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FIT3155: Advanced Algorithms and Data Structures Weeks 1 & 2: Linear-time string pattern matching

Faculty of Information Technology, Monash University

What is covered here?

Linear-time approaches to exact pattern matching problem on strings

- ullet Gusfield's Z-algorithm
- Boyer-Moore algorithm

Source material and recommended reading

 Dan Gusfield, Algorithms on Strings, Trees and Sequences, Cambridge University Press. (Chapters 1-2).

Exact pattern matching: Introduction

The exact pattern matching problem

Given a reference text $\mathbf{txt}[1...n]$ and a pattern $\mathbf{pat}[1...m]$, find \mathbf{ALL} occurrences, if any, of \mathbf{pat} in \mathbf{txt} .

```
txt = b b a b a x a b a b a y pat = a b a matched positions of pat in txt are at positions 3, 7, and 9
```

- The practical importance of this problem should be plainly obvious to anyone who uses a computer.
- Problem arises in innumerable applications
 - Word processing grep command in Unix
 - Search Engines Google
 - Library catalogs
 - •

Naive algorithm

How many comparison of symbols does this approach perform in worst case?

Early ideas for speeding up the naive method

- try to shift pat by > 1 character w.r.t. txt when mismatch occurs...
 - ...but never shift so far as to miss any occurrence of pat in txt;
 - if this can be achieved, we save unnecessary comparisons, and moves pat along txt more rapidly.
- Specifically, where possible, we would want to shift by skipping over parts of pat unrelated to txt.

Illustration of enumerated scenarios (prev. slide)

Naive approach makes too many unnecessary comparisons

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
txt:	х	a	b	Х	у	a	b	Х	у	a	b	Х	z
pat:	a	b	Х	у	a	b	Х	Z					
	X												
pat:		a	b	х	у	a	b	х	Z				
		✓	1	✓	1	1	1	1	X				
pat:			a	b	х	у	a	b	X	Z			
			X										
pat:				a	b	х	у	a	b	х	Z		
				X									
pat:					a	b	х	у	a	b	х	Z	
					X								
pat:						a	b	х	у	a	b	х	Z
						1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Overall 20 comparisons in the naive approach, on this example.

Illustration of enumerated scenarios (prev. slide)

Scenarios 1:

a smarter algorithm can gather that, after the ninth comparison, the next three comparisons of the naive algorithm will be mismatches.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
txt:	х	a	b	Х	у	a	b	Х	у	a	b	Х	Z
pat:	a	b	х	у	a	b	Х	Z					
	X												
pat:		a	b	х	у	a	b	х	Z				
		✓	1	✓	1	1	1	1	X				
pat:						a	b	х	у	a	b	х	Z
						1	1	1	✓	1	1	1	1

Overall, this 'smarter' algorithm saves 3 comparisons, on this example.

How does this algorithm achieve this?

After the ninth comparison, the algorithm knows that the first seven characters of pat match characters 2 through to 8 of txt. It can gather that the first character of pat ('a') does not occur until position 6 in txt. This is enough information to conclude that there are no possible matches in txt of pat to the left of position 6, allowing larger skips.

Illustration of enumerated scenarios (prev. slide)

Scenarios 2:

in fact, an 'even smarter' algorithm can gather more info after the ninth comparison, beyond scenario 1, and save 3 more comparisons.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
txt:	х	a	b	Х	у	a	b	Х	у	a	b	Х	Z
pat:	a X	b	Х	у	a	b	Х	Z					
pat:		a ✓	b ✓		-			x ✓					
pat:						a	b	х	-	a ✓		x ✓	

Overall, this 'even smarter' algorithm saves 6 comparisons over naive.

How does this algorithm achieve this?

An even smarter algorithm can preprocess pat, and from it know that pat[1..3] (i.e 'abx') appears again at pat[5..7]. So, after the ninth comparison, the algorithm realizes pat[5..7] = txt[6..8]. But since pat[1..3] = pat[6..8], after shift, when pat[1..] is being compared with txt[6...], we already know pat[1...3] = txt[6..8], saving us 3 unnecessary comparisons.

Take home message from these illustrated examples

- These illustrate the kind of ideas that allow some comparisons to be skipped.
 - Although, we haven't yet processed how an algorithm can efficiently implement these ideas.
- Some algorithms permit their efficient realization.
- We will study 2 algorithms that can be implemented to run in linear (O(n+m)) time.
 - Gusfield's Z-algorithm (guaranteed linear-time)
 - ▶ Boyer-Moore's algorithm (linear time with some caveats!)

