String indexing in the Word RAM model, part 1

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Sometimes we use the Turing machine model, where we have a fixed number of tapes consisting of binary cells, and the only thing we can do is moving the heads. But this is not really how real computers are built, and we would like to work in a more realistic model.

| Word RAM | Memory is divided into cells of size $w \ge \log n$ called words . There is a fixed set of $\mathcal{O}(1)$ time C-style operations, one of them being indirect addressing, so given a word containing <i>x</i> , we can access the cell <i>x</i> (not |
|---------------------|---|
| AC ⁰ RAM | The input consists of numbers stored in single words. All operations must be implemented by constant-depth, unbounded fan-in, polynomial-size (in <i>w</i>) circuits. No multi- plication. |
| Practical RAM | Just addition, shift, and bitwise boolean operations. |
| RAMBO RAM | Bits in different words may overlap. |
| Cell probe model | We only pay for accessing cells. The com- putation itself is free and the model is no- nuniform. Good for lower bounds! |

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String indexing

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Today we will see suffix arrays, which allow us to preprocess a string in O(n) space and time, so that later any query can be answered in time $O(m + \log n)$, or (after some tweaks) even better.

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Lexicographical comparison

 $s \le t$ if either s is a prefix of t, or s and t agree on the first i - 1 positions, i.e., s[1] = t[1], s[2] = t[2], ..., s[i - 1] = t[i - 1], and then s[i] < t[i].

While assuming that the size of the alphabet is constant is not unusual here, in some applications we will work in a more general setting, where a string of length *n* consists of letters which are numbers from $\{1, ..., n\}$. (But not much larger!)

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Now the suffix array is simply the lexicographically sorted list of all suffixes of a given word w.

| <i>SA</i> [1] = | 11 | | |
|------------------|----|--|-----------|
| <i>SA</i> [2] = | | | |
| SA[3] = | 5 | | |
| SA[4] = | 2 | | |
| SA[5] = | 1 | | |
| SA[6] = | 10 | | |
| SA[7] = | 9 | | |
| SA[8] = | 7 | | |
| SA[9] = | 4 | | |
| <i>SA</i> [10] = | 6 | | |
| <i>SA</i> [11] = | 3 | | ssissippi |

Now the suffix array is simply the lexicographically sorted list of all suffixes of a given word w.

| W = mississippi | | | | | |
|------------------------|----|---|-------------|--|--|
| <i>SA</i> [1] = | 11 | = | i | | |
| <i>SA</i> [2] = | 8 | = | ippi | | |
| <i>SA</i> [3] = | 5 | = | issippi | | |
| <i>SA</i> [4] = | 2 | = | ississippi | | |
| <i>SA</i> [5] = | 1 | = | mississippi | | |
| <i>SA</i> [6] = | 10 | = | pi | | |
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| <i>SA</i> [8] = | 7 | = | sippi | | |
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Generating all occurrences of a given pattern

Say that we want to output all occurrences of p = ippi. Can we say something about the structure of the set of all occurrences when we look at the sorted list of all suffixes?

Lemma

All occurrences of the same *p* create a contiguous fragment $SA[i], SA[i + 1], \ldots, SA[j]$ of the suffix array.

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SA[i-1]

Recall that SA[1] < SA[2] < ... < SA[n]. Hence we can binary search for the value of *i*! And then verify if it corresponds to an occurrence, i.e., whether *p* is indeed a prefix of SA[i].

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So far so good, but there are at least three questions:

- How much time the binary search takes?
- How much space do we need to store the suffix array?
- How much time do we need to compute the suffix array?

Binary searching is more tricky. There are just $O(\log n)$ iterations, but each of them requires... ...O(m) time. Hence the total complexity is $O(m \log n)$. Later we will see how to decrease it to $O(m + \log n)$.

