



DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

# Dictionary Matching with Fingerprints

## An Empirical Analysis

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A dissertation submitted to the University of Bristol in accordance with the requirements of the degree  
of Master of Engineering in the Faculty of Engineering.

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# Declaration

This dissertation is submitted to the University of Bristol in accordance with the requirements of the degree of MEng in the Faculty of Engineering. It has not been submitted for any other degree or diploma of any examining body. Except where specifically acknowledged, it is all the work of the Author.

Dominic Joseph Moylett, Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2015



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# List of Listings



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# Executive Summary

**A compulsory section, of at most 1 page**

This section should précis the project context, aims and objectives, and main contributions and achievements; the same section may be called an abstract elsewhere. The goal is to ensure the reader is clear about what the topic is, what you have done within this topic, *and* what your view of the outcome is.

The former aspects should be guided by your specification: essentially this section is a (very) short version of what is typically the first chapter. The latter aspects should be presented as a concise, factual bullet point list. The points will of course differ for each project, but an example is as follows:

- I spent 120 hours collecting material on and learning about the Java garbage-collection sub-system.
- I wrote a total of 5000 lines of source code, comprising a Linux device driver for a robot (in C) and a GUI (in Java) that is used to control it.
- I designed a new algorithm for computing the non-linear mapping from A-space to B-space using a genetic algorithm, see page 17.
- I implemented a version of the algorithm proposed by Jones and Smith in [6], see page 12, corrected a mistake in it, and compared the results with several alternatives.





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# Supporting Technologies

- I used the GNU Multiple Precision Arithmetic Library (GMP) to support my implementation of Karp-Rabin fingerprints.<https://gmplib.org/>
- I used the C Minimum Perfect Hashing Library (CMPH) for static perfect hashing.<http://cmph.sourceforge.net/>
- I used an open-source implementation of Red-Black Trees from [http://en.literateprograms.org/Red-black\\_tree\\_\(C\)?oldid=19567](http://en.literateprograms.org/Red-black_tree_(C)?oldid=19567), with some minor adaptations.
- The algorithms were tested against 50MB of gene DNA sequences from the Pizza and Chili Corpus.<http://pizzachili.dcc.uchile.cl/texts/dna/>



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# Notation and Acronyms

CMPH	:	C Minimum Perfect Hashing Library
GMP	:	GNU Multiple Precision Arithmetic Library
VO	:	A Viable Occurrence, a portion of the text which might match a pattern
KMP	:	The Knuth-Morris-Pratt single pattern matching algorithm
BST	:	Binary Search Tree
RBT	:	Red-Black Tree, a specific instance of a binary search tree
CLRS	:	Introduction to Algorithms by Thomas H. Cormen, Charles E. Lieserson, Ronald L. Rivest and Clifford A. Stein
$T$	:	A text string of $n$ characters
$t_i$	:	The $i$ -th character in $T$
$\mathcal{P}$	:	A list of $k$ patterns
$P_i$	:	The $i$ -th pattern in $\mathcal{P}$ , a text string of $m_i$ characters
$M$	:	A list of the length of each pattern in $\mathcal{P}$ .
$p_{i,j}$	:	The $j$ -th character in $P_i$
$ S $	:	The length of a string $S$
$\phi(S)$	:	The Karp-Rabin fingerprint of a string $S$
$\rho_S$	:	The period of a string $S$



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# Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I would like to thank my supervisors: Dr. Raphaël Clifford and Dr. Benjamin Sach. This project would have been impossible without their work and advice. Alongside them, I would like to mention Dr. Markus Jalsenius for his assistance during the summer project that led to this work and Dr. Allyx Fontaine, who contributed to the paper on which my project is based and advised me alongside Benjamin every week.

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Last, but most certainly not least, I would like to thank my family and friends for the infinite support, happiness and love they have given me my entire life.



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# Chapter 1

## Contextual Background

**A compulsory chapter, of roughly 10 pages**

This chapter should describe the project context, and motivate each of the proposed aims and objectives. Ideally, it is written at a fairly high-level, and easily understood by a reader who is technically competent but not an expert in the topic itself.

In short, the goal is to answer three questions for the reader. First, what is the project topic, or problem being investigated? Second, why is the topic important, or rather why should the reader care about it? For example, why there is a need for this project (e.g., lack of similar software or deficiency in existing software), who will benefit from the project and in what way (e.g., end-users, or software developers) what work does the project build on and why is the selected approach either important and/or interesting (e.g., fills a gap in literature, applies results from another field to a new problem). Finally, what are the central challenges involved and why are they significant?

The chapter should conclude with a concise bullet point list that summarises the aims and objectives. For example:

The high-level objective of this project is to reduce the performance gap between hardware and software implementations of modular arithmetic. More specifically, the concrete aims are:

1. Research and survey literature on public-key cryptography and identify the state of the art in exponentiation algorithms.
2. Improve the state of the art algorithm so that it can be used in an effective and flexible way on constrained devices.
3. Implement a framework for describing exponentiation algorithms and populate it with suitable examples from the literature on an ARM7 platform.
4. Use the framework to perform a study of algorithm performance in terms of time and space, and show the proposed improvements are worthwhile.





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## Chapter 2

# Technical Background

### 2.1 Pattern Matching: Formal Definitions

Pattern matching with a single pattern is a simple problem to describe intuitively: We have a text and a pattern, and we want to output any indexes where the pattern occurs in the text.

More formally, we refer to the text by  $T$ , and define it as a string of  $n$  characters  $t_0...t_{n-1}$ . Likewise, the pattern is referred to as  $P$ , and is a string of  $m$  characters  $p_0...p_{m-1}$ . The aim of the text indexing problem is to output indexes  $i \in \{m-1, ..., n-1\}$  such that  $t_{i-m+1}...t_i = P$ .

It is worth noting that there are many other ways of defining this problem. The most notable differences in this paper are that the text and pattern are indexed at zero instead of one, and that the index at the end of the pattern's occurrence is returned instead of the index at the start. Both of these are done to be intentionally to be consistent with the code implemented: The zero-indexing is because the implementations are written in C, which also uses zero indexing, and reporting the index at the end of the occurrence is to cater for a limitation on the algorithm by Clifford et al. detailed in Section 2.10.2.

#### 2.1.1 Dictionary Matching: Formal Definitions

Like pattern matching, dictionary matching is also simple to describe intuitively: We have one text as before, but now we have multiple patterns, and we want to output any indexes where a pattern occurs in the text.

Formally, this is defined as follows: We have a text  $n$  characters long  $T = t_0...t_{n-1}$ , and a set of  $k$  patterns  $\mathcal{P} = \{P_0, ..., P_k\}$  of respective lengths  $M = \{m_0, ..., m_k\}$ . Hence a given pattern  $P_i$  is a string of  $m_i$  characters  $p_{i,0}...p_{i,m_i-1}$ . We output an index  $j \in \{\min(M), ..., n-1\}$  if  $\exists i \in \{0, ..., k-1\}$  such that  $t_{j-m_i+1}...t_j = P_i$ .

