Burrows-Wheeler Transform

(some of) its properties and applications

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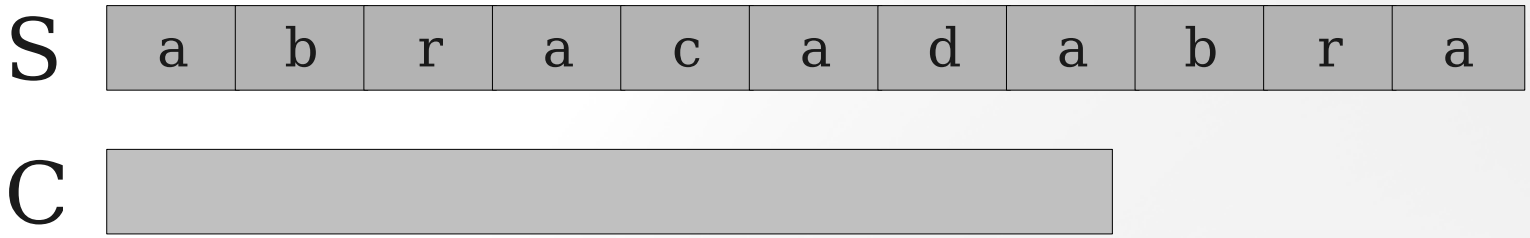
Basic Concepts in Data Compression

- ***Lossless text data compression***:
  - We would like to design a compressor that, give a text in input, represents is using the smallest possible number of bits. From this representation we must be able to reconstruct the original text without any loss of information.

- **Historical motivations**:
  - Save storage space and/or bandwidth.

0-th order compressors



0-th order compressors

S

a	b	r	a	c	a	d	a	b	r	a

C

- Build a table: for each symbol stores its frequency

char	freq
a	5/11
b	2/11
c	1/11
d	1/11
r	2/11

0-th order compressors

S

a	b	r	a	c	a	d	a	b	r	a

C

- Build a table: for each symbol stores its frequency
- Assign a codeword to each symbol. So that,
  - Decompression: Codewords must be uniquely decodable.

char	freq	code
a	5/11	0
b	2/11	100
c	1/11	101
d	1/11	110
r	2/11	111

0-th order compressors

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a	b	r	a	c	a	d	a	b	r	a

C

- Build a table: for each symbol stores its frequency
- Assign a codeword to each symbol. So that,
  - Decompression: Codewords must be uniquely decodable.
  - Minimize compress size: Shortest codewords must be assigned to most frequent symbols.

char	freq	code
a	5/11	0
b	2/11	100
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d	1/11	110
r	2/11	111

0-th order compressors

[Huffman, 1956]

S	a	b	r	a	c	a	d	a	b	r	a

C	0 100 111 0 101 0 110 0 100 111 0

- Build a table: for each symbol stores its frequency
- Assign a codeword to each symbol. So that,
  - Decompression: Codewords must be uniquely decodable.
  - Minimize compress size: Shortest codewords must be assigned to most frequent symbols.
- Replace each symbol with its codeword. Compress is C+Table

char	freq	code
a	5/11	0
b	2/11	100
c	1/11	101
d	1/11	110
r	2/11	111

0-th order compressors

[Huffman, 1956]

S	a	b	r	a	c	a	d	a	b	r	a

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- Decompression is easy:
  - Scan C from left to right

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0-th order compressors

[Huffman, 1956]

S	a	b	r	a	c	a	d	a	b	r	a

C: 0 100 111 0 101 0 110 0 100 111 0

- Decompression is easy:
  - Scan C from left to right
  - Every time we identify a codeword, we emit the corresponding symbol.

char	freq	code
a	5/11	0
b	2/11	100
c	1/11	101
d	1/11	110
r	2/11	111

0-th order compressors

[Huffman, 1956]

S	a	b	r	a	c	a	d	a	b	r	a

C 0 100 111 0 101 0 110 0 100 111 0

- Decompression is easy:
  - Scan C from left to right
  - Every time ... codeword ... corresponding ...

char	freq	code
a	5/11	0
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Low compression!
we don't exploit
regularities in text

High order compressors

- We can achieve better compression if the codeword we assign to a symbol also depends on the k symbols preceding it (its context)

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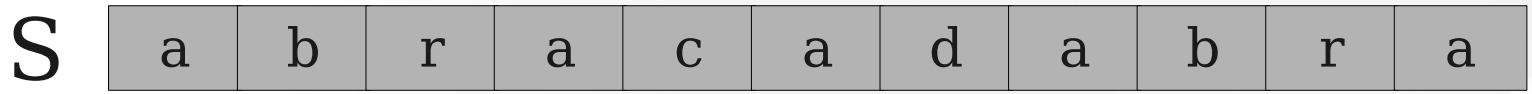

Build a table for each context of length k in S

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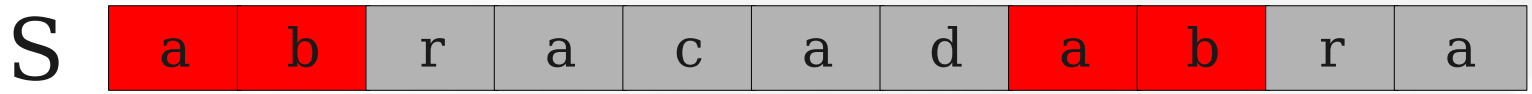

Build a table for each context of length k in S

k=2

context = ab

High order compressors

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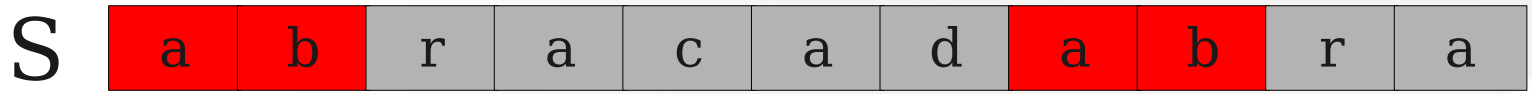

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context = ab

char	freq	code
a	0/2	-
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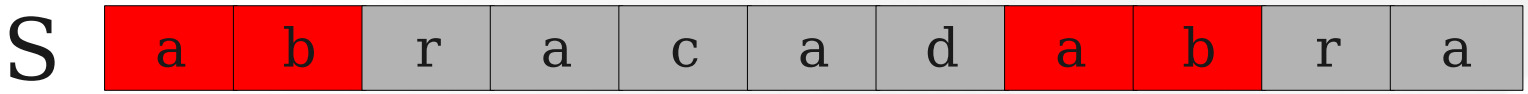

Build a table for each context of length k in S

We need to store a table for each context of size k.

char	freq	code
a	0/2	-
b	0/2	-
c	0/2	-
d	0/2	-
r	2/2	0

The models are the problem!

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- Since compress size = |C|+ size tables, this approach requires a lot of tuning in order to find the best value of k (i.e., the value of k that minimizes compress size)
- Instead, we would like to have a method that use a 0-th order compressor without care about the length of the contexts

Rearranging the input

- Idea!
  - Permute the input so that it is more compressible by a 0-th order compressor

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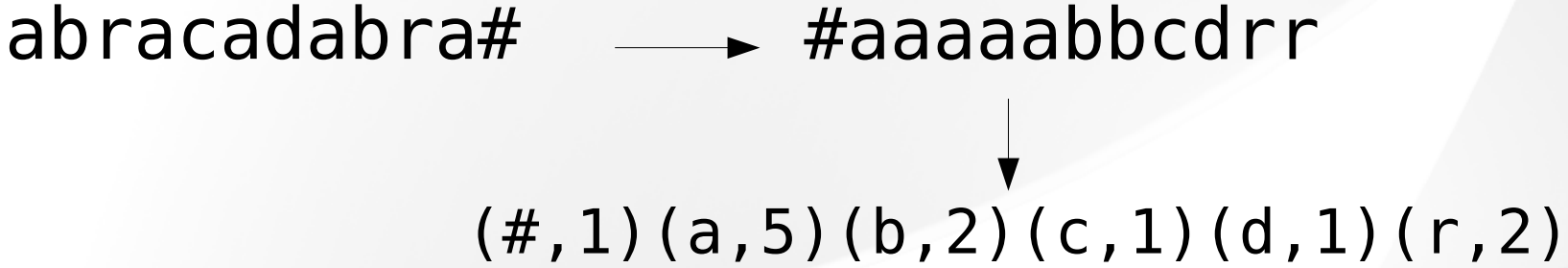

Rearranging the input

- Idea!
  - Permute the input s
    compressible by a C
- Easiest way: sort the

Best compression you can achieve!
Decoder must know at least the alphabet distribution.

abracadabra# → #aa bcdrr

(#,1)(a,5)(b,2)(c,1)(d,1)(r,2)

Rearranging the input

- Idea!
  - Permute the input so that it is more compressible by a 0-th order compressor
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`abracadabra#` ⟶ `#aaaaabbcdrr`

Which is the problem?

Rearranging the input

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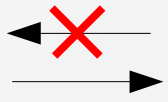
`abracadabra#`  `#aaaaabbcdrr`

Which is the problem?

The transformation is not reversible!
There are 997.920 distinct strings with this alphabet distribution!

Rearranging the input

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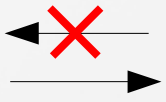
  - Permute the input so that it is more compressible by a 0-th order compressor
- Easiest way: sort the symbol lexicographically

`abracadabra#`  `#aaaaabbcdrr`

- What do you think about this one?

`ard#rcaaaabb`

Rearranging the input

- Idea!
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- Easiest way: sort the symbol lexicographically

`abracadabra#` → `#aaaaabbcdrr`

- What do you think about this one?

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Similar, but it is reversible!

Burrows-Wheeler Transform

[Burrows-Wheeler, 1994]

Let us given S = abracadabra#

Burrows-Wheeler Transform

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Burrows-Wheeler Transform

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Let us given S = abracadabra#

abracadabra#
bracadabra#a

Burrows-Wheeler Transform

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Let us given S = abracadabra#

abracadabra#
bracadabra#a
racadabra#ab

Burrows-Wheeler Transform

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```
abracadabra#
bracadabra#a
racadabra#ab
acadabra#abr
cadabra#abra
adabra#abrac
dabra#abraca
abra#abracad
bra#abracada
ra#abracadab
a#abracadabr
#abracadabra
```

Burrows-Wheeler Transform

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ra#abracadab
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#abracadabra
```

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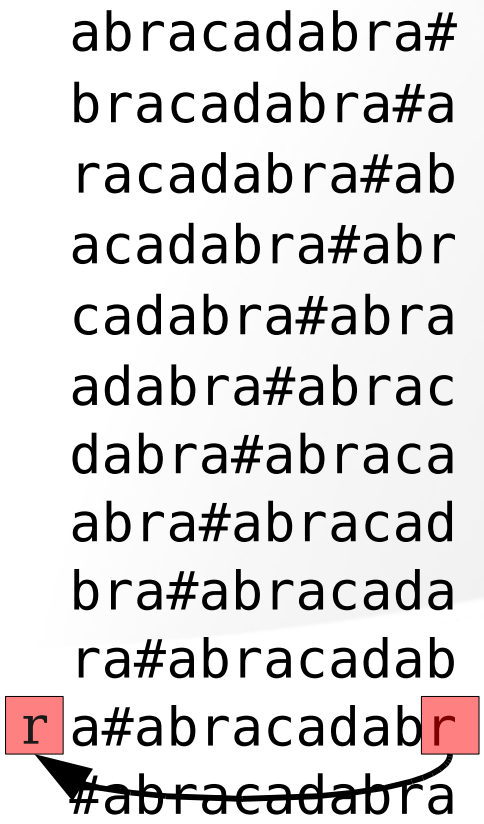

