The Knuth-Morris-Pratt Algorithm

- O(n+m) in worst case.
- Slower than Boyer-Moore in practice.
- Can be adapted to search for k patterns of total length n in O(k + n + m) time (Aho-Corasick).

Key idea:

Preprocess *P* to get larger shifts at mismatches (analogous to Boyer-Moore, but adapted to left-to-right scan). **Definition.** For each position i in P, $sp_i(P)$ is the length of the longest proper *suffix* of P[1 . . i] that matches a *prefix* of P.



The Weak KMP Shift Rule

For any alignment of *P* and *T*, if the first mismatch is between *P*[*i*] and *T*[*k*], then shift *P* right by $i - (sp_{i-1} + 1) = i - sp_{i-1} - 1$ places, so that *P*[*sp*_{*i*-1} + 1] is aligned with *T*[*k*]. If an occurrence of *P* is found, then shift *P* right by $n - sp_n$ places.



abababbabbabbababbabababab ababbababab 12345678901 abababababbababababababababab ab**abbababa**b 12345678901 abababababbababababababababab ababbababab 12345678901 abababbabbababababababababab ababbababab 12345678901 abababbabbababababababababab ababbababab 12345678901 ababbababab

Definition. For each position *i* in *P*, $sp'_i(P)$ is the length of the longest proper *suffix* of *P*[1 . . *i*] that matches a *prefix* of *P* such that $P[i+1] \neq P[sp'_i+1]$.



The Strong KMP Shift Rule

For any alignment of *P* and *T*, if the first mismatch

The Knuth-Morris-Pratt algorithm does at most 2*m* character comparisons:

- A *compare/shift phase* consists of all comparisons between successive shifts.
- After a shift, comparisons start with either the last character from *T* that was examined in the previous phase or with the character to its right.
- \Rightarrow Total number of comparisons is at most m + s, where s = #(shifts)

Since s < m, #(comparisons) < 2m.



Theorem. For any i > 1, $sp'_i(P) = Z_j = i - j + 1$, where *j* is the smallest position that maps to *i*. If there is no such *j* then $sp'_i(P) = 0$.



Example. For P = ababbababab, two *Z*-boxes end at P[11]: ab (Z_{10}) and abab (Z_8). Thus, $sp'_{11}(P) = 4$.

Preprocessing to find the *sp*'-values:

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compute Z(P)

for i \leftarrow 1 to n do

sp'_i(P) \leftarrow 0

for j \leftarrow n downto 2 do

i \leftarrow j + Z_j(P) - 1

sp'_i(P) \leftarrow Z_j(P)
```

All *sp*'-values can be computed in O(n) time.

Definition. For i = 1, 2, ..., n + 1, the (strong) *failure function* is $F'(i) = sp'_{i-1} + 1$, where $sp'_0 = 0$.



KMP(P,T)compute the failure function F' $c \leftarrow 1; p \leftarrow 1$ while $c + (n - p) \le m$ do while P[p] = T[c] and $p \le n$ do p++; c++if p = n + 1 then report occurrence of P starting at T[c - n]if p = 1 then c++ $p \leftarrow F'(p)$