

UNIVERSITY OF SÃO PAULO  
INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS  
BACHELOR OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

## **String Pattern Matching Algorithms**

Raphael Ribeiro da Costa e Silva

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Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Carlos E. Ferreira

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*"The beauty of algorithms is that they are self-contained, timeless, and universal." - Edsger W. Dijkstra*



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# Resumo

Raphael Ribeiro da Costa e Silva. **Algoritmos de Busca de Padrões em Strings**. Monografia (Bacharelado). Instituto de Matemática e Estatística, Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, 2023.

O Pareamento Simples e Múltiplo de Strings é um dos problemas básicos de algoritmos em strings e vários algoritmos foram propostos para resolvê-lo. Existem soluções práticas para problemas reais que podem ser desenvolvidas usando esses algoritmos, incluindo, detecção de intrusos em sistemas, biologia evolucionária, linguística computacional e recuperação de dados. Nesse trabalho, estudamos diversos algoritmos propostos para resolver o problema de pareamento de strings, começando com pareamento simples e prosseguindo para discutir suas extensões para lidar com múltiplos padrões. Também foram conduzido experimentos para comparar a performance desses algoritmos.

**Palavras-chave:** Busca de Padrões. Strings. Pareamento.



# Abstract

Raphael Ribeiro da Costa e Silva. **String Pattern Matching Algorithms**. Capstone Project Report (Bachelor). Institute of Mathematics and Statistics, University of São Paulo, São Paulo, 2023.

The String Pattern Matching Problem is one of the basic string algorithms problems and several algorithms have been proposed to solve it. There are practical solutions to real-world problems that can be developed using these algorithms, including, but not limited to, intrusion detection systems, evolutionary biology, computational linguistics, and data retrieval. In this paper, we shall study several algorithms proposed to solve the string matching problem, starting with single patterns and then proceeding to discuss its extensions to deal with multiple patterns. We also conduct experiments to compare the performance of these algorithms.

**Keywords:** Pattern Searching. Strings. Matching.



## List of Abbreviations

BM	Boyer-Moore algorithm
BMH	Boyer-Moore-Horspool algorithm
TDS	Trie Data Structure
AHS	Aho-Corasick Algorithm
WMN	Wu-Manber algorithm
SPSM	Single Pattern String Matching Problem
MPSM	Multiple Pattern String Matching Problem

## List of Symbols

$\mathcal{T}$	Text string
$P$	Pattern for the single pattern matching problem
$\mathcal{P}$	set of patterns for the multiple pattern matching problem
$\mathcal{A}$	an Alphabet of symbols

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

An **alphabet**  $\Sigma$  is a finite set. A **symbol** is an element  $s \in \Sigma$ . A **string** is a finite sequence of symbols, i.e, elements of an alphabet. The set of all strings over  $\Sigma$  is denoted by  $\Sigma^*$ . We say a string  $p \in \Sigma^*$  is a **pattern** over a fixed alphabet  $\Sigma$  if  $p$  consists of symbols from  $\Sigma$ . Let  $s$  be a string and denote  $s := s_1 \cdots s_n$ . We say that a subsequence  $s_i \cdots s_j$  of  $s$  is a **substring** of  $s$ . An **occurrence** of  $u$  in  $s$  is a pair  $(i, j)$  such that  $u := s_i \cdots s_j$  is a substring of  $s$ . A **prefix** of  $s$  is a substring  $u := s_0 \cdots s_k$ , i.e.  $s$  starts with  $u$ . A **suffix** of  $s$  is a substring  $u := s_{n-k} \cdots s_{n-1}$ , i.e.  $s$  ends with  $u$ . A **proper prefix** of  $s$  is a prefix  $u$  of  $s$  such that  $u \neq s$ . Moreover, a **proper suffix** of  $s$  is a suffix  $u$  of  $s$  such that  $u \neq s$ . A **border** of  $s$  is a substring  $u$  of  $s$  such that  $u$  is a proper suffix of  $s$  and  $u$  is a proper prefix of  $s$ .

Let  $P$  be a set of patterns over a fixed alphabet  $\Sigma$  and let  $T$  be a fixed string called text input. The Multiple Pattern String Matching (MPSM) is the problem of finding all occurrences of all patterns of  $P$  in  $T$ . The Single Pattern String Matching (SPSM) is a special case of (MPSM) by adding the constraint  $|P| = 1$ .

The MPSM is one of the basic string algorithms problems and several algorithms have been proposed to solve it. There are practical solutions to real-world problems that can be developed using these algorithms, including, but not limited to, intrusion detection systems, evolutionary biology, computational linguistics, and data retrieval. In this paper, we shall study the first algorithms proposed to the string matching problem, starting with single patterns and then proceeding to discuss its extensions to deal with multiple patterns. We shall study other algorithms and data structures for the multiple pattern string matching problem and then compare those algorithms regarding to the structure of the problem.



## Chapter 2

# Single Pattern String Matching

### 2.1 Introduction

In this chapter, we shall study algorithms that solve the following problem: Given a text  $\mathcal{T}$  and a pattern  $P$ , both with symbols from the alphabet  $\mathcal{A}$ , find all occurrences of  $P$  in  $\mathcal{T}$ .

We discuss the algorithms of Boyer-Moore and its heuristics; the Boyer-Moore-Horspool algorithm, which is a simplification of the original Boyer-Moore; and the Trie Data Structure. After this chapter, when we proceed to the multiple pattern problem, we will see further generalizations of those same algorithms in order to deal with multiple patterns.

### 2.2 Brute Force

Let  $T$  be a input text and  $P$  a pattern. A naive algorithm for finding all occurrences of  $P$  in  $T$  works as follows: we compare the text with pattern from left to right. At iteration  $i$ , we compare  $P[0]$  with  $T[i]$ . If the first character is matched, then we need to check whether the remaining pattern is matched or not. Check the table [2.1](#)

---

#### Program 2.1 Brute force search

---

```

1  FUNCTION BRUTEFORCEsearch( $P, T$ )  $\triangleright$  returns the set of occurrences of  $P$  in  $T$ 
2    for  $i := 0, i < |T|, i \leftarrow i + 1$ 
3       $match \leftarrow \mathbf{true}$ 
4      for  $j := 0, j < |P|, j \leftarrow j + 1$ 
5        if  $T[i + j] \neq P[j]$ 
6           $match \leftarrow \mathbf{false}$ 
7          break
8      if  $match$ 
9         $ans \leftarrow ans \cup \{i\}$ 
10   return  $ans$ 

```

---

In worst case, the comparison in line 4 holds true for every iteration and the loop in

line 5 is executed. So, the time complexity is  $\mathcal{O}(mn)$ . The space complexity is  $\mathcal{O}(1)$  since we just need some flags beside the sizes of  $P$  and  $T$  themselves.

## 2.3 Boyer-Moore

We can improve the performance of the brute force algorithm by using some heuristics but yet using the same idea. Instead of comparing character by character, the Boyer-Moore Algorithm [BOYER and MOORE, 1977](#) introduces the bad character heuristic and the good suffix heuristic in order to shift the pattern.

### 2.3.1 Bad Character

When a mismatch occurs, we have to shift the pattern until we no longer have a mismatch, i.e, until we found a match, or until the pattern move past the mismatched character. The Bad Character rule tells us to shift the pattern until we align it with the rightmost occurrence of the mismatched character. We can see some examples:

#### Example

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
$T$	a	b	b	a	d	a	b	a	c	b
$P$	a	b	c	a	b	c				
shift			a	b	c	a	b	c		

**Table 2.1:** In this example, a mismatch occurs when comparing a-c. Then, we shift the pattern so that the letter a it is aligned with the rightmost a in  $P$ .

#### Example

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
$T$	a	b	b	d	a	d	b	a	c	b
$P$	a	b	c	a						
shift					a	b	c	a		

**Table 2.2:** In this example, a mismatch occurs when comparing d-a. But there is no occurrence of the mismatched character in  $p$ . So we shift the pattern past the mismatched character

To summarize, the Bad Character rule tells us to shift the pattern until the text is aligned with the rightmost occurrence of the mismatched character. We can simply calculate the rightmost occurrence  $x$  for each character, and, during the search phase, we have to shift the pattern by  $x - s$  where  $s$  is the number of matched characters.

We are going to build a table BC for the bad character heuristic. To do so, we need to map for each symbol  $s \in \mathcal{A}$ , the index of its rightmost occurrence in  $P$ , or  $-1$  if  $s$  does not occur in  $P$ . Therefore, the program [2.2](#) code builds the BC table

---

**Program 2.2** Boyer-Moore BC Table.

---

```

1  FUNCTION buildBC( $T, P$ )  $\triangleright$  returns the BC Table
2    for  $s \in \mathcal{A}$ 
3       $bc[s] = -1$ 
4    end
5     $j \leftarrow 0$ 
6    for  $c \in P$ 
7       $bc[c] = j$ 
8       $j \leftarrow j + 1$ 
9    end
10   return  $bc$ 

```

---

### 2.3.2 Good Suffix

The second rule we are going to apply is the Good Suffix rule and it is applied regarding the borders of the pattern. A **border** is a substring of  $p$  that is both a proper suffix and a proper prefix of  $p$ . Let  $t$  be the substring of  $\mathcal{T}$  which is matched to the pattern at some iteration  $i$  and we have found a mismatch. We can safely shift the pattern until  $t$  is aligned with the rightmost occurrence of  $t \in \mathcal{P}$ . See this example:

#### Example

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
$T$	a	b	c	a	b	c	<b>a</b>	<b>d</b>	<b>a</b>	a	b	c
$P$	b	<u>a</u>	<u>d</u>	<u>a</u>	a	a	<b>a</b>	<b>d</b>	<b>a</b>			
shift						b	a	d	a	a	a	a

**Table 2.3:** A mismatch occurs comparing  $c$ - $a$ . In this case,  $t = ada$ . We can shift the pattern until it is aligned with the rightmost occurrence of  $ada$ , which occurs at index 1.

Notice that this is only possible if  $\mathcal{P}$  contains at least one other occurrence of  $t$ . When it is not the case, we can try a different idea: we can try to match a suffix of  $t$  with some prefix of  $\mathcal{P}$ . Check this example:

#### Example

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
$T$	a	b	c	a	b	c	<b>a</b>	<b>d</b>	<b>a</b>	a	b	c
$P$				<u>d</u>	<u>a</u>	a	<b>a</b>	<b>d</b>	<b>a</b>			
shift								d	a	a	a	d

**Table 2.4:** In this case,  $t = ada$ . There is no other occurrence of  $ada$  in  $\mathcal{P}$ , but we can align the suffix  $da$  of  $t$  with the prefix  $ba$  of  $P$

So how do we apply the Good Suffix Rule?

