

# Suffix Arrays

CMSC 858S

# Another Example Suffix Array

$s = \text{cattcat\$}$

- Idea: lexicographically sort all the suffixes.
- Store the starting indices of the suffixes in an array.

1	cattcat\$
2	attcat\$
3	ttcat\$
4	tcat\$
5	cat\$
6	at\$
7	t\$
8	\$

index of suffix

suffix of s

sort the suffixes  
alphabetically



the indices just  
“come along for  
the ride”

8	\$
6	at\$
2	attcat\$
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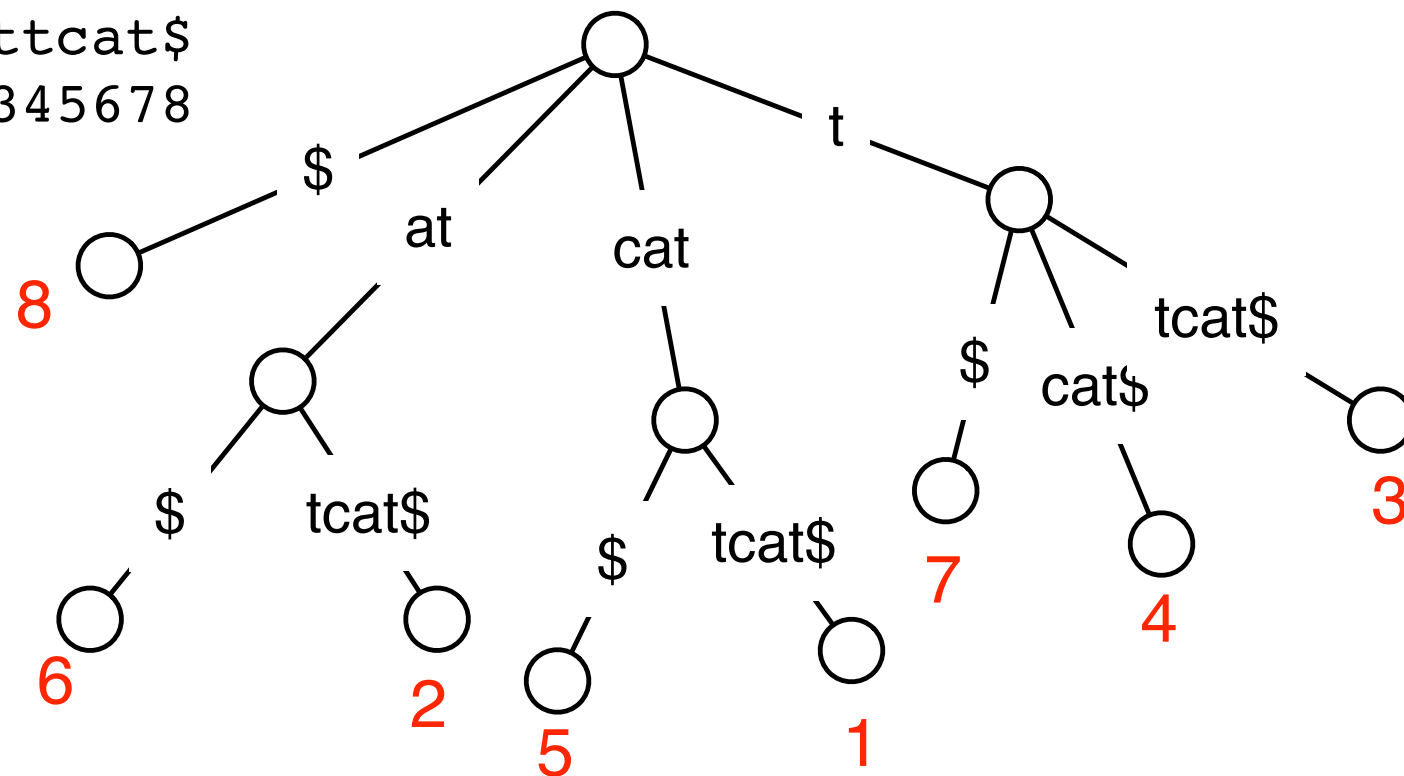
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8
6
2
5
1
7
4
3

