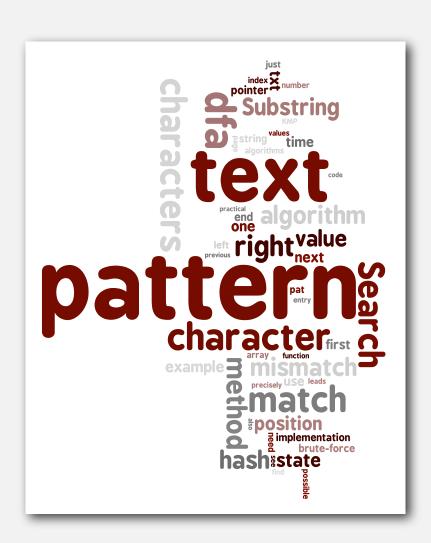
# 5.3 Substring Search



- brute force
- **▶ Knuth-Morris-Pratt**
- Boyer-Moore
- **▶** Rabin-Karp

## Substring search

Goal. Find pattern of length M in a text of length N.



Computer forensics. Search memory or disk for signatures, e.g., all URLs or RSA keys that the user has entered.



http://citp.princeton.edu/memory

## **Applications**

- Parsers.
- Spam filters.
- Digital libraries.
- Screen scrapers.
- Word processors.
- Web search engines.
- · Electronic surveillance.
- Natural language processing.
- Computational molecular biology.
- FBIs Digital Collection System 3000.
- Feature detection in digitized images.

• ...









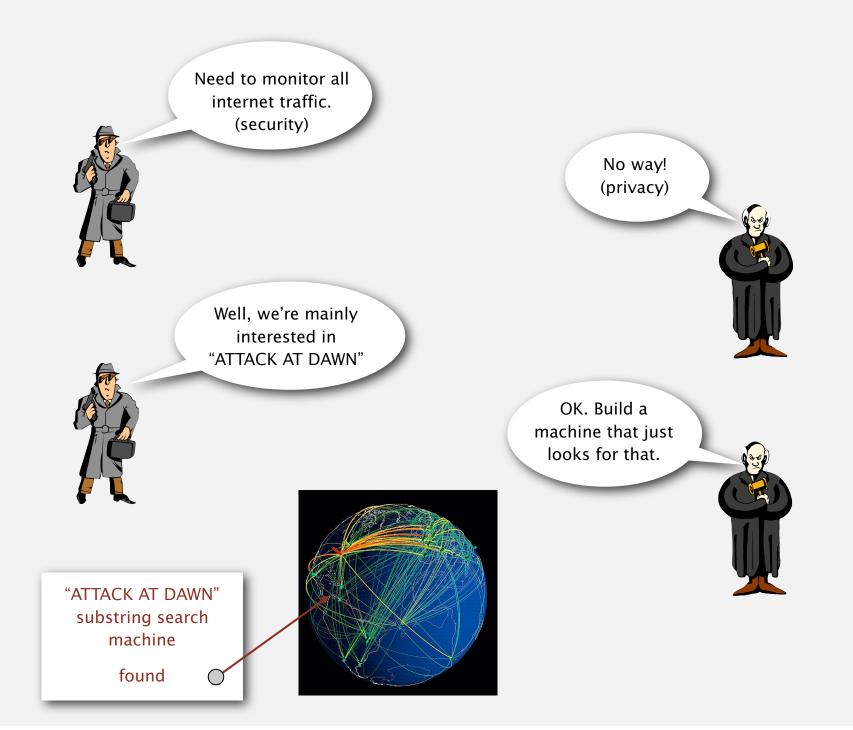
## Application: spam filtering

## Identify patterns indicative of spam.

- PROFITS
- LOSE WE1GHT
- herbal Viagra
- There is no catch.
- LOW MORTGAGE RATES
- This is a one-time mailing.
- This message is sent in compliance with spam regulations.



## Application: electronic surveillance



#### Application: screen scraping

Goal. Extract relevant data from web page.

Ex. Find string delimited by <b> and </b> after first occurrence of pattern Last Trade:.



http://finance.yahoo.com/q?s=goog

```
Last Trade:

Trade Time:
```

#### Screen scraping: Java implementation

Java library. The indexof() method in Java's string library returns the index of the first occurrence of a given string, starting at a given offset.

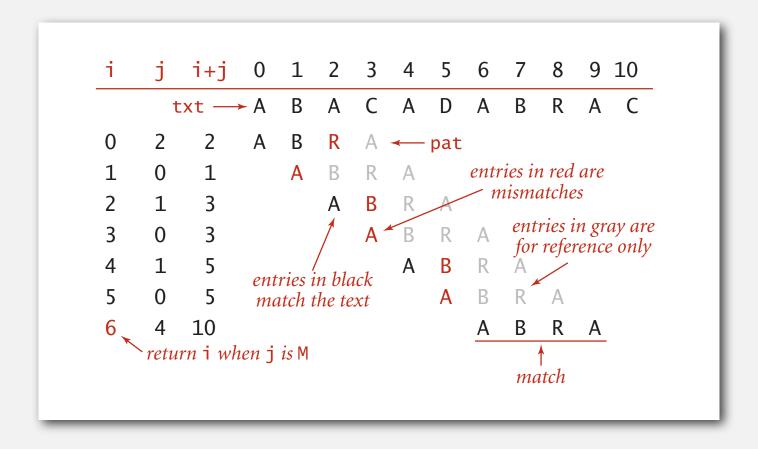
```
public class StockQuote
   public static void main(String[] args)
      String name = "http://finance.yahoo.com/q?s=";
      In in = new In(name + args[0]);
      String text = in.readAll();
      int start = text.indexOf("Last Trade:", 0);
      int from = text.indexOf("<b>", start);
      int to = text.indexOf("</b>", from);
      String price = text.substring(from + 3, to);
      StdOut.println(price);
                % java StockQuote goog
                564.35
                % java StockQuote msft
                26.04
```