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dabra#abraca
abra#abracad
bra#abracada
ra#abracadab
a#abracadabr
#abracadabra
```
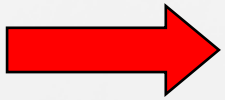

Sort the rows



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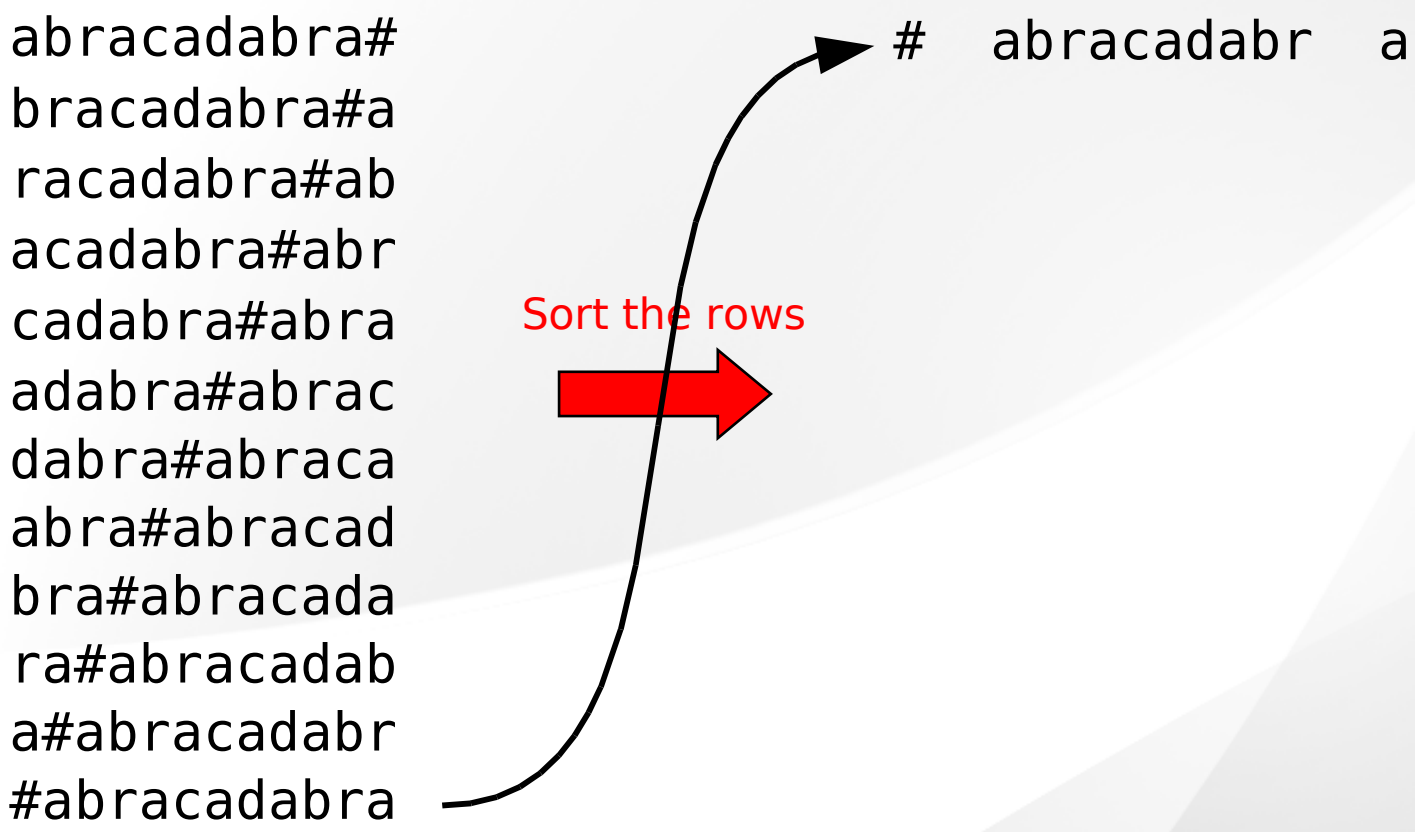

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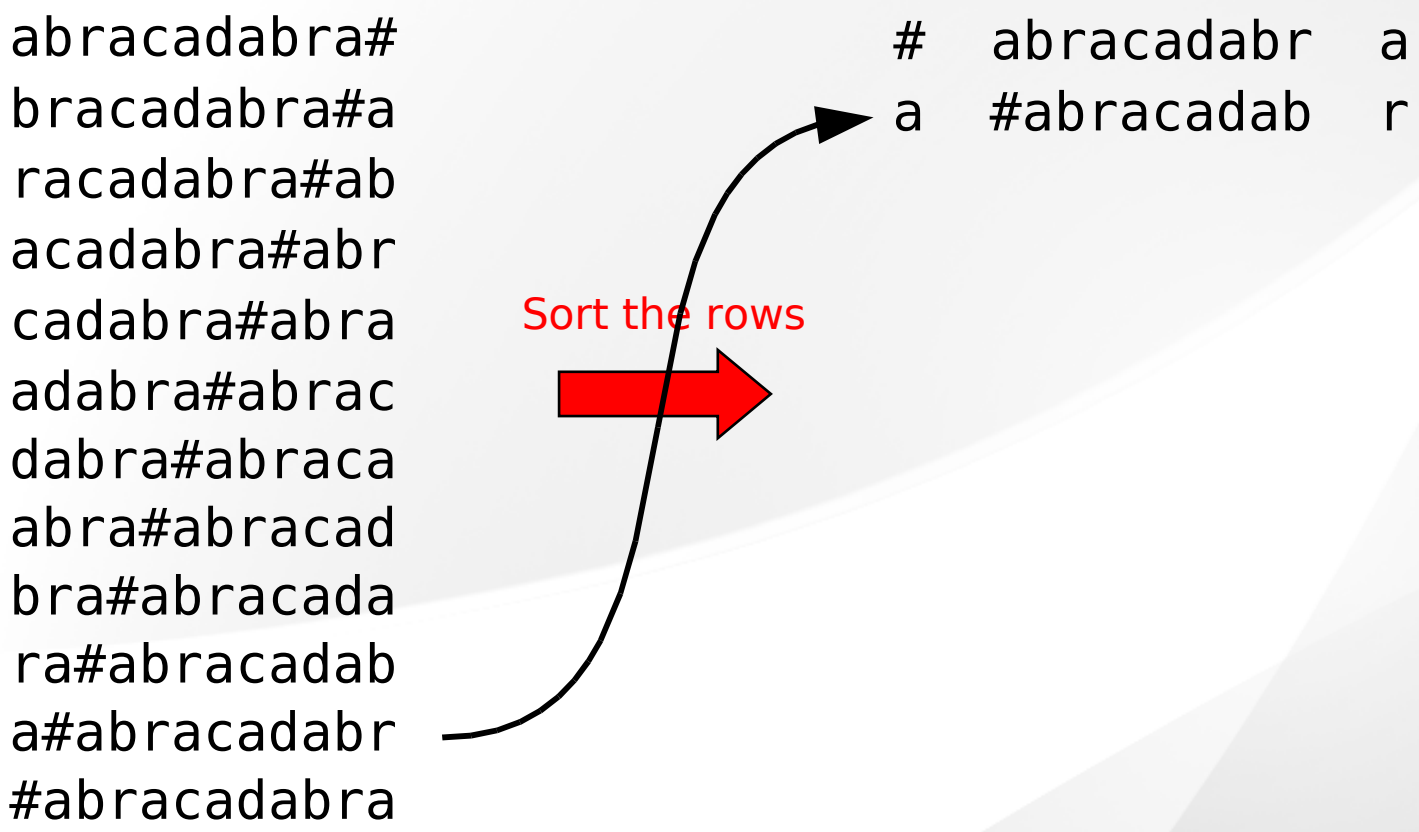

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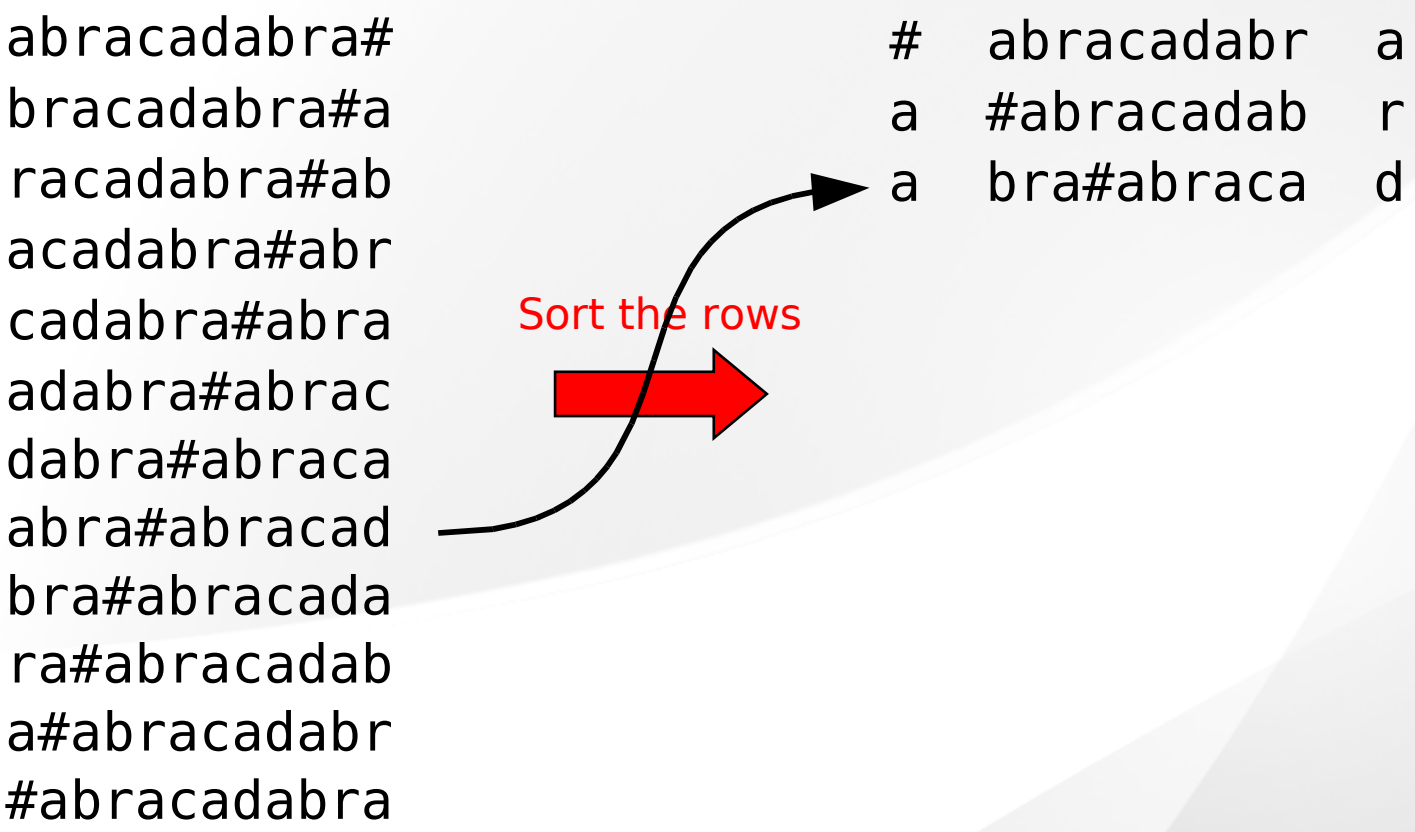

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#abracadabra
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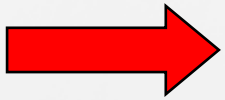

