

# STRINGS AND PATTERN MATCHING

- Brute Force, Rabin-Karp, Knuth-Morris-Pratt

What's up?

I'm looking for some string.

That's quite a trick considering that you have no eyes.

Oh yeah? Have you seen your writing?  
It looks like an EKG!



# String Searching

- The previous slide is not a great example of what is meant by “String Searching.” Nor is it meant to ridicule people without eyes....
- The object of **string searching** is to find the location of a specific text pattern within a larger body of text (e.g., a sentence, a paragraph, a book, etc.).
- As with most algorithms, the main considerations for string searching are speed and efficiency.
- There are a number of string searching algorithms in existence today, but the two we shall review are **Brute Force** and **Rabin-Karp**.

# Brute Force

- The **Brute Force** algorithm compares the pattern to the text, one character at a time, until unmatching characters are found:

---

*T*WO ROADS DIVERGED IN A YELLOW WOOD  
*R*OADS

---

T*W*O ROADS DIVERGED IN A YELLOW WOOD  
*R*OADS

---

TW*O* ROADS DIVERGED IN A YELLOW WOOD  
*R*OADS

---

TWO ROADS DIVERGED IN A YELLOW WOOD  
*R*OADS

---

TWO **ROADS** DIVERGED IN A YELLOW WOOD  
**ROADS**

---

- Compared characters are italicized.
- Correct matches are in boldface type.
- The algorithm can be designed to stop on either the first occurrence of the pattern, or upon reaching the end of the text.

# Brute Force Pseudo-Code

- Here's the pseudo-code

**do**

**if** (text letter == pattern letter)

    compare next letter of pattern to next  
    letter of text

**else**

    move pattern down text by one letter

**while** (entire pattern found or end of text)

---

t e t t h t h e h e e h t h t e h t h e t h t h e h e h t h t  
t h e

---

t e t t h t h e h e e h t h t e h t h e t h t h e h e h t h t  
t h e

---

t e t t h t h e h e e h t h t e h t h e t h t h e h e h t h t  
t h e

---

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---

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t h e

---

t e t t h t h e h e e h t h t e h t h e t h t h e h e h t h t  
t h e

---

# Brute Force-Complexity

- Given a pattern M characters in length, and a text N characters in length...
- **Worst case:** compares pattern to each substring of text of length M. For example, M=5.

1) *AAAAA*AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH  
*AAAAH*      **5 comparisons made**

2) *AAAAA*AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH  
*AAAAH*      **5 comparisons made**

3) *AAAAA*AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH  
*AAAAH*      **5 comparisons made**

4) *AAAAA*AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH  
*AAAAH*      **5 comparisons made**

5) *AAAAA*AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH  
*AAAAH*      **5 comparisons made**

....

N) AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA*AAAAH*  
**5 comparisons made**      *AAAAH*

- Total number of comparisons:  $M(N-M+1)$
- Worst case time complexity:  $O(MN)$

# Brute Force-Complexity(cont.)

- Given a pattern M characters in length, and a text N characters in length...
- **Best case if pattern found:** Finds pattern in first M positions of text. For example, M=5.

1) **AAAAA**AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH  
**AAAAA**      **5 comparisons made**

- Total number of comparisons: M
- Best case time complexity:  $O(M)$

# Brute Force-Complexity(cont.)

- Given a pattern M characters in length, and a text N characters in length...
- **Best case if pattern not found:** Always mismatch on first character. For example, M=5.

1) AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH  
OOOOH      1 comparison made

2) AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH  
OOOOH      1 comparison made

3) AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH  
OOOOH      1 comparison made

4) AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH  
OOOOH      1 comparison made

5) AAAAAA AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH  
OOOOH      1 comparison made

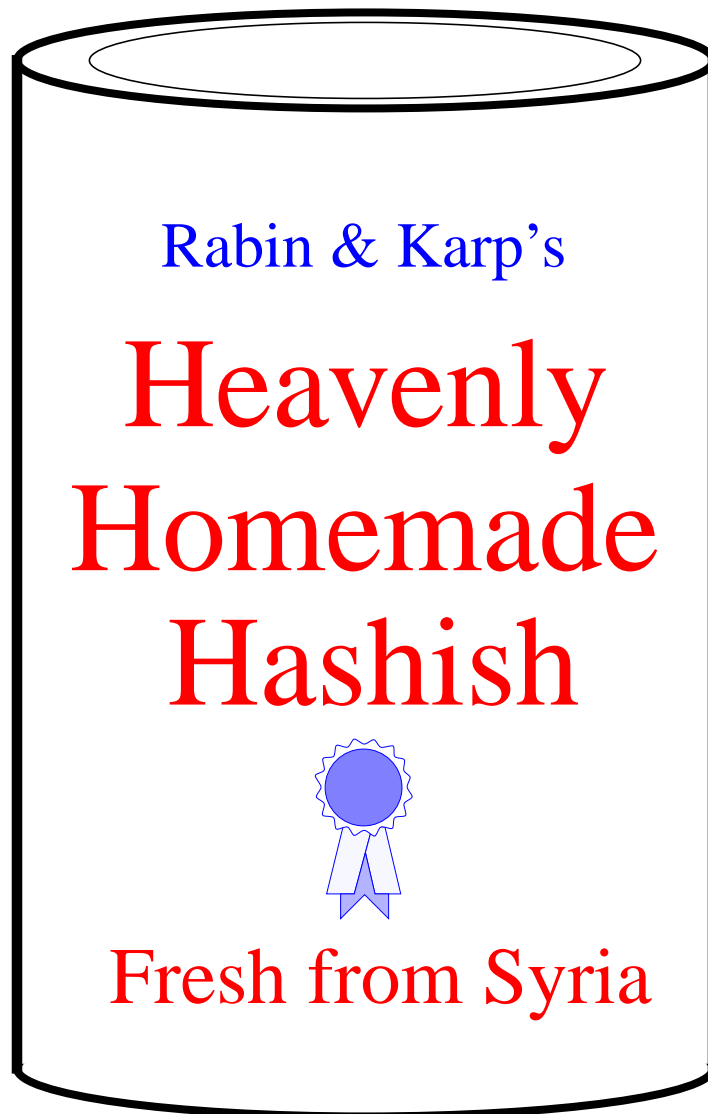
...

N) AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA AAAAAH  
1 comparison made      OOOOH

- Total number of comparisons: N
- Best case time complexity: O(N)

# Rabin-Karp

- The Rabin-Karp string searching algorithm uses a hash function to speed up the search.





# Rabin-Karp

- The Rabin-Karp string searching algorithm calculates a **hash value** for the pattern, and for each M-character subsequence of text to be compared.
- If the hash values are unequal, the algorithm will calculate the hash value for next M-character sequence.
- If the hash values are equal, the algorithm will do a **Brute Force comparison** between the pattern and the M-character sequence.
- In this way, there is only one comparison per text subsequence, and Brute Force is only needed when hash values match.
- Perhaps a figure will clarify some things...

# Rabin-Karp Example

Hash value of “AAAAA” is 37

Hash value of “AAAAH” is 100

1) **AAAAA**AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH  
**AAAAH**

37≠100      **1 comparison made**

2) **AAAAA**AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH  
**AAAAH**

37≠100      **1 comparison made**

3) **AAAAA**AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH  
**AAAAH**

37≠100      **1 comparison made**

4) **AAAAA**AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH  
**AAAAH**

37≠100      **1 comparison made**

...

N) AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA**AAAAH**  
**AAAAH**

**6 comparisons made**

**100=100**

# Rabin-Karp Pseudo-Code

*pattern is M characters long*

**hash\_p**=hash value of pattern

**hash\_t**=hash value of first M letters in  
body of text

**do**

**if** (**hash\_p** == **hash\_t**)

brute force comparison of pattern  
and selected section of text

**hash\_t** = hash value of next section of  
text, one character over

**while** (end of text **or**

brute force comparison == true)

# Rabin-Karp

- Common Rabin-Karp questions:
  - “What is the hash function used to calculate values for character sequences?”
  - “Isn’t it time consuming to hash every one of the M-character sequences in the text body?”
  - “Is this going to be on the final?”
- To answer some of these questions, we’ll have to get mathematical.

# Rabin-Karp Math

- Consider an M-character sequence as an M-digit number in **base  $b$** , where  $b$  is the number of letters in the alphabet. The text subsequence  $t[i .. i+M-1]$  is mapped to the number

$$x(i) = t[i] \cdot b^{M-1} + t[i+1] \cdot b^{M-2} + \dots + t[i+M-1]$$

- Furthermore, given  $x(i)$  we can compute  $x(i+1)$  for the next subsequence  $t[i+1 .. i+M]$  in constant time, as follows:

$$x(i+1) = t[i+1] \cdot b^{M-1} + t[i+2] \cdot b^{M-2} + \dots + t[i+M]$$

$$x(i+1) = x(i) \cdot b$$

Shift left one digit

$$- t[i] \cdot b^M$$

Subtract leftmost digit

$$+ t[i+M]$$

Add new rightmost digit

- In this way, we never explicitly compute a new value. We simply adjust the existing value as we move over one character.

# Rabin-Karp Mods

- If  $M$  is large, then the resulting value ( $\sim b^M$ ) will be enormous. For this reason, we hash the value by taking it **mod** a **prime number  $q$** .
- The **mod** function (`%` in Java) is particularly useful in this case due to several of its inherent properties:
  - $[(x \bmod q) + (y \bmod q)] \bmod q = (x+y) \bmod q$
  - $(x \bmod q) \bmod q = x \bmod q$
- For these reasons:

$$h(i) = ((t[i] \cdot b^{M-1} \bmod q) + (t[i+1] \cdot b^{M-2} \bmod q) + \dots + (t[i+M-1] \bmod q)) \bmod q$$

$$h(i+1) = (h(i) \cdot b \bmod q$$

Shift left one digit

$$- t[i] \cdot b^M \bmod q$$

Subtract leftmost digit

$$+ t[i+M] \bmod q )$$

Add new rightmost digit

$$\bmod q$$

# Rabin-Karp Pseudo-Code

*pattern is M characters long*

**hash\_p**=hash value of pattern

**hash\_t** =hash value of first M letters in  
body of text

**do**

**if** (**hash\_p** == **hash\_t**)

brute force comparison of pattern  
and selected section of text

**hash\_t** = hash value of next section of  
text, one character over

**while** (end of text **or**

brute force comparison == **true**)

# Rabin-Karp Complexity

- If a sufficiently large prime number is used for the *hash function*, the hashed values of two different patterns will usually be distinct.
- If this is the case, searching takes  $O(N)$  time, where  $N$  is the number of characters in the larger body of text.
- It is always possible to construct a scenario with a worst case complexity of  $O(MN)$ . This, however, is likely to happen only if the prime number used for hashing is small.



# The Knuth-Morris-Pratt Algorithm

- The **Knuth-Morris-Pratt (KMP)** string searching algorithm differs from the brute-force algorithm by keeping track of information gained from previous comparisons.
- A **failure function** ( $f$ ) is computed that indicates how much of the last comparison can be reused if it fails.
- Specifically,  $f$  is defined to be the longest prefix of the pattern  $P[0,..,j]$  that is also a suffix of  $P[1,..,j]$ 
  - **Note:** not a suffix of  $P[0,..,j]$
- Example:
  - value of the KMP failure function:

$j$	0	1	2	3	4	5
$P[j]$	a	b	a	b	a	c
$f(j)$	0	0	1	2	3	0

- This shows how much of the beginning of the string matches up to the portion immediately preceding a failed comparison.
  - if the comparison fails at (4), we know the a,b in positions 2,3 is identical to positions 0,1

# The KMP Algorithm (contd.)

- Time Complexity Analysis
- define  $k = i - j$
- In every iteration through the while loop, one of three things happens.
  - 1) if  $T[i] = P[j]$ , then  $i$  increases by 1, as does  $j$   
 $k$  remains the same.
  - 2) if  $T[i] \neq P[j]$  and  $j > 0$ , then  $i$  does not change and  $k$  increases by at least 1, since  $k$  changes from  $i - j$  to  $i - f(j-1)$
  - 3) if  $T[i] \neq P[j]$  and  $j = 0$ , then  $i$  increases by 1 and  $k$  increases by 1 since  $j$  remains the same.
- Thus, each time through the loop, either  $i$  or  $k$  increases by at least 1, so the greatest possible number of loops is  $2n$
- This of course assumes that  $f$  has already been computed.
- However,  $f$  is computed in much the same manner as `KMPMatch` so the time complexity argument is analogous. `KMPFailureFunction` is  $O(m)$
- Total Time Complexity:  $O(n + m)$

# The KMP Algorithm (contd.)

- the KMP string matching algorithm: Pseudo-Code

Algorithm **KMPMatch**( $T, P$ )

**Input:** Strings  $T$  (text) with  $n$  characters and  $P$  (pattern) with  $m$  characters.

**Output:** Starting index of the first substring of  $T$  matching  $P$ , or an indication that  $P$  is not a substring of  $T$ .

```
 $f \leftarrow$  KMPFailureFunction( $P$ ) {build failure function}
 $i \leftarrow 0$ 
 $j \leftarrow 0$ 
while  $i < n$  do
  if  $P[j] = T[i]$  then
    if  $j = m - 1$  then
      return  $i - m - 1$  {a match}
     $i \leftarrow i + 1$ 
     $j \leftarrow j + 1$ 
  else if  $j > 0$  then {no match, but we have advanced}
     $j \leftarrow f(j-1)$  {j indexes just after matching prefix in P}
  else
     $i \leftarrow i + 1$ 
return “There is no substring of  $T$  matching  $P$ ”
```