## brute force

- Knuth-Morris-Pratt
- ▶ Boyer-Moore
- Rabin-Karp

## Brute-force substring search

Check for pattern starting at each text position.



### Brute-force substring search: Java implementation

Check for pattern starting at each text position.

```
i = 4, j = 3 

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

A B A C A D A B R A C

A D A C R
```

```
public static int search(String pat, String txt)
{
   int M = pat.length();
   int N = txt.length();
   for (int i = 0; i \le N - M; i++)
   {
      int j;
      for (j = 0; j < M; j++)
          if (txt.charAt(i+j) != pat.charAt(j))
            break;
      if (j == M) return i; ← index in text where pattern starts
   return N; ← not found
```

## Brute-force substring search: worst case

Brute-force algorithm can be slow if text and pattern are repetitive.

Worst case.  $\sim MN$  char compares.

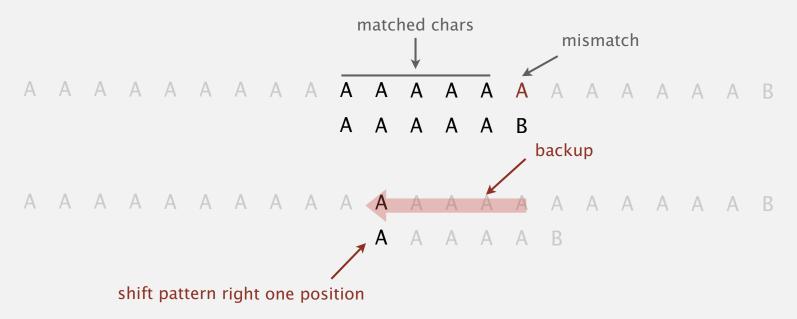
## Backup

In typical applications, we want to avoid backup in text stream.

- Treat input as stream of data.
- Abstract model: standard input.



Brute-force algorithm needs backup for every mismatch.



Approach 1. Maintain buffer of size M (build backup into standard input). Approach 2. Stay tuned.

## Brute-force substring search: alternate implementation

Same sequence of char compares as previous implementation.

- i points to end of sequence of already-matched chars in text.
- j stores number of already-matched chars (end of sequence in pattern).

i = 6, j = 3
$$\frac{0 \quad 1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4 \quad 5 \quad 6 \quad 7 \quad 8 \quad 9 \quad 10}{A \quad B \quad A \quad C \quad A \quad D \quad A \quad B \quad R \quad A \quad C}$$
A D A C R

## Algorithmic challenges in substring search

Brute-force is often not good enough.

Theoretical challenge. Linear-time guarantee. — fundamental algorithmic problem

Practical challenge. Avoid backup in text stream. 

often no room or time to save text

Now is the time for all people to come to the aid of their party. Now is the time for all good people to come to the aid of their party. Now is the time for many good people to come to the aid of their party. Now is the time for all good people to come to the aid of their party. Now is the time for a lot of good people to come to the aid of their party. Now is the time for all of the good people to come to the aid of their party. Now is the time for all good people to come to the aid of their party. Now is the time for each good person to come to the aid of their party. Now is the time for all good people to come to the aid of their party. Now is the time for all good Republicans to come to the aid of their party. Now is the time for all good people to come to the aid of their party. Now is the time for many or all good people to come to the aid of their party. Now is the time for all good people to come to the aid of their party. Now is the time for all good Democrats to come to the aid of their party. Now is the time for all people to come to the aid of their party. Now is the time for all good people to come to the aid of their party. Now is the time for many good people to come to the aid of their party. Now is the time for all good people to come to the aid of their party. Now is the time for a lot of good people to come to the aid of their party. Now is the time for all of the good people to come to the aid of their party. Now is the time for all good people to come to the aid of their attack at dawn party. Now is the time for each person to come to the aid of their party. Now is the time for all good people to come to the aid of their party. Now is the time for all good Republicans to come to the aid of their party. Now is the time for all good people to come to the aid of their party. Now is the time for many or all good people to come to the aid of their party. Now is the time for all good people to come to the aid of their party. Now is the time for all good Democrats to come to the aid of their party.