```
#  abracadabr  a
a  #abracadab  r
a  bra#abraca  d
a  bracadabra  #
a  cadabra#ab  r
a  dabra#abra  c
b  ra#abracad  a
b  racadabra#  a
c  adabra#abr  a
d  abra#abrac  a
r  a#abracada  b
r  acadabra#a  b
```

Burrows-Wheeler Transform

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Let us given S = abracadabra#

		F	
abracadabra#		#	abracadabr a
bracadabra#a		a	#abracadab r
racadabra#ab		a	bra#abraca d
acadabra#abr		a	bracadabra #
cadabra#abra	Sort the rows →	a	cadabra#ab r
adabra#abrac		a	dabra#abra c
dabra#abraca		b	ra#abracad a
abra#abracad		b	racadabra# a
bra#abracada		c	adabra#abr a
ra#abracadab		d	abra#abrac a
a#abracadabr		r	a#abracada b
#abracadabra		r	acadabra#a b

Burrows-Wheeler Transform

[Burrows-Wheeler, 1994]

Let us given S = abracadabra#

		F	discarded	L
abracadabra#		#	abracadabr	a
bracadabra#a		a	#abracadab	r
racadabra#ab		a	bra#abraca	d
acadabra#abr		a	bracadabra	#
cadabra#abra	Sort the rows	a	cadabra#ab	r
adabra#abrac	→	a	dabra#abra	c
dabra#abraca		b	ra#abracad	a
abra#abracad		b	racadabra#	a
bra#abracada		c	adabra#abr	a
ra#abracadab		d	abra#abrac	a
a#abracadabr		r	a#abracada	b
#abracadabra		r	acadabra#a	b

Burrows-Wheeler Transform

[Burrows-Wheeler, 1994]

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Burrows-Wheeler Transform: why it works

[Burrows-Wheeler, 1994]

F	...	L
ot look upon his like again.	...	n
ot look upon me; Lest with th	...	n
ot love on the wing,-- As I p	...	h
ot love your father; But that	...	n
ot made them well, they imita	...	n
ot madness That I have utter'	...	n
ot me? Ham. No, by the rood,	...	g
ot me; no, nor woman neither,	...	n
ot me'? Ros. To think, my lor	...	n
ot mend his pace with beating	...	n
ot mine. Ham. No, nor mine no	...	n
ot mine own. Besides, to be d	...	n
ot mock me, fellow-student. I	...	n
ot monstrous that this player	...	n
ot more like. Ham. But where	...	n
ot more, my lord. Ham. Is not	...	j
ot more native to the heart,	...	n
ot more ugly to the thing tha	...	n
ot move thus. Oph. You must s	...	n
ot much approve me.--Well, si	...	n

Shakespeare's Hamlet

Burrows-Wheeler Transform: why it works

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L is locally homogeneous

Symbols followed by equal k-long contexts are clustered togheter

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ot look upon me; Lest with th	...	n
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Shakespeare's Hamlet

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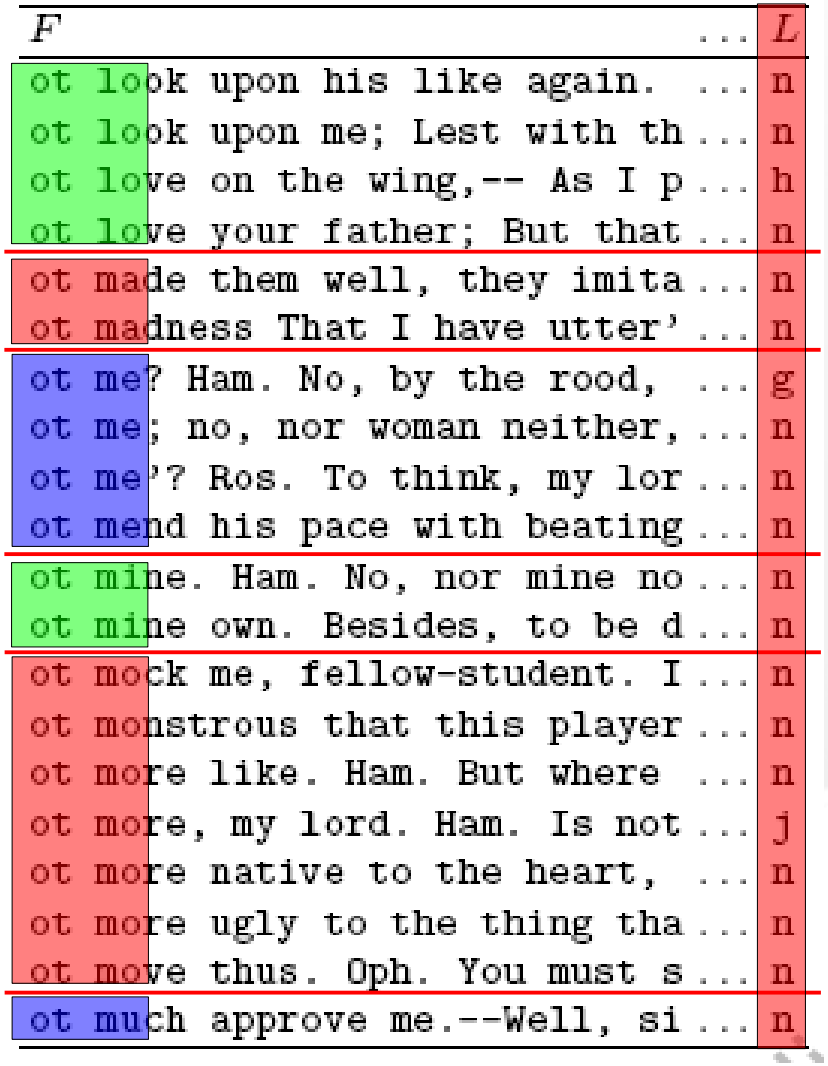
e.g., k=5

For any length k

Burrows-Wheeler Transform: why it works

[Burrows-Wheeler, 1994]



F	...	*L*
ot look upon his like again.	...	n
ot look upon me; Lest with th	...	n
ot love on the wing,-- As I p	...	h
ot love your father; But that	...	n
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Shakespeare's Hamlet

L is locally homogeneous

Symbols followed by equal k-long contexts are clustered togheter

thus, L is highly compressible

Reverse the BWT

Burrows-Wheeler Transform: reversibility

[Burrows-Wheeler, 1994]

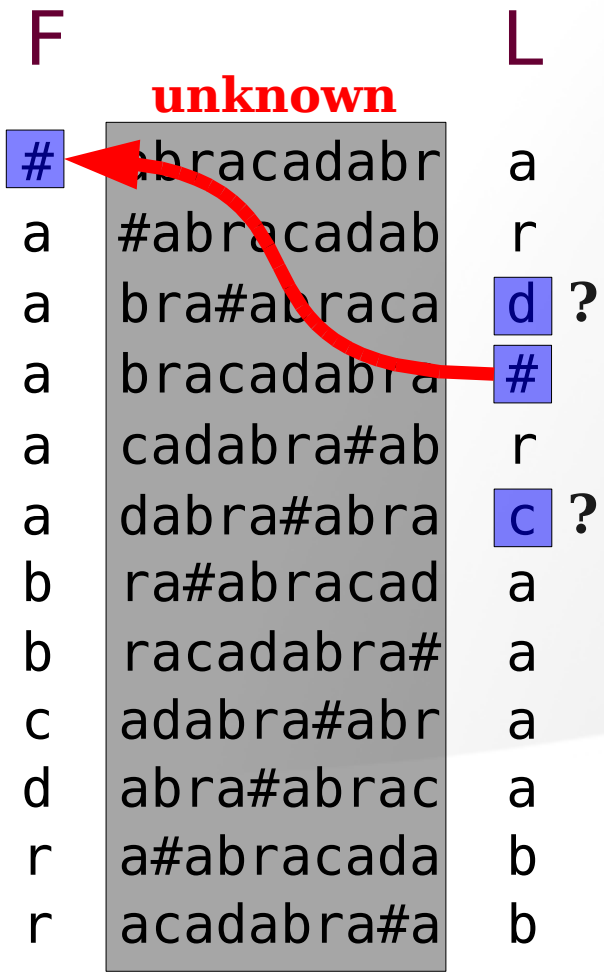
F	unknown	L	
#	abracadabr	a	
a	#abracadab	r	
a	bra#abraca	d	?
a	bracadabra	#	?
a	cadabra#ab	r	
a	dabra#abra	c	?
b	ra#abracad	a	
b	racadabra#	a	
c	adabra#abr	a	