1. Gusfield's Z-algorithm

Gusfield's Z-algorithm – Defining Z_i

Definition of Z_i :

For a string $\mathbf{str}[1...n]$, define Z_i (for each position i > 1 in \mathbf{str}) as the length of the longest substring starting at position i of \mathbf{str} that matches its \mathbf{prefix} (i.e., $\mathbf{str}[i...i+Z_i-1] = \mathbf{str}[1...Z_i]$).

```
str= a a b c a a b x a a z
```

$$Z_2 = 1$$
 $Z_7 = 0$
 $Z_3 = 0$ $Z_8 = 0$

$$Z_4 = 0$$
 $Z_9 = 2$

$$Z_5 = 3$$
 $Z_{10} = 1$

$$Z_6 = 1$$
 $Z_{11} = 0$

Gusfield's Z-algorithm – Defining Z_i -box

Definition of Z-box:

str= a a b c a a b x a a z

For a string $\mathbf{str}[1..n]$, and for any i > 1 such that $Z_i > 0$, a Z_i -box is defined as the interval $[i...i + Z_i - 1]$ of \mathbf{str} .

Gusfield's Z-algorithm – Defining r_i

Definition of r_i :

For a string str[1..n], and for all i > 1, r_i is the **right-most endpoint** of all Z-boxes that begin at or before position i.

Alternately, r_i is the largest value of $j+Z_j-1$ over all $1 < j \le i$, such that $Z_j > 0$.

Gusfield's Z-algorithm – Defining l_i

Definition of l_i :

For a string $\mathbf{str}[1..n]$, and for all i > 1, l_i is the **left end** of the Z-box that ends at r_i .

In case there is more than one Z-box ending at r_i , then l_i can be chosen to be the left end of any of those Z-boxes.

Another worked out example: calculating Z_i , Z_i -box, and (l_i, r_i) values

```
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 str= a a b a a b c a x a a b a a b c y
```

```
Z_2 = 1
          Z_{10} = 7
                             Z_2-box = [2..2]
                                                        (l_2, r_2) = (2, 2)
                                                                              (l_{10}, r_{10}) = (10, 16)
Z_3 = 0 Z_{11} = 1
                             Z_4-box = [4..6]
                                                        (l_3, r_3) = (2, 2)
                                                                              (l_{11}, r_{11}) = (10, 16)
Z_4 = 3 Z_{12} = 0
                             Z_5-box = [5..5]
                                                        (l_4, r_4) = (4, 6)
                                                                              (l_{12}, r_{12}) = (10, 16)
Z_5 = 1 Z_{13} = 3
                             Z_8-box = [8..8]
                                                        (l_5, r_5) = (4, 6)
                                                                              (l_{13}, r_{13}) = (10, 16)
Z_6 = 0 Z_{14} = 1
                            Z_{10}-box = [10..16]
                                                        (l_6, r_6) = (4, 6)
                                                                              (l_{14}, r_{14}) = (10, 16)
Z_7 = 0 Z_{15} = 0
                                                        (l_7, r_7) = (4, 6)
                            Z_{11}-box = [11..11]
                                                                              (l_{15}, r_{15}) = (10, 16)
Z_8 = 1 Z_{16} = 0
                            Z_{13}-box = [13..15]
                                                        (l_8, r_8) = (8, 8)
                                                                             (l_{16}, r_{16}) = (10, 16)
         Z_{17} = 0
                            Z_{14}-box = [14..14]
Z_{\mathbf{0}} = 0
                                                        (l_9, r_9) = (8, 8)
                                                                              (l_{17}, r_{17}) = (10, 16)
```

Main point of Gusfield's Z-algorithm!

- In the previous slides, for any given string, we have defined: $\{Z_i, Z_i\text{-box}, l_i, r_i\}.$
- The fundamental preprocessing task of Gusfield's Z-algorithm relies on computing these values, given some string, in **linear** time.
- That is, for a string $\mathbf{str}[1..n]$, we would like to compute $\{Z_i,\ Z_i\text{-box},\ l_i,\ r_i\}$ for each position i>1 in \mathbf{str} in O(n)-time.

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Plan ahead

Once we convince ourselves of the linear time preprocessing, we can then use this for linear-time exact pattern matching.

