

# Algorithmic Challenges: From Suffix Array to Suffix Tree

Michael Levin

Department of Computer Science and Engineering  
University of California, San Diego

**String Processing and Pattern Matching Algorithms**  
**Algorithms and Data Structures**

# Outline

- 1 Suffix Array and Suffix Tree
- 2 LCP Array
- 3 LCP Array Computation
- 4 Implement LCP Array Computation
- 5 Constructing Suffix Tree
- 6 Implementation

# Construct suffix Tree

Input: String  $S$

Output: Suffix tree of  $S$

- You already know how to construct suffix tree
- But  $O(|S|^2)$  will only work for short strings
- You will learn to build it in  $O(|S| \log |S|)$  which enables very long texts!

# General Plan

- Construct suffix array in  $O(|S| \log |S|)$
- Compute additional information in  $O(|S|)$
- Construct suffix tree from suffix array and additional information in  $O(|S|)$

# Suffix array and suffix tree

$S = ababaa\$$

0  $\$$

1  $a\$$

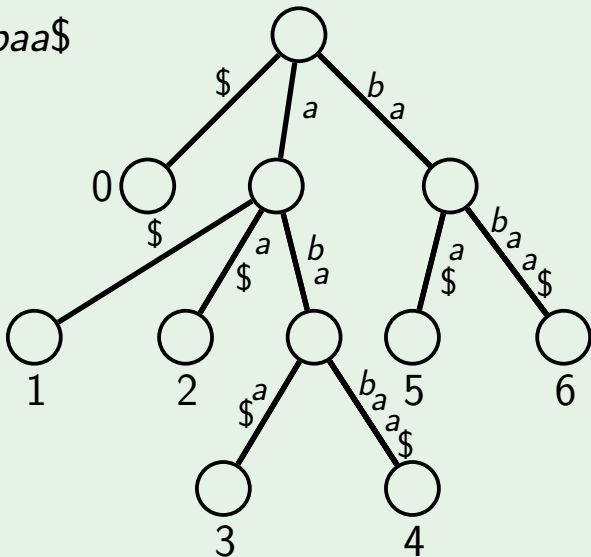
2  $aa\$$

3  $abaa\$$

4  $ababaa\$$

5  $baa\$$

6  $babaa\$$



# Suffix array and suffix tree

$S = ababaa\$$

0 \$

1 a\$

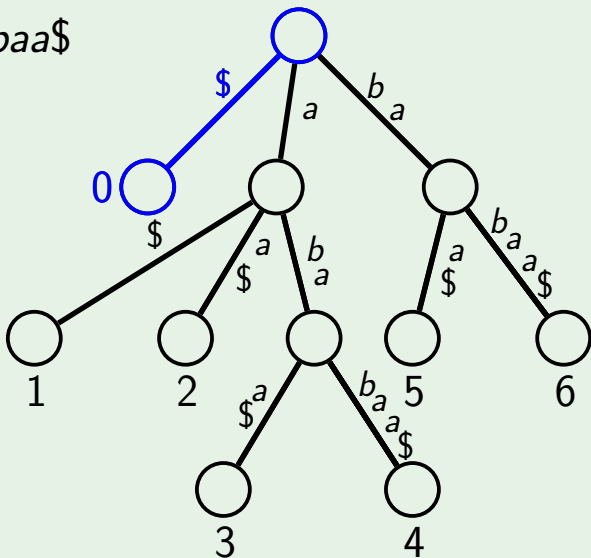
2 aa\$

3 *abaa*\$

4 *ababaa*\$

5 *baa*\$

6 *babaa*\$



# Suffix array and suffix tree

$$S = ababaa\$$$

0 \$

1 a\$

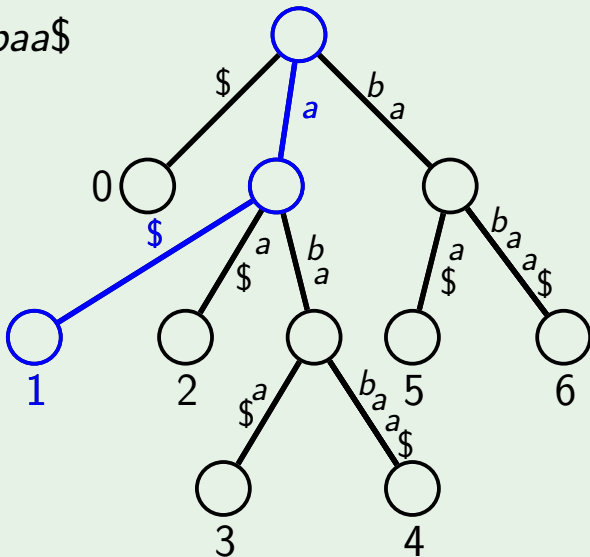
2 aa\$

3 *abaa*\$

4 *ababaa*\$

5 *baa*\$

6 *babaa*\$







# Suffix array and suffix tree

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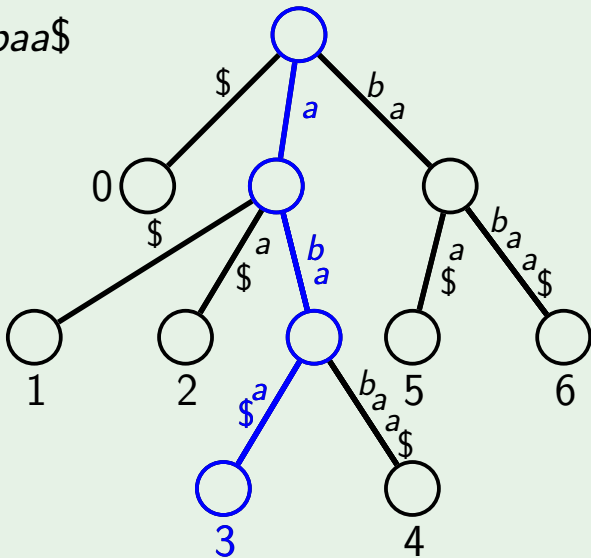
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4  $ababaa\$$

