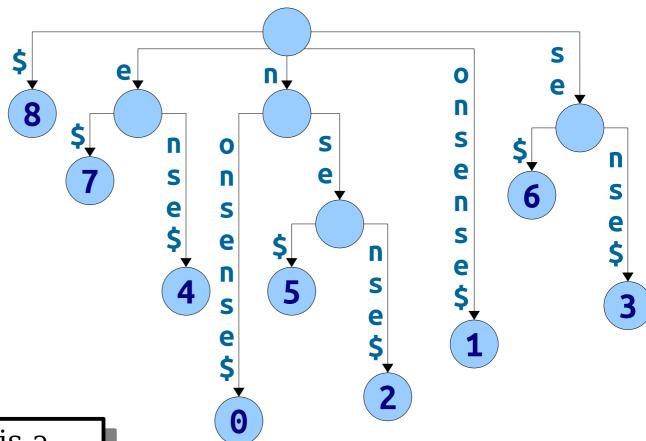
## Suffix and LCP Arrays

Recap from Last Time

#### Suffix Trees

#### Suffix Trees

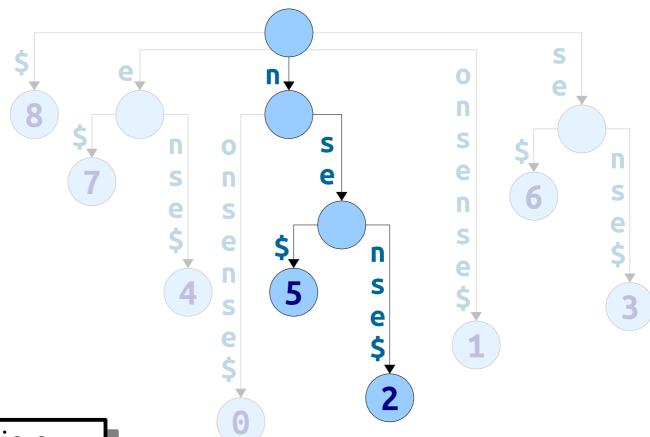
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**Theorem:** w is a substring of x if and only if w is a prefix of a suffix of x.

#### Suffix Trees

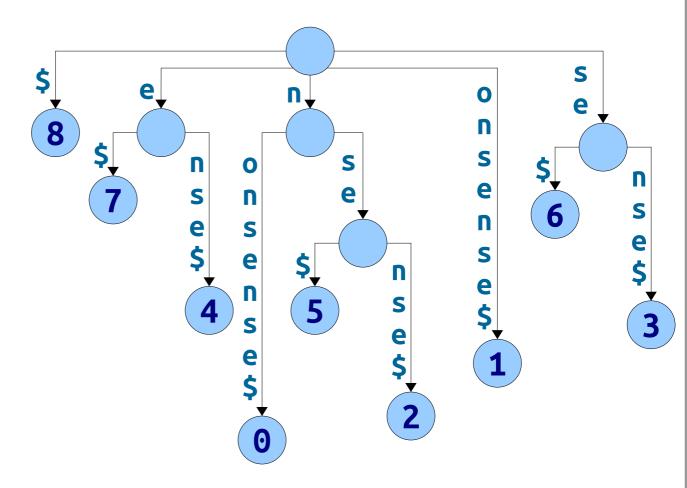
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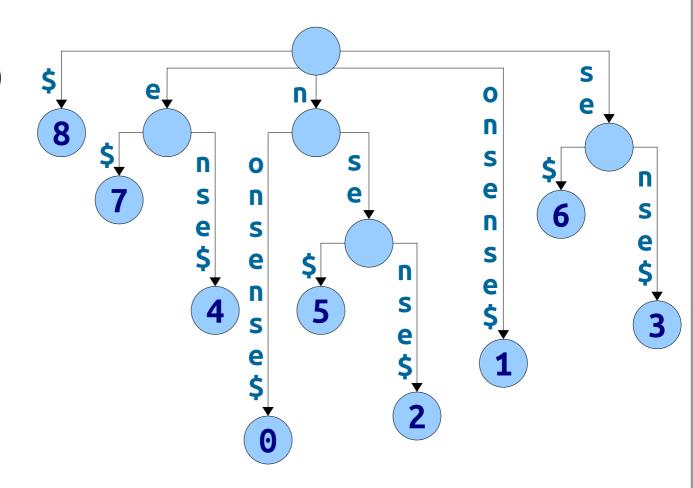
**Theorem:** w is a substring of x if and only if w is a prefix of a suffix of x.

New Stuff!

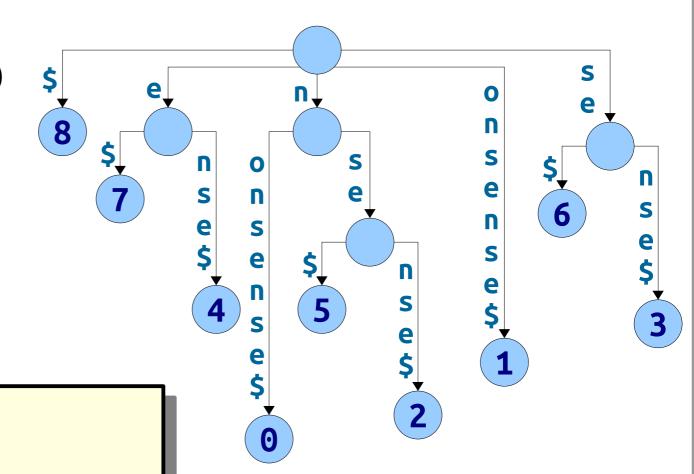
We know that a suffix tree has O(m) nodes, where m is the number of characters in the input string.



- We know that a suffix tree has O(m) nodes, where m is the number of characters in the input string.
- This means that there are O(m) edges.



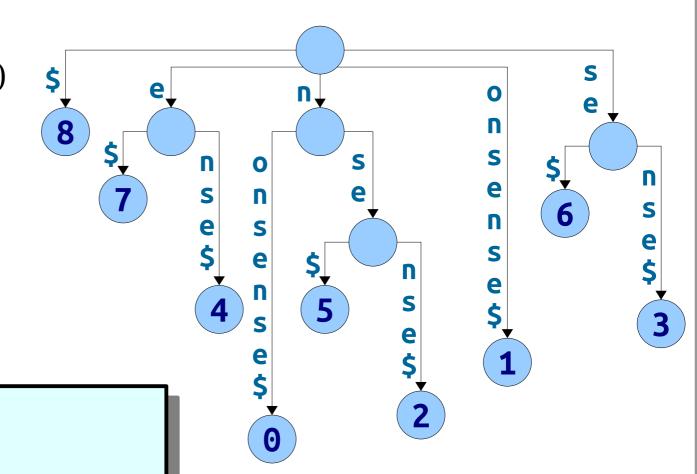
- We know that a suffix tree has O(m) nodes, where m is the number of characters in the input string.
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#### Why?

Formulate a hypothesis, but don't post anything in chat just yet.

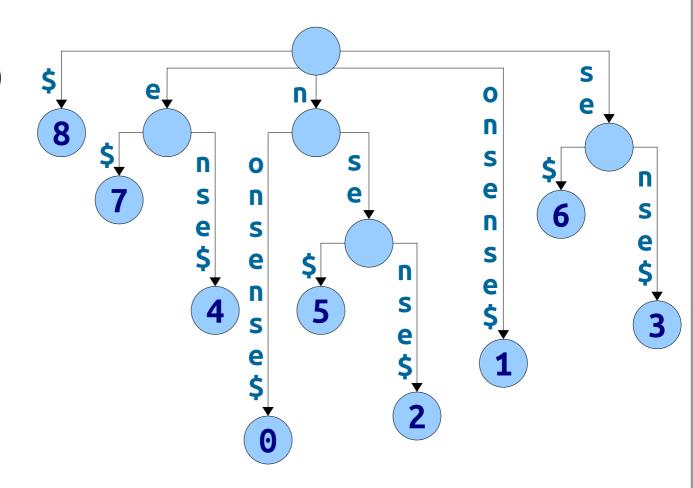
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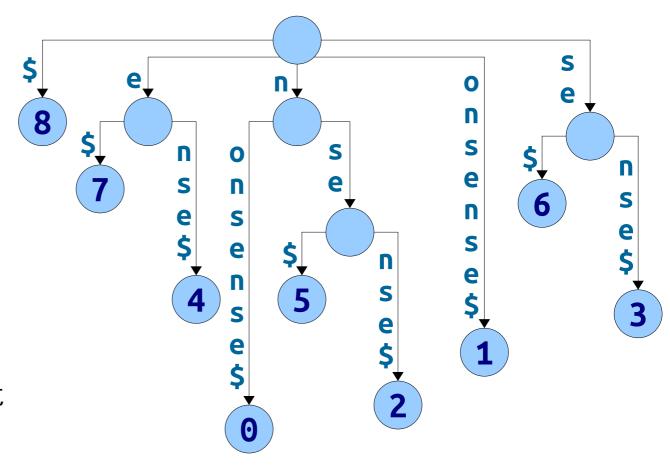
#### Why?

Now, private chat me your best guess. Not sure? Just answer "??."

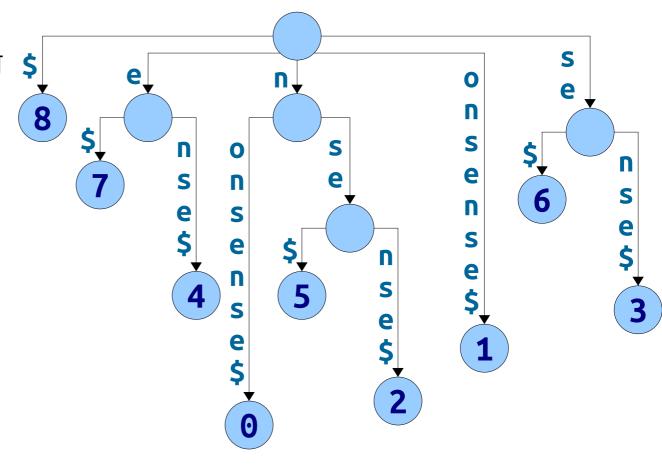
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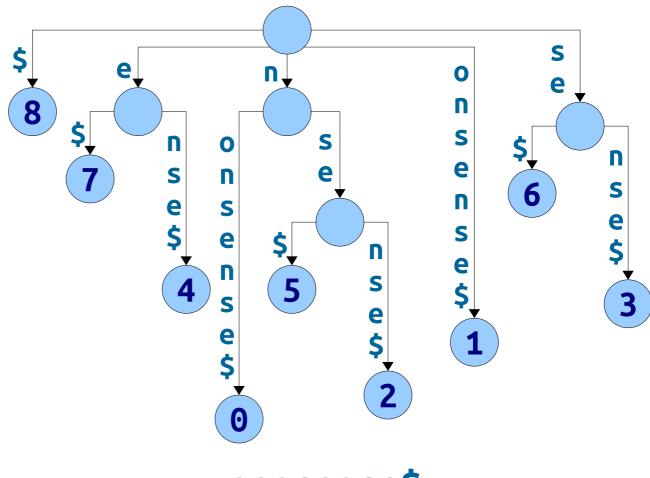
- We know that a suffix tree has O(m) nodes, where m is the number of characters in the input string.
- This means that there are O(m) edges.
- *Question:* Why can't we immediately claim that the space usage of the suffix tree is O(*m*)?

