

# **Strings**

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## Today we're going to cover

- String matching
  - Naive algorithm
  - $\bullet \ \ \, \mathsf{Knuth}\text{-}\mathsf{Morris}\text{-}\mathsf{Pratt}\;(\mathsf{KMP})\;\mathsf{algorithm}$
- Tries
- Aho-Corasick
- Suffix Tries
- Suffix Arrays

#### String problems

- Strings frequently appear in our kind of problems
  - I/O
  - Parsing
  - Identifiers/names
  - Data
- But sometimes strings play the key role
  - We want to find properties of some given strings
  - Is the string a palindrome?
- Here we're going to talk about things related to the latter type of problems
- These problems can be hard, because the length of the strings are often huge

- ullet Given a string S of length n,
- ullet and a string T of length m,
- $\bullet$  find all occurrences of T in S
- Note:
  - Occurrences may overlap
  - $\bullet$  Assume strings contain characters from some alphabet  $\Sigma$

- S = cabcababacaba
- T = aba

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- $\bullet$  For each substring of length m in  $S\mbox{,}$
- ullet check if that substring is equal to T.

- $\bullet$  S: bacbababaabcbab
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```
int string_match(const string &s, const string &t) {
    int n = s.size(),
        m = t.size();
   for (int i = 0; i + m - 1 < n; i++) {
        bool found = true;
        for (int j = 0; j < m; j++) {
            if (s[i + j] != t[j]) {
                found = false;
                break;
        if (found) {
            return i;
    return -1;
```

- Double for-loop
  - ullet outer loop is O(n) iterations
  - ullet inner loop is O(m) iterations worst case
- Time complexity is O(nm) worst case

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- Can we do better?

- The KMP algorithm avoids useless comparisons:
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- The number of shifts depend on which characters are currently matched

- How are the number of shifts determined?
- Let  $\pi[q] = \max\{k : k < q \text{ and } T[1 \dots k] \text{ is a suffix of } T[1 \dots q]\}$

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- Example:

i	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
T[i]	a	b	a	b	a	С	a
$\pi[i]$	0	0	1	2	3	0	1

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- Let  $\pi[q] = \max\{k : k < q \text{ and } T[1 \dots k] \text{ is a suffix of } T[1 \dots q]\}$
- Example:

- If, at position i, q characters match (i.e.  $T[1 \dots q] = S[i \dots i + q 1]$ ), then
  - ullet if q=0, shift pattern 1 position right
  - $\bullet$  otherwise, shift pattern  $q-\pi[q]$  positions right

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- ullet Given  $\pi$ , matching only takes O(n) time
- $\pi$  can be computed in O(m) time
- ullet Total time complexity of KMP therefore O(n+m) worst case