5  $baa\$$

6  $babaa\$$



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$S = ababaa\$$

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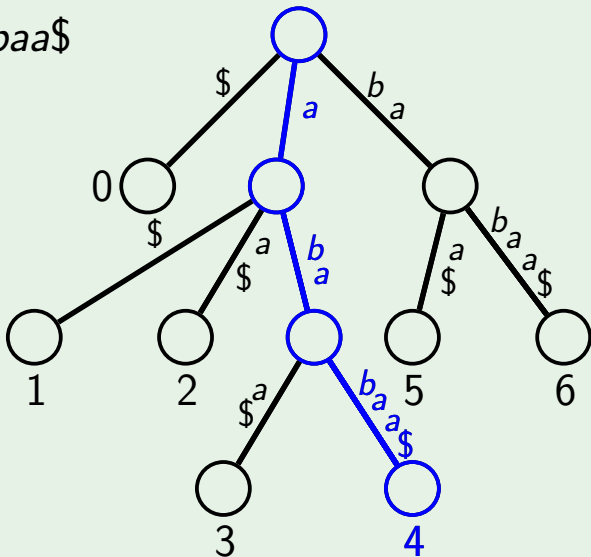
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5  $baa\$$

6  $babaa\$$



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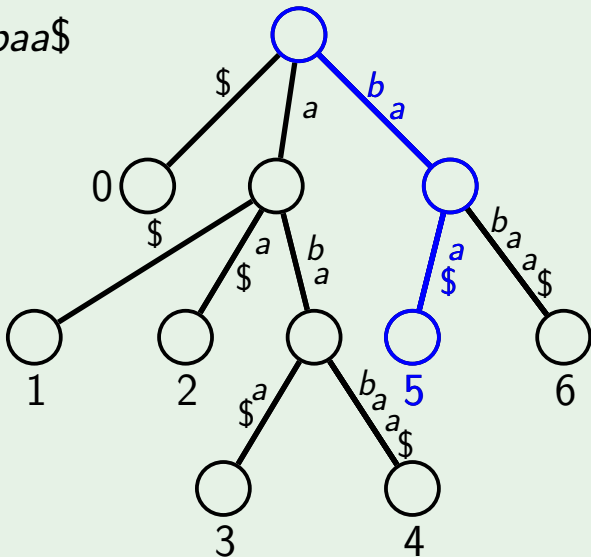
2  $aa\$$

3  $abaa\$$

4  $ababaa\$$

5  $baa\$$

6  $babaa\$$



# Suffix array and suffix tree

$S = ababaa\$$

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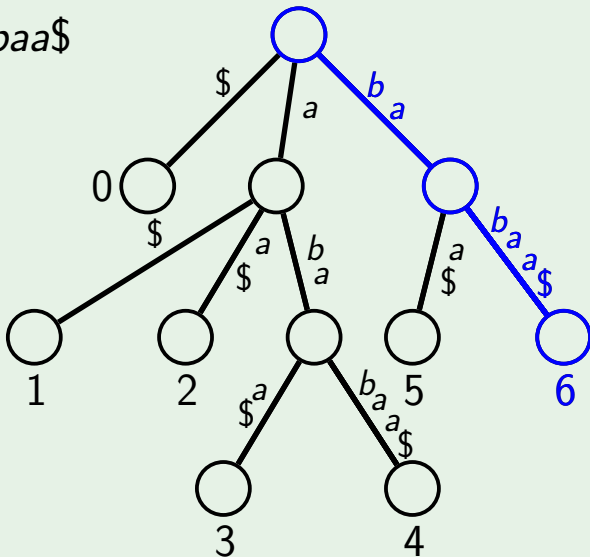
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4  $ababaa\$$

5  $baa\$$

6  $babaa\$$



## Definition

The **longest common prefix** (or just “lcp”) of two strings  $S$  and  $T$  is the longest such string  $u$  that  $u$  is both a prefix of  $S$  and  $T$ . We denote by  $LCP(S, T)$  the length of the “lcp” of  $S$  and  $T$ .

## Example

$$LCP(\text{“ababc”}, \text{“abc”}) = 2$$

$$LCP(\text{“a”}, \text{“b”}) = 0$$

# Suffix array, suffix tree and lcp

$S = ababaa\$$

0  $\$$

1  $a\$$

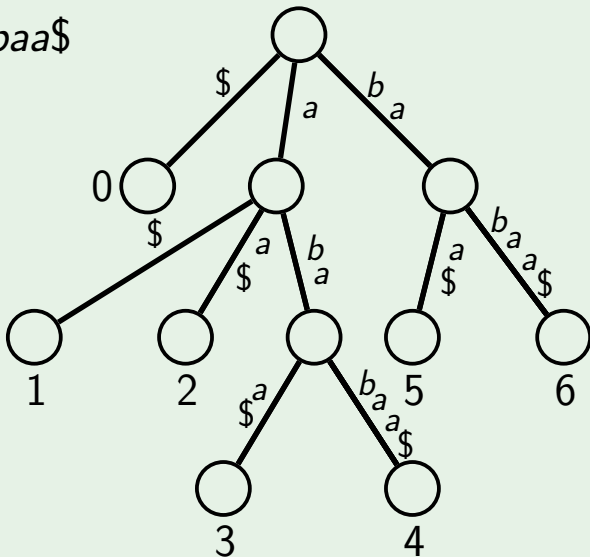
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3  $abaa\$$