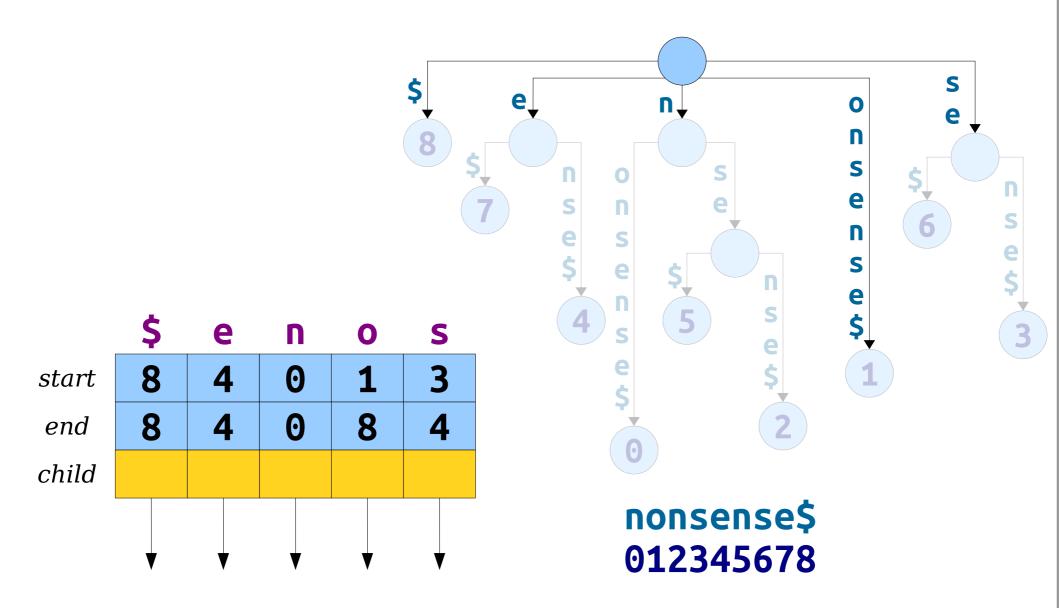


- Claim: Writing out all suffixes of a string of length m requires  $\Theta(m^2)$  characters.
- **Proof idea:** Those suffixes have length 1 + 2 + ... + (m+1), factoring in the special \$ character.
- **Problem:** It is indeed possible to build a suffix tree with  $\Theta(\mathbf{m}^2)$  total letters on the edges.

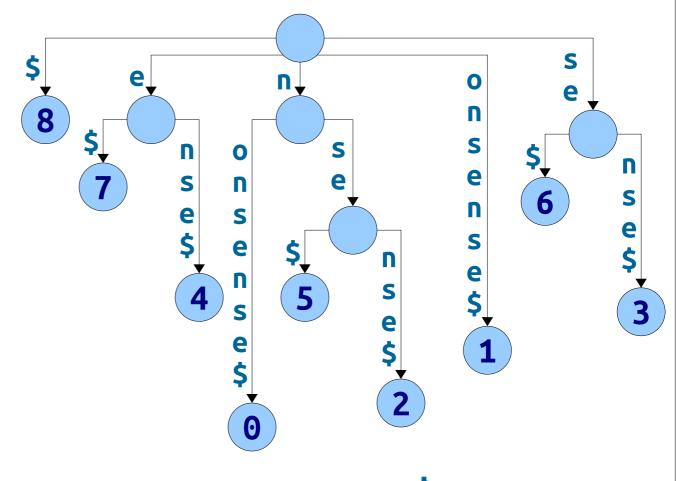


- By being clever with our representation, we can guarantee that a suffix tree uses only Θ(m) space, regardless of the input string.
- Observation: Each edge is labeled with a substring of the original input string.
- Idea: Don't actually write out the labels on the edges. Just write down the start and end index!



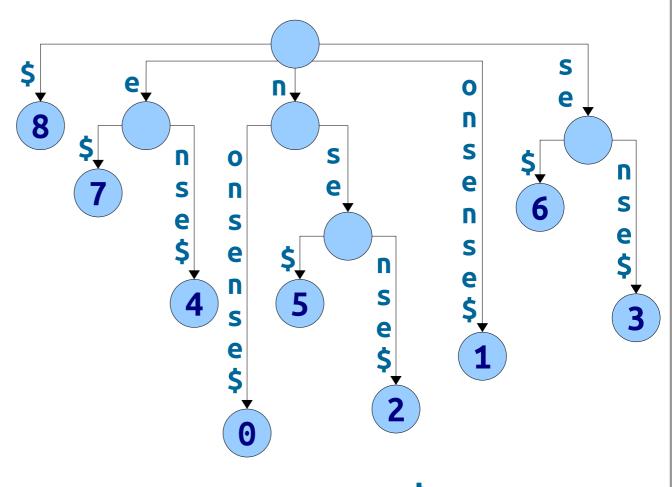


- Space usage required for a suffix tree:
  - O(*m*) space for all the nodes.
  - O(*m*) space for a copy of the original string.
  - O(m) space for the edges.
- Total space: O(m).



#### Constructing a Suffix Tree

- The naive algorithm for building a suffix tree (add one suffix at a time) takes time  $\Theta(\mathbf{m}^2)$ .
- Claim: With a much more clever approach, this can be done in time O(m).
- This is not obvious. We'll spend a full lecture on this idea later on.

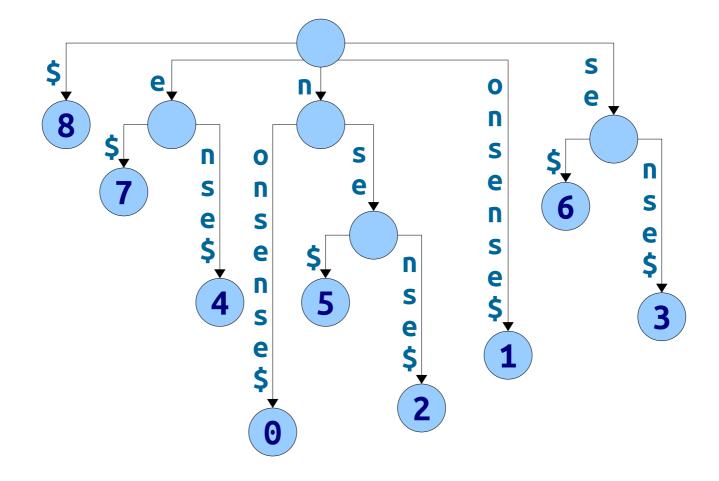


## Suffix Tree Space Usage

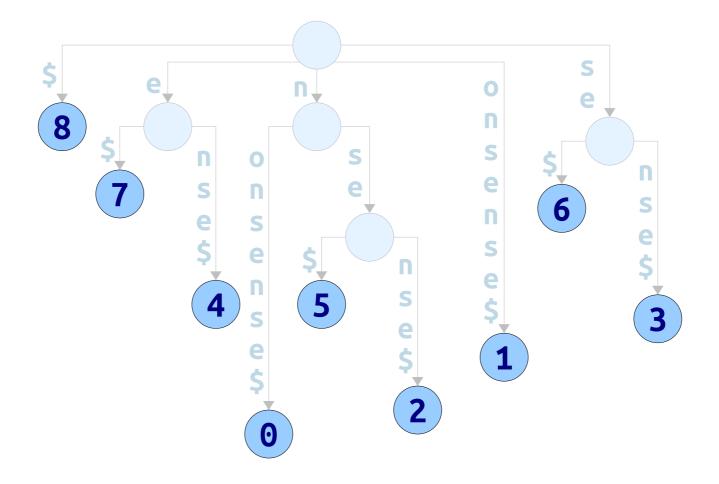
- Suffix tree edges take up a *lot* of space.
  - Two machine words per edge to denote the range of characters visited.
  - One machine word per edge for the pointer itself.
  - Number of edges ranges from m to 2m 1, so this is between 3m and 6m machine words for the whole string!
- Example: a human genome is about three billion characters long.
  - With clever techniques, that can be packed into about 800MB.
  - On a 32-bit machine, the suffix tree needs about 48GB too big to fit into memory!
  - On a 64-bit machine, the suffix tree needs about 96GB way more than a typical machine can hold!

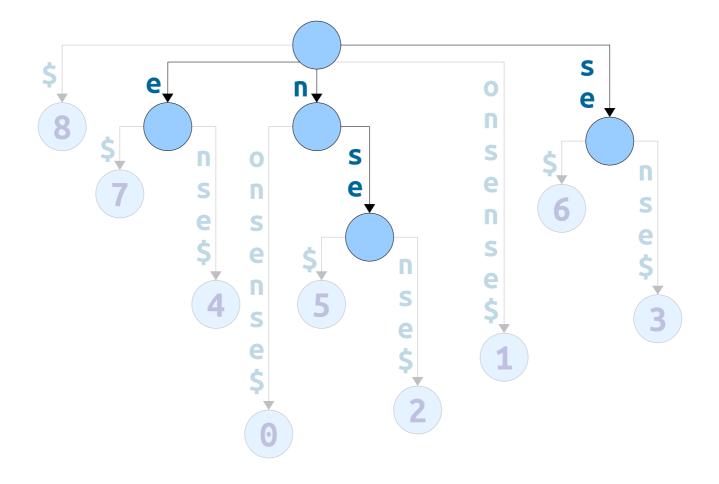
**Key Question:** Can we get the benefits of a suffix tree without the space penalty?

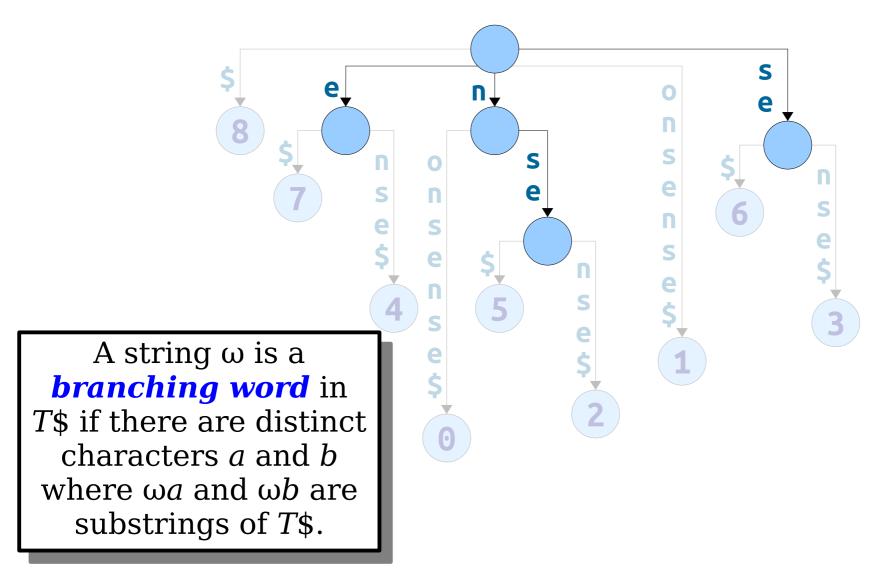
# What is it about suffix trees that make them so useful algorithmically?

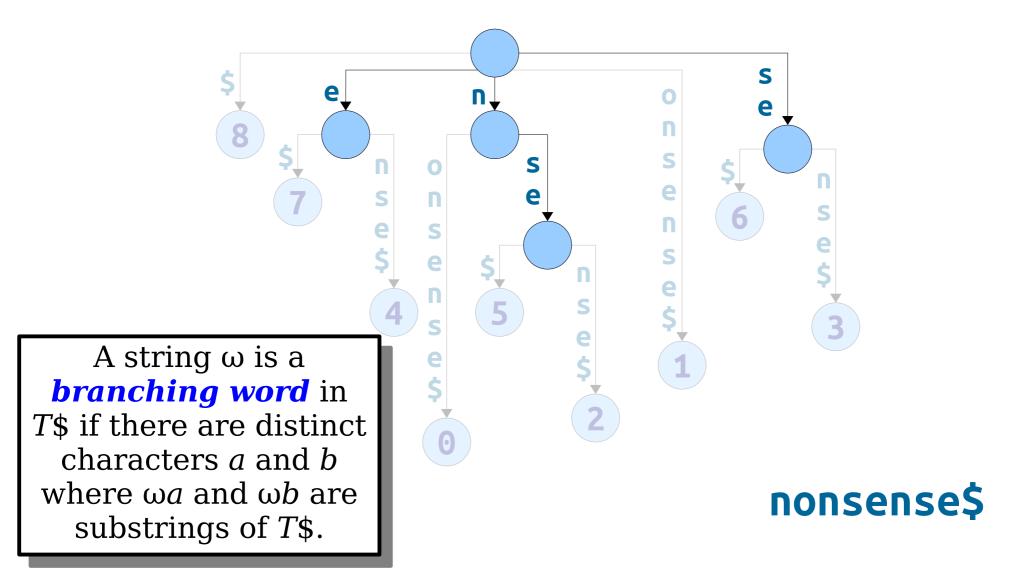


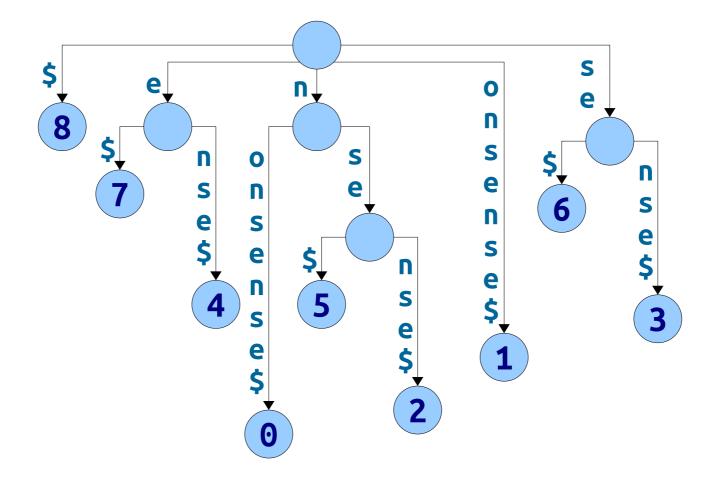
**Theorem:** There is a node labeled  $\omega$  in a suffix tree for T if and only if  $\omega$  is a suffix of T\$ or  $\omega$  is a branching word in T\$.









