

German for *wood* 🪵

**HOLZ:**

# High-Order Entropy Encoding of Lempel-Ziv Factor Distances

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# Lempel-Ziv 77 (LZ)

- text factorization

$$T = \boxed{F_1 \mid F_2 \mid \dots}$$

- used for lossless compression like in gzip, zip, 7zip, etc.
- LZ reads a text from left to right while
  - maintaining the read text in a dictionary and
  - replacing the remaining text with references into the dictionary

# soundness

need always a suitable reference in the dictionary

$T =$ 

a	b	b	a	b	b
1	2	3	4	5	6

# soundness

need always a suitable reference in the dictionary

pre-handling:

- prepend all distinct characters to  $T$
- ⇒ have a reference with length  $\geq 1$

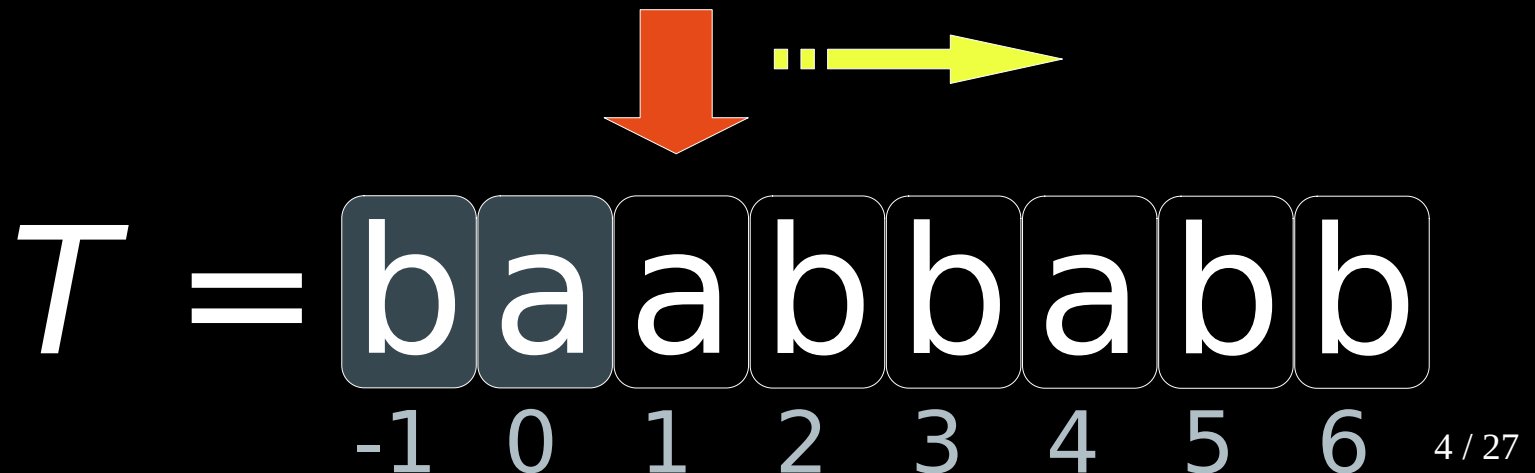
$T =$ 

b	a	a	b	b	a	b	b
-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6

# computing LZ

- take longest candidate as reference
- factorize  $T$  into  $T = F_1 \cdots F_z$ ,

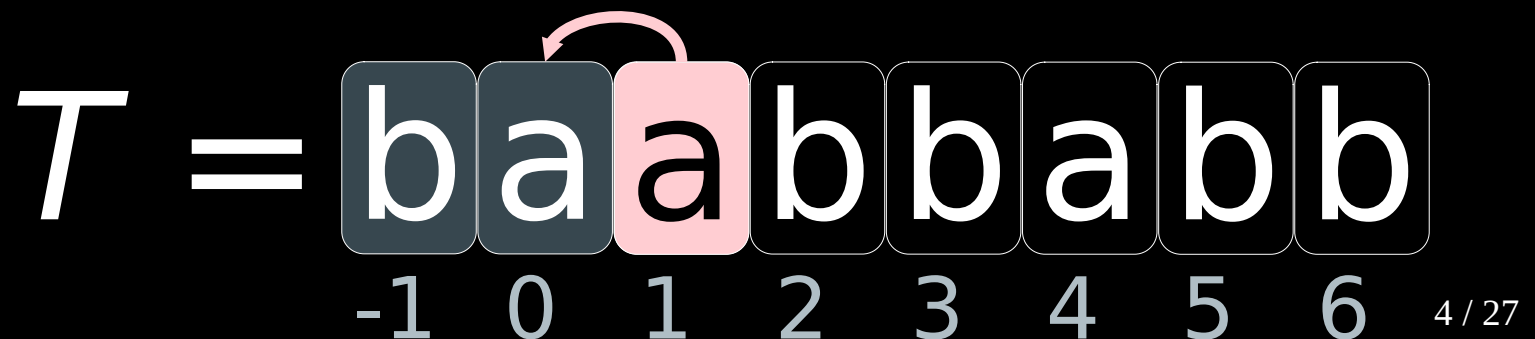
where  $F_x$  starting at a text position  $j$  refers to a suffix starting in  $T[-1..j-1]$  and having  $F_x$  as a prefix