Note that for this work, we do not care about what patterns have occurred in the text, only that a pattern has occurred. This is due to a limitation with the algorithm by Clifford et al., which will be discussed in Section 2.10.2.

```

rotate buf by one
append  $t_i$  to buf
for  $i = 0$  upto  $m - 1$  do
    if  $buf_i \neq p_i$  then
        return -1
    end
end
return j

```

**Algorithm 2.1:** A naïve solution to single pattern matching.

## 2.2 The Streaming Model

Data streaming is a way of reducing space consumption for certain problems. Under this model, required space is reduced by not processing the entire problem input at once. Instead, the input is provided to the algorithm in portions, delivered via a stream of data. The algorithm processes one portion of the input at a time, and it is required that the algorithm is not allowed to store the entire input.

Under this model, we measure performance by two properties:

- **Space:** The size of the data structure
- **Time:** The time taken to process each portion in the stream

It is easy to see how pattern matching and in turn dictionary matching can be performed in this model. We can process the text by individual characters. During preprocessing we store the pattern and initialise a circular buffer  $buf$  which is  $m$  characters long. At index  $j$  when we receive character  $t_j$  we perform the algorithm described in Algorithm 2.1. A dictionary matching variant can be done by storing a circular buffer which is  $\max(M)$  characters long and repeating Algorithm 2.1  $k$  times. These algorithms use  $O(m)$  and  $O(\sum_{i=0}^{k-1} m_i)$  respectively, both in terms of space and time per character.

Of course, these are poor solutions to both pattern and dictionary matching. We can do much better in terms of both time and space complexity.

## 2.3 Arbitrary-Precision Arithmetic

Arbitrary-Precision Arithmetic are libraries which allow for computation of numbers beyond what is capable of a typical machine. Common applications include Cryptography and linear algebra.

Again, little detail will be provided here due to the fact that this is not implemented and only used as an external library. For more information, feel free to visit the GNU Multiple Precision Arithmetic Library (GMP) website at <https://gmplib.org/>.

## 2.4 (Minimal) Static Perfect Hashing

For a universe  $U$ , a hash function  $h$  is static if it can perform lookups for a pre-defined set of keys  $S \subseteq U$  to a set of integers  $\mathbb{Z}_m$ . Said hash function is a static *perfect* hash function if  $\forall x \in S, h(x)$  is collision-free, and thus takes constant time to look up. Finally, a hash function is a *minimal* perfect hash function if  $m = |S|$ . In other words, a minimal perfect hash function maps a set of  $m$  keys to  $\mathbb{Z}_m$  without any collisions.

The implementation of minimal perfect hash functions will not be detailed here, as they are used merely as a library and are thus not part of implementation. For further information, I direct the reader to the C Minimal Perfect Hashing Library (CMPH) website: <http://cmph.sourceforge.net/>. Of particular interest is the paper on the Compress, Hash and Digest algorithm by Belazzougui, Botelho and Dietzfelbinger[3], as the algorithm from CMPH used throughout this work.

## 2.5 Binary Search Trees

A Binary Search Tree (BST)[9] is a tree where each node has at most two children and for every node in the tree, all the descendants to the left of the tree have a smaller value than the given node, and those to the right have a larger value. The height of a BST is determined by the longest distance from any leaf to the root of the tree, and a BST is self-balancing if its height is kept small regardless of what items are inserted or removed. Because a lot of BST operations run in time dependent on the height of the tree, keeping this factor small is important.

Of particular note are Red-Black Trees (RBT)[10], which are the binary search trees used in this project. Their time complexity when containing  $n$  items is  $O(\log n)$  for insert, search and delete and  $O(n)$ . Because this is used as a library function and not implemented by myself, we will not go into detail on how RBTs work. For more information on Red-Black Trees, I encourage the reader to consult the Introduction to Algorithms by Cormen, Leiserson, Rivest and Stein (CLRS) chapter cited above, the original paper by Bayer[2], and the website for the implementation used in this project: [http://en.literateprograms.org/Red-black\\_tree\\_%28C%29](http://en.literateprograms.org/Red-black_tree_%28C%29)

## 2.6 The Aho-Corasick Algorithm for Dictionary Matching

The Aho-Corasick Algorithm for Efficient String Matching[1] – known hereafter as Aho-Corasick – is a deterministic algorithm for dictionary matching. Published in 1975, the algorithm works as a generalisation of Knuth-Morris-Pratt (KMP)[14], extending the state machine from single patterns in KMP to multiple patterns.

Preprocessing consists of three algorithms. The first, Algorithm 2.2, produces the `goto` function, which determines what to do if the next character in the stream is a match. This in essence works by building a suffix tree: We traverse the tree until we either reach the end of the pattern or we hit a leaf, and then append the rest of the pattern to the leaf. Note that  $\Sigma$  refers to the alphabet of the patterns and `fail` is a default fail state for if the `goto` function cannot find a character for that state.

The second, Algorithm 2.3 constructs the `failure` function for when the next character cannot be found and the `output` function for whether or not there is a match. This is similar to how the failure table is computed in Knuth-Morris-Pratt, by using previously computed failure tables to find the longest prefix that is also a suffix of that point in the pattern.

From these two algorithms alone it is possible to perform dictionary matching, using a computation method again similar to Knuth-Morris-Pratt: For each character  $t_j$  in the text when we are in state  $s$ , we check if `goto( $s, t_j$ ) = fail`. If that is the case, we call  $s \leftarrow \text{failure}(s)$  repeatedly until the previous check no longer holds. We then update our state  $s \leftarrow \text{goto}(s, t_j)$ , and if `output( $s$ )  $\neq$  empty` then we return  $j$ , otherwise we return  $-1$ . This runs in amortised  $O(|\Sigma|)$  time per character, and worst case  $O(|\Sigma| \max(M))$  time per character, as can be seen via Knuth-Morris-Pratt arguments.

To improve on this running time, Algorithm 2.4 is used, which combines the `goto` and `failure` functions to produce a `next` function, which given any state and character returns the next state. Computation now simply becomes as each character  $t_j$  comes in when we are in state  $s$ , call  $s \leftarrow \text{next}(s, t_j)$

```

newstate ← 0
for i = 0 upto k - 1 do
  state ← 0
  j ← 0
  while goto(state, pi,j) ≠ fail do
    state ← goto(state, pi,j)
    j ← j + 1
  end
  while j < mi do
    newstate ← newstate + 1
    goto(state, pi,j) ← newstate
    state ← newstate
    j ← j + 1
  end
  output(state) = {Pi}
end
forall the a ∈ Σ such that goto(0, a) = fail do
  | goto(0, a) = 0
end

```

**Algorithm 2.2:** Constructing the goto function for Aho-Corasick.

and return  $j$  if  $\text{output}(s) \neq \text{empty}$ . This runs in worst case  $O(|\Sigma|)$  time per character, where the bottleneck is finding the value associated with character  $t_j$  in the **next** function. In both the case with the **goto** and **failure** functions and the case with only the **next** function, space complexity is  $O(\sum_{i=0}^{k-1} m_i)$ .