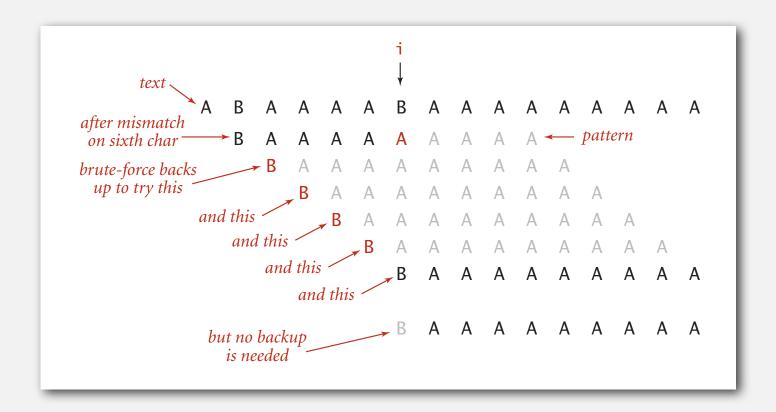
- brute force
- **▶** Knuth-Morris-Pratt
- Boyer-Moore
- Rabin-Karp

### Knuth-Morris-Pratt substring search

Intuition. Suppose we are searching in text for pattern BAAAAAAAA.

- Suppose we match 5 chars in pattern, with mismatch on  $6^{th}$  char.
- We know previous 6 chars in text are baaaab.
- Don't need to back up text pointer!

assuming { A, B } alphabet



Knuth-Moris-Pratt algorithm. Clever method to always avoid backup. (!)

### Deterministic finite state automaton (DFA)

## DFA is abstract string-searching machine.

- Finite number of states (including start and halt).
- Exactly one transition for each char in alphabet.
- Accept if sequence of transitions leads to halt state.

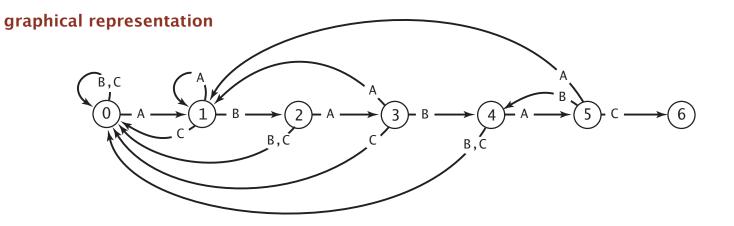


	j	0	1	2	3	4	5
pat.charAt(	j)	Α	В	Α	В	Α	С
	Α	1	1	3	1	5	1
dfa[][j]	В	0	2	0	4	0	4
	C	0	0	0	0	0	6

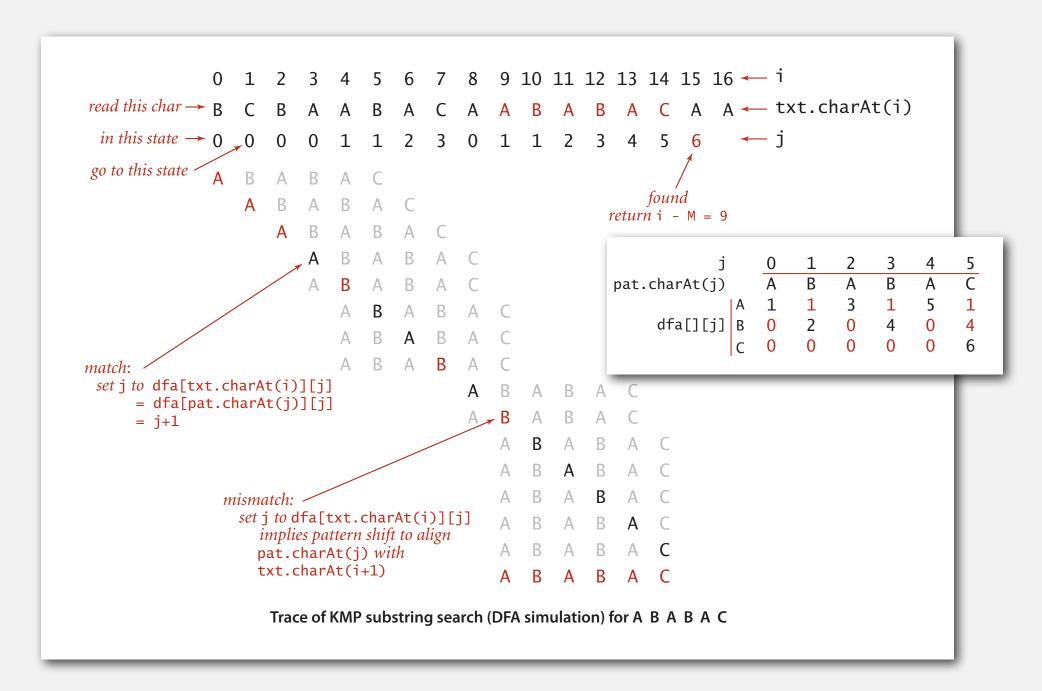
If in state j reading char c:

if j is 6 halt and accept

else move to state dfa[c][j]



## KMP substring search: trace



#### Interpretation of Knuth-Morris-Pratt DFA

- Q. What is interpretation of DFA state after reading in txt[i]?
- A. State = number of characters in pattern that have been matched. (length of longest prefix of pat[] that is a suffix of txt[0..i])