Overview of the linear-time preprocessing

- In this preprocessing phase, we compute $\{Z_i, Z_i\text{-box}, l_i, r_i\}$ values for each successive position i, starting from i = 2.
- All successively computed Z_i values are remembered.
 - Note: Each Z_i -box interval can be computed from its corresponding Z_i value in O(1) time
- At each iteration, to compute (l_i, r_i) , this preprocessing only needs values of (l_j, r_j) for j = i 1.
 - ▶ Note: no earlier (l_j, r_j) values are needed...
 - ...so, temporary variables (l,r) can be used to keep track of the most recently computed (l_{i-1},r_{i-1}) values to update (l_i,r_i) .

Let's see how this all works in practice.

preprocessing in practice – base case

- To begin, compute Z_2 by explicit **left-to-right** comparison of characters str[2...] with str[1...] until a mismatch is found.
 - Note: Z_2 is the length of the **matching** substring.
- If $Z_2 > 0$
 - set r (i.e., r_2) to $Z_2 + 1$
 - ▶ set l (i.e., l_2) to 2
- else (i.e., if $Z_2 == 0$)
 - set r (i.e., r_2) to 0
 - ▶ set l (i.e., l_2) to 0

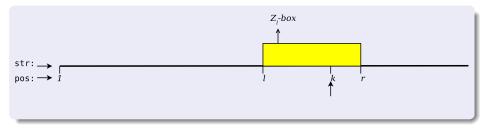
preprocessing in practice - general case

Assume inductively...

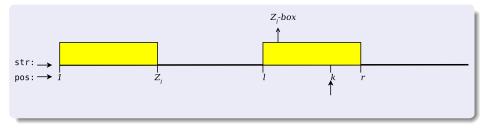
- ...we have correctly computed the values Z_2 through to Z_{k-1} .
- ...that r currently holds r_{k-1} ,
- ...that l currently holds l_{k-1} .

For computing Z_k at position k, these two scenarios arise

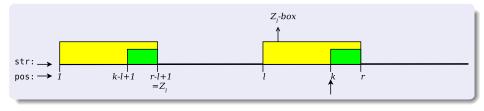
- CASE 1, if k > r:
 - ▶ Compute Z_k by explicitly comparing characters $\mathbf{str}[k...]$ with $\mathbf{str}[1...]$ until mismatch is found.
 - ▶ If $Z_k > 0$:
 - ★ set r (i.e., r_k) to $k + Z_k 1$.
 - ★ set l (i.e., l_k) to k.



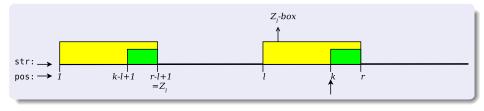
- CASE 2, if $k \le r$:
 - ▶ The character $\mathbf{str}[k]$ lies in the substring $\mathbf{str}[l...r]$ (i.e., within Z_l -box).



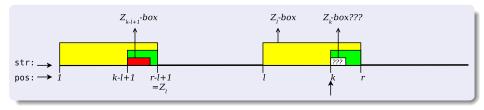
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 - ▶ By extending this logic, it also implies that the substring $\mathbf{str}[k...r]$ is identical to $\mathbf{str}[k-l+1...Z_l]$.



• CASE 2, if $k \leq r$:

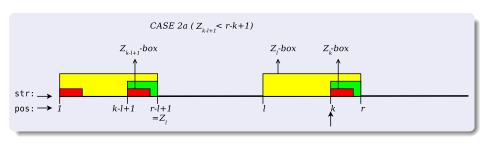
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- ▶ This implies the character $\mathbf{str}[k]$ is identical to $\mathbf{str}[k-l+1]$
- ▶ By extending this logic, it also implies that the substring $\mathbf{str}[k...r]$ is identical to $\mathbf{str}[k-l+1...Z_l]$.
- ▶ But, in previous iterations, we already have computed Z_{k-l+1} value.
 - ★ can the value of Z_{k-l+1} inform the computation of Z_k ?

preprocessing – case 2 (continued)

In the previous slide, we asked "can the value of Z_{k-l+1} inform the computation of Z_k ?". The answer is **yes**, and this can be handled by two **sub**-cases" CASES 2a and 2b (described below):

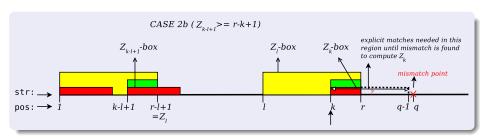
preprocessing – case 2 (continued)

- CASE 2a, if $Z_{k-l+1} < r k + 1$:
 - ightharpoonup set Z_k to Z_{k-l+1} .
 - r and l remain unchanged.



preprocessing – case 2 (continued)

- CASE 2b, if $Z_{k-l+1} \ge r k + 1$:
 - ▶ Z_k must also be $\geq r k + 1$
 - So, start explicitly comparing $\mathbf{str}[r+1]$ with $\mathbf{str}[r-k+1]$ and so on until mismatch occurs.
 - ▶ Say the mismatch occurred at position $q \ge r + 1$, then:
 - ★ set Z_k to q k,
 - ★ set r to q-1.
 - \star set l to k.