We are going to build two tables:  $f$  and  $s$ .  $f[i]$  will store the starting index of the widest border of  $p[i \dots |p| - 1]$ . The table  $s[i]$ , on the other hand, will store the shift position for  $s[i \dots]$ . So, how do we build these tables? Let us build by induction, in decreasing order, for  $i = m$ , we define  $f[i] = m + 1$ . Now, suppose for some index  $i < m$  we have  $f[i] = j$ , let us calculate  $f[i - 1]$ . Denote widest border for  $p[i \dots |p| - 1]$  as  $x$  and let us construct the widest border for  $p[i - 1 \dots |p| - 1]$ , namely  $y$ . If  $s[i - 1] = s[j - 1]$  then we can define  $y := s[i - 1] + x$ . Therefore,  $f[i - 1] = j - 1$ . If  $s[i - 1] \neq s[j - 1]$ , then we set  $j = f[j]$  and try again, while  $j > m$ . While doing our search, whenever we find  $s[i] == s[j]$  and  $s[i - 1] \neq s[j - 1]$  we can determine shift for  $s[j \dots |p| - 1]$  matching and mismatch at index  $j - 1$ , so  $s[j] = j - i$ .

### 2.3.3 Preprocessing

#### Example

Let  $P = baababa$ . Let's construct the tables  $f$  and  $s$ .

The suffix beginning at position 0 is baababa and it has border ba, starting at index 5. So,  $f[0] = 5$

The suffix beginning at position 1 is aababa and it has border a, starting at index 6. So  $f[1] = 6$

The suffix beginning at position 2 is ababa has borders aba, starting at index 4 and b, starting at index 6. Since aba is the widest,  $f[2] = 4$ . However, notice that the border aba cannot be extended to the left, because  $P[1] = a \neq b = P[3]$ . So,  $s[4] = 4 - 2 = 2$ . Also, the border a cannot be extended either. So,  $s[6] = 6 - 2 = 4$ .

The suffix beginning at position 3 is baba and it has border ba, starting at index 5. Thus,  $f[3] = 5$

The suffix beginning at position 4 is aba and it has border a, starting at index 6. So  $f[4] = 6$

The suffix beginning at position 5 is ba and it has no border. So,  $f[5] = 7$

The suffix beginning at position 6 is a and it has empty border. Moreover, this border cannot be extended to the left. Therefore,  $f[6] = 7$  and  $s[6] = 7 - 6 = 1$ . Notice that assigning this way ensure a valid shift.

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
$P$	b	a	a	b	a	b	a
$f$	5	6	4	5	6	7	7
$s$	0	0	0	2	0	4	1

**Table 2.5:** Tables  $f$  and  $s$  of Boyer-Moore Algorithm for  $P = baababa$ .

In the second phase of the Good Suffix heuristic, a part of the matching suffix occurs at the beginning of  $P$ . Thus, we have a border of the pattern. So, we can shift it accordingly to its widest border. We shall determine the widest border of  $P$  that is contained in every suffix. At the end of phase 2, all values of  $s$  are determined.

We start with the widest border of the pattern, which is stored in  $f[0]$  and change it if

the current suffix becomes shorter than  $f[0]$ . The Program 2.3 shows the initialization of the Boyer-Moore algorithm.

---

**Program 2.3** Boyer-Moore initialization.

---

```

1  FUNCTION BMinInit( $P, T$ )  $\triangleright$  return tables  $f$  and  $s$ 
2     $i := |P|$ 
3     $j := i + 1$ 
4     $f[i] := j$ 
5     $\triangleright$  First phase
6    while  $i > 0$ 
7      while  $j \leq |P|$  and  $P[i - 1] \neq P[j - 1]$ 
8        if  $s[j] == 0$ 
9           $s[j] := j - i$ 
10       end
11        $j := f[j]$ 
12     end
13      $i := i - 1$ 
14      $j := j - 1$ 
15      $f[i] := j$ 
16   end
17    $\triangleright$  Second phase
18    $j := f[0]$ 
19   for  $i := 0, i \leq |P|, i := i + 1$ 
20     if  $s[i] == 0$ 
21        $s[i] = j$ 
22     end
23     if  $i == j$ 
24        $j = f[j]$ 
25     end
26   end
27   return  $f, s$ 

```

---

### 2.3.4 Search

For searching patterns, we compare symbols of pattern from right to left with text. If a match happens, the pattern is shifted accordingly to its widest border. Otherwise, the shift is determined by the maximum of the values given by the good-suffix and the bad-character heuristics. The program 2.4 shows the search phase of the Boyer-Moore Algorithm.

---

**Program 2.4** Boyer-Moore search.

---

```

1  FUNCTION BMsearch( $P, T, s, bc$ )  $\triangleright$  return occurrences of  $P$  in  $T$ , given tables  $s$  and  $bc$ .
2     $ans \leftarrow \emptyset$ 
3     $i := 0$ 
4    while  $i \leq |T| - |P|$ 

```

*cont*  $\longrightarrow$

```

    → cont
5       $j \leftarrow |P| - 1$ 
6      while  $j \geq 0$  and  $P[j] == T[i + j]$ 
7           $j := j - 1$ 
8      end
9      if  $j < 0$ 
10          $ans \leftarrow ans \cup \{(i, i + |P| - 1)\}$ 
11          $i := i + s[0]$ 
12     end
13     else
14          $i \leftarrow \max(s[j+1], j - bc[t[i+j]])$ 
15     end
16     return  $ans$ 

```

---

### 2.3.5 Complexity

The best case occurs when at each attempt the text character compared does not occur in the pattern and the pattern is shifted. In such case the algorithm runs in  $\mathcal{O}(|\mathcal{T}|/|P|)$ . However, in general  $O(|P||T|)$  comparisons are needed.

## 2.4 Boyer-Moore-Horspool Algorithm.

Instead of using the bad character and the good suffix heuristics. Horspool [Horspool, 1980](#) proposed a simplified version of the Boyer-Moore algorithm. The idea is comparing the last character of the pattern  $\mathcal{P}$  with the last character of text  $\mathcal{T}$ . If a mismatch occurs, then we shift the pattern to align it to the rightmost occurrence of the mismatched character. Otherwise we simply continue comparing the characters of  $\mathcal{P}$  from right to left.

### Example

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
$\mathcal{T}$	d	b	d	a	c	a	b	<u>c</u>	a	d	a	d	b
$\mathcal{P}$					b	c	a	<u>b</u>					
shift							b	c	a	b			

**Table 2.6:** In this case, a mismatch occurs comparing c-b. So we shift the pattern to align it with the next rightmost occurrence of c in  $\mathcal{P}$

### Example

#### 2.4.1 Preprocessing

The preprocessing phase of the algorithm is based on mapping for each symbol  $s \in \mathcal{A}$ , the rightmost occurrence of  $s$  in  $p[0 : m - 2]$  i.e, the rightmost occurrence of  $s$  in the pattern except the last character. We initialize the table with  $|p|$ . Notice that if there is a

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
$\mathcal{T}$	d	b	d	<u>b</u>	c	a	b	b	a	d	a	d	b
$\mathcal{P}$				<u>a</u>	c	a	b						
shift								b	c	a	b		

**Table 2.7:** In this case, a mismatch occurs comparing  $b$ - $a$ . So we have to shift the pattern to align it to the rightmost occurrence of  $b$  in  $\mathcal{P}$ . Since there is any, we simply move the pattern past the character  $a$

character that only occurs at the last index, it will be mapped to  $|p|$ . The init function of BMH algorithm can be done as in program 2.5.

---

**Program 2.5** BMH init function.

---

```

1  FUNCTION BMHinit( $\mathcal{A}$ ,  $p$ )
2     $\triangleright$   $BMHtable[s]$  stores the righthmost occurrence of  $S$  in  $p[0 : m - 2]$ 
3    for  $s \in \mathcal{A}$ 
4       $BMHtable[s] = |p|$ 
5    end
6     $i \leftarrow 0$ 
7    for  $c \in p$ 
8       $BMHtable[c] \leftarrow i$ 
9       $i \leftarrow i + 1$ 
10   end
11 end

```

---

## 2.4.2 Search

The search phase is as in the Boyer-Moore algorithm. We compare the pattern from right to left with the text and we shift the pattern according to the  $BMHtable$  if a mismatch occurs. Check program 2.6

---

**Program 2.6** BMH search function.

---

```

1  FUNCTION BMHsearch( $BMHtable$ )
2     $i \leftarrow 0$ 
3    while  $i \leq |T| - |P|$ 
4      while  $j \geq 0$  and  $P[j] == T[i + j]$ 
5         $j \leftarrow j - 1$ 
6      if  $j < 0$ 
7         $ans \leftarrow ans \cup \{i\}$ 
8         $i \leftarrow i + |P| - 1$ 
9         $i \leftarrow i - BMHtable[T[i]]$ 
10     end
11   end
12 return  $ans$ 

```

---

### 2.4.3 Example 1

Let  $p := ACTG$  be a pattern and  $T := AAACCTAGACTGA$  be a text. Let's build the Bad-Character Table for the characters of  $p$ , as we can see in 2.8

c	value
A	$4 - 0 - 1 = 3$
C	$4 - 1 - 1 = 2$
T	$4 - 2 - 1 = 1$
G	4 (last character)
*	4

**Table 2.8:** Bad-Character table for  $p := ACTG$

Now, let's use the BMH Algorithm to find all the occurrences of  $p$  in  $\mathcal{T}$

At iteration  $i = 0$ , we compare the character G with C, and since  $G \neq C$  we shift the pattern by  $BMHTable[G] = 4$ .

AAACCTAGACTGA  
ACTG

At iteration  $i = 1$ , we compare the character G with G, since it matches we proceed to compare T with A. Since it doesn't match, we shift the pattern by  $BMHTable[G] = 4$ .

AAACCTAGACTGA  
ACTG

At iteration  $i = 2$ , finally all characters of the pattern have matched. We have found a match at index 8. We shift the pattern by 4 (its size), which ends the algorithm.