d	abra#abrac	a	
r	a#abracada	b	
r	acadabra#a	b	

To reobtain S from L we need to map any symbol in **L** to its corresponding occurrence in **F. LF-Mapping**

Simple! For symbols with just one occurrence.

Burrows-Wheeler Transform: reversibility

[Burrows-Wheeler, 1994]



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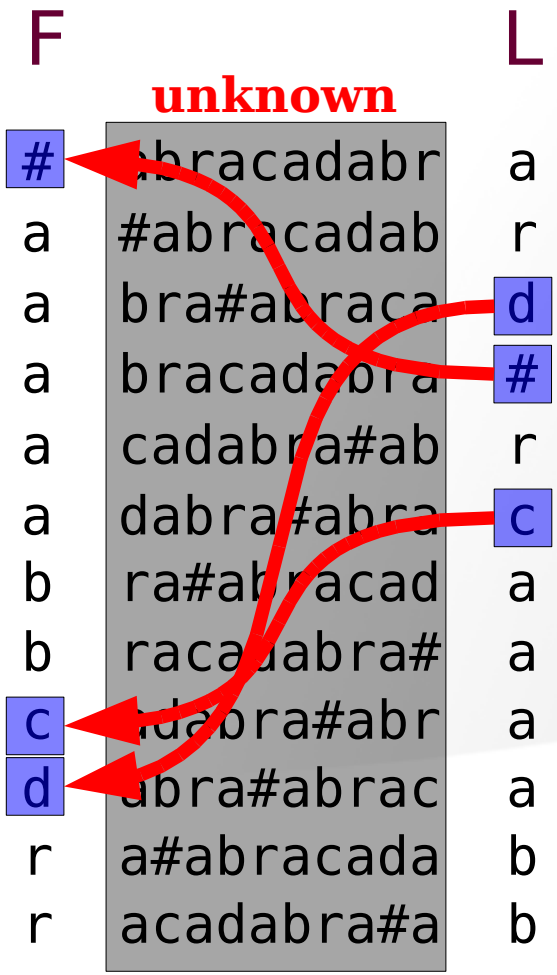

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Simple! For symbols with just one occurrence.

Burrows-Wheeler Transform: reversibility

[Burrows-Wheeler, 1994]

F	unknown	L
#	abracadabr	a ?
a	#abracadab	r
a	bra#abraca	d
a	bracadabra	#
a	cadabra#ab	r
a	dabra#abra	c
b	ra#abracad	a ?
b	racadabra#	a ?
c	adabra#abr	a ?
d	abra#abrac	a ?
r	a#abracada	b
r	acadabra#a	b

To reobtain S from L we need to map any symbol in **L** to its corresponding occurrence in **F. LF-Mapping**

Symbols with more than one occurrence?

Burrows-Wheeler Transform: reversibility

[Burrows-Wheeler, 1994]

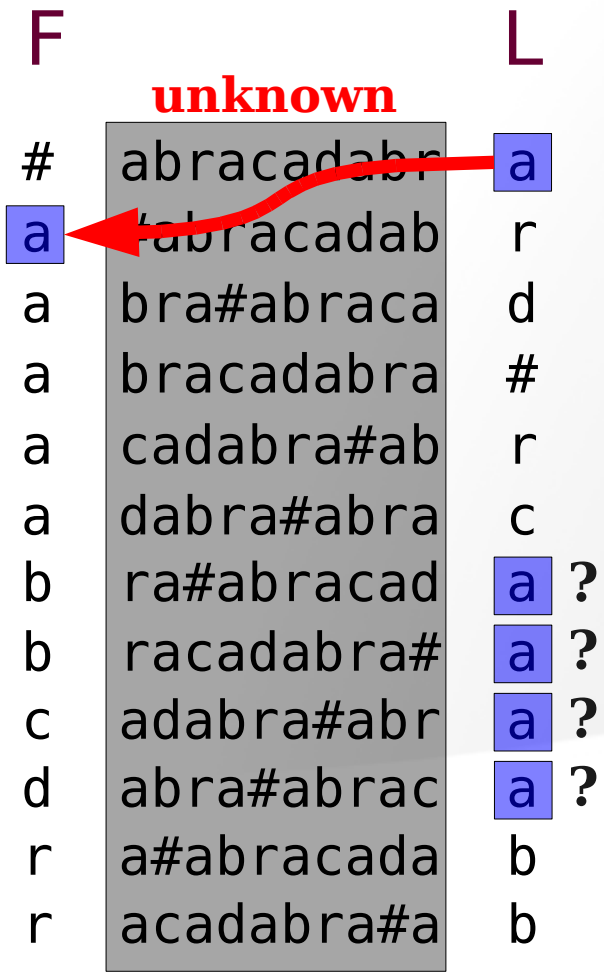
F	unknown	L
#	abracadabr	a ?
a	#abracadab	r
a	bra#abraca	d
a	bracadabra	#
a	cadabra#ab	r
a	dabra#abra	c
b	ra#abracad	a ?
b	racadabra#	a ?
c	adabra#abr	a ?
d	abra#abrac	a ?
r	a#abracada	b
r	acadabra#a	b

To reobtain S from L we need to map any symbol in **L** to its corresponding occurrence in **F. LF-Mapping**

Key Property:
Equal symbols in L maintain their relative order in F:
First a in L maps to first a in F,...

Burrows-Wheeler Transform: reversibility

[Burrows-Wheeler, 1994]



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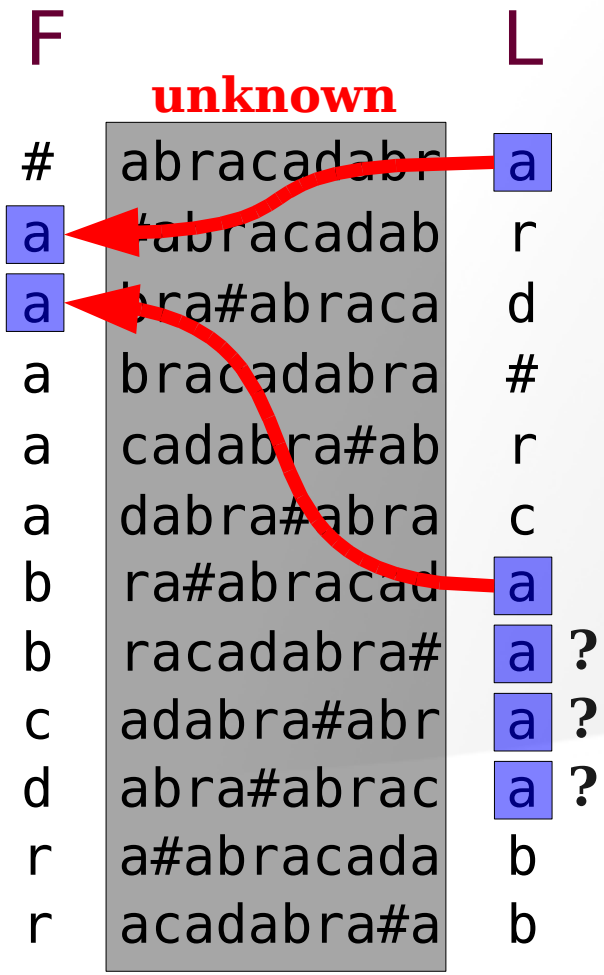

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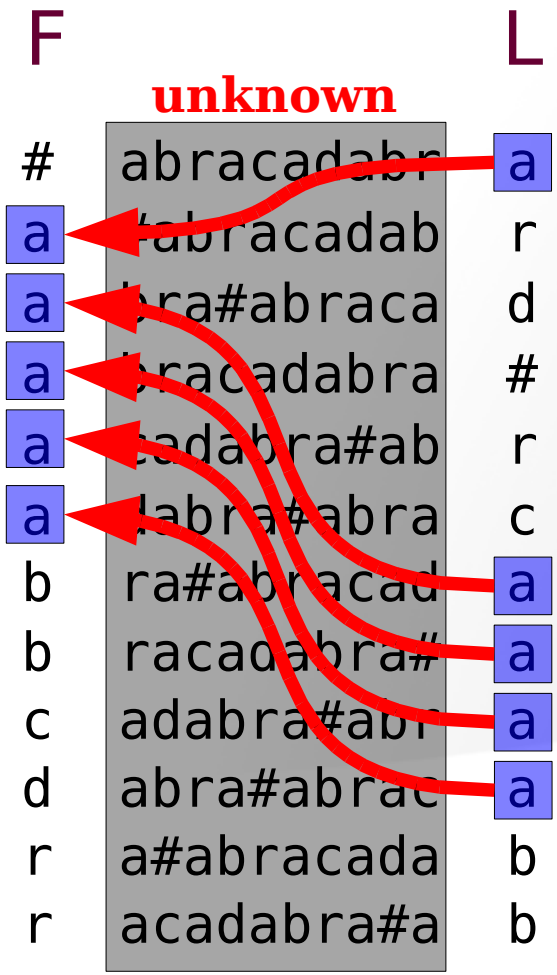

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Key Property:

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First a in L maps to first a in F,...

Burrows-Wheeler Transform: reversibility

[Burrows-Wheeler, 1994]

F	unknown	L
#	abracadabr	a
a	#abracadab	r
a	bra#abraca	d
a	bracadabra	#
a	cadabra#ab	r
a	dabra#abra	c
b	ra#abracad	a
b	racadabra#	a
c	adabra#abr	a
d	abra#abrac	a
r	a#abracada	b
r	acadabra#a	b

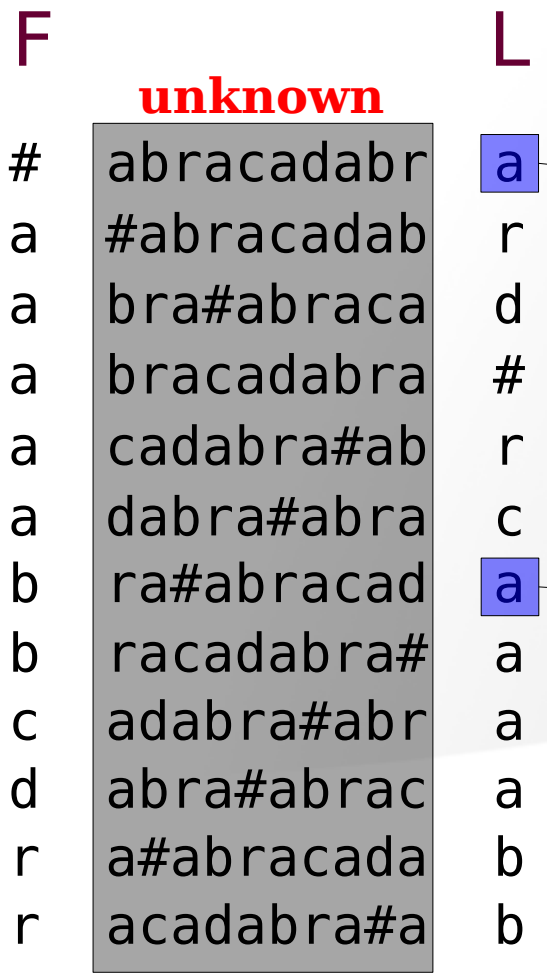
To reobtain S from L we need to map any symbol in **L** to its corresponding occurrence in **F. LF-Mapping**

Key Property:
Equal symbols in L maintain their relative order in F:
First a in L maps to first a in F,...

Proof

Burrows-Wheeler Transform: reversibility

[Burrows-Wheeler, 1994]



To reobtain S from L we need to map any symbol in **L** to its corresponding occurrence in **F. LF-Mapping**

Key Property:
Equal symbols in L maintain their relative order in F:
First a in L maps to first a in F,...

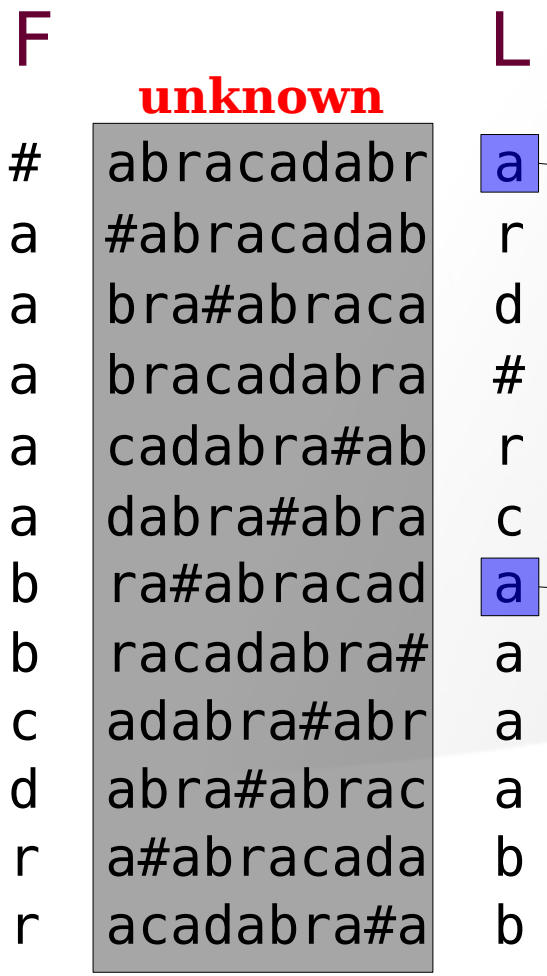
Proof

#abracadabra

bra#abracada

Burrows-Wheeler Transform: reversibility

[Burrows-Wheeler, 1994]



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Key Property:
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Proof

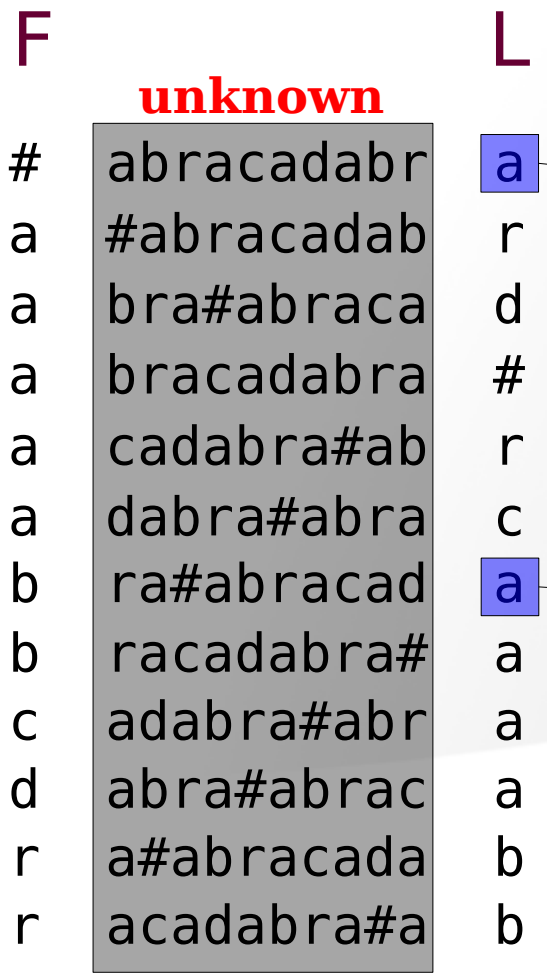
#abracadabra

$<_{lex}$

bra#abracada

Burrows-Wheeler Transform: reversibility

[Burrows-Wheeler, 1994]



To reobtain S from L we need to map any symbol in **L** to its corresponding occurrence in **F. LF-Mapping**

Key Property:
Equal symbols in L maintain their relative order in F:
