The justification is very similar to the argument that the number of iterations in $\mathsf{KMPMatch}()$ is O(n).

Define k = i - j for the sake of analysis. One of the following conditions occurs at each iteration of the loop:

- If P[i] = P[j], then i increases by 1, and k does not change, since j also increases by 1.
- If $P[i] \neq P[j]$ and j > 0, then i does not change and k increases by at least 1, since in this case k changes from i j to i f(j 1), which is an addition of j f(j 1), which is positive because f(j 1) < j.
- If $P[i] \neq P[j]$ and j = 0, then i increases by 1 and k increases by 1, since j does not change.

As a result, the number of iterations is at most 2m. Therefore, KMPFailureFunction() runs in O(m) time.