AAACCTAGACTGA  
ACTG

### 2.4.4 Example 2

Let  $p := abra$  be a pattern and  $T := abracadabra$  be a text. Let's build the Bad-Character Table for the characters of  $p$ , as we can see in table 2.9

At iteration  $i = 0$ , we find a match and shift the pattern by 1.

c	value
a	$4 - 0 - 1 = 3$
b	$4 - 1 - 1 = 2$
r	$4 - 2 - 1 = 1$
*	4

**Table 2.9:** Bad-Character table for  $p := abra$

**abracadabra**  
**abra**

At iteration  $i = 1$ , we compare the characters  $c$  with  $a$ , which doesn't match. We shift the pattern by  $\text{BMHTable}[a] = 3$

*abra*cadabra  
*abra*a

At iteration  $i = 2$ , we compare the characters  $a$  with  $a$ , which matches, and proceeds to compare  $d$  with  $r$ . Since it doesn't match we shift the pattern by  $\text{BMHTable}[a] = 3$ .

*abracad*abra  
*abra*a

At iteration  $i = 3$ , we find another match. We shift the pattern by 1, which ends the algorithm.

**abracadabra**  
**abra**

### 2.4.5 Complexity

The time complexity of  $\text{BMHinit}$  is given by the loops on lines 3 and 7, so its time complexity is  $O(\mathcal{A} + |P|)$  and the space complexity is the size of the  $\text{BMHtable}$ , which is  $O(|A|)$ .

The  $\text{BMHsearch}$  does not improve the performance of heuristics from  $\text{BMsearch}$  and it is just a simplified version. The time complexity of  $\text{BMHsearch}$  is given by the number of iterations on line 5. Like in  $\text{BMsearch}$ , the worst case is  $\mathcal{O}(|\mathcal{T}||\mathcal{P}|)$  and the best case is when the first comparison on line 4 holds false for every character and then the algorithm performs just  $O(|T|/|P|)$  comparisons. The space complexity of  $\text{BMHsearch}$  is  $\mathcal{O}(1)$ , since we do not need any additional memory beside loop variables.

## 2.5 KMP Algorithm

The Knuth-Morris-Pratt Algorithm [KNUTH \*et al.\*, 1977](#) solves the SPSM problem by constructing an auxiliary function called Prefix Function in order to find the occurrences of the pattern without performing any strings comparisons.

### 2.5.1 Prefix Function

Let  $s$  be a string of length  $n$ . For each integer  $i \in \{0 \dots n-1\}$  define  $m := s[0 \dots i]$ . The Prefix function for  $s$  is an array  $\pi$  such that  $\pi[i]$  is the length of the longest proper prefix of  $m$  which is also a suffix of  $m$  ending at index  $i$ .

That is,

$$\pi[i] = \max_{k=0 \dots i} \{k : s[0 \dots k-1] = s[i-(k-1) \dots i]\}$$

### 2.5.2 Example

The prefix function for the string "abracadabra" is  $[0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4]$ .

### 2.5.3 Proposition 1

Let  $s$  be a string of length  $n > 1$ . For each integer  $i \in \{0 \dots n-2\}$  we have  $\pi[i+1] \leq \pi[i] + 1$ .

*Proof.* For the sake of contradiction, suppose there is an integer  $i$  such that  $\pi[i+1] > \pi[i] + 1$ . Then, there is a suffix of  $m := s[0 \dots i+1]$  of length  $\pi[i+1]$ , we remove the last character of  $m$  yielding the string  $m' := s[0 \dots i]$  of length  $\pi[i+1] - 1$ , which, by hypothesis, is greater than  $\pi[i]$ . This contradicts the definition of  $\pi[i]$ .  $\square$

### 2.5.4 Proposition 2

If  $i > 0$ ,  $s[i+1] = s[\pi[i]]$ , then  $\pi[i+1] = \pi[i] + 1$

*Proof.* By definition of  $\pi$ , we now the prefix that starts at index  $i$  has largest border  $b := s[0 \dots \pi[i]-1]$  with length  $\pi[i]$ . The suffix for  $b$  is  $s[i-\pi[i]+1 \dots i]$ . So,  $s[\pi[i]]$  is the next character after  $b$  and  $s[i+1]$  is the next character of the suffix of  $b$ . Therefore, if  $s[i+1] = s[\pi[i]]$ , then  $\pi[i+1] = \pi[i] + 1$ .  $\square$

### 2.5.5 Optimizations

With proposition 2, we can calculate  $\pi[i+1]$  from  $\pi[i]$  if  $s[i+1] = s[\pi[i]]$ . If that is not the case, then we find the largest  $j < \pi[i]$  such that the prefix property holds for  $j$  and check if  $s[i+1] = s[j]$ . Notice that such  $j$  is in fact  $\pi[i-1]$ . Therefore, if  $s[i+1] = s[\pi[i-1]]$ , we assign  $\pi[i+1] = \pi[\pi[i-1]] + 1$ , otherwise we set  $j := \pi[i-1]$  and repeat the process.

### 2.5.6 Preprocessing

With the optimizations, we can construct the final algorithm. Check Program 2.7.

---

**Program 2.7** KMP Algorithm prefix function
 

---

```

1  FUNCTION KMPPrefix( $p$ )
2       $i \leftarrow 0$ 
3       $\pi[0] = 0$ 
4      for  $i$  in  $\{1 \dots |p| - 1\}$ 
5           $j \leftarrow \pi[i - 1]$ 
6          while  $j > 0$  and  $s[i] \neq s[j]$ 
7               $j \leftarrow \pi[j - 1]$ 
8          end while
9          if  $s[i] = s[j]$ 
10              $j \leftarrow j + 1$ 
11              $\pi[i] = j$ 
12      end for
13
14  return  $\pi$ 

```

---

### 2.5.7 Search

So, how do we perform searches? Let  $T$  be a text and  $p$  a pattern. Define  $s := p + * + T$ , where  $*$  is an arbitrary character such that there is no occurrence of  $*$  in  $T$  neither in  $p$ . We build the prefix function for  $s$ . Then, if there is an integer  $i > n$  such that  $\pi[i] = n$ , then there is an occurrence of  $p$  in  $T$  at the index  $i - 2n$ .

*Proof.* By the definition of  $s$ , if  $i > n$ , then  $s[i]$  is a character of  $\mathcal{T}$ . By the definition of  $\pi$ , if  $\pi[i] = n$ , then the prefix of  $s$  of size  $n$  coincides with  $s[i - (n + 1) - n + 1 = i - 2n]$ , but a prefix of  $s$  of size  $n$  is  $p$ , by construction. Therefore, there is an occurrence of  $p$  in  $\mathcal{T}$  at the index  $i - 2n$ .  $\square$

The program 2.8 shows the search phase of the KMP Algorithm

---

**Program 2.8** KMP Search
 

---

```

1  FUNCTION KMPPrefix( $p, T, \pi$ )
2       $z := p + * + T$ 
3      for  $value \in \pi$  do
4          if  $value = |p|$ 
5              match found
6      end for
7  end

```

---

### 2.5.8 Complexity

From proposition 1, the prefix function, at each iteration, can increase by at most 1. Therefore, the While loop in line 7 of program 2.7 can perform at most  $n$  iterations at total since it is limited by the value of  $\pi$ . Thus, the program 2.7 has  $\mathcal{O}(|\mathcal{T}|)$  of time complexity and  $\mathcal{O}(|\mathcal{T}|)$  of space complexity. The Search phase (program 2.8) is  $\mathcal{O}(|T|)$  of time complexity and  $\mathcal{O}(1)$  of space complexity.

Therefore, the KMP algorithm is  $\mathcal{O}(|\mathcal{T}|)$  of time complexity and  $\mathcal{O}(|\mathcal{T}|)$  of space complexity.

### 2.5.9 Example 1

Let  $\mathcal{T} := \text{DACDACAC}$  and  $p := \text{ACAC}$ . Let's use the KMP Algorithm to find all occurrences of  $p$  in  $\mathcal{T}$ . First, let's construct the prefix function for  $\mathcal{T} + * + p$  which is  $\text{ACAC*DACDACAC}$ .

For  $i=0$ ,  $s[0 \dots i] = A$ . We have no borders. So,  $\pi[0] = 0$

For  $i=1$ ,  $s[0 \dots i] = AC$ . Again, there are no borders. So,  $\pi[1] = 0$

For  $i=2$ ,  $s[0 \dots i] = ACA$ . We have border A. So,  $\pi[2] = 1$

For  $i=3$ ,  $s[0 \dots i] = ACAC$ . We have borders A and AC. So,  $\pi[3] = 2$

For  $i=4$ ,  $s[0 \dots i] = ACAC *$ . We have no borders. So,  $\pi[4] = 0$

For  $i=5$ ,  $s[0 \dots i] = ACAC * D$ . We have no borders. So,  $\pi[5] = 0$

For  $i=6$ ,  $s[0 \dots i] = ACAC * DA$ . We have border A. So,  $\pi[6] = 1$

For  $i=7$ ,  $s[0 \dots i] = ACAC * DAC$ . We have borders A and AC. So,  $\pi[7] = 2$

For  $i=8$ ,  $s[0 \dots i] = ACAC * DACD$ . We have no borders. So,  $\pi[8] = 0$

For  $i=9$ ,  $s[0 \dots i] = ACAC * DACDA$ . We have border A. so  $\pi[9] = 1$

For  $i=10$ ,  $s[0 \dots i] = ACAC * DACDAC$ . We have borders A and AC. So,  $\pi[10] = 2$

For  $i=11$ ,  $s[0 \dots i] = ACAC * DACDACA$ . We have borders A, AC and ACA. So,  $\pi[11] = 3$

For  $i=12$ ,  $s[0 \dots i] = ACAC * DACDACAC$ . We have borders A, AC and ACAC. So,  $\pi[12] = 4$

Thus, the Table 2.10 shows the prefix function for  $\mathcal{T} := \text{DACDACAC}$  and  $p := \text{ACAC}$ .