### 2.6.1 An Alternative: The Commentz-Walter Algorithm

Much like how Aho-Corasick is an algorithm for dictionary matching based on Knuth-Morris-Pratt, Commentz-Walter[8] is an algorithm based on Boyer-Moore algorithm[4], using similar techniques to Aho-Corasick to convert the algorithm from single pattern to multiple patterns. While it is interesting to note as an alternative, particularly because of its time improvement on average cases and the fact that a variant of it is used in the GNU command **grep**,<sup>1</sup> it is not implemented in this project. This is because, like Boyer-Moore, the Commentz-Walter algorithm skips indexes in the text, which is not possible in the streaming model.

## 2.7 Karp-Rabin Fingerprints

Karp-Rabin fingerprints[13] are a function  $\phi : \Sigma^* \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$  for some prime number  $p$ . For a text  $T$  of length  $n$  characters, the Karp-Rabin fingerprint is defined as:

$$\phi(T) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} r^i t_i \mod p$$

Where  $p$  is a prime number, and  $r$  is a random number such that  $1 < r < p$ . Alongside the fingerprint  $\phi(T)$ , we store  $r^n \mod p$  and  $r^{-n} \mod p$  in a tuple. Using these three properties, we can manipulate the fingerprints to affect the underlying strings in three ways[15]. Note that all equations listed below are modulo  $p$ .

<sup>1</sup>See <http://git.savannah.gnu.org/cgit/grep.git/tree/src/kwset.c>

```

queue ← empty
foreach a ∈ Σ such that goto(0, a) = s ≠ 0 do
    queue ← queue ∪ {s}
    failure(s) ← 0
end
while queue ≠ empty do
    r ← pop(queue)
    foreach a ∈ Σ such that goto(r, a) = s ≠ fail do
        queue ← queue ∪ s
        state ← failure(r)
        while goto(state, a) = fail do
            state ← failure(state)
        end
        failure(s) ← goto(state, a)
        output(s) ← output(s) ∪ output(failure(s))
    end
end
end

```

**Algorithm 2.3:** Constructing the `failure` and `output` functions for Aho-Corasick.

```

queue ← empty
foreach a ∈ Σ do
    next(0, a) = goto(0, a)
    if goto(0, a) ≠ 0 then
        queue ← queue ∪ {goto(0, a)}
    end
end
while queue ≠ empty do
    r ← pop(queue)
    foreach a ∈ Σ do
        if goto(r, a) = s ≠ fail then
            queue ← queue ∪ s
            next(r, a) = s
        else
            next(r, a) = next(failure(r), a)
        end
    end
end
end

```

**Algorithm 2.4:** Constructing the `next` function for Aho-Corasick.

- **Concatenate:** If we have a fingerprint  $\{\phi(u), r^{n_1}, r^{-n_1}\}$  for a string  $u$  of length  $n_1$  and another fingerprint  $\{\phi(v), r^{n_2}, r^{-n_2}\}$  for a string  $v$  of length  $n_2$ , the concatenation of these two strings is  $\{\phi(u) + \phi(v) * r^{n_1}, r^{n_1} * r^{n_2}, r^{-n_1} * r^{-n_2}\}$
- **Prefix:** If we have a fingerprint  $\{\phi(uv), r^{n_1}, r^{-n_1}\}$  for a string  $uv$  of length  $n_1$  and a fingerprint  $\{\phi(v), r^{n_2}, r^{-n_2}\}$  for the  $n_2$  suffix of  $uv$ , then we can work out the fingerprint of the  $n_1 - n_2$  prefix of  $uv$  as  $\{\phi(uv) - \phi(v) * r^{n_1}, r^{n_1} * r^{-n_2}, r^{-n_1} * r^{n_2}\}$
- **Suffix:** If we have a fingerprint  $\{\phi(uv), r^{n_1}, r^{-n_1}\}$  for a string  $uv$  of length  $n_1$  and a fingerprint  $\{\phi(u), r^{n_2}, r^{-n_2}\}$  for the  $n_2$  prefix of  $uv$ , then we can work out the fingerprint of the  $n_1 - n_2$  suffix of  $uv$  as  $\{(\phi(uv) - \phi(u)) * r^{-n_2}, r^{n_1} * r^{-n_2}, r^{-n_1} * r^{n_2}\}$

All of these operations can be completed in constant time.

It is interesting to note that a variant of the Karp-Rabin algorithm can be used for a subset of dictionary matching, where all the patterns are the same length  $m$ [6]. This can be done by storing a

fingerprint of the last  $m$  characters read from the text, and using static perfect hashing as described in section 2.4 to check if the fingerprint of the text matches any fingerprints of the patterns. Using suffix and concatenation techniques above and storing a circular buffer of the last  $m$  characters, we can accomplish this with  $O(k + m)$  space and  $O(1)$  time per character. However, due to the limitation that all the patterns have to be the same length, this method has not been implemented for this project.

The last point to mention is the probability of a collision. Breslauer and Galil[5] provide a theorem that if  $u$  and  $v$  are two different strings of length  $l \leq n$ ,  $p \in \theta(n^{2+\alpha})$  for some level of accuracy  $\alpha \geq 0$  and  $r \in \mathbb{Z}_p$  is randomly chosen, then the probability that  $\phi(u) = \phi(v)$  is smaller than  $\frac{1}{n^{1+\alpha}}$ . We will however see later why this does not necessarily hold for the dictionary matching algorithm devised by Clifford et al. [7].

## 2.8 Porat and Porat: Single Pattern Matching in Sublinear Space

In 2009, Porat and Porat[15] provided the first solution to a pattern matching problem in sublinear space to the size of the pattern. Utilising Karp-Rabin fingerprints as described in the previous section, their randomised algorithm for single pattern matching in the streaming model had  $O(\log m)$  complexity both in terms of space and time per character.

Detailed below is not Porat and Porat's algorithm itself, but a variant of it developed by Breslauer and Galil in 2014[5]. The two algorithms can be seen as computationally equivalent.

Instead of storing the entire pattern in a single fingerprint, the pattern is broken up into  $\lfloor \log_2 m \rfloor$  fingerprints, each a power of two prefix of the patter. These fingerprints denoted  $\phi_i$ , are computed as follows:

$$\phi_i = \phi(p_0 \dots p_{2^i - 1})$$

If the pattern is not a power of two in length, the remaining characters can be stored either in the fingerprint of the final prefix  $\phi_{\lfloor \log_2 m \rfloor}$  or in a new final level,  $\phi_{\lceil \log_2 m \rceil}$ .

These fingerprints can be created in a streaming fashion, so each character of the pattern only needs to be read once. This can be done via dynamic programming, concatenating the current row with the fingerprint of the already computed previous row:

$$\phi_i = \begin{cases} \phi(p_0), & \text{if } i = 0 \\ \text{Concatenate}(\phi_{i-1}, \phi(p_{2^{i-1}} \dots p_{2^i - 1})), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

With this structure, we can now look at what we compute as each character of the text enters our stream. When  $t_j$  enters the stream, we first compute the fingerprint  $\phi(t_j)$ , update our fingerprint of the text read so far  $\phi(t_0 \dots t_j)$  and check if  $\phi(t_j) = \phi_0$ . If this case is true, we have what is referred to as a viable occurrence (VO) for level 1. When we have a VO at level 1 after character  $\phi(t_j)$  has entered the stream, we store two properties:  $j - 1$  and  $\phi(t_0 \dots t_{j-1})$ <sup>2</sup> in a list of viable occurrences for level 1.

