# Time-Space Trade-Offs for Longest Common Extensions 

(To appear at CPM 2012)

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## The Longest Common Extension Problem <br> Definition

Problem: Preprocess a string $T$ of length $n$ to support LCE queries:

- LCE $(i, j)=$ The length of the longest common prefix of the suffixes starting at position $i$ and $j$ in $T$.

Example

$$
T=\begin{array}{ccccccc}
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\
\mathrm{~b} & \mathrm{a} & \mathrm{n} & \mathrm{a} & \mathrm{n} & \mathrm{a} & \mathrm{~s}
\end{array}
$$

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\operatorname{LCE}(2,4)=?
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$$
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$$

$$
\operatorname{LCE}(2,5)=0
$$

## The Longest Common Extension Problem

## Motivation

Longest Common Extensions appear as a subproblem in many string matching problems, including

- Approximate string matching. I.e., find substrings of $T$ such that $T[i \ldots j] \approx P$ (hamming or edit distance).
- Finding palindromes. I.e., find substrings of $T$ such that $T[i \ldots j]=T[i \ldots j]^{R}$.
- Finding tandem repeats. I.e., find substrings of $T$ such that $T[i \ldots j]=U U$ for some string $U$.

Example: Palindromes

$$
T=\begin{array}{ccccccccc}
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 \\
\mathrm{~b} & \mathrm{a} & \mathrm{~b} & \mathrm{a} & \mathrm{a} & \mathrm{~b} & \mathrm{a} & \mathrm{a} & \mathrm{c}
\end{array}
$$

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## Example: Palindromes

All maximal palindromes in $P$ can be reported by performing $2 n-1$ LCE queries (one for each possible center).

## Two Simple Solutions

\#1: Store nothing
$\operatorname{LCE}(i, j)=$

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\#1: Store nothing

$$
\operatorname{LCE}(i, j)=2
$$

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\#1: Store nothing

$$
\operatorname{LCE}(i, j)=3
$$

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Time: $\quad O(n)$
Space: $\quad O(1)$

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## Our Results

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$$
\text { Trade-off parameter } \tau, 1 \leq \tau \leq n
$$

Store nothing


Store suffix tree

## A Deterministic Solution

Idea: Store a subset of the $n$ suffixes in a compacted trie.

$$
T=\begin{array}{lllllllllllllllll}
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 & 10 & 11 & 12 & 13 & 14 & 15 & 16 \\
\mathrm{~d} & \mathrm{~b} & \mathrm{c} & \mathrm{a} & \mathrm{a} & \mathrm{~b} & \mathrm{c} & \mathrm{a} & \mathrm{~b} & \mathrm{c} & \mathrm{a} & \mathrm{a} & \mathrm{~b} & \mathrm{c} & \mathrm{a} & \mathrm{c}
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\end{array}
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## Difference Covers

A difference cover modulo $\tau$ is a set of integers $D \subseteq\{0,1, \ldots, \tau-1\}$ such that for any distance $d \in\{0,1, \ldots, \tau-1\}, D$ contains two elements separated by distance $d$ modulo $\tau$.
Ex: The set $D=\{1,2,4\}$ is a difference cover modulo 5 .

| $d$ | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $i, j$ | 1,1 | 2,1 | 1,4 | 4,1 | 1,2 |



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## Lemma (Colbourn and Ling ${ }^{1}$ )

For any $\tau$, a difference cover modulo $\tau$ of size at most $\sqrt{1.5 \tau}+6$ can be computed in $O(\sqrt{\tau})$ time.

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Analysis
Time: $O(\tau)$
Space: $O$ (\#stored suffixes) $=O\left(\frac{n}{\tau}|D|\right)=O\left(\frac{n}{\sqrt{\tau}}\right)$

[^2]
## A Randomized Solution

Rabin-Karp Fingerprints
Let $p$ be a sufficiently large prime and choose $b \in \mathbb{Z}_{p}$ uniformly at random.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \phi(S)=\sum_{k=1}^{|S|} S[k] b^{k} \bmod p . \\
& \begin{aligned}
T & \left.=\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccc}
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 & 10 & 11 & 12 & 13 & 14 & 15 & 16 \\
d & b & c & a & a & b & c & a & b & c & a & a & b & c & a & c \\
& =3 \underbrace{1}_{\phi(T[2 \ldots} 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 2
\end{array}\right)=120012 \bmod 31=11
\end{aligned}
\end{aligned}
$$

Crucial property: With high probability $\phi$ is collision-free on substrings of $T$, i.e., $\phi\left(S_{1}\right)=\phi\left(S_{2}\right)$ iff $S_{1}=S_{2}$.

Also important: $\phi(T[i \ldots j+1])$ can be computed from $\phi(T[i \ldots j])$ in $O(1)$ time.

## A Randomized Solution

How to answer a query
Idea: Store fingerprints of suffixes starting at every $\tau$ 'th position in $T$.
Blocks of $\tau$ chars


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Observation: If $S$ is block aligned we can compute $\phi(S)$ in $O(1)$ time. Otherwise, the time needed is $O(\tau)$.

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Time: At most $2 \log \left(\frac{\mathrm{LCE}}{\tau}\right)$ fingerprint comparisons each taking time $O(\tau)$. Hence query time $O\left(\tau \log \left(\frac{\text { LCE }}{\tau}\right)\right)$.
Space: $O\left(\frac{n}{\tau}\right)$.

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[^1]:    ${ }^{1}$ C. J. Colbourn and A. C. Ling. Quorums from difference covers. Inf. Process. Lett. 75(1-2):9-12, 2000

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