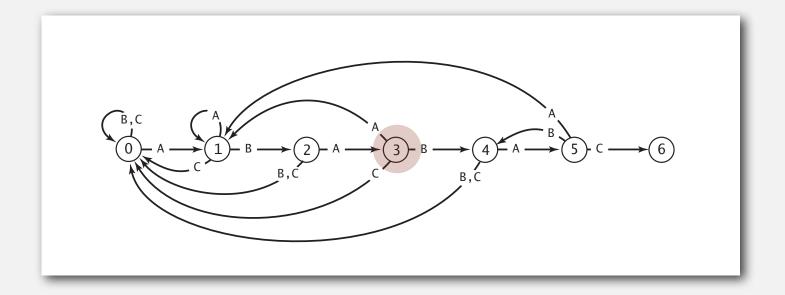
Ex. DFA is in state 3 after reading in character txt[6].

$$\begin{array}{c}
0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 \\
B & C & B & A & A & B & A & C & A
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\
B & A & B & A & C & A
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\
A & B & A & B & A & C
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
\text{prefix of pat[]}
\end{array}$$



#### Key differences from brute-force implementation.

- Text pointer i never decrements.
- Need to precompute dfa[][] from pattern.

#### Running time.

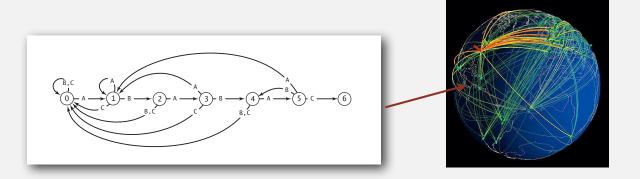
- Simulate DFA on text: at most N character accesses.
- Build DFA: how to do efficiently? [warning: tricky algorithm ahead]

#### KMP search: Java implementation

#### Key differences from brute-force implementation.

- Text pointer i never decrements.
- Need to precompute dfa[][] from pattern.
- Could use input stream.

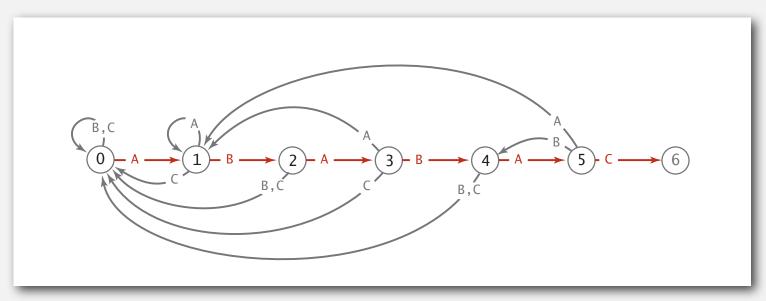
```
public int search(In in)
{
   int i, j;
   for (i = 0, j = 0; !in.isEmpty() && j < M; i++)
        j = dfa[in.readChar()][j];
   if (j == M) return i - M;
   else       return NOT_FOUND;
}</pre>
```



## Building DFA from pattern: easy case

Match transition. If in state j and next char c == pat.charAt(j),
then go to state j+1.

first j characters of pattern
now first j+1 characters of
pattern have been matched
next char matches



Include one state for each character in pattern (plus accept state).

- 0
- (1)
- (2)
- (3)
- $\left(4\right)$
- (5)
- 6

Constructing the DFA for KMP substring search for A B A B A C

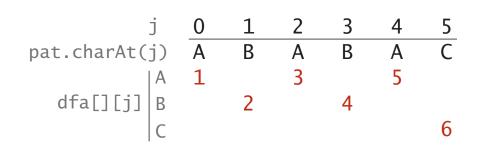
Match transition. For each State j, dfa[pat.charAt(j)][j] = j+1.



have already been matched



first j characters of pattern now first j+1 characters of pattern have been matched





Constructing the DFA for KMP substring search for A B A B A C

### Building DFA from pattern: tricky case

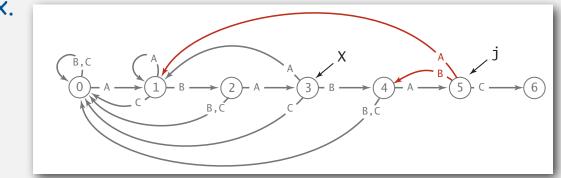
#### Mismatch transition.

Suppose DFA is in state j and next char is c != pat.charAt(j)

Brute-force solution: Back up j-1 chars and restart.

Key idea 1. The last j characters of input are known to be pat[1..j-1], so use the DFA itself to find what state (X) it would be in if restarted after backup Key idea 2. Maintain the value of X while constructing DFA.