# Relationship Between Suffix Trees & Suffix Arrays

$\Sigma = \{\$,a,c,t\}$

s = cattcat\$  
12345678



Red #s = starting position of the  
suffix ending at that leaf

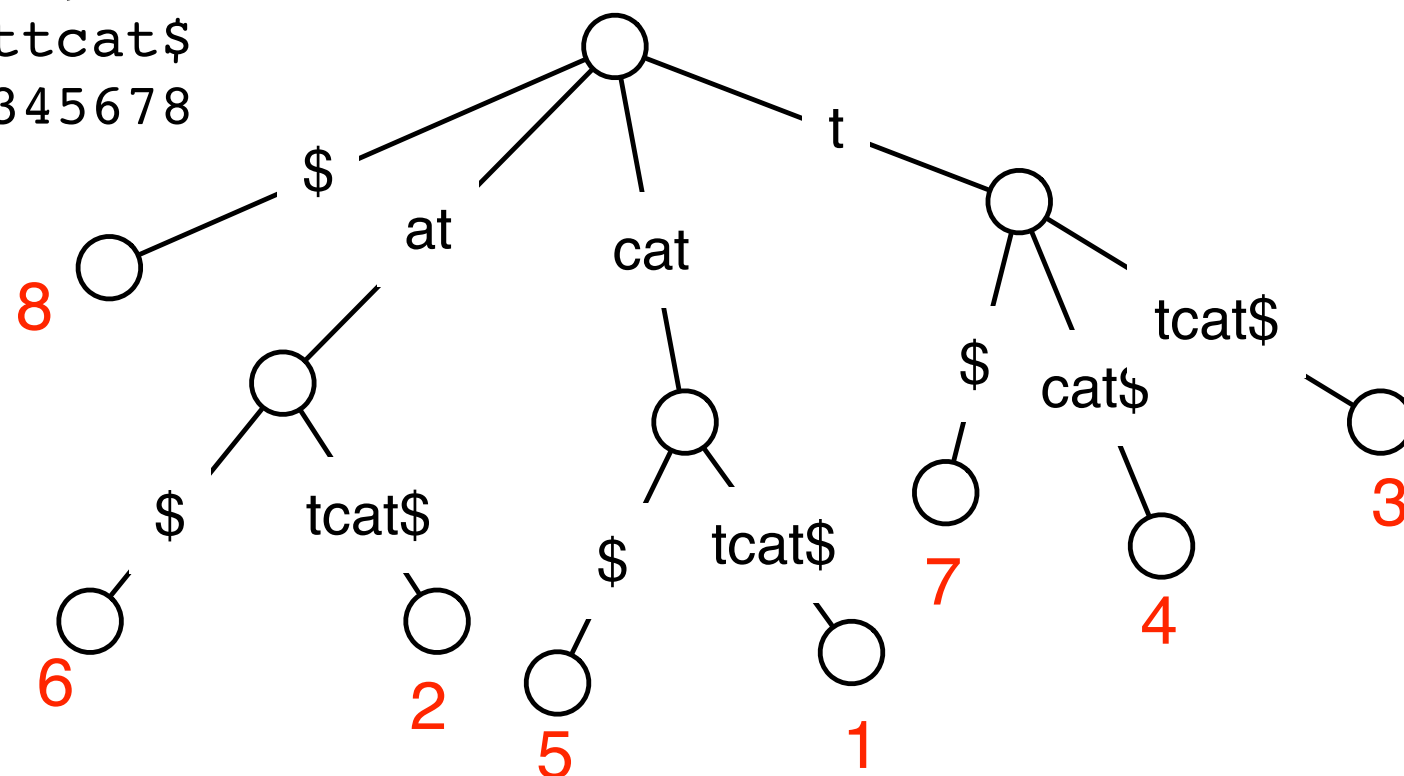
Leaf labels left to right: **86251743**

Edges leaving each node are  
sorted by label (left-to-right).

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