# The KMP Algorithm (contd.)

- The KMP failure function: Pseudo-Code

Algorithm **KMPFailureFunction**( $P$ );

**Input:** String  $P$  (pattern) with  $m$  characters

**Output:** The failure function  $f$  for  $P$ , which maps  $j$  to the length of the longest prefix of  $P$  that is a suffix of  $P[1, \dots, j]$

$i \leftarrow 1$

$j \leftarrow 0$

while  $i \leq m-1$  do

  if  $P[j] = T[j]$  then

    {we have matched  $j + 1$  characters}

$f(i) \leftarrow j + 1$

$i \leftarrow i + 1$

$j \leftarrow j + 1$

  else if  $j > 0$  then

    { $j$  indexes just after a prefix of  $P$  that matches}

$j \leftarrow f(j-1)$

  else

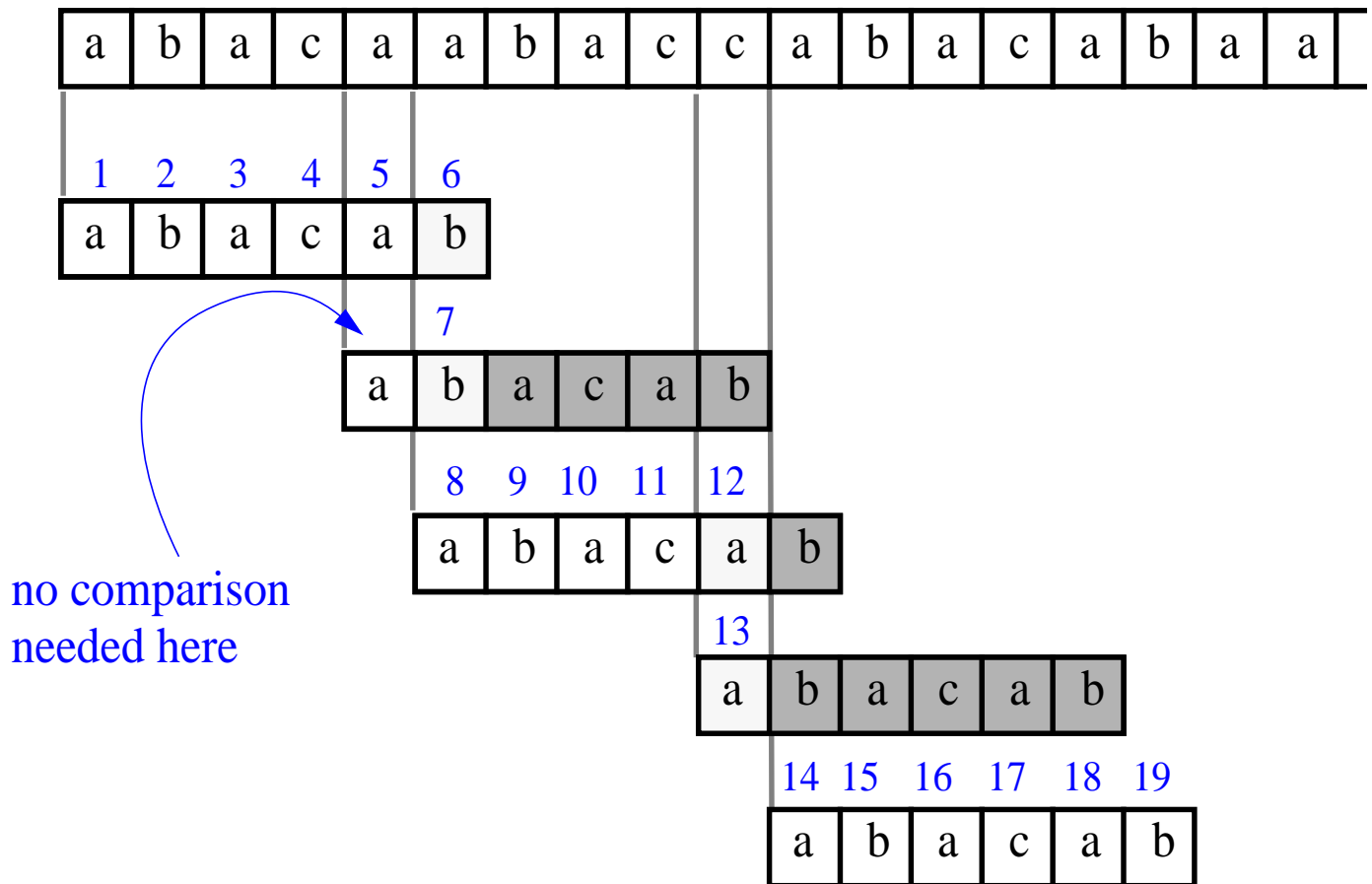
    {there is no match}

$f(i) \leftarrow 0$

$i \leftarrow i + 1$

# The KMP Algorithm (contd.)

- A graphical representation of the KMP string searching algorithm

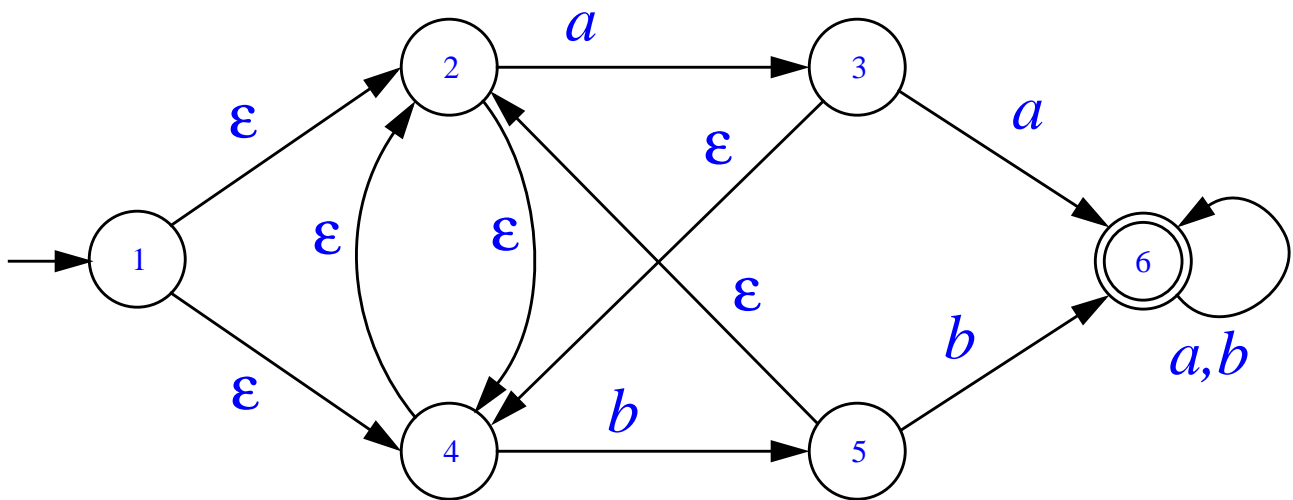
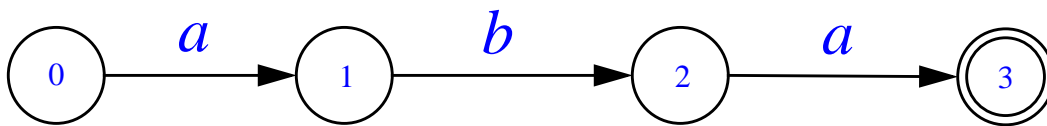
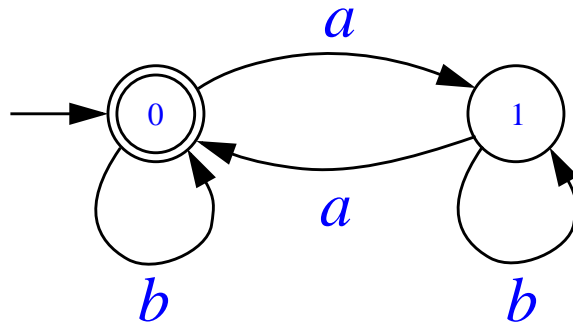


# Regular Expressions

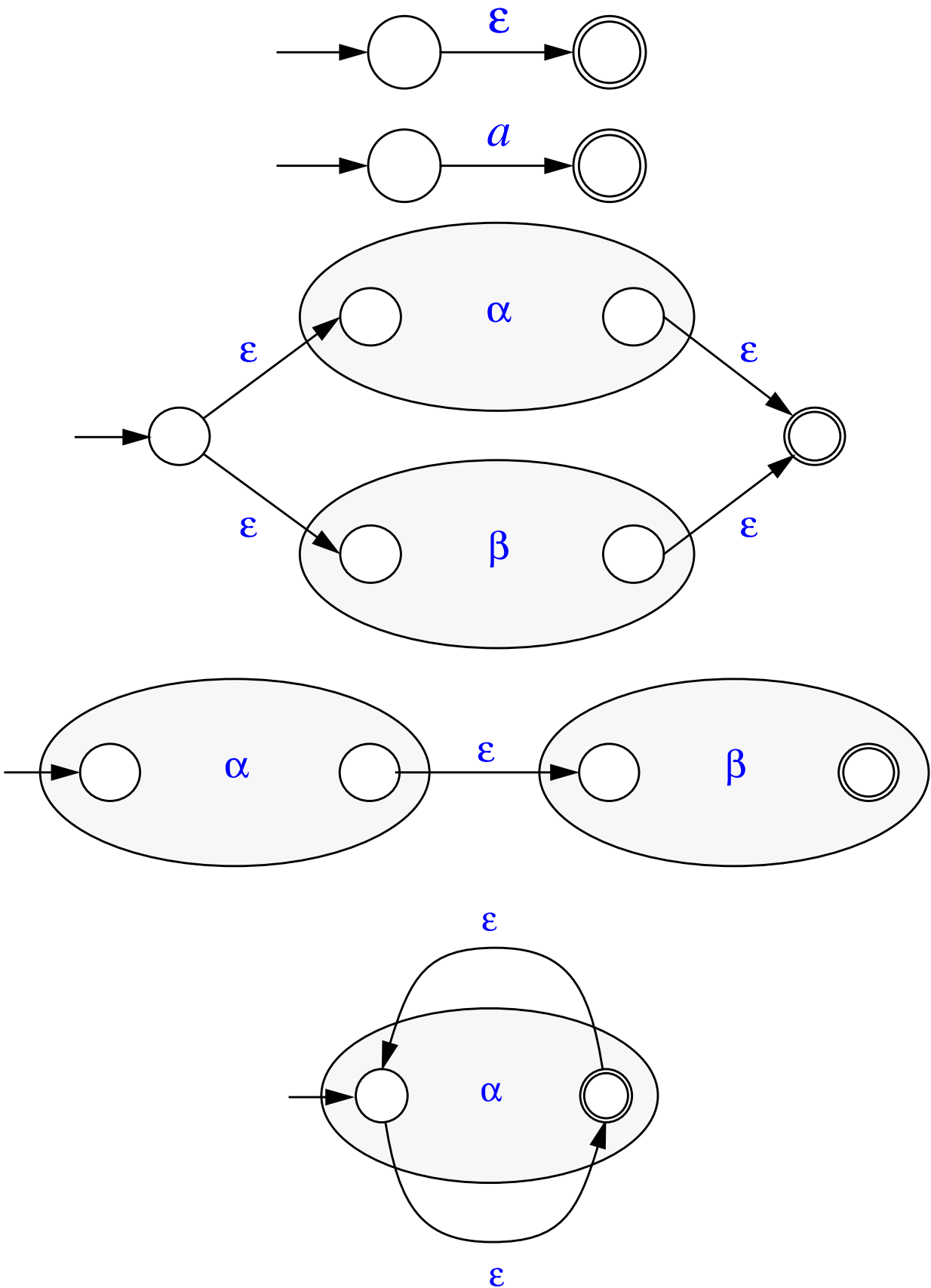
- notation for describing a set of strings, possibly of infinite size
- $\epsilon$  denotes the empty string
- $ab + c$  denotes the set  $\{ab, c\}$
- $a^*$  denotes the set  $\{\epsilon, a, aa, aaa, \dots\}$
- Examples
  - $(a+b)^*$  all the strings from the alphabet  $\{a,b\}$
  - $b^*(ab^*a)^*b^*$  strings with an even number of a's
  - $(a+b)^*\text{sun}(a+b)^*$  strings containing the pattern "sun"
  - $(a+b)(a+b)(a+b)a$  4-letter strings ending in a

# Finite State Automaton

- “machine” for processing strings



# Composition of FSA's





# Tries

- A **trie** is a tree-based data structure for storing strings in order to make pattern matching faster.
- Tries can be used to perform **prefix queries** for information retrieval. Prefix queries search for the longest prefix of a given string  $X$  that matches a prefix of some string in the trie.
- A trie supports the following operations on a set  $S$  of strings:

