



# Rabin-Karp algorithm

Robin Visser



# What is Rabin-Karp?

# What is Rabin-Karp?

- String searching algorithm

# What is Rabin-Karp?

- String searching algorithm
- Uses hashing

# What is Rabin-Karp?

- String searching algorithm
- Uses hashing

(e.g. `hash("answer") = 42` )



# Algorithm

# Algorithm

```
function RabinKarp(string s[1..n], string sub[1..m])
  hsub := hash(sub[1..m]); hs := hash(s[1..m])
  for i from 1 to n-m+1
    if hs = hsub
      if s[i..i+m-1] = sub
        return i
    hs := hash(s[i+1..i+m])
  return not found
```

# Algorithm

```
function RabinKarp(string s[1..n], string sub[1..m])
  hsub := hash(sub[1..m]); hs := hash(s[1..m])
  for i from 1 to n-m+1
    if hs = hsub
      if s[i..i+m-1] = sub
        return i
    hs := hash(s[i+1..i+m])
  return not found
```

Naïve implementation: Runs in  $O(nm)$





# Hash function

# Hash function

- Use rolling hash to compute the next hash value in constant time

# Hash function

- Use rolling hash to compute the next hash value in constant time

Example: If we add the values of each character in the substring as our hash, we get:

$$\text{hash}(s[i+1..i+m]) = \text{hash}(s[i..i+m-1]) - \text{hash}(s[i]) + \text{hash}(s[i+m])$$

# Hash function

- A popular and effective hash function treats every substring as a number in some base, usually a large prime.

# Hash function

- A popular and effective hash function treats every substring as a number in some base, usually a large prime.

(e.g. if the substring is "IOI" and the base is 101, the hash value would be  $73 \times 101^2 + 79 \times 101^1 + 73 \times 101^0 = 752725$ )

# Hash function

- A popular and effective hash function treats every substring as a number in some base, usually a large prime.

(e.g. if the substring is "IOI" and the base is 101, the hash value would be  $73 \times 101^2 + 79 \times 101^1 + 73 \times 101^0 = 752725$ )

Due to the limited size of the integer data type, modular arithmetic must be used to scale down the hash result.



**How is this useful**

# How is this useful

- Inferior to KMP algorithm and Boyer-Moore algorithm for single pattern searching, however can be used effectively for multiple pattern searching.



# How is this useful

- Inferior to KMP algorithm and Boyer-Moore algorithm for single pattern searching, however can be used effectively for multiple pattern searching.
- We can create a variant, using a Bloom filter or a set data structure to check whether the hash of a given string belongs to a set of hash values of patterns we are looking for.



# How is this useful

Consider the following variant:

# How is this useful

Consider the following variant:

```
function RabinKarpSet (string s[1..n], set of string  
subs, m) :
```

```
    set hsubs := emptySet
```

```
    for each sub in subs
```

```
        insert hash(sub[1..m]) into hsubs
```

```
    hs := hash(s[1..m])
```

```
    for i from 1 to n-m+1
```

```
        if hs ∈ hsubs and s[i..i+m-1] ∈ subs
```

```
            return i
```

```
        hs := hash(s[i+1..i+m])
```

```
    return not found
```

# How is this useful

- Runs in  $O(n + k)$  time, compared to  $O(nk)$  time when searching each string individually.

# How is this useful

- Runs in  $O(n + k)$  time, compared to  $O(nk)$  time when searching each string individually.
- Note that a hash table checks whether a substring hash equals any of the pattern hashes in  $O(1)$  time on average.



**Questions?**