4  $ababaa\$$

5  $baa\$$

6  $babaa\$$



# Suffix array, suffix tree and lcp

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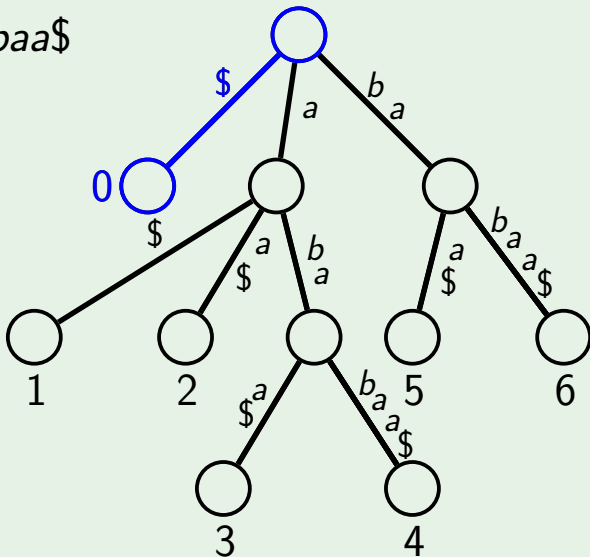
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4  $ababaa\$$

5  $baa\$$

6  $babaa\$$



# Suffix array, suffix tree and lcp

$S = ababaa\$$

0 \$

1 a\$

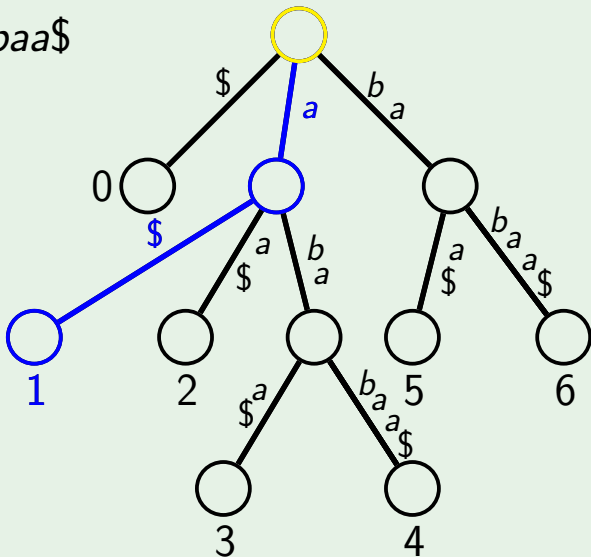
2 aa\$

3 *abaa*\$

4 *ababaa*\$

5 *baa*\$

6 *babaa*\$





# Suffix array, suffix tree and lcp

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1  $a\$$

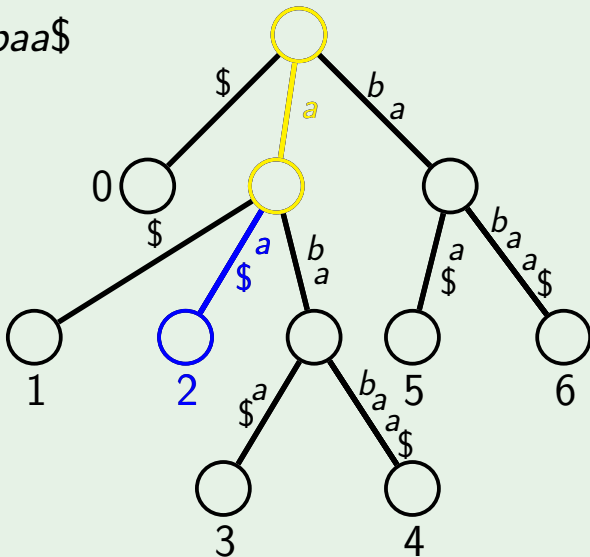
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4  $ababaa\$$

5  $baa\$$

6  $babaa\$$



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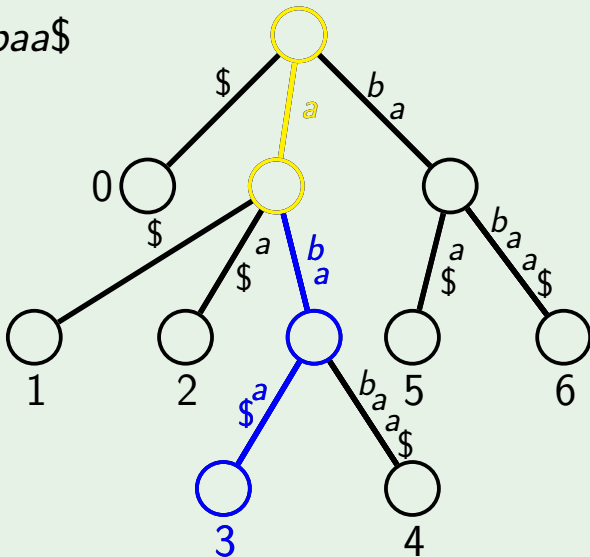
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4  $ababaa\$$