First a in L maps to first a in F,...

Rotate them rightward to obtain their cyclic-rot

Proof

#abracadabra

$<_{lex}$

bra#abracada

Burrows-Wheeler Transform: reversibility

[Burrows-Wheeler, 1994]

F		L
	unknown	
#	abracadabr	a
a	#abracadab	r
a	bra#abraca	d
a	bracadabra	#
a	cadabra#ab	r
a	dabra#abra	c
b	ra#abracad	a
b	racadabra#	a
c	adabra#abr	a
d	abra#abrac	a
r	a#abracada	b
r	acadabra#a	b

To reobtain S from L we need to map any symbol in **L** to its corresponding occurrence in **F. LF-Mapping**

Key Property:
Equal symbols in L maintain their relative order in F:
First a in L maps to first a in F,...

Rotate them rightward i.e., move the a in front

Proof

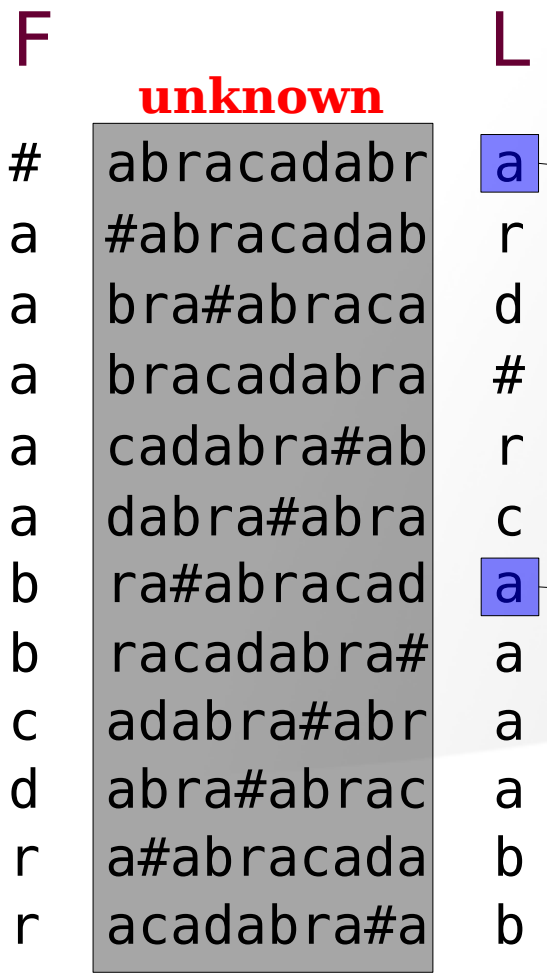
#abracadabra a#abracadabr

$<_{lex}$

bra#abracada abra#abracad

Burrows-Wheeler Transform: reversibility

[Burrows-Wheeler, 1994]



To reobtain S from L we need to map any symbol in **L** to its corresponding occurrence in **F. LF-Mapping**

Key Property:
Equal symbols in L maintain their relative order in F:
First a in L maps to first a in F,...

Proof

#abracadabra $<_{lex}$ bra#abracada

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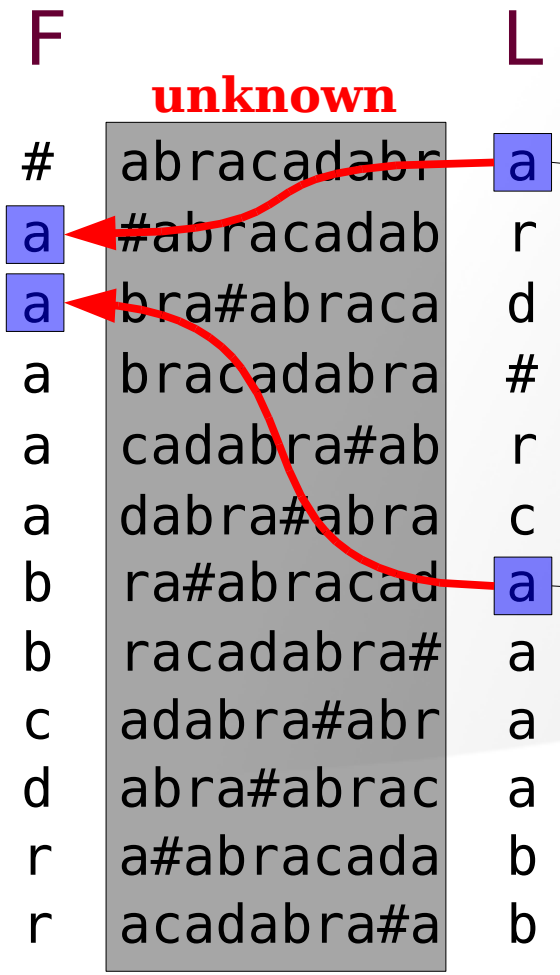

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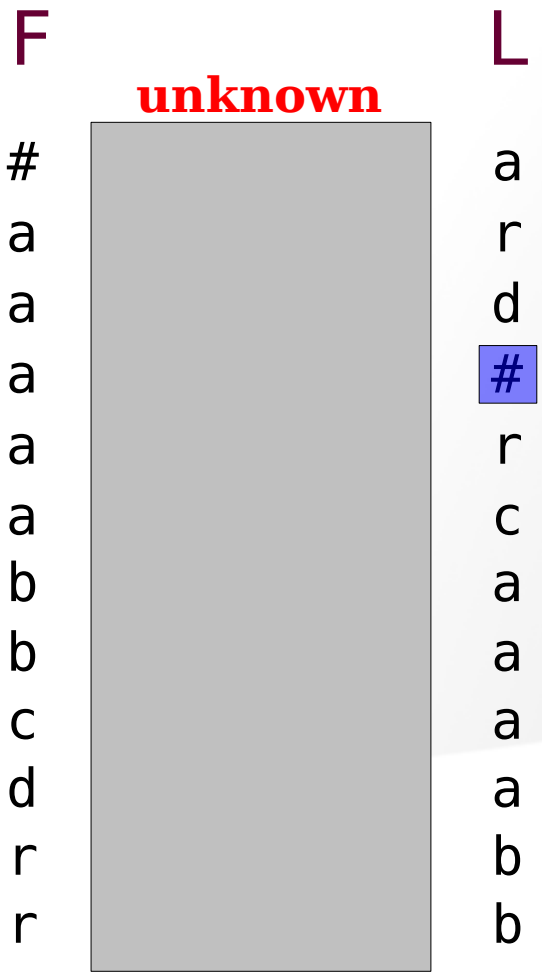


We reconstruct S backward

Two Key properties:

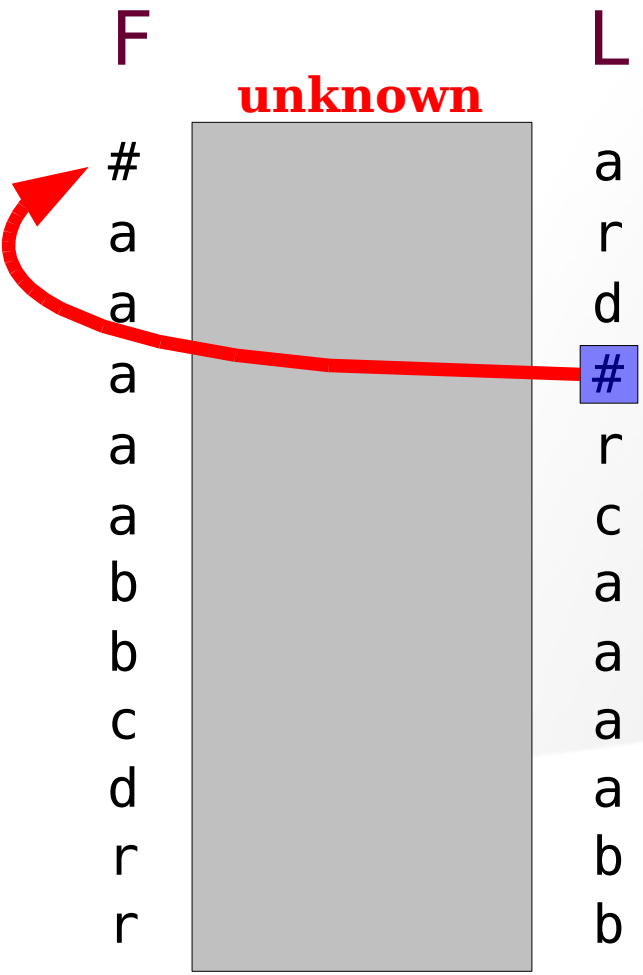
1) LF maps L's to F's symbols

2) L[i] precedes F[i] in S

S= **----------#**

Burrows-Wheeler Transform: reversibility

[Burrows-Wheeler, 1994]



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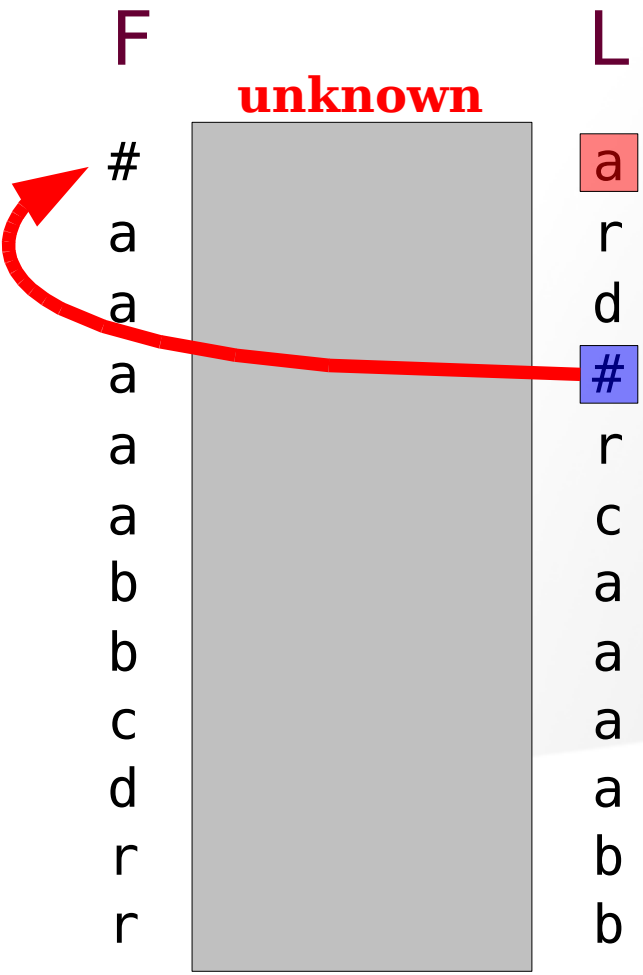

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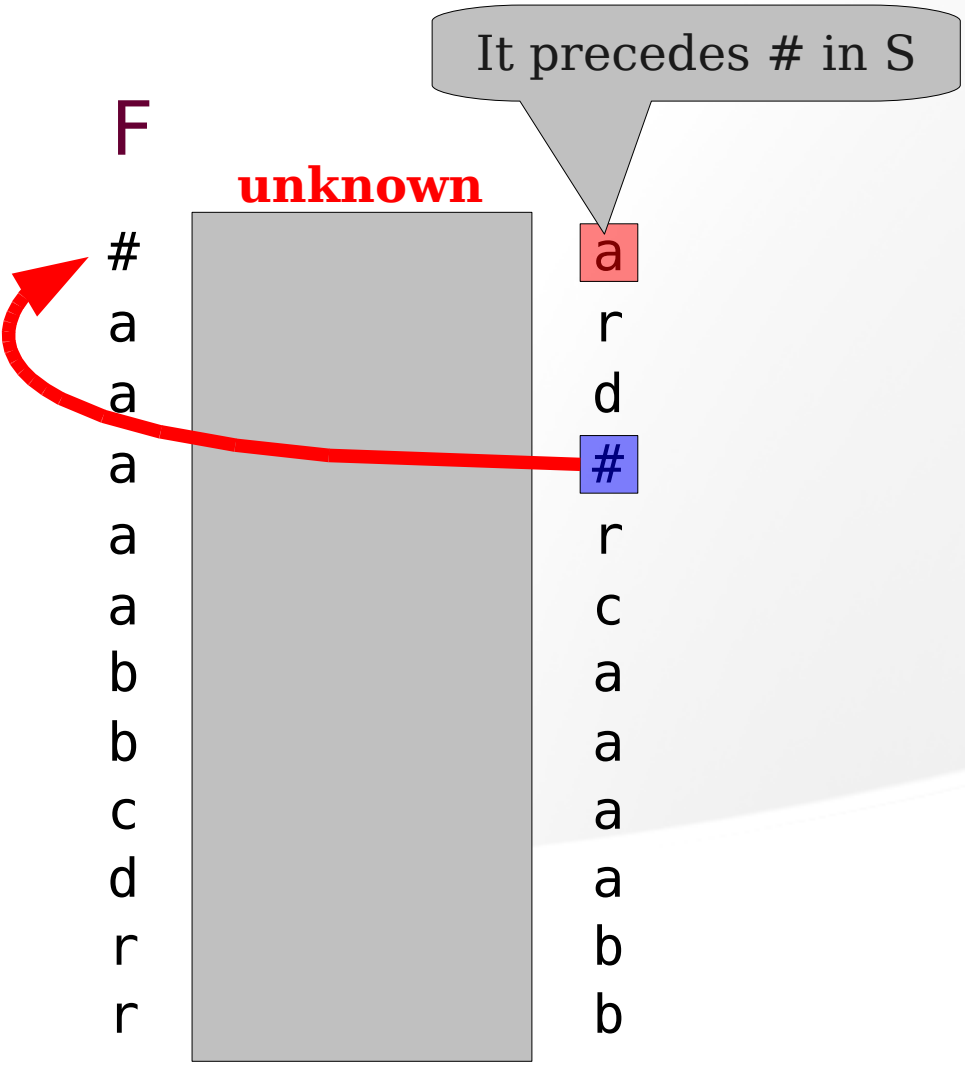

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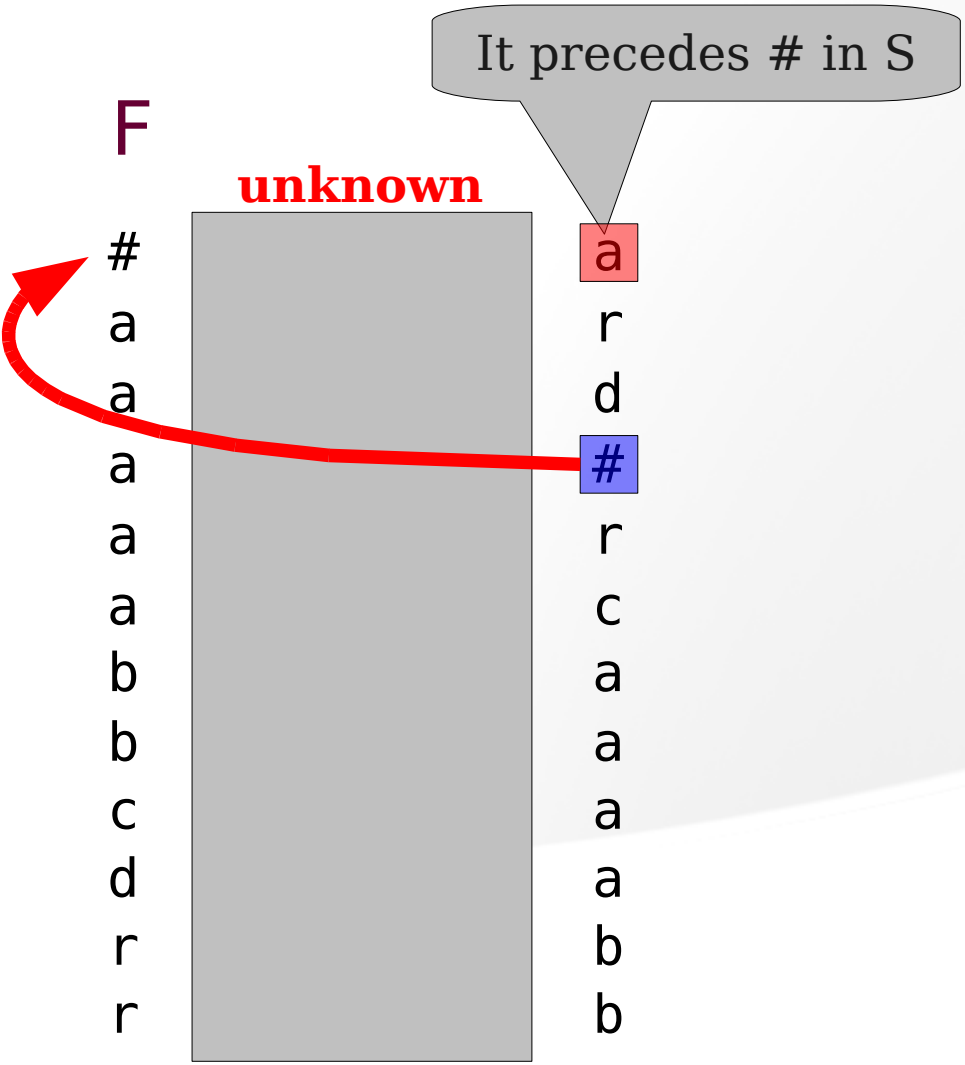

We reconstruct S backward

Two Key properties:

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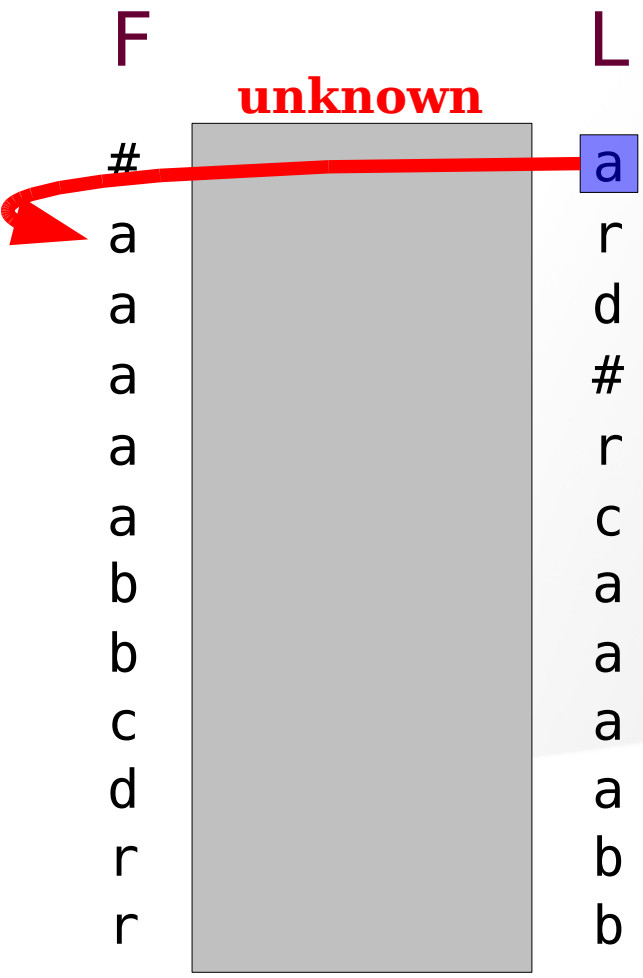
2) L[i] precedes F[i] in S

S= **----------a#**

Burrows-Wheeler Transform: reversibility

[Burrows-Wheeler, 1994]



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Two Key properties:

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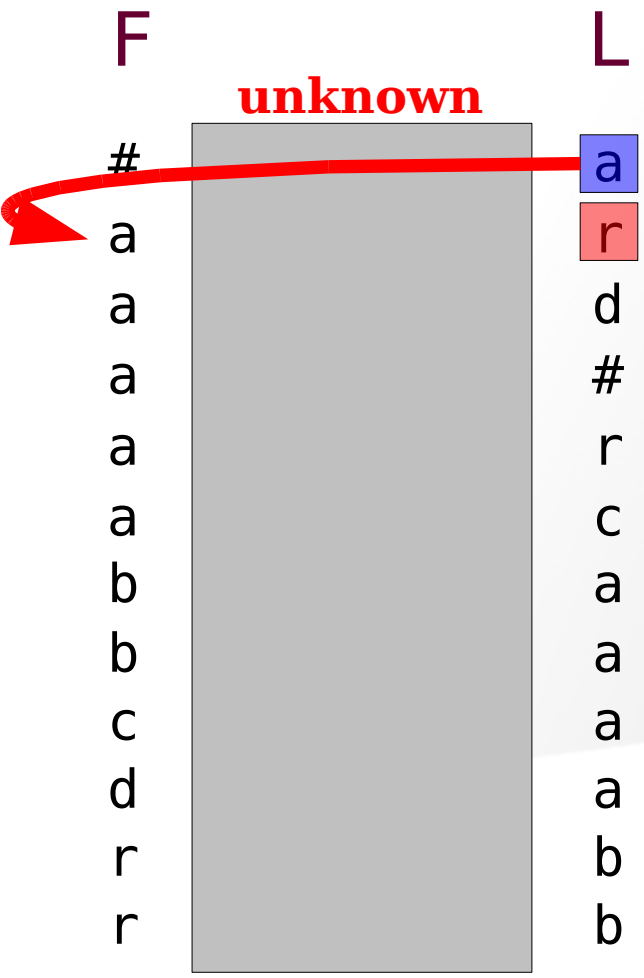
S= **----------a#**

Burrows-Wheeler Transform: reversibility

[Burrows-Wheeler, 1994]



We reconstruct S backward

Two Key properties:

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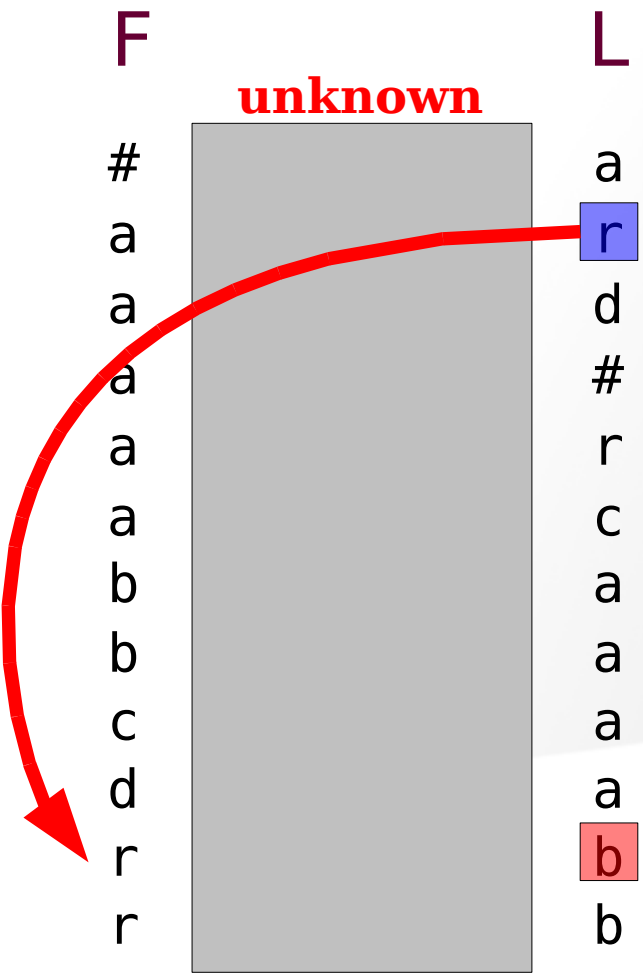
S= **---------ra#**

Burrows-Wheeler Transform: reversibility

[Burrows-Wheeler, 1994]



We reconstruct S backward

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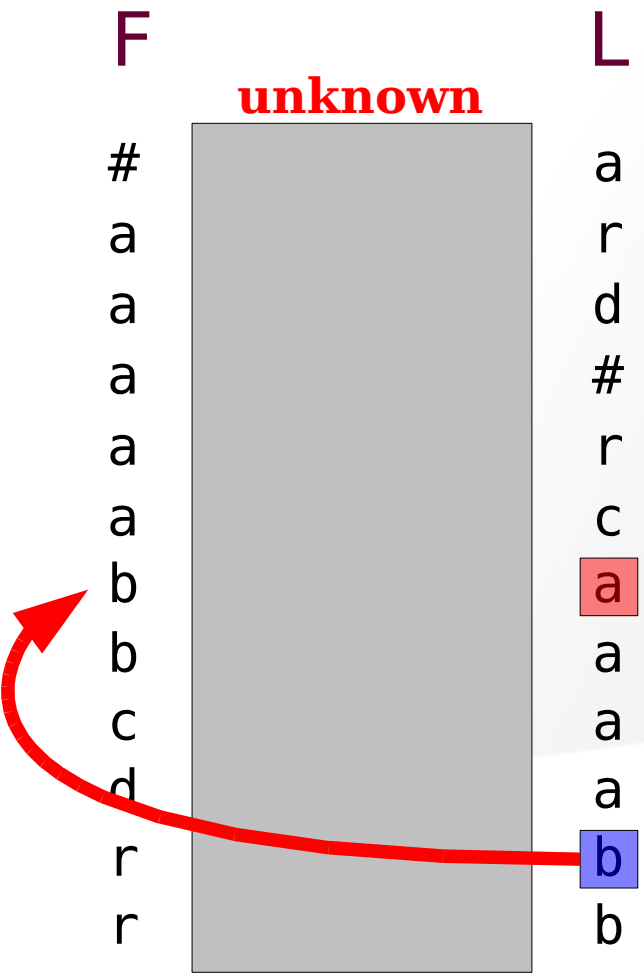
S= **--------bra#**

Burrows-Wheeler Transform: reversibility

[Burrows-Wheeler, 1994]



We reconstruct S backward

Two Key properties:

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S= **-------abra#**

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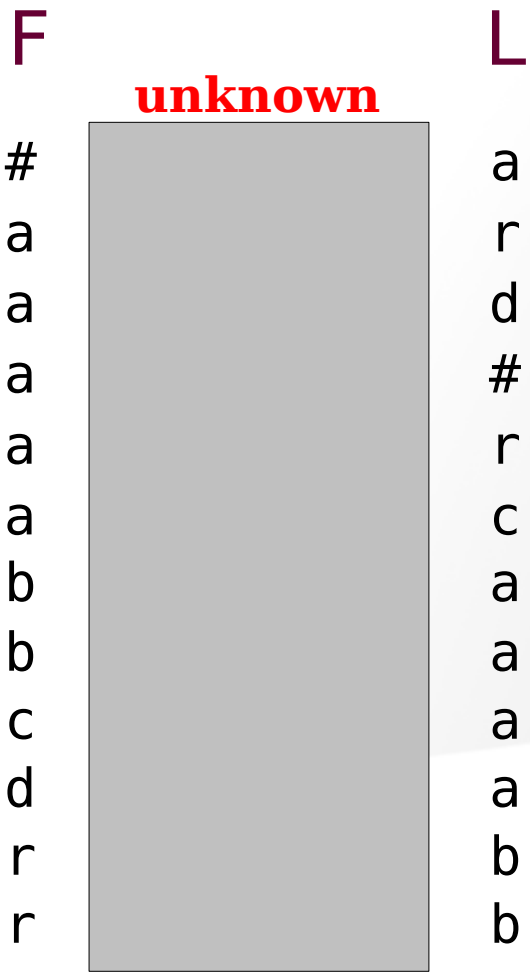

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S= **abracadabra#**

Burrows-Wheeler Transform: reversibility

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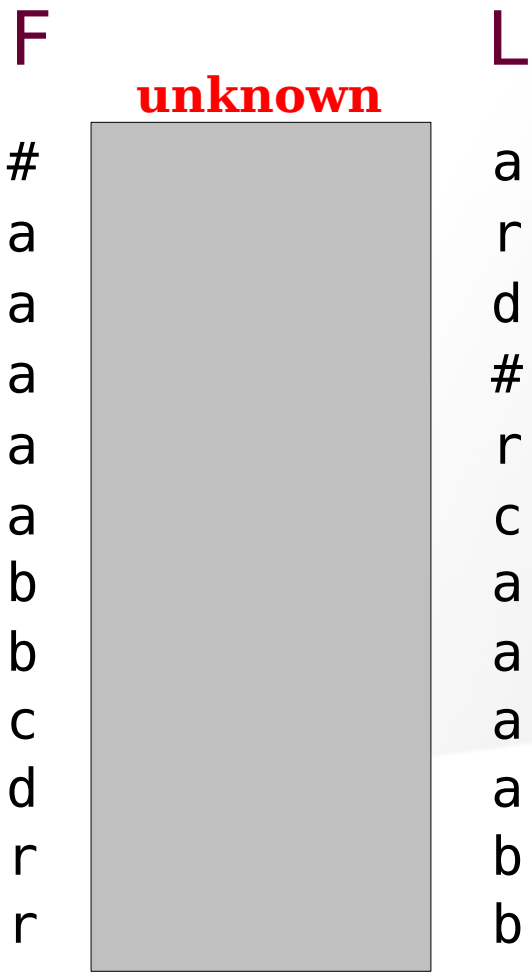

We reconstruct S backward