Ex.



```
pat[1..j-1] = B A B A

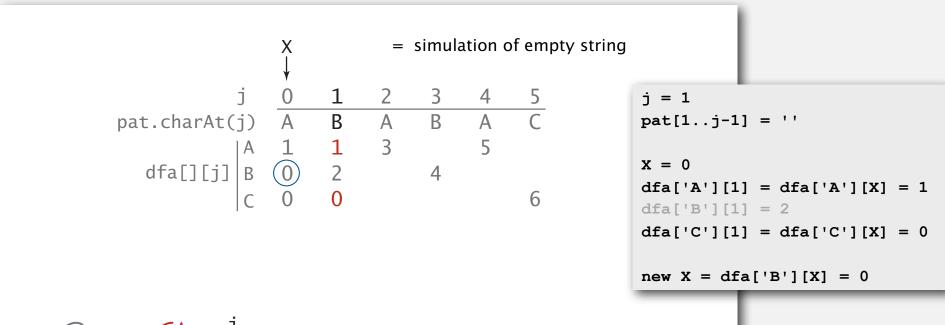
X = 3
dfa['A'][5] = dfa['A'][X] = 1
dfa['B'][5] = dfa['B'][X] = 4
dfa['C'][5] = 6

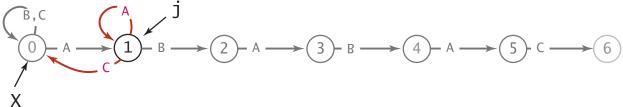
new X = dfa['C'][X] = 0
```



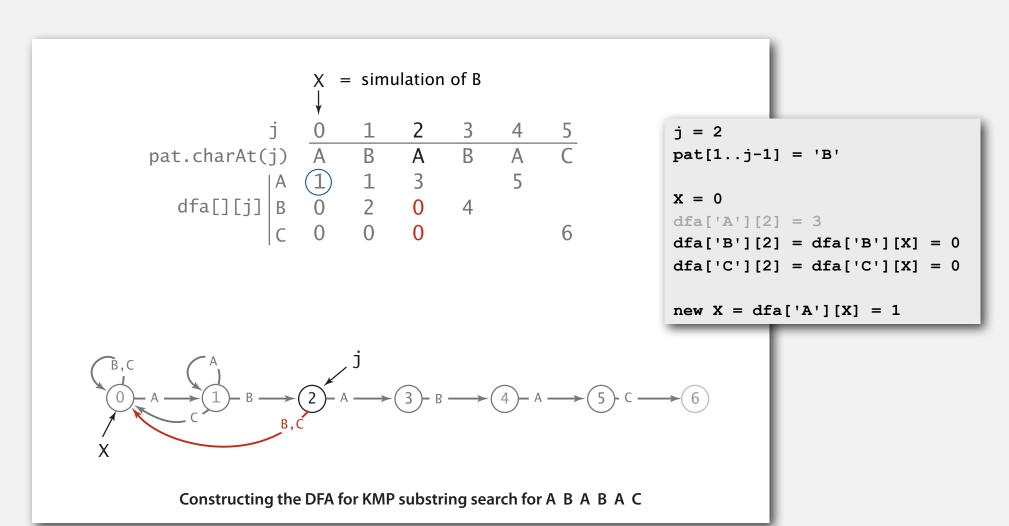
Constructing the DFA for KMP substring search for A B A B A C

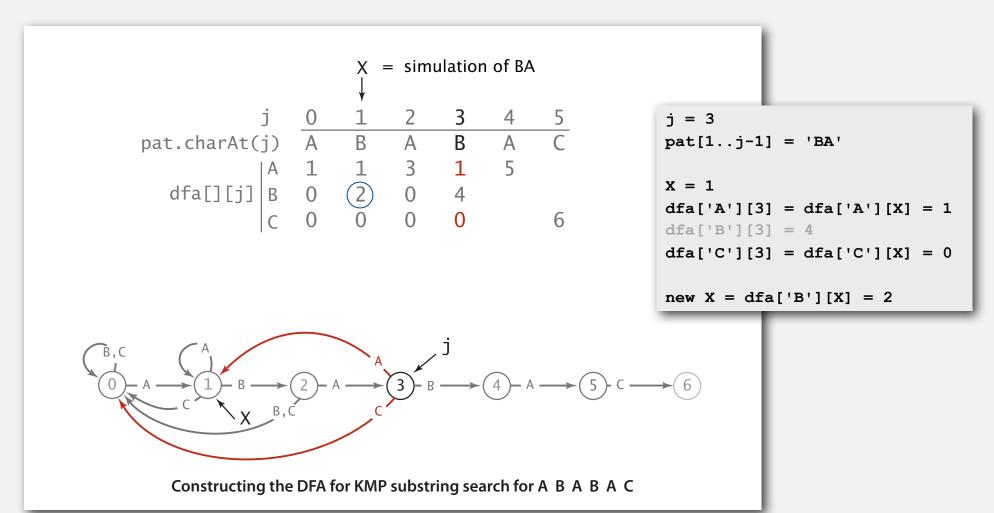
Mismatch transition. For each state j and char c != pat.charAt(j), dfa[c][j] = dfa[c][x]; then update x = dfa[pat.charAt(j)][x].