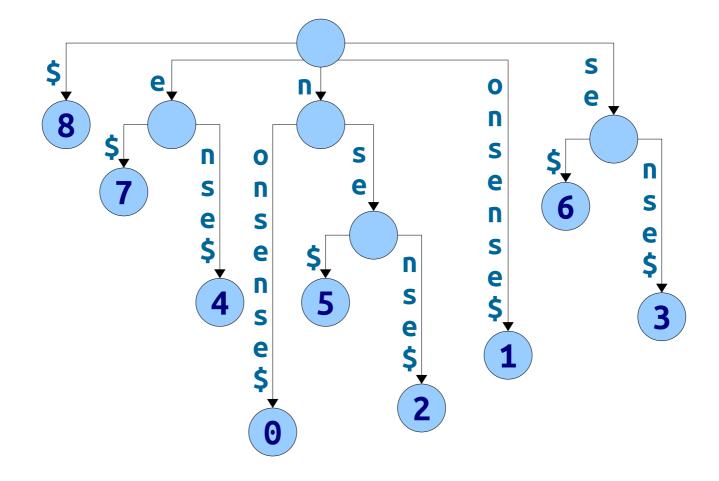


**Key Intuition:** The efficiency in a suffix tree is largely due to

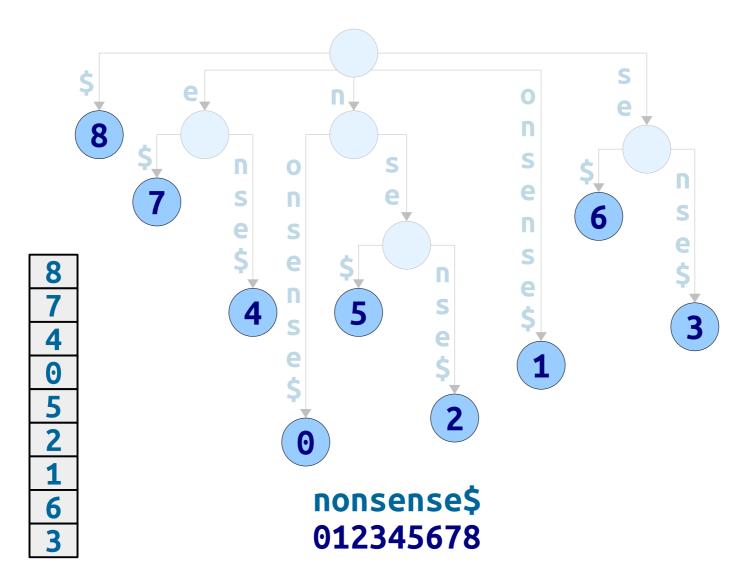
- 1. keeping the suffixes in sorted order, and
- 2. exposing branching words.

#### Where We're Going

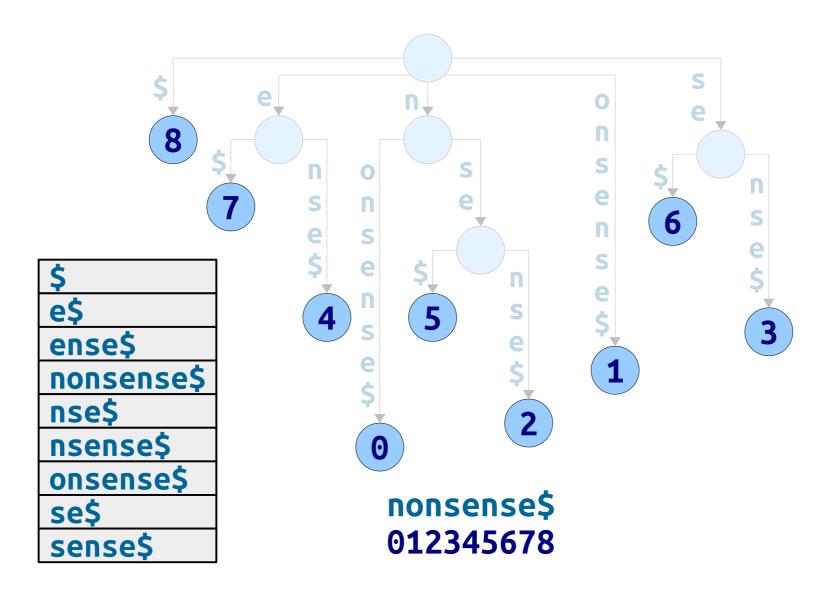
- Today, we'll see two data structures that encode much of the same information as suffix trees, but in much less space.
  - The *suffix array* stores information about the ordering of the suffixes of a string.
  - The *LCP array* stores information about the branching words of a string.
- Together, they'll provide algorithms that match or are comparable to the time bounds from last time.



**Theorem:** There is a node labeled  $\omega$  in a suffix tree for T if and only if  $\omega$  is a suffix of T\$ or  $\omega$  is a branching word in T\$.



**Theorem:** There is a node labeled  $\omega$  in a suffix tree for T if and only if



- A *suffix array* for a string T is a sorted array of the suffixes of the string T\$.
- Suffix arrays distill out just the first component of suffix trees: they store suffixes in sorted order.



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- A *suffix array* for a string T is a sorted array of the suffixes of the string T\$.
- Suffix arrays distill out just the first component of suffix trees: they store suffixes in sorted order.
- Non-obvious fact: Suffix arrays can be built in time O(m). Details next time!

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- Last time, we saw how to find all instances of a pattern *P* in a text *T* using suffix *trees*.
- How could we do that with suffix arrays?

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- Reminder: Our text string T has length m. Our pattern string P has length n.
- *Claim:* With a suffix array, we can determine whether P appears in T in time  $O(n \log m)$ .

#### How?

Formulate a hypothesis, but don't post anything in chat just yet.

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- *Claim:* With a suffix array, we can determine whether P appears in T in time  $O(n \log m)$ .
  - Binary search has O(log m) rounds.
  - Each probe takes time O(n).
- This bound can be made tight. (How?)
- Figure that *m* is often much bigger than *n*, so this is a huge win over a raw scan.

- Claim: With a suffix array, we can find all matches of a pattern P in T in time O(n log m + z), where z is the number of matches.
- *Idea:* Binary search can be used to find a range of values equal to some key. Adapt that idea to find all suffixes beginning with the same prefix.

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- The way we've drawn suffix arrays is terribly space-inefficient.
  - It always uses space  $\Theta(\mathbf{m}^2)$ , since that's how many total characters occur in all suffixes.
- Can we do better?

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- We reduced the space usage of suffix trees by representing substrings, implicitly, as ranges within the original string.
- *Idea:* Don't store the suffixes themselves. Just store the starting positions of the suffixes.
- Space:  $\Theta(m)$ , and with only one machine word used per character of input.

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- Space:  $\Theta(m)$ , and with only one machine word used per character of input.

- Although the picture to the right is how we'd represent the suffix array in memory, for this lecture we'll draw things out the longer way.
- This is just to build intuition; we wouldn't actually do that in practice.



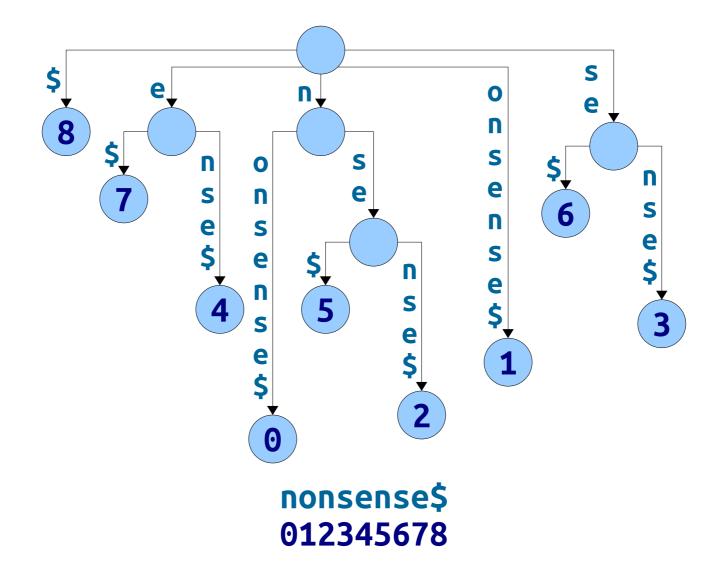
# The Story So Far

- Suffix arrays store all the suffixes of a string in sorted order.
- They provide an

```
\langle O(m), O(n \log m + z) \rangle
```

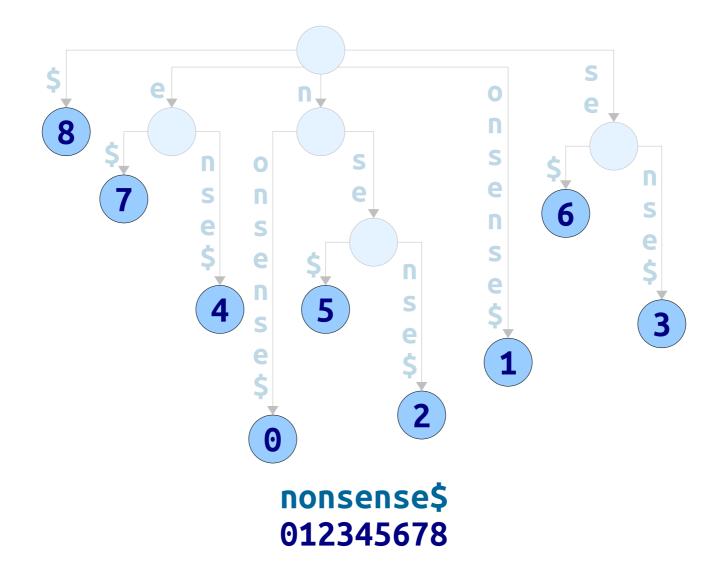
solution to the substring search problem.

- *Intuition:* Suffix trees are valuable in large part because they just keep the suffixes sorted.
- What else are suffix trees doing?



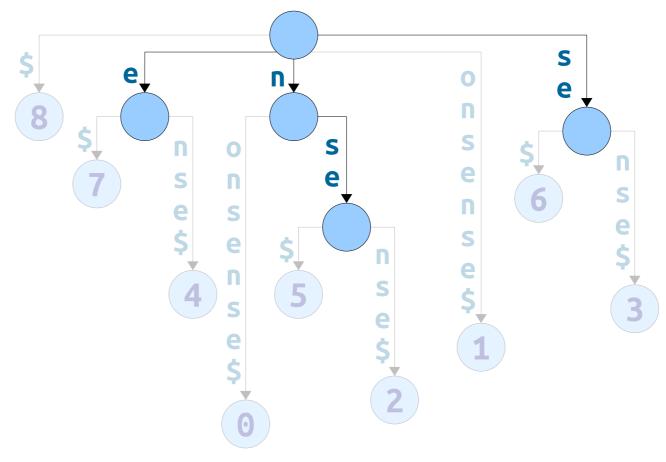
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**Theorem:** There is a node labeled  $\omega$  in a suffix tree for T if and only if

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• Recall: If T is a string, then  $\omega$  is a branching word in T\$ if there are characters  $a \neq b$  such that  $\omega a$  and  $\omega b$  are substrings of T\$.



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Although ABA is a repeated substring, it is not a branching word because all appearances are followed by N.

• Recall: If T is a string, then  $\omega$  is a branching word in T\$ if there are characters  $a \neq b$  such that  $\omega a$  and  $\omega b$  are substrings of T\$.

The substring ANANA only appears once, so it's not a branching word.

• Recall: If T is a string, then  $\omega$  is a branching word in T\$ if there are characters  $a \neq b$  such that  $\omega a$  and  $\omega b$  are substrings of T\$.

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- Notice that, by sorting suffixes, we've made it easier to spot branching words.
- Specifically, all suffixes starting with a branching word will be adjacent in the suffix array.
- The branching word will be the longest common prefix (or LCP) of those adjacent suffixes.