After performing the above, we retrieve the oldest VO we have stored at level 1, which has properties  $j'$  and  $\phi(t_0 \dots t_{j'-1})$ . If  $j - j' = 2$ , we now know that enough characters have passed for us to be able to check if this viable occurrence requires promotion. We remove this occurrence from our list of VOs for level 1 and use the fingerprint suffix operation on our fingerprint of the text and  $\phi(t_0 \dots t_{j'-1})$  to retrieve

<sup>2</sup>If  $j = 0$  then -1 and the fingerprint of the empty string will be stored as a VO.

Level number	1	2	3
VO locations stored	5	3,4	-1,0,1,2

 Figure 2.1: Example state of VO lists after 7 characters, where  $T = aaaaaaa$  and  $P = aaaaaaa$ 

$j$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
$t_j$	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
VO for level 3 starting at -1	a	a	a	a			
VO for level 3 starting at 0		a	a	a	a		
VO for level 3 starting at 1			a	a	a	a	
VO for level 3 starting at 2				a	a	a	a

 Figure 2.2: Example state of VO list for level 3 after 7 characters, where  $T = aaaaaaa$  and  $P = aaaaaaa$ 

$\phi(t_{j'}...t_j)$ . We then check if  $\phi(t_{j'}...t_j) = \phi_1$  and if this is the case, we promote this occurrence by storing  $j'$  and  $\phi(t_0...t_{j'-1})$  in a list of viable occurrences for level 2. Otherwise, we discard the occurrence.

We repeat the above process  $\log_2 m$  times per character. At the  $i$ -th level, we check if the oldest VO occurred  $2^i$  characters back and if so, we then check if the fingerprint of the last  $2^i$  characters matches the fingerprint of the  $2^i$  prefix of the pattern. If they match, we promote this occurrence to the  $i+1$ -th level. At the final level, we check if the oldest VO for this level occurred  $m$  characters ago. If so, we check if the fingerprint of the last  $m$  characters of the text matches the fingerprint of the whole pattern. If they do match, then a match is reported at index  $j$ , where  $t_j$  was the last character read.

This algorithm gives us  $O(\log m)$  time per character, but the space complexity is still linear. This can be easily seen if the text and pattern are both strings of the letter  $a$ . After 6 characters, the list of viable occurrences for each level would look like similar to the example given in Figure 2.1. Note that level 0 is not included in the aforementioned figure as there are no VOs stored for that level.

At level  $i$ , we have to store up to  $2^{i-1}$  viable occurrences. The final row has to store at most  $\frac{m}{2}$  viable occurrences. Storing these VOs naïvely in a list will result in  $1 + 2 + \dots + 2^{i-1} + \dots + \frac{m}{2} \in O(m)$  space being used overall, so that is not an option. But there is a way of compressing these VOs.

Consider what has happened when level  $i$  receives a promotion from level  $i-1$  at index  $j$ . This means that the fingerprint  $\phi(t_{j-2^{i-1}}...t_j)$  matched  $\phi_{i-1}$ . Now consider if level  $i$  receives a promotion at index  $j+1$ . Now both the fingerprints  $\phi(t_{j-2^{i-1}}...t_j)$  and  $\phi(t_{j-2^{i-1}+1}...t_{j+1})$  matched  $\phi_{i-1}$ . Assuming that a collision did not occur in the Karp-Rabin fingerprinting – an assumption that holds with at least probability  $1 - \frac{1}{n^{1+\alpha}}$  since the associated strings are the same length and fingerprinting parameters  $p$  and  $r$  have been picked correctly – it must hold that  $t_{j-2^{i-1}}...t_j = t_{j-2^{i-1}+1}...t_{j+1}$ . In order for this to be the case, it is necessary that the prefix  $p_0...p_{2^{i-1}-1}$  repeats itself.

We can see this in the example where the text and pattern are just strings of the letter  $a$ . If we consider a more detailed look at where the viable occurrences are promoted to level 3, as shown in Figure 2.2, we can see that the only reason we need to store  $2^{3-1} = 4$  VOs is because the 4 character prefix of the pattern is so repetitive.

It is at this point that we shall describe the period of a string. For any string  $T$  of length  $n$ , the period  $\rho_T$  is the shortest prefix of  $T$  which we can repeat  $\frac{n}{\rho_T}$  times in order to re-create  $T$ . For the situation shown in Figure 2.2, the period of the pattern prefix  $\rho_{p_0...p_3} = a$ .

More generally, if level  $i$  needs to store more than one VO at a given point, the prefix  $p_0...p_{2^{i-1}-1}$  must be periodic. We can now store the VOs for a given level not as a list, but as an arithmetic progression, with the following properties:

- The location and fingerprint of the oldest VO we need to store

- The location and fingerprint of the newest VO currently stored
- The fingerprint of the period
- The length of the period
- The number of VOs currently stored

The fingerprint and length of the period can both be computed when we need to store two VOs at a given level: The length by taking the second VO location and subtracting the first VO location, and the fingerprint by working out the suffix of the second VO fingerprint and the first VO fingerprint. Both of these are constant time operations.

When we want to remove a VO from a row, we update the oldest location by adding on the length of the period, update the oldest fingerprint by concatenating it with the fingerprint of the period, and decrement our counter. Again, this is a constant time operation.

There is however a caution about this method. It must be remembered that we are not comparing the strings directly; we are merely comparing fingerprints of them. Thus if there is a collision in the fingerprints, we might have a case where the prefix is not periodic yet we think it is.

We can check for this when we insert a new VO into an arithmetic progression. If there are two or more VOs already stored, we find the difference between the location of the freshest VO currently stored and the location of this new VO and the suffix of the new VO's fingerprint with the fingerprint of the freshest VO currently stored. If these two values are equal to the length and fingerprint of the period, then we store this new VO by incrementing the number of VOs currently stored and continue as usual.

If the above condition does not hold and these two strings do not match despite the fingerprints matching, there is no clear consensus on how to handle this case of a non-periodic VO. Porat and Porat themselves ignore this case, and simply accept that there is a possibility of both false positives and false negatives. Breslauer and Galil[5] recommend not inserting the occurrence into the pattern, yet reporting the index as a match against the whole pattern anyway to accept some chance of false positives yet still finding all instances of the pattern.

Independent of whether or not the condition holds, inserting and removing VOs can be performed in constant time and the VOs for a given row can be stored compactly in  $O(1)$  space. Because there are  $\lceil \log_2 m \rceil$  levels, the overall algorithm now uses  $O(\log m)$  in both space and time per character.

### 2.8.1 Breslauer and Galil: Sublinear Space Pattern Matching in Constant Timer per Character

Continued from the work of Porat and Porat above, Breslauer and Galil[5] created a method for single pattern matching in  $O(\log m)$  space and  $O(1)$  time per character. Their improvement was based on the fact that all occurrences of the pattern must be at least  $|\rho_P|$  characters apart. If  $|\rho_P| \geq \log m$ , then we can process each level of the algorithm in a round robin fashion, one level per index. Because we are now only processing one level at a time, the time complexity becomes constant.

