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# FIT3155: Advanced Algorithms and Data Structures Week 1: Linear-time string pattern matching

Faculty of Information Technology, Monash University

#### What is covered in this lecture?

Linear-time approaches to exact pattern matching problem on strings

- $\bullet$  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	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	
					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	X	у	a	b	Х	Z					
	X												
pat:		a	b	х	у	a	b	х	Z				
		✓	1	✓	✓	1	1	1	X				
pat:						a	b	х	у	a	b	х	Z
						✓	✓	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	b	Х	у	a	b	Х	Z					
	X												
pat:		a	b	х	у	a	b	х	Z				
		✓	1	✓	✓	1	✓	1	X				
pat:						a	b	х	у	a	b	х	Z
									✓	✓	✓	✓	1

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
```

$$Z_2 = 1$$
  $Z_7 = 0$ 

$$Z_3 = 0 \qquad Z_8 = 0$$

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

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

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

# 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  $\mathbf{str}[1..n]$ , 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  $Z_j > 0$ .

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

# 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_{12}, r_{12}) = (10, 16)
                                                        (l_4, r_4) = (4, 6)
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)
                                                                              (l_{15}, r_{15}) = (10, 16)
                            Z_{11}-box = [11..11]
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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- In the previous slides, for any given string, we have defined:  $\{Z_i, Z_i\text{-box}, l_i, r_i\}.$
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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  $Z_2 == 0$ )
  - ightharpoonup set r (i.e.,  $r_2$ ) to 0
  - ▶ set l (i.e.,  $l_2$ ) to 0

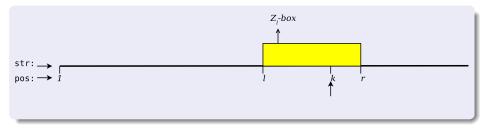
## preprocessing in practice - general case

#### Assume inductively...

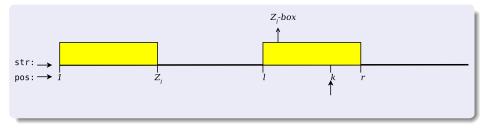
- ...we have correctly computed the values  $Z_2$  through to  $Z_{k-1}$ .
- ...that r currently holds  $r_{k-1}$ ,
- ...that l currently holds  $l_{k-1}$ .

For computing  $Z_k$  at position k, these two scenarios arise

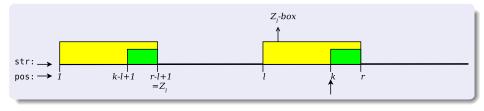
- CASE 1, if k > r:
  - ▶ Compute  $Z_k$  by explicitly comparing characters  $\mathbf{str}[k...]$  with  $\mathbf{str}[1...]$  until mismatch is found.
  - ▶ If  $Z_k > 0$ :
    - ★ set r (i.e.,  $r_k$ ) to  $k + Z_k 1$ .
    - ★ set l (i.e.,  $l_k$ ) to k.



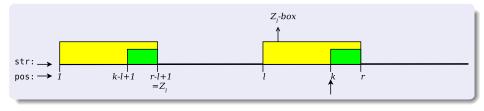
- CASE 2, if  $k \le r$ :
  - ▶ The character  $\mathbf{str}[k]$  lies in the substring  $\mathbf{str}[l...r]$  (i.e., within  $Z_l$ -box).



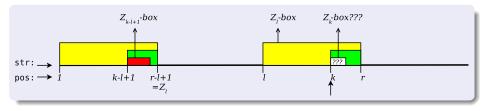
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  - ▶ This implies the character  $\mathbf{str}[k]$  is identical to  $\mathbf{str}[k-l+1]$
  - ▶ By extending this logic, it also implies that the substring  $\mathbf{str}[k...r]$  is identical to  $\mathbf{str}[k-l+1...Z_l]$ .



#### • CASE 2, if $k \leq r$ :

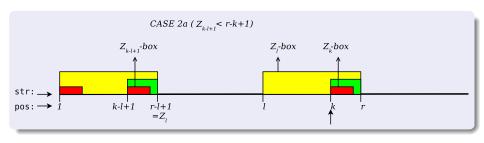
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- ▶ By the definition of  $Z_l$ -box,  $\mathbf{str}[l...r] = \mathbf{str}[1...Z_l]$ .
- ▶ This implies the character  $\mathbf{str}[k]$  is identical to  $\mathbf{str}[k-l+1]$
- ▶ By extending this logic, it also implies that the substring  $\mathbf{str}[k...r]$  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):

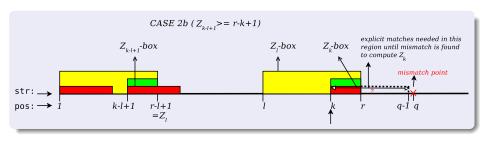
# preprocessing – case 2 (continued)

- 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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  - ▶ update to  $r_k$  is of the form  $r_k = r_{k-1} + \delta$  (involving  $\delta \ge 0$  matches).
  - ▶ But  $r_k < n$ .
  - ▶ Thus, there are at most *n* matches.

#### Recall 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  $\mathbf{txt}$ .

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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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- We already, showed that computation of  $Z_i$  values for any sting **str** takes  $O(|\mathbf{str}|)$  time.

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

2. Boyer-Moore Algorithm

• Boyer-Moore algorithm incorporate three clever ideas:

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  - right-to-left scanning

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- Boyer-Moore algorithm incorporate three clever ideas:
  - 1 right-to-left scanning
    - 2 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: xpbctbxabpqxctbpq

pat: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

pat: tpabxab
```