```
vi kmppi(string &p) {
  int m = p.size(), i = 0, j = -1;
  vi b(m + 1, -1);
  while(i < m) {
    while(j >= 0 && p[i] != p[j]) j = b[j];
   b[++i] = ++j;
  return b;
vi kmp(string &s, string &p) {
  int n = s.size(), m = p.size(), i = 0, j = 0;
  vi b = kmppi(p), a = vi();
  while(i < n) {
    while(j \ge 0 \&\& s[i] != p[j]) j = b[j];
   ++i; ++j;
    if(j == m) {
      a.push_back(i - j);
      j = b[j];
  return a; }
```

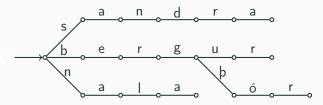
#### Sets of strings

- We often have sets (or maps) of strings
- ullet Insertions and lookups usually guarantee  $O(\log n)$  comparisons

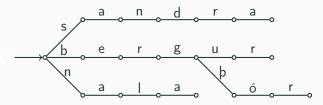
- But string comparisons are actually pretty expensive...
- There are other data structures, like tries, which do this in a more clever way

#### **Tries**

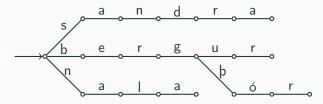
- Tries contain strings not at every node, but as paths in a tree.
- Each node only has a character and we say the trie contains the string if you can get it by walking along nodes starting at the root.
- The nodes can also carry additional data, quite a lot in fact, as we will see later.



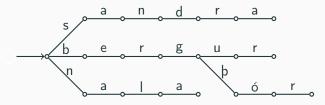
• Examples of strings in this trie include:



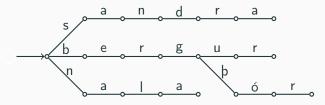
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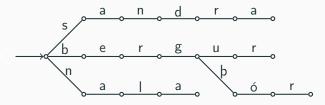
- Examples of strings in this trie include:
  - "sandra",



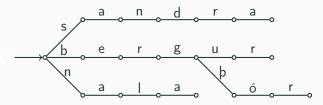
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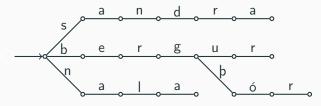
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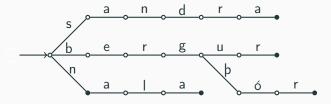
- Examples of strings in this trie include:
  - "sandra",
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  - "bergur",
  - "bergþór",
  - "san" and

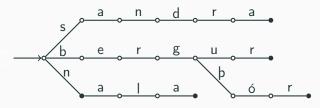


- Examples of strings in this trie include:
  - "sandra",
  - "nala",
  - "bergur",
  - "bergþór",
  - "san" and
  - "" (empty string)

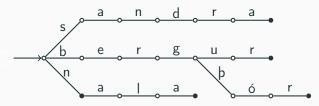
#### End nodes

- It is common to mark some nodes as end nodes.
- This is an example of extra data to put into nodes.
- Then we can consider a string s to be in the tree if you can walk through the tree to get the string and end at an end node.

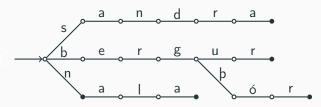




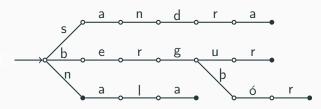
• The strings in the trie are:



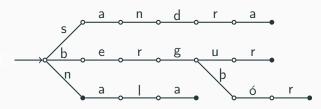
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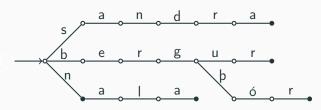
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  - ,,n"

#### Adding strings

- What if we want to add a string to a trie?
