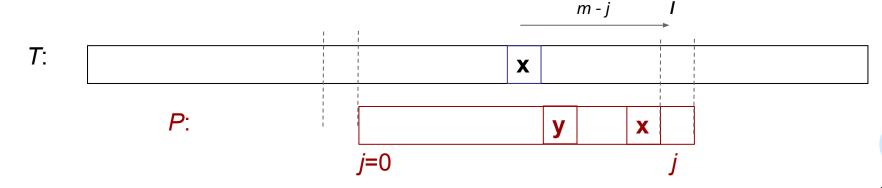
A complication

What if the character we want to match appears after P[j]?



Mustn't slide pattern back. Instead just advance it by 1.

Restart at i += m - j, j = m - 1



4

Simplified Boyer-Moore (Boyer-Moore-Horspool)

Deals with complication in last slide

```
def main():
   delta1 = bad char shifts(pattern)
                                                      m-1
   m = len(pattern)
   i = m - 1
   while i < len(text):</pre>
       j = m - 1
              while j >= 0 and pattern[j] == text[i]:
           i -= 1
           i −= 1
       if 7 < 0:
          print (i)
           i += m + 1
       else:
           i += Math.max(m - j, delta1[ord(text[i])])
```

delta1 is the increment in *i* **not** the shift

COSC262: Pattern Matching

Simplified Boyer-Moore (Boyer-Moore-Horspool)

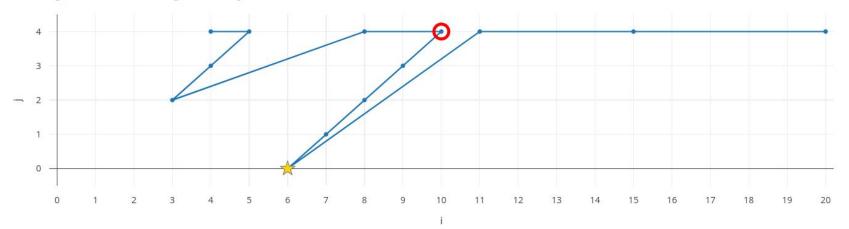
Watch it in action:

https://lobb.nz/stringmatchvisualiser/stringmatching.html



Show state table

Comparison Trajectory



Simplified Boyer-Moore

• For most practical applications, the simplified version of the Boyer-Moore algorithm gives very good results.

 The worst-case running time of the simplified Boyer-Moore algorithm is still O(nm)

Example:

aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa

baaaaaa

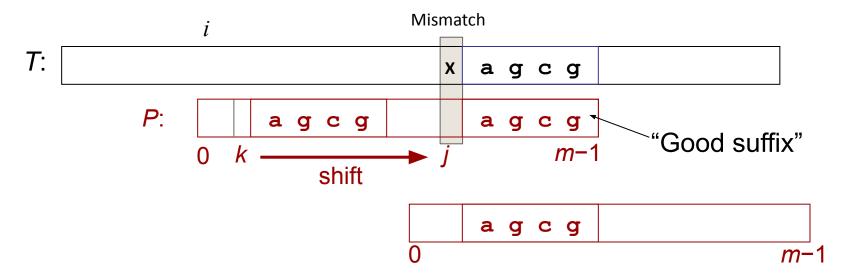
baaaaaa

baaaaaa

Good Suffix Heuristic

Assume that at the current position, a suffix of P ("good suffix") matches with the corresponding characters in T.

- If x is in this suffix (e.g. x == 'c'), we cannot use delta1[x] to shift the pattern. Simplified Boyer-Moore uses a shift distance = 1.
- BUT if the matching suffix appears elsewhere within the pattern, then
 we may be able to shift the pattern by a distance > 1.