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Radix sort

A sequence of *n* numbers from $\{1, 2, ..., k\}$ can be sorted in $\mathcal{O}(n + k)$ time. A sequence of *n* pairs from $\{1, ..., k\} \times \{1, ..., k\}$ can be sorted in the same complexity.

What about a sequence of triples?

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Let's start with an $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ time algorithm.

$\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ algorithm

For each i = n, n - 1, n - 2, ..., 1 construct a sorted list L_i containing all w[i..n], w[i + 1..n], w[i + 2..n], ... w[n..n].

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When you think about the previous solution, some fragments of the word will be compared again... and again...

We apply the *doubling* method. To make the description easier, append n additional null characters to w, so that it is actually a word of length 2n.

$\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$ algorithm

For each $i = 0, 1, 2, ..., \log n$ construct a sorted list L_i containing all $w[1..1 + 2^i - 1], w[2..2 + 2^i - 1], ..., w[n..n + 2^i - 1].$

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Kärkkäinen and Sanders 2003

Suffix array can be constructed in O(n) time.

The idea is recursive. We will try to design the algorithm so that its running time can be expressed as $T(n) = T(\alpha n) + O(n)$, where α is *some* constant less than 1.

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We partition all suffixes into three groups.

$$S_0 = \{w[3..n], w[6..n], w[9..n], ...\}$$

$$S_1 = \{w[1..n], w[4..n], w[7..n], ...\}$$

$$S_2 = \{w[2..n], w[5..n], w[8..n], ...\}$$

 S_r are all suffixes that start at positions of the form 3k + r.

The goal is to sort all suffixes. We could start with something simpler: sorting (separately) each S_r .

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First trick

Say that we want to sort only S_1 . We could split *w* into blocks of length 3, treat each block as a single letter, and recursively solve a smaller problem of size $\frac{n}{3}$.

We must be careful here: we promised that the input word of length |w| will contain only letters $\{1, 2, ..., |w|\}$, and here we create triples of letters.

Alphabet renaming

Create a sorted list of all triples (w[i], w[i + 1], w[i + 2]) and then compute the number nr(i) of each triples there. This can be done in O(n) time using radix sort.

We append two null characters to w, so that the expression (w[i], w[i + 1], w[i + 2]) always makes sense.

| (w[1], w[2], w[3]) $(w[4], w[5], w[6])$ | ••• | (w[n-2], w[n-1], w[n]) |
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| (w[1], w[2], w[3]) | (w[4], w[5], w[6]) |
|--------------------|--------------------|
|--------------------|--------------------|

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| $\operatorname{nr}(1)$ $\operatorname{nr}(4)$ \cdots $\operatorname{nr}(n-2)$ |
|---|
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OK, so we can sort S_1 . Similarly, we can sort S_0 and S_2 , but we cannot afford to sort all of them!

Second trick

Assuming that we have already sorted $S_1 \cup S_2$, we can sort $S_0 \cup S_1$ in $\mathcal{O}(n)$ time. For this we represent every suffix from $S_0 \cup S_1$ as a pair:

- w[3k..n] becomes (w[3k], w[3k + 1..n]),
- w[3k+1..n] becomes (w[3k+1], w[3k+2..n]),

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We can sort S_0 by replacing a suffix w[3k..n] with the corresponding pair, and then sorting the pairs using radix sort. Just replace the second element of each pair with its position in the already known sorted sequence of all $S_1 \cup S_2$!

Then we only have to merge two sorted sequences of length $\frac{1}{3}n$ and $\frac{2}{3}n$. This can be done in linear time, assuming that we can compare any two elements in $\mathcal{O}(1)$ time.