**insert( $X$ )**: Insert the string  $X$  into  $S$

**Input**: String **Output**: None

**remove( $X$ )**: Remove string  $X$  from  $S$

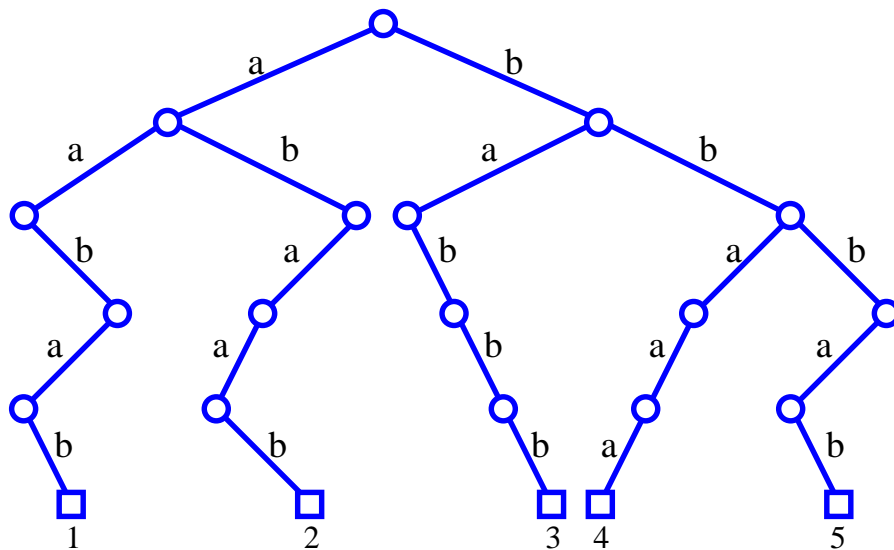
**Input**: String **Output**: None

**prefixes( $X$ )**: Return all the strings in  $S$  that have a longest prefix of  $X$

**Input**: String **Output**: Enumeration of strings

# Tries (cont.)

- Let  $S$  be a set of strings from the alphabet  $\Sigma$  such that no string in  $S$  is a prefix to another string. A **standard trie** for  $S$  is an ordered tree  $T$  that:
  - Each edge of  $T$  is labeled with a character from  $\Sigma$
  - The ordering of edges out of an internal node is determined by the alphabet  $\Sigma$
  - The path from the root of  $T$  to any node represents a prefix in  $\Sigma$  that is equal to the concatenation of the characters encountered while traversing the path.
- For example, the standard trie over the alphabet  $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$  for the set  $\{aabab, abaab, babbb, bbaaa, bbab\}$



## Tries (cont.)

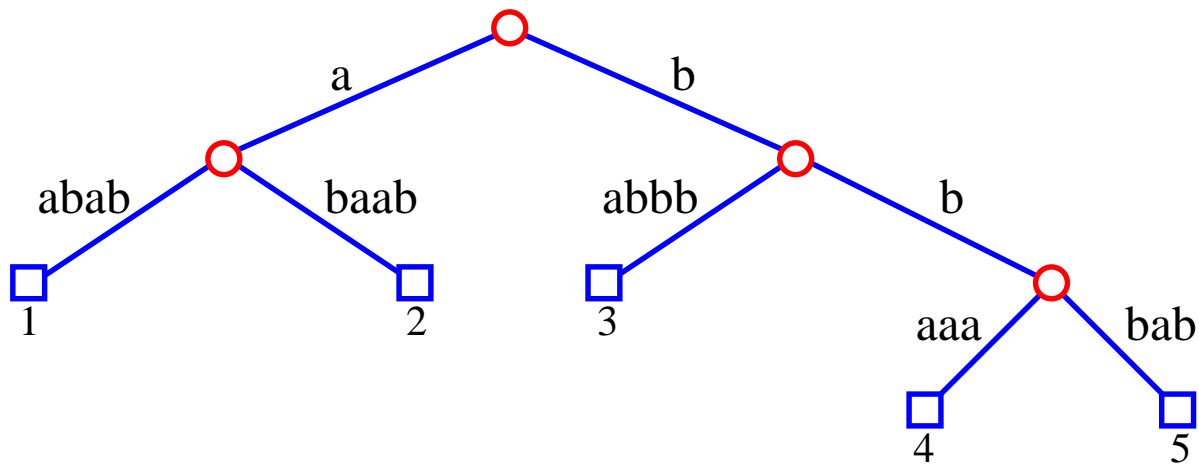
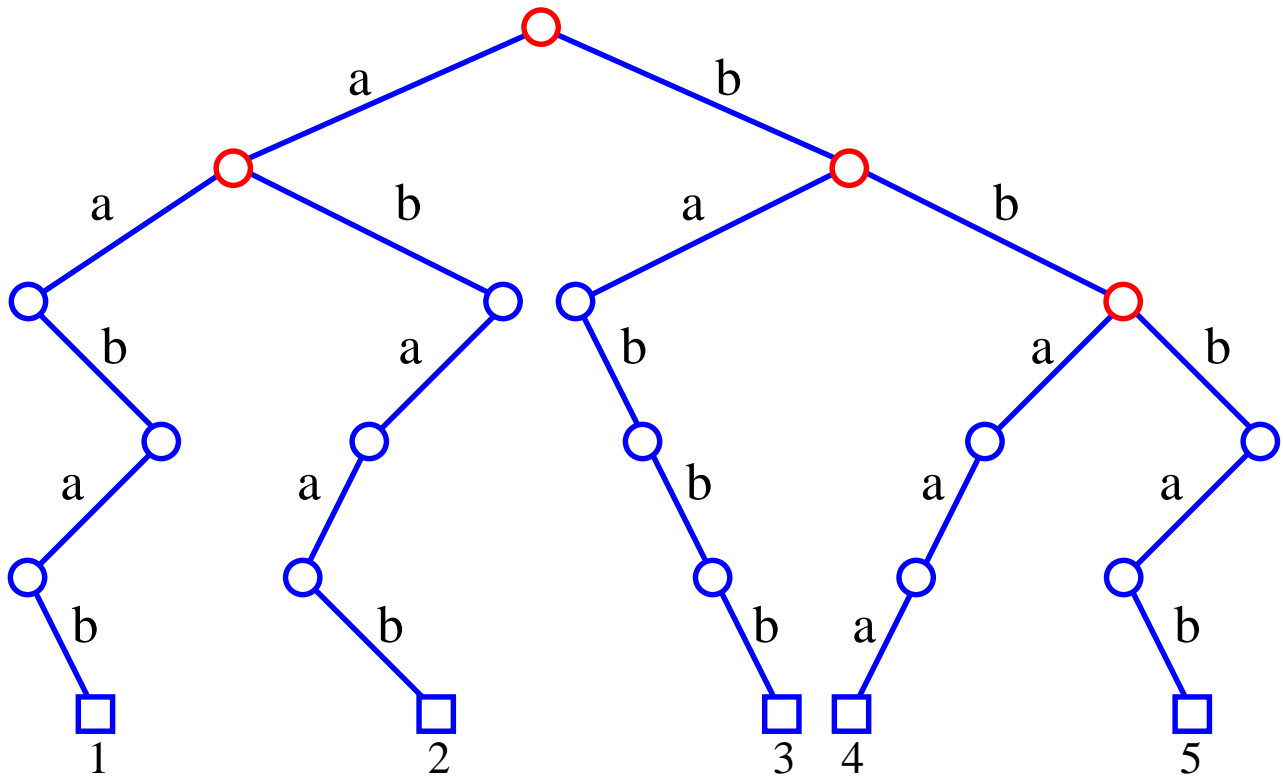
- An internal node can have 1 to  $d$  children when  $d$  is the size of the alphabet. Our example is essentially a binary tree.
- A path from the root of  $T$  to an internal node  $v$  at depth  $i$  corresponds to an  $i$ -character prefix of a string of  $S$ .
- We can implement a trie with an ordered tree by storing the character associated with an edge at the child node below it.

# Compressed Tries

- A **compressed trie** is like a standard trie but makes sure that each trie had a degree of at least 2. Single child nodes are compressed into an single edge.
- A **critical node** is a node  $v$  such that  $v$  is labeled with a string from  $S$ ,  $v$  has at least 2 children, or  $v$  is the root.
- To convert a standard trie to a compressed trie we replace an edge  $(v_0, v_1)$  each chain on nodes  $(v_0, v_1 \dots v_k)$  for  $k \geq 2$  such that
  - $v_0$  and  $v_1$  are critical but  $v_i$  is critical for  $0 < i < k$
  - each  $v_i$  has only one child
- Each internal node in a compressed tire has at least two children and each external is associated with a string. The compression reduces the total space for the trie from  $O(m)$  where  $m$  is the sum of the the lengths of strings in  $S$  to  $O(n)$  where  $n$  is the number of strings in  $S$ .

# Compressed Tries (cont.)

- An example:



# Prefix Queries on a Trie

**Algorithm** `prefixQuery(T, X)`:

**Input:** Trie  $T$  for a set  $S$  of strings and a query string  $X$

**Output:** The node  $v$  of  $T$  such that the labeled nodes of the subtree of  $T$  rooted at  $v$  store the strings of  $S$  with a longest prefix in common with  $X$

$v \leftarrow T.\text{root}()$

$i \leftarrow 0$      $\{i \text{ is an index into the string } X\}$

**repeat**

**for** each child  $w$  of  $v$  **do**

    let  $e$  be the edge  $(v, w)$

$Y \leftarrow \text{string}(e)$      $\{Y \text{ is the substring associated with } e\}$

$l \leftarrow Y.\text{length}()$      $\{l=1 \text{ if } T \text{ is a standard trie}\}$

$Z \leftarrow X.\text{substring}(i, i+l-1)$      $\{Z \text{ holds the next } l \text{ characters of } X\}$

**if**  $Z = Y$  **then**

$v \leftarrow w$

$i \leftarrow i+1$      $\{\text{move to } w, \text{ incrementing } i \text{ past } Z\}$

**break** out of the **for** loop

**else if** a proper prefix of  $Z$  matched a proper prefix of  $Y$  **then**

$v \leftarrow w$

**break** out of the **repeat** loop

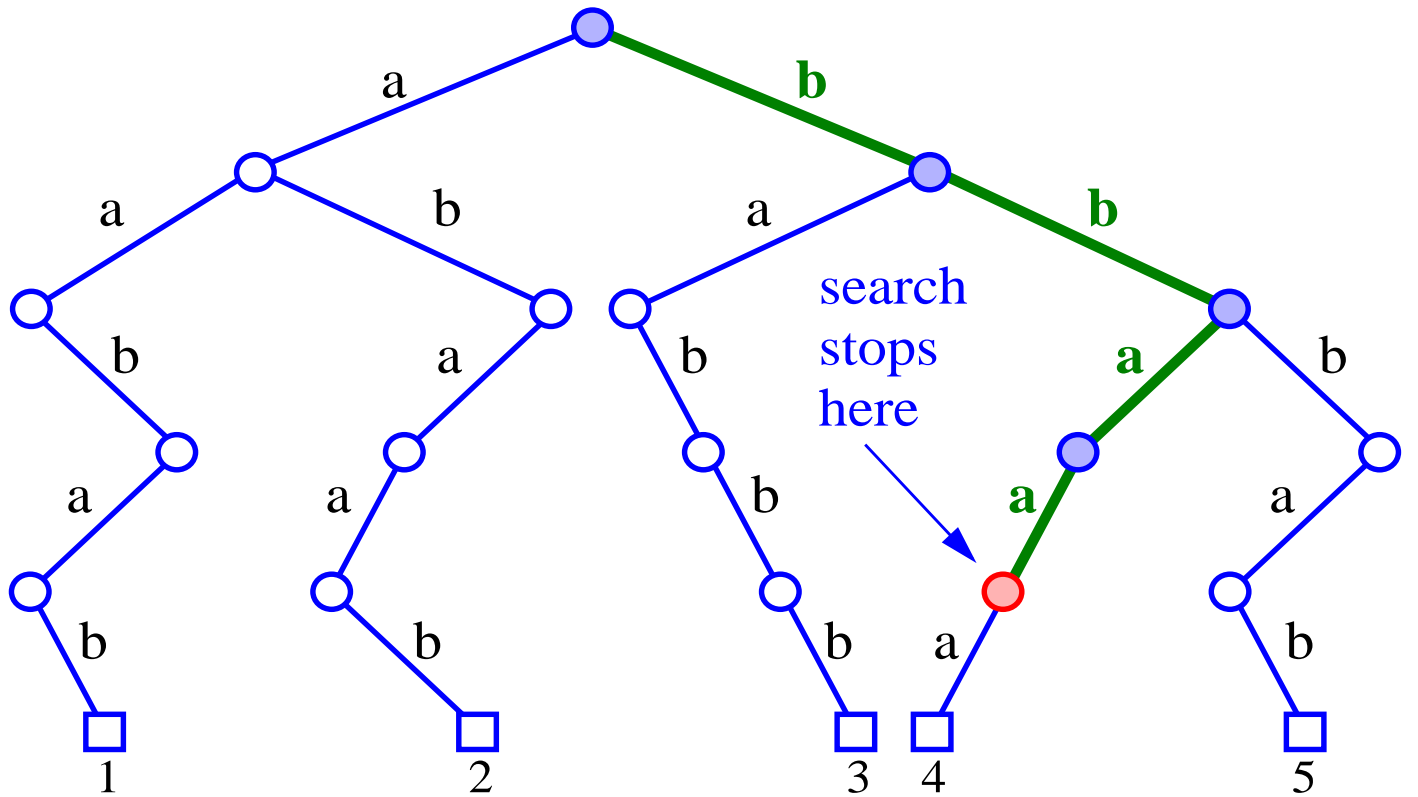
**until**  $v$  is external **or**  $v \neq w$

