

Marc Hellmuth



Exact String Matching

Problem and Definition

Z-Algorithm for
Preprocessing

Datenstrukturen und Effiziente Algorithmen

Vorlesung *Datenstrukturen und Effiziente Algorithmen* im WS
18/19

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Exact String Matching Problem

Definition 1

Let P and T be strings, called *pattern* and *text*, respectively, and let T be longer than P . The **exact matching** problem is to find all occurrences, if any, of pattern P in text T .

Example 2

Let $P = au$ and $T = blaukraut$. Then P occurs in T at positions 3 and 7.

Occurrences may overlap as in $P = ata$ and $T = ctatatagc$, where P occurs at 3 and 5.



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Applications of Exact String Matching

Applications requiring exact string matching

- word processing
- internet search
- Bioinformatics:
Here, T a biological sequence database, e.g. of DNA sequences
- `fgrep` on UNIX
- search for plagiarism
- ...

Further relevance

- subtask for other problems (e.g. inexact matching)
- example for algorithm techniques, proof techniques



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Further relevance

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String Definitions

Definition 3

A **string** S is an ordered list of characters written contiguously from left to right.

For any string S , $S[i..j]$ is the **substring** of S that starts at position i and ends at position j of S .

If $i > j$, then $S[i..j]$ is the empty string.

$S[1..j]$ is called the **prefix** of S that ends at position j .

$|S|$ is the length of string S .

$S[i..|S|]$ is the **suffix** of S that begins at position i . $S[i]$ denotes the i -th character of S .

A **proper** (German: “echt”) prefix, suffix or substring of S is, respectively, a prefix, suffix, or substring that is not the entire string S , nor the empty string.

We say that two characters **match** if they are equal, otherwise we say they **mismatch**.

“Sequence”

Sometimes the word “subsequence” is used synonymously to “substring”, and not, as in mathematics, for a possibly non-contiguous ordered subset.

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The Naive Method

Naive exact string matching algorithm

```
1: for  $i = 1$  to  $|T|$  do
2:   if OCCURSAT( $P, T, i$ ) then
3:     output  $i$ 
4:
5: // check whether  $P$  occurs in  $T$  starting at pos.  $i$ 
6: function OCCURSAT( $P, T, i$ )
7:    $j \leftarrow 1$ 
8:   while  $j \leq |P|$  and  $i + j - 1 \leq |T|$  and  $P[j] = T[i + j - 1]$  do
9:      $j \leftarrow j + 1$ 
10:  if  $j > |P|$  then
11:    return true
12:  else
13:    return false
```




The Naive Method

Running time

Let $n = |P|$ and $m = |T|$ be the lengths of strings P and T , respectively.

The worst-case running time is $\Theta(nm)$.

This is required by above algorithm e.g. when P and T consist of repeats of a single character, e.g.

$P = aaaa$ and $T = aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa$.

Want faster algorithm

We will next construct algorithms that run in $O(m + n)$.



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Want faster algorithm

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Some Intuition for a Speedup

Example 4 (naive method)

1: match, 0: mismatch

T: xabxyabxyabxz

P: abxyabxz



Some Intuition for a Speedup

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11



Some Intuition for a Speedup

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Some Intuition for a Speedup

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Some Intuition for a Speedup

Example 4 (naive method)

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11111111

Need 20 comparisons.



Some Intuition for a Speedup

Example 5 (skip shifts)

1: match, 0: mismatch

T: xabxyabxyabxz

P: abxyabxz



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Example 5 (skip shifts)

1: match, 0: mismatch

T: xabxyabxyabxz

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Some Intuition for a Speedup

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1

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Example 5 (skip shifts)

1: match, 0: mismatch

T: xabyabxyabxz

P: abyabxz

0

 abyabxz

11



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Example 5 (skip shifts)

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1111



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1

Property of P : Whenever the first mismatch is at the 8th position in P , then we can skip 3 shifts, because the second a in P is at position 5.



Some Intuition for a Speedup

Example 5 (skip shifts)

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T: xabxyabxyabxz

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11111110

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Some Intuition for a Speedup

Example 5 (skip shifts)

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T: xabxyabxyabxz

P: abxyabxz

0

abxyabxz

11111110

abxyabxz

11111111

Need 17 comparisons.

Property of P : Whenever the first mismatch is at the 8th position in P , then we can skip 3 shifts, because the second a in P is at position 5.



Some Intuition for a Speedup

Example 6 (skip shifts and comparisons)

1: match, 0: mismatch

T: xabxyabxyabxz

P: abxyabxz



Some Intuition for a Speedup

Example 6 (skip shifts and comparisons)

1: match, 0: mismatch

T: xabxyabxyabxz

P: abxyabxz

0



Some Intuition for a Speedup

Example 6 (skip shifts and comparisons)

1: match, 0: mismatch

T: xabxyabxyabxz

P: abxyabxz

0

abxyabxz

1



Some Intuition for a Speedup

Example 6 (skip shifts and comparisons)

1: match, 0: mismatch

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11



Some Intuition for a Speedup

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111



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11111110



Some Intuition for a Speedup

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11111110

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Property of P : Whenever the first mismatch is at the 8th position in P , then we can skip 3 shifts and start comparing at position 4 in P .