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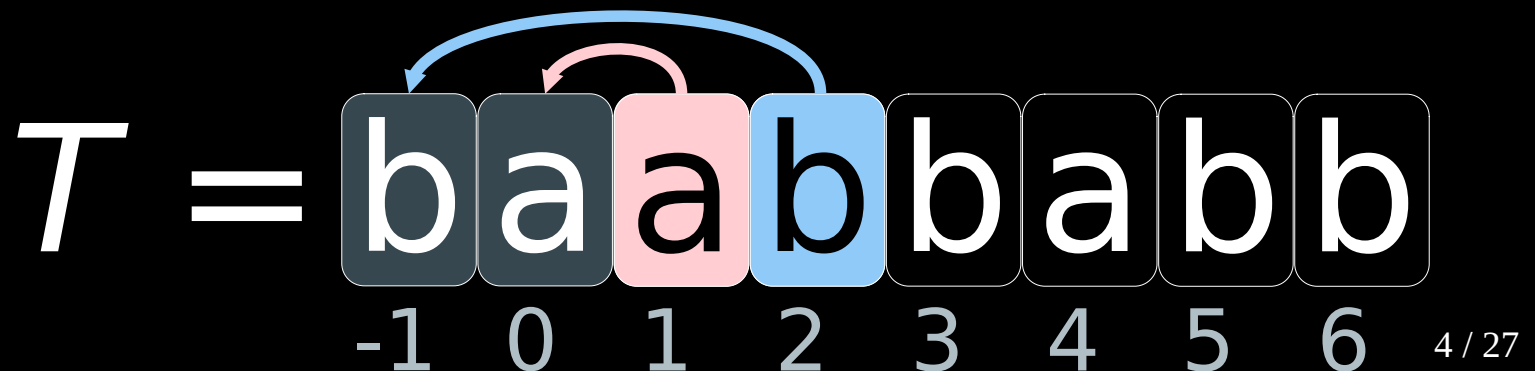
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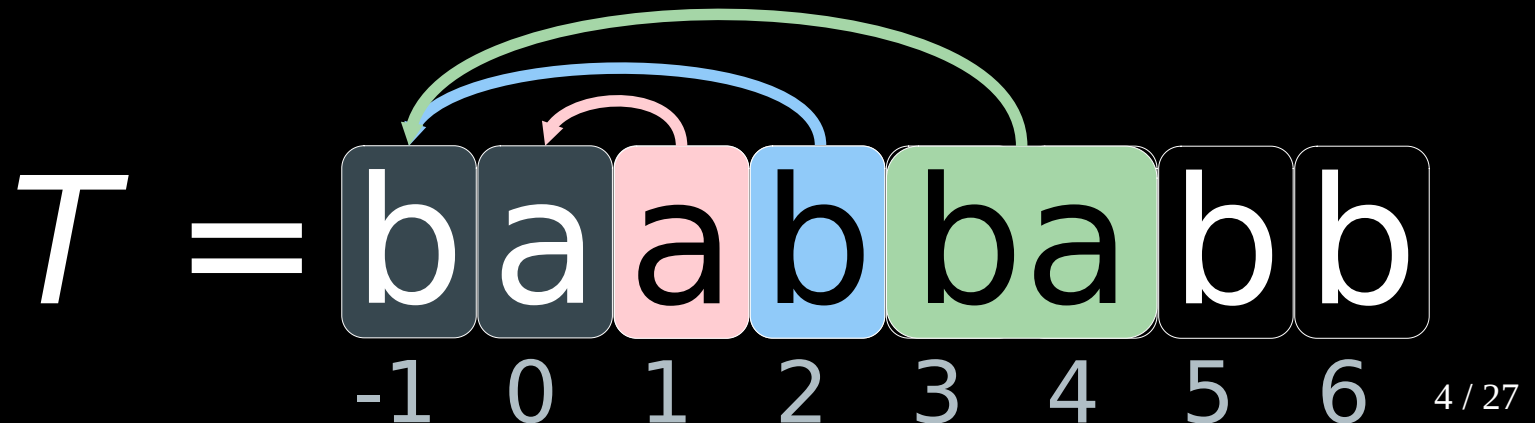
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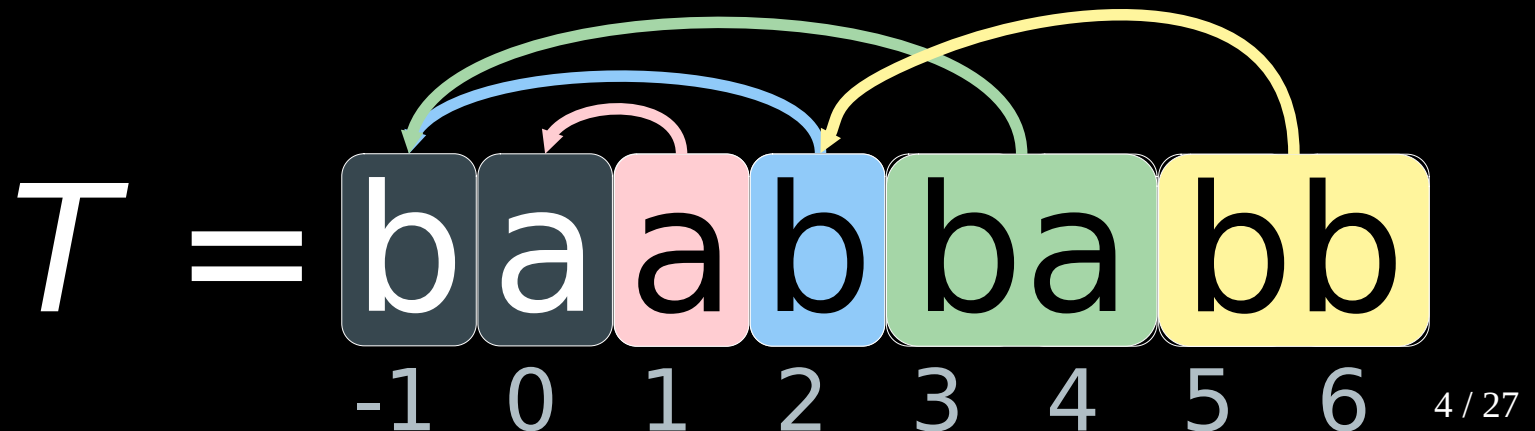




# computing LZ

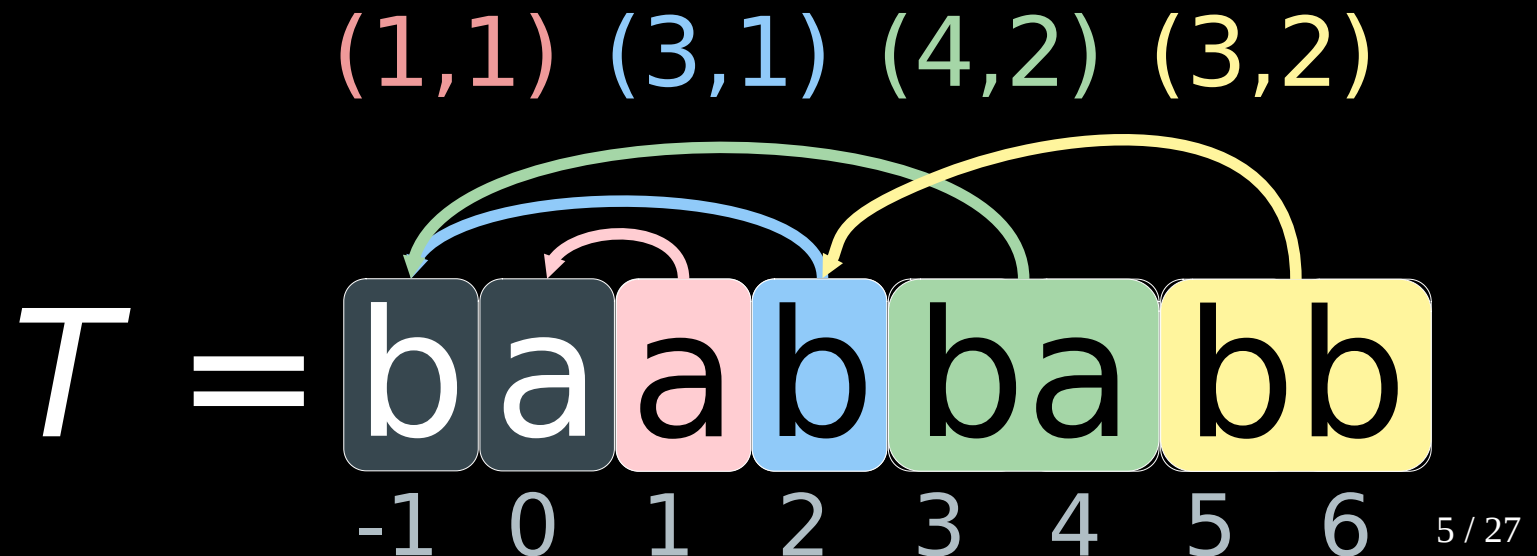
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where  $F_x$  starting at a text position  $j$  refers to a suffix starting in  $T[-1..j-1]$  and having  $F_x$  as a prefix



# pair encoding

- represent each factor as a pair of distance and length
- to obtain compression, we encode the pairs with an universal coder like Elias  $\gamma$  code



# decompression

since a reference points always to the already read part, we can decompress the text

(1,1) (3,1) (4,2) (3,2)