5  $baa\$$

6  $babaa\$$



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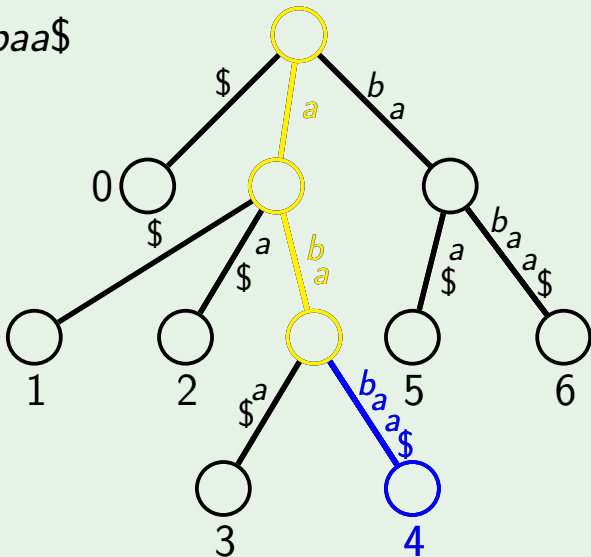
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4  $ababaa\$$

5  $baa\$$

6  $babaa\$$



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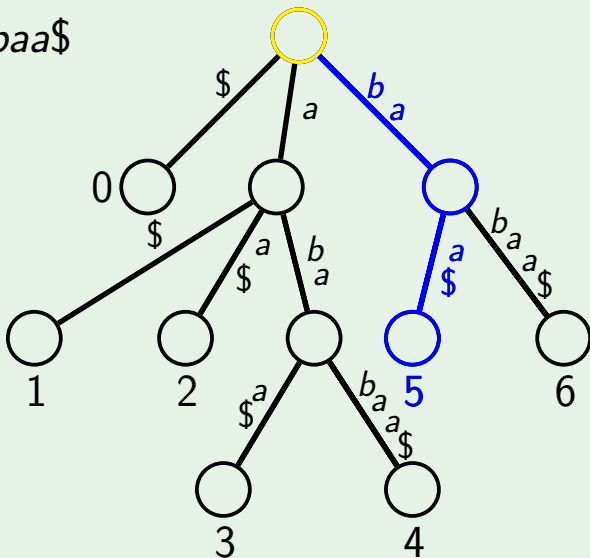
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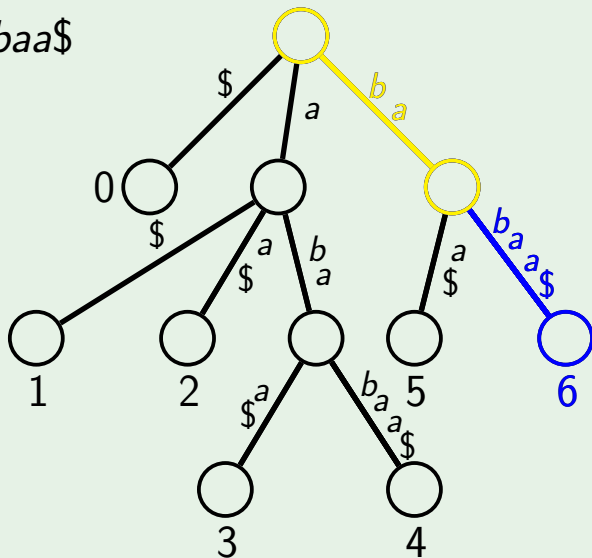
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# LCP array

## Definition

Consider suffix array  $A$  of string  $S$  in the raw form, that is

$A[0] < A[1] < A[2] < \dots < A[|S| - 1]$  are all the suffixes of  $S$  in lexicographic order.

**LCP array** of string  $S$  is the array  $lcp$  of size  $|S| - 1$  such that for each  $i$  such that  $0 \leq i \leq |S| - 2$ ,

$$lcp[i] = LCP(A[i], A[i + 1])$$

# LCP array

$S = ababaa\$$

0  $\$$

1  $a\$$

$lcp = [ \quad , \quad , \quad , \quad , \quad ]$

2  $aa\$$

3  $abaa\$$

4  $ababaa\$$

5  $baa\$$

6  $babaa\$$



# LCP array

$S = ababaa\$$

0 \$

1 a\$

$lcp = [ \quad , \quad , \quad , \quad , \quad ]$

2 aa\$

3 abaa\$

4 ababaa\$

5 baa\$

6 babaa\$

# LCP array

$S = ababaa\$$

0  $\$$

1  $a\$$

$lcp = [0, \quad , \quad , \quad , \quad ]$

2  $aa\$$

3  $abaa\$$

4  $ababaa\$$

5  $baa\$$

6  $babaa\$$

# LCP array

$S = ababaa\$$

0  $\$$

1  $a\$$

2  $aa\$$

3  $abaa\$$

4  $ababaa\$$

5  $baa\$$

6  $babaa\$$

$lcp = [0, 1, \quad, \quad, \quad]$

# LCP array

$S = ababaa\$$

0  $\$$

1  $a\$$

$lcp = [0, 1, 1, \ , \ , \ ]$

2  $aa\$$

3  $abaa\$$

4  $ababaa\$$

5  $baa\$$

6  $babaa\$$

# LCP array

$S = ababaa\$$

0  $\$$

1  $a\$$

$lcp = [0, 1, 1, 3, \quad, \quad]$

2  $aa\$$

3  $abaa\$$

4  $ababaa\$$

5  $baa\$$

6  $babaa\$$

# LCP array

$S = ababaa\$$

0  $\$$

1  $a\$$

$lcp = [0, 1, 1, 3, 0, ]$

2  $aa\$$

3  $abaa\$$

4  $ababaa\$$

5  $baa\$$

6  $babaa\$$

# LCP array

$S = ababaa\$$

0  $\$$

1  $a\$$

$lcp = [0, 1, 1, 3, 0, 2]$

2  $aa\$$

3  $abaa\$$

4  $ababaa\$$

5  $baa\$$

6  $babaa\$$

# LCP array property

## Lemma

For any  $i < j$ ,  $LCP(A[i], A[j]) \leq lcp[i]$  and  $LCP(A[i], A[j]) \leq lcp[j - 1]$ .