- We walk through it as usual, but simply add nodes when we find ourself at a dead end with letters left to walk through.
- This increases the size of the tree by at most the size of the string.



"api"



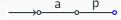
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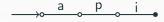












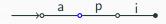
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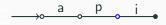
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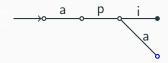
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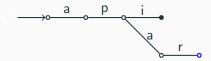
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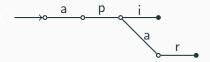




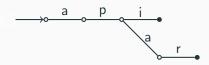




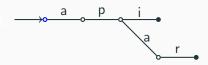




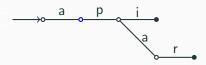
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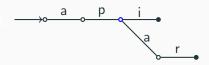
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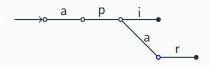
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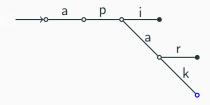
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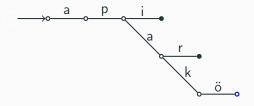
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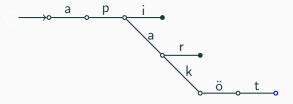
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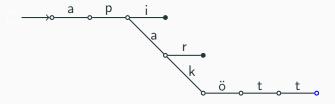
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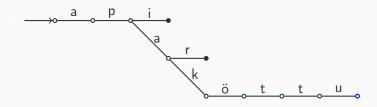
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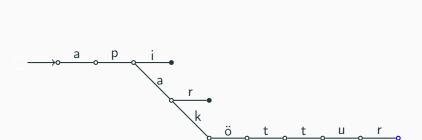


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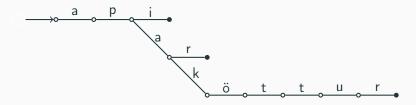




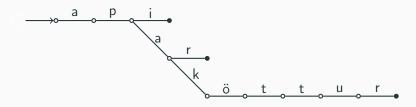




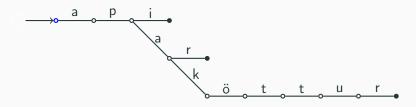
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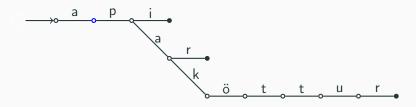
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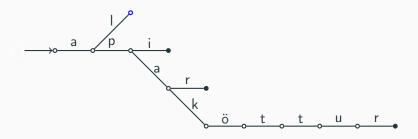
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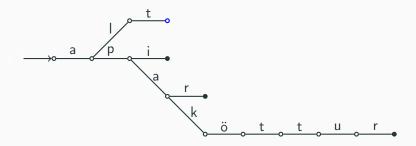
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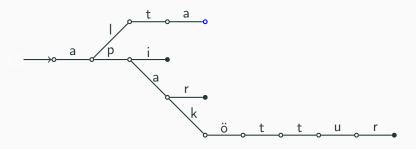




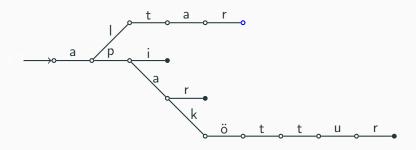


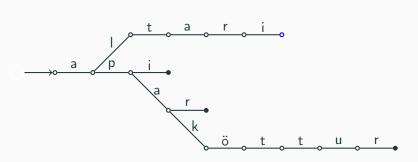




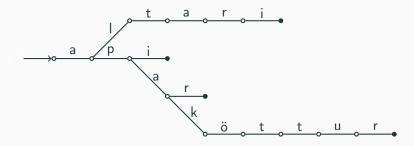




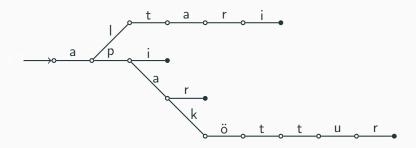




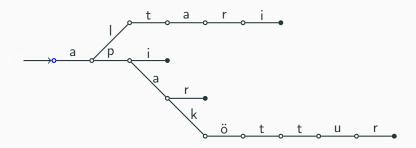
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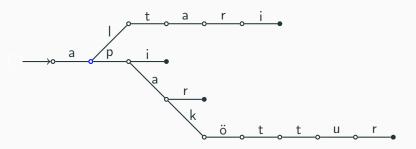
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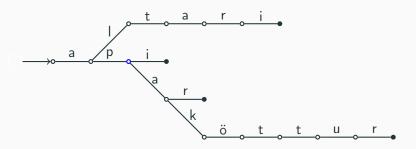
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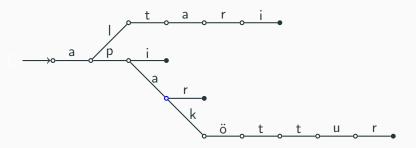
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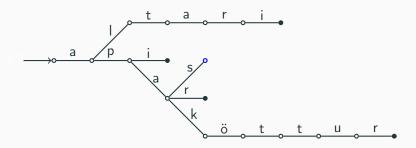