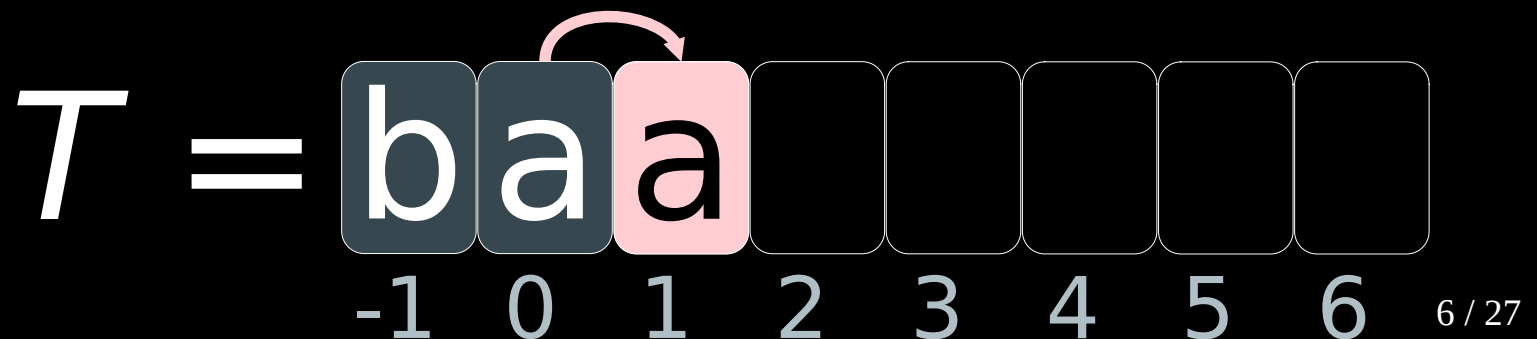
$T =$ 

b	a						
-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6

# decompression

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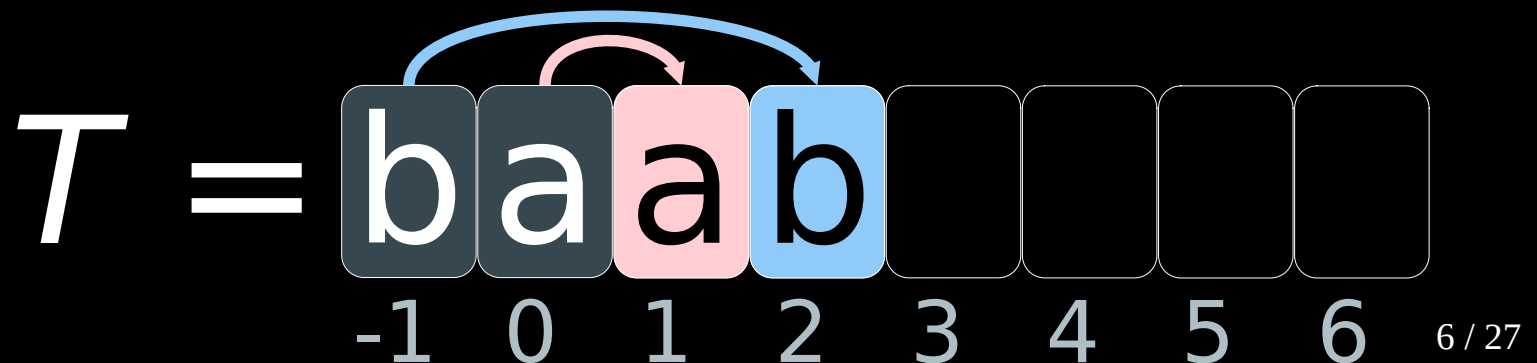
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# decompression

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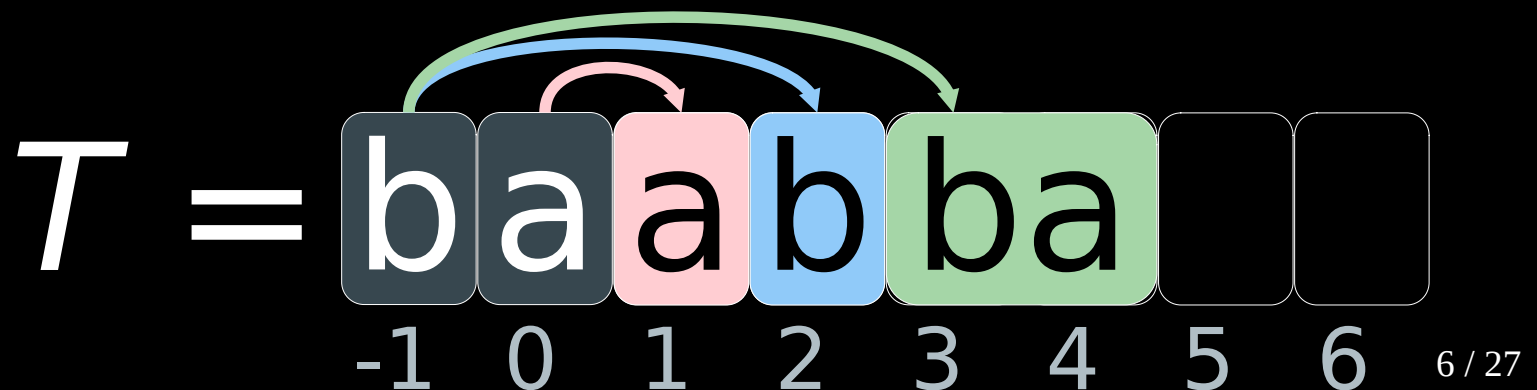
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(1,1) (3,1) (4,2) (3,2)



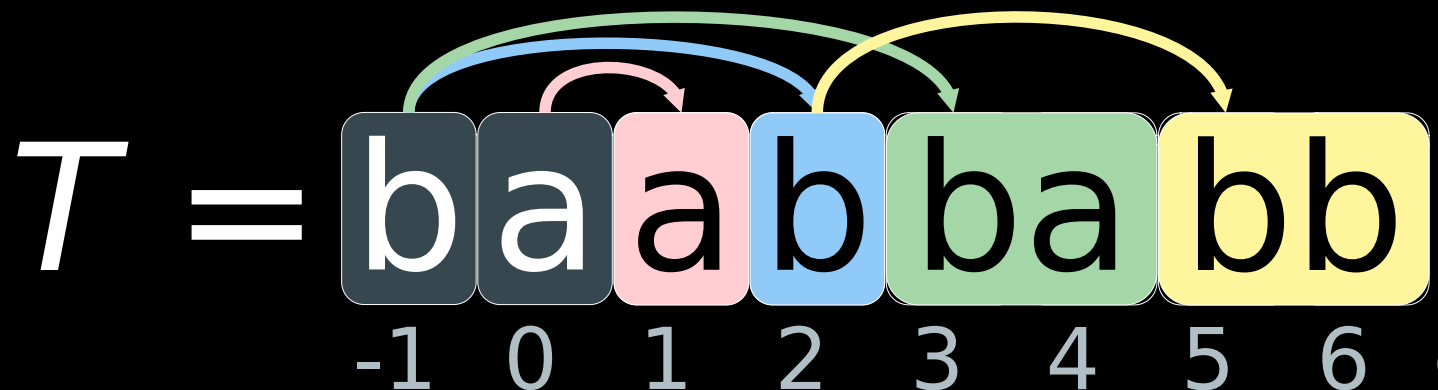
# decompression

since a reference points always to the already read part, we can decompress the text

however in practice:

the distances do not compress well!

(1,1) (3,1) (4,2) (3,2)



# representing distances

new representation:

- pre-processing: compute lengths and starting positions of all factors
- compute the distance based on a list maintaining all prefixes of the read text
- this list is sorted colex(icographically)
- we call the resulting distance **holz** offset (**h**igh **o**rders **L**empel-**Z**iv)



# colex(icographic) order

= sort according to the lexicographic order of the reversed strings

Example

aaab

abaa

aaba

aaba

abaa

bbba

bbba

aaab

→  
lexicographic  
order

←  
colex.  
order

# notations

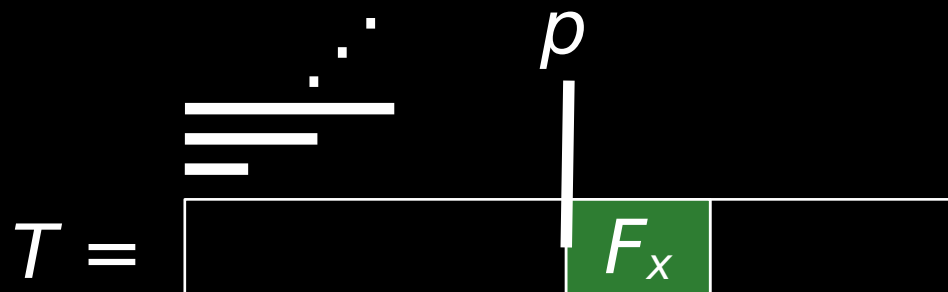
- $T[i..j]$  : substring; like  $T[0..2] = aab$
- $T[i..]$  : suffix; like  $T[3..] = babb$
- $T[-1..j]$  : prefix
- $\varepsilon$  : empty string (length 0)
- assume binary alphabet (extension to general ordered alphabets is easy)