## Proof

...

*i*      *ab*abababa

*i* + 1   xxxxxxxxxxx

...

*j*      *ab*bcabab

If  $LCP(A[i], A[j]) > LCP(A[i], A[i + 1])$

# Proof

...

$i$       *ab*abababa

$i + 1$  *xx*xxxxxxxx  $k = 1$

...

$j$       *ab*bcabab

If  $LCP(A[i], A[j]) > LCP(A[i], A[i + 1])$

Consider  $k = LCP(A[i], A[i + 1])$

## Proof

...

$i$      *ab*abababa

$i + 1$   $a_{\text{—}}$       $k = 1$

...

$j$      *ab*bcabab

If  $k \geq |A[i + 1]|$ , then  $A[i + 1] < A[i] -$   
contradiction

## Proof

...

$i$       *ab*abababa

$i + 1$  *a*~~x~~xxxxxxx       $k = 1$

...

$j$       *ab*bcabab

Otherwise  $A[j][k] = A[i][k] \neq A[i + 1][k]$

# Proof

...

$i$      *ab*abababa

$i + 1$  *a***c**xxxxxxxx  $k = 1$

...  $\vee$

$j$      *ab*bcabab

If  $A[j][k] = A[i][k] < A[i + 1][k]$ , then  
 $A[j] < A[i + 1]$  — contradiction

## Proof

...

$i$       *ab*abababa

$i + 1$    *a* $\overset{\vee}{xxxxxxx}$      $k = 1$

...

$j$       *ab*bcabab

If  $A[i][k] > A[i + 1][k]$ , then  $A[i] > A[i + 1]$   
— contradiction □

# Computing LCP array

- For each  $i$ , compute  $LCP(A[i], A[i + 1])$  via comparing  $A[i]$  and  $A[i + 1]$  character-by-character
- $O(|S|)$  for each  $i$ ,  $O(|S|)$  different  $i$  — total time  $O(|S|^2)$
- How to do this faster?

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# Idea

$$S = \text{abracadabra\$}$$

index	sorted suffixes	LCP
...	...	...
$i + 1 = 10$	a\$	
7	abra\$	
...	...	...
$j + 1 = 3$	acadabra\$	
...	...	...
$i = 9$	ra\$	
$j = 2$	racadabra\$	

# Idea

$S = \text{abracadabra\$}$

index	sorted suffixes	LCP
...	...	...
$i + 1 = 10$	a\$	
7	abra\$	
...	...	...
$j + 1 = 3$	acadabra\$	
...	...	...
$i = 9$	ra\$	$h = 2$
$j = 2$	racadabra\$	

# Idea

$$S = \textit{abracadabra}\$$$

index	sorted suffixes	LCP
...	...	...
$i + 1 = 10$	a\$	
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$i = 9$	ra\$	$h = 2$
$j = 2$	racadabra\$	

# Idea

$S = \text{abracadabra\$}$

index	sorted suffixes	LCP
...	...	...
$i + 1 = 10$	a\$	$\geq h - 1$
7	abra\$	
...	...	...
$j + 1 = 3$	acadabra\$	
...	...	...
$i = 9$	ra\$	$h = 2$
$j = 2$	racadabra\$	

# Notation

Let  $S_{a(i)}$  be the next suffix after  $S_i$  in the suffix array of string  $S$ .

## Example

$S = \text{abracadabra\$}$

$S_9 = \text{ra\$}$ ,  $S_{a(9)} = S_2 = \text{racadabra\$}$

$S_{10} = \text{a\$}$ ,  $S_{a(10)} = S_7 = \text{abra\$}$

# Idea

## Lemma

$$LCP(S_{i+1}, S_{a(i+1)}) \geq LCP(S_i, S_{a(i)}) - 1$$

# Algorithm

- Let the smallest suffix be  $S_k$
- Compute  $LCP(S_k, S_{a(k)})$  directly, save result as  $lcp$
- Then compute  $LCP(S_{k+1}, S_{a(k+1)})$  directly, but start comparisons from position  $lcp - 1$ , as the first  $lcp$  characters are definitely equal
- Save the result as  $lcp$
- Repeat with  $LCP(S_{k+2}, S_{a(k+2)})$  and so on until all LCP values are computed

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## LCPOfSuffixes( $S, i, j, equal$ )

```
 $lcp \leftarrow \max(0, equal)$   
while  $i + lcp < |S|$  and  $j + lcp < |S|$ :  
    if  $S[i + lcp] == S[j + lcp]$ :  
         $lcp \leftarrow lcp + 1$   
    else:  
        break  
return  $lcp$ 
```

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    else:  
        break  
return  $lcp$ 
```



## InvertSuffixArray(*order*)

```
pos  $\leftarrow$  array of size  $|order|$   
for i from 0 to  $|pos| - 1$ :  
    pos[order[i]]  $\leftarrow i$   
return pos
```

## InvertSuffixArray(*order*)

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```

# ComputeLCPArray( $S$ , $order$ )