There are three problems to discuss with this algorithm. The first is how do we handle the case where  $|\rho_P| < \log m$ . The second is that VOs may need to be checked up to  $\log m$  characters after they occurred. And the third is that under this proposed method, instances of the whole pattern may not be reported until  $\log m$  characters later.

We'll start with the first problem, as the more complex one. Breslauer and Galil's suggestion is to remove the bottom  $\log \log m$  rows and instead match the first  $2 \log m$  characters of the pattern using



Knuth-Morris-Pratt[14]. The remaining rows match prefixes of doubling length again, from  $4 \log m$  to  $8 \log m$  up to  $m$ . We can check if the condition at the start of this question holds based on the KMP failure table; if  $\text{failure}(2 \log m - 1) + 1 \leq \log m$ , then it holds that the period of the  $2 \log m$  prefix is larger than  $\log m$ . By extension, we know that  $|\rho_P| \geq \log m$  and thus we can do pattern matching via the round robin technique mentioned above.

If the above condition does not hold, then we simply extend the length of the prefix processed by KMP until it either eventually does hold or we reach the end of the pattern, in which case the entire pattern is processed by KMP. The only difficulty with this is that KMP uses linear space, so it could consume  $O(m)$  space. However, in this case we know that up until the final character, the whole prefix processed by KMP has a period shorter than  $\log m$ . Because of this, we can perform KMP in  $O(\log m)$  space by using only the pattern and failure table of the period.

The only difficulty left with solving the first problem is that KMP is only *amortised* constant time per character; in the worst space it is  $O(m)$  time. To solve this, the KMP algorithm is deamortised by use of Galil's[12] real-time implementation.

The second problem is the easiest to resolve. Instead of storing only one fingerprint of all the previous characters read in the text stream, have a cyclic buffer of  $O(\log m)$  fingerprints, representing the all the previous characters in the text stream up to the last  $\log m$  indexes. Now when a VO is checked, it is simply tested against one of these previous fingerprints.

To deal with the third problem of an instance being reported up to  $\log m$  characters after it occurred, Breslauer and Galil's solution is to simply process the final level of the pattern – the level that matches the whole pattern – at every index, instead of once every  $\log m$  indexes. Because even the shortest prefix is  $4 \log m$  characters long and the delay for processing a VO is only at most  $O(\log m)$ , each level is guaranteed to receive a viable occurrence before it needs to process that VO itself.

The addition of KMP and the cyclic buffer both take  $O(1)$  time to update per character, and the round robin method brings the time for the rest of the algorithm down to constant per index as well. All of the components added have contributed at most  $O(\log m)$  space. Thus the overall complexity is  $O(\log m)$  space and constant time per character.

## 2.9 An Empirical Analysis of Data Streaming Algorithms

This was the title of a project I worked on with the Theory & Algorithms Team at the University of Bristol in the summer of 2014. The objective of the project was to investigate a number of pattern matching algorithms in the streaming model and see how well they performed in practice. The project ended with a poster being designed and presented at an event held by the Industrial Liason Office.

One of the major steps in this summer project, and the step that led to this very dissertation, is that I created to our knowledge the first implementation of Breslauer and Galil's algorithm from the previous section. The algorithm was tested against a simple amortised version of Knuth-Morris-Pratt on different lengths of pattern against 50MB of English text from the Pizza and Chili Corpus. The results are shown in Figure 2.3.

As can be seen from these results, Breslauer and Galil's algorithm took roughly sixty times longer to run per character, but provided a significant benefit in terms of space as the patterns grew longer.

For more information, I recommend the blog <https://streamsandpatterns.wordpress.com/>, which is where I kept track of my progress over that summer. The website provides more details on the efforts of implementing Breslauer and Galil's algorithm, other algorithms I implemented over that summer, and details on how I implemented the Aho-Corasick algorithm at the start of this project.

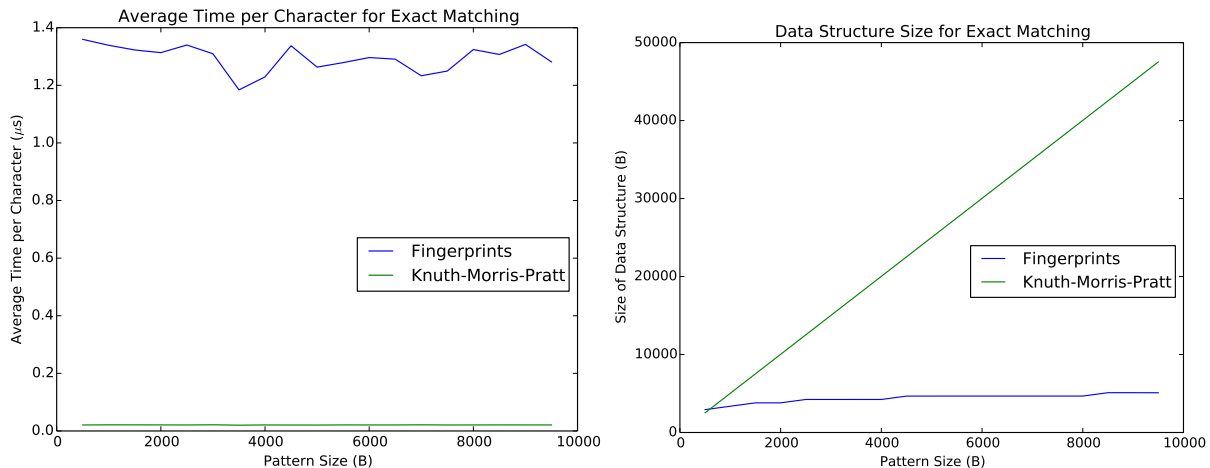


Figure 2.3: Run time and space performance for Breslauer and Galil’s algorithm against Knuth-Morris-Pratt

## 2.10 Clifford, Fontaine, Porat and Sach: Dictionary Matching in Sublinear Space

Clifford et al.[7] provided a solution to dictionary matching under the streaming model in less space than it takes to store the pattern. Their solution uses  $O(k \log m)$  space and  $O(\log m)$  time per character, where  $m = \max(M)$ . It is worth noting that this description is based off of a version of this paper that was not accept, and the accepted version of the paper will likely have some differences to what is described here. Also note that these are how the algorithm is described in the paper; any changes to how the algorithm works in later chapters are my own work to correct the algorithm.

The first step to understanding the algorithm as described in the paper is to consider a subset of the dictionary matching problem, where all the patterns are a power of two in length. This algorithm is very similar to the one described in Section 2.8, where all the patterns are broken up into  $\log m_i$  fingerprints, denoted  $\phi_{i,j}$  and defined as follows:

$$\phi_{i,j} = \phi(p_{i,0} \dots p_{i,2^j-1})$$

Each level of the algorithm now contains up to  $k$  of these prefix fingerprints, and stores all of them in a static perfect hash table. Along with this, each level stores up to  $k$  arithmetic progressions of viable occurrences. When the next character enters the stream, each level checks if one of the arithmetic progressions has a viable occurrence that requires processing. If there is, then the algorithm uses static perfect hashing to check if the last  $2^j$  characters in the text match any of the prefixes at that level. If there is a match, that VO is promoted to the next level. Finally, a flag is also specified in the hash table to indicate if the given fingerprint is actually the fingerprint of a whole pattern. If that flag is true, then a match at that index is reported.