$T =$ 

b	a	a	b	b	a	b	b
-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6

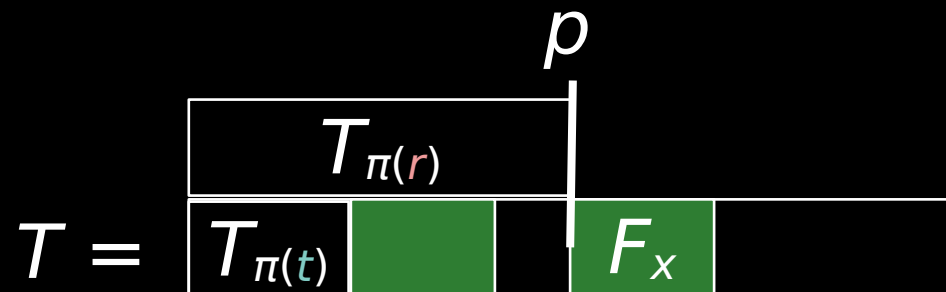
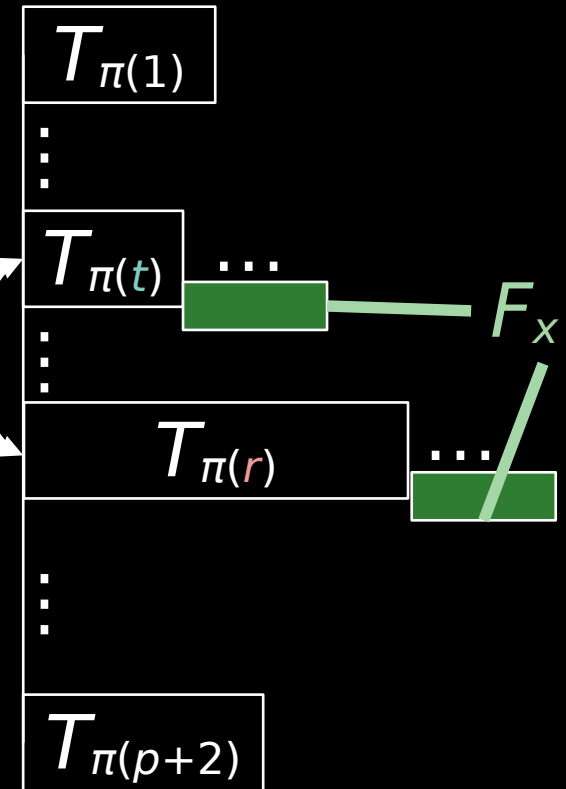
# holz: overview

- let  $T_p := T[-1..p]$
- $T_{-2} = \varepsilon, T_{-1} = b, T_0 = ba, T_1 = baa \dots$
- suppose we want to compute factor  $F_x$  starting at  $T[p..]$
- arrange  $T_{-2}, \dots, T_{p-1}$  in colex. order to get  $T_{\pi(1)} \prec_{\text{colex}} \dots \prec_{\text{colex}} T_{\pi(p+2)}$  with  $\pi$  ranking the prefix in colex. order



# computing offsets

- $T_{\pi(1)} \prec_{\text{colex}} \dots \prec_{\text{colex}} T_{\pi(p+2)}$
- let  $r$  be given by  $\pi(r) = p-1$
- let  $t$  be rank closest to  $r$  among those with  $T[\pi(t)+1..]$  having  $F_x$  as a prefix
- $F_x$ 's **holz** offset is  $r - t$

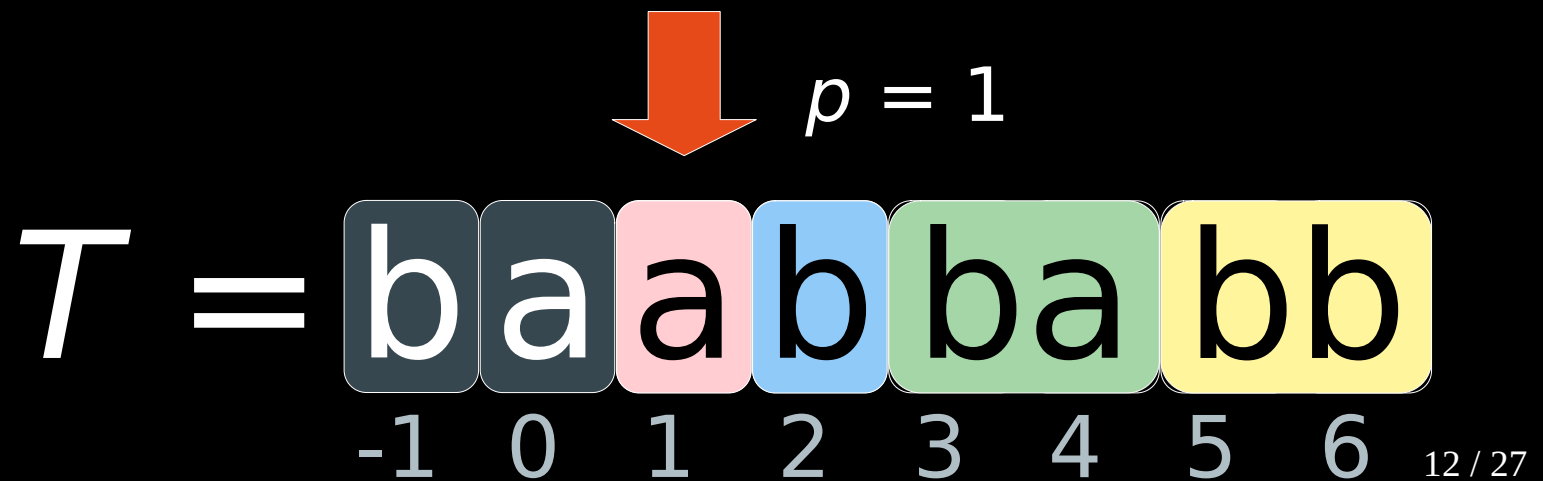


# offsets : example

precomputation: sort

- $T_{-2} = \varepsilon$
- $T_{-1} = b$
- $T_0 = ba$

in colex. order



# offsets : example

precomputation: sort

- $T_{-2} = \varepsilon$
- $T_{-1} = b$
- $T_0 = ba$

1	$T_{-2} =$	
2	$T_0 = ba$	
3	$T_{-1} = b$	

in colex. order



$T =$  **b** **a** **a** **b** **ba** **bb**

-1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6

# offsets : example

precomputation: sort

- $T_{-2} = \varepsilon$
- $T_{-1} = b$
- $T_0 = ba$

		remaining suffix
1	$T_{-2} =$	baabbabb
2	$T_0 = ba$	abbabb
3	$T_{-1} = b$	aabbabb

in colex. order

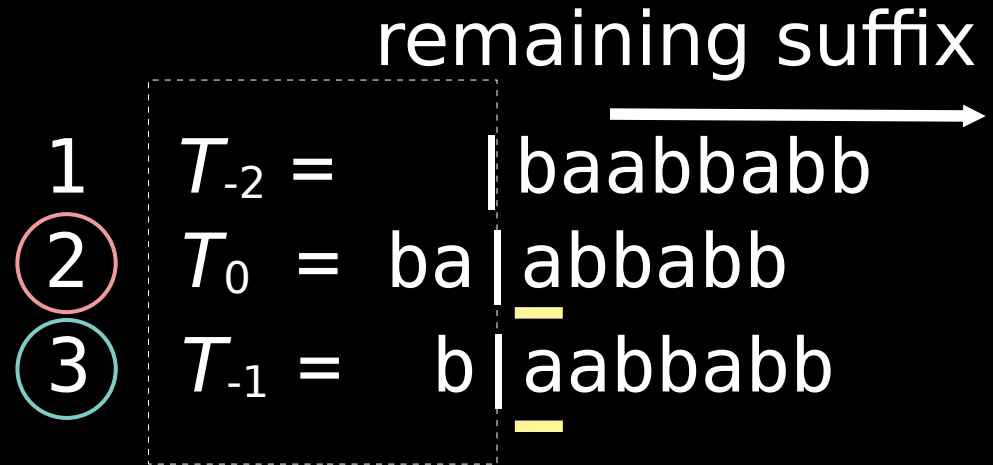


$T =$  **b** **a** **a** **b** **ba** **bb**

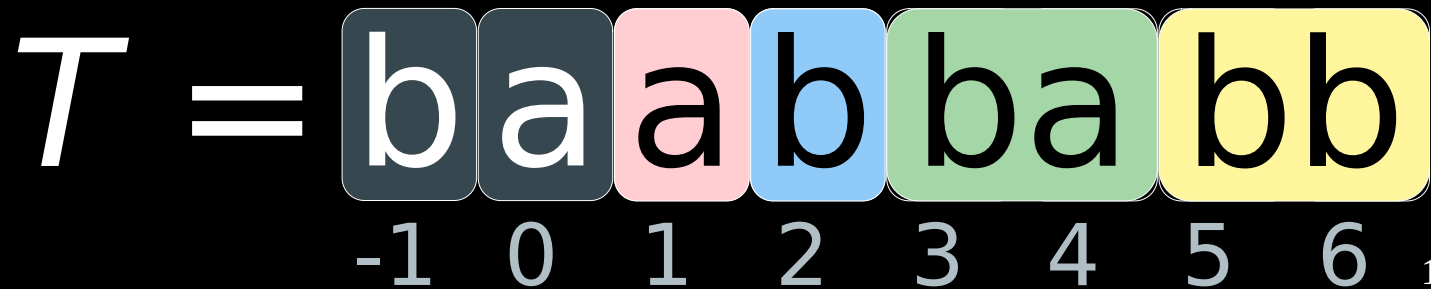
-1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6