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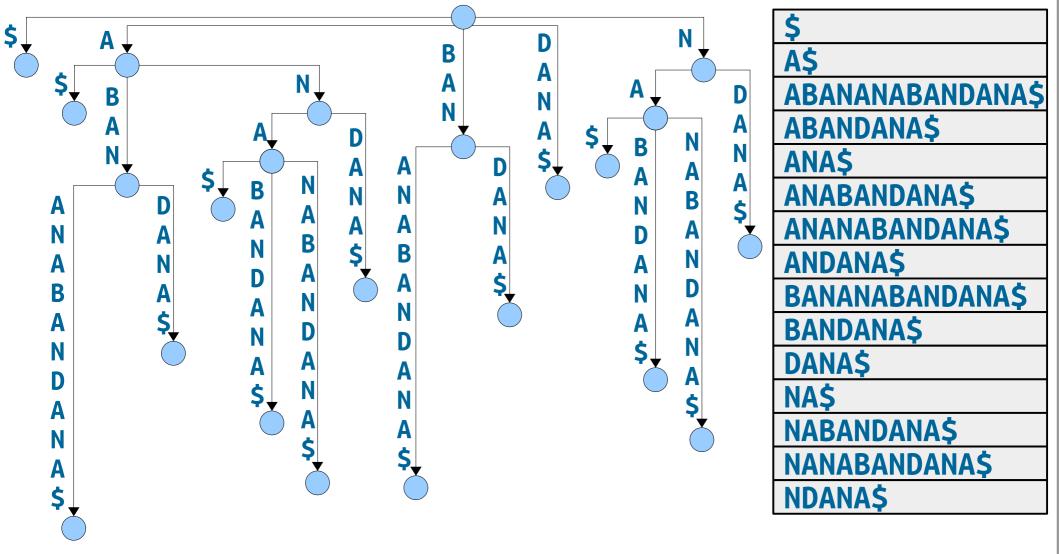
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- **Theorem:** A string  $\omega$  is a branching word in string T\$ if and only if it's the longest common prefix of two adjacent suffixes in T's suffix array.
- **Proof idea:** If  $\omega$  is the longest common prefix of two adjacent suffixes, let a and b be the characters immediately following  $\omega$  in those two suffixes. Then  $\omega a$  and  $\omega b$  are substrings of T\$.

If  $\omega$  is branching, choose the lexicographically smallest a and b making the definition work. Then the last suffix starting with  $\omega a$  and the first suffix starting with  $\omega b$  are adjacent in the suffix array.

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#### **ABANANABANDANA\$**

 $\omega$  is an internal node in the suffix tree for T

if and only if

 $\omega$  is a branching word in T\$

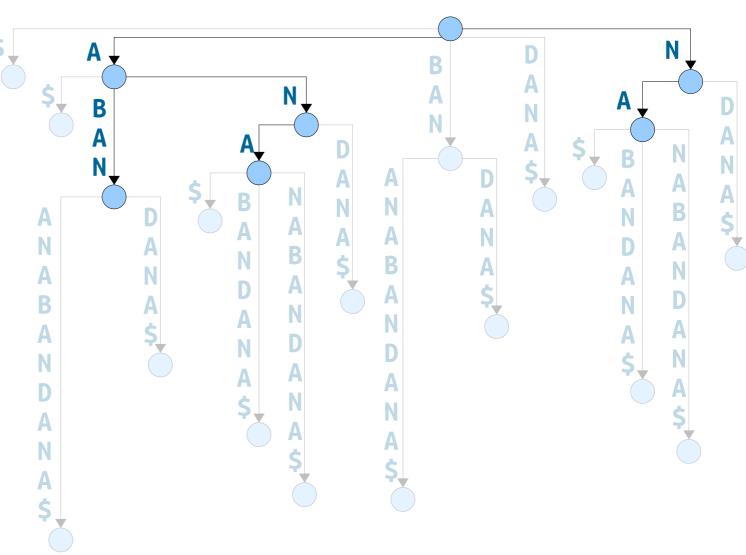
if and only if

 $\omega$  is the LCP of two adjacent suffixes in the suffix array for T

**Key Intuition:** Adjacent suffixes with long shared prefixes correspond to subtrees of the suffix tree.

Harnessing this Connection

- Last time, we saw how to solve the longest repeated substring problem by using suffix trees.
- *Algorithm:* Find the internal node in the suffix tree with the longest label.
- **Question:** Can we do this with just a suffix array?



- We can list all branching words from a suffix array in time  $O(m^2)$ .
  - O(m) pairs; each pair takes time O(m) to process.
- This worst-case bound can be realized.

#### How?

Formulate a hypothesis, but don't post anything in chat just yet.

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Now, private chat me your best guess. Not sure? Just answer "??."

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- We can list all branching words from a suffix array in time  $O(m^2)$ .
  - O(m) pairs; each pair takes time O(m) to process.
- This worst-case bound can be realized.
- Contrast this with O(m) for a suffix tree.
- Can we do better?

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- Observation: We don't actually need to know what all the branching words are to find the longest repeated substring.
- We just need to know how long they are.
- That way, we can figure out which is longest.
- Is there some nice way to do this?

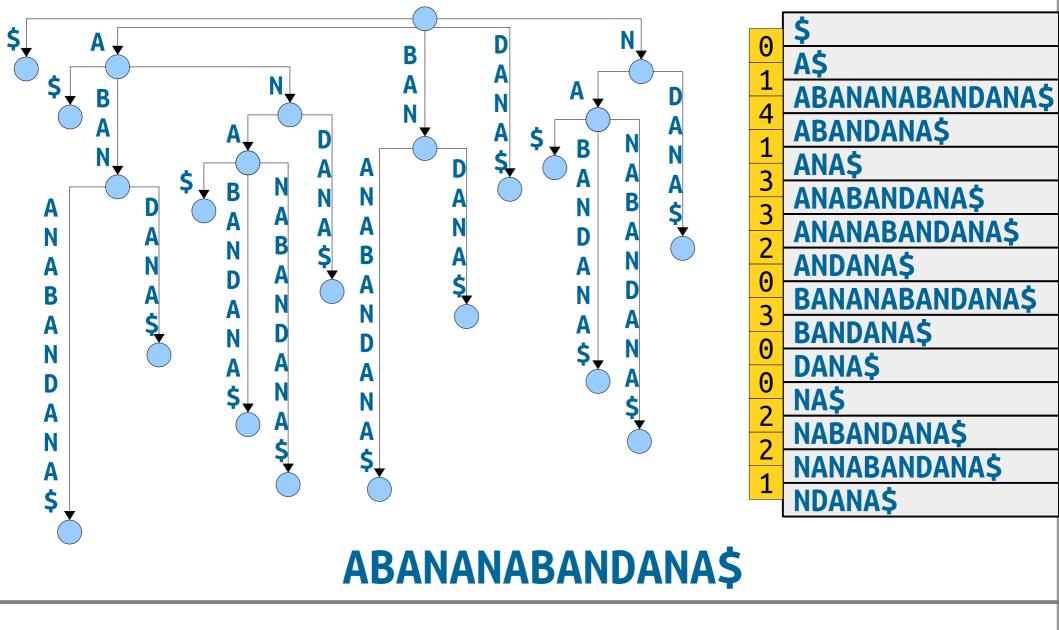
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LCP Arrays

#### LCP Arrays

- The *LCP array*, often denoted *H*, is an array where H[i] is the length of the LCP of the *i*th and (i+1)st suffixes in the suffix array.
- (The letter *H* comes from "height.")

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**Key intuition:** The suffix array gives the leaves of the suffix tree. The LCP array gives the internal nodes of the suffix tree.

## Using LCP Arrays

- If you already have a suffix array and LCP array, you can solve longest repeated substring in time O(m):
  - Find the largest element in the LCP array.
  - Return the string it corresponds to.
- Question: How fast can we construct an LCP array?



- It never hurts to start with the naive algorithm and see what happens!
- Algorithm: For each consecutive pair of strings in the suffix array, compute the length of their longest common prefix.
- We can upper-bound the runtime at  $O(m^2)$ .
- *Question:* Can we realize this upper bound?

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- Why is our naive algorithm slow?
- Intuition: We aren't able to carry work from one suffix over to the next.

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• **Key intuition:** Suffixes overlap one another! It should be possible to share LCP information across suffixes.

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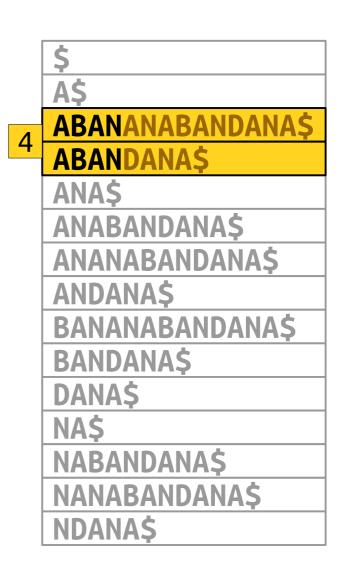
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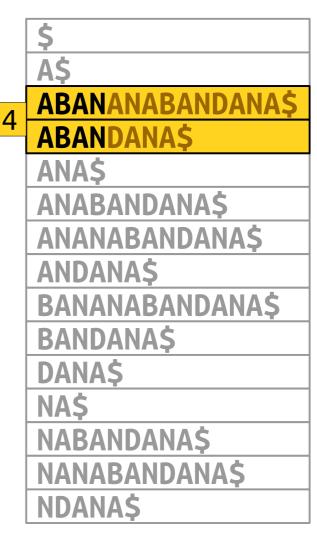
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- Look at the suffixes formed by dropping the first letter of these two suffixes.



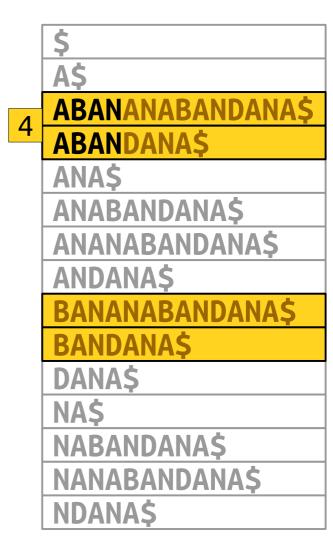
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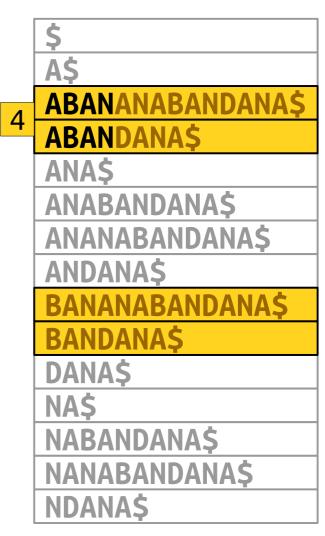
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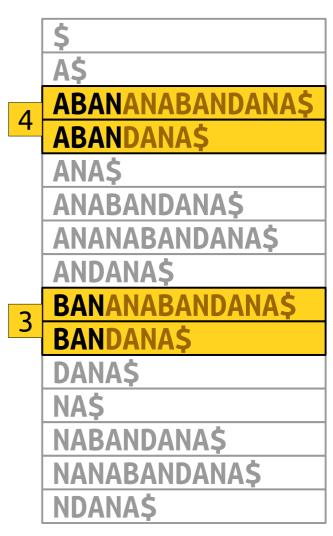
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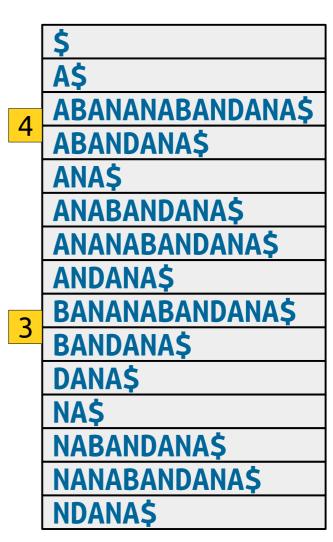
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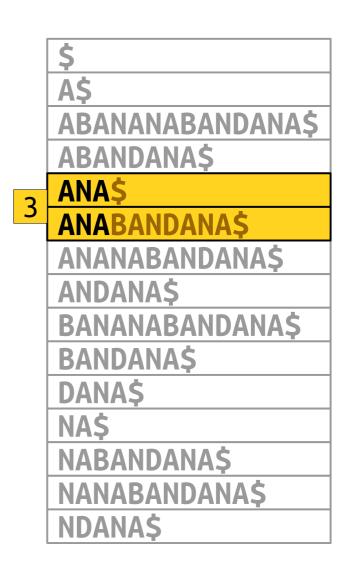
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- Let's do another example. Suppose we know the LCP of these suffixes.
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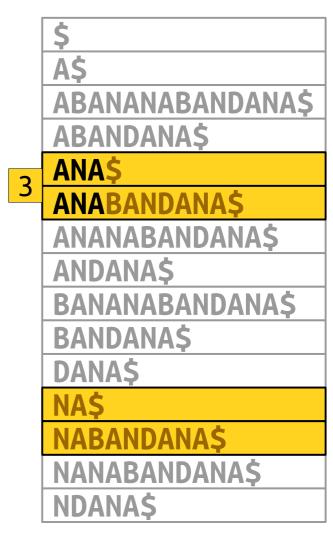
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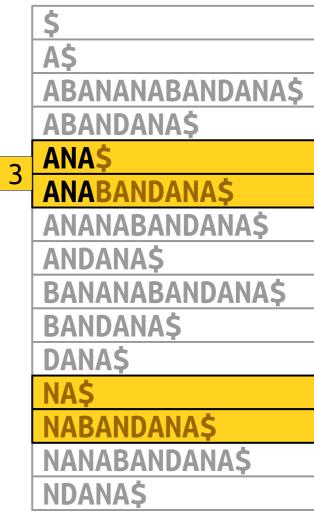
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- As before, drop the first letter from each suffix.
- What can we say about the LCP of the resulting suffixes?