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- j = 3k + 1, then represent w[3i..n] as (w[3i], w[3i + 1..n]) and w[j..n] = w[3k + 1..n] as (w[3k + 1], w[3k + 2..n]). w[3i + 1..n] can be compared with w[3k + 2] as they both belong to $S_1 \cup S_2$.
- *j* = 3*k* + 2, then represent *w*[3*i*..*n*] as a triple
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Third trick

The order on all $S_1 \cup S_2$ can be computed by sorting all suffixes of $w' = nr(1)nr(4)nr(7) \dots nr(2)nr(5)nr(8) \dots$

Finally, we get an algorithm with the running time of the form

 $T(n) = T(\frac{2}{3}n) + O(n)$, which is O(n). Nice! \bigcirc

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Recall that our motivation for constructing the suffix array was that using it we can locate an occurrence of any pattern of length *m* in $\mathcal{O}(m \log n)$ time. Now we are almost ready to speed this up!

The suffix array *SA* alone is not that useful. Usually it is augmented with the inverse suffix array SA^{-1} , where $SA^{-1}[i]$ is the position of w[i..n] in *SA*, i.e., $SA[SA^{-1}[i]] = i$, and with a longest common prefix structure.

LCP

lcp(i, j) is the longest common prefix of w[i..n] and w[j..n]. lcp[i] is the longest common prefix of the (i - 1)-th and *i*-th suffix in the suffix array, or in other words lcp(SA[i - 1], SA[i]), with lcp[1] not defined.

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The suffix array *SA* alone is not that useful. Usually it is augmented with the inverse suffix array SA^{-1} , where $SA^{-1}[i]$ is the position of w[i..n] in *SA*, i.e., $SA[SA^{-1}[i]] = i$, and with a longest common prefix structure.

LCP

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W = mississippi

| <i>SA</i> [1] = | 11 | = | i |
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| <i>SA</i> [2] = | 8 | = | ippi |
| <i>SA</i> [3] = | 5 | = | issippi |
| <i>SA</i> [4] = | 2 | = | ississippi |
| <i>SA</i> [5] = | 1 | = | mississippi |
| <i>SA</i> [6] = | 10 | = | pi |
| <i>SA</i> [7] = | 9 | = | ppi |
| <i>SA</i> [8] = | 7 | = | sippi |
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| <i>SA</i> [10] = | 6 | = | ssippi |
| <i>SA</i> [11] = | 3 | = | ssissippi |
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What is lcp(8,2)?

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What is lcp(8, 2)?

lcp(i, j) is the minimum of all lcp[k] over $k = SA^{-1}[i] + 1$, $SA^{-1}[i] + 2$, ..., $SA^{-1}[j]$, assuming *i* is before *j* in the suffix array.

So what?

So, assuming that we know lcp[i], computing any lcp(i, j) requires just one range minimum query.

RMQ

Given an array A[1..n], preprocess it so that the minimum of any fragment A[i], A[i + 1], ..., A[j] can be computed efficiently.

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OK, but how to compute the array lcp[2], lcp[3], ..., lcp[n]?

Kasai et al. 2001

All lcp can be computed in (amortized) O(1) time per entry.

The procedure uses the following observation

$$lcp[SA^{-1}[i]] - 1 \le lcp[SA^{-1}[i+1]]$$

See the problem set.

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And recall that we wanted to use the suffix array to locate any (or all) occurrences of a given pattern.

Searching for an occurrence of *p*

We want to locate the smallest *i* such that $SA[i] \ge p$. Then either SA[i] begins with *p*, and hence *p* occurs at position *i*, or there is no occurrence at all.

Binary search

Binary search uses $\log n$ iterations, but each of them might cost even $\Omega(m)$ operations! Hence the whole procedure is $\mathcal{O}(m \log n)$.

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lcp again

Recall that lcp(i, j) is the longest common prefix of the suffixes w[i..n] and w[j..n]. We know how to compute all lcp[i], and we observed that computing lcp(i, j) reduces to the so-called Range Minimum Query on the lcp[i] array.

For the time being assume that we know how to answer RMQ queries on any array in $\mathcal{O}(1)$ time after linear preprocessing. Then we can compute any lcp(i, j) in $\mathcal{O}(1)$ time. Can this help us to speed up the binary searching? Now the question is whether we can do better. It seems that we are wasting lots of time comparing very similar blocks of texts again and again. Not cool!