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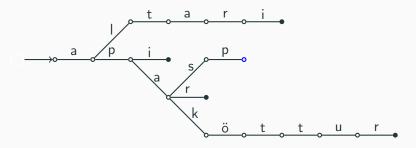
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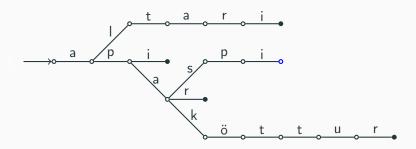


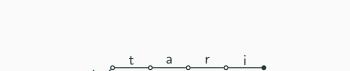




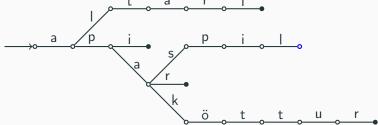


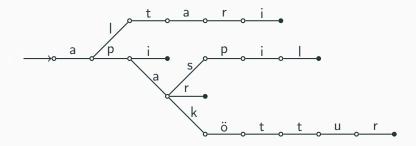




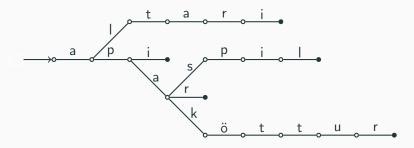


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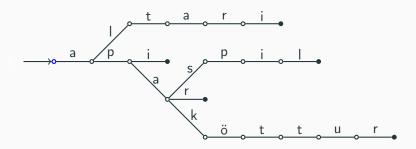




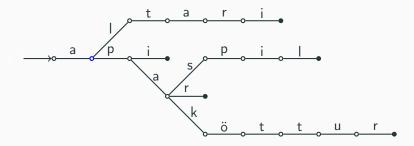
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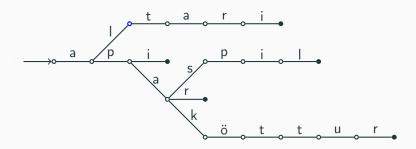
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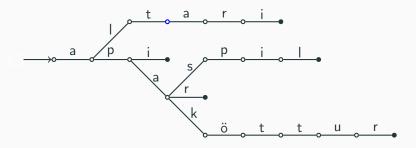
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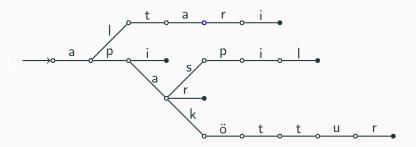
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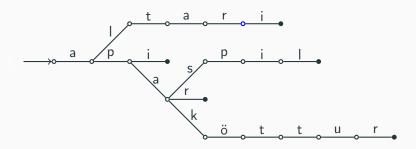
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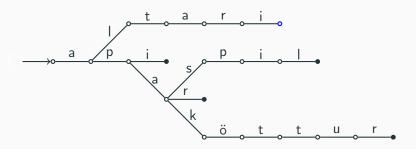
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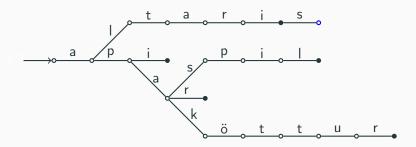
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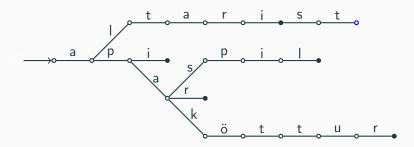
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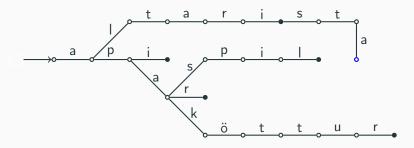
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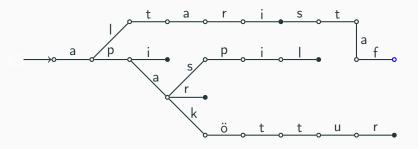
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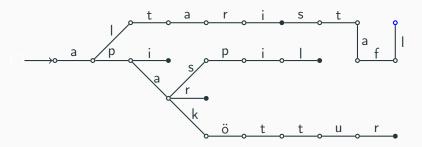
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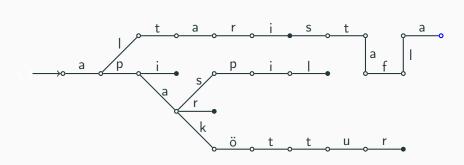


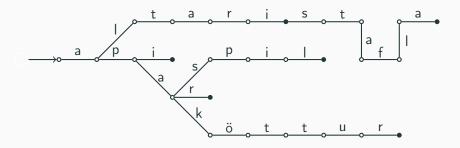




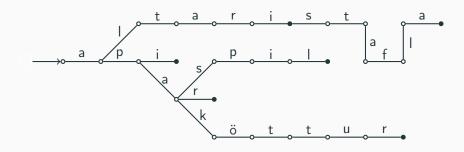




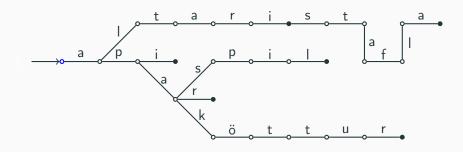




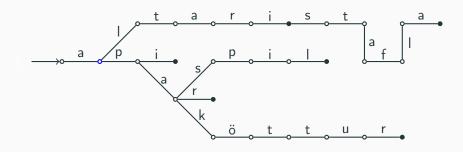
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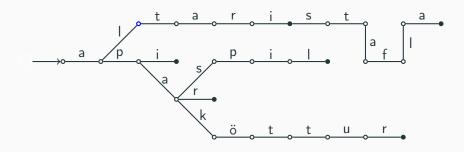
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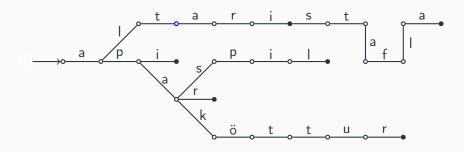
 $,, ltarisganga ^{\prime\prime}$ 



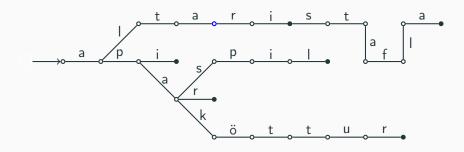
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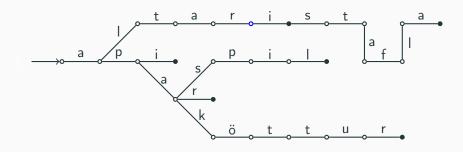
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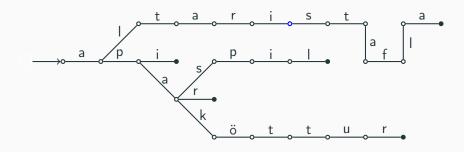
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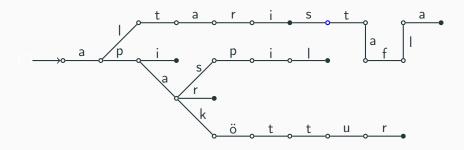
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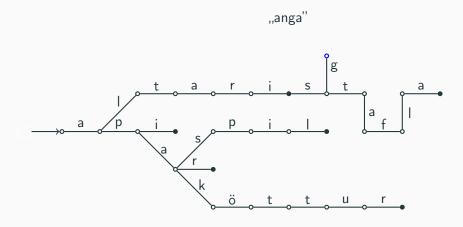


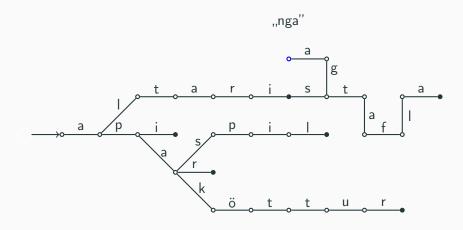
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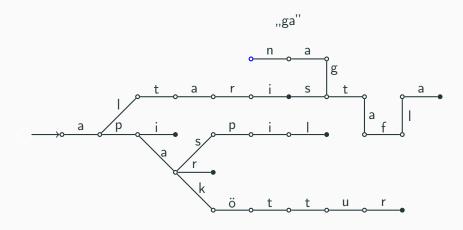


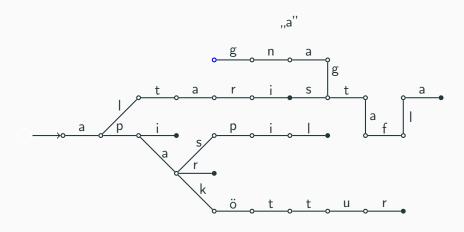
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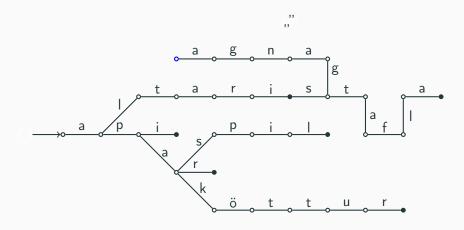


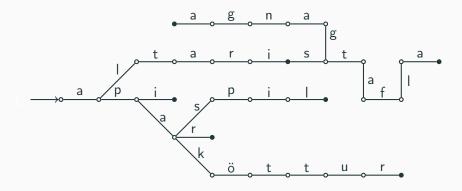