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 Sometimes, in dropping the first letter, two adjacent suffixes get spread out.

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- Sometimes, in dropping the first letter, two adjacent suffixes get spread out.
- *Claim:* Look at the second suffix in the pair. Its LCP with the suffix before it is at least the previous LCP minus one.

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- *Claim:* Look at the second suffix in the pair. Its LCP with the suffix before it is at least the previous LCP minus one.
- Think about the suffix tree. The two shorter suffixes are in the same subtree, so everything between them is also in that subtree.

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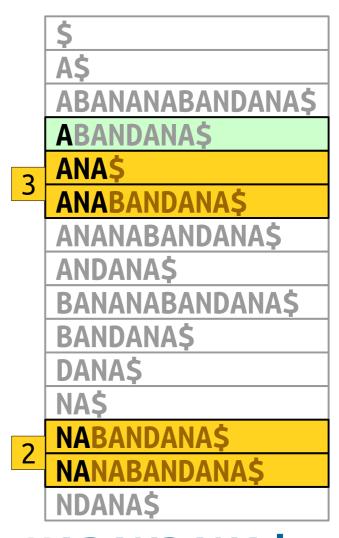
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- However, the LCP may be longer than 1, since we've never seen one of these two suffixes.
- We still need to some some scanning, but we won't necessarily have to rescan the entire suffix.

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- For each suffix of the original string, except the last:
  - Find that suffix in the suffix array.
  - Look at the suffix that comes before it.
  - (★) Find the length of the longest common prefix of those suffixes.
  - Write that down in the *H* array.
- Use the insight from the previous slides to speed up step (★).

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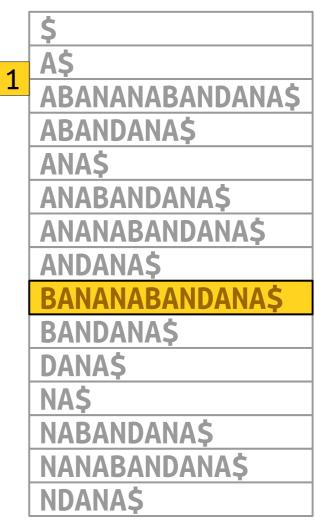
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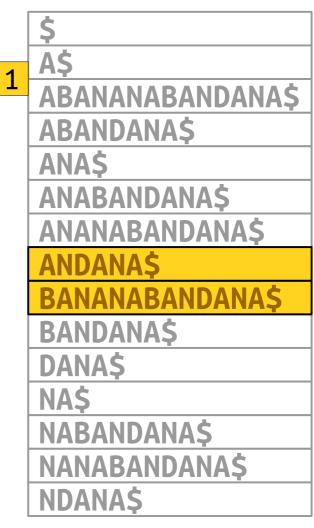
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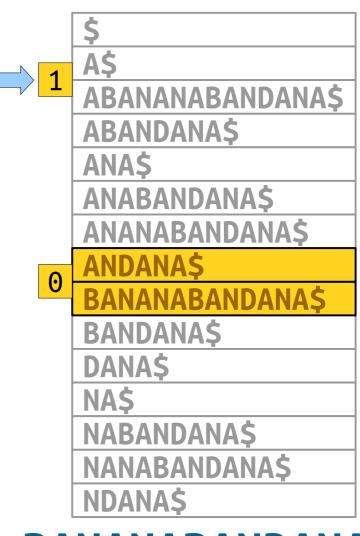
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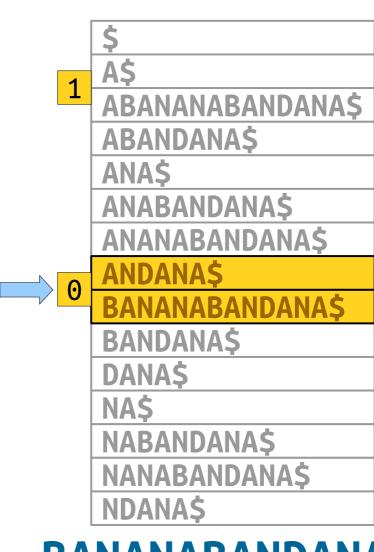
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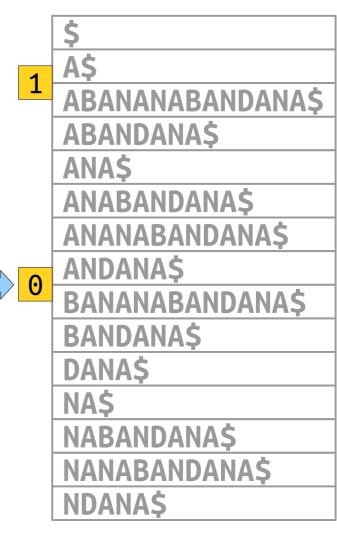


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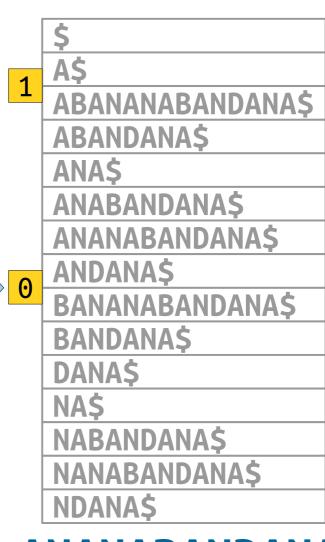
**BANANABANDANA\$** 

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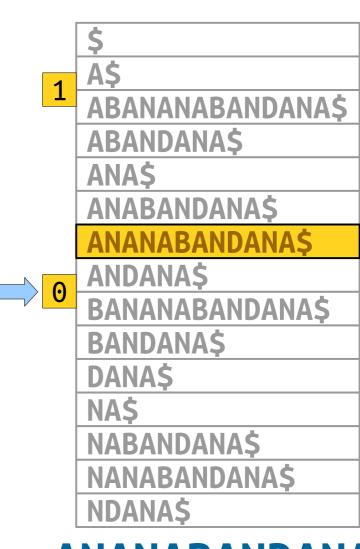