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Invariant

We maintain a range [L, R] such that the answer is somewhere inside, and we know the longest common prefix of SA[L] and p, and SA[R]and p.

We choose $M \in (L, R)$. Of course we know that the longest common prefix of SA[M] and p is at least as long as the minimum of the two known prefixes, but we can notice even more.

Let ℓ be the longest common prefix of SA[L] and p, and r be the longest common prefix of SA[R] and p. Assume that $\ell \leq r$, the situation is symmetric so the other case is very similar.

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Look at lcp(SA[M], SA[R]).



If lcp(SA[M], SA[R]) < r, set L = M and $\ell = lcp(SA[M], SA[R])$.



If lcp(SA[M], SA[R]) < r, set L = M and $\ell = lcp(SA[M], SA[R])$.



If lcp(SA[M], SA[R]) > r, set R = M and keep old ℓ and r.



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If lcp(SA[M], SA[R]) = r, compute the longest common prefix of SA[M] and p, but start from the *r*-th character. Depending on the next character set L = M or R = M.



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- the next character of SA[M] is less than p[k + 1], then we set L = M and $\ell = k$,
- the next character of SA[M] is greater than p[k + 1], then we set R = M and r = k.

In both cases we spent just O(k - r + 1) time computing the longest common prefix.

The value of $\ell + r$ doesn't decrease.

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Recall that we assumed that computing any lcp(i, j) takes O(1) time. While it can be done (as we will soon see), that's an overkill. Do we really need to compute any such value?

L = 1, R = n

Each node of the recursion tree generates just two values lcp(SA[L], SA[M]) and lcp(SA[M], SA[R]) to be computed. Hence we have just O(n) values in total!

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All those values can be actually computed in $\mathcal{O}(n)$ time in a bottom-top manner.



Lemma lcp(SA[L], SA[R]) = min(lcp(SA[L], SA[M]), lcp(SA[M], SA[R]))

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String indexing in the Word RAM model I

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Lemma lcp(SA[L], SA[R]) = min(lcp(SA[L], SA[M]), lcp(SA[M], SA[R]))

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Even though we showed yesterday that storing just 2n values of lcp(i, j) allows us to execute the binary search efficiently, being able to answer any lcp(i, j) would be great (we will see why during the exercises). Recall that we were able to reduce the question to the so-called RMQ problem.

RMQ

Given an array A[1..n], preprocess it so that the minimum of any fragment A[i], A[i + 1], ..., A[j] can be computed efficiently.

First observe that answering any query in O(1) is trivial if we allow $O(n^2)$ time and space preprocessing.

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RMQ can be solved in O(1) time after $O(n \log n)$ time and space preprocessing.

To prove the lemma, we will (again) apply the simple-yet-powerful doubling technique. For each $k = 0, 1, ..., \log n$ construct a table B_k .

$$B_k[i] = \min\{A[i], A[i+1], A[i+2], \dots, A[i+2^k-1]\}$$

How? Well, $B_0[i] = A[i]$, and $B_{k+1}[i] = \min(B_k[i], B_k[i+2^k])$. Hence we can easily answer a query concerning a fragment of length that is a power of 2. But, unfortunately, not all numbers are powers of 2...

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Answering a query concerning a range [i, j]



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Any query can be split into at most log *n* power-of-two queries.

Answering a query concerning a range [*i*, *j*]



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RMQ can be solved in $O(\log n)$ time after O(n) time and space preprocessing.

We apply another simple-yet-powerful technique: indirection. Chop the input array into blocks of length $b = \log n$.



Construct a new array A':

$$A'[i] = \min\{A[ib+1], A[ib+2], \dots, A[(i+1)b]\}$$

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OK, but we promised the best of both worlds: O(1) query and O(n) space.