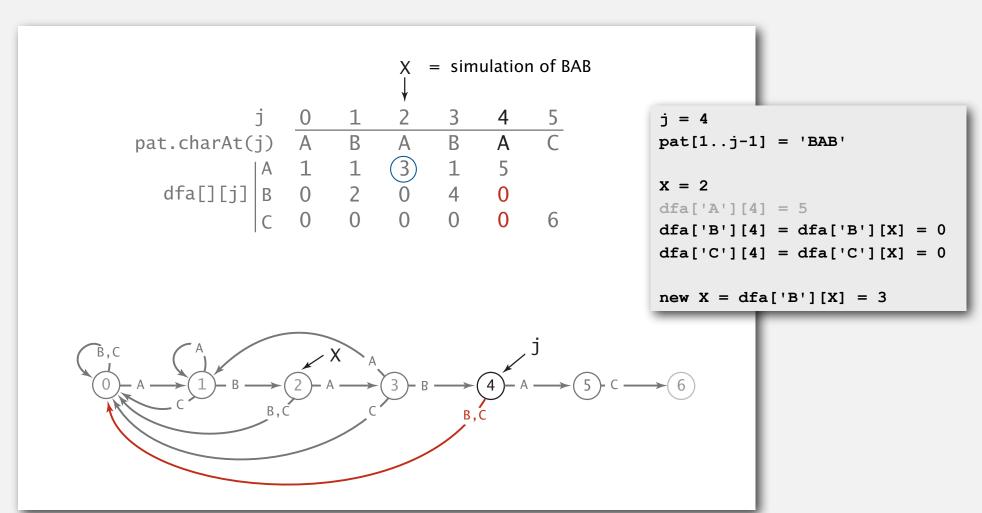


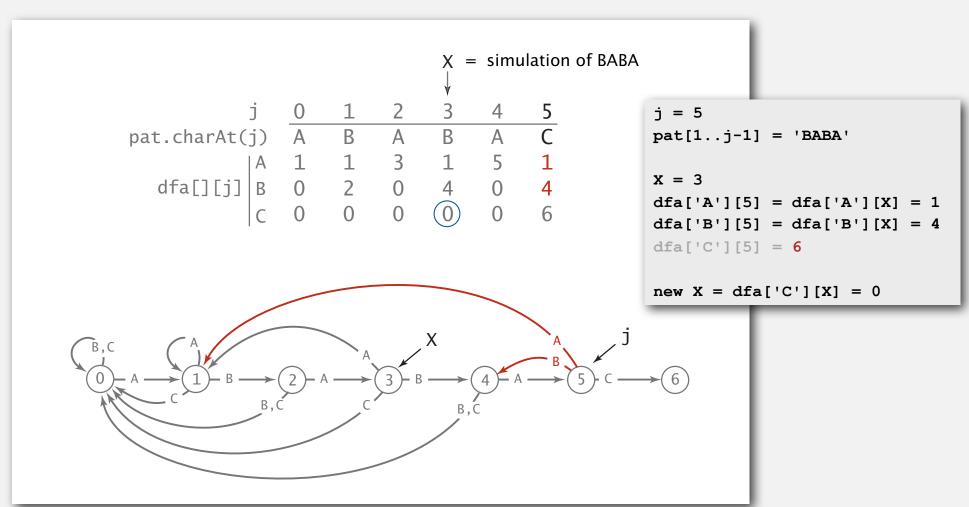


Constructing the DFA for KMP substring search for A B A B A C









### Constructing the DFA for KMP substring search: Java implementation

#### For each state j:

- Copy dfa[][x] to dfa[][j] for mismatch case.
- Set dfa[pat.charAt(j)][j] to j+1 for match case.
- Update x.

Running time. M character accesses (but space proportional to RM).

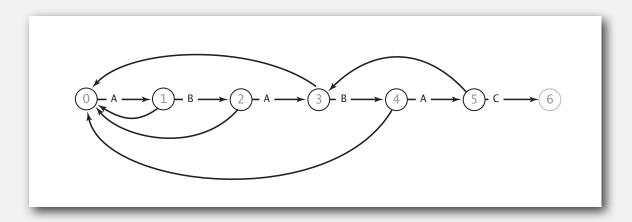
## KMP substring search analysis

Proposition. KMP substring search accesses no more than M+N chars to search for a pattern of length M in a text of length N.

Pf. Each pattern char accessed once when constructing the DFA; each text char accessed once (in the worst case) when simulating the DFA.

Proposition. KMP constructs afa[][] in time and space proportional to RM.

Larger alphabets. Improved version of KMP constructs nfa[] in time and space proportional to M.



#### Knuth-Morris-Pratt: brief history

- Independently discovered by two theoreticians and a hacker.
  - Knuth: inspired by esoteric theorem, discovered linear-time algorithm
  - Pratt: made running time independent of alphabet size
  - Morris: built a text editor for the CDC 6400 computer
- Theory meets practice.

SIAM J. COMPUT. Vol. 6, No. 2, June 1977

#### FAST PATTERN MATCHING IN STRINGS\*

DONALD E. KNUTH†, JAMES H. MORRIS, JR.‡ AND VAUGHAN R. PRATT¶

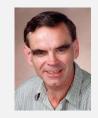
**Abstract.** An algorithm is presented which finds all occurrences of one given string within another, in running time proportional to the sum of the lengths of the strings. The constant of proportionality is low enough to make this algorithm of practical use, and the procedure can also be extended to deal with some more general pattern-matching problems. A theoretical application of the algorithm shows that the set of concatenations of even palindromes, i.e., the language  $\{\alpha\alpha^R\}^*$ , can be recognized in linear time. Other algorithms which run even faster on the average are also considered.