Some Intuition for a Speedup

Example 6 (skip shifts and comparisons)

1: match, 0: mismatch

T: xabxyabxyabxz

P: abxyabxz

0

abxyabxz

11111110

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11

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Some Intuition for a Speedup

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Some Intuition for a Speedup

Example 6 (skip shifts and comparisons)

1: match, 0: mismatch

T: xabxyabxyabxz

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0

abxyabxz

11111110

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11111

Need 14 comparisons.

Property of P : Whenever the first mismatch is at the 8th position in P , then we can skip 3 shifts and start comparing at position 4 in P .



Exact String Matching

Problem and Definition

Z-Algorithm for
Preprocessing

Preprocessing of Pattern

Preprocessing

- before looking at text T examine internal structure of P
- preprocessing should be in $O(n)$
- several different algorithms use same fundamental preprocessing: Z algorithm
- will later use preprocessing results to search P in T in $O(m)$.



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Preprocessing

We will preprocess a string S . S will later often play the role of P .

Definition 7 (Z values)

Let $i > 1$ be a position in string S .
 $Z_i = Z_i(S)$ is the length of the longest substring of S that starts at i and matches a prefix of S .

Example 8

$S = \text{eiderdeiderlei}$

$Z_7 = 5$

$Z_2 = 0$

$Z_{13} = 2$

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Exact String Matching

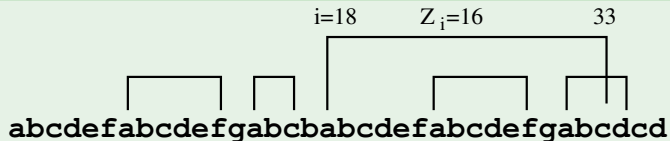
Problem and Definition

Z-Algorithm for
Preprocessing

Definition 9 (Z-Box)

Let $i > 1$ such that $Z_i > 0$. Then the **Z-box** at i is the interval starting at i and ending at $i + Z_i - 1$.

Example 10



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Exact String Matching

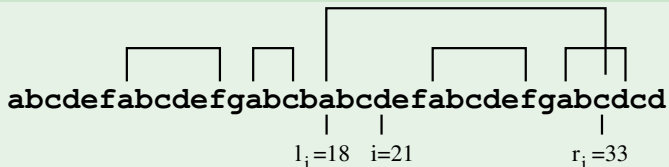
Problem and Definition

Z-Algorithm for
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r_i, l_i

Let $i > 1$. In the following $[l_i, r_i]$ will denote a Z-box that contains position i . If no Z-box contains position i , then $r_i < i$ (e.g. $r_i = 0$).

Example 11





Z Algorithm

Z Algorithm

- preprocessing of S : compute all Z_i values
- direct approach takes time $O(|S|^2)$
- want to do it in $O(|S|)$
- will compute Z_k for increasing k
- Idea: When computing Z_k, r_k, ℓ_k we will reuse
 - $r = r_{k-1}, \ell = \ell_{k-1}$ and
 - previously computed values of Z_2, \dots, Z_{k-1} .in order to save comparisons.



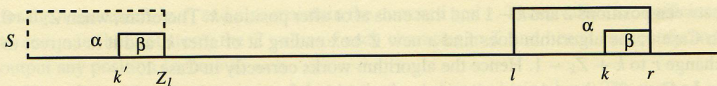
Exact String Matching

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Z Algorithm: Idea

Reuse previously computed $Z_{k'}$



If $r \geq k$ then the string $\beta = S[k..r]$ occurs also at the end of the prefix of S of length Z_ℓ , starting at $k' = k - \ell + 1$ in S . We can use the value of $Z_{k'}$ to save comparison operations when determining Z_k .



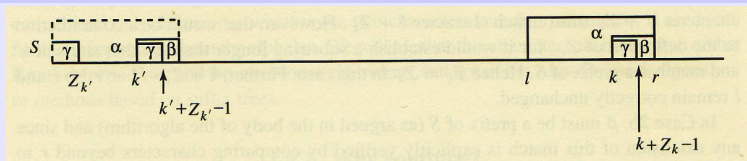
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Z Algorithm: Idea

Case A



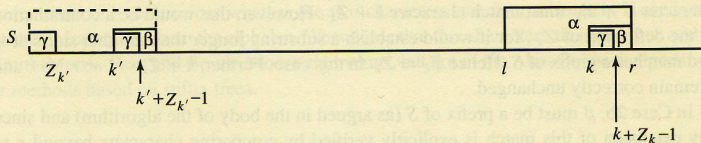
If $Z_{k'} < |\beta| = r - k + 1$, then the string $\gamma = S[1..Z_{k'}]$ starts also at k' and at k .