In terms of complexity, each level requires  $O(k)$  space and there are  $\log m$  levels, so space usage is  $O(k \log m)$  as required. Time complexity depends on how long it takes to figure out if an arithmetic progression needs processing and if so which one. Assuming this can be done in constant time, then each level takes constant time and thus an overall performance of  $O(\log m)$  time per character is given.

In order to go from this to the general case of any length of pattern, the patterns are broken up into three cases, based on their length  $m_i$  and period  $\rho_i = \rho_{P_i}$ :

$$|\rho_i| \geq k; (m_i \geq k \text{ and } |\rho_i| < k); m_i < k$$

### 2.10.1 Patterns with Long Periods

We start with the case where for every pattern  $P_i$  in our dictionary  $|\rho_i| \geq k$ . We start by defining  $Q_i$  to be the  $m_i - k$  prefix of the  $i$ -th pattern. For this algorithm to work, we continue under the assumption that  $|\rho_{Q_i}| \geq k$ . We will see a brief solution for when this assumption does not hold in the subsubsection at the end of this case.

The first part of this case works the same as in the power of two length case. We perform the above algorithm on  $\log |Q|$  levels, where  $Q$  is the prefix of the longest pattern. If there is a match at a given level, we insert the viable occurrence that matched into a special row, which stores one arithmetic progression for each prefix. At each text index  $j$ , we process two prefixes. Let  $Q_i$  be one of those prefixes processed at  $j$ , and we perform the following:

1. First, if  $j \geq l + |Q_i|$ , where  $l$  is the location of the VO stored in the arithmetic progression related to  $Q_i$ , then we check if  $\phi(t_{l+1} \dots t_{l+Q_i+1}) = \phi(Q_i)$ . In other words, did the  $|Q_i|$  characters following the VO location match the prefix?
2. If there is a match, then we insert all the fingerprints for the  $k$  length suffixes of all the patterns in the dictionary for which  $Q_i$  is a prefix into a binary search tree (BST). The binary search tree is set up so that it will only be queried when the stream reaches index  $l + |Q_i| + k$ .

Finally, the algorithm checks to see if any binary search trees need processing. If so, the algorithm takes the fingerprint of the last  $k$  characters seen in the stream, and searches the BST to see if a match is found. If a match is found, then an entire pattern has been matched, and the index  $j$  is returned.

Time complexity wise, processing the power of two length prefixes costs  $O(\log |Q|)$  time per character by simply substituting  $m = |Q|$  into the previous definitions. The first step of processing each prefix takes constant time, but may be delayed by up to  $\frac{k}{2}$  characters. The second step is more complicated, and in the worst case – where all the patterns have the same  $m_i - k$  length prefix – will take  $O(k \log k)$  time per character if implemented naïvely. However, because of our assumption that  $\forall i, |\rho_{Q_i}| \geq k$ , each prefix can only occur once every  $k$  characters. This means that, amortised over  $k$  characters, our time complexity becomes  $O(\log k)$  time per character. Furthermore, this can be deamortised by inserting two suffixes into the BST per index, bringing our worst case time complexity for this step down to  $O(\log k)$  per character. Steps 1 and 2 are both delayed by at most  $\frac{k}{2}$  indexes each, so the overall delay will be at most  $k$  indexes, within time for the BST to be processed. Finally, searching the BST takes  $O(\log k)$  time. Putting all of this together gives us  $O(\log |Q| + \log k)$  time per character, and because of our assumption that  $\rho_Q \geq l$ , this becomes  $O(\log |Q|) \in O(\log m)$  time per character.

As for space usage, the power of two length prefixes uses  $O(k \log |Q|)$  space. Storing the fingerprints of all the prefixes costs  $O(k)$  space, as does storing lists of all the suffixes. To cater for both the  $\frac{k}{2}$  delay in the first step of the prefix processing and searching for the fingerprint of the last  $k$  characters in a BST, we store a circular buffer of the last  $k$  fingerprints, which takes up  $O(k)$  space. Finally, we may need up to  $k$  binary search trees, and at any given time the total number of nodes across all BSTs is at most  $k$ , so this again is  $O(k)$  space. This gives us an overall space usage of  $O(k \log |Q|) \in O(k \log m)$  space.

#### An Edge Case

As previously mentioned, there is an edge case in the above algorithm if  $\exists i$  such that  $|\rho_{Q_i}| < k$ . Any patterns which fall under this case can be processed by using the algorithm for long patterns with short

periods described in Section 2.10.2 to process their prefix  $Q_i$ . Any matches returned from this algorithm can be extended from  $m_i - k$  to  $m_i$  by a combination of fingerprinting and static perfect hashing.

### 2.10.2 Long Patterns with Short Periods

The next case detailed is where the patterns in the dictionary are longer than  $k$ , but their periods are shorter. In this algorithm, we store a fingerprint of the  $k$  length prefix of each pattern, and call the result  $K_i$ . For each  $K_i$ , we store a fingerprint of the period of the pattern  $\phi(\rho_i)$  and the period's length  $|\rho_i|$  along with a counter of the number of times it has occurred the index of the last time it occurred in the current arithmetic progression and the fingerprint of the text at the last occurrence.

When a new index comes in, we use a static perfect hash function to check if the fingerprint of the last  $k$  characters in the text stream matches some  $K_i$ . If so, we check if this index fits in with the rest of  $K_i$ 's arithmetic progression by checking the current index is  $|\rho_i|$  characters away from the last occurrence and the fingerprint suffix of the current stream with the fingerprint of the stream at the last occurrence matches the fingerprint of the period. If they do match then we increment the counter, otherwise we abandon the arithmetic progression by resetting the counter to 1 and setting the last occurrence to the current index and fingerprint.

The second step we perform is to check if the fingerprint of the last  $k$  characters in the text matches the last  $k$  characters in one of the patterns – referred to as the *tail* of each pattern. This can be done by storing the fingerprint of the tails of each pattern in another static perfect hash table.

At this point, we are going to assume that no patterns are a suffix of another pattern. If this is not the case, then it is possible to perform dictionary matching, but it comes at the cost of not knowing which patterns have matched. This is why for our choice of dictionary matching, we do not care about what pattern(s) have matched. It is also why we can only return the index at the end of the instance; the only way we could know the starting index of the would be if we knew what the pattern was, since then we could just simply take the current index and subtract the length of the pattern.

Anyway, either through no pattern being a suffix of any other pattern or through discarding the patterns which do have other patterns as suffixes, we end up in a situation where each pattern has a unique tail. If the last  $k$  characters in the stream match the tail of some pattern  $P_i$ , we check the arithmetic progression associated with that pattern. In order for a match to have occurred, there need to have been at least  $\lfloor \frac{m_i}{\rho_i} \rfloor$  occurrences of  $K_i$  in the progression, and the last occurrence must have happened  $m_i \bmod \rho_i$  characters ago. If both of these conditions hold, then a match is reported.