Now, for the searching phase we just have to iterate over the values of  $\pi$  and check if it's equal to  $|p| = 4$ . In this case, at  $i = 12$  we have found a match at index  $i - 2 * |p| = 12 - 8 = 4$  of  $\mathcal{T}$ .

i	$\pi[i]$
0	0
1	0
2	1
3	2
4	0
5	0
6	0
7	0
8	0
9	1
10	2
11	3
12	4

**Table 2.10:** Prefix function for  $\mathcal{T} := \text{DACDACAC}$  and  $p := \text{ACAC}$ .

## 2.6 Shift-Or Algorithm

The Shift-Or Algorithm [BAEZA-YATES and GONNET, 1989](#) uses bitwises techniques to solve the Pattern Matching Problem. Using the same principles of the previous algorithms, we have a preprocessing phase and a search phase. However, we don't perform any string comparisons, instead the algorithm will be based on the Shift and Or bitwise operators, which explains its name.

### 2.6.1 Bitmask

Let  $p := p_0 \cdots p_n$  be a pattern of size  $n$ . The Shift-Or Algorithm constructs a hash table mask that maps each character  $c$  of  $p$  to a bitmask  $d = d_n \cdots d_1$ , where  $d_i = \{0, 1\}$ .  $\text{mask}[c]$  has  $i$ -th bit set to 1 if, and only if,  $p_i = c$ . For instance, for the pattern  $abra$ , we have the bitmask table as in [2.11](#)

character	$d_1$	$d_2$	$d_3$	$d_4$	bitmask ( $d_4 \cdots d_1$ )
a	0	1	1	0	0110
b	1	0	1	1	1101
r	1	1	0	1	1011
*	1	1	1	1	1111

**Table 2.11:** Bitmask table for  $p := abra$

### 2.6.2 Matching

With the table mask created, we can find the occurrences of the pattern  $p$  in the text  $T$  with the following algorithm:

1. We start with a bitmask  $\phi$  with  $\neg 1$  i.e, the bitwise negation of 1 (all bits set to 1 except for  $2^0$ ).

2. For each character  $c$  of  $\mathcal{T}$ , we perform the OR bitwise operator with  $\phi$  and  $mask[c]$  and shift  $\phi$  to the left. Thus, we apply the assignment:

$$(\phi | mask[c]) \ll 1$$

3. If at any step, the  $d_m$  bit is set to 1, then a match was found at index  $i - n + 1$ .

### 2.6.3 Algorithm

We are going to combine the preprocessing phase with the matching phase to build an algorithm on the fly. To do so, we start constructing the  $\phi$  table, and if at any moment, we have found that the  $d_m$  bit in mask is set to 0, then we have found a match.

The program 2.9 shows the Shift-Or Algorithm.

---

#### Program 2.9 Shift-Or Algorithm

---

```

1  FUNCTION shiftOr( $p, T$ )
2     $\triangleright$  mask table is initialized with mask with all bits set to 1
3     $\triangleright$   $\phi$  is initialized with mask with all bits set to 1
4     $i \leftarrow 0$ 
5    while  $i < |p|$  do
6       $c \leftarrow p[i]$ 
7       $mask[c] = mask[c] \& \neg(2 * 10^i)$ 
8       $i \leftarrow i + 1$ 
9    end while
10   for  $c \in \mathcal{T}$  do
11      $\phi \leftarrow R | mask[c]$ 
12      $\phi \leftarrow R \ll 1$ 
13     if  $(R \& (2 * 10^m)) = 0$ 
14       match found
15   end for
16 end

```

---

### 2.6.4 Example 1

Let  $p = abra$  be a pattern and  $T = abracadabra$  a text. Let's use the Shift-Or algorithm to find the occurrences of  $p$  in  $\mathcal{T}$ . For this, we use the mask table 2.11

We start with  $\phi = 11110$ .

Then, we have the execution trace of the algorithm in table 2.12.

As we can see, we have found matches at iteration 3 and 10.

$i$	$\phi$	$c$	$mask[c]$	$\phi mask[c]$	$(\phi mask[c]) \ll 1$
0	11110	a	10110	11110	11100
1	11100	b	11101	11101	11010
2	11010	r	11011	11011	10110
3	10110	a	10110	10110	01100
4	01100	c	11111	11111	11110
5	11110	a	10110	11110	11100
6	11100	d	11111	11111	11110
7	11110	a	10110	11100	11100
8	11100	b	11101	11101	11010
9	11010	r	11011	11011	10110
10	10110	a	10110	10110	01100

**Table 2.12:** Execution trace of the Shift-Or Algorithm for  $p = abra$  and  $T = abracadabra$

### 2.6.5 Example 2

Let  $p = ACTG$  be a pattern and  $T = ATAAGTGTCA$  a text. Let's use the Shift-Or algorithm to find the occurrences of  $p$  in  $\mathcal{T}$ .

First, we generate the bitmask table, as we can see in table 2.13.

$c$	$b_1b_2b_3b_4$	$bitmask[c]$
A	0111	1110
C	1011	1100
T	1101	1011
G	1110	0111
*	1111	1111

**Table 2.13:** Bitmask table for  $p = ACTG$

Next, starting with  $\phi = 11110$ , the table 2.14 shows the execution trace of the Shift-Or Algorithm for this input.

As we can see, we have found a match at index 3 at iteration 6.

## 2.7 Trie Data Structure

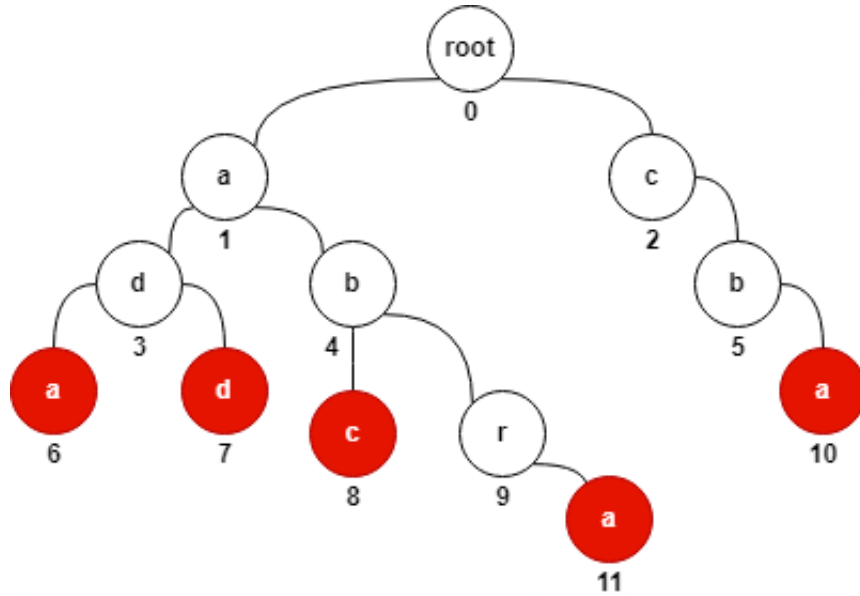
The Trie Data Structure is one of the most useful data structure for solving string problems. It allows us to perform pattern matching by constructing a tree of characters nodes. Moreover, the Aho-Corasick Algorithm is fundamentally based on the Trie Data Structure. So, we must study it first.

A trie is a tree of characters that encode a set of strings. A path from root to a node in the tree represents a string. The figure 2.1 shows the Trie Data Structure for the set of strings  $S = \{ada, abc, cba, add, abra\}$ . Notice that the root is a special node, and it is not represented by any character. Also, for every path from root to a node colored in red, the

$i$	$\phi$	$c$	$mask[c]$	$\phi mask[c]$	$(\phi mask[c]) \ll 1$
0	11110	A	11110	11110	11100
1	11100	T	11011	11111	11110
2	11110	A	11110	11110	11100
3	11100	A	11110	11110	11100
4	11100	C	11101	11101	11010
5	11010	T	11011	11011	10110
6	10110	G	10111	10111	01110
7	01110	T	11011	11111	11110
8	11110	C	11101	11111	11110
9	11110	A	11110	11110	11100

**Table 2.14:** Execution trace of the Shift-Or Algorithm for  $p = ACTG$  be a pattern and  $T = ATAAGTGTCA$

concatenation of the characters represented in the nodes will result in a string of  $S$ . The nodes colored in red are called "word nodes", and they are special because they represent ending characters of a string in  $S$ . The purpose of this shall be clarified when we discuss how to perform searches.



**Figure 2.1:** Trie Data Structure for the set of strings  $S = \{ada, abc, cba, add, abra\}$ .

The trie node can be defined as:

---

**Program 2.10** Trie node

---

```

1  struct trieNode
2      children  $\leftarrow (c \in \mathcal{A} \rightarrow TrieNode)$   $\triangleright$  Character map function
3      word  $\leftarrow$  false

```

---

### 2.7.1 Construction

To construct the Trie Data Structure from the set of patterns, we start with the empty trie, which is the one with only the root node, and insert each string of  $P$  into the trie. Therefore, the construction is simply a loop of insertions. Now, let's describe how to insert a string  $s$  in the trie.

We are going to insert each character of  $s$  separately. Starting from the root node, we check if there is already a child representing the first character of  $s$ . If so, then we simply move to this node. Otherwise we create a new node and move to it. After moving to the next node, we also proceed to the next character in  $s$  and repeat the process. After adding the last character, we mark its representative node as a word node.

#### Example

In the figure 2.1, we have a trie for the set of strings  $S = \{ada, abc, cba, add, abra\}$ . Now let us add the string  $abbd$ . We start at the root (node 0) and considering the character  $a$ . Since there is already a node from node 0 to a node with label  $a$ , the node 1, so we move to node 1 start considering the next character in  $abbd$ , which is  $b$ . Again, there is a child of node 1 with label  $b$ , the node 4. So we move to node 4 and start considering the next character in  $abbd$ , which is  $b$ . From node 4, there is no child with label  $b$ , so we create a new node, namely node 12, and move to it. We now consider the next character in  $abbd$ , which is  $d$ . From node 12, there is no child with label  $d$ . So we create a new node, namely node 13, and move to it. Since this is the last character of  $abbd$ , we mark this node as a word node.

Here, the code for inserting a string in the trie is given:

---

#### Program 2.11 Trie insert function.

---

```

1  FUNCTION trieInsert(root, s)
2      pointer  $\leftarrow$  root
3      for  $c \in s$ 
4          if root.children[c] is not defined
5              root.children[c]  $\leftarrow$  TrieNode(c)
6              pointer  $\leftarrow$  root.children[c]
7          end
8      pointer.word  $\leftarrow$  true
9  return ans

```

---

### 2.7.2 Pattern Searching

We can use the Trie Data Structure to perform pattern searches. The idea is to build a trie of all suffixes of the text  $\mathcal{T}$  and use it to check if there is an occurrence of a pattern  $p$  in  $T$ . We process each character  $c$  in the pattern  $p$  and, starting with the root, we follow the edges of the trie for each character. If, at any moment, there is no such edge, then the pattern doesn't occur in  $\mathcal{T}$ . If we find a leaf, we have found a match.

