5 Parallel String Matching

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Outline

Parallelizing string matching

- We have seen a plethora of string matching methods
- But all efficient methods seem inherently sequential
  Indeed, they became efficient only after building on knowledge from previous steps!

  Sounds like the *opposite* of parallel!

⇝ This unit:

- How well can we parallelize string matching?
- What new ideas can help?

Here: string matching = find *all* occurrences of P in T (more natural problem for parallel)
always assume $m \leq n$

5.1 Elementary Tricks

Embarrassingly Parallel

- A problem is called *"embarrassingly parallel"*
  if it can immediately be split into *many, small subtasks*
  that can be solved completely *independently* of each other
- Typical example: sum of two large matrices (all entries independent)

⇝ best case for parallel computation (simply assign each processor one subtask)

- Sorting is not embarrassingly parallel
  - no obvious way to define many *small* (=efficiently solvable) subproblems
  - but: some subtasks of our algorithms are, e. g., comparing all elements with pivot

Clicker Question

Is the string-matching problem “embarrassingly parallel”?

- **A** Yes
- **B** No
- **C** Only for $n \gg m$
- **D** Only for $n \approx m$

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Elementary parallel string matching

Subprograms in string matching:

- string matching = check all guesses $i = 0, \ldots, n - m - 1$
- checking one guess is a subtask!

Elementary parallel string matching

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Approach 1:

- Check all guesses in parallel

$\rightsquigarrow$ Time: $\Theta(m)$

$\rightsquigarrow$ Work: $\Theta((n - m)m)$ $\rightsquigarrow$ not great . . .

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Approach 2:

- Divide T into **overlapping** blocks of $2m$ characters:
  $T[0..2m), T[m..3m), T[2m..4m), T[3m..5m) \ldots$
- Find matches inside blocks in parallel, using efficient sequential method
  $\rightsquigarrow$ $\Theta(2m + m) = \Theta(m)$ each

$\rightsquigarrow$ Time: $\Theta(m)$ Work: $\Theta(\frac{n}{m} \cdot m) = \Theta(n)$

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Elementary parallel matching – Discussion

- 👍 very simple methods
- 👍 could even run distributed with access to part of T
- 👎 parallel speedup only for $m \ll n$

Goal:

- methods with better parallel time! $\leadsto$ higher speedup

$\leadsto$ must genuinely parallelize the matching process! (and the preprocessing of the pattern)

$\leadsto$ need new ideas

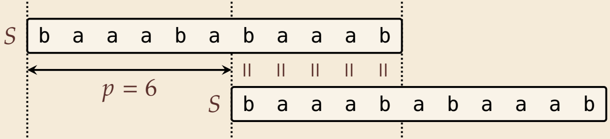
5.2 Periodicity

Periodicity of Strings

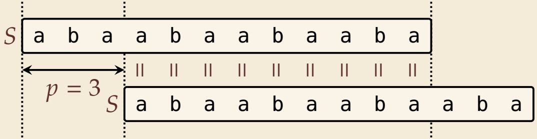
- $S = S[0..n-1]$ has *period* p iff $\forall i \in [0..n-p) : S[i] = S[i+p]$
- $p = 0$ and any $p \geq n$ are trivial periods but these are not very interesting . . .

Examples:

- $S =$ baaababaaab has period 6:



- $S =$ abaabaabaaba has period 3:



Periodicity and KMP

Lemma 5.1 (Periodicity = Longest Overlap)

$p \in [1..n]$ is the *shortest* period in $S = S[0..n-1]$
iff $S[0..n-p)$ is the longest prefix that is also a suffix of $S[p..n)$. ◀

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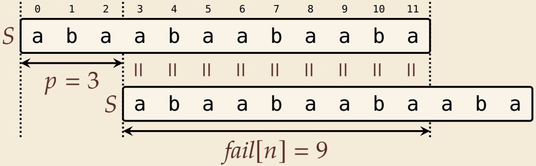
iff $S[0..n-p)$ is the longest prefix that is also a suffix of $S[p..n)$.

$S[0..n-1]$ has minimal period p $\iff$ $\mathit{fail}[n] = n - p$



Periodicity Lemma

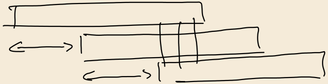
Lemma 5.2 (Periodicity Lemma)
If string $S = S[0..n-1]$ has periods p and q with $p + q \leq n$, then it has also period $\gcd(p, q)$.

greatest common divisor

Proof: see tutorials; hint: recall Euclid's algorithm

Periodic strings

- What does the smallest period p tell us about a string $S[0..n-1]$?
- Two distinct regimes:



1. S is *periodic*: $p \le \frac{n}{2}$
More precisely: S is totally determined by a string $F = F[0..p-1] = S[0..p-1]$
S keeps repeating F until n characters are filled

$S = F^k \, F[0..\ell)$

$\rightsquigarrow$ S is highly repetitive!