Complexity wise, the progressions can be stored in  $O(k)$  space, as can the fingerprints of the tails. The fingerprint of the last  $k$  characters in the text stream can be stored by using a circular array of such fingerprints for the last  $k$  indexes. Thus space usage is  $O(k)$ . As for time, the static perfect hashing operations are constant time, as is inserting the occurrence into the arithmetic progressions and checking for a match, so time overall is  $O(1)$ .

### 2.10.3 Short Patterns

The final case to consider is where all the patterns are shorter than  $k$ . The algorithm for this case is an adaptation of binary search, searching over suffixes of the stream of lengths from 1 to  $k$  to see if a pattern matches any of them. However, binary search cannot be applied naïvely, as we may need to search both parts of the search space. Instead, we use a hash table with a fingerprint as the key and a boolean as the value to find out which half of the space to search.

Algorithm 2.5 computes the hash table that is used. We call  $\text{PreProc}(k', m_i)$  on each pattern  $P_i$ ,

```

if  $y \geq x/2$  then
|    $\mathcal{H}_3.\text{insert}(\phi(p_{m_i-x/2} \dots p_{m_i}), \mathcal{S}(p_{m_i-x/2} \dots p_{m_i}))$ 
|    $\text{PreProc}(x/2, y - x/2)$ 
else
|    $\text{PreProc}(x/2, y)$ 
end

```

**Algorithm 2.5:**  $\text{PreProc}(x, y)$ : Preprocessing of a single pattern

where  $k'$  is the nearest integer power of two no smaller than  $k$ . Note that  $\mathcal{S}$  is a boolean function which, given a string, returns True if there is a pattern in the dictionary which is a suffix of that string, and False otherwise.

At each index  $j$ , we keep a cyclic buffer of the previous  $k'$  fingerprints of the whole stream. We start our binary search by seeing if  $\phi(t_{j-k/2+1} \dots t_j)$  is within the hash table and its associated boolean value. If the boolean value is True, we know that there is an occurrence of the pattern which ends at this index, so we report it. If the boolean value is false but the key exists in the table, then we know that this fingerprint matches the suffix of a pattern, but not necessarily all of it, so we check the longer suffixes of the text. If there is no key in the table, then we know that no pattern matches this suffix, but they might match shorter ones, so we check shorter suffixes instead. This continues until we either report an instance or run out of search space.

For space complexity, the only space used is the hash function which uses  $O(k \log k)$  space to store the fingerprints and their associated booleans and the cyclic buffer, which uses  $O(k') \in O(2k) \in O(k)$  space, so the overall space usage is  $O(k \log k)$ . The only step in the algorithm is the binary search, which takes  $O(\log k)$  time per character.



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## Chapter 3

# Project Execution

### 3.1 Implementing the Aho-Corasick Algorithm

#### 3.1.1 From Knuth-Morris-Pratt to Aho-Corasick

As stated in Section 2.6, Aho-Corasick[1] is a generalisation of Knuth-Morris-Pratt. Because of this, I decided the most suitable way of attempting to implement this algorithm was to start with an implementation of KMP and then generalise it to  $k$  patterns.

Most implementations of KMP simply consist of an array of  $m$  integers to act as a failure table, a string of  $m$  characters for the pattern, and a counter of the number of characters that have matched so far, with the counter reaching  $m - 1$  representing the accept state. But this is actually a simplification of the algorithm. As pointed out in CLRS[11], the correctness of Knuth-Morris-Pratt can be proven because this array, string and integer represent a finite state automaton: The array of integers represent the state the automaton should fall back to if the pattern does not match, the string shows the next character that needs to arrive in the text in order for the automaton to move one state closer to the accept state, and the counter represents the current state the automaton is in, with  $m - 1$  being the accept state of the automaton.

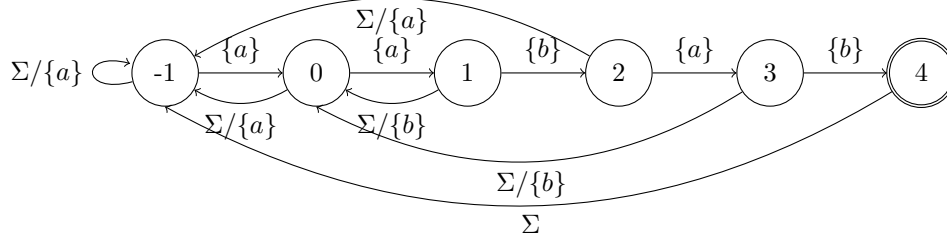
We can show this with an example: Table 3.1 shows the pattern and failure table for the pattern *aabab*, and Figure 3.1 shows the state transition diagram for the same pattern.

Because the Aho-Corasick algorithm generalises Knuth-Morris-Pratt by taking this finite automaton and adapting it for multiple patterns, I decided a suitable way of starting the project was to implement KMP as a finite automaton.

This meant an important first decision to make: How to implement the automaton? As a finite state automaton is based on graphs, there are three main options available:

- **Adjacency Matrix:** An item at coordinates  $(i, a)$  in the matrix represents an edge in the matrix from state  $i$  if the next character is  $a$ . The value of  $(i, j)$  itself is the `goto` state, and is set to the failure state if there is no subsequent pattern with the next character in the state. Constant time travelling between states but  $O(m|\Sigma|)$  space.
- **Adjacency List:** Each item in the list is a tuple  $(i, j, a)$ , representing an edge from  $i$  to  $j$  if  $a$  is next on the tape. Failure edges are represented by an integer for each state. Potentially less space than an adjacency matrix but  $O(m * \min(|\Sigma|, m))$  time to move to `goto` state.

Index	0	1	2	3	4
Pattern	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>
Failure	-1	0	-1	0	-1

 Table 3.1: Pattern and failure table for pattern *aabab*

 Figure 3.1: State transition diagram for pattern *aabab*. Edges directed right represent matches, edges directed left represent failures.

- **Object Oriented:** A state structure is defined, with an array of pointers to other states it connects to and the next character that needs to be read on the tape for the automaton to enter that state. Failure edges are simply a pointer to failure state. Performance is a compromise between an adjacency matrix and an adjacency list, with the same asymptotic space consumption as an adjacency list but  $O(\min(|\Sigma|, m))$  time to move to **goto** state.

My initial decision was to use the object oriented approach. Implementing Knuth-Morris-Pratt in this form is easy: When constructing the **goto** edge, we just iterate through each character in the pattern and connect a new state to the most recent state made. When both constructing the failure pointer and processing the text, we just use the standard KMP algorithm, only using pointers to states instead of integers. And when destroying the automaton at the end, we just recursively call the destroy function on the **goto** item in the automaton. Note that we don't worry about destroying the node pointed to along the failure edge, as we know that will be destroyed later.

However, while this method was simple enough for KMP, generalising it for Aho-Corasick led to a number of memory problems. In particular, there were issues with the starting state of the automaton being overwritten by another node later on, leading to corrupted memory and double free attempts. The conclusion was that this was too problematic an implementation of automaton for C.