**BANANABANDANA\$** 

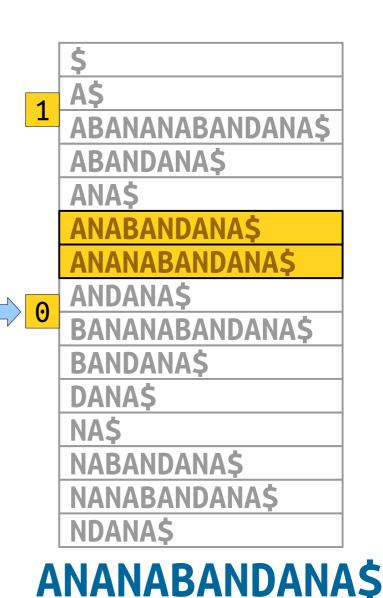
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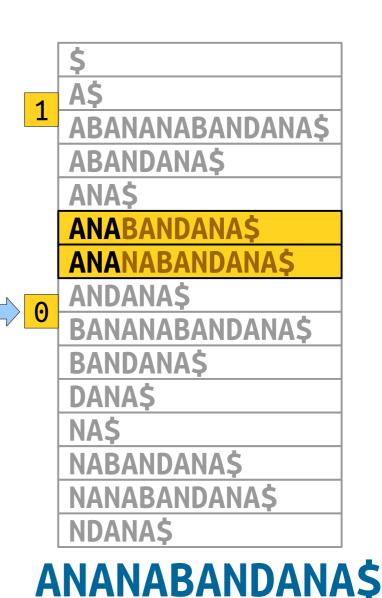
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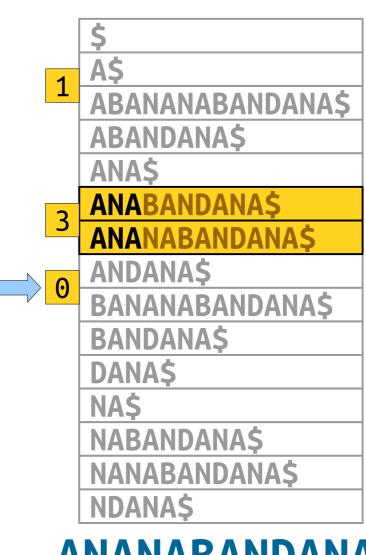
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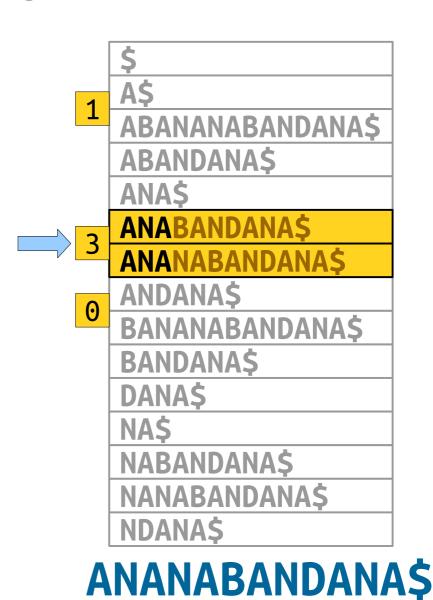
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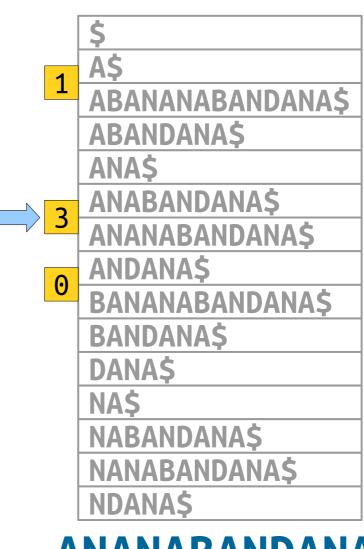
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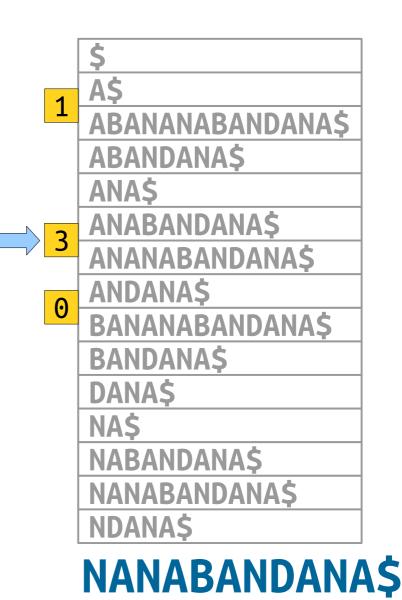
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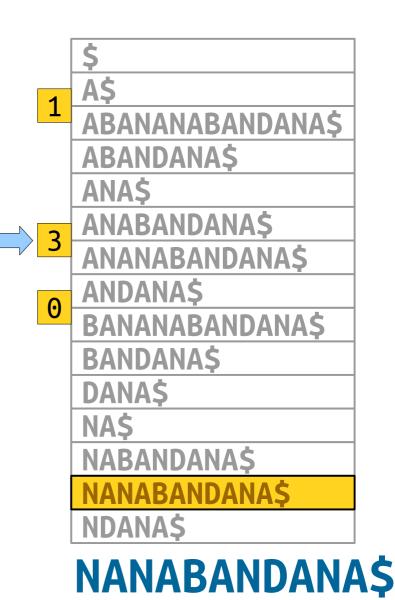
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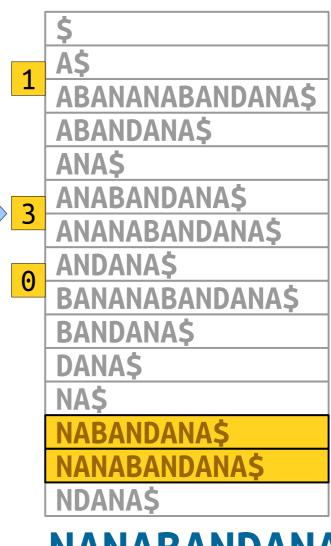
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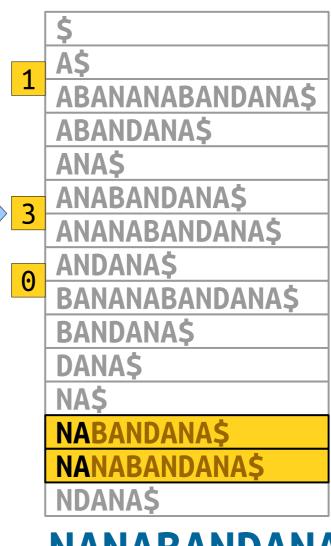
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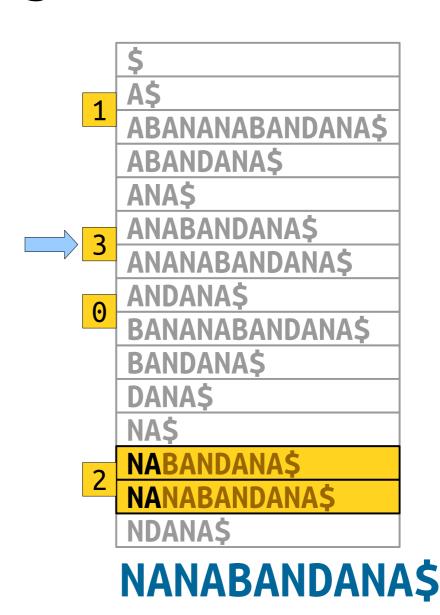
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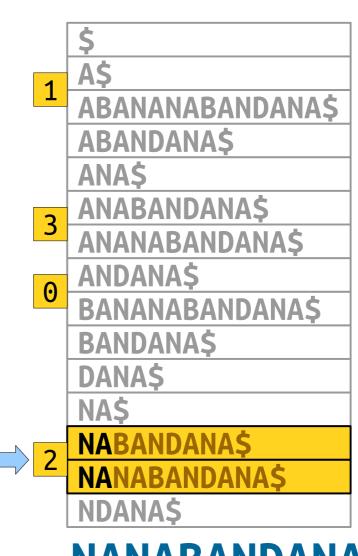
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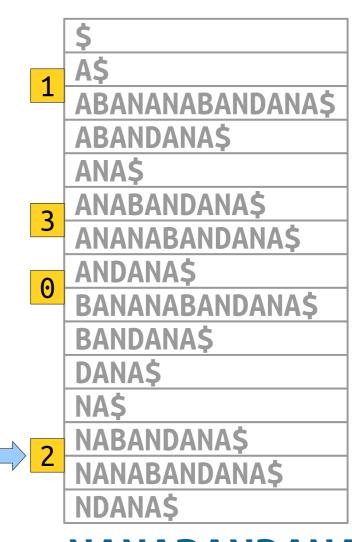
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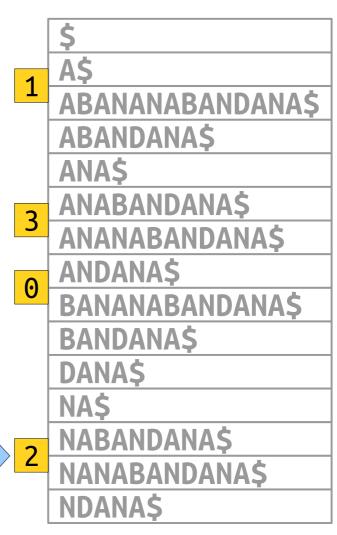
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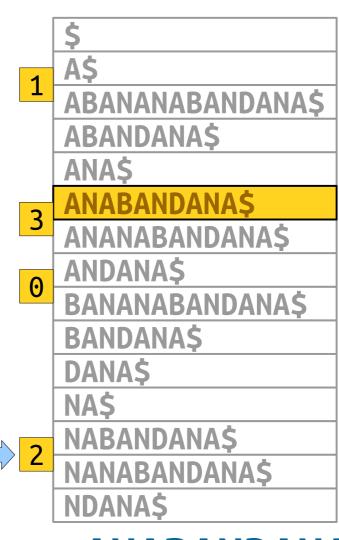
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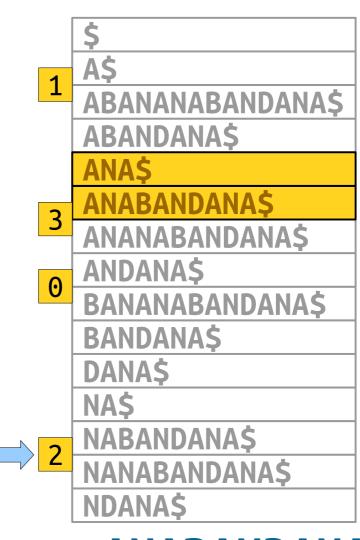
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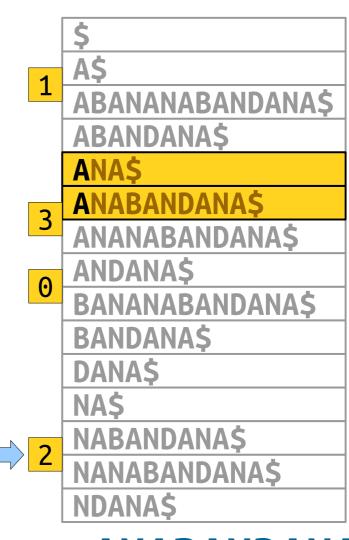
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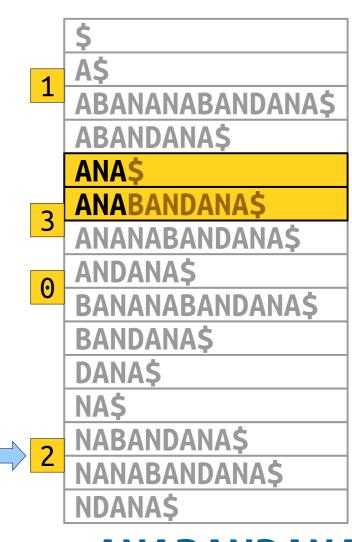
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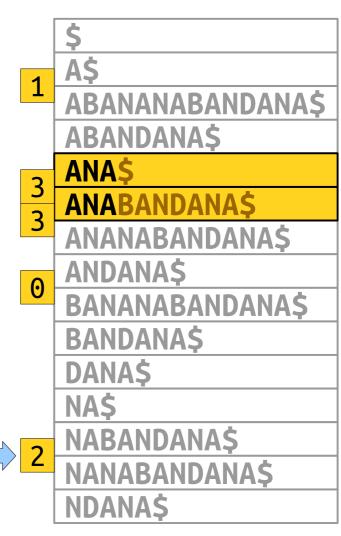
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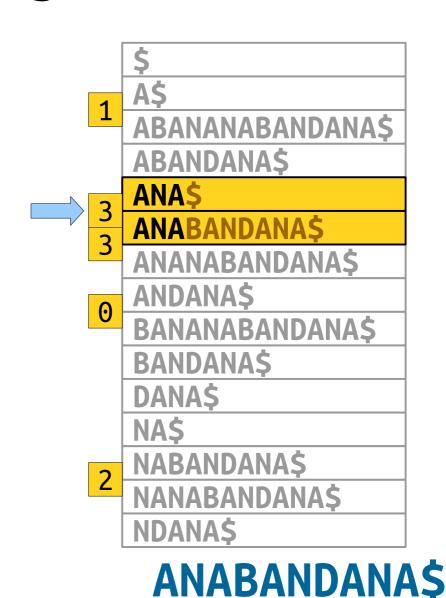
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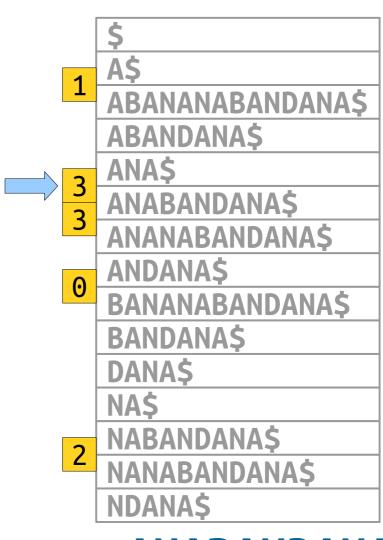
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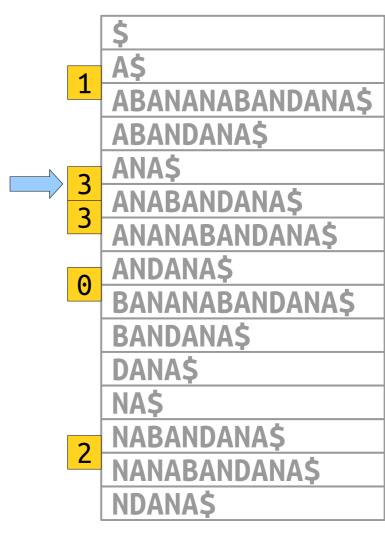
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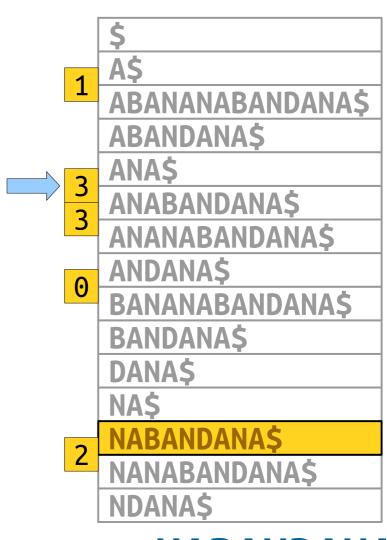
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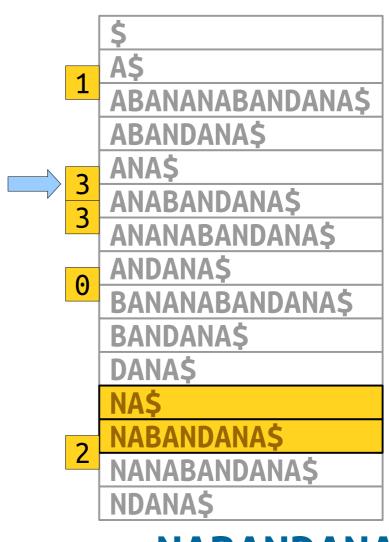
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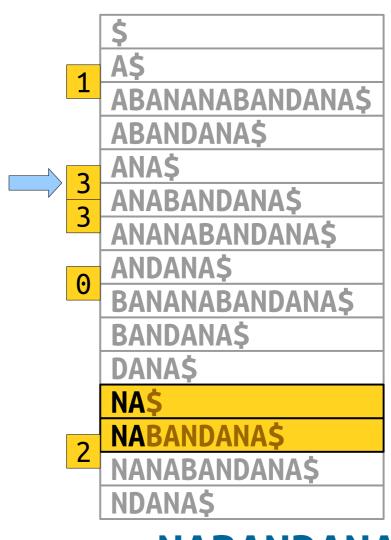
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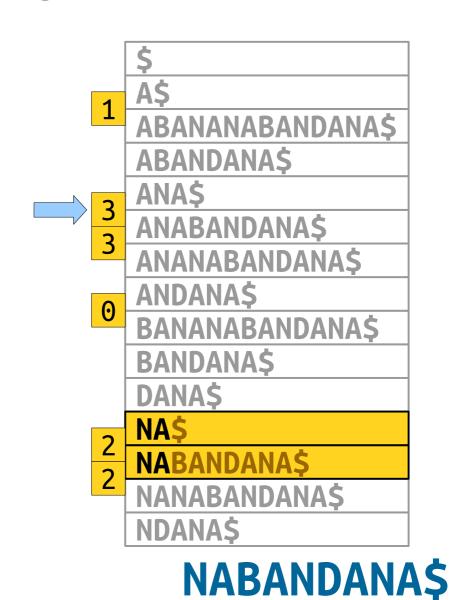