# offsets : example

- $F_1 = T[1]$  is first factor
- starting position of  $F_1$  is  $p=1$
- $F_p = F_1$  starts after  $T_{p-1} = T_0$
- rank of  $T_{p-1} = T_0$  is  $r = 2$
- rank of  $T_{-1}$  is  $t = 3$



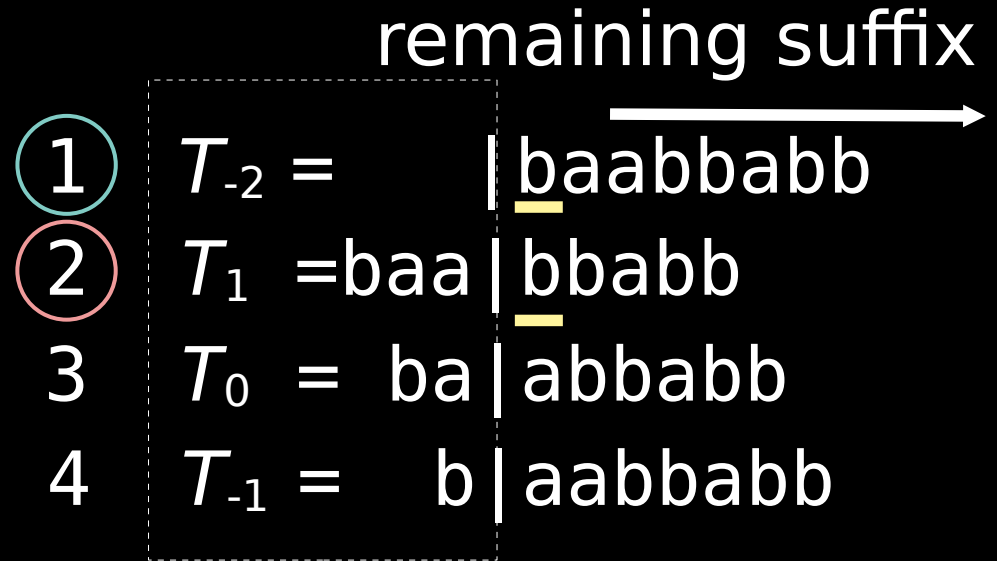
$$r - t = 2 - 3 = -1$$





# offsets : example

- add  $T_1$
- $p = 2$
- $r = 2$
- $t = 1$
- $r - t = 1$

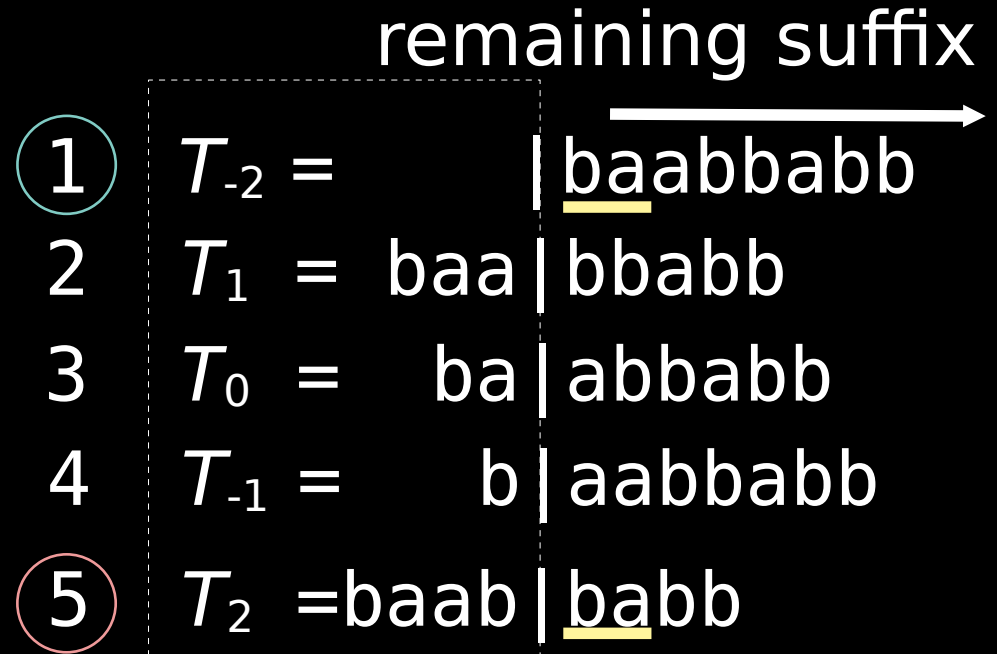


$T =$  **b** **a** **a** **b** **ba** **bb**

-1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6

# offsets : example

- add  $T_2$
- $p = 3$
- $r = 5$
- $t = 1$
- $r - t = 4$



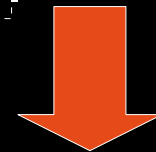
$T =$ 

<b>b</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>b</b>
-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6

# offsets : example

- add  $T_3$  and  $T_4$
- $p = 5$
- $r = 4$
- $t = 2$
- $r - t = 2$

1	$T_{-2} =$	baabbabb
2	$T_1 =$	baa   <u>bb</u> abb
3	$T_0 =$	ba   abbabb
4	$T_4 =$	baabba   <u>bb</u>
5	$T_{-1} =$	b   aabbabb
6	$T_2 =$	baab   babb
7	$T_3 =$	baabb   abb