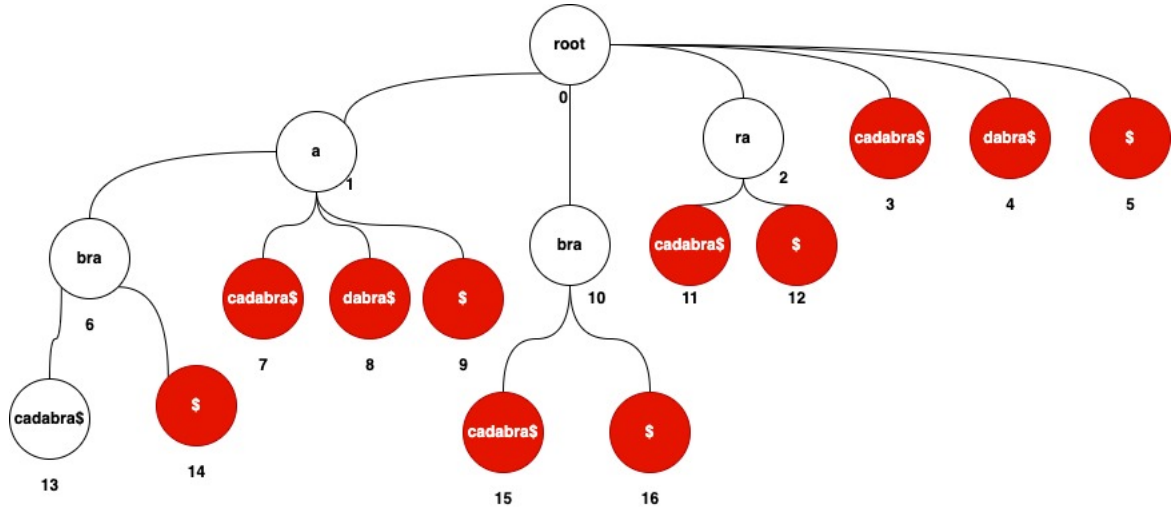
**Example 1**

Let  $\mathcal{T} = \text{abracadabra}$ , and  $p = \text{abra}$ . First, we generate all suffixes of  $T$  and build a trie with them. The table shows all suffixes of  $T$ , we use \$ to denote the ending of  $T$ .

i	suffix
0	abracadabra\$
1	bracadabra\$
2	racadabra\$
3	acadabra\$
4	cadabra\$
5	adabra\$
6	dabra\$
7	abra\$
8	abra\$
9	bra\$
10	ra\$
11	a\$
12	\$

**Table 2.15:** The suffixes of abracadabra

Then, we build a trie with all suffixes of  $\mathcal{T}$ , as we can see in the figure 2.2



**Figure 2.2:** Trie of suffixes for  $\mathcal{T} = \text{abracadabra}$

Now, we are going to iterate over each character of the pattern  $p$  while we move through the Trie. Starting at the root, we check if there is an edge with label corresponding to the next character in  $p$ . If so, then we follow this edge and repeat. If, at any moment there is no such edge, we conclude that the pattern does not exist in  $T$  and return. If all characters have been processed, then we print the suffix list of the current node, which yields the occurrences of  $p$  in  $T$ .

We start at the root. The next character in  $p$  is 'a', so we go to node 1.

The next characters are 'b', 'r' and 'a', we go to node 6.

Finally, the next character is \$, we go to node 14. Since this is a word node, we have found a match and we print the list of indices stored in this vertex.

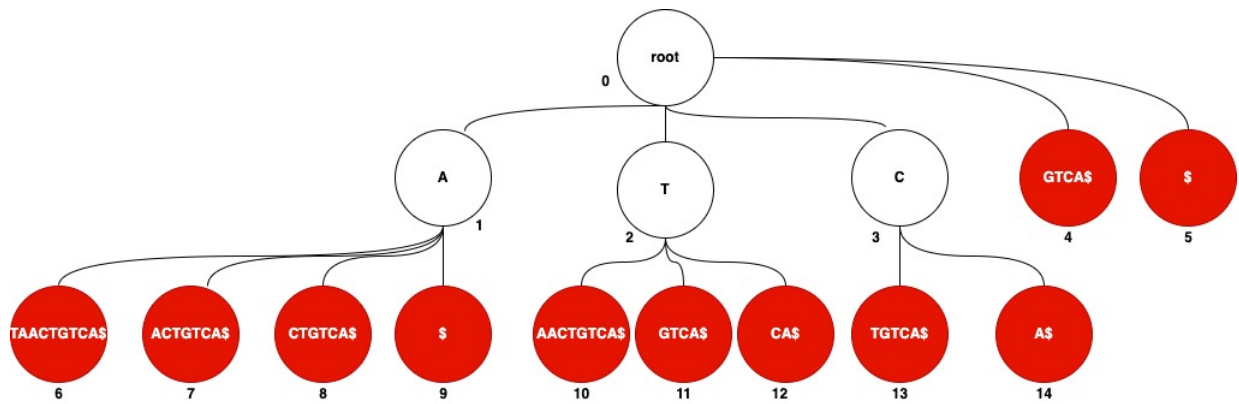
### Example 2

Let  $p = abc$  be a pattern and  $\mathcal{T} = ababbabcbabcc$  be a text. Let us generate all suffixes of  $T$ , as we can see in table XX.

i	suffix
0	ababbabcbabcc\$
1	babbabcbabcc\$
2	abbabcbabcc\$
3	bbabcbabcc\$
4	babcbabcc\$
5	abcbabcc\$
6	bcbabcc\$
7	cbabcc\$
8	babcc\$
9	abcc\$
10	bcc\$
11	cc\$
12	c\$
12	\$

**Table 2.16:** The suffixes of  $ababbabcbabcc$

Then, we build a Trie of all suffixes of  $\mathcal{T}$ , see figure 2.3



**Figure 2.3:** Trie of suffixes for  $\mathcal{T} = ababbabcbabcc$

Finally, we process each character of  $p$  and follow the edges of the Trie.

## Complexity

The complexity of this algorithm is given by the preprocessing phase and the searching phase. We can build the Trie in  $\mathcal{O}(|\mathcal{T}|^2)$  by generating all suffixes of  $\mathcal{T}$ . And then the search phase is simply iterating over each character of  $P$  and following edges, which can be done in  $\mathcal{O}(|P|)$ .

## Chapter 3

# Multiple Pattern String Matching

### 3.1 Introduction

In this chapter, we discuss algorithms to solve the following problem: Given a text  $\mathcal{T}$  and a set of patterns  $\mathcal{P}$ , where all symbols are from an alphabet  $\mathcal{A}$ , find all occurrences of all patterns of  $\mathcal{P}$  in  $\mathcal{T}$ . The algorithms we are going to study in this chapter have several similarities with the previous algorithms. Thus, it's very important to understand those algorithms first.

### 3.2 Aho-Corasick

The Aho-Corasick algorithm [AHO and CORASICK, 1975](#) is an extension of the Trie Data Structure to deal with multiple patterns. We construct an automaton by constructing a Trie from the set of patterns and then adding some additional links, the suffix link and the exit link.

#### 3.2.1 Preprocessing

The preprocessing of the Aho-Corasick is quite different from the other algorithms. We are going to describe how to construct a **finite deterministic automaton** from the Trie Data Structure. Suppose we have a set of patterns  $\mathcal{P}$  and a trie  $\mathcal{T}$  for the set of strings  $\mathcal{P}$ . We construct an automaton in which every vertex  $v$  of  $\mathcal{T}$  is a state, and for every edge  $e$  of the trie, we have a transition according to the corresponding letter. Notice that this does not define an automaton yet, since we have to define a transition from every letter from the alphabet. If there is no corresponding edge in the trie, then we have to go into some state. Let us describe formally how the Aho-Corasick deals with this problem.

Suppose we are currently in some state  $p$ , obtained from some vertex  $v$  in the trie. Define the string  $s[v]$  corresponding to  $v$  as the string obtained by the character nodes from the path from the root to the vertex  $v$ . Suppose we are processing a character  $c$ , if

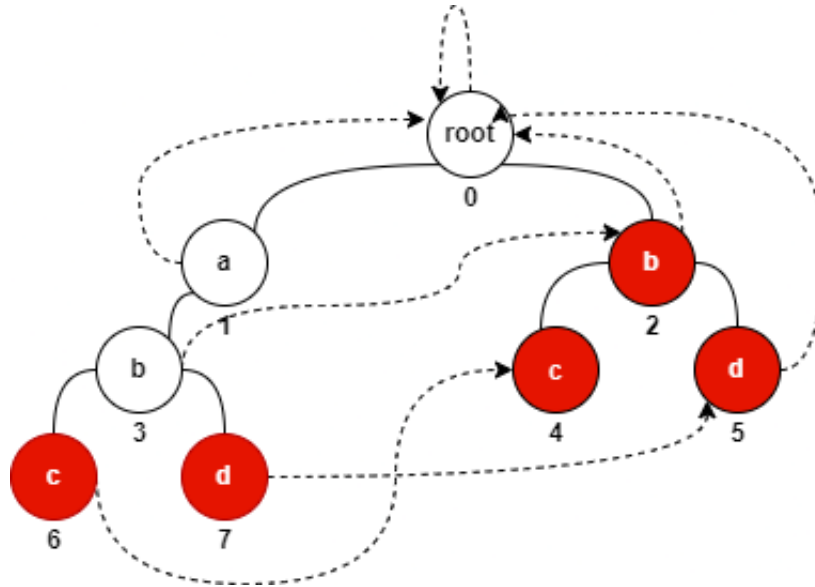
there is an edge in the Trie from  $v$ , with label  $c$ , then we can go over this edge and get the corresponding vertex and new state. Otherwise, we find the state corresponding to the longest proper suffix of the string  $s[v]$ , and try to perform the transition from there.