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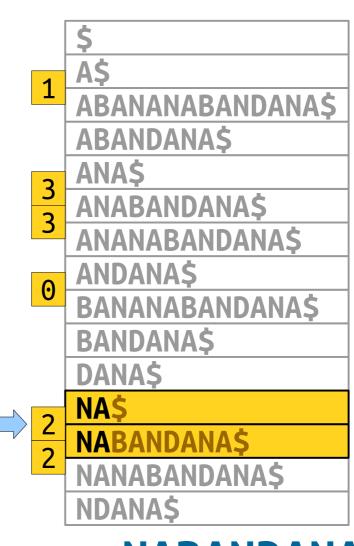
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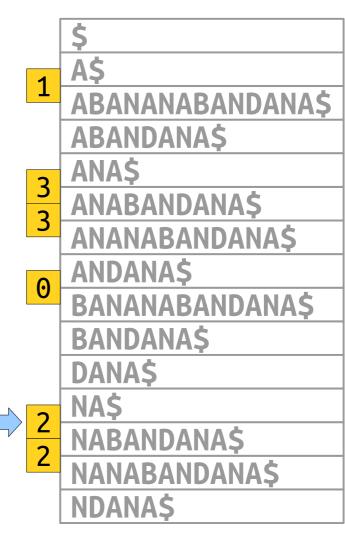
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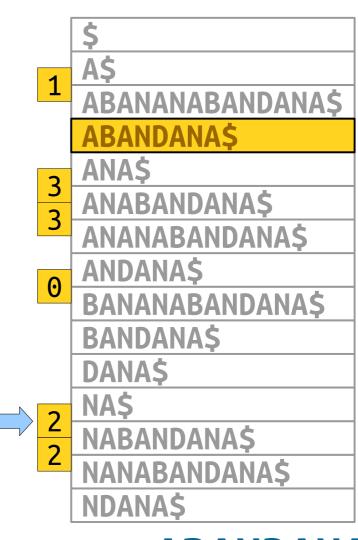
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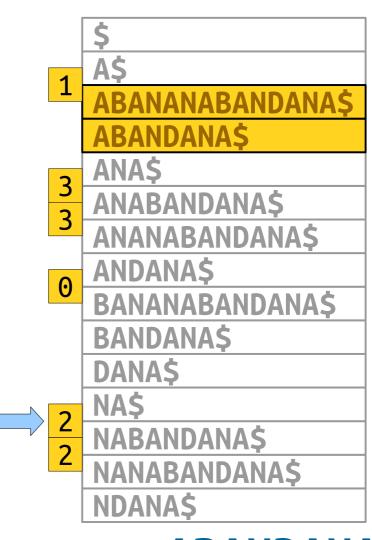
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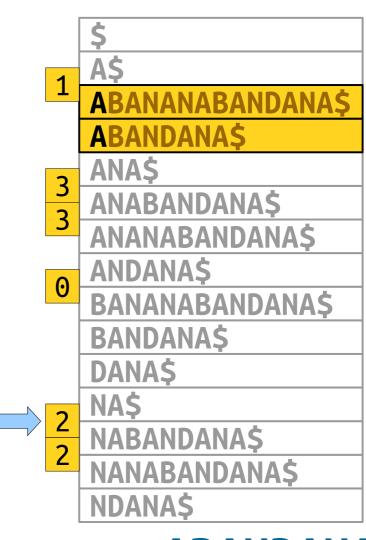
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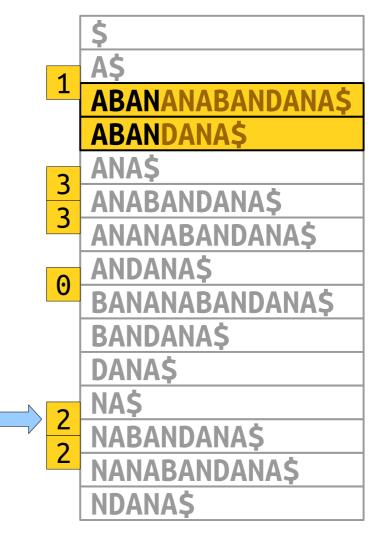
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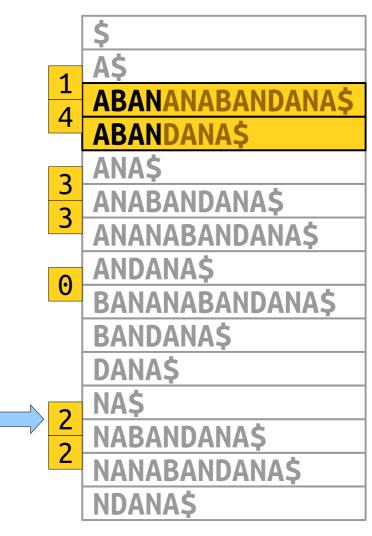
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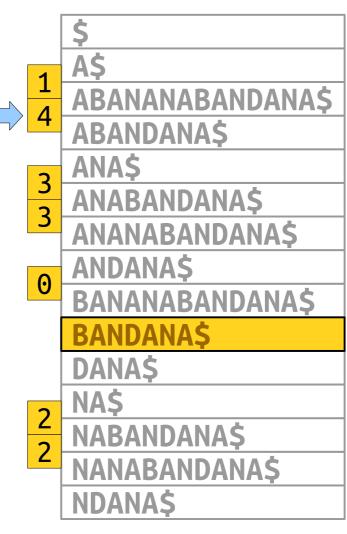
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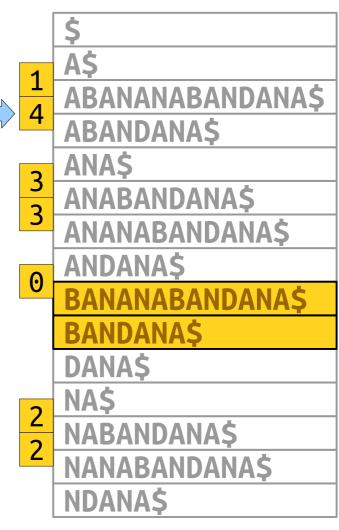
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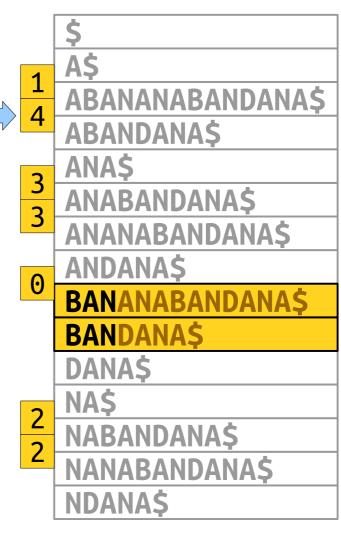
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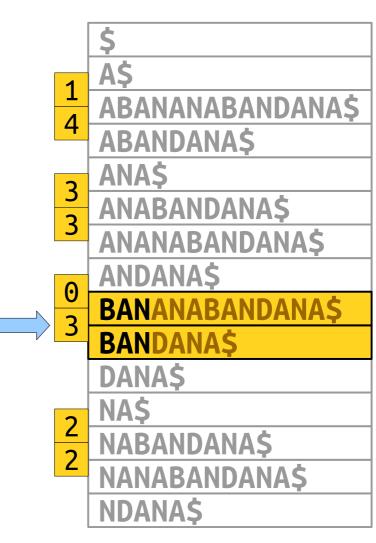
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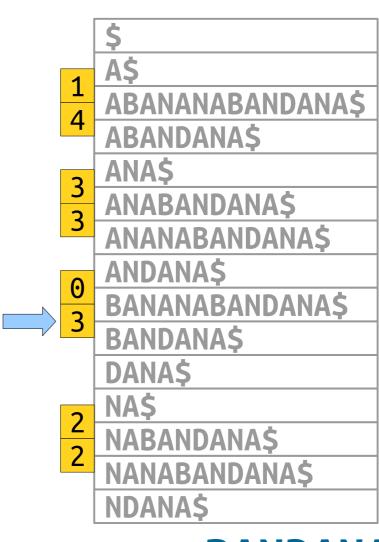
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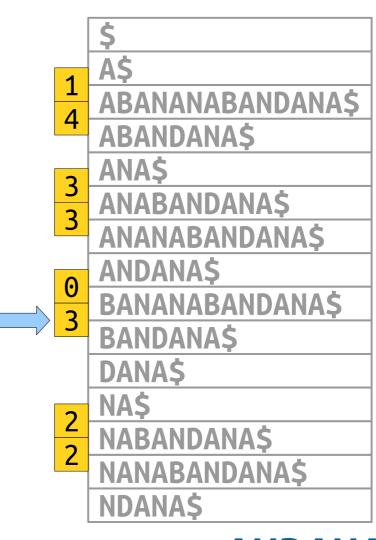
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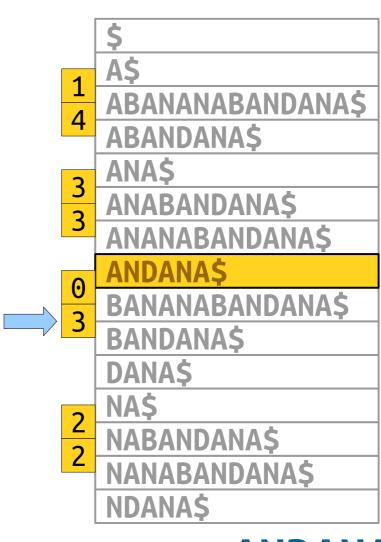
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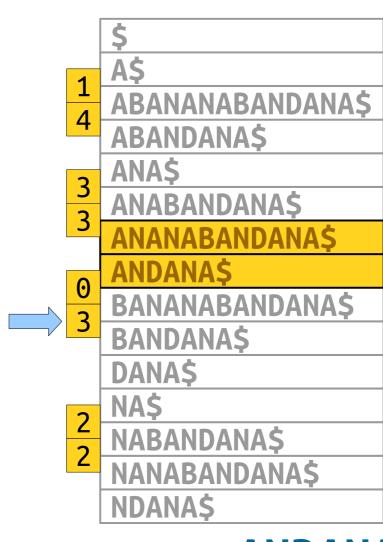
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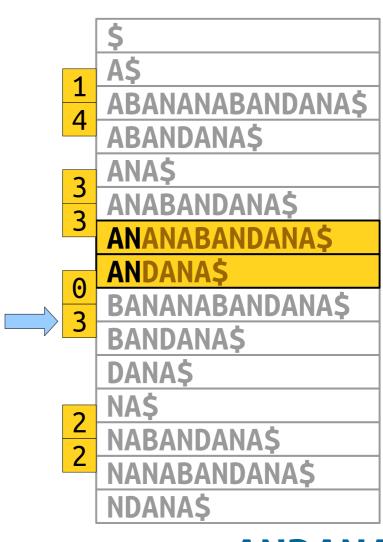
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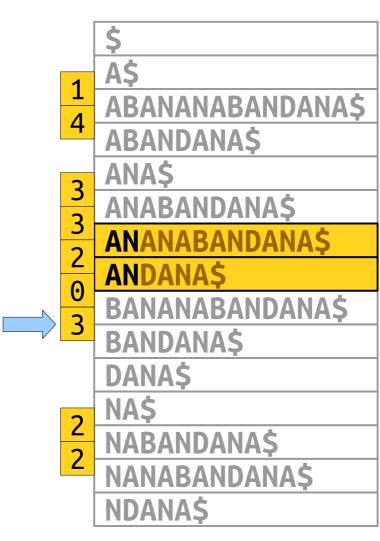
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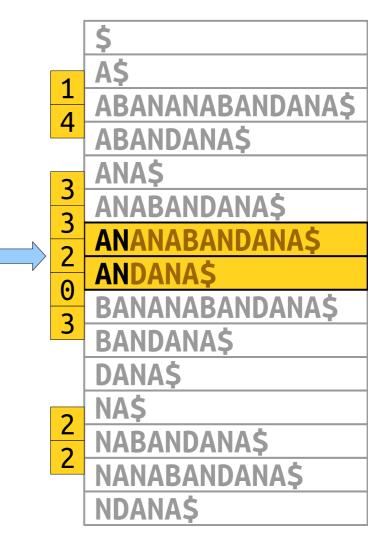
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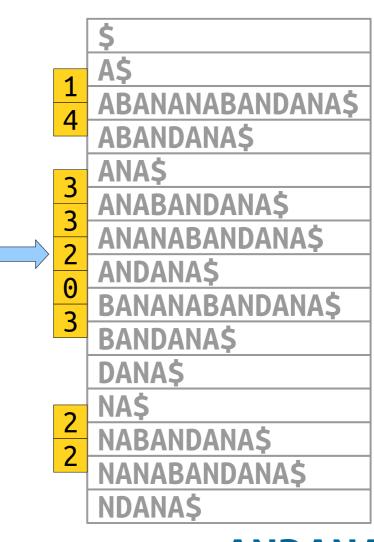
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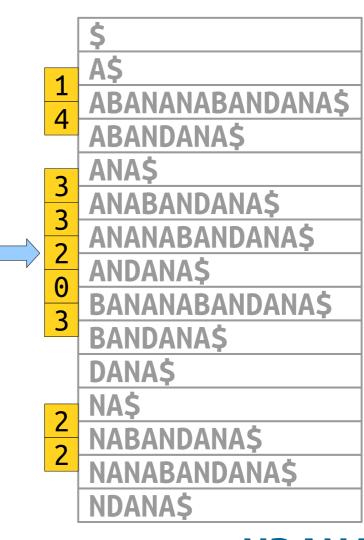
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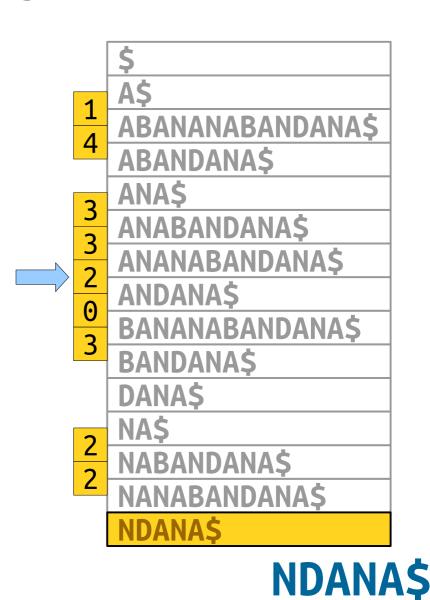
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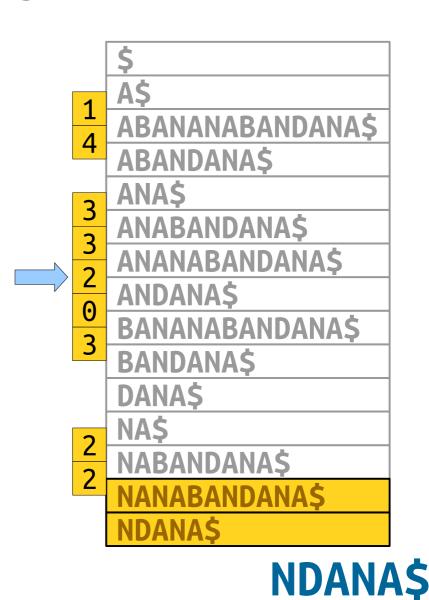
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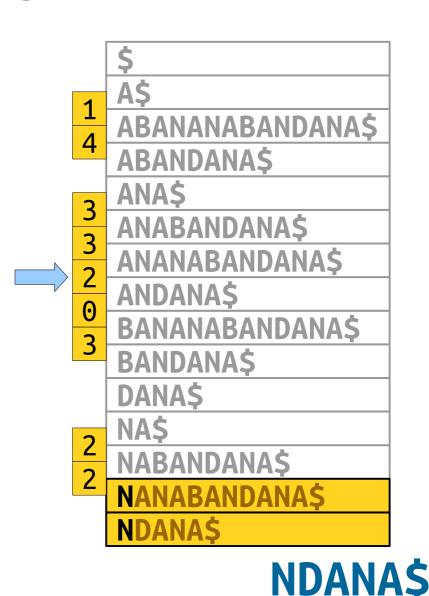
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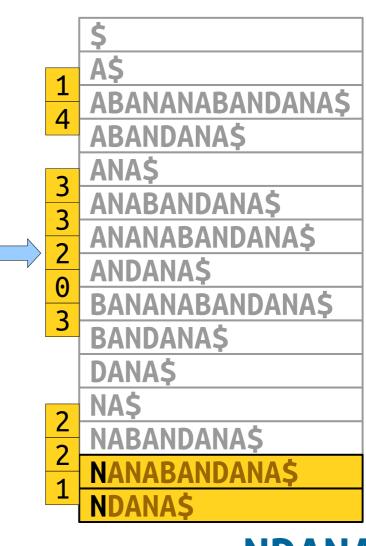
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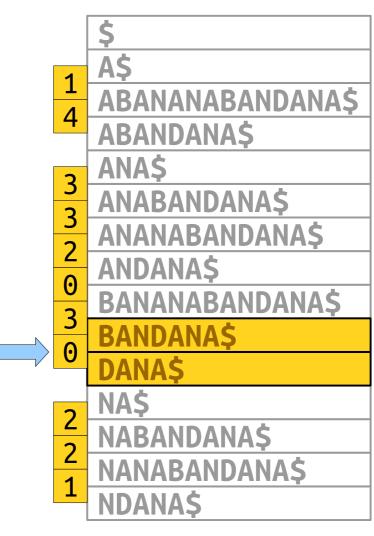