```
 $lcpArray \leftarrow$  array of size  $|S| - 1$   
 $lcp \leftarrow 0$   
 $posInOrder \leftarrow \text{InvertSuffixArray}(order)$   
 $suffix \leftarrow order[0]$   
for  $i$  from 0 to  $|S| - 1$ :  
     $orderIndex \leftarrow posInOrder[suffix]$   
    if  $orderIndex == |S| - 1$ :  
         $lcp \leftarrow 0$   
         $suffix \leftarrow (suffix + 1) \bmod |S|$   
        continue  
     $nextSuffix \leftarrow order[orderIndex + 1]$   
     $lcp \leftarrow \text{LCPOfSuffixes}(S, suffix, nextSuffix, lcp - 1)$   
     $lcpArray[orderIndex] \leftarrow lcp$   
     $suffix \leftarrow (suffix + 1) \bmod |S|$   
return  $lcpArray$ 
```

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        continue  
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return  $lcpArray$ 
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         $suffix \leftarrow (suffix + 1) \bmod |S|$   
        continue  
     $nextSuffix \leftarrow order[orderIndex + 1]$   
     $lcp \leftarrow \text{LCPOfSuffixes}(S, suffix, nextSuffix, lcp - 1)$   
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return  $lcpArray$ 
```

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 $lcp \leftarrow 0$   
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 $suffix \leftarrow order[0]$   
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     $orderIndex \leftarrow posInOrder[suffix]$   
    if  $orderIndex == |S| - 1$ :  
         $lcp \leftarrow 0$   
         $suffix \leftarrow (suffix + 1) \bmod |S|$   
        continue  
     $nextSuffix \leftarrow order[orderIndex + 1]$   
     $lcp \leftarrow \text{LCPOfSuffixes}(S, suffix, nextSuffix, lcp - 1)$   
     $lcpArray[orderIndex] \leftarrow lcp$   
     $suffix \leftarrow (suffix + 1) \bmod |S|$   
return  $lcpArray$ 
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# Analysis

## Lemma

This algorithm computes *LCP* array in  $O(|S|)$

## Proof

- Each comparison increases  $lcp$
- $lcp \leq |S|$
- Each iteration  $lcp$  decreases by at most 1
- Number of comparisons is  $O(|S|)$  □

# Outline

- 1 Suffix Array and Suffix Tree
- 2 LCP Array
- 3 LCP Array Computation
- 4 Implement LCP Array Computation
- 5 Constructing Suffix Tree
- 6 Implementation



# Building suffix tree

$S = ababaa\$$



6 \$

5 a\$

4 aa\$

2 abaa\$

0 ababaa\$

3 baa\$

1 babaa\$

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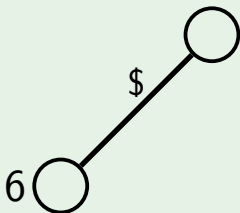
4 aa\$

2 abaa\$

0 ababaa\$

3 baa\$

1 babaa\$



# Building suffix tree

$S = ababaa\$$

6  $\$$

5  $a\$$

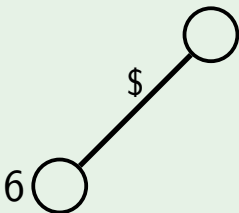
4  $aa\$$

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0  $ababaa\$$

3  $baa\$$

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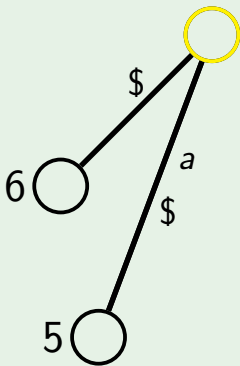
4  $aa\$$

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3  $baa\$$

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$S = ababaa\$$

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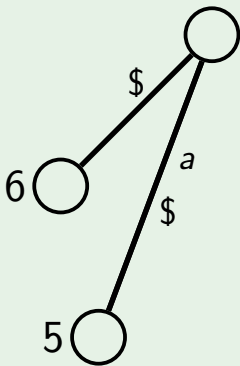
4 aa\$

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0 ababaa\$

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$S = ababaa\$$

6  $\$$

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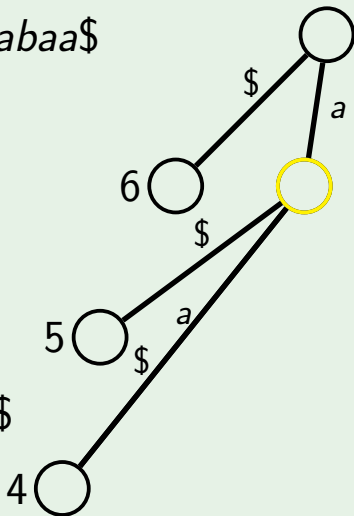
4  $aa\$$