Lemma

RMQ can be solved in O(1) time by adding 2n + o(n) bits of space.

We "only" have to deal with the strictly-inside-a-block case.

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Lemma

RMQ can be solved in $\mathcal{O}(1)$ time by adding 2n + o(n) bits of space.

We "only" have to deal with the strictly-inside-a-block case.

We observe that the exact values of the elements don't matter that much, and we consider the so-called Cartesian tree of each block.

Cartesian tree

We choose the position p corresponding to the (leftmost) maximum to be the root. Then, we recursively define the Cartesian tree of the prefix before p, and attach it as the left child. Next, we recursively define the Cartesian tree of the suffix after p, and attach it as the right child.

What is the connection between the Cartesian tree and RMQ?

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What is the connection between the Cartesian tree and RMQ?

When in doubt, use indirection... twice.

- Partition the array into superblocks of length $s' = \log^{2+\epsilon} n$, preprocess the shorter array of length n/s' for RMQ.
- 2 Partition each superblock into blocks of length $s = \log n/(2 + \delta)$, preprocess each short array of length s/s' for RMQ.
- If inally, for every block store the shape of its Cartesian tree. The number of such trees is $\frac{1}{s+1}\binom{2s}{s} = 4^s/(\sqrt{\pi}s^{3/2})(1+\mathcal{O}(s^{-1})).$

The overall space is

- $n/s' \cdot \log n \cdot \log n = o(n)$
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- Similar Finally, for every block store the shape of its Cartesian tree. The number of such trees is $\frac{1}{s+1}\binom{2s}{s} = 4^s/(\sqrt{\pi}s^{3/2})(1+\mathcal{O}(s^{-1})).$

The overall space is

$$1 n/s' \cdot \log n \cdot \log n = o(n)$$

$$ontering n/s \cdot \log(s'/s) \cdot \log s' = o(n)$$

 $ontering n/s \cdot \log(4^s/s^{3/2}) = n/s(2s - \mathcal{O}(\log s)) = 2n - \mathcal{O}(n\log\log n/\log n).$

Suffix array clearly takes linear space: we only need to store the arrays *SA*, *SA*⁻¹, lcp, and the RMQ structure over lcp. Sounds great, but if we take a closer look, it might substantially exceed the size of the input. For example, if our string is binary, we need only *n* bits to represent it, and then the whole machinery adds O(n) words, which is $O(n \log n)$ bits. Maybe we could do better?

Succinct RMQ

Given an array A[1..n], we can built a structure consisting of 2n + o(n) bits, so that the position of a minimum of any fragment A[i], A[i + 1], ..., A[j] can be computed in O(1) time without accessing A.

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$$lcp[SA^{-1}[i]] - 1 \le lcp[SA^{-1}[i+1]]$$

Define $a(i) = lcp[SA^{-1}[i]] + i - 1$. Then:

 $a(1) \leq a(2) \leq a(2) \leq \ldots \leq a(n-1) \leq a(n)$

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New (simpler) problem

How many bits of space do we need to store a nondecreasing sequence of numbers from [0, n]?

We store the differences between every two consecutive a(i). The differences a'(i) = a(i) - a(i - 1) (where a(0) = 0) have the property that $a'(i) \ge 0$ and $\sum_i a'(i) = n$. So, it makes sense to store them as:

$$0^{a'(1)}10^{a'(2)}10^{a'(3)}\dots 0^{a'(n-1)}10^{a'(n)}1$$

Extracting a(i) reduces to counting zeroes before the *i*-th one.

We will show that a sequence of 2n bits can be stored using 2n + o(n) bits so that such operation can be performed in O(1) time.
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Rank/select structure

Given a *n*-bit string, we want to add just o(n) bits of additional information, which allow us to find in O(1) time:

- rank(*i*) = the number of ones at or before position *i*,
- select(i) = position of the *i*-th one.