**return**  $v$

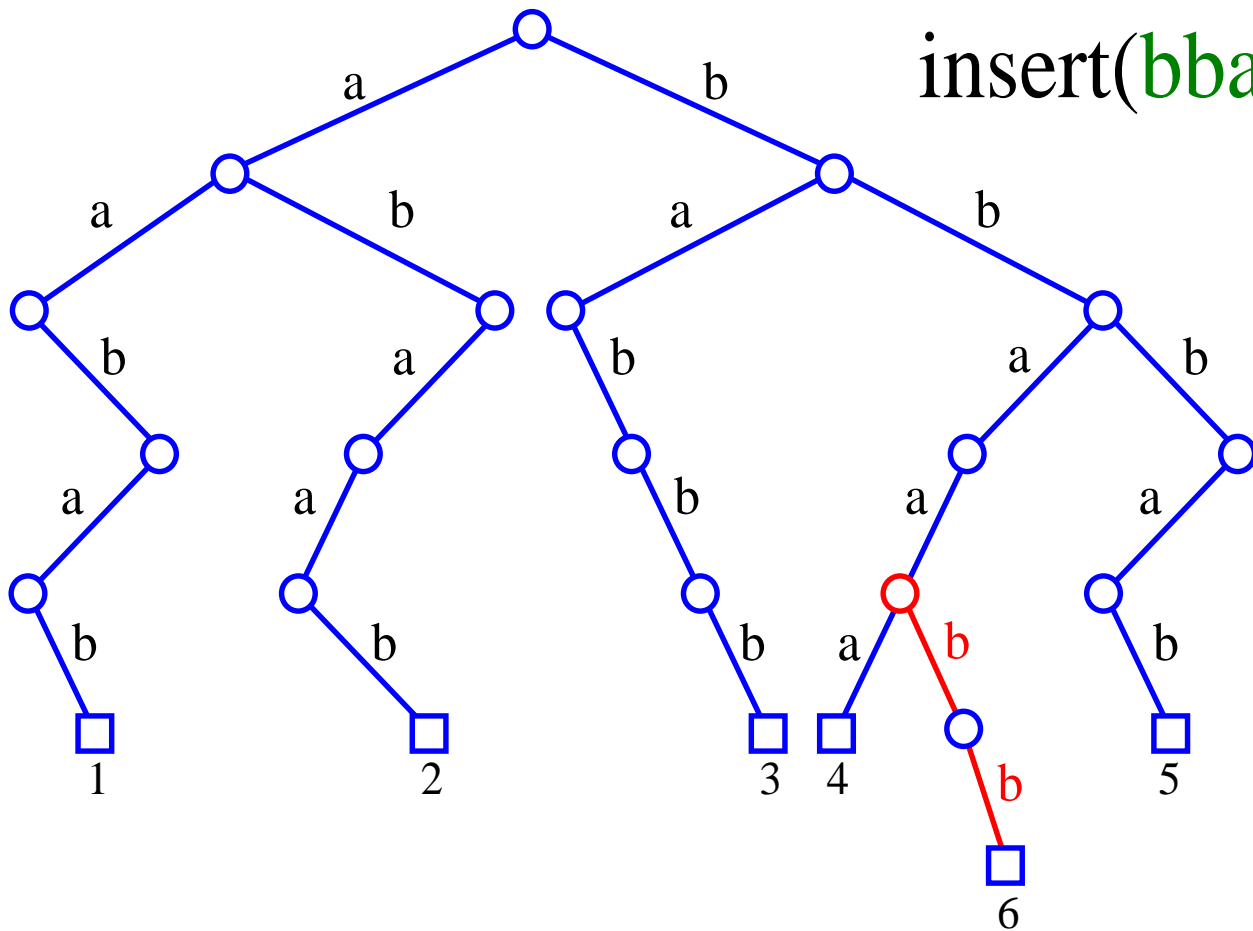
# Insertion and Deletion

- Insertion: We first perform a prefix query for string  $X$ . Let us examine the ways a prefix query may end in terms of insertion.
  - The query terminates at node  $v$ . Let  $X_1$  be the prefix of  $X$  that matched in the trie up to node  $v$  and  $X_2$  be the rest of  $X$ . If  $X_2$  is an empty string we label  $v$  with  $X$  and the end. Otherwise we create a new external node  $w$  and label it with  $X$ .
  - The query terminates at an edge  $e=(v, w)$  because a prefix of  $X$  match  $\text{prefix}(v)$  and a proper prefix of string  $Y$  associated with  $e$ . Let  $Y_1$  be the part of  $Y$  that  $X$  matched to and  $Y_2$  the rest of  $Y$ . Likewise for  $X_1$  and  $X_2$ . Then  $X=X_1+X_2 = \text{prefix}(v) + Y_1+X_2$ . We create a new node  $u$  and split the edges  $(v, u)$  and  $(u, w)$ . If  $X_2$  is empty then we label  $u$  with  $X$ . Otherwise we create a node  $z$  which is external and label it  $X$ .
- Insertion is  $O(dn)$  when  $d$  is the size of the alphabet and  $n$  is the length of the string  $t$  insert.

# Insertion and Deletion (cont.)

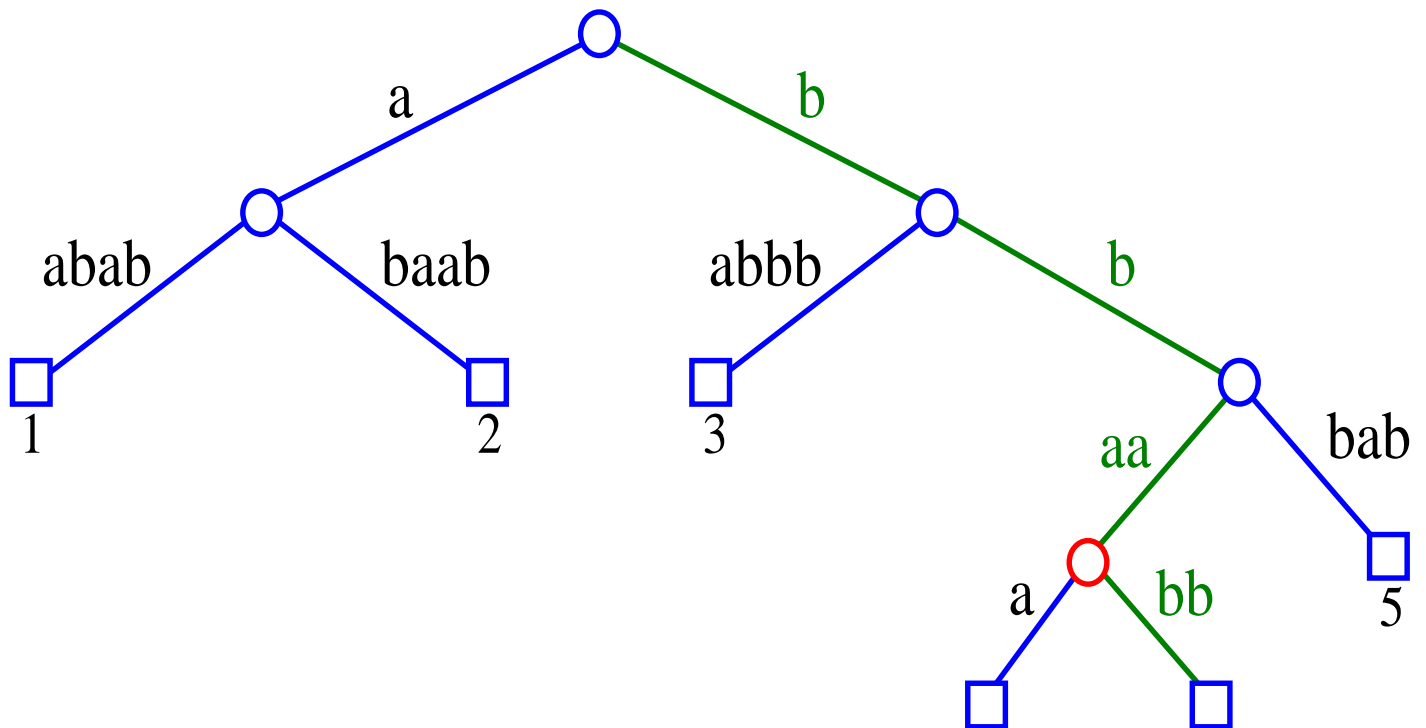
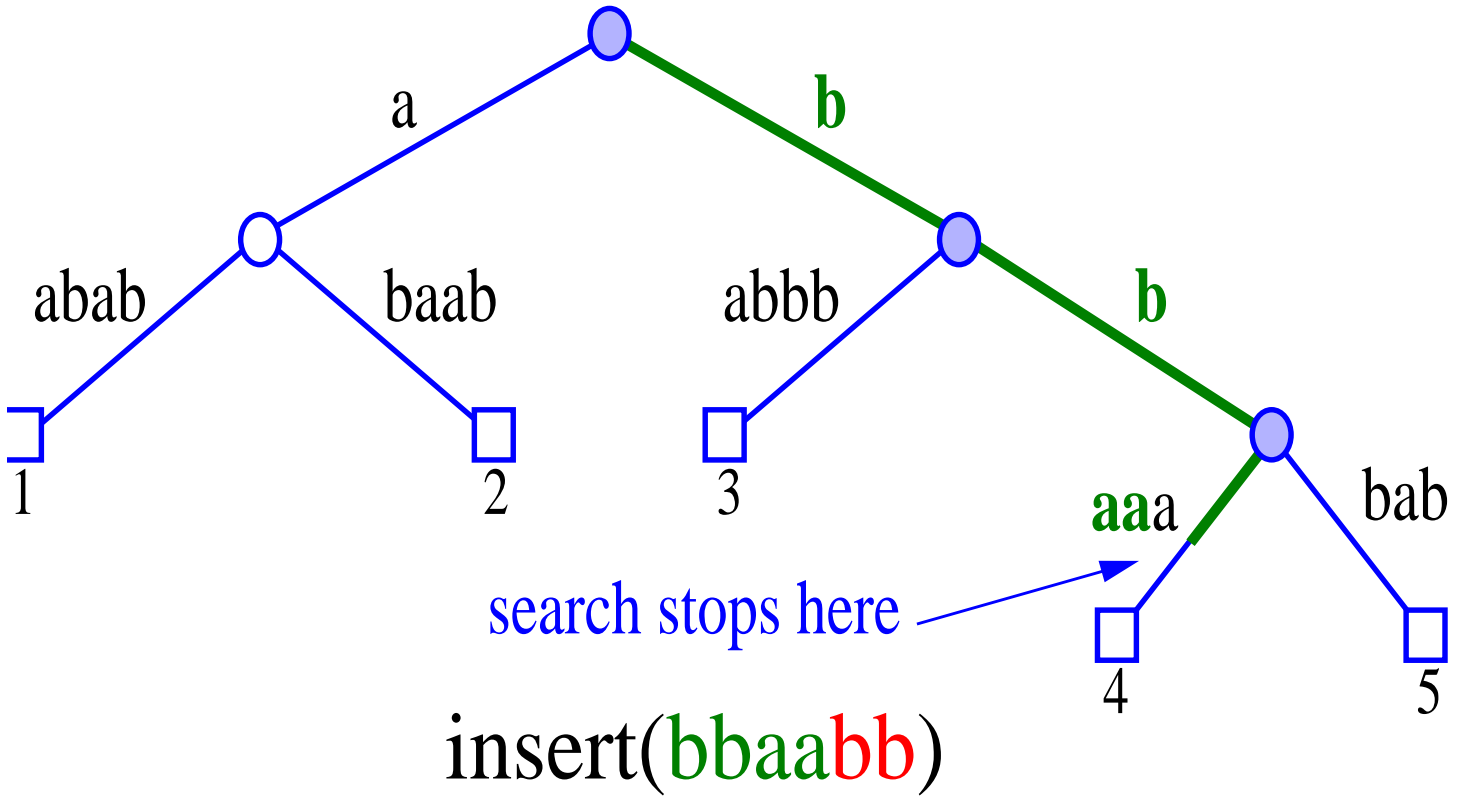


insert(**bbaabb**)