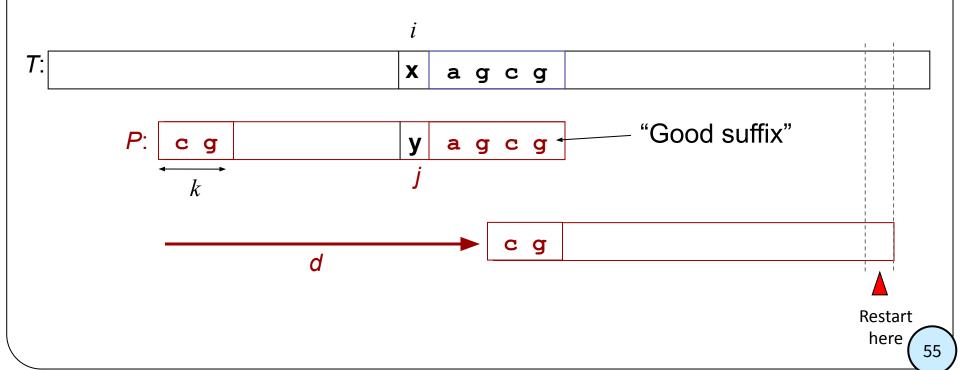
Note: P[k] must be different from P[j], or shifting the pattern will cause another mismatch.

Problem:

- Does the suffix A exist earlier in the pattern (before *j*)?
- If so, and if $P[k] \neq P[j]$, then shift distance = j k
 - If there are multiple such occurrences, choose the last one

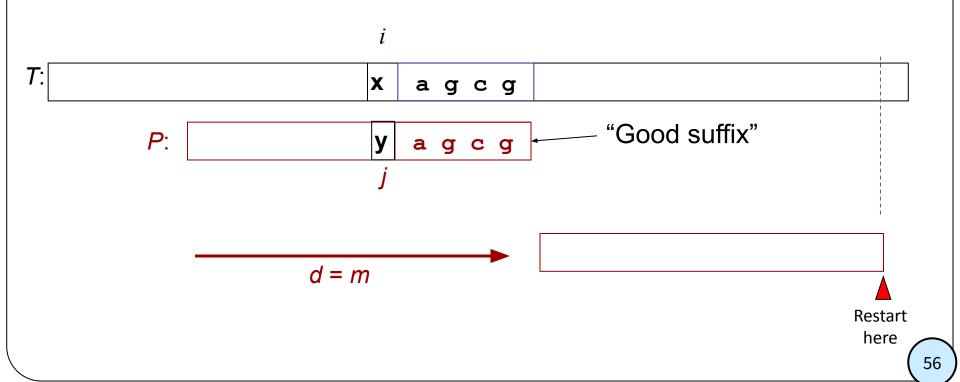
Good Suffix Heuristic

If only a part of the good suffix appears at the beginning of the pattern (the pattern has a border of length k), we can shift the pattern by a distance d = m - k

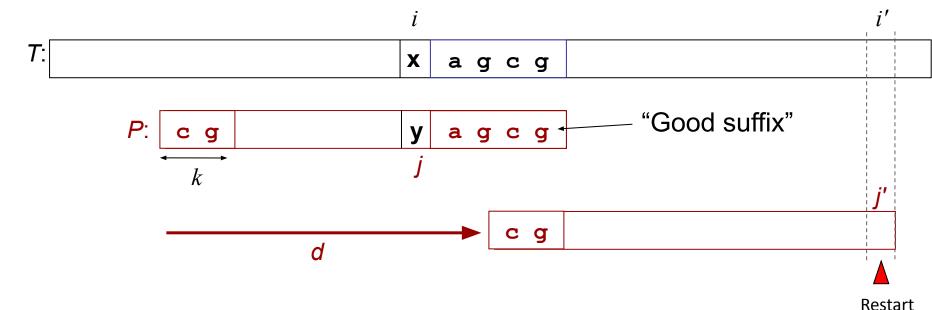


Good Suffix Heuristic

If the good suffix does not appear anywhere else in the pattern and if the pattern does not have a border, then the pattern can be shifted through its entire length (d = m)



Updating i and j on a pattern shift



Always restart at right end of pattern.

$$j' = m - 1$$

Old pattern shift = i - j

here

Good Suffix Heuristic: Example

delta2[j] gives the update to i when a bad character is found at position j: $\Delta i = i' - i = m - 1 - j + d$, where d is the pattern shift. Good suffix = P[j+1:]

Example	Э:
---------	----

j	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
pat[j]	g	a	t	С	a	С	a	С	a	t	С	a
d	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	7	12	3	10	1
delta2[j]	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	11	15	5	11	1

We won't bother with the code to compute these shifts.