```
InvertBWT(L)
Compute LF[0,n-1];
r = 0; i = n;
while (i>0) {
    T[i] = L[r];
    r = LF[r]; i--;
    }
```

ies:

s symbols

in S

S= **abracadabra#**

Burrows-Wheeler Transform: reversibility

[Burrows-Wheeler, 1994]

Starting from L, the LF-mapping can be computed in linear time using a simple algorithm

F	unknown	L	LF
#	abracadabr	a	1
a	#abracadab	r	10
a	bra#abraca	d	9
a	bracadabra	#	0
a	cadabra#ab	r	11
a	dabra#abra	c	8
b	ra#abracad	a	2
b	racadabra#	a	3
c	adabra#abr	a	4
d	abra#abrac	a	5
r	a#abracada	b	6
r	acadabra#a	b	7

C

#	a	b	c	d	r
1	6	8	9	10	12

Auxiliary vector C that stores for each symbol c the number of occs in L of symbols smaller than c

- Scan L
  - Set LF[i]=C[L[i]]
  - Update the counter C[L[i]]++

Compress the BWT

Burrows-Wheeler Transform: why it works

[Burrows-Wheeler, 1994]

F	...	*L*
ot look upon his like again.	...	n
ot look upon me; Lest with th	...	n
ot love on the wing,-- As I p	...	h
ot love your father; But that	...	n
ot made them well, they imita	...	n
ot madness That I have utter'	...	n
ot me? Ham. No, by the rood,	...	g
ot me; no, nor woman neither,	...	n
ot me'? Ros. To think, my lor	...	n
ot mend his pace with beating	...	n
ot mine. Ham. No, nor mine no	...	n
ot mine own. Besides, to be d	...	n
ot mock me, fellow-student. I	...	n
ot monstrous that this player	...	n
ot more like. Ham. But where	...	n
ot more, my lord. Ham. Is not	...	j
ot more native to the heart,	...	n
ot more ugly to the thing tha	...	n
ot move thus. Oph. You must s	...	n
ot much approve me.--Well, si	...	n

Shakespeare's Hamlet

L is locally homogeneous

Symbols followed by equal contexts are clustered togheter

thus, L is highly compressible

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ot move thus. Oph. You must s	...	n
ot much approve me.--Well, si	...	n

Shakespeare's Hamlet

L is locally homogeneous

Symbols followed by equal contexts are clustered togheter

thus, L is highly compressible

B&W suggest to compress L in 3 steps:

- Move-To-Front
- Run Length Encoding
- Statistical Encoder (e.g. Huffman)

Move-to-Front

[Bentley-Sleator-Tarjan-Wei, 1986]

Transform L which is locally homogeneous into a new string that is globally homogeneous

L = a r d r c a a a a b b

C =

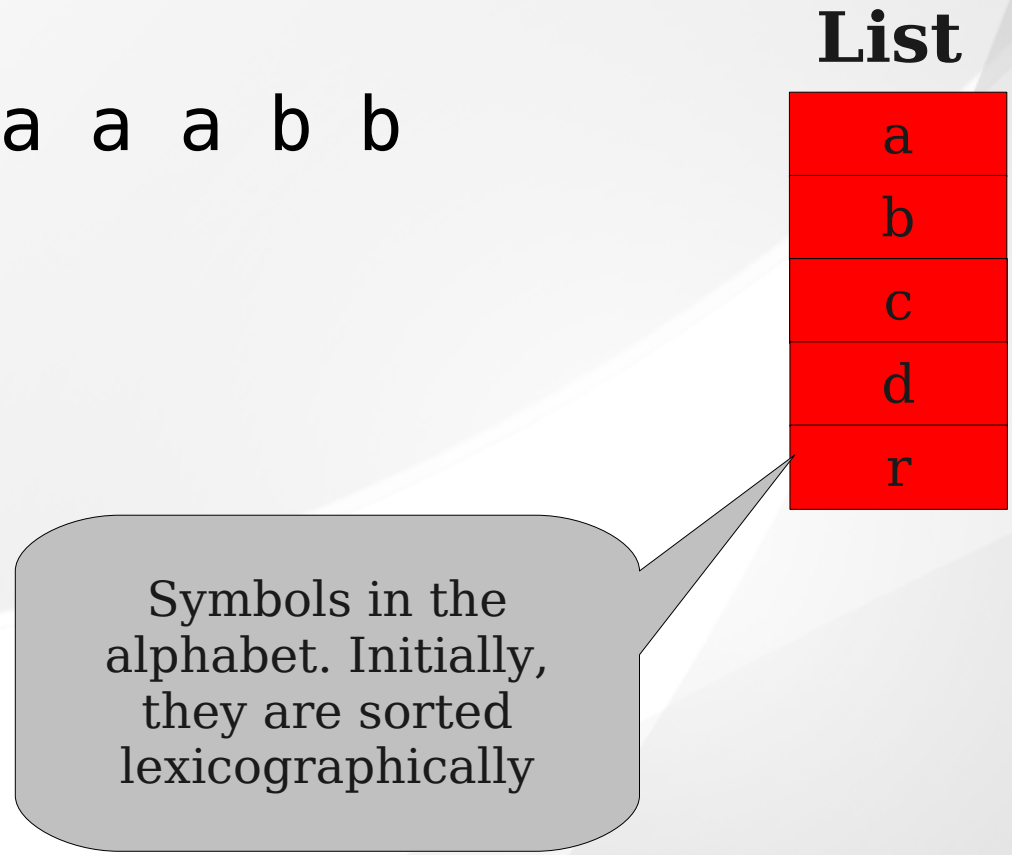
Move-to-Front

[Bentley-Sleator-Tarjan-Wei, 1986]

Transform L which is locally homogeneous into a new string that is globally homogeneous

L = a r d r c a a a a b b

C =



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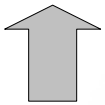

C =

List

a
b
c
d
r

Move-to-Front

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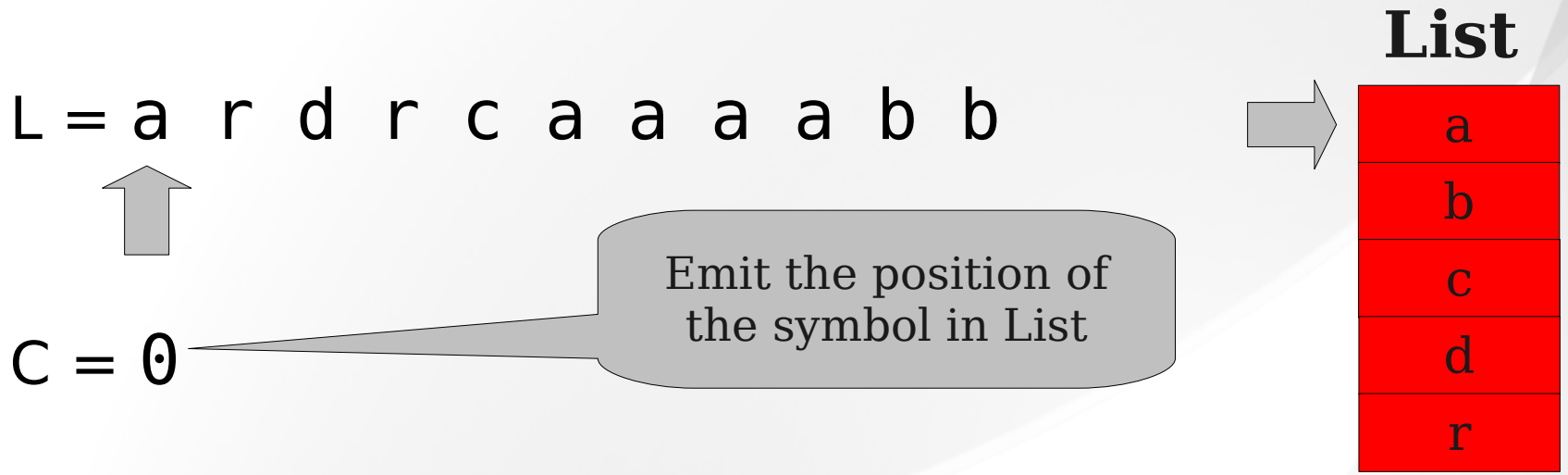

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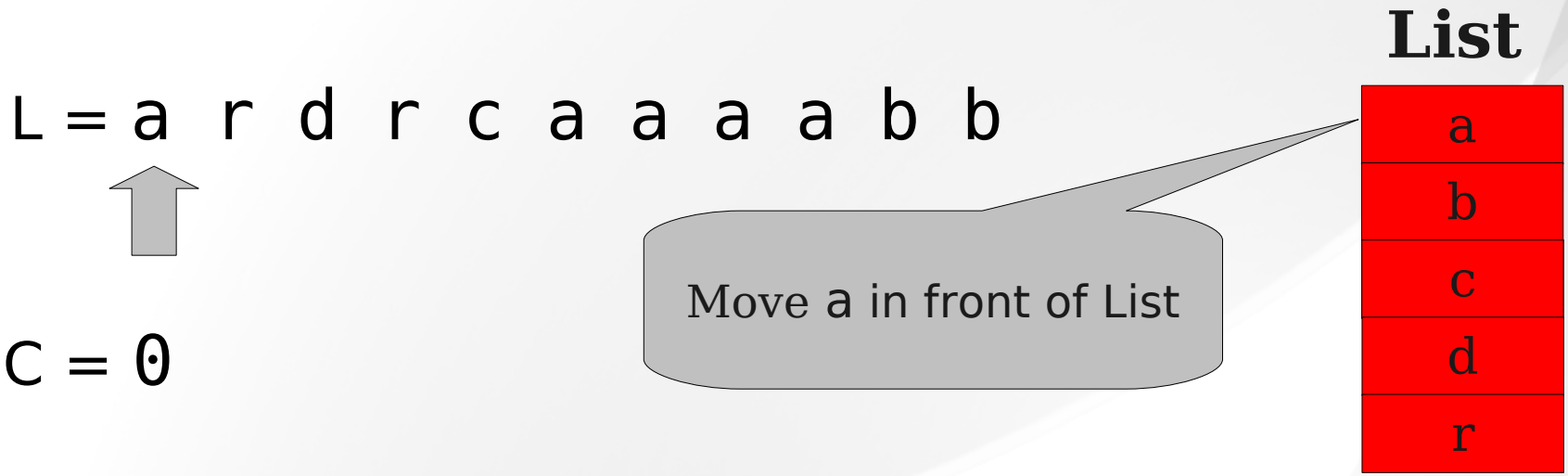

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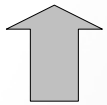
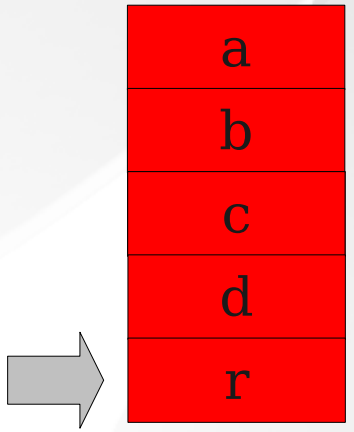


C = 0 4

List



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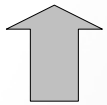
L = a r d r c a a a a b b



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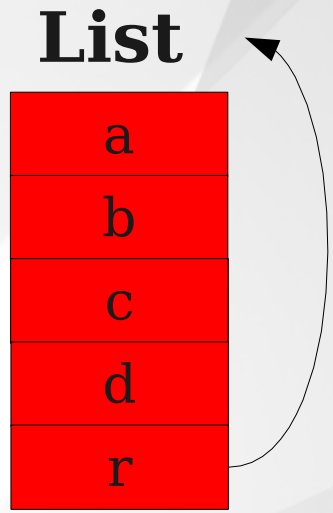

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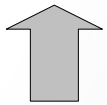
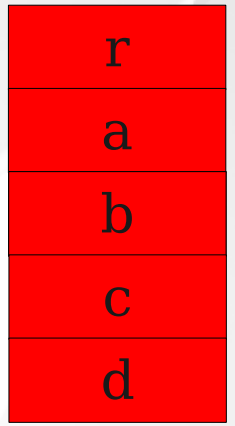


C = 0 4

List



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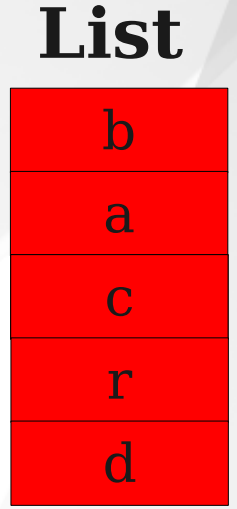
C = 0 4 4 1 4 3 0 0 0 4 0



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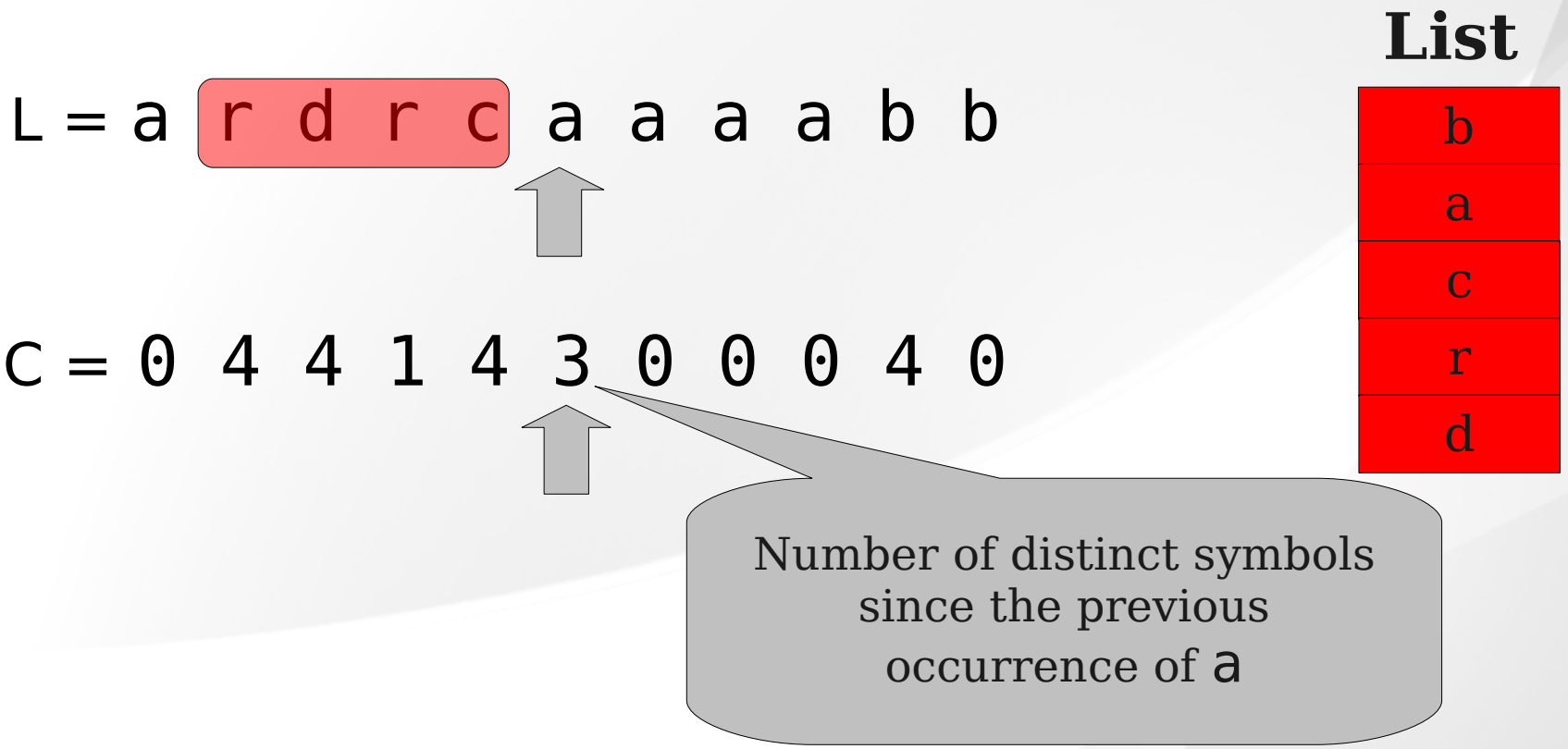

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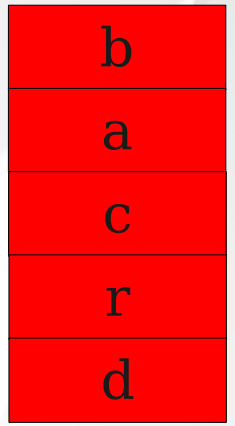