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 - ▶ But $r_k < n$.
 - ▶ Thus, there are at most *n* matches.

Recall the exact pattern matching problem

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Realizing a linear-time solution using Gusfield's Z-algorithm/preprocessing

• Construct a new string **str** by concatenation as follows: $\mathbf{str} = \mathbf{pat}[1...m] + \$ + \mathbf{txt}[1...n].$ Note, $|\mathbf{str}| = m + 1 + n.$

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- ullet Thus, this pattern matching algorithm takes O(m+n) time. **QED**

2. Boyer-Moore Algorithm

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- Boyer-Moore algorithm incorporate three clever ideas:
 - 1 right-to-left scanning
 - bad character shift rule
 - good suffix shift rule

For any comparison of $\mathbf{pat}[1...m]$ against $\mathbf{txt}[i...i+m-1]$, the Boyer-Moore algorithm checks/scans for matched characters right to left (instead of the normal left to right scan, as in the naive algorithm).

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```
Example: right to left scanning (in some iteration)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

txt: x p b c t b x a b p q x c t b p q

pat: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

pat: t p a b x a b
```

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```
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
txt: xpbctbxabpqxctbpq
```

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 tpabxab

Order of comparisons is right to left:

• pat[7] with txt[9] - match.

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- pat[5] with txt[7] match.
- pat[4] with txt[6] match.
- pat[3] with txt[5] mismatch

For any comparison of $\mathbf{pat}[1...m]$ against $\mathbf{txt}[i...i+m-1]$, the Boyer-Moore algorithm checks/scans for matched characters right to left (instead of the normal left to right scan, as in the naive algorithm).

Example: right to left scanning (in some iteration)

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
txt: xpbctbxabpqxctbpq
```

pat: tpabxab

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txt: x p b c t b x a b p q x c t b p q

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

pat: t p a b x a b

Order of comparisons is right to left:

pat[7] with txt[9] - match.

pat[6] with txt[8] - match.

pat[5] with txt[7] - match.

pat[4] with txt[6] - match.

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```

After mismatch, to avoid naïvely shifting pat rightwards by 1 position, BM algorithm employs two additional ideas/tricks discussed below.

Boyer-Moore Algorithm - Bad character shift rule

Example

```
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
txt: x p b c t b x a b p q x c t b p q

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
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- Scanning right-to-left, we found a mismatch comparing $pat[3] \equiv a$ with $txt[5] \equiv t$.
- But the rightmost occurrence in the entire pat of the mismatched character in txt (i.e. txt[5] ≡ t) is at position 1 of pat (i.e., pat[1] ≡ t).

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- But the rightmost occurrence in the entire pat of the mismatched character in txt (i.e. txt[5] = t) is at position 1 of pat (i.e., pat[1] = t).
- So, in this case, one case safely shift pat by two places to the right (instead of naively shifting by only one place) so as to match characters $\mathtt{pat}[1] \equiv \mathtt{t}$ and $\mathtt{txt}[5] \equiv \mathtt{t}$.

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Before that, note, storing $R(\mathbf{x})$ values for **pat** requires at most $O(|\aleph|)$ space, and one table lookup per mismatch.

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- **RULE:** Then, the bad-character shift rule asks us to to shift rightwards **pat** along **txt** by $\max\{1, k R(\mathbf{x})\}$ **positions**.
- Further, if **x** does not occur in pat[1..m] $(R(\mathbf{x}) = 0)$, then the entire pat can be shifted one position past the point of mismatch in txt.