```
struct node {
    node* children[26];
    bool is_end;
    node() {
        memset(children, 0, sizeof(children));
        is_end = false;
```

```
void insert(node* nd, char *s) {
    if (*s) {
        if (!nd->children[*s - 'a'])
            nd->children[*s - 'a'] = new node();
        insert(nd->children[*s - 'a'], s + 1);
   } else {
       nd->is_end = true;
```

```
bool contains(node* nd, char *s) {
    if (*s) {
        if (!nd->children[*s - 'a'])
            return false;
        return contains(nd->children[*s - 'a'], s + 1);
   } else {
        return nd->is_end;
```

#### **Tries**

```
node *trie = new node();
insert(trie, "banani");
if (contains(trie, "banani")) {
    // ...
}
```

#### Tries

- Time complexity?
- ullet Let k be the length of the string we're inserting/looking for
- $\bullet$  Lookup is  $\mathcal{O}(k)$  and insertion is both  $\mathcal{O}(k|\Sigma|)$
- $\bullet$  The insertion takes this time because we might have to make k nodes, each needing  $|\Sigma|$  pointers initialized

#### **Aho-Corasick**

- Let us now have some string s and a list of n strings p, where we denote the j-th string by  $p_j$ .
- Let |s| be the length of s and  $|p| = |p_1| + \cdots + |p_n|$ .
- ullet We want to find all substrings of s that are in the list p.
- We could run KMP n times, once for each  $p_j$ , for a time complexity of  $\mathcal{O}(n \cdot |s| + |p|)$ .
- The Aho-Corasick algorithm improves on this.

#### The algorithm

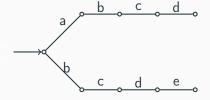
- We start by putting all strings in p into a trie T, we want to turn this into a finite state automata.
- ullet We then want to turn T into a finite state automata.
- The nodes of the trie will be our states but the transitions from each state will correspond to a letter from  $\Sigma$ .

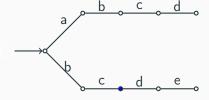
#### The automata

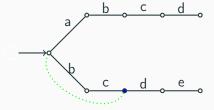
- Suppose we are in node v in T and want to transition according to the letter c in  $\Sigma$ .
- If there is an node corresponding to adding a c after v we can travel there.
- If not we need to travel back to some node w so the string corresponding to w is a suffix of the one corresponding to v.
- ullet We want to drop the least amount of information, so we want w to be as long as possible.
- We call these transitions suffix links. Note that they are essentially independent of c.
- We let the suffix link of the root point back to itself for simplicity's sake.

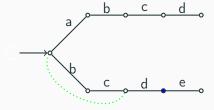
#### **Suffix links**

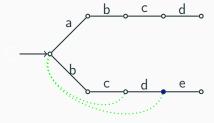
- How do we find the suffix links?
- Let f(w,c) denote the transition from node w with the letter c and let g(w) be the suffix link of w.
- Also let p be the parent of v and f(p,a) = v. Then g(v) = f(g(p),a).
- Thus we have a recursive formula we can use.

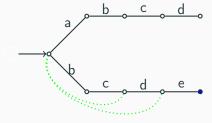


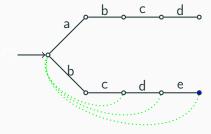


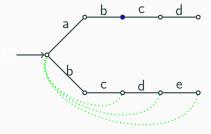


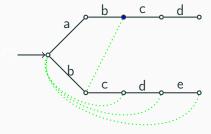


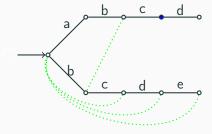


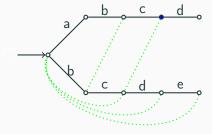


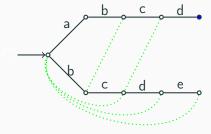


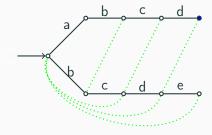








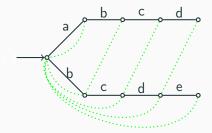




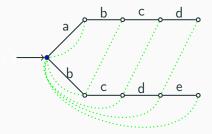
#### End nodes

- ullet We also have to mark end nodes in T.
- We then walk through s and move around the state machine according to the letters encountered.

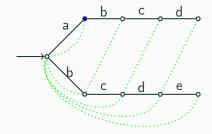
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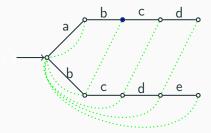
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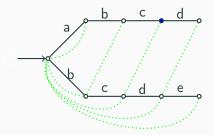
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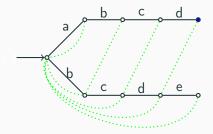
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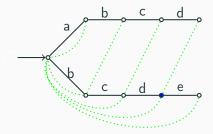
"dcdeaaabcdeabcxab"



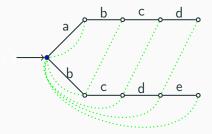