L = a r d r c a a a a b b

C = 0 4 4 1 4 3 0 0 0 4 0

List



If the string is locally homogeneous,
C contain a lot of small numbers.

Move-to-Front

[Bentley-Sleator-Tarjan-Wei, 1986]

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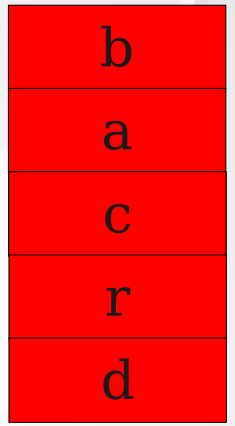

In particular, runs of equal symbols become runs of 0

Burrows-Wheeler Transform: why Move-to-Front

F	...	L
ot look upon his like again.	...	n
ot look upon me; Lest with th	...	n
ot love on the wing,-- As I p	...	h
ot love your father; But that	...	n
ot made them well, they imita	...	n
ot madness That I have utter’	...	n
ot me? Ham. No, by the rood,	...	g
ot me; no, nor woman neither,	...	n
ot me’? Ros. To think, my lor	...	n
ot mend his pace with beating	...	n
ot mine. Ham. No, nor mine no	...	n
ot mine own. Besides, to be d	...	n
ot mock me, fellow-student. I	...	n
ot monstrous that this player	...	n
ot more like. Ham. But where	...	n
ot more, my lord. Ham. Is not	...	j
ot more native to the heart,	...	n
ot more ugly to the thing tha	...	n
ot move thus. Oph. You must s	...	n
ot much approve me.--Well, si	...	n

Shakespeare's Hamlet

AGAIN!

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ot much approve me.--Well, si	...	n

Shakespeare's Hamlet

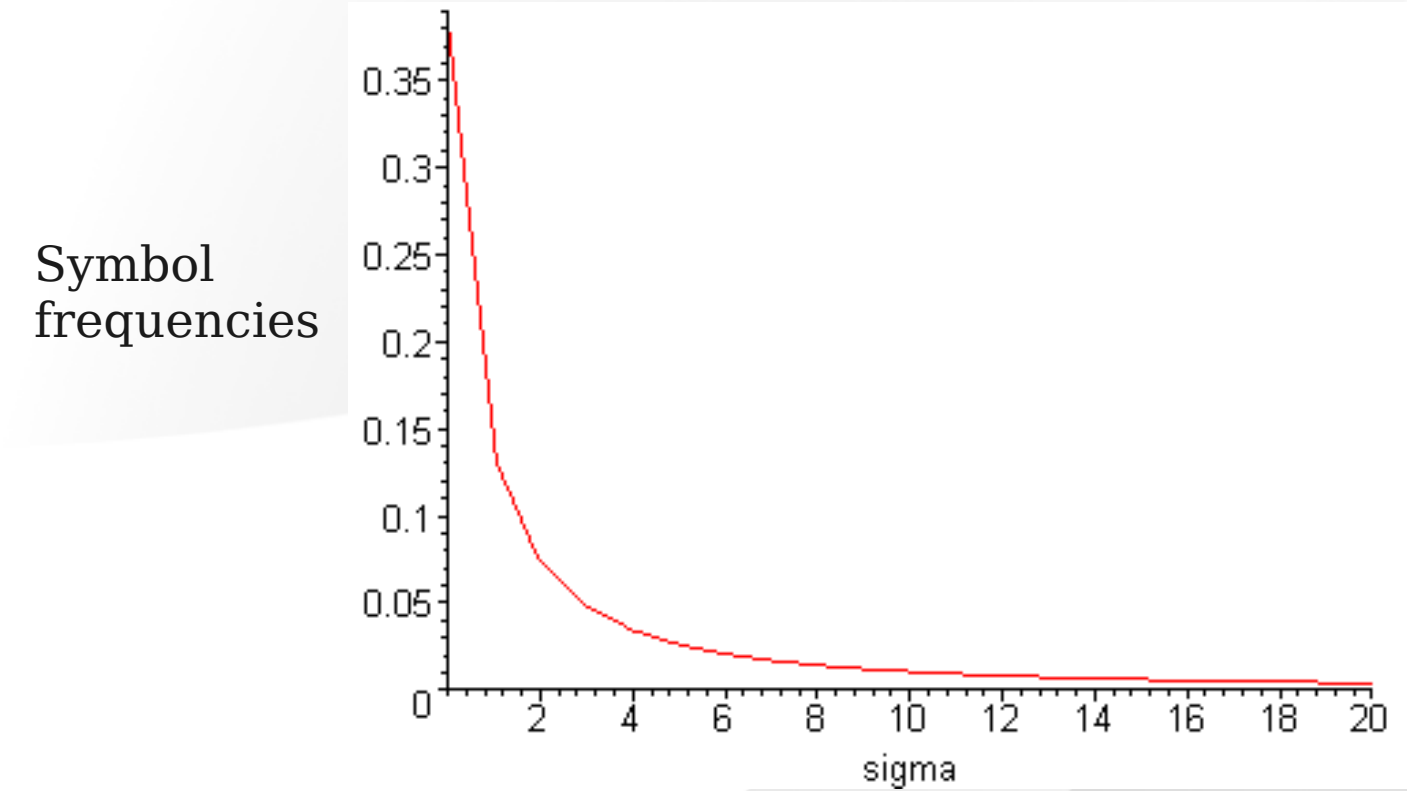
AGAIN!

MTF(L)

+
0
+
1
0
0
+
1
0
0
0
0
0
0
0
+
1
0
0
0

After MTF

- Now we have a string with small numbers: lots of 0s, many 1s, ...
- Skewed frequencies: next steps RLE +Huffman!



Run-Length-Encoding

Encode runs of 0s in C

L = a r d r c a a a a b b

C = 0 4 4 1 4 3 0 0 0 4 0

C'= 0 5 5 2 5 4 0 0 0 5 0

Replace symbol c>0 with c+1,
i.e. increase the alphabet size by 1

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Encode runs of 0s with bin(length+1)
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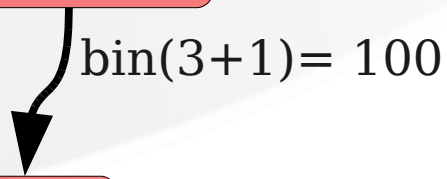

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C = 0 4 4 1 4 3 0 0 0 4 0

C'= **0** 5 5 2 5 4 **0 0** 5 **0**

Final step: Huffman to encode C'.
Now it is effective, large number of 0s and 1s

How to build (efficiently) the BWT?

How to build the BWT

Let us given S = abracadabra#

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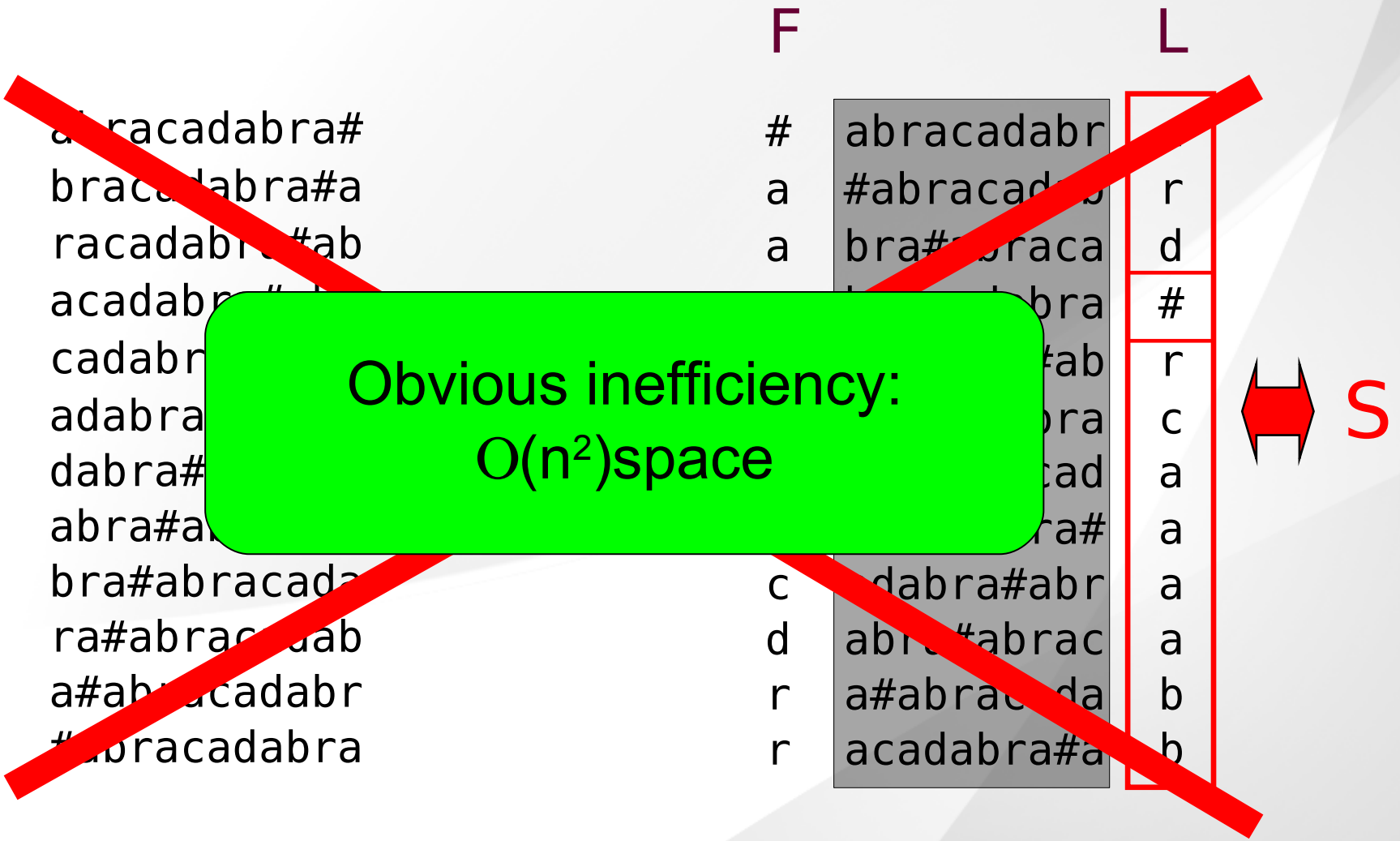

Suffix Array

Let us given S = abracadabra#

SA

12	#

SA stores the starting positions in S
of the suffixes sorted lexicographically

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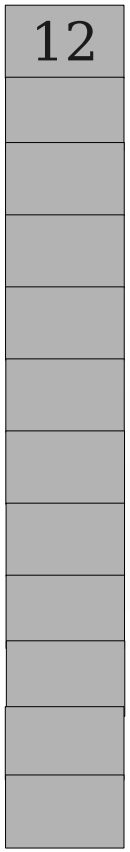

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12	#
11	a#
8	abra#
1	abracadabra#
4	acadabra#
6	adabra#
9	bra#
2	bracadabra#
5	cadabra#abr
7	dabra#
10	ra#
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10	ra#
3	racadabra#

F	L
#abracadabr	a
a#abracadab	r
abra#abraca	d
abracadabra	#
acadabra#ab	r
adabra#abra	c
bra#abracad	a
bracadabra#	a
cadabra#abr	a
dabra#abrac	a
ra#abracada	b
racadabra#a	b

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F	L
#abracadabr	a
a#abracadab	r
abra#abraca	d
abracadabra	#
acadabra#ab	r
adabra#abra	c
bra#abracad	a
bracadabra#	a
cadabra#abr	a
dabra#abrac	a
ra#abracada	b
racadabra#a	b

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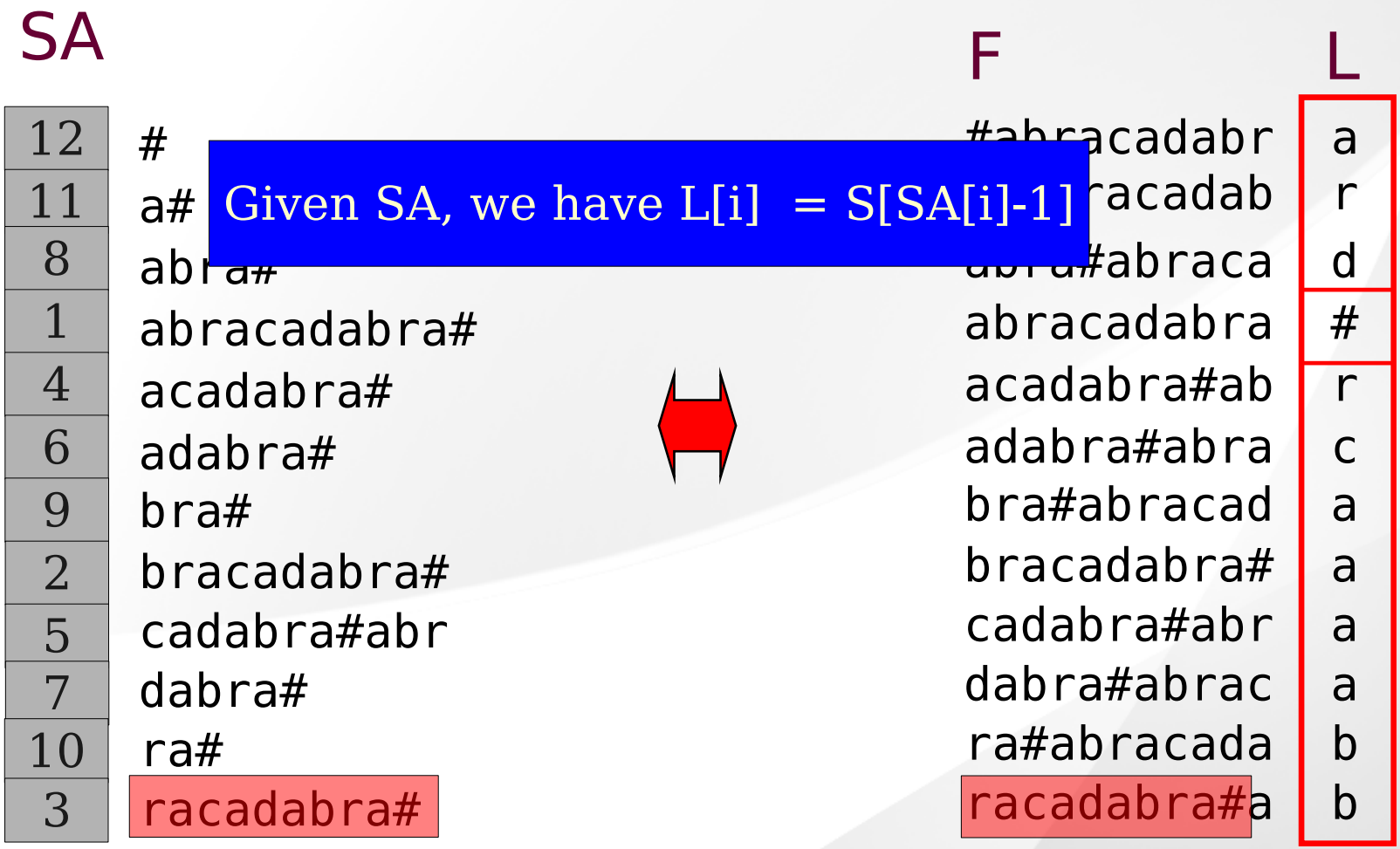

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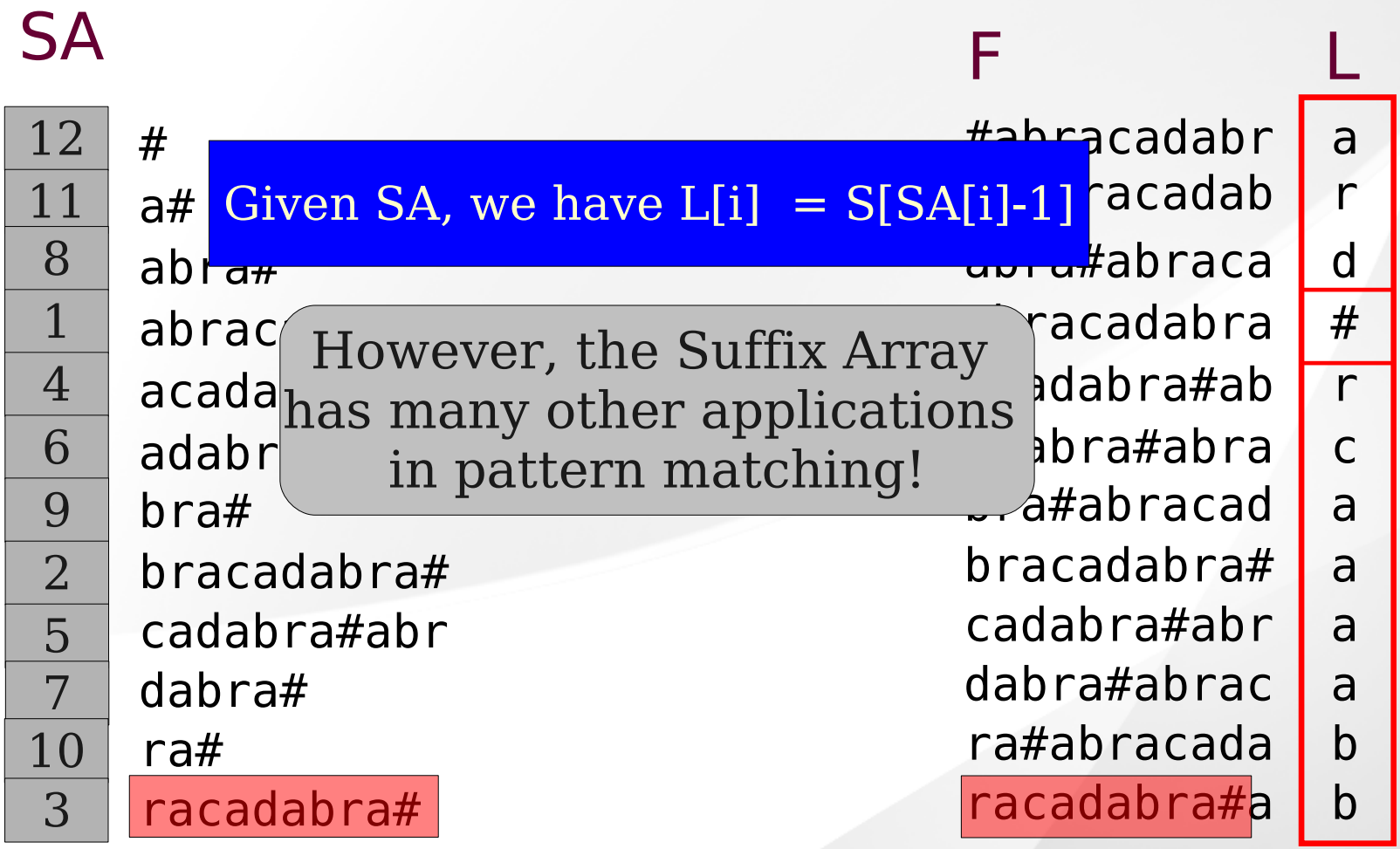

How construct SA?

SA

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11	a#
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5	cadabra#abr
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3	racadabra#

Elegant but inefficient