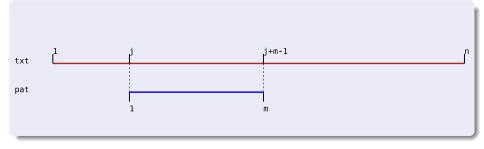
An extension to the bad-character shift rule

Extended Bad-Character Rule

When a mismatch occurs at some position k in $\mathtt{pat}[1...m]$, and the corresponding mismatched character is $\mathbf{x} = \mathtt{txt}[j+k-1]$, then \mathtt{shift} $\mathtt{pat}[1..m]$ to the right so that \mathtt{the} closest \mathtt{x} in \mathtt{pat} that is to \mathtt{the} left of $\mathtt{position}$ k is now below the (previously mismatched) \mathtt{x} in \mathtt{txt} .

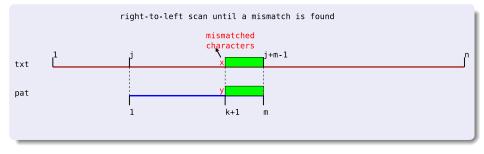
- To achieve this, preprocess $\mathbf{pat}[1...m]$ so that, for each position $1 \leq k \leq m$ in \mathbf{pat} , and for each character $x \in \aleph$, the position of the closest occurrence of x to the left of each position k can be efficiently looked up.
- A 2D array (**shift/jump table**) of size $m \times |\aleph|$ can store this information. (Think how this can be implemented more space-efficiently?)

Boyer-Moore Algorithm - Good suffix rule



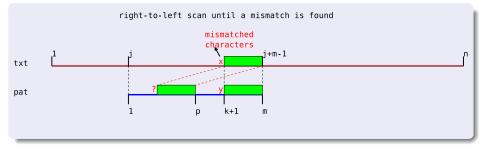
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Boyer-Moore Algorithm – Good suffix rule



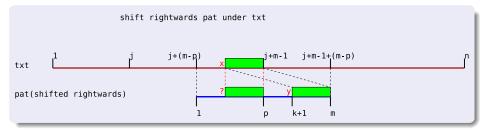
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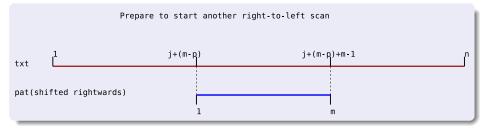
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- If we knew that p < m is the rightmost position in pat where the longest substring (of length >= 1) ending at position p matches its suffix, that is:
 - $pat[p m + k + 1...p] \equiv pat[k + 1...m].$
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Definition of Z_i^{suffix}

Given a $\mathtt{pat}[1...m]$, define $Z_i^{\mathtt{suffix}}$ (for each position i < m) as the \mathtt{length} of the $\mathtt{longest}$ substring \mathtt{ending} at $\mathtt{position}$ i of \mathtt{pat} that matches its \mathtt{suffix} (i.e., $\mathtt{pat}[i-Z_i^{\mathtt{suffix}}+1...i] = \mathtt{pat}[\mathtt{m-}Z_i^{\mathtt{suffix}}+1...m]$).

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- Note, computation of Z_i^{suffix} values on **pat** corresponds to the computation of Z_i values on reverse(**pat**).
- Thus, Z_i^{suffix} values can be computed in O(m) time for pat[1...m].

In fact, for each **suffix** starting at position j in **pat**, we want to store the rightmost position p in **pat** such that:

- $pat[j..m] \equiv pat[p Z_p^{suffix} + 1...p].$
- $pat[j-1] \neq pat[p-Z_p^{suffix}].$

In fact, for each \mathbf{suffix} starting at position j in \mathbf{pat} , we want to store the rightmost position p in \mathbf{pat} such that:

```
• pat[j..m] \equiv pat[p - Z_p^{suffix} + 1...p].
```

• $\operatorname{pat}[j-1] \neq \operatorname{pat}[p-Z_p^{\operatorname{suffix}}].$

Store these rightmost positions as **goodsuffix**(j) = p. These can be computed as:

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- Shift pat to the right under txt by $\max(n_{\rm badcharacter}, n_{\rm goodsuffix})$ places.
- The **Boyer Moore algorithm** has the *worst-case time-complexity* of O(m+n) (with some caveats; to be discussed in lecture!)

Lecture Summary

- Naive algorithm takes O(m*n)-time.
- ullet Gusfield's Z algorithm guaranteed in O(n+m)-time, worst case
- Boyer-Moore's algorithm (as we discussed above) takes
 - O(n+m)-time (with some caveats)...
 - ▶ ...but $O(\frac{n}{m})$ -time (sublinear) on 'realworld' settings .

In the next lecture..

Linear time suffix tree (Ukkonen's algorithm) construction