Rank

Tabulation

Let $k = \frac{1}{2}\log n$. There are just \sqrt{n} different binary strings of such size, so we can afford to precompute, for each such string, the answer for each possible rank query. The space required is just $\mathcal{O}(2^k k \log k) = o(n)$.

Now split the long string into fragments of length k. Store each such fragment in a single word, so that we can look-up the precomputed information quickly. Then, for each boundary between two fragments, store the cumulative rank.

Total space is $\frac{n}{k} \log n = \Theta(n)$ bits, too much.

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Then split each fragment into sub-fragments of size *k*. For each sub-fragment, store the cumulative rank **within** the fragment. This takes just $O(\frac{n}{\log n} \log \log n)$ bits.

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Similar, but more complicated. Because we are looking for the *i*-th one, we split into fragments with the same number of ones.

Let $t_1 = \log n \log \log n$. We pick every t_1 -th one and store its index in the whole string. This takes $\mathcal{O}(\frac{n}{t_1} \log n) = o(n)$ bits. Then, given a query, we divide it by t_1 to locate the desired fragment. Hence from now on we can focus on single fragments.

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Let *r* be the total number of bits in a fragment.

- $t > t_1^2$ things are sparse. There can be at most $\frac{n}{t_1^2}$ such fragments, and we can afford to store the index of each one in such fragment explicitly.
- $r \le t_1^2$ we cannot repeat the above simple trick, but things are not very bad, either. The fragment is short and **relative** indices can be stored.

More specifically, we repeat the reasoning, and split into subfragments containing $t_2 = (\log \log n)^2$ ones. For each one we pick, we store its relative index, which takes $O(\frac{n}{t_2} \log \log n)$ bits in total. Then, again, we consider the total number bits *r* in a subfragment.

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Pătrașcu 2008

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Now we can store the lcp array and the RMQ structure in 4n + o(n) bits. But we still need to store *SA*, so we need $n \log n$ bits (we might also need to store SA^{-1} , which is another $n \log n$ bits). Now we will see how to decrease this bound!

Compressed suffix arrays

A text of length *n* over Σ can be stored in $n \log |\Sigma|$ bits. Now if Σ is small (think binary), $n \log n$ bits taken by the suffix array is way too much.

Compressed suffix arrays

Represent *SA* in $o(n \log n)$ bits of spaces, so that we can efficiently implement lookup(i) which returns *SA*[*i*]. (We don't care about extracting *SA*⁻¹.)

Grossi and Vitter 2000

For any constant $\epsilon > 0$, *SA* can be represented using just $(1 + \frac{1}{\epsilon})n \log |\Sigma| + o(n \log |\Sigma|)$ bits, so that $\operatorname{lookup}(i)$ takes $\mathcal{O}(\log^{\epsilon} n)$.

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The empirical entropy is the average number of bits per symbol needed to encode the text.

Entropy (or zeroth order empirical entropy)

$$H_0(T) = \sum_{c \in \Sigma} \frac{n_c}{n} \log \frac{n}{n_c}$$

where n_c is the number of occurrences of character c in T.

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$$H_k(T) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{s \in \Sigma^k} |T_s| H_0(T_s)$$

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Now we would like to represent SA in space proportional to the k-th order empirical entropy of the text.

Sadakane 2003

For any constant $\epsilon, \epsilon' > 0$, *SA* can be represented using $H_0(T)n\frac{1+\epsilon'}{\epsilon} + n(2\log(1+H_0(T))+3) + o(n)$ bits, so that lookup(i) takes $\mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{\epsilon\epsilon'}\log^{\epsilon} n)$ time, assuming $|\Sigma| = polylog(n)$.

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We will assume $|\Sigma| = 2$.

SA can be represented in $\frac{1}{2}n \log \log n + 6n + O(\frac{n}{\log \log n})$ bits, so that $\operatorname{lookup}(i)$ takes $O(\log \log n)$ time.

Questions?