### 3.2.2 Suffix Link

A **suffix link** is an edge that leads to the proper suffix of the string  $s[v]$ . We build such links recursively. The base case is the root of the trie, in which the suffix link will point to itself. The general case we have some vertex  $v$ , and there is no transition from  $v$ , with letter  $c$ . Then, we can go to the ancestor  $p$  of  $v$ , follow its suffix link, which is already defined by induction, leading to some vertex  $u$ , and try to perform the transition with the letter  $c$  from  $u$ . If there is no such edge, we repeat until we reach the root, our base case. Therefore, we can build such links in linear time proportional to the height of the Trie.

#### Example

Let  $\mathcal{T} = abcabda$  and  $\mathcal{P} = [bc, bd, abc, abd]$ . Let's construct the Aho-Corasick data structure. Let's add the strings  $bc$ ,  $bd$ ,  $abc$  and  $abd$  to the Trie and add its suffix links (See figure 3.1). The dashed arrows represents suffix links and the red nodes represents word nodes.



**Figure 3.1:** Aho Corasick Data Structure for  $\mathcal{T} = abcabda$  and  $\mathcal{P} = [bc, bd, abc, abd]$ .

The node 1 represents the string "a". Since there are any proper suffixes of "a", we just add a suffix link pointing to the root.

The node 2, represents the string "b". Again, there are any proper suffixes, so we add a suffix link pointing to the root.

The node 3 represents the string "ab", the only proper suffix of "ab" is "b", which exists in the trie (node 2). So we add a suffix link pointing to node 2.

The node 4 represents the string "bc", the only proper suffix of "bc" is "c", which doesn't

exists in the trie. So we just add a suffix link pointing to the root. Since "bc" is a pattern, we mark this node as a word node.

The node 5 represents the string "bd", its only proper suffix is "d", which doesn't exist in the trie. So we add a suffix link pointing to the root.

The node 6 represents the string "abc", its proper suffixes are "c", and "bc". The longest one is "bc", which exists in the Trie (node 4). So we add a suffix link pointing to node 4. Since "abc" is a pattern, we mark this node as a word node.

The node 7 represents the string "abd", its proper suffixes are "d" and "bd". The longest one is "bd", which exists in the Trie (node 5). So we add a suffix link pointing to node 5. Since "abd" is a pattern, we mark this node as a word node.

### 3.2.3 Search

So, how do we perform searches? We iterate over the text  $\mathcal{T}$  and we perform the transitions for every letter, starting from the root. If the next letter exists in the Trie, we simply go over its edge. Otherwise we must follow the suffix link and try again. Whenever we pass through a word node, we print the corresponding match.

#### Example

In the previous example,  $\mathcal{T} = abcabda$  and  $\mathcal{P} = [bc, bd, abc, abd]$ . We start at the root, and try to perform the transition to letter 'a', moving to node 1.

The next letter is 'b', so we move to node 3. The next letter is 'c', so we move to node 6. Node 6 is a word node, so we print its corresponding match which is "abc".

The next letter is 'a'. There is no edge from the node 6 to a node with the letter 'a', so we go over its suffix link and move to node 4 and try to perform the transition from there. Node 4 is a word node, so we print the pattern "bc". However, again there is no edge to a character 'a', so we go over its suffix link and move to node 0 (the root) and perform the transition to node 1.

The next letter is 'b', so we move to node 3. The next letter is 'd', so we move to node 7. Node 7 is a word node, so we print the pattern "abd".

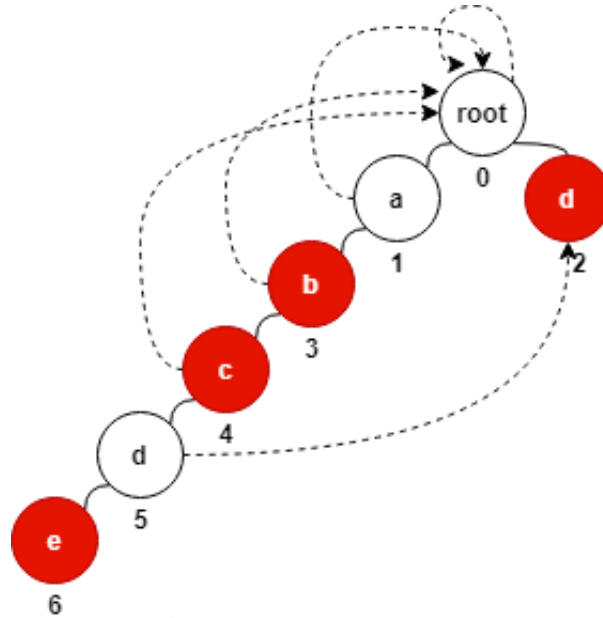
The next letter is 'a'. Since there is no transition to a node with letter 'a' from the node 7, we go over its suffix link (which points to the root) and perform the transition to node 1, which ends the search.

### 3.2.4 Exit Links

How do we verify the matches with this automaton? It is clear that whenever we reach a leaf vertex  $v$ , then the string  $s[v]$  is a match. But, there may be one, or several other matches. If we reach a leaf vertex and move along the suffix links, then there will be a match for every leaf that we find. To speed up this process of finding new matches, the Aho-Corasick also creates another type of link: the **exit link**, which is simply the nearest leaf vertex that is reachable using suffix links. Again, we can construct such links in a recursive way.

### Example

Let  $\mathcal{T} = abcd$  and  $\mathcal{P} = [ab, abc, abcde, d]$ . The next figure shows the Aho-Corasick data structure with just the suffix links.



**Figure 3.2:** Aho Corasick Data Structure for  $\mathcal{T} = abcd$  and  $\mathcal{P} = [ab, abc, abcde, d]$ .

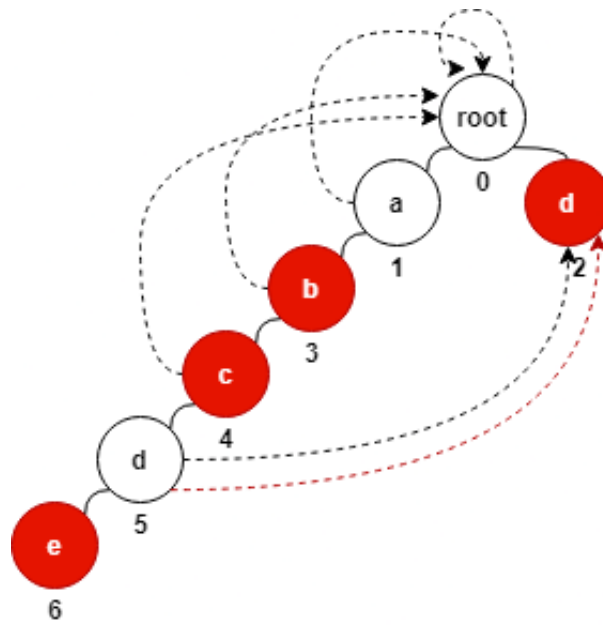
Now let us use the automaton to find matches. We start at root (node 0). The first letter in  $\mathcal{T}$  is 'a'. So we move to node 1. The next character is 'b', so we move to node 3. Since node 3 is a word node, we print the match "ab". The next character is 'c', so we move to node 4. Again, the node 4 is a word node, so we print the match "abc". The last character is 'd', so we move to node 5 and we finish our search. However, the pattern 'd' was not found. We can fix this problem by adding the exit links.

The next figure shows the data structure with the exit links added. Now, for every character, we must check its exit link, if it points to a leaf node, then we have found a match! In the previous case, the node 5 now has a exit link to node 2, which is a word node and the pattern "d" can now be found.

### 3.2.5 Final Algorithm

As some of the previous algorithms, the Aho-Corasick Algorithm is also composed of two phases: the build phase and the search phase. During the build phase, we build the suffix and exit links, which will be implemented using arrays. The build phase can be decomposed in two sub-phases:

- We build the trie by adding all characters of all patterns. In this step, we build the array `go`, which will be used to determine the next state in the automaton, and start building the array `exit`, which will represent a map from a state to a bitmask representing the exit links.



**Figure 3.3:** Aho Corasick Data Structure, now with exit links added, for  $\mathcal{T} = abcd$  and  $\mathcal{P} = [ab, abc, abcde, d]$ .

- We then use a queue data structure to build the suffix links and finishing building the exit links.

The algorithm 3.1 shows the build phase of the Aho-Corasick algorithm.

---

**Program 3.1** Aho-Corasick build phase

---

```

1  FUNCTION build( $\mathcal{P}$ )
2     $\triangleright$   $exit[state]$  will map state to a bitmask representing the index of patterns reachable using
      exit links
3     $\triangleright$   $go[state][c]$  will represent the new state obtained from state following the character  $c$  edge
4     $\triangleright$   $suffix[state]$  will represent the new state obtained from state following the suffix link
5     $count \leftarrow 0$   $\triangleright$  Will be used to track the index of patterns
6    for  $p \in \mathcal{P}$ 
7       $currentState \leftarrow 0$ 
8      for  $c \in p$ 
9        if  $go[currentState][c]$  is  $\emptyset$ 
10          $go[currentState][c] \leftarrow$  new state
11          $currentState \leftarrow go[currentState][c]$ 
12      end
13     $\triangleright$  Here we set the bit representing the pattern  $p$  in the final state from previous loop
14       $exit[currentState] \mid= (1 \ll count)$ 
15       $count \leftarrow count + 1$ 
16    end
17  return  $exit, go, suffix$ 

```

---

Finally, the algorithm 3.2 shows the search phase of the Aho-Corasick algorithm. Here, we use an auxiliary function called next, which will be used whenever we are have found

no transition from a particular state with letter  $c$  and we have to traverse the suffix links to keep trying.

---

**Program 3.2** Aho-Corasick Search Phase
 

---

```

1  FUNCTION next( $go, currentState, c$ )
2    while  $go[currentState][c]$  is  $\emptyset$ 
3       $currentState = suffix[currentState]$ 
4    end
5    return  $go[currentState][c]$ 
6
7  FUNCTION search( $\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{P}, exit, go, suffix$ )
8     $currentState \leftarrow 0$ 
9    for  $c \in \mathcal{T}$ 
10      $currentState \leftarrow next(currentState, c)$ 
11
12     $\triangleright$  One or several matches found.
13    if  $out[currentState]$  is not  $\emptyset$ 
14       $count \leftarrow 0$ 
15      for  $p \in \mathcal{P}$ 
16        if ( $out[currentState] \& (1 < count)$ )
17          match found
18           $count \leftarrow count + 1$ 
19      end
20    end

```

---

### 3.2.6 Complexity

The build phase of the Aho-Corasick algorithm is  $\mathcal{O}(|\mathcal{P}|)$  of time-complexity. Now, for the search phase, we process each character  $c$  of  $\mathcal{T}$  and we have to check for matches. Therefore, the time-complexity of the Aho-Corasick algorithm is  $\mathcal{O}(\mathcal{T} + |ans|)$ , where  $|ans|$  is the number of matches found. For memory, we use  $\mathcal{O}(|\mathcal{A}||\mathcal{P}|)$ , where  $|\mathcal{A}|$  is the size of the alphabet.

