

# Suffix Trees, Hashing

Please complete this problem set by October 21, 2021 at 11:59PM.

## Problem 0 – Suffix Trees on multiple strings (25%)

A suffix tree of  $m$  strings  $(S_1, S_2, \dots, S_m)$  is a suffix tree built from inserting the strings in order:  $S_1\$_1, S_2\$_2, \dots, S_m\$_m$  where  $\$_1, \dots, \$_m$  are distinct terminating strings.

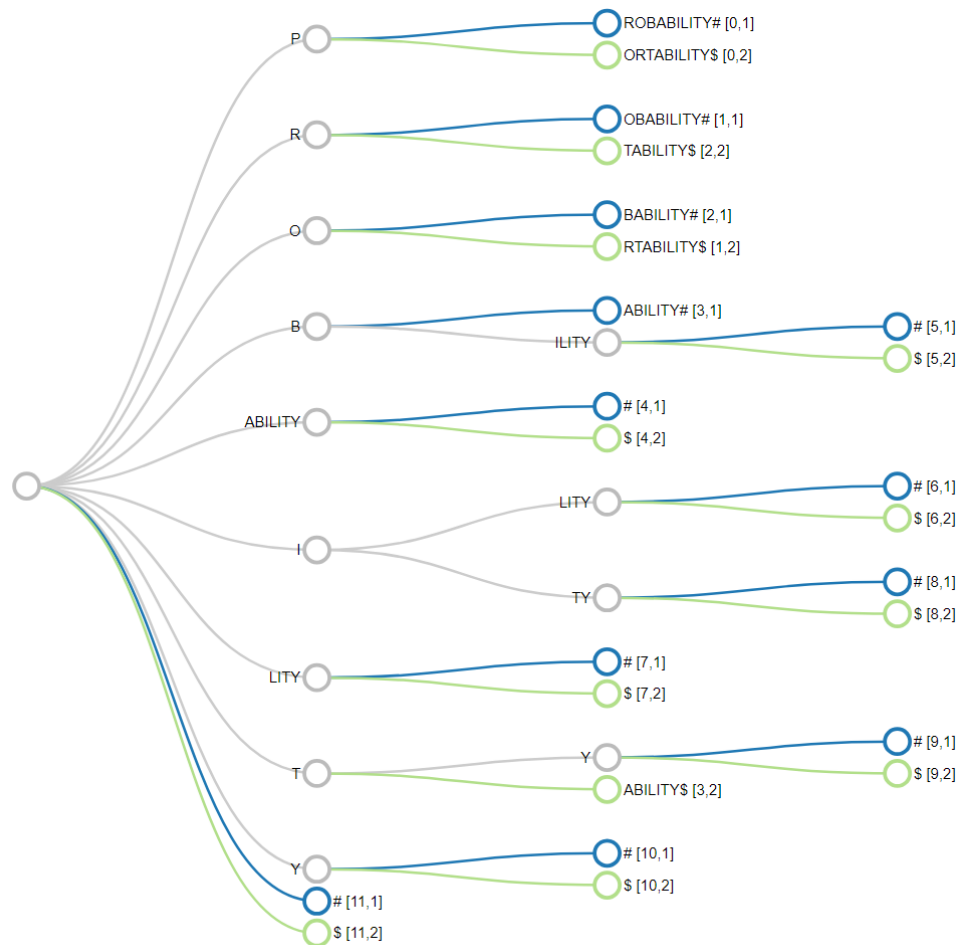


Figure 1: A suffix tree built for strings PROBABILITY# and PORTABILITY\$ where # and \$ are the terminating characters.

- Build the suffix tree for BANDANNA# and SAVANNAH\$.

- Give an algorithm to find the longest common substring of  $m$  strings,  $S_1, \dots, S_m$  using suffix trees.
- What is your algorithms runtime? Show your work/give an argument.
- Using your algorithm (by tracing the steps in your suffix tree), what is the longest common substring of BANDANNA# and SAVANNAH\$?

## Problem 1 – Reversible substrings (25%)

Let  $S$  be a string of length  $m$  and a *substring* be a contiguous sequence of characters from  $S$  identified by a tuple  $S_{(i,l)}$  for starting index  $i$  and length  $l$ . Let the reverse of a string  $S[0]S[1] \dots S[m-2]S[m-1]$  be  $S[m-1]S[m-2] \dots S[1]S[0]$  denoted  $S^-$ . A *reversible substring* is a substring where  $S_{(i,l)} = S_{(m-(i+l),l)}^-$ . Consider this example in python:

```
>>> S="PPABCD CBTTHMN"
>>> i=3
>>> l=5
>>> m=len(S)
>>>
>>> (S[::-1])[m-(i+1):m-(i+1)+1]
'BCDCB'
>>> S[i:(i+1)]
'BCDCB'
```

Note that in the previous example we convert the length  $l$  into an ending index for python. Intuitively, a reversible substring is a substring that is the same in the forward and reverse directions.

- Write an algorithm using suffix trees that computes the longest reversible substring of a string  $S$ . *Hint: Think about using a suffix tree for multiple strings.*
- What is your algorithms runtime? Show your work/give an argument.
- Use your algorithm to find the longest reversible substring of the string RACECARS (you need not draw a diagram).

## Problem 2 – Suffix Arrays (25%)

- Build the suffix array for string “repetitive”.
- Recall the longest common prefix array, an array of size  $m - 1$  that stores the length of the longest common prefix for each pair of adjacent strings. Build the LCP array for “repetitive”.
- Describe an algorithm for finding all occurrences of a string  $P$  in a larger string  $S$  using suffix and LCP arrays built from  $S$ .
- Consider this algorithm and the case where the alphabet is large, say,  $O(m)$ . Would you prefer to use suffix trees or suffix arrays? Why?

## Problem 3 – Hashing (25%)

Consider the following simple hash function  $h$  for mapping keys  $z_j \in Z$  for  $j = 1, \dots, n$  to array indices  $\{1, \dots, m\}$ . For each key  $z \in Z$ ,  $h(z) = i$  with probability  $1/m$  where  $i = 1, \dots, m$ . What is the expected number of keys such that  $h(a) = h(b)$  over all keys  $a \neq b$ ? *Hint: you want to define a similar random variable representing collisions as we discussed in class or Chapter 1.5 of the Algorithms textbook.*