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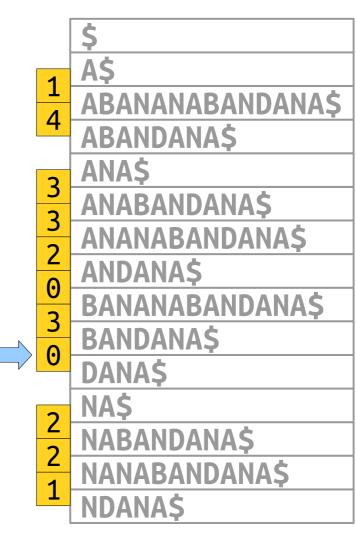


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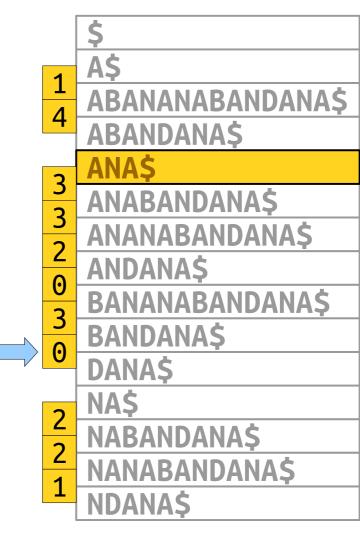


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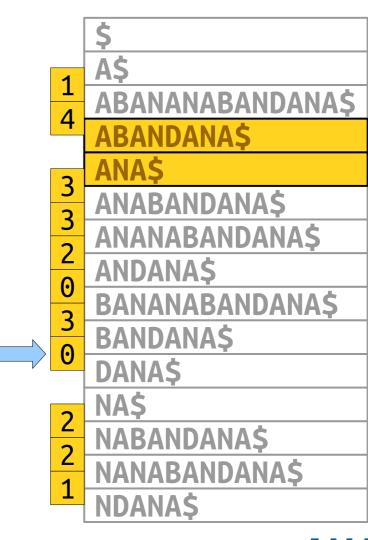


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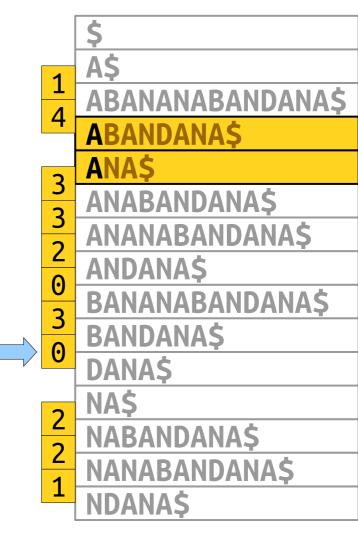


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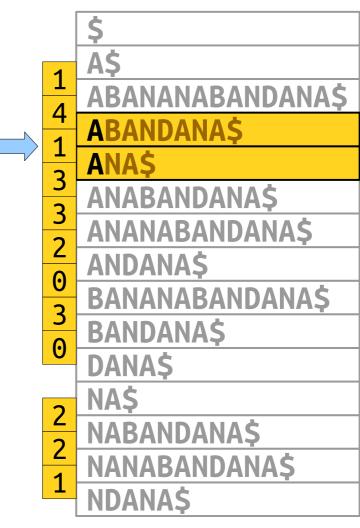


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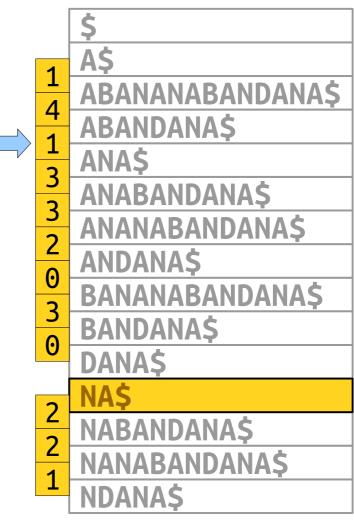


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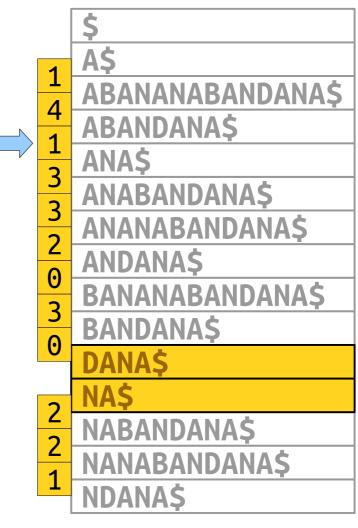


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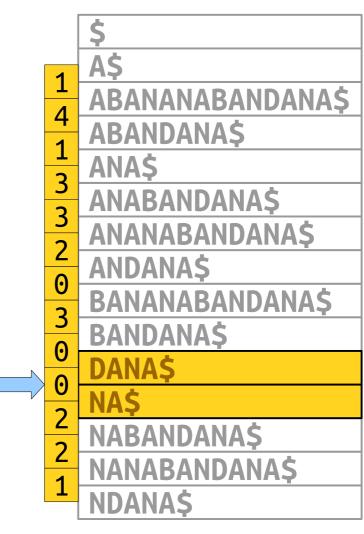


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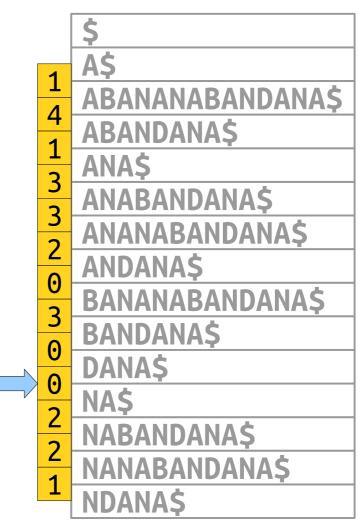


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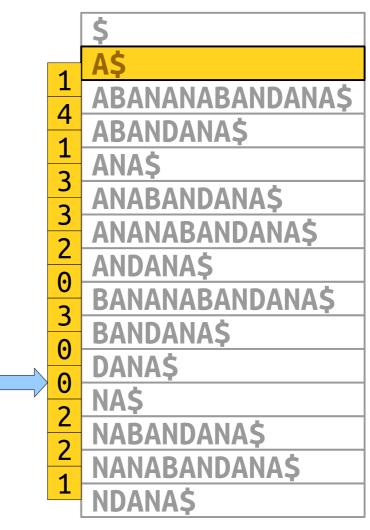


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Had to scan these characters

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The LCP value decreases by at most one per suffix. (We saw this earlier.)

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**Claim:** Across all iterations, this step takes a total of O(m) time.

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Total runtime: O(**m**).

#### More to Explore

- We could easily spend a whole quarter talking about suffix arrays. Here's what we didn't cover:
  - **Bottom-up tree simulations:** Using LCP arrays, you can simulate any O(m)-time suffix tree algorithm that works with a bottom-up DFS in time O(m).
  - Faster substring searching: Using LCP arrays, plus RMQ, you can improve the cost of a substring search to  $O(n + z + \log m)$ .
  - **Burrows-Wheeler transforms:** Suffix arrays, plus LCP arrays, can be used to significantly improve the performance of text compressors.
- Check these out they're super interesting!

#### Next Time

#### Building Suffix Trees

• ... is not that bad once you have a suffix array.

#### Building Suffix Arrays

• ... with the mother of all divide-and-conquer algorithms!