2  $abaa\$$

0  $ababaa\$$

3  $baa\$$

1  $babaa\$$



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6 \$

5 a\$

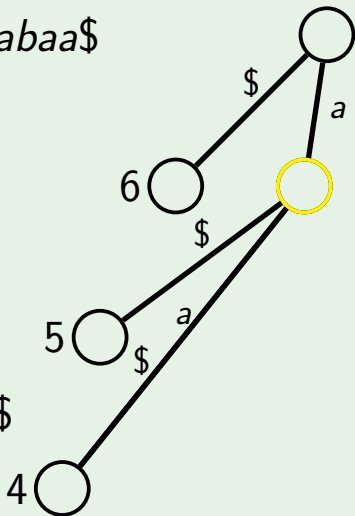
4 aa\$

2 *abaa*\$

0 *ababaa*\$

3 *baa*\$

1 *babaa*\$





# Building suffix tree

$S = ababaa\$$

6  $\$$

5  $a\$$

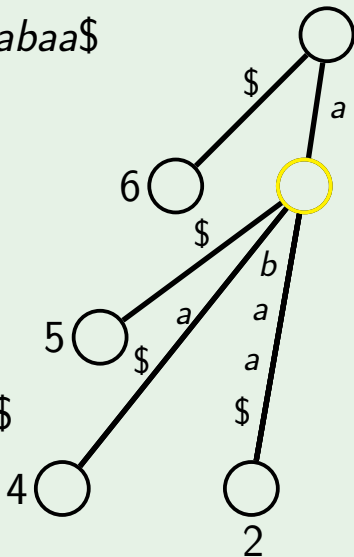
4  $aa\$$

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0  $ababaa\$$

3  $baa\$$

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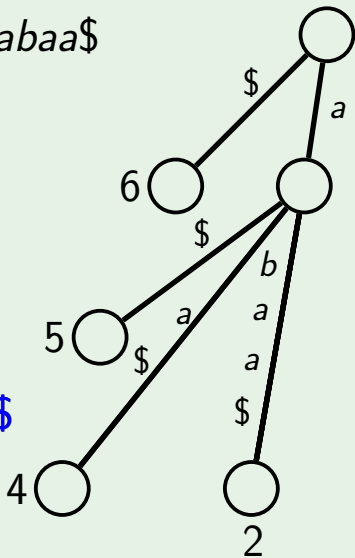
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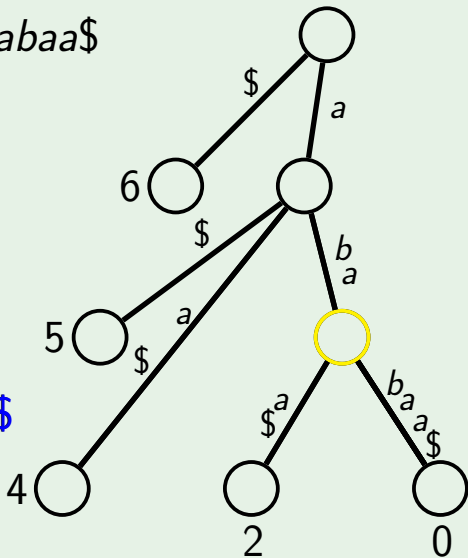
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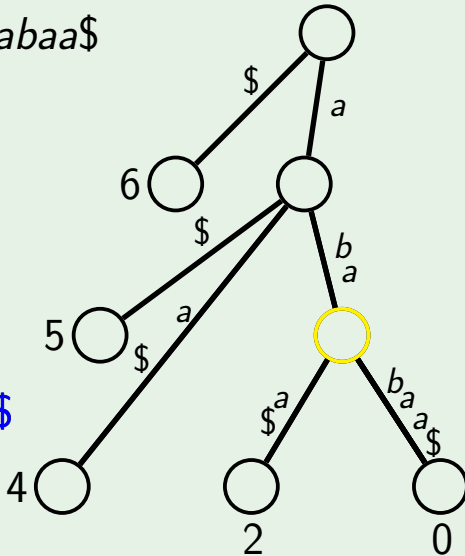
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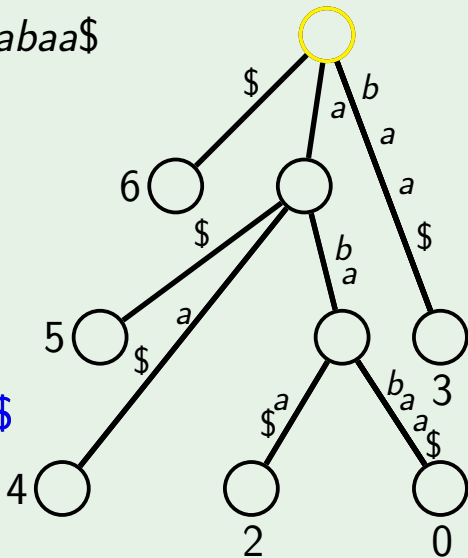
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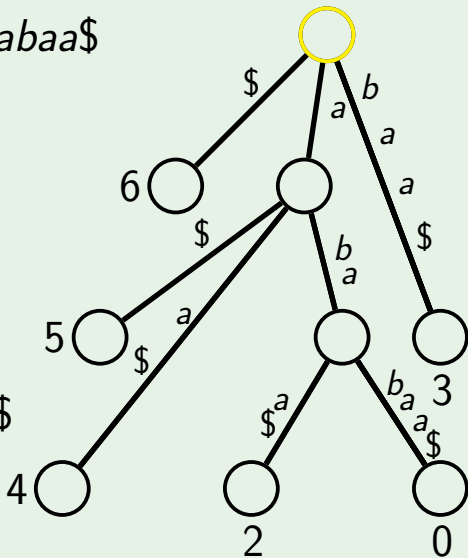
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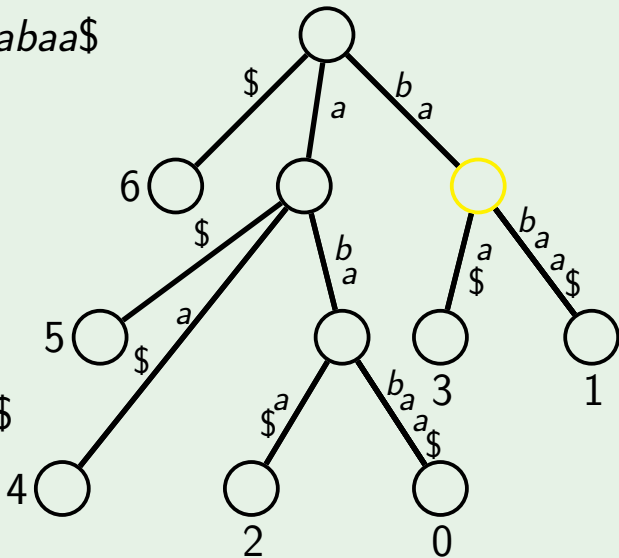
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# Algorithm

- Build suffix array and LCP array
- Start from only root vertex
- Grow first edge for the first suffix
- For each next suffix, go up from the leaf until  $LCP$  with previous is below
- Build a new edge for the new suffix