"cdeaaabcdeabcxab"



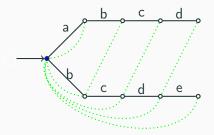
"cdeaaabcdeabcxab"



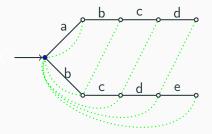
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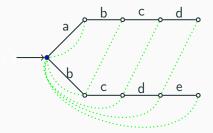
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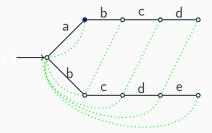
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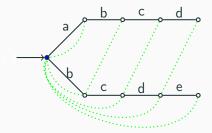
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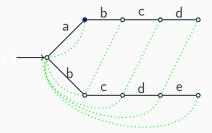
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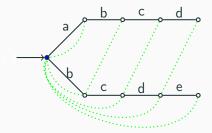
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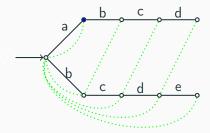
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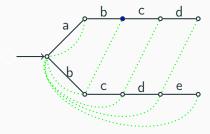
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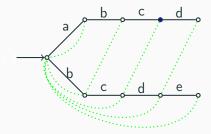
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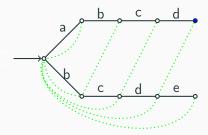
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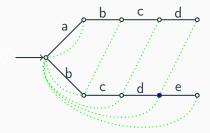
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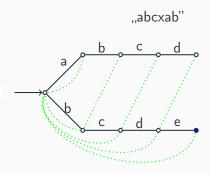


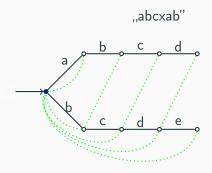
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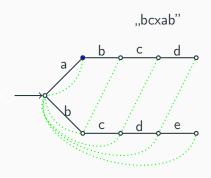


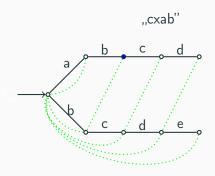
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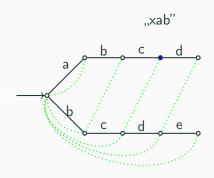


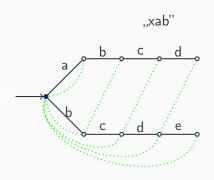


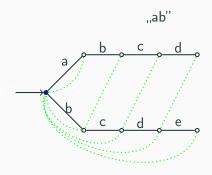


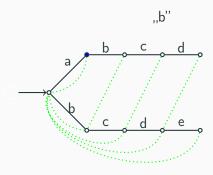


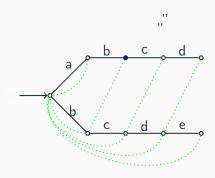


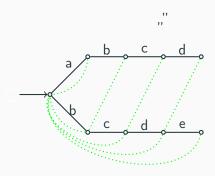








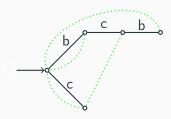




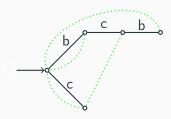
ullet Thus every time we are at an end node we have a substring in s that is in p. Are these the only ones?

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- No, we also need to consider if we can get to end nodes by traveling along suffix links.

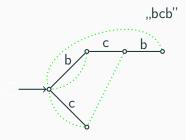
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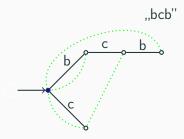
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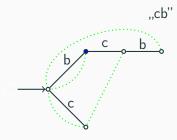
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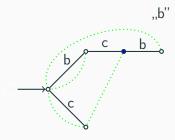
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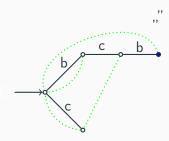
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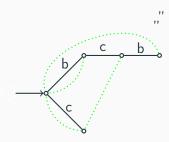
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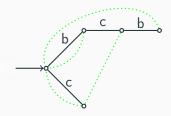
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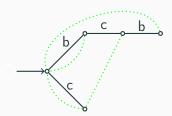


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 To keep the complexity in check we again use dynamic programming.

- Thus every time we are at an end node we have a substring in s that is in p. Are these the only ones?
- No, we also need to consider if we can get to end nodes by traveling along suffix links.



- To keep the complexity in check we again use dynamic programming.
- We add the concatenated links into the tree, calling them *exit* links.

### Speed

- ullet Let us assume the strings in p appear k times in s.
- Then the time complexity is  $\mathcal{O}(|s| + |\Sigma| \cdot |p| + k)$
- If we only want the number of matches, the implementation can be modified accordingly and then the complexity is  $\mathcal{O}(|s|+|\Sigma|\cdot|p|).$
- Note that for a bounded alphabet, this second complexity is linear.

### Implementation explanation

- The implementation contains three helper functions.
- The first is trie\_step(...) which is used to move around the state machine.
- The second is trie\_suffix(...) which is used to find suffix links.
- The third is trie\_exit(...) which is used to find exit links.
- All these functions are recursive and memoized.

#### Aho nodes

