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# CodeChef Discussion

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## **CHSTR** - Editorial

## PROBLEM LINK:



### Practice



Contest

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#### DIFFICULTY:

Medium

### PREREQUISITES:

Z function, combinatorics

#### PROBLEM:

Given a string and a query k, output the number of ways we can choose k equal substrings from the string.

Let cnt[i] be the number of different substrings that occur in the string exactly i times. Then the answer for a particular  $k \leq n$  will be :  $\sum_{i=k}^{n} cnt[i] * \binom{i}{k}$  we can calculate cnt[i] using suffix array/Z function.

## **EXPLANATION:**

Let cnt[i] be the number of different substrings that occur in the string exactly i times.

For example, for the string "ababa", the array will be:

cnt[1]=4 -> {"ababa", "abab", "baba", "bab"} occur exactly once

cnt[2]=4 -> {"aba", "ab", "ba", "b"} occur exactly twice

cnt[3]=1 -> {"a"} occur exactly thrice cnt[4]=0

cnt[5] = 0

Now suppose we want the answer for k=2, i.e. number of ways to choose 2 equal strings. How do we calculate this using the cnt array?

cnt[1] is of no use as we need 2 equal string.

cnt[2] -> There are 4 different substrings that occur 2 times. So, we can add 4 to the answer.

cnt[3] -> There is only 1 substring that occurs 3 times. But we need only 2 times, so we can choose any 2 of the 3. So,  $\binom{3}{2} = 3$ 

Summing them, for k=2 we get 7.

Now let us focus on calculating the cnt array. To calculate this let us loop through all suffixes of S.

For the suffix  $P=S[i\mathinner{.\,.} N]$  , let us calculate the array  $Z[i\mathinner{.\,.} N]$  where Z[i] is the maximal equal substring starting from i that matches a prefix of  $S[i\mathinner{\ldotp\ldotp} N]$  .

For example, for the above string consider i = 1, the whole string is the suffix "ababa". Here the Z array would be

Z[1]=5 -> maximum prefix matching of "ababa" and "ababa"

=0 -> maximum prefix matching of "ababa" and "baba"

Z[3]=3 -> maximum prefix matching of "ababa" and "aba"

Z[4]=0 -> maximum prefix matching of "ababa" and "ba"

Z[5]=1 -> maximum prefix matching of "ababa" and "a"

How is this array useful for calculating cnt?

From the above array we can conclude that we have 1 substring which can be choosen atleast 3 times. How? Because there are 3 entries in the above array that are greater than or equal to 1. Similarly we can deduce for 2 (2 times), 3 (2 times), 4 (1 time ) and 5(1 time). So we increment cnt[3] once, cnt[2] twice and cnt[1] twice.

We do this for all suffix of S. The only thing left is to observe that cnt[i] now actually has how many different strings can be choosen at least i times. We want it to be exactly i times. This is simple: we just subtract from cnt[i] (  $cnt[i+1] + cnt[i+2] \dots + cnt[N]$ ).

We can compute the Z function in O(n) time. See here for how to do that.

# Time Complexity:

There are N suffixes and we take O(N) time for each suffix so total time is:  $O(N^2)$ .

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