We get $Z_k = Z_{k'}$ without any further comparisons.



Z Algorithm: Idea

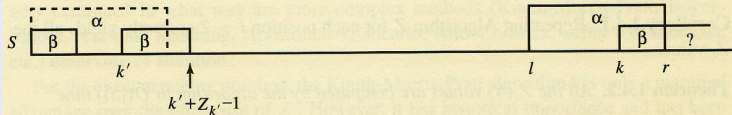
Case A



If $Z_{k'} < |\beta| = r - k + 1$, then the string $\gamma = S[1..Z_{k'}]$ starts also at k' and at k .

We get $Z_k = Z_{k'}$ without any further comparisons.

Case B



If $Z_{k'} \geq |\beta|$, then Z_k is at least $|\beta|$, too. We make further comparisons starting at $r + 1$, but don't have to compare the characters in $[k..r]$.

Z Algorithm

```
1:  $r \leftarrow \ell \leftarrow 0$ 
2: for  $k = 2$  to  $|S|$  do
3: // Case 1:
4:   if  $r < k$  then
5:     Compute  $Z_k$  explicitly by comparing the characters starting at  $k$  to the characters starting at 1
     until a mismatch is found.
6:     Set  $Z_k$  to the length of the match.
7:     if  $Z_k > 0$  then
8:       Set  $r \leftarrow k + Z_k - 1$ ,  $\ell \leftarrow k$ .
9: // Case 2:
10:  else
11:     $k' \leftarrow k - \ell + 1$ 
12: // Case 2a:
13:  if  $Z_{k'} < r - k + 1$  then
14:     $Z_k \leftarrow Z_{k'}$ 
15: // Case 2b:
16:  else
17:     $\ell \leftarrow k$ 
18:    compare the characters starting at  $r + 1$  with the characters starting at  $r - k + 2$  of  $S$  until a
    mismatch occurs
19:    let  $q > r$  be the position of the first mismatch or  $q = |S| + 1$  if no mismatch occurs
20:     $Z_k \leftarrow q - k$ ,  $r \leftarrow q - 1$ 
```



Proof of Correctness

Theorem 12 (Correctness of Z Algorithm)

The Z algorithm computes all values $Z_2, \dots, Z_{|S|}$ correctly.

Proof.

(chalk board)





Running Time of Z Algorithm

Theorem 13 (Running Time of Z Algorithm)

The Z algorithm computes all the Z_i values in $O(|S|)$ time.

Proof.

(chalk board)





Exact String Matching

Problem and Definition

Z-Algorithm for Preprocessing

A Linear-Time Exact Matching Algorithm

Simple Linear-Time Exact Matching Algorithm

Require: character \$ not occurring in P or T

1: $n \leftarrow |P|$, $m \leftarrow |T|$

2: $S \leftarrow P\$T$

3: apply Z algorithm to S

4: **for** $i = n + 2$ to $m + 2$ **do**

5: **if** $Z_i = n$ **then**

6: output occurrence of P starting at position $i - n - 1$ in T



A Linear-Time Exact Matching Algorithm

Theorem 14 (Correctness of Simple Exact Matching Algorithm)

Above algorithm reports all exact occurrences of P in T .



A Linear-Time Exact Matching Algorithm

Theorem 14 (Correctness of Simple Exact Matching Algorithm)

Above algorithm reports all exact occurrences of P in T .

Proof.

If $Z_i = n$ for any i in the range $n + 2 \leq i \leq m + 2$ then, by definition of Z_i , we have $S[1..n] = S[i..i + n - 1]$, and therefore, by definition of S , $P = T[i - n - 1..i - 2]$. Therefore, P occurs as substring in T at position $i - n - 1$.

Conversely, if P occurs starting at position j in T , then P occurs starting at position $j + n + 1$ in S and $i := j + n + 1$ is in the range $i = n + 2$ to $m + 2$. Therefore, $Z_i \geq n$. As $\$$ does not occur in T , we have $Z_i = n$ and position j is reported as occurrence of P in T . □



A Linear-Time Exact Matching Algorithm

Theorem 15

Above algorithm runs in time $O(m)$ with $|T| = m$.



A Linear-Time Exact Matching Algorithm

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Proof.

As shown previously, the Z algorithm takes time $O(|S|) = O(m + n) = O(m)$, since $n \leq m$. □



Exact String Matching

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Theorem 15

Above algorithm runs in time $O(m)$ with $|T| = m$.

Proof.

As shown previously, the Z algorithm takes time $O(|S|) = O(m + n) = O(m)$, since $n \leq m$. □

Space

Above algorithm can be implemented requiring $O(n)$ space in addition to storing P and T : We simply store the Z_i values only for $i \leq n$. Since $\$$ is not in T , we always have $Z_i \leq n$ and therefore k' from the Z algorithm is always less than or equal to n . We never need to recurse to a Z_i value for $i > n$.