```
#define ALPHABET 128
// Helper function to get index of letter
int val(char c) { return c; }
struct listnode {
   // n is index of next node, v is value of this node
   int v. n:
   listnode(int v. int n) : v(v). n(n) { }
};
struct trienode {
   // l is the index of the pattern that ends here or -1 if none
   // e is the exit link index, d is the suffix link index
   // p is the parent index
   // c is the character of the incoming edge
   // t is the transition table of the trie node
   int t[ALPHABET], 1, e, p, c, d;
   trienode(int _p, int _c) :
        1(-1), e(-1), p(_p), c(_c), d(-1) {
        memset(t, -1, sizeof(t));
};
```

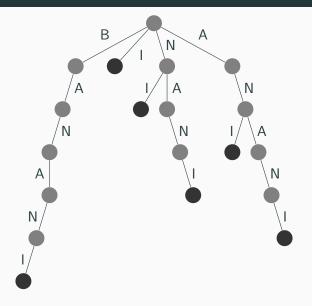
#### Aho trie

```
int trie suffix(int h) {
struct trie {
   // r is the index of the root
                                                           if(m[h].d!= -1) return m[h].d:
    int r:
                                                           if(h == r || m[h].p == r) return m[h].d = r;
    vector<trienode> m:
                                                           return m[h].d =
    vector<listnode> w;
                                                               trie_step(trie_suffix(m[h].p), m[h].c);
                                                       }
    trie() {
        m = vector<trienode>();
                                                       int trie_step(int h, int c) {
        w = vector<listnode>():
                                                           if(m[h].t[c] != -1) return m[h].t[c]:
        r = trie node(-1, -1):
                                                           return m[h].t[c] = h == r ? r :
    }
                                                               trie_step(trie_suffix(h), c);
                                                       }
    int list node(int v. int n) {
        w.push_back(listnode(v, n));
                                                       int trie_exit(int h) {
        return w.size() - 1;
                                                           if(m[h].e != -1) return m[h].e;
                                                           if (h == 0 \mid | m[h].1 \mid = -1) return m[h].e = h:
    }
    int trie_node(int p, int c) {
                                                           return m[h].e = trie_exit(trie_suffix(h));
        m.push_back(trienode(p, c));
                                                       }
        return m.size() - 1:
                                                   }:
    }
    void trie_insert(string &s, int x) {
        int h. i = 0:
        for(h = r; i < s.size(); h = m[h].t[val(s[i])], i++)
            if(m[h],t[val(s[i])] == -1)
                m[h].t[val(s[i])] = trie node(h, val(s[i]));
        m[h].1 = list_node(x, m[h].1);
    }
```

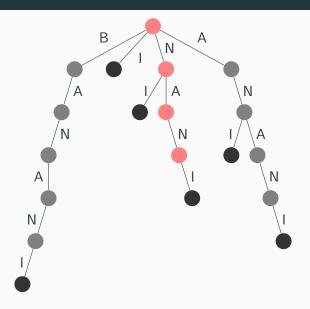
## Aho implementation

```
int aho_corasick(string &s, vector<string> &p) {
    trie t; int h, i, j, k, w, m = p.size(), l[m];
    for(i = 0; i < m; i++) l[i] = p[i].size();
    for(i = 0; i < m; i++) t.trie_insert(p[i], i);</pre>
    s.push_back('\0');
    for(i = 0, j = 0, h = t.r; j < s.size(); j++) {
        k = t.trie exit(h):
        while(t.m[k].l != -1) {
            for(w = t.m[k].1; w != -1; w = t.w[w].n) {
                cout << p[t.w[w].v] << " found at index " <<
                    j - l[t.w[w].v] << '\n';</pre>
            }
            k = t.trie_exit(t.trie_suffix(k));
        h = t.trie_step(h, val(s[j]));
    return i;
```

- ullet Say we're dealing with some string S of length n
- Let's insert all suffixes of S into a trie
- S =banani
  - insert(trie, "banani");
  - insert(trie, "anani");
  - insert(trie, "nani");
  - insert(trie, "ani");
  - insert(trie, "ni");
  - insert(trie, "i");



- There are a lot of cool things we can do with suffix tries
- Example: String matching
- ullet If a string T is a substring in S, then (obviously) it has to start at some suffix of S
- So we can simply look for T in the suffix trie of S, ignoring whether the last node is an end node or not
- This is just O(m)...



- $\bullet$  String matching is fast if we have the suffix trie for S
- But what is the time complexity of suffix trie construction?
- ullet There are n suffixes, and it takes O(n) to insert each of them
- So  $O(n^2)$ , which is pretty slow
- Can we do better?
- There can be up to  $n^2$  nodes in the graph, so this is actually optimal...

- There exists a compressed version of a suffix trie, called a suffix tree
- It can be constructed in O(n), and has all the features that suffix tries have
- $\bullet$  But the O(n) construction algorithm is pretty complex, a big disadvantage for us

- A variation of the previous structures
- Can do everything the other structures can do, with a small overhead
- Can be constructed pretty quickly with relatively simple code

ullet Take all the suffixes of S