$T =$  **b** **a** **a** **b** **b** **a** **b** **b**

-1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6

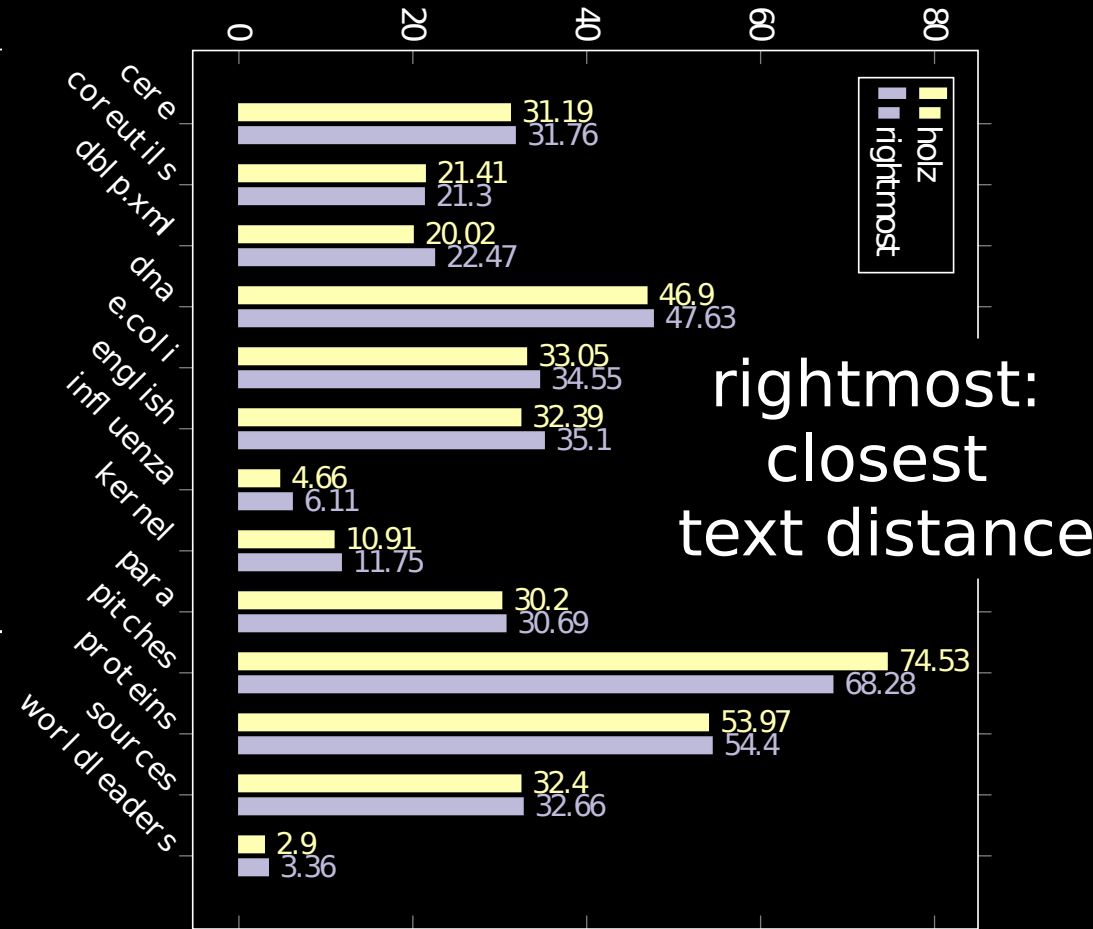
# experiments

- datasets from Pizza & Chili corpus
- take 20 MB prefix of each dataset,
- compute LZ factorization,
- encode pairs with Elias  $\gamma$  code,
- compare compression ratios

# experiments

dataset	$\sigma$	$z$ [K]	$H_0$	$H_2$	$H_4$
cere	5	8492	2.20	1.79	1.78
coreutils	235	3010	5.45	2.84	1.31
dblp.xml	96	3042	5.22	1.94	0.89
dna	14	12706	1.98	1.92	1.91
e.coli	11	8834	1.99	1.96	1.94
english	143	5478	4.53	2.89	1.94
influenza	15	876	1.97	1.93	1.91
kernel	160	1667	5.38	2.87	1.47
para	5	8254	2.17	1.83	1.82
pitches	129	10407	5.62	4.28	2.18
proteins	25	8499	4.20	4.07	2.97
sources	111	4878	5.52	2.98	1.60
worldleaders	89	408	4.09	1.74	0.73

compression ratio  
(lower = better)



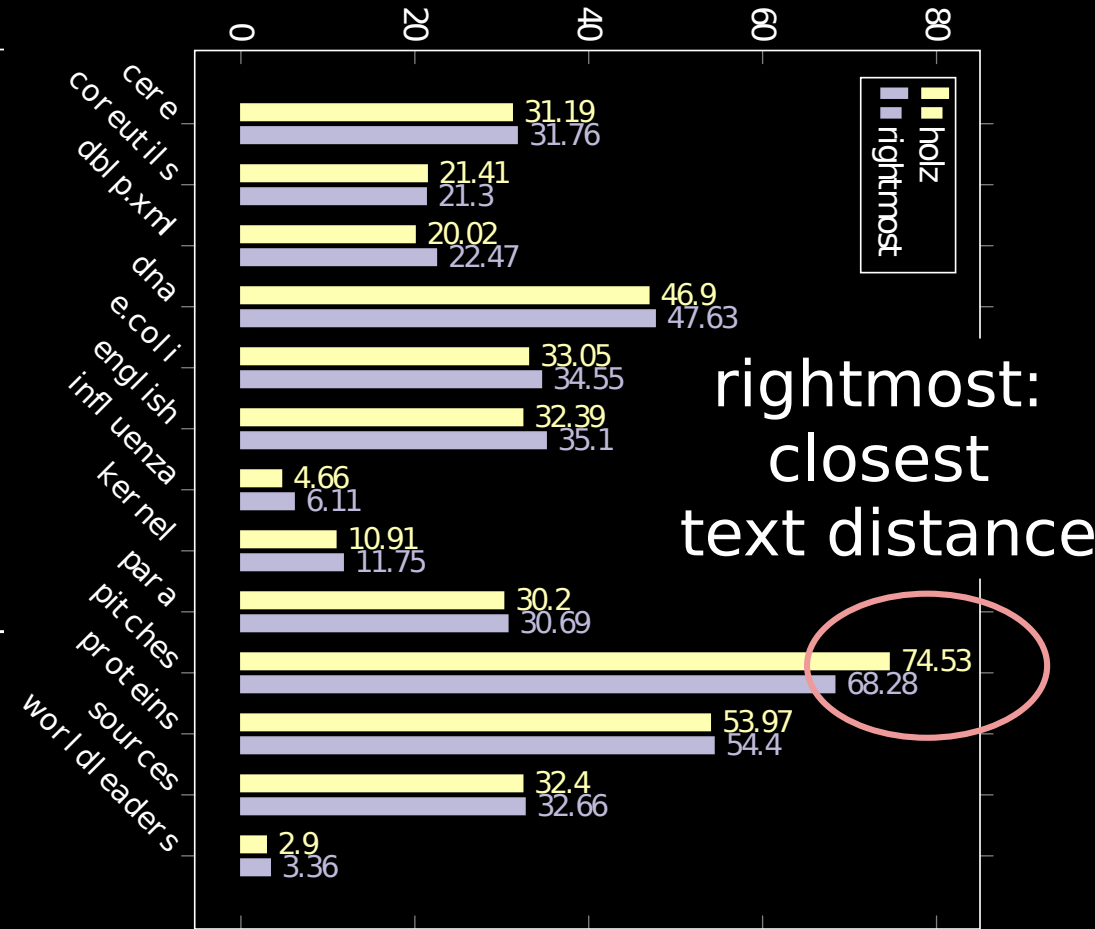
- $z$  : #factors
- [K] :  $10^3$  (kilo)
- $\sigma$ : alphabet size
- $H_k$  :  $k$ -th order empirical entropy

(Elias  $\gamma$  encoded)

# experiments

dataset	$\sigma$	$z$ [K]	$H_0$	$H_2$	$H_4$
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- $z$  : #factors
- [K] :  $10^3$  (kilo)
- $\sigma$ : alphabet size
- $H_k$  :  $k$ -th order empirical entropy

holz is only worse when  $H_k$  is high!

# about compression ratio

why are the **holz** offsets smaller than the distances most of the time?

answer sketch :

- contexts before the references are similar to the contexts before the factors  $\Rightarrow$  offsets are small
- similar observation for the Burrows-Wheeler transform (BWT) obtaining compression close to  $k$ -th order entropy via so-called *compression boosting* [Ferragina,Manzini '04]

# algorithmic aspects

problem:

how to maintain the colex. order of the prefixes?

idea : use dynamic BWT

- index processed text in reverse order  
(BWT maintains suffixes in lex. order)

⇒ reversed BWT maintains prefixes in colex. order

- $n H_k + o(n \lg \sigma)$  space
- $O(n \lg n / \lg \lg n)$  time

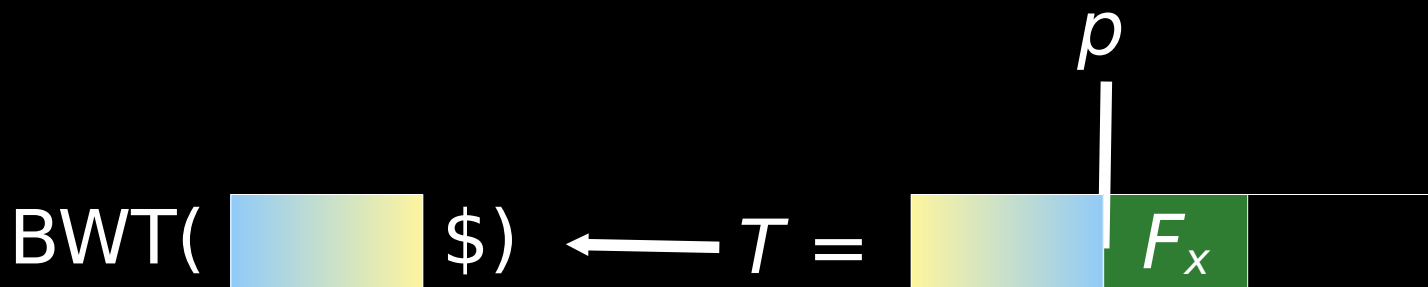
$H_k$  :  $k$ -th order empirical entropy