```
COMPARISON_BASED_CONSTRUCTION(char *T, int n, char **SA)
  { for(i = 0; i < n; i++)   SA[i] = T + i;
    QSORT(SA, n, sizeof(char *), Suffix_cmp); }

SUFFIX_CMP(char **p, char **q){ return strcmp(*p,*q); }
```

- $\Theta(n^2 \log n)$ time in the worst-case
- $O(n)$ space

Suffix Array

Last years, many clever algorithms that compute the Suffix Array in linear time:

- Karkkainen-Sanders [J. ACM, 2006]
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and practical ones (no linear time):

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BWT can be computed in linear time!!!

Wheeler discovered the BWT in 1983 but he did not publish it because it was considered too slow!

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BWT can be computed in linear time!!!

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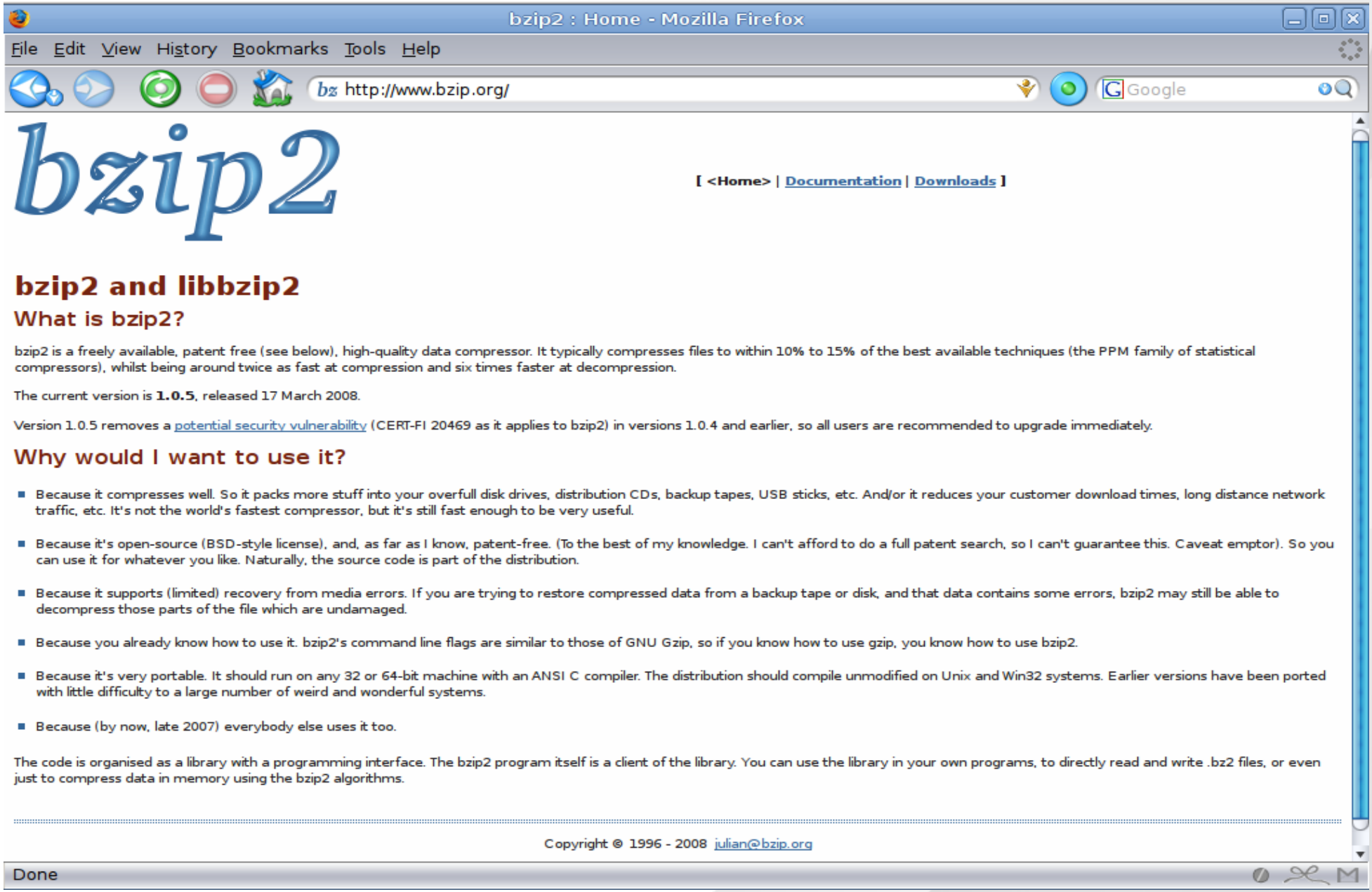
In 1994, the paper was rejected... and BWT is still a Technical Report.

A compressor based on BWT: Bzip2

You find this in your Linux distribution



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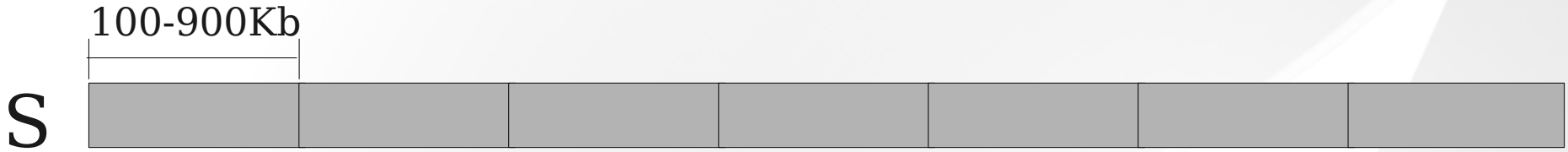

Just for time performance, the compression it achieves is worse.

bzip2 vs gzip

English 5Mb	comp. size	comp. time
gzip	2.0 Mb	1.7 secs
bzip2	1.5 Mb	2.2 secs
bigbzip	1.3 Mb	2.4 secs

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English 20Mb	comp. size	comp. time	dec. time
gzip	7.8 Mb	7.2 secs	0.8 secs
bzip2	5.9 Mb	11.0 secs	4.0 secs
bigbzip	4.1 Mb	20.0 secs	5.8 secs

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... but, now we can increase the block size from 900Kb to 5Mb due to new algorithmic solutions.
Improve compression, same time performace!

Some other applications

- ***FM-index/CSA:*** *Searching in compressed text.*
  - Given a text S, we can compress in a way that permits us to search any pattern P in S in time proportional to |P|!
    (Notice that |P|<<|S|)

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Wake Up!!