```
banani
anani
nani
ani
ni
i
```

• and sort them

```
anani
ani
banani
i
nani
```

ni

- We can use this array to do everything that suffix tries can do
- Like string matching

• Let's look for nan

anani ani banani i nani ni

- Let's look for nan
- The first letter in the string has to be n, so we can binary search for the range of strings starting with n

```
anani
ani
banani
i
nani
ni
```

- Let's look for nan
- The first letter in the string has to be n, so we can binary search for the range of strings starting with n

nani ni

- Let's look for nan
- The second letter in the string has to be a, so we can binary search for the range of strings that have a as the second letter

nani ni

- Let's look for nan
- The second letter in the string has to be a, so we can binary search for the range of strings that have a as the second letter

nani

- Let's look for nan
- The third letter in the string has to be n, so we can binary search for the range of strings that have n as the third letter

nani

- Let's look for nan
- The third letter in the string has to be n, so we can binary search for the range of strings that have n as the third letter

nani

- Let's look for nan
- The third letter in the string has to be n, so we can binary search for the range of strings that have n as the third letter

#### nani

If there is at least one string left, we have a match

- Time complexity?
- ullet For each letter in T, we do two binary searches on the n suffixes to find the new range
- Time complexity is  $O(m \times \log n)$
- A bit slower than doing it with a suffix trie, but still not bad

- But how do we construct a suffix array for a string?
- A simple sort(suffixes) is  $O(n^2 \log(n))$ , because comparing two suffixes is O(n)
- ullet And we still have the same problem as with suffix tries, there are almost  $n^2$  characters if we store all suffixes

- The second problem is easy to fix
- Just store the indices of the suffixes

```
anani
ani
banani
i
nani
ni
```

#### becomes

```
    anani
    ani
    banani
    i
    nani
    ni
```

- What about the construction?
- In short, we
  - sort all suffixes by only looking at the first letter
  - sort all suffixes by only looking at the first 2 letters
  - sort all suffixes by only looking at the first 4 letters
  - sort all suffixes by only looking at the first 8 letters
  - ...
  - ullet sort all suffixes by only looking at the first  $2^i$  letters
  - ...
- If we use an  $O(n \log n)$  sorting algorithm, this is  $O(n \log^2 n)$
- We can also use an O(n) sorting algorithm, since all sorted values are between 0 and n, bringing it down to  $O(n \log n)$

```
struct suffix_array {
    struct entry {
        pair<int, int> nr;
        int p;
        bool operator <(const entry &other) {</pre>
            return nr < other.nr;
    };
    string s;
    int n;
    vector<vector<int> > P;
    vector<entry> L;
    vi idx;
    // constructor
```

```
suffix_array(string _s) : s(_s), n(s.size()) {
    L = vector<entry>(n);
    P.push_back(vi(n));
    idx = vi(n):
   for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
        P[0][i] = s[i];
    }
    for (int stp = 1, cnt = 1; (cnt >> 1) < n; stp++, cnt <<= 1) {
        P.push_back(vi(n));
       for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
           L[i].p = i;
            L[i].nr = make_pair(P[stp - 1][i], i + cnt < n ? P[stp - 1][i + cnt] : -1);
        }
        sort(L.begin(), L.end());
        for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
            if (i > 0 && L[i].nr == L[i - 1].nr) {
                P[stp][L[i].p] = P[stp][L[i - 1].p];
            } else {
                P[stp][L[i].p] = i;
    }
   for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
        idx[P[P.size() - 1][i]] = i;
    }
```

- There is also one other useful operation on suffix arrays
- ullet Finding the longest common prefix (lcp) of two suffixes of S

```
1: anani
3: ani
0: banani
5: i
2: nani
4: ni
• lcp(1,3) = 2
• lcp(2,1) = 0
```

ullet This function can be implemented in  $O(\log n)$  by using intermediate results from the suffix array construction

```
int lcp(int x, int y) {
    int res = 0;
    if (x == y) return n - x;
   for (int k = P.size() - 1; k \ge 0 && x < n && y < n; k--) {
        if (P[k][x] == P[k][y]) {
            x += 1 << k;
            y += 1 << k;
           res += 1 << k;
   return res;
```

# Longest common substring

- ullet Given two strings S and T, find their longest common substring
- S = banani
- T = kanina
- Their longest common substring is ani

see example