

# Aho-Corasick – The Complete Algorithm

**Step 1.** Build a trie from pattern strings

**Step 2.** Add **suffix links** to the trie

**Step 3.** Add **output links** to the trie

**Step 4.** Execute **find()** method with an input text

## Step 2 – Add Suffix Links to the Trie

```
1 suffix link of the root is nullptr.
2
3 For each child i of the root
4     suffix link of root->child[i] is the root.
5
6 Visit each node w of the trie in "level-order" (except the root)
7
8     For each non-null child a of node w:
9
10         /** Create suffix link for node wa **/
11
12         Let node x be the suffix link of w
13
14         While (node x is not nullptr) and (x has not child a):
15             x = suffix link of x;
16
17         If x is nullptr:
18             suffix link of node wa = root of the trie
19         Else:
20             suffix link of node wa = child a of x
21
22         buildOutputLink(node wa); After adding a suffix link,
23                                 lets' also add its output link!
```

## Step 3 – Add Output Links to the Trie

Adding an output link for a node  $u$

```
1 Let  $v$  be the node pointed by suffixLink of node  $u$ 
2
3 If  $v$  is not null and  $v$  corresponds to a pattern: Check the endOfWord flag of  $v$ .
4   outputLink of node  $u$  will point to  $v$ .
5
6 Otherwise, If  $v$  has an output link:
7   outputLink of node  $u$  will point to the outputLink of  $v$ .
8
```

Notice that this pseudo-code implies that some Nodes may not have an output link. This is ok.

## Step 4 – Execute the **find()** method with an input text

Find occurrences inside the text,  
of the patterns stored in the trie

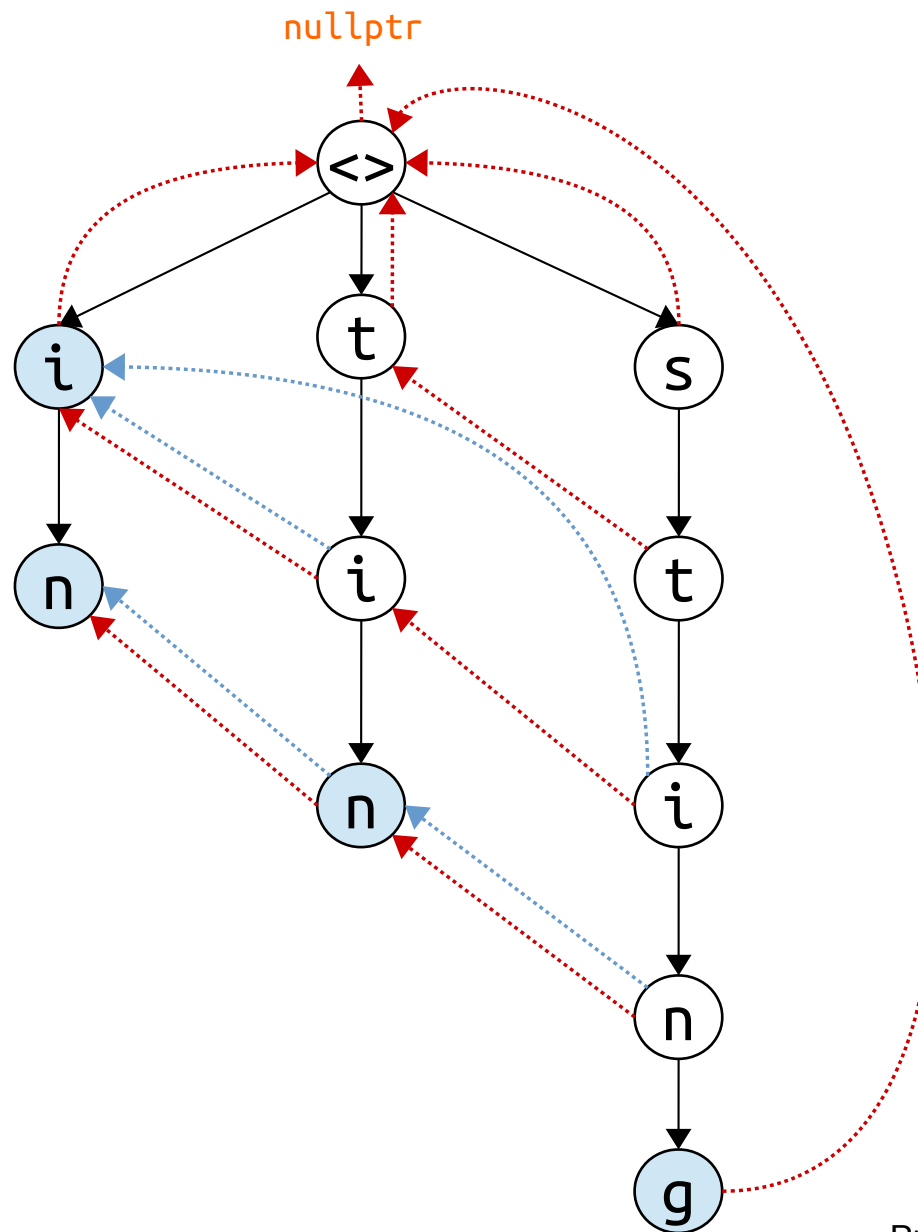
```
1 void find(std::string text)
2 {
3     Let currentNode be initially the _root;
4
5     For each character a of the text:
6
7         While (the currentNode hasn't child with letter a) And (the currentNode IS NOT the root):
8             The currentNode will be now to the node pointed by his suffixLink
9
10        If (the current node has not child a And the currentNode IS the root):
11            Move to the next iteration of the For loop
12
13        The currentNode will be now the child with letter a of the currentNode
14
15        If the currentNode has the flag endOfWord equal to true:
16            // We have found a pattern in position ??? of the text! Print position and pattern
17
18        Let v be the node pointed by the outputLink of the currentNode
19        (or nullptr if the currentNode hasn't an outputLink)
20
21        While v is not nullptr:
22            // We have a found a pattern in position ??? of the text! Print position and pattern
23            v will be now the outputLink of v (or nullptr if v does not have an outputLink)
24 }
```

???: How we could get the position where the text occurred in the text?

# Example

patterns:

i				
i	n			
t	i	n		
s	t	i	n	g



Print the position where every pattern occurs in the text.

```
std::vector<std::string> patterns = { "i", "in", "tin", "sting" };  
AhoCorasickTrie myTrie(patterns);  
myTrie.find("sting");
```

```
2 i  
1 tin  
2 in  
0 sting
```