# Outline

- 1 Suffix Array and Suffix Tree
- 2 LCP Array
- 3 LCP Array Computation
- 4 Implement LCP Array Computation
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```
class SuffixTreeNode:
```

```
    SuffixTreeNode parent
```

```
    Map<char, SuffixTreeNode> children
```

```
    integer stringDepth
```

```
    integer edgeStart
```

```
    integer edgeEnd
```

# STFromSA(*S*, *order*, *lcpArray*)

```
root ← new SuffixTreeNode(  
    children = {}, parent = nil, stringDepth = 0,  
    edgeStart = -1, edgeEnd = -1)  
lcpPrev ← 0  
curNode ← root  
for i from 0 to |S| - 1:  
    suffix ← order[i]  
    while curNode.stringDepth > lcpPrev:  
        curNode ← curNode.parent  
    if curNode.stringDepth == lcpPrev:  
        curNode ← CreateNewLeaf(curNode, S, suffix)  
    else:  
        edgeStart ← order[i - 1] + curNode.stringDepth  
        offset ← lcpPrev - curNode.stringDepth  
        midNode ← BreakEdge(curNode, S, edgeStart, offset)  
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root  $\leftarrow$  new SuffixTreeNode(  
    children = {}, parent = nil, stringDepth = 0,  
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lcpPrev  $\leftarrow$  0  
curNode  $\leftarrow$  root  
for  $i$  from 0 to  $|S| - 1$ :  
    suffix  $\leftarrow$  order[ $i$ ]  
    while curNode.stringDepth > lcpPrev:  
        curNode  $\leftarrow$  curNode.parent  
    if curNode.stringDepth == lcpPrev:  
        curNode  $\leftarrow$  CreateNewLeaf(curNode,  $S$ , suffix)  
    else:  
        edgeStart  $\leftarrow$  order[ $i - 1$ ] + curNode.stringDepth  
        offset  $\leftarrow$  lcpPrev - curNode.stringDepth  
        midNode  $\leftarrow$  BreakEdge(curNode,  $S$ , edgeStart, offset)  
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        curNode  $\leftarrow$  CreateNewLeaf(midNode,  $S$ , suffix)  
    if  $i < |S| - 1$ :  
        lcpPrev  $\leftarrow$  lcpArray[ $i$ ]  
return root
```

# STFromSA(*S*, *order*, *lcpArray*)

```
root ← new SuffixTreeNode(  
    children = {}, parent = nil, stringDepth = 0,  
    edgeStart = -1, edgeEnd = -1)  
lcpPrev ← 0  
curNode ← root  
for i from 0 to |S| - 1:  
    suffix ← order[i]  
    while curNode.stringDepth > lcpPrev:  
        curNode ← curNode.parent  
    if curNode.stringDepth == lcpPrev:  
        curNode ← CreateNewLeaf(curNode, S, suffix)  
    else:  
        edgeStart ← order[i - 1] + curNode.stringDepth  
        offset ← lcpPrev - curNode.stringDepth  
        midNode ← BreakEdge(curNode, S, edgeStart, offset)  
        curNode ← CreateNewLeaf(midNode, S, suffix)  
    if i < |S| - 1:  
        lcpPrev ← lcpArray[i]  
return root
```

## CreateNewLeaf(*node*, *S*, *suffix*)

```
leaf  $\leftarrow$  new SuffixTreeNode(  
    children = {},  
    parent = node,  
    stringDepth =  $|S| - \textit{suffix}$ ,  
    edgeStart = suffix + node.stringDepth,  
    edgeEnd =  $|S| - 1$ )  
node.children[S[leaf.edgeStart]]  $\leftarrow$  leaf  
return leaf
```

## CreateNewLeaf(*node*, *S*, *suffix*)

```
leaf  $\leftarrow$  new SuffixTreeNode(  
    children =  $\{\}$ ,  
    parent = node,  
    stringDepth =  $|S| - \textit{suffix}$ ,  
    edgeStart = suffix + node.stringDepth,  
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node.children[S[leaf.edgeStart]]  $\leftarrow$  leaf  
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leaf  $\leftarrow$  new SuffixTreeNode(  
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node.children[S[leaf.edgeStart]]  $\leftarrow$  leaf  
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leaf ← new SuffixTreeNode(  
    children = {},  
    parent = node,  
    stringDepth = |S| - suffix,  
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node.children[S[leaf.edgeStart]] ← leaf  
return leaf
```

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leaf  $\leftarrow$  new SuffixTreeNode(  
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node.children[S[leaf.edgeStart]]  $\leftarrow$  leaf  
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```

## BreakEdge(*node*, *S*, *start*, *offset*)

```
startChar  $\leftarrow S[start]$   
midChar  $\leftarrow S[start + offset]$   
midNode  $\leftarrow$  new SuffixTreeNode(  
    children = {},  
    parent = node,  
    stringDepth = node.stringDepth + offset,  
    edgeStart = start,  
    edgeEnd = start + offset - 1)  
midNode.children[midChar]  $\leftarrow$  node.children[startChar]  
node.children[startChar].parent  $\leftarrow$  midNode  
node.children[startChar].edgeStart + = offset  
node.children[startChar]  $\leftarrow$  midNode  
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# Analysis

## Lemma

This algorithm runs in  $O(|S|)$

## Proof

- Total number of edges in suffix tree is  $O(|S|)$
- For each edge, we go at most once down and at most once up
- Constant time to create a new edge and possibly a new node

# Conclusion

- Can build suffix tree from suffix array in linear time
- Can build suffix tree from scratch in time  $O(|S| \log |S|)$