# Insertion and Deletion (cont.)



# Lempel Ziv Encoding

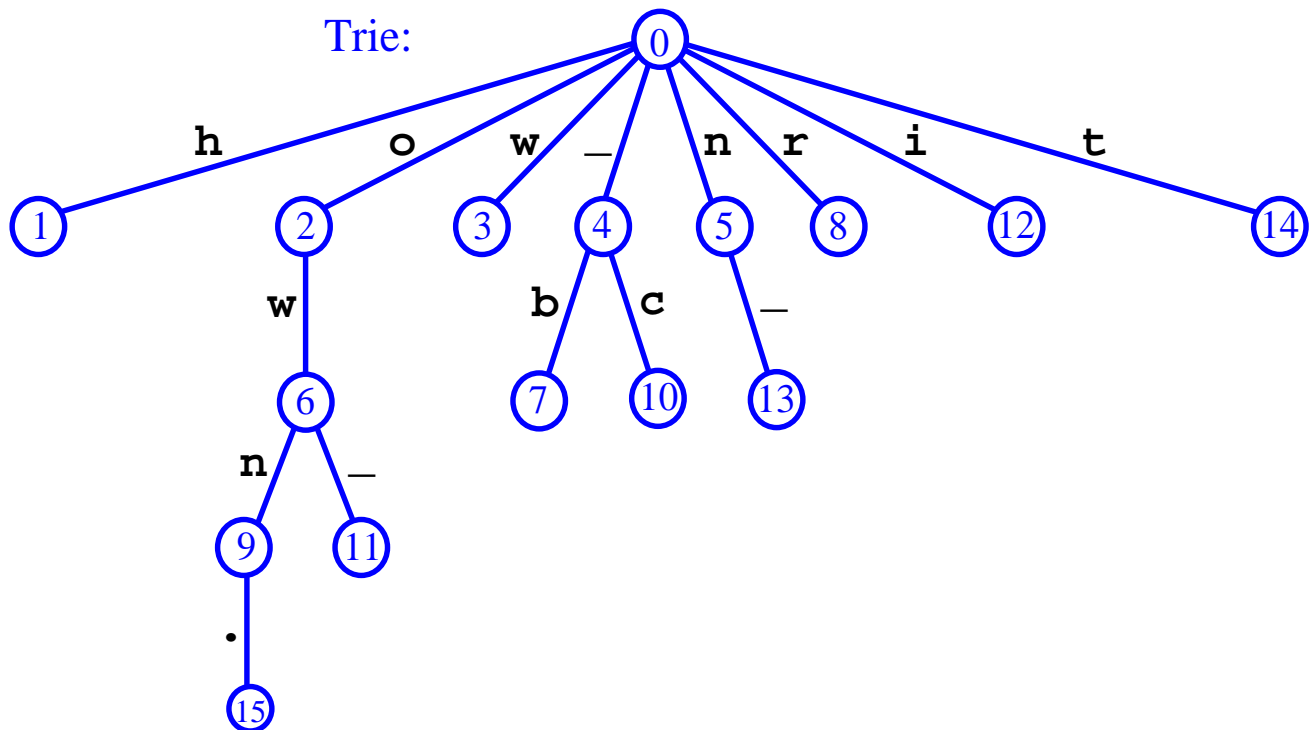
- Constructing the trie:
  - Let phrase 0 be the null string.
  - Scan through the text
  - If you come across a letter you haven't seen before, add it to the top level of the trie.
  - If you come across a letter you've already seen, scan down the trie until you can't match any more characters, add a node to the trie representing the new string.
  - Insert the pair (nodeIndex, lastChar) into the compressed string.
- Reconstructing the string:
  - Every time you see a '0' in the compressed string add the next character in the compressed string directly to the new string.
  - For each non-zero nodeIndex, put the substring corresponding to that node into the new string, followed by the next character in the compressed string.

# Lempel Ziv Encoding (contd.)

- A graphical example:

Uncompressed text: how now brown cow in town.  
phrases: <sup>(nil)</sup> 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

Compressed text: 0h0o0w0\_0n2w4b0r6n4c6\_0i5\_0t9.

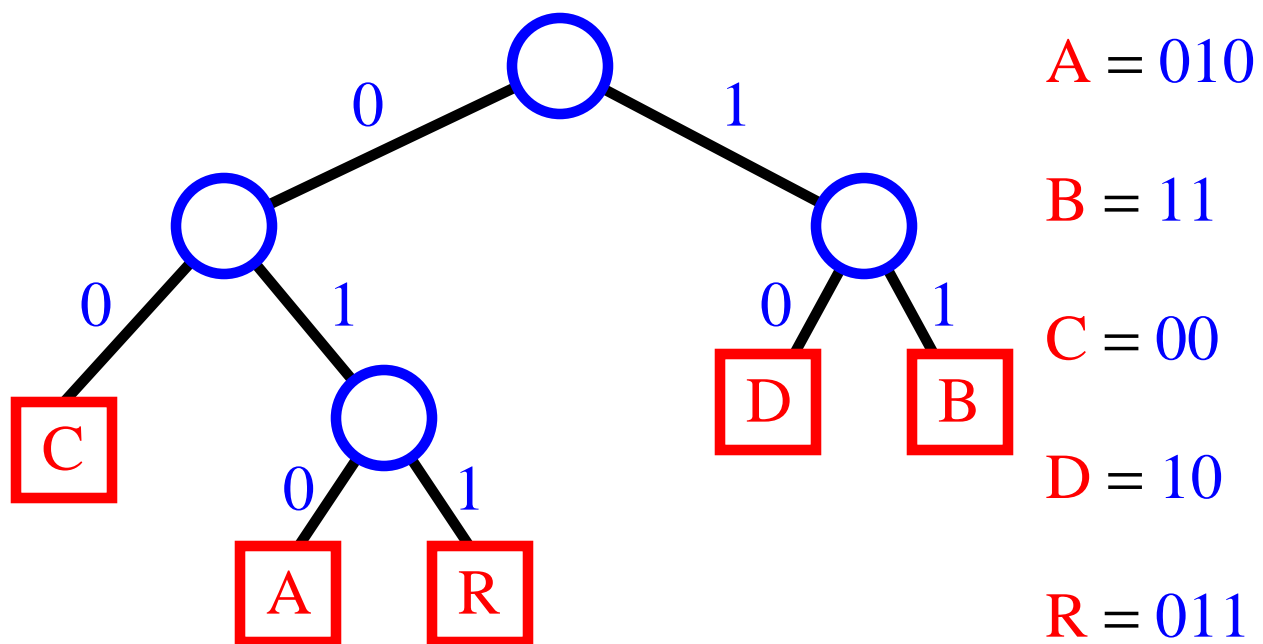


# File Compression

- text files are usually stored by representing each character with an 8-bit **ASCII** code (type **man ascii** in a Unix shell to see the **ASCII** encoding)
- the **ASCII** encoding is an example of **fixed-length encoding**, where each character is represented with the same number of bits
- in order to reduce the space required to store a text file, we can exploit the fact that some characters are more likely to occur than others
- **variable-length encoding** uses binary codes of different lengths for different characters; thus, we can assign fewer bits to frequently used characters, and more bits to rarely used characters.
- Example:
  - text: **java**
  - encoding: **a = "0", j = "11", v = "10"**
  - encoded text: **110100** (6 bits)
- How to decode?
  - **a = "0", j = "01", v = "00"**
  - encoded text: **010000** (6 bits)
  - is this **java, jvv, jaaaa ...**

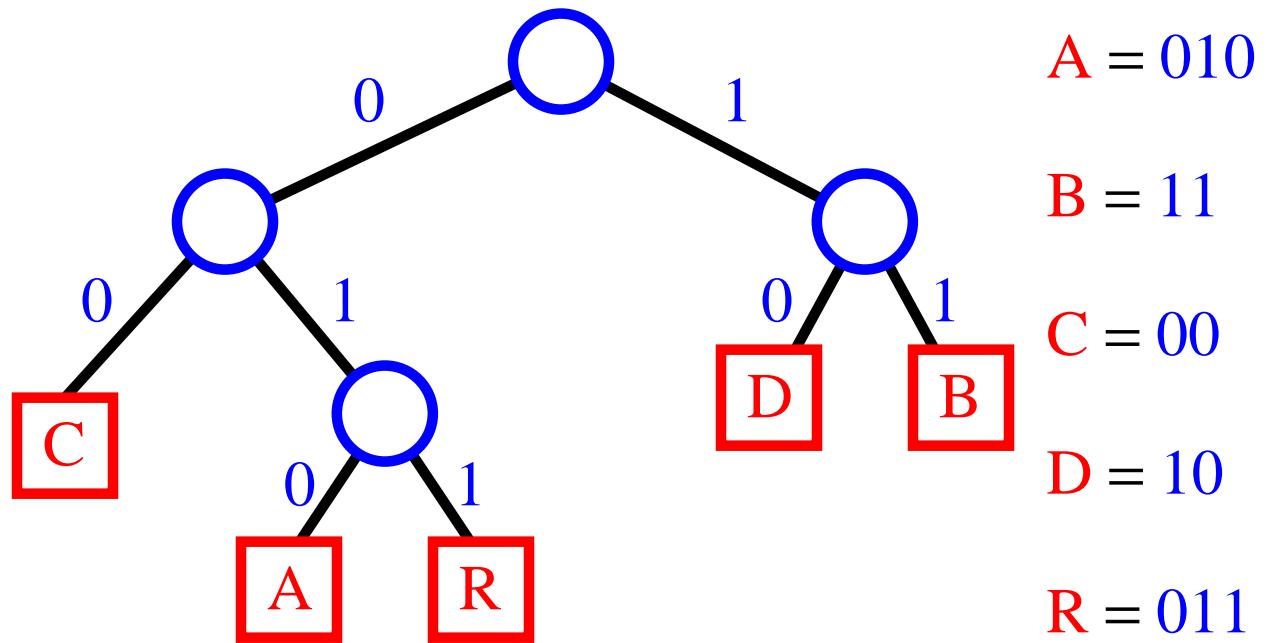
# Encoding Trie

- to prevent ambiguities in decoding, we require that the encoding satisfies the **prefix rule**, that is, no code is a prefix of another code
  - $a = "0"$ ,  $j = "11"$ ,  $v = "10"$  satisfies the prefix rule
  - $a = "0"$ ,  $j = "01"$ ,  $v = "00"$  does **not** satisfy the prefix rule (the code of  $a$  is a prefix of the codes of  $j$  and  $v$ )
- we use an **encoding trie** to define an encoding that satisfies the prefix rule
  - the characters stored at the external nodes
  - a left edge means 0
  - a right edge means 1



# Example of Decoding

- trie:

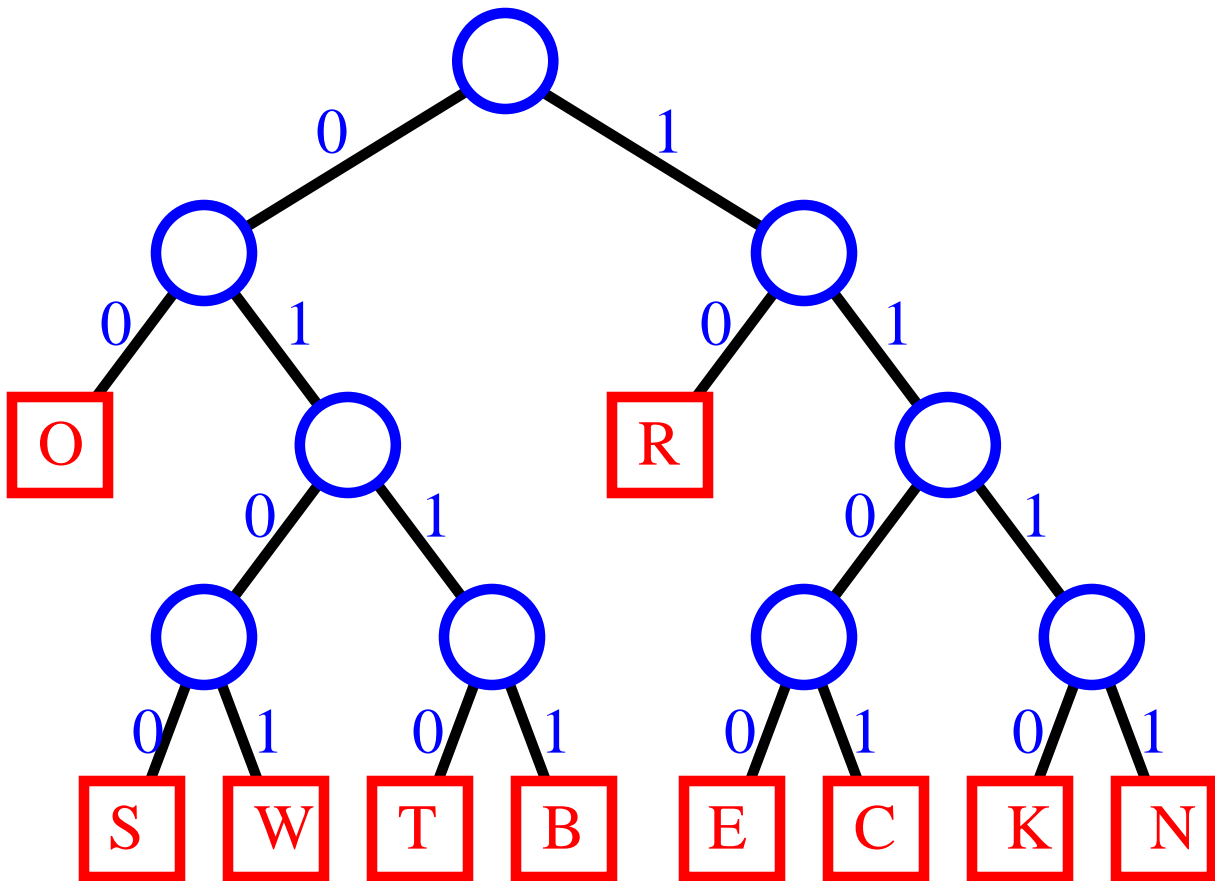


- encoded text:

01011011010000101001011011010

- text:

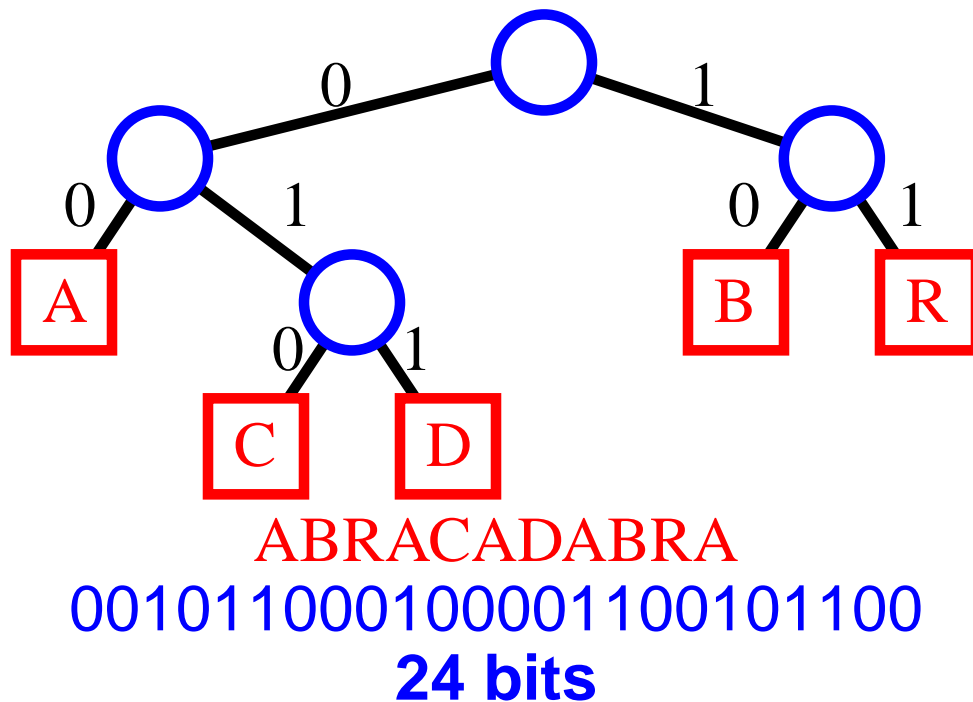
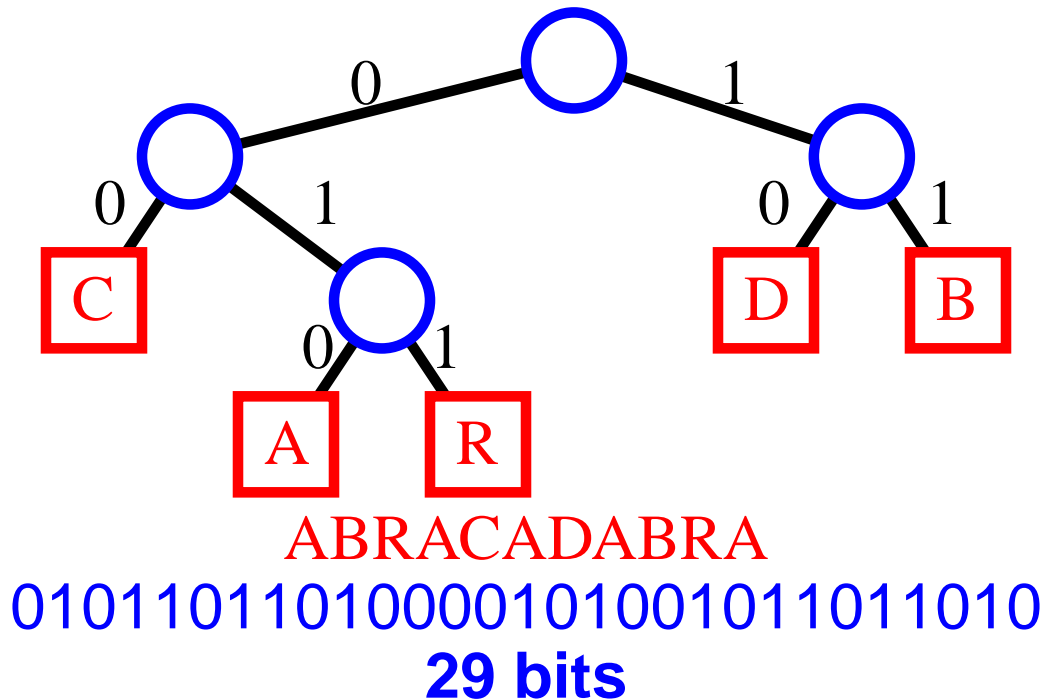
# Trie this!



1000011111001001100011101111000101010011010100

# Optimal Compression

- An issue with encoding tries is to insure that the encoded text is as short as possible:





# Huffman Encoding Trie

ABRACADABRA

character

A

B

R

C

D

frequency

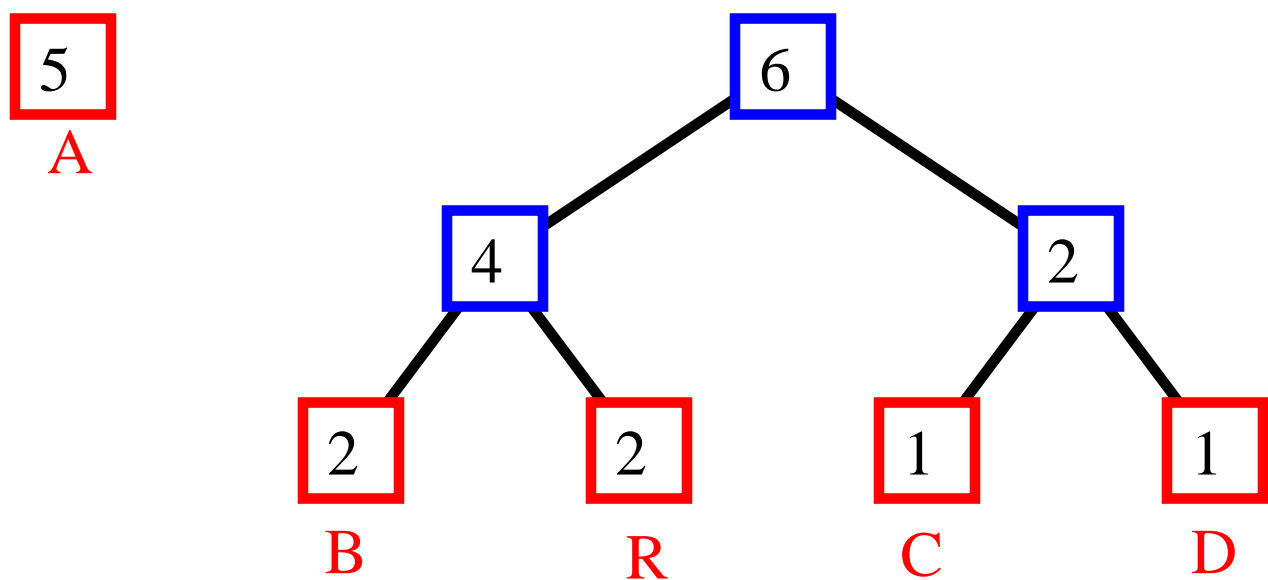
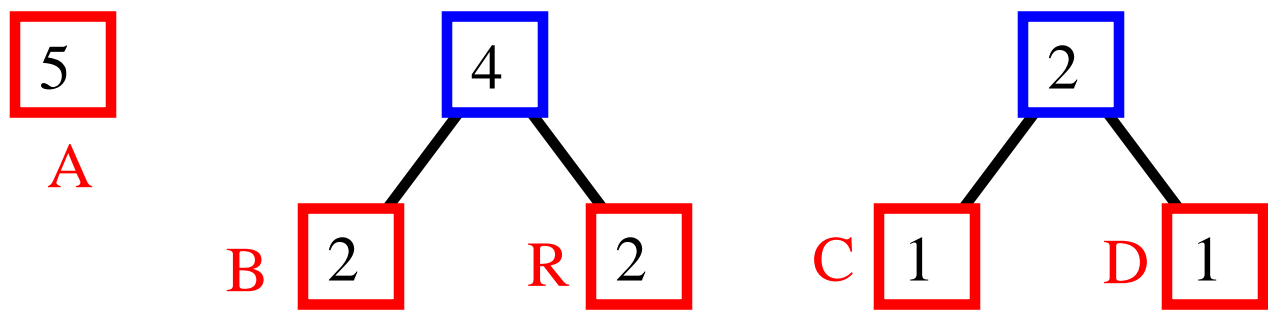
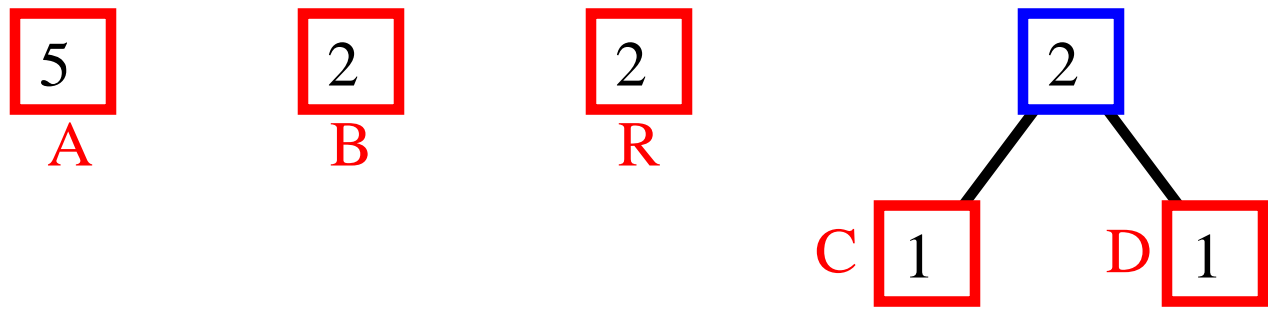
5

2

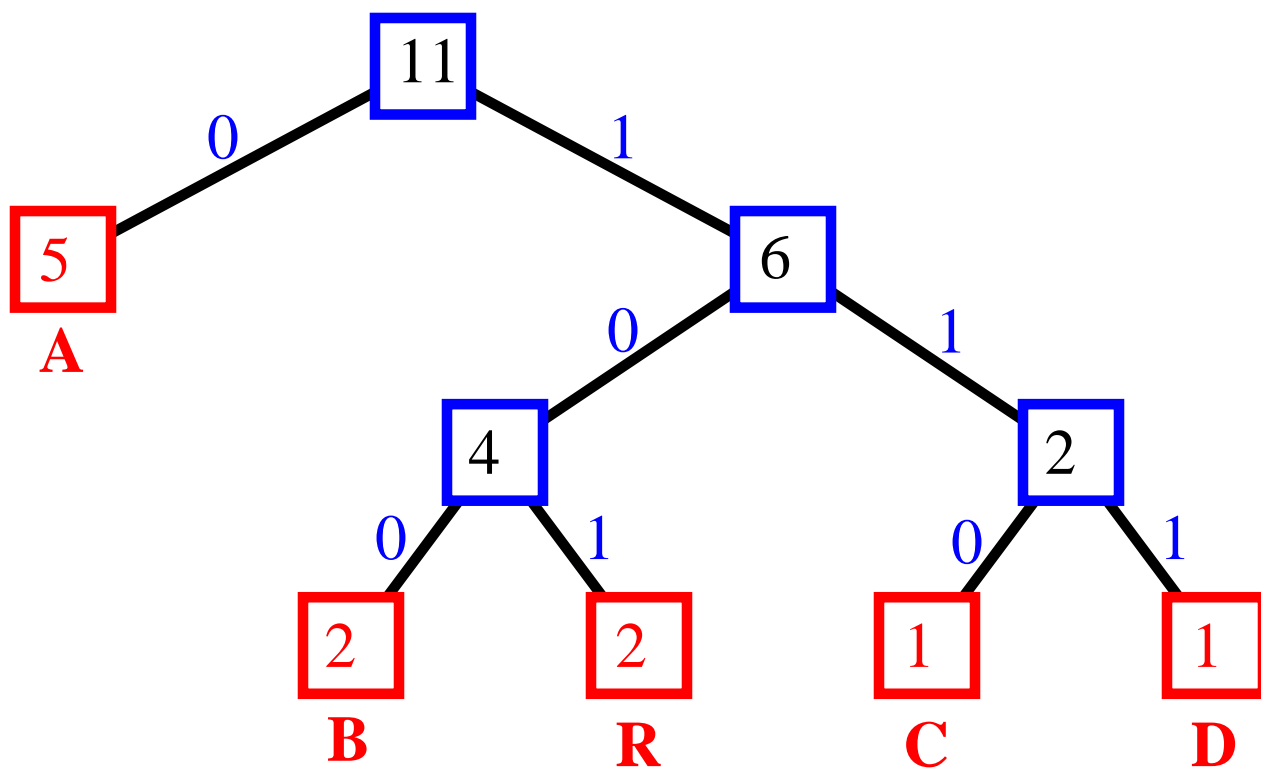
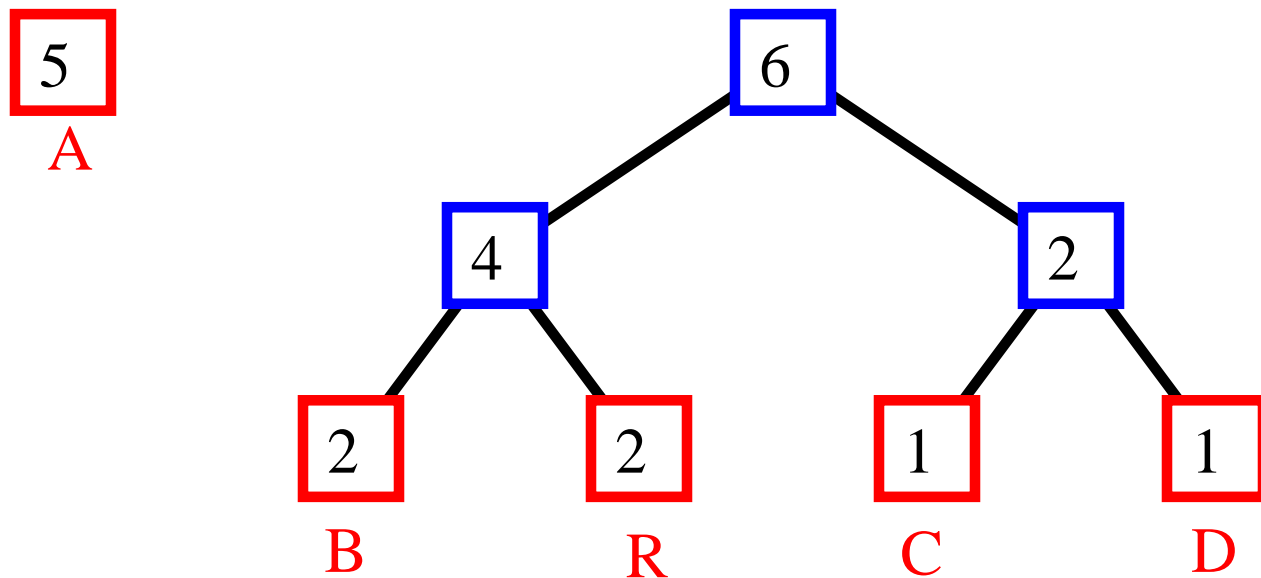
2