**Don Knuth** 



**Jim Morris** 



**Vaughan Pratt** 

## Knuth-Morris-Pratt application

A string s is a cyclic rotation of t if s and t have the same length and s is a suffix of t followed by a prefix of t.

yes	yes	no
ROTATEDSTRING	ABABABABBABA	ROTATEDSTRING
STRINGROTATED	B	GNIRTSDETATOR

Problem. Given two strings s and t, design a linear-time algorithm that determines if s is a cyclic rotation of t.

#### Solution.

- Check that s and t are the same length.
- Search for s in t + t using KMP.

- ▶ Boyer-Moore



Robert Boyer J. Strother Moore



#### Intuition.

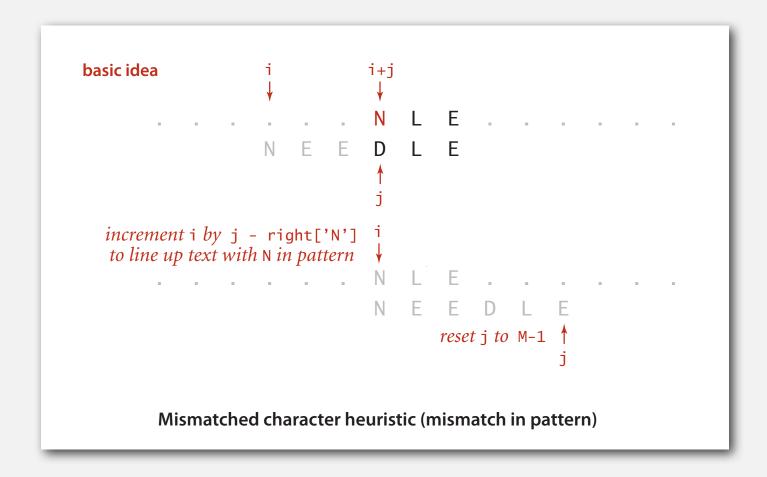
- Scan characters in pattern from right to left.
- $\bullet$  Can skip M text chars when finding one not in the pattern.

- Q. How much to skip?
- A. Compute right[c] = rightmost occurrence of character c in pat.

```
right = new int[R];
for (int c = 0; c < R; c++)
    right[c] = -1;
for (int j = 0; j < M; j++)
    right[pat.charAt(j)] = j;</pre>
```

```
right[c]
E -1 -1 1 2 2 5
                              -1
   -1 0 0 0 0 0 0
                              -1
       Boyer-Moore skip table computation
```

- Q. How much to skip?
- A. Compute right[c] = rightmost occurrence of character c in pat.



- Q. How much to skip?
- A. Compute right[c] = rightmost occurrence of character c in pat.

```
increment i by j+1 ↓
                                  reset j to M-1 ↑
Mismatched character heuristic (mismatch not in pattern)
```

Character not in pattern? Set right[c] to -1.

- Q. How much to skip?
- A. Compute right[c] = rightmost occurrence of character c in pat.

```
lining up text with rightmost E
   would shift pattern left
  so increment i by 1
                                reset j to M-1 ↑
```

Heuristic no help? Increment i and reset j to M-1

```
public int search(String txt)
   int N = txt.length();
   int M = pat.length();
   int skip;
   for (int i = 0; i \le N-M; i += skip)
      skip = 0;
      for (int j = M-1; j >= 0; j--)
                                                                    compute skip value
         if (pat.charAt(j) != txt.charAt(i+j))
            skip = Math.max(1, j - right[txt.charAt(i+j)]);
            break;
      if (skip == 0) return i;
                                                                    match
   return N;
```

### Boyer-Moore: analysis

Property. Substring search with the Boyer-Moore mismatched character heuristic takes about  $\sim N/M$  character compares to search for a pattern of length M in a text of length N. sublinear

Worst-case. Can be as bad as  $\sim MN$ .

Boyer-Moore variant. Can improve worst case to  $\sim 3~N$  by adding a KMP-like rule to guard against repetitive patterns.

- brute force
- Knuth-Morris-Pratt
- Boyer-Moore

# **▶** Rabin-Karp



Michael Rabin, Turing Award '76 and Dick Karp, Turing Award '85

### Rabin-Karp fingerprint search

### Basic idea = modular hashing.

- Compute a hash of pattern characters 0 to M-1.
- For each i, compute a hash of text characters i to M + i 1.
- If pattern hash = text substring hash, check for a match.

```
pat.charAt(i)
     2 6 5 3 5 % 997 = 613
                   txt.charAt(i)
    0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15
0
          4 1 5 % 997 = 508
       1 \quad 4 \quad 1 \quad 5 \quad 9 \quad \% \quad 997 = 201
          4 1 5 9 2 % 997 = 715
             1 5 9 2 6 % 997 = 971
                5 9 2 6 5 % 997 = 442
4
                                                match
                   9 2 6 5 3 % 997 = 929
                      2 6 5 3 5 % 997 = 613
6 \leftarrow return i = 6
```

### Efficiently computing the hash function

Modular hash function. Using the notation  $t_i$  for txt.charAt(i), we wish to compute

$$x_i = t_i R^{M-1} + t_{i+1} R^{M-2} + ... + t_{i+M-1} R^0 \pmod{Q}$$

Intuition. M-digit, base-R integer, modulo Q.