2. S is *aperiodic* (also *non-periodic*): $p > \frac{n}{2}$
S **cannot** be written as $S = F^k \cdot Y$ with $k \ge 2$ and Y a prefix of F

Clicker Question

Is $S =$ `aaaaaaaaaaab` a periodic string?

A Yes

B No

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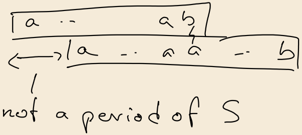
Clicker Question



Is S = aaaaaaaaaaab a periodic string?

A ~~Yes~~

B No ✓

⇝ "looking repetitive" is not enough for periodic!

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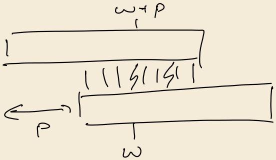
5.3 String Matching by Duels

Periods and Matching



Witnesses for non-periodicity:

- Assume, $P[0..m-1]$ does **not** have period p

$\rightsquigarrow$ $\exists$ *witness against periodicity*: position $\omega \in [0..m-p) : P[\omega] \neq P[\omega + p]$

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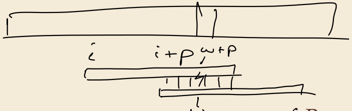

Dueling via witnesses:

- If $P[0..m-1]$ does **not** have period p, then
  at most one of positions i and $i+p$ can be (the starting position of) an occurrence of P.

  Proof: Cannot have $T[(i+p)+\omega] = P[\omega] \neq P[\omega+p] = T[i+(\omega+p)]$.

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  Proof: Cannot have $T[(i+p)+\omega] = P[\omega] \neq P[\omega+p] = T[i+(\omega+p)]$.

- **Duel** between guess i and $i+p$:
  compare text character overlapped with witness ω

only one can survive the duel = be a potential beginning of a match

String Matching by Duels – Sequential

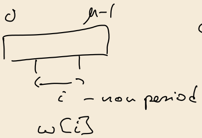
smallest period of $P \geq \frac{m}{2}$

Assume that pattern P is *aperiodic*. (can deal with periodic case separately; details omitted)

Algorithm:

$\omega[i]$ = witness against period i (in P)

1. Set $\mu := \lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor$
2. Compute witnesses $\omega[1..\mu]$ against periodicity for all $p \leq \frac{m}{2}$.
3. For each block of μ consecutive indices $[0..\mu), [\mu..2\mu), [2\mu..3\mu), \ldots$ run $\mu - 1$ duels to eliminate all but one guesses in the block
4. check remaining $\lceil \frac{n}{\mu} \rceil = O(n/m)$ guesses naively



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$\rightsquigarrow$ another worst-case $O(n+m)$ string matching method!

Analysis:

1. $O(1)$
2. $O(m) \rightsquigarrow$ later "like KMP"
3. $O(\frac{n}{m})$ blocks
   $O(m)$ duels each } $\Theta(n)$ total
4. $O(\frac{n}{m})$,
   $\le m$ cmps each

$\Theta(n)$ time total

String Matching by Duels – Parallel

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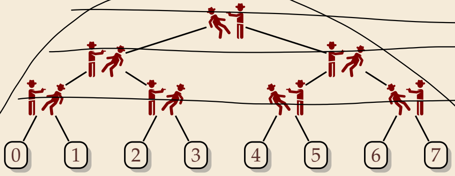
How to parallelize:

1. —
2. $O(\log^2(m)) \rightsquigarrow$ later
3. blocks in parallel (indep.), tournament of $\lceil \lg \mu \rceil$ rounds
4. check in parallel collect result (like prefix sum)

Tournament of duals:

- each dual eliminates one guess
- $\rightsquigarrow$ declare other guess *winner*
- conceptually like prefix sum!



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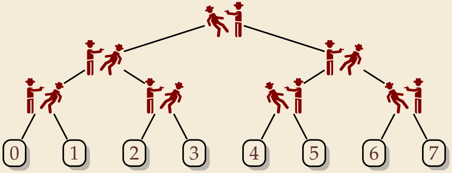

ignore 2.

$\rightsquigarrow$ Matching part can be done in $O(\log m)$ parallel time and $O(n)$ work!

Computing witnesses

It remains to find the witnesses $\omega[1..\mu]$.

sequentially:

- an elementary procedure is similar in spirit to KMP failure array
- can be computed in $\Theta(m)$ time

parallel:

- much more complicated $\rightsquigarrow$ beyond scope of the module
  - first $O(\log^2(m))$ time on CREW-RAM
  - later $O(\log m)$ time and $O(m)$ work using pseudoperiod method

Parallel Matching – State of the art

- $O(\log m)$ time & work-efficient parallel string matching
  - this is optimal for CREW-PRAM
- on CRCW-PRAM: matching part even in $O(1)$ time(!)
  but preprocessing requires $\Theta(\log \log m)$ time