Earlier occurrence of tca is preceded by 'a' so not useful. See note slide 54.

m = 12

Good suffix: 'ca', d = 3

Full Boyer-Moore Algorithm

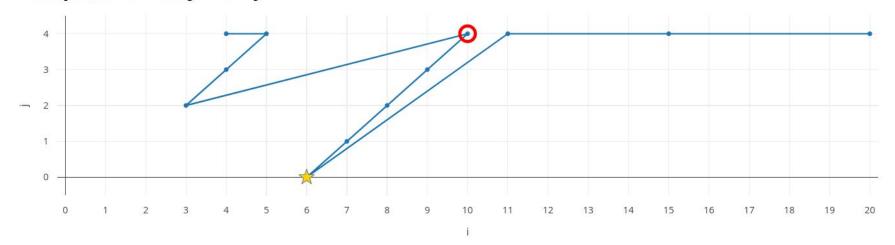
```
delta1 = bad char shifts(pattern)
delta2 = good suffix shifts(pattern) # Not in course
m = len(pattern)
i = m - 1
while i < len(text):</pre>
    j = m - 1
    while j >= 0 and pattern[j] == text[i]:
        i -= 1
        j −= 1
    if j < 0:
                                               Compare with
        print(i)
                                             simplified B-M code
        i += m + 1
    else:
        i += max(delta2[j], delta1[ord(text[i])])
```

Full Boyer-Moore

Watch it in action: https://lobb.nz/stringmatchvisualiser/stringmatching.html



Comparison Trajectory



Compare with Simplified Boyer-Moore trajectory. Explain the difference!

Full Boyer-Moore Complexity

- Worst-case time complexity of the full Boyer-Moore algorithm is O(n+m) unless there are lots of hits.
 - Can then be O(nm), e.g. find pattern aaaaaa in a string of one thousand a's
- Boyer-Moore is an efficient algorithm for searching natural language text, particularly with large patterns.

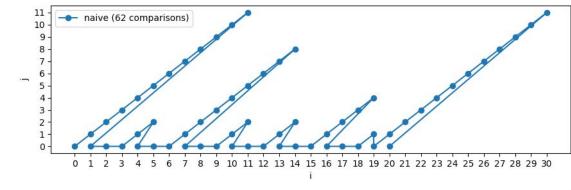
	Best Case	Worst Case
Naïve	O(n)	O(nm)
KMP	O(n+m)	O(n+m)
BM	<i>O</i> (<i>n</i> / <i>m</i>)	O(nm)

Further refinements are possible to B-M to achieve O(n + m) in worst case, namely when there are lots of hits. See Wikipedia (Galil rule).

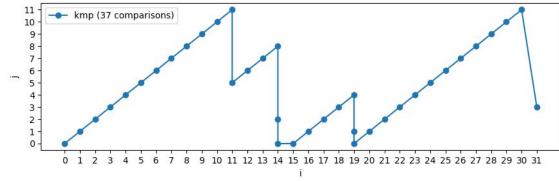
Comparison on DNA example

search("cgacggcgacga", "cgacggcgacggcgacgacgacgacgac")

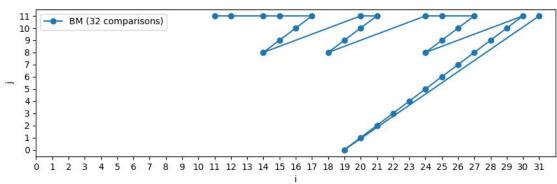




KMP: 37 comparisons



Boyer-Moore: 32 comparisons



Summary

- Naive algorithm is fine for short patterns
- Rabin-Karp is best for searching a large text for a large number of different patterns.
- Boyer-Moore is the best algorithm with large patterns and large texts
 - Boyer-Moore-Horspool is relatively easy to program and gives most of the benefits
 - The full algorithm is difficult and tables are large, especially with a large alphabet
- KMP has best worst case performance; no restriction on alphabet size.
 - And easier to understand and program.