Horner's method. Linear-time method to evaluate degree-M polynomial.

```
// Compute hash for M-digit key
private long hash(String key, int M)
{
  long h = 0;
  for (int j = 0; j < M; j++)
     h = (R * h + key.charAt(j)) % Q;
  return h;
}</pre>
```

### Efficiently computing the hash function

Challenge. How to efficiently compute  $x_{i+1}$  given that we know  $x_i$ .

$$x_i = t_i R^{M-1} + t_{i+1} R^{M-2} + \dots + t_{i+M-1} R^0$$
  
 $x_{i+1} = t_{i+1} R^{M-1} + t_{i+2} R^{M-2} + \dots + t_{i+M} R^0$ 

Key property. Can update hash function in constant time!

$$x_{i+1} = x_i R - t_i R^M + t_{i+M}$$

shift subtract add new left leftmost digit rightmost digit

### Rabin-Karp substring search example

```
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15
    3 1 4 1 5 9 <mark>2 6 5 3 5</mark> 8 9 7 9 3
    3 % 997 = 3
0
    3 \quad 1 \quad \% \quad 997 = (3*10 + 1) \ \% \quad 997 = 31
    3 \quad 1 \quad 4 \quad \% \quad 997 = (31*10 + 4) \ \% \quad 997 = 314
       1 4 1 \% 997 = (314*10 + 1) \% 997 = 150
    3 1 4 1 5 % 997 = (150*10 + 5) % 997 = 508 ^{RM} ^{R}
         4 1 5 9 % 997 = ((508 + 3*(997 - 30))*10 + 9) % 997 = 201
 5
 6
          4 1 5 9 2 \% 997 = ((201 + 1*(997 - 30))*10 + 2) \% 997 = 715
            1 5 9 2 6 \% 997 = ((715 + 4*(997 - 30))*10 + 6) \% 997 = 971
8
                 9 2 6 5 % 997 = ((971 + 1*(997 - 30))*10 + 5) % 997 = 442
                                                                             match
                  9 2 6 5 3 \% 997 = ((442 + 5*(997 - 30))*10 + 3) \% 997 = 929
9
```

#### Rabin-Karp: Java implementation

```
public class RabinKarp
  private long patHash; // pattern hash value
  private int M;
                      // pattern length
  private long Q;  // modulus
  private int R;  // radix
  private long RM; // R^(M-1) % O
  public RabinKarp(String pat) {
      M = pat.length();
     R = 256;
                                                            a large prime (but not so
      Q = longRandomPrime();
                                                            large to cause long overflow)
      RM = 1;
                                                            precompute R<sup>M</sup> - 1 (mod Q)
      for (int i = 1; i \le M-1; i++)
         RM = (R * RM) % Q;
      patHash = hash(pat, M);
  private long hash(String key, int M)
   { /* as before */ }
  public int search(String txt)
   { /* see next slide */ }
}
```

### Rabin-Karp: Java implementation (continued)

Monte Carlo version. Return match if hash match.

Las Vegas version. Check for substring match if hash match; continue search if false collision.

### Rabin-Karp analysis

Theory. If Q is a sufficiently large random prime (about  $MN^2$ ), then the probability of a false collision is about 1/N.

Practice. Choose Q to be a large prime (but not so large as to cause overflow). Under reasonable assumptions, probability of a collision is about 1/Q.

#### Monte Carlo version.

- Always runs in linear time.
- Extremely likely to return correct answer (but not always!).

### Las Vegas version.

- Always returns correct answer.
- Extremely likely to run in linear time (but worst case is MN).

### Rabin-Karp fingerprint search

### Advantages.

- Extends to 2d patterns.
- Extends to finding multiple patterns.

### Disadvantages.

- Arithmetic ops slower than char compares.
- Poor worst-case guarantee.
- Requires backup.

Q. How would you extend Rabin-Karp to efficiently search for any one of P possible patterns in a text of length N?

### Substring search cost summary

## Cost of searching for an M-character pattern in an N-character text.

algorithm	version	operation count		backup	correct?	extra
		guarantee	typical	in input?		space
brute force	_	MN	1.1 N	yes	yes	1
Knuth-Morris-Pratt	full DFA (Algorithm 5.6)	2N	1.1 N	по	yes	MR
	mismatch transitions only	3N	1.1 <i>N</i>	no	yes	M
Boyer-Moore	full algorithm	3N	N/M	yes	yes	R
	mismatched char heuristic only (Algorithm 5.7)	MN	N/M	yes	yes	R
Rabin-Karp <sup>†</sup>	Monte Carlo (Algorithm 5.8)	7 N	7 N	no	yes†	1
	Las Vegas	7 N †	7 N	yes	yes	1