## 3.3 Wu-Manber

The Wu-Manber algorithm [WU and MANBER, 1994](#) is mainly an extension from the Boyer-Moore algorithm to deal with multiple patterns. As with the other algorithms, we have a preprocessing phase of building some tables and then a search phase. We are going to build three tables, a SHIFT table, similar to the Boyer-Moore shift table, and a HASH table and PREFIX tables, which uses some heuristics to check matches.

### 3.3.1 Polynomial rolling hash

Before we study the Wu-Manber algorithm, we present a string hash technique which is called the polynomial rolling hash of a string  $s$ . This hash technique will be used in the Wu-Manber algorithm.

Let  $p$  and  $m$  be fixed positive numbers, the Polynomial Rolling Hash of a string  $s$  is

$$\text{hash}(s) = s[0] + s[1] * p + s[2] * p^2 + \dots + s[n-1] * p^{n-1} \mod m$$

### 3.3.2 Preprocessing

Suppose we have a set of patterns  $\mathcal{P}$ . Let  $m$  be the minimum length of a pattern, i.e.  $m$  is the minimum size  $|p|$  for all  $p \in \mathcal{P}$ . Also, let  $M$  be the total size of the patterns and  $c$  the size of the alphabet. We are going to consider the first  $m$  characters of each pattern in order to build the tables. Also, we are going to consider a sliding window in the text  $T$ , of size  $B$ , where  $B = \log_c 2M$ . To build the SHIFT table, we consider each pattern  $p \in \mathcal{P}$  and each substring  $s$  of size  $B$  of  $p$ .  $\text{SHIFT}[s]$  will be the largest possible value for a shift. Let  $T_i$  the text window of size  $B$  obtained at iteration  $i$ , i.e.  $T_i = T_i \dots T_{i+B-1}$ . We have two cases:

- $T_i$  occurs in some pattern, i.e.  $T_i$  is a substring of one or more patterns in  $\mathcal{P}$
- $T_i$  does not occur in any pattern  $p \in \mathcal{P}$

If case 1 holds, then we have to shift the sliding window to allow for all occurrences of  $T_i$  be checked. Therefore, similar to the Boyer-Moore algorithm, we find the rightmost occurrence of  $T_i$  in  $P$ , which occurs in some index  $q$ . And we set  $\text{SHIFT}[i] \leftarrow m - q$  (see figure 3). Suppose case 2 holds, then we can shift our sliding window by  $m - B + 1$  characters, since any smaller shift would get a mismatch. We can set  $\text{SHIFT}[i] \leftarrow m - B + 1$ .

The program 3.4 shows the Preprocessing phase of Wu-Manber algorithm

---

#### Program 3.3 Wu-Manber Preprocessing

---

```

1  FUNCTION hash(s)
2      p ← 31
3      mod ← 1 * 109 + 9
4      hash ← 0
5      power ← 1
6      for c ∈ s:
7          hash ← (hash + value(c) * power) % mod
8          power ← (power * p) % mod
9      return hash
10
11 FUNCTION preprocess(P, B)
12     m ← inf
13
14     for p ∈ P do
15         m ← min(|p|, m)
16     end for
17
18     # SHIFT table is initialized with m - B + 1
19     for p ∈ P do
```

cont →

```

    → cont
20       $j \leftarrow m$ 
21      while  $j \geq B$  do
22           $hash \leftarrow \text{compute\_hash}(p[j-B \dots j])$ 
23           $shift \leftarrow m - j$ 
24           $SHIFT[hash] \leftarrow \min(SHIFT[hash], shift)$ 
25          if  $shift = 0$ 
26               $prefixHash \leftarrow \text{compute\_hash}(p[0 \dots 1])$ 
27               $idx = i$ 
28               $\text{push}(TABLE[hash], (prefixHash, idx))$ 
29          end while
30      end for
31      return  $SHIFT, TABLE$ 

```

---

### Example

Let  $\mathcal{T} = \text{abracadabra}$  and  $\mathcal{P} = [\text{abra}, \text{cada}, \text{bra}, \text{aca}]$ . Suppose  $B = 2$ . In this case,  $m = 3$ , and considering only the first  $m$  characters of each pattern we get  $\mathcal{P}' = [\text{abr}, \text{cad}, \text{bra}, \text{aca}]$ . The prefix table will contain the polynomial rolling hash for each prefix of size 2 (because we set  $B = 2$ ). The table 3.1 shows the prefix table for this example.

Prefix Table	
ab	63
ca	34
br	560
ac	94

**Table 3.1:** Prefix Table for  $\mathcal{T} = \text{abracadabra}$  and  $\mathcal{P} = [\text{abra}, \text{cada}, \text{bra}, \text{aca}]$  with  $B = 2$

Now, for each pattern in  $\mathcal{P}'$ , we consider its suffix of size 2 to construct the hash table. We have the suffixes "ca", "ra", "ad" and "br". We map each suffix to a list of pairs. The first value is the pattern in  $\mathcal{P}'$  which has the key as suffix, and the second value is the polynomial rolling hash for the prefix of this pattern.

For the shift table, the initial value of each key will be  $m - B + 1$ . We map each substring  $s$  of size  $B$  from  $\mathcal{P}'$  to the minimum of its current value and  $m - j$ , where  $j$  is the position of the last character of  $s$  in  $P_i = a_1 \dots a_{|P_i|}$ ,  $P_i \in \mathcal{P}'$ . Let's see how it's done in this example.

We have the substrings "ab", "br", "ca", "ad", "ra", and "ac", and the initial value is 2, since  $m = 3$  and  $B = 2$ .

Now we iterate over each pattern in  $\mathcal{P}'$ .

For "abr", we map "ab" to  $\min(2, 3 - 2) = 1$  and "br" to  $\min(2, 3 - 3) = 0$ .

For "cad", we map "ca" to  $\min(2, 3 - 2) = 1$  and "ad" to  $\min(2, 3 - 3) = 0$ .

For "bra", we map "br" to  $\min(0, 3 - 2) = 0$  and "ra" to  $\min(2, 3 - 3) = 0$ .

For "aca", we map "ac" to  $\min(2, 3 - 2) = 1$  and "ca" to  $\min(1, 3 - 3) = 0$ .

The table 3.2 shows the final shift table

Shift Table	
Key	Shift
ab	1
br	0
ca	0
ad	0
ra	0
ac	1

**Table 3.2:** Shift table for  $\mathcal{P} = [abra, cada, bra, aca]$

### 3.3.3 Search

In the searching phase, we use a sliding window of size  $m$  and we calculate the polynomial rolling hash for the suffix of size  $B$  of the window and we check the Shift Table. If it's greater than zero, we shift the window accordingly and repeat the process. Otherwise we may have one, or several, matches. The hash table for this suffix key holds all possible candidates. So how do we check for them efficiently? One may do this with a brute-force fashion, checking each pattern for a match. We can do better using a heuristic described by Wu Manber and using the precomputed tables. Since the hash table value is a list of pairs where the first value is the polynomial rolling hash for the prefix, we can use it as a filter method. This heuristic is good in practice when it is unlikely to have patterns with the same prefix and suffix.

The program 3.4 shows the search phase of Wu-Manber algorithm.

---

#### Program 3.4 Wu-Manber Search

---

```

1  FUNCTION search( $\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{P}$ )
2       $idx \leftarrow m-1$ 
3      while  $idx < |\mathcal{T}|$  do  $\triangleright$  Compute hash value based on current  $B$  characters from text
4
5           $hash \leftarrow \text{compute\_hash}(\mathcal{T}[idx - B + 1 \dots idx])$ 
6
7          if  $SHIFT[h] > 0$ 
8               $idx \leftarrow idx + SHIFT[h]$ 
9
10         else  $\triangleright$  Possible match
11              $prefixHash \leftarrow \text{compute\_hash}(\mathcal{T}[idx-m+1 \dots idx-m+B])$ 
12             for  $(hash, p) \in TABLE[h]$  do
13                 if  $hash = prefixHash$   $\triangleright$  Wu-Manber heuristic
14                     check match
15             end for
16              $idx \leftarrow idx + 1$ 
17         end while
18     end

```

---

### Example

The table 3.3 shows the execution of the Wu Manber searching phase for  $\mathcal{T} = \text{abracadabra}$  and  $\mathcal{P} = [\text{abra}, \text{cada}, \text{bra}, \text{aca}]$ , with  $B = 2$ . For example, at iteration 0, the shift value holds zero and the hash table is checked for the suffix br. The hash table yields the candidate abra and, since it has the same prefix value of window, we verify the match of abra, which is true.

i	window	prefix (hash)	suffix (hash)	shift
0	abr	ab (63)	br (560)	0 (match found "abra")
1	bra	br (560)	ra (49)	0 (match found "bra")
2	rac	ra (49)	ac (94)	1
3	aca	ac (94)	ca (34)	0
4	cad	ca (34)	ad (125)	0
0	abr	ab (63)	br (560)	0 (match found "abra")
1	bra	br (560)	ra (49)	0 (match found "bra")

**Table 3.3:** Searching phase of Wu-Manber algorithm

#### 3.3.4 Complexity

Regarding the Memory complexity, the algorithm is  $\mathcal{O}(|T| + |M|)$ , in order to build the tables. To analyse the time-complexity, the original Wu Manber paper [WU and MANBER, 1994](#) provides an estimation of the running time for this algorithm. The algorithm is  $\mathcal{O}(B|\mathcal{T}|/|\mathcal{P}|)$  of time-complexity in the average case.