In the end, a hybrid method was used for representing the automaton, combining adjacency matrices with the object oriented approach. The current state is simply represented by an integer, the **goto** state is represented by a 2-D array of integers **goto**, the character it needs to match is represented by an array of strings **match** and the failure edges represented by an array of integers **failure**. Thus if we're in state  $i$  and character  $a$  is the next character in the text, the next state we move to is determined by:

$$\begin{cases} \text{goto}(i, j), & \text{if } \exists j \text{ such that } \text{match}_i(j) = a \\ \text{failure}(i), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

This has the same performance as the object oriented approach, both in terms of time and space.

One detail to remember is that the current state is the index of several arrays. Thus, we cannot have our start state as -1 anymore. This is easy to remedy however, by just having the start state be 0 instead. This is the only discrepancy between our terms for KMP above and our work on Aho-Corasick below.



```

for  $i = 0$  upto  $|next\_chr_i|$  do
  if  $next\_chr_i(j) = a$  then
    return  $next\_state_i(j)$ 
  end
end
return 0

```

**Algorithm 3.1:** Computing the  $next(i, a)$  function by linear search.

### 3.1.2 Removing the $\Sigma$ Dependency from Preprocessing

One of the major problems with the Aho-Corasick algorithm as it is defined in Section 2.6 is that Algorithms 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4 all rely on us knowing the complete alphabet at preprocessing time. This is not guaranteed under the streaming model, and requires multiple passes over the text and pattern.

In order to cater for this, a few changes have been made to each algorithm. For Algorithm 2.2, we change it by specifying the result the output from `goto` if the next character does not match  $failure = 0$ . This removes the need for the final loop entirely on that case.

For Algorithm 2.3, we already know for every state  $i$  every character  $a \in \Sigma$  such that  $goto(i, a) \neq fail$ . That is because all of these characters are stored in the `match` strings, so we can simply iterate through each state's associated string.

Algorithm 2.4 is the hardest to remove the alphabet dependency for, but it is still achievable. For the first loop, we only iterate over the characters in state 0's `match0` string, and set  $next(i, a) = 0$  by default. For any other state, denoted  $i$ , we start by handling the case where  $goto(i, a) \neq fail$ , by simply iterating through the characters stored in the `matchi` strings. We then handle the other case by iterating through every character  $a \in next\_chr_{failure(i)}$ , where  $next\_chr_i$  is the string of characters for state  $i$ 's `next` function: if  $a \notin match_i$ , then we know that  $goto(i, a) = fail$ . If  $\exists a \in \Sigma$  such that  $a \notin match_i \cup next\_chr_{failure(i)}$ , it must hold that  $next(i, a) = 0$ , as it does by default, so we do not need to worry about these characters.

### 3.1.3 Removing the $|\Sigma|$ Run Time per Character

The bottleneck with Aho-Corasick at processing time is that for our current state, we need to compute the `next` function. This is not easy to implement; the simplest implementation is linear search, as described in Algorithm 3.1, which would take  $O(|\Sigma|)$  time per character. A more efficient implementation could use a binary search tree, which would be  $O(\log |\Sigma|)$ , but there is in fact an even better way.

Note that after preprocessing, we never add any characters to or remove any characters from `next_chri`. As a matter of fact, the `next` function does not change at all after preprocessing has completed. This means that we can compute this function by having a static perfect hash table for each state  $i$ , with `next_chri` as the keys and `next_statei` as the values. This gives us constant time per character.

For implementation, I used the C Minimum Perfect Hashing Library (CMPH) configured to the Compress, Hash and Digest algorithm (CHD). This was contained in a data structure based on my summer project as mentioned in Section 2.9. One of these three cases occurs when a structure is searched with key *key*:

1. If there are no keys and values for a hash table, return 0 by default.
2. If there is one key, check if  $keys_0 = key$  and if so return  $values_0$ , if not return 0.
3. Otherwise, do a CMPH search on the key. If none of the keys match the search key, CMPH will by

default return either the number of keys or the index of some key. If it returns the index of some key  $i$ , check if  $keys_i = key$ . If they match, return  $values_i$ , otherwise return 0.

Because the keys are a single character, each search can be evaluated in constant time. Since we are implementing the `next` function, we only need to call one search per index. Thus the overall run time per character for the algorithm is now constant time. The hash function takes up the same amount of space as the `next` function would, as does the rest of the search structure, as we are using a minimum perfect hash function. There are only as many search structures as there are states, so we are left with the same space usage as traditional Aho-Corasick.

### **3.2 Implementing the Clifford et al. Algorithm for Power of Two Length Dictionary Matching**

### **3.3 Implementing the Clifford et al. Algorithm for Short Patterns Dictionary Matching**

### **3.4 Implementing the Clifford et al. Algorithm for Long Patterns with Short Periods Dictionary Matching**

### **3.5 Implementing the Clifford et al. Algorithm for Patterns with Long Periods Dictionary Matching**

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## Chapter 4

# Critical Evaluation

**A topic-specific chapter, of roughly 10 pages**

This chapter is intended to evaluate what you did. The content is highly topic-specific, but for many projects will have flavours of the following:

1. functional testing, including analysis and explanation of failure cases,
2. behavioural testing, often including analysis of any results that draw some form of conclusion wrt. the aims and objectives, and
3. evaluation of options and decisions within the project, and/or a comparison with alternatives.

This chapter often acts to differentiate project quality: even if the work completed is of a high technical quality, critical yet objective evaluation and comparison of the outcomes is crucial. In essence, the reader wants to learn something, so the worst examples amount to simple statements of fact (e.g., “graph X shows the result is Y”); the best examples are analytical and exploratory (e.g., “graph X shows the result is Y, which means Z; this contradicts [1], which may be because I use a different assumption”). As such, both positive *and* negative outcomes are valid *if* presented in a suitable manner.



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## Chapter 5

# Conclusion

**A compulsory chapter, of roughly 2 pages**

The concluding chapter of a dissertation is often underutilised because it is too often left too close to the deadline: it is important to allocation enough attention. Ideally, the chapter will consist of three parts:

1. (Re)summarise the main contributions and achievements, in essence summing up the content.
2. Clearly state the current project status (e.g., “X is working, Y is not”) and evaluate what has been achieved with respect to the initial aims and objectives (e.g., “I completed aim X outlined previously, the evidence for this is within Chapter Y”). There is no problem including aims which were not completed, but it is important to evaluate and/or justify why this is the case.
3. Outline any open problems or future plans. Rather than treat this only as an exercise in what you *could* have done given more time, try to focus on any unexplored options or interesting outcomes (e.g., “my experiment for X gave counter-intuitive results, this could be because Y and would form an interesting area for further study” or “users found feature Z of my software difficult to use, which is obvious in hindsight but not during at design stage; to resolve this, I could clearly apply the technique of Smith [7]”).



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## Appendix A

# An Example Appendix

Content which is not central to, but may enhance the dissertation can be included in one or more appendices; examples include, but are not limited to

- lengthy mathematical proofs, numerical or graphical results which are summarised in the main body,
- sample or example calculations, and
- results of user studies or questionnaires.

Note that in line with most research conferences, the marking panel is not obliged to read such appendices.