1

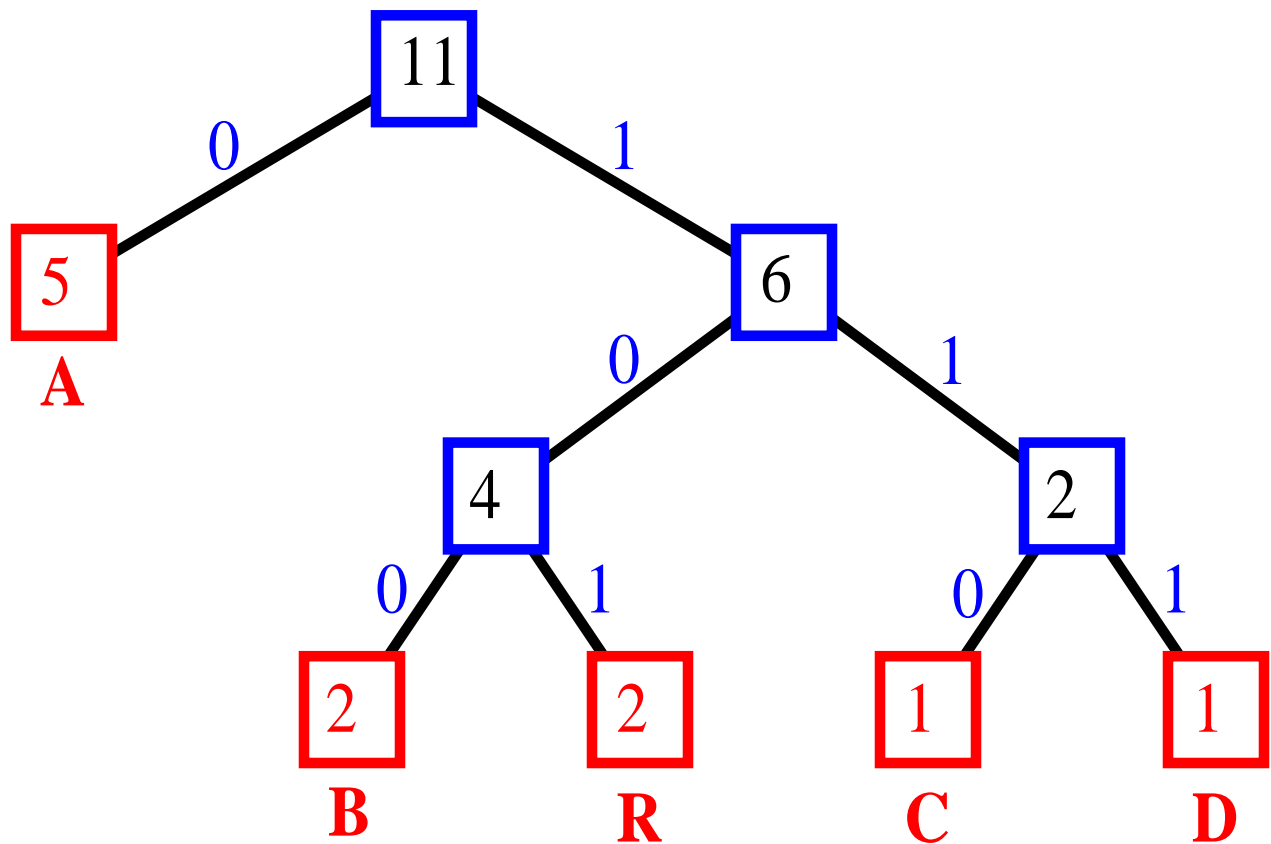
1



# Huffman Encoding Trie (contd.)



# Final Huffman Encoding Trie

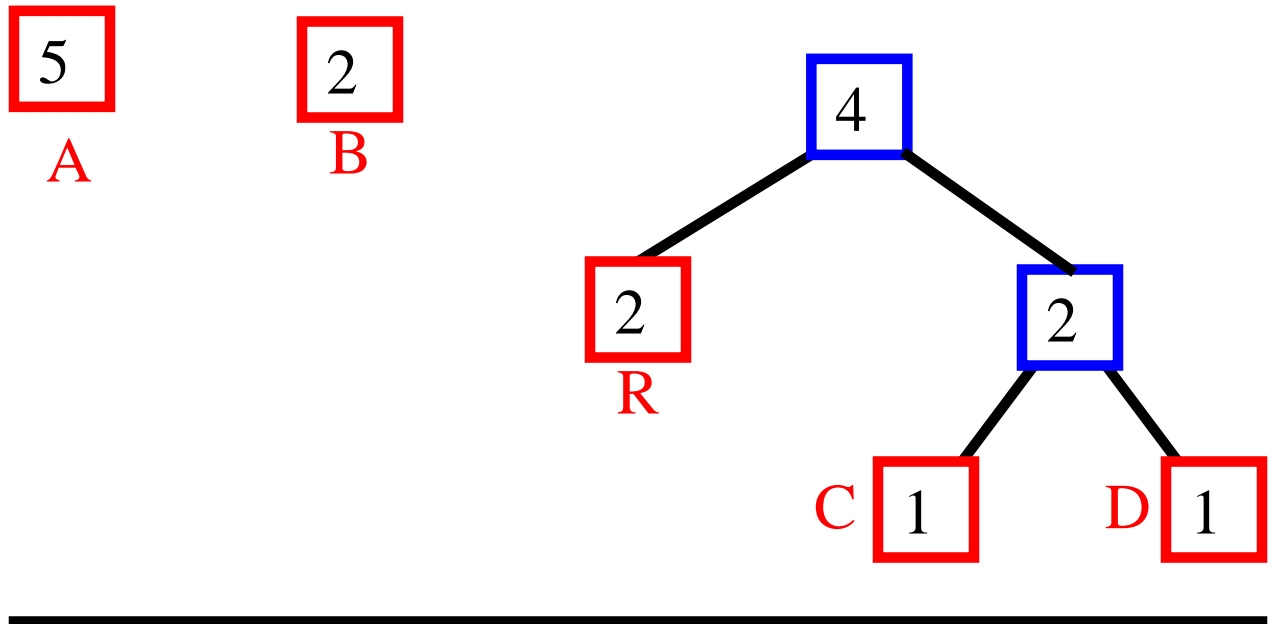
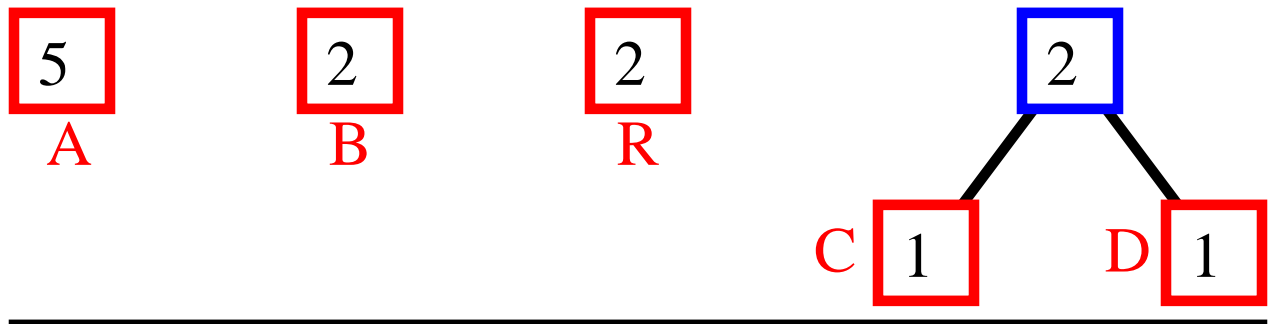


A B R A C A D A B R A  
0 100 101 0 110 0 111 0 100 101 0  
**23 bits**

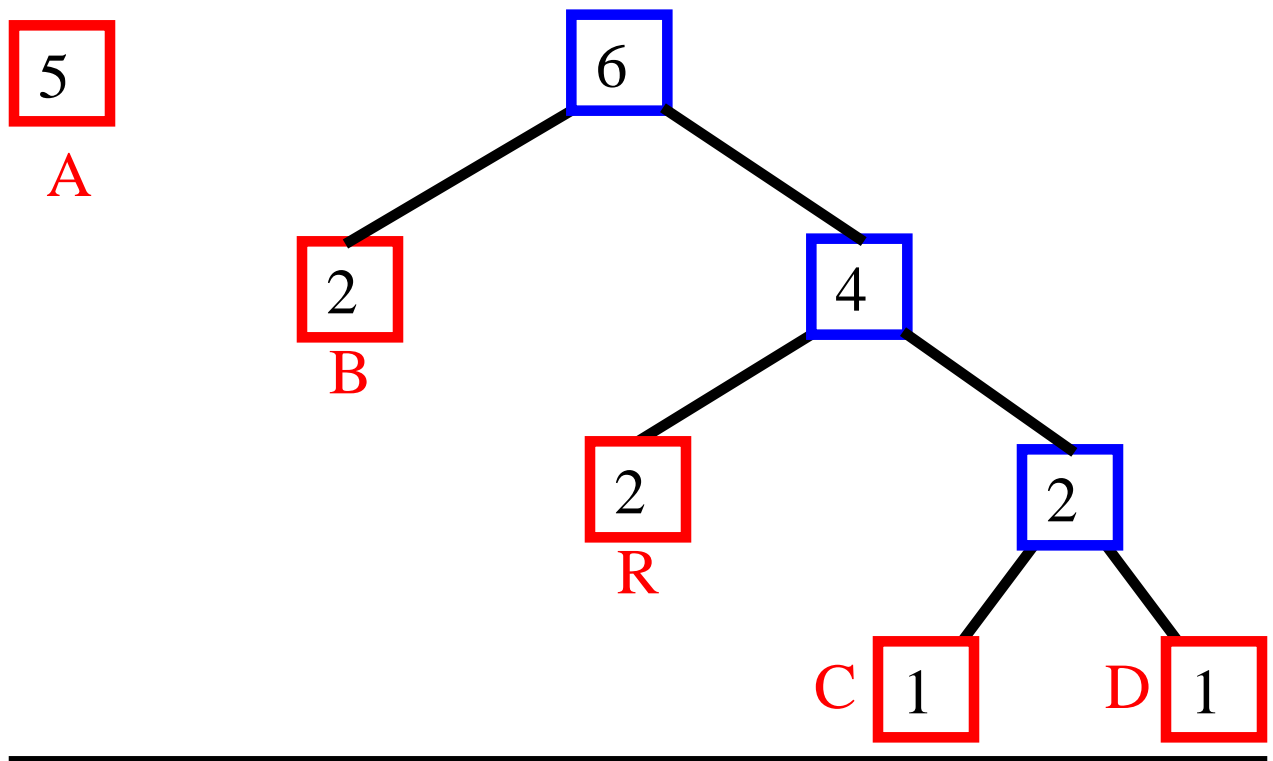
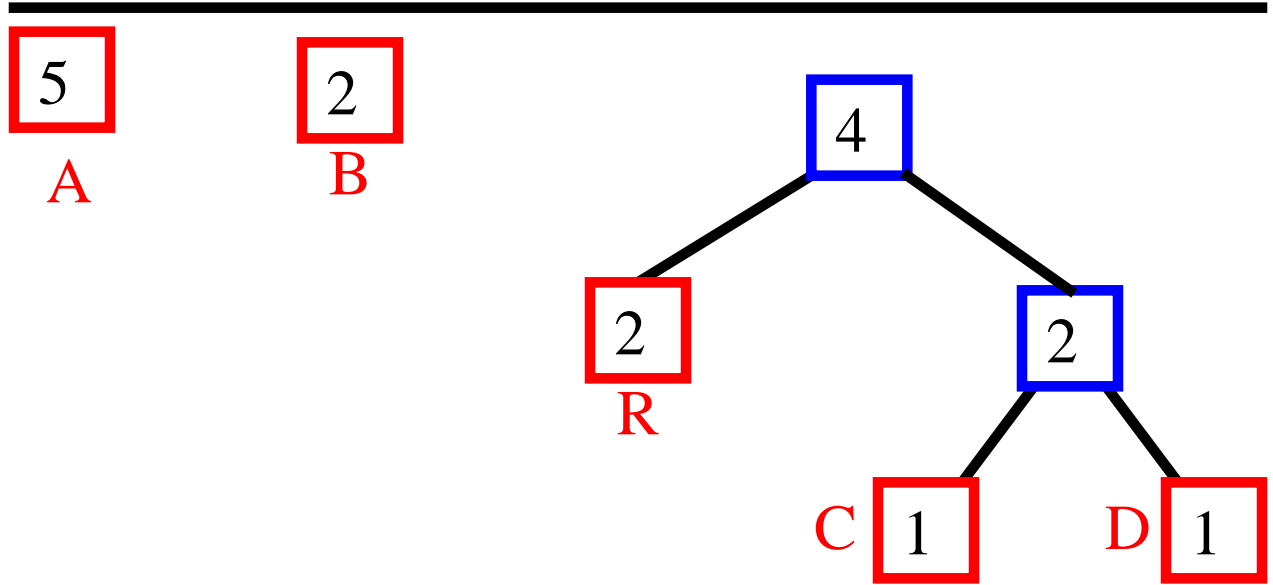
# Another Huffman Encoding Trie