[Policriti, Prezza '18] + [Munro, Nekrich '15]



# offsets via BWT

- $T[-1..n] = \text{baabbabb}$
- $T^R\$ = \text{bbabbaab\$}$  (reverse  $T$  and append artificial character  $\$$ )
- pre-compute  $\text{BWT}(\text{ab\$})$
- invariant:  
have  $\text{BWT}(T^R[n-p+1..n+2]\$)$  computed  
when computing factor  $F_x$  starting at  $T[p..]$

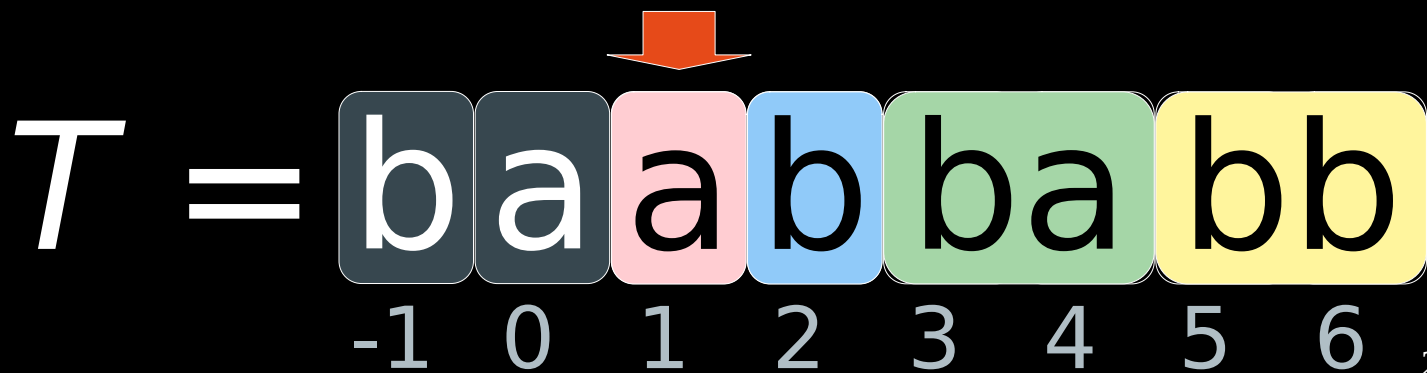
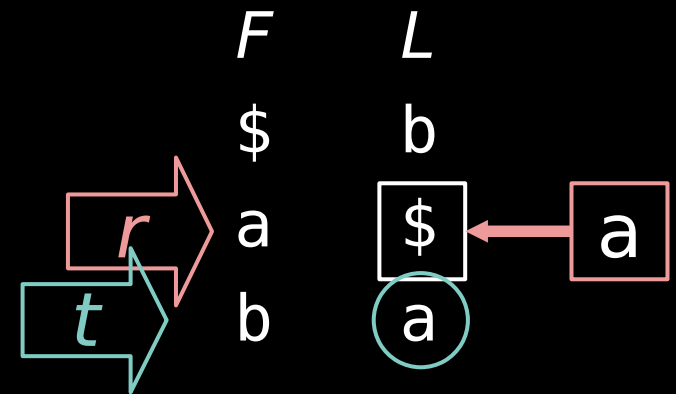


# offset of $F_1$

BWT(ab\$)

$F$	$L$
\$	b
a	\$
b	a

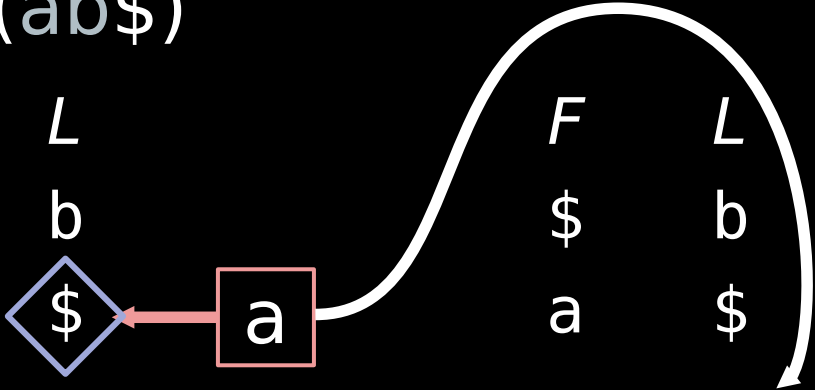
$r$  : place of \$  
 $t$  : reference



# BWT: prepend a character

BWT(ab\$)

<i>F</i>	<i>L</i>
\$	b
a	\$
b	a



BWT(aab\$)

<i>F</i>	<i>L</i>
\$	b
a	\$
a	a
b	a

[Crochemore+ '15]:

Given a character *a* we want to prepend

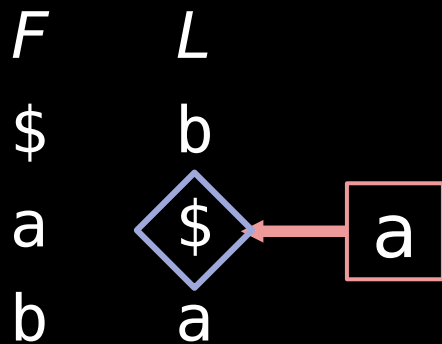
1) replace  $L[i] = \$$  with *a*

2) if  $L[i]$  is now the *j*-th *a* in  $L[1..i]$ ,

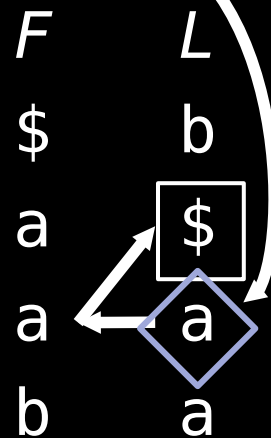
insert  $\$$  at  $L[k]$ , where  $F[k]$  is the *j*-th *a* of  $F$

# BWT: prepend a character

BWT(ab\$)



BWT(aab\$)



[Crochemore+ '15]:

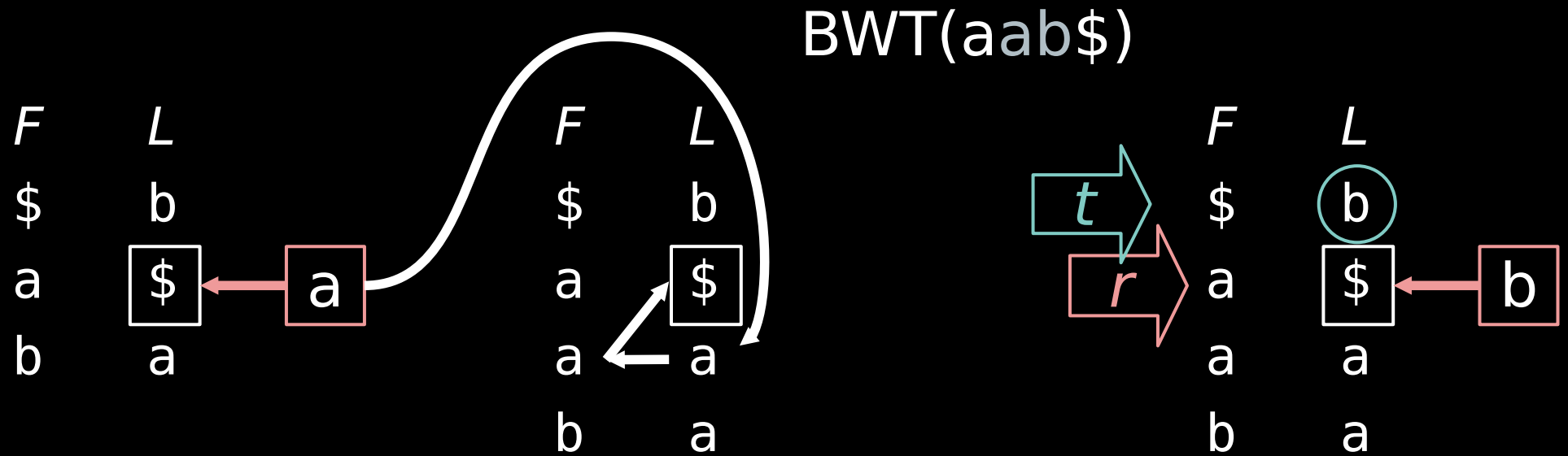
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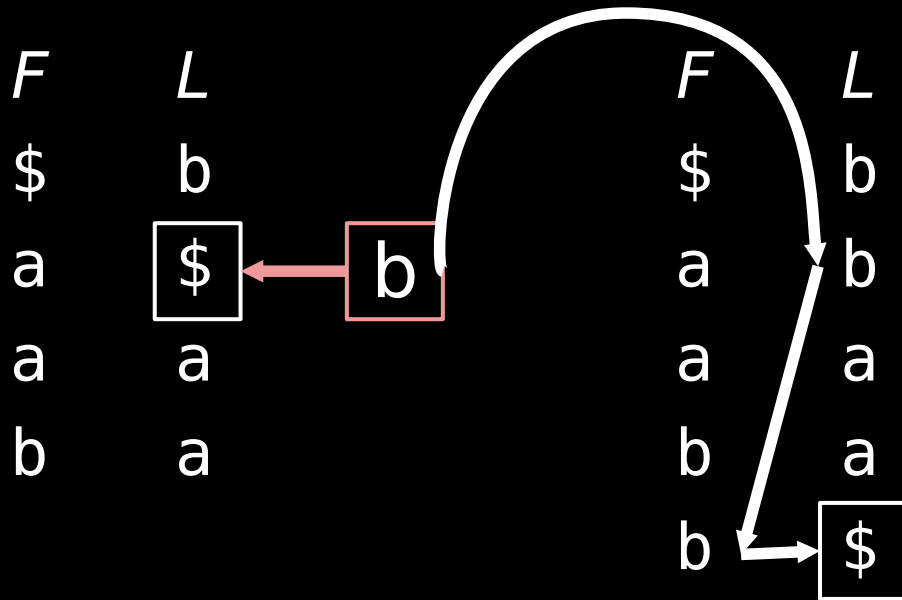
insert  $\$$  at  $L[k]$ , where  $F[k]$  is the  $j$ -th  $a$  of  $F$

# offset of $F_2$

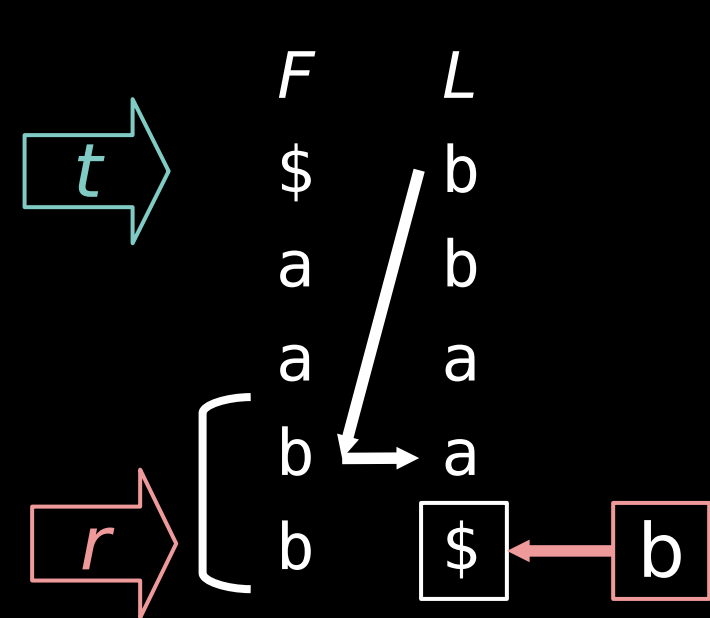


# offset of $F_3$

BWT(aab\$)



BWT(baab\$)

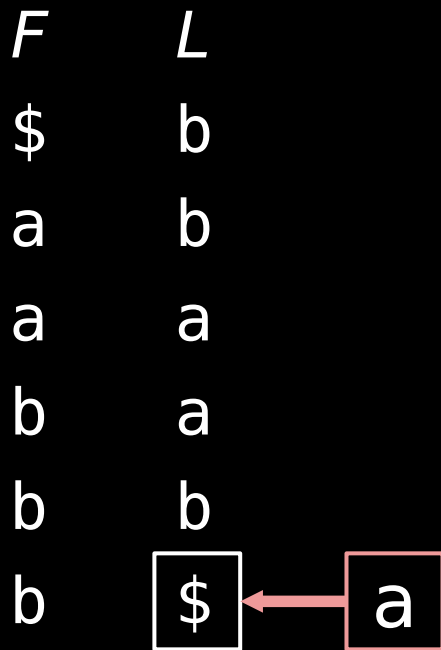


$T =$  **b** **a** **a** **b** **b** **a** **bb**

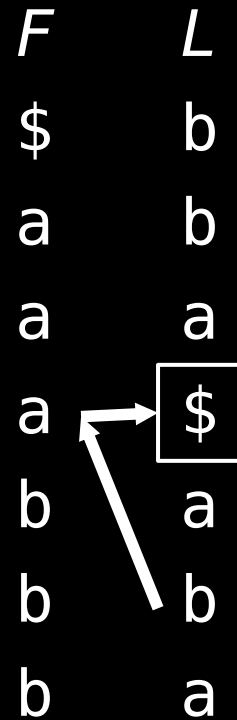
-1   0   1   2   3   4   5   6

# offset of $F_4$

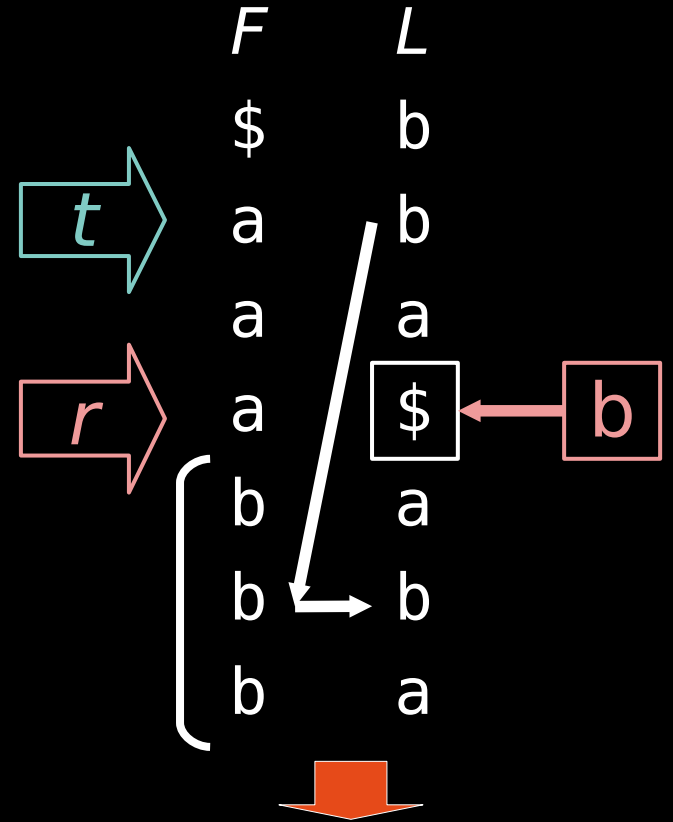
BWT(abaab\$)



BWT(babaab\$)



BWT(baab\$)



$T =$  **b** **a** **a** **b** **ba** **bb**

-1   0   1   2   3   4   5   6

# summary

- LZ compressors usually represent factors by pairs of lengths and distances
- distances compress badly
- exchange distances with **holz** offsets:  
= distance within the list of prefixes of the read text maintained in colex. order
- for low-entropy texts, **holz** offsets provide empirically better compression ratios

future work

- dynamic BWT is practical bottleneck wrt. time