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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 t p a b x a b

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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Order of comparisons is right to left:

• pat[7] with txt[9] - 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

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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  $pat[1] \equiv t$  and  $txt[5] \equiv t$ .

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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**.

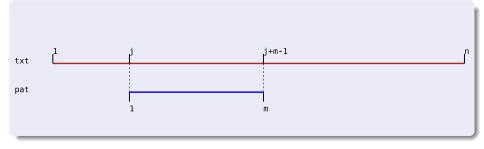
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- **RULE**: Then, the bad-character shift rule asks us to to shift rightwards **pat** along **txt** by  $\max\{1, k R(\mathbf{x})\}$  **positions**.
- Further, if **x** does not occur in pat[1..m]  $(R(\mathbf{x}) = 0)$ , then the entire pat can be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

#### An extension to the bad-character shift rule

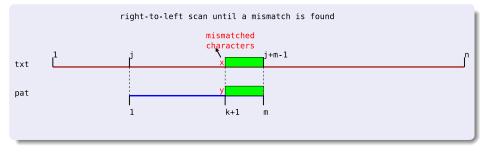
#### Extended Bad-Character Rule

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  $\mathtt{txt}$ .

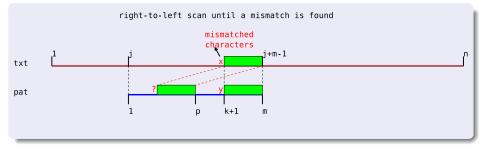
- To achieve this, preprocess  $\mathbf{pat}[1...m]$  so that, for each position  $1 \leq k \leq m$  in  $\mathbf{pat}$ , and for each character  $x \in \aleph$ , the position of the closest occurrence of x to the left of each position k can be efficiently looked up.
- A 2D array (**shift/jump table**)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



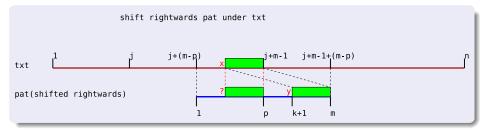
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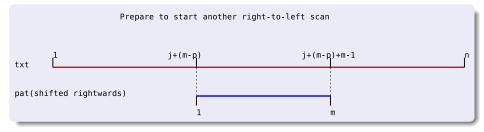
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- and a new iteration can be restarted.

To efficiently implement this 'good suffix' rule, we take 'inspiration' from the computation of  $Z_i$  values in Gusfield's algorithm (refer slide 11), and define  $Z_i^{\text{suffix}}$  (specifically on **pat**) as follows:

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

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:

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

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- 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 trees (Ukkonen's algorithm) and suffix array (Karkkainen's algorithm) construction