# Chapter 4

## Comparative Analysis of Performance

### 4.1 Introduction

In this section, we are going to test the performance of the discussed algorithms. For testing the algorithms for the Single Pattern Matching problem, it is useful to check the performance of the algorithms against different text input sizes and pattern sizes. Therefore, we use four different texts, with increasing length (i.e, number of words) and a set of 6 words from the text. We run the algorithms for each text and each word, and take the average measured running time for each text. For dealing with Multiple Pattern experiments, however, we use two large texts, and test the algorithms with a increasing number of patterns selected from the text. The Input texts and word lists are available in appendix 1.

All experiments were performed on a Ubuntu 20.04, Intel I5 8400, 8GBM Ram and the algorithms were implemented in C++, available at <https://github.com/raphaelrbr/mac499>

### 4.2 Single Pattern Experiments

We are going to compare the performance of the Single Pattern Matching algorithms. To do so, we conduct four experiments. In each one, we fix the test and select 8 patterns from it and we measure the running time for finding these patterns.

#### 4.2.1 Experiment 1

For the first experiment, we use as  $\mathcal{T}$  the text "Raven" by Edgar Allan Poe. We measure the running time for finding each one of the following patterns: this, that, door, chamber, bird, raven, nevermore and lenore. The results are shown in table 4.1.

Pattern	Boyer-Moore	Boyer-Moore-Horspool	Trie	Shift-Or	KMP
this	9 $\mu s$	21 $\mu s$	23997704 $\mu s$	85 $\mu s$	123 $\mu s$
that	9 $\mu s$	7 $\mu s$	24222057 $\mu s$	43 $\mu s$	132 $\mu s$
door	8 $\mu s$	8 $\mu s$	22774469 $\mu s$	42 $\mu s$	122 $\mu s$
chamber	19 $\mu s$	8 $\mu s$	22623642 $\mu s$	42 $\mu s$	112 $\mu s$
bird	9 $\mu s$	7 $\mu s$	22636409 $\mu s$	42 $\mu s$	121 $\mu s$
raven	9 $\mu s$	8 $\mu s$	22726710 $\mu s$	43 $\mu s$	127 $\mu s$
nevermore	9 $\mu s$	12 $\mu s$	22765160 $\mu s$	45 $\mu s$	119 $\mu s$
lenore	16 $\mu s$	8 $\mu s$	22682270 $\mu s$	46 $\mu s$	124 $\mu s$

**Table 4.1:** Running time for the text *Raven*, by Edgar Allan Poe.

#### 4.2.2 Experiment 2

For the second experiment, we use as  $\mathcal{T}$  the text "Rise" by Maya Angelou. We measure the running time for finding each one of the following patterns: rise, like, with, your, does, still, just and that. The results are shown in table 4.2.

Pattern	Boyer-Moore	Boyer-Moore-Horspool	Trie	Shift-Or	KMP
rise	3 $\mu s$	4 $\mu s$	756352 $\mu s$	22 $\mu s$	27 $\mu s$
like	3 $\mu s$	3 $\mu s$	750164 $\mu s$	18 $\mu s$	27 $\mu s$
with	7 $\mu s$	3 $\mu s$	748005 $\mu s$	37 $\mu s$	25 $\mu s$
your	7 $\mu s$	3 $\mu s$	747135 $\mu s$	18 $\mu s$	26 $\mu s$
does	5 $\mu s$	4 $\mu s$	747322 $\mu s$	18 $\mu s$	26 $\mu s$
still	6 $\mu s$	3 $\mu s$	750752 $\mu s$	20 $\mu s$	35 $\mu s$
just	8 $\mu s$	3 $\mu s$	749315 $\mu s$	19 $\mu s$	25 $\mu s$
that	7 $\mu s$	3 $\mu s$	742445 $\mu s$	20 $\mu s$	39 $\mu s$

**Table 4.2:** Running time for the text *Rise*, by Maya Angelou.

#### 4.2.3 Experiment 3

For the third experiment, we use as  $\mathcal{T}$  the book "DonQuixote" by Miguel de Cervantes. We measure the running time for finding each one of the following patterns: that, with, this, they, said, have, quixote and sancho. The results are shown in table 4.3. The Trie Data Structure was omitted for this experiment because the algorithm could not finish under a reasonable amount of time for the purpose of this experiment.

#### 4.2.4 Experiment 4

For the third experiment, we use as  $\mathcal{T}$  the book "Hamlet" by Shakespeare. We measure the running time for finding each one of the following patterns: hamlet, that, this, with, your, lord, what and king. The results are shown in table 4.4. Again, the Trie data structure was omitted for this experiment.

Pattern	Boyer-Moore	Boyer-Moore-Horspool	Trie	Shift-Or	KMP
that	11399 $\mu s$	9029 $\mu s$	-	11202 $\mu s$	41130 $\mu s$
with	11426 $\mu s$	7223 $\mu s$	-	11361 $\mu s$	38608 $\mu s$
this	11009 $\mu s$	7339 $\mu s$	-	11194 $\mu s$	40885 $\mu s$
they	11036 $\mu s$	7111 $\mu s$	-	11125 $\mu s$	41443 $\mu s$
said	10570 $\mu s$	7456 $\mu s$	-	11156 $\mu s$	39446 $\mu s$
have	11055 $\mu s$	7414 $\mu s$	-	111223 $\mu s$	39915 $\mu s$
quixote	8200 $\mu s$	5821 $\mu s$	-	11149 $\mu s$	37819 $\mu s$
sancho	8466 $\mu s$	5915 $\mu s$	-	11154 $\mu s$	39976 $\mu s$

**Table 4.3:** Running time for the book "DonQuixote" by Miguel de Cervantes.

Pattern	Boyer-Moore	Boyer-Moore-Horspool	Trie	Shift-Or	KMP
hamlet	942 $\mu s$	785 $\mu s$	-	859 $\mu s$	3654 $\mu s$
that	906 $\mu s$	630 $\mu s$	-	940 $\mu s$	3295 $\mu s$
this	927 $\mu s$	597 $\mu s$	-	889 $\mu s$	3349 $\mu s$
with	917 $\mu s$	587 $\mu s$	-	895 $\mu s$	3387 $\mu s$
your	943 $\mu s$	616 $\mu s$	-	914 $\mu s$	3299 $\mu s$
lord	729 $\mu s$	601 $\mu s$	-	1080 $\mu s$	3331 $\mu s$
what	923 $\mu s$	627 $\mu s$	-	897 $\mu s$	3315 $\mu s$
king	944 $\mu s$	713 $\mu s$	-	882 $\mu s$	3407 $\mu s$

**Table 4.4:** Running time for the book "Hamlet" by Shakespeare.

### 4.2.5 Results

As we can see, the Boyer-Moore was the fastest algorithm to find the patterns in the experiments 1 and 2. However, in the third and fourth experiment, we can see the Boyer-Moore-Horspool is slightly faster, which may suggest this algorithm can be faster than the Boyer-Moore for large texts. The Trie data structure is significantly slower than the other algorithms due to its build phase. The Shift-Or and KMP algorithms were similar in performance but still slower than the Boyer-Moore and Boyer-Moore-Horspool algorithms.

## 4.3 Multiple Pattern Experiments

Now, we are going to compare the performance of the Aho-Corasick algorithm and the Wu-Manber algorithm. To do so, we conduct two experiments, using a fixed text and varying the number of patterns from 8 to 256, measuring the running time to find these patterns.

### 4.3.1 Experiment 1

For the first experiment, we use the book "DonQuixote" by Miguel de Cervantes. We measure the running time for finding a set of patterns with length varying from 8 to 256. The patterns were chosen among the most frequent words from this book. The results are

shown in table 4.5

no. of patterns	Aho-Corasick	Wu-Manber
8	168029 $\mu s$	980976 $\mu s$
16	242129 $\mu s$	1106758 $\mu s$
32	337313 $\mu s$	1321426 $\mu s$
64	891802 $\mu s$	1580664 $\mu s$
128	2329824 $\mu s$	1730832 $\mu s$
256	6037932 $\mu s$	2010092 $\mu s$

**Table 4.5:** Running time for the multiple pattern algorithms for book "DonQuixote" by Miguel de Cervantes.

### 4.3.2 Experiment 2

For the second experiment, we use the book "Hamlet" by Shakespeare. We measure the running time for finding a set of patterns with length varying from 8 to 256. The patterns were chosen among the most frequent words from this book. The results are shown in table 4.6

no. of patterns	Aho-Corasick	Wu-Manber
8	15841 $\mu s$	119811 $\mu s$
16	22175 $\mu s$	128568 $\mu s$
32	31451 $\mu s$	149018 $\mu s$
64	88873 $\mu s$	166448 $\mu s$
128	252300 $\mu s$	198210 $\mu s$
256	8662316 $\mu s$	214881 $\mu s$

**Table 4.6:** Running time for the multiple pattern algorithms for book "Hamlet" by Shakespeare.

### 4.3.3 Results

Our experiments shows that the Aho-Corasick algorithm performs faster than the Wu-Manber algorithm for a small number of patterns. However, for large number of patterns we can see the Wu-Manber algorithm performing significantly faster than the Aho-Corasick algorithm, which may suggest this algorithm is a better approach for a large number of patterns.

## Chapter 5

# Final Considerations

In this monograph, we have explored various algorithms for string matching and pattern recognition, including the Trie data structure, KMP, Boyer-Moore, Aho-Corasick, and Wu-Manber algorithms. These algorithms have proven to be powerful tools for solving a wide range of problems in computer science, from text processing and information retrieval to cybersecurity and data compression.

Our experiments suggest that for solving the Single Pattern Matching Problem, the Boyer-Moore and Boyer-Moore-Horspool algorithms were better suited in terms of performance. The Shift-Or and KMP were similar in performance but still slower than the first two algorithms. In last, the Trie Data Structure was the slowest due to its build phase. However, there are several ways to improve the performance of the build phase of this algorithm but these techniques are beyond the scope of this monograph.

Regarding the Multiple Pattern Matching Problem, we have studied the Wu-Manber and Aho-Corasick algorithms. Our experiments suggest that the Aho-Corasick algorithm performs faster than the Wu-Manber algorithm for a small number of patterns and the opposite for a large number of patterns. However, it is important to highlight there are many heuristics that can be used to improve the performance of these algorithms and there are many different implementations for them.

In conclusion, this monograph has provided the reader with a solid foundation in string matching algorithms and a better understanding of how these algorithms work and when to use them. These algorithms will be valuable tools for solving complex problems.



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