ABRACADABRA

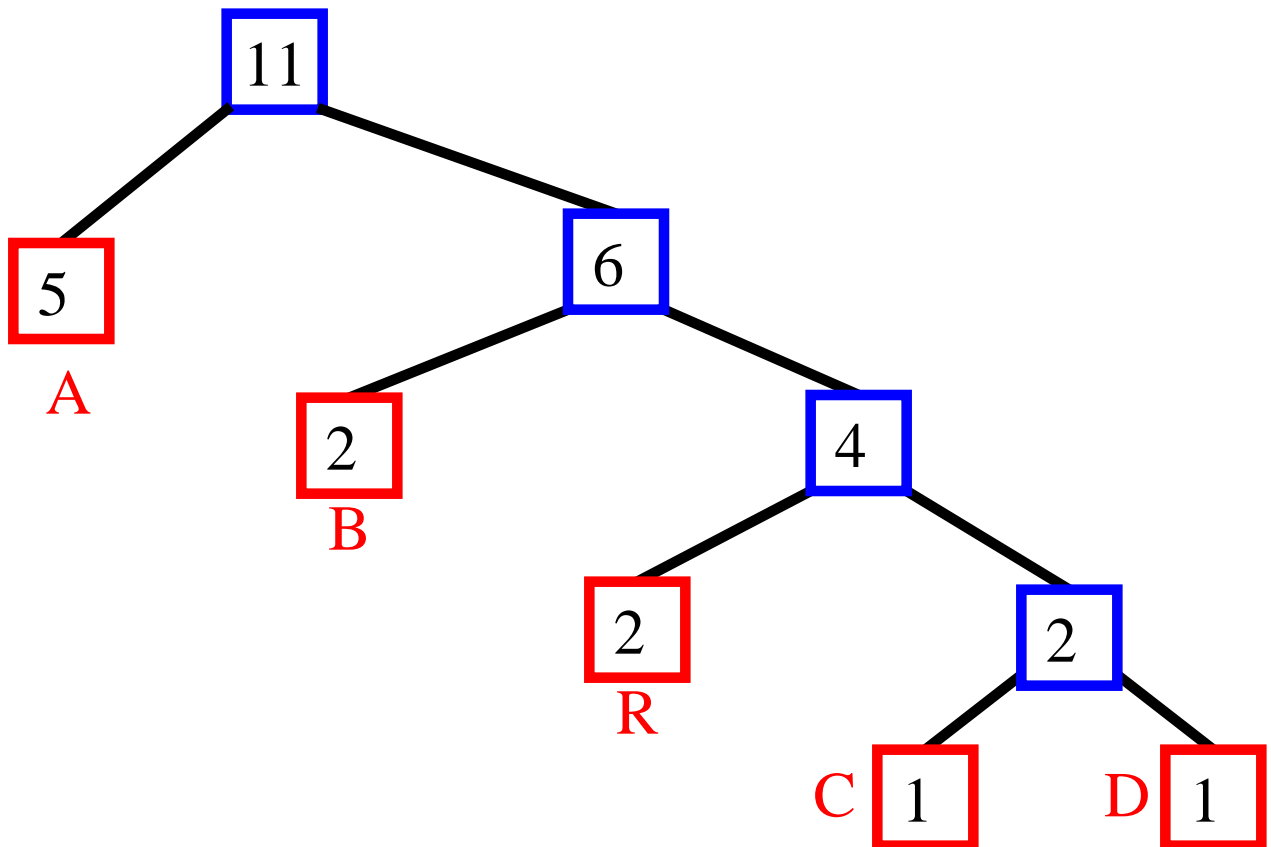
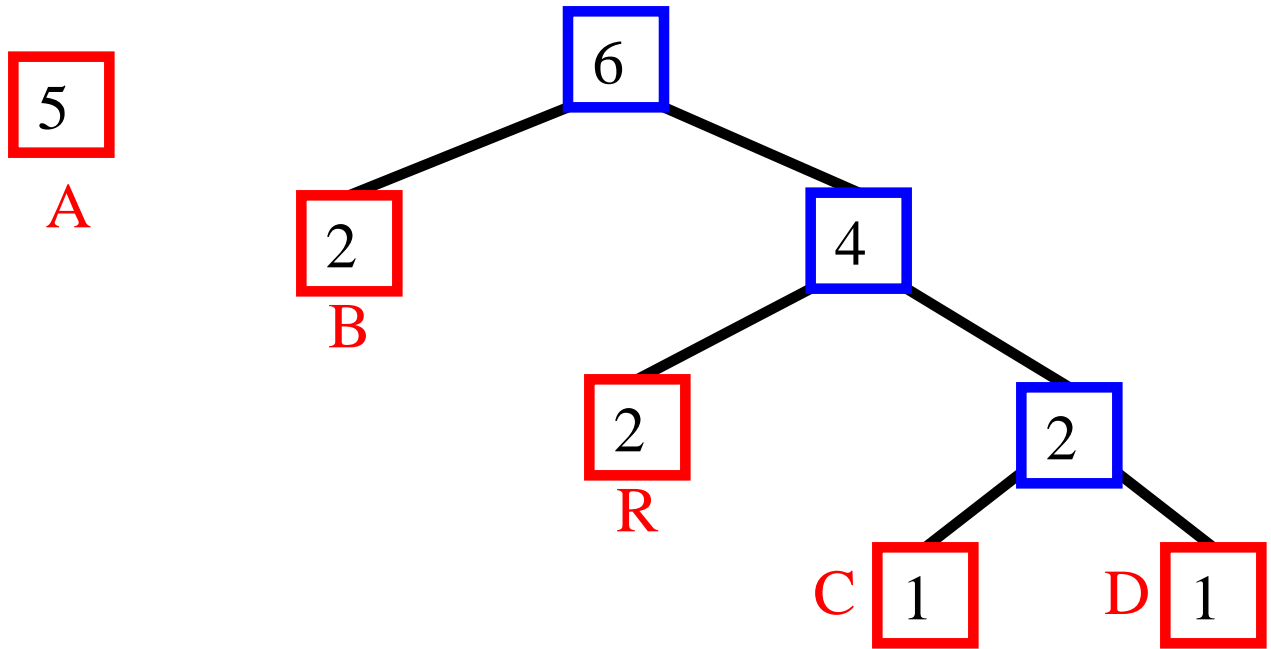
character	A	B	R	C	D
frequency	5	2	2	1	1



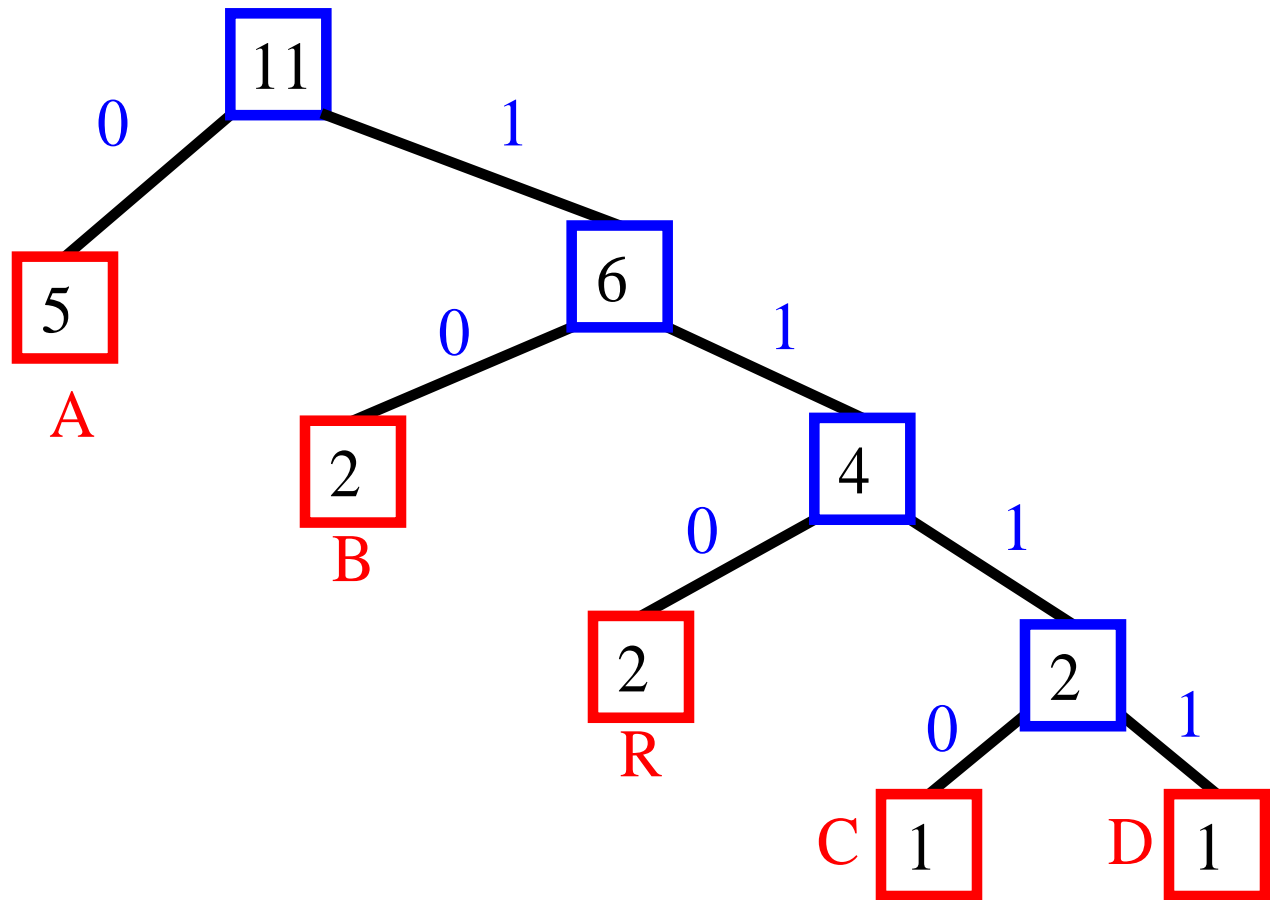
# Another Huffman Encoding Trie



# Another Huffman Encoding Trie



# Another Huffman Encoding Trie



A B R A C A D A B R A  
0 10 110 0 1100 0 1111 0 10 110 0  
**23 bits**

# Construction Algorithm

- with a Huffman encoding trie, the encoded text has minimal length

**Algorithm** Huffman( $X$ ):

**Input:** String  $X$  of length  $n$

**Output:** Encoding trie for  $X$

Compute the frequency  $f(c)$  of each character  $c$  of  $X$ .  
Initialize a priority queue  $Q$ .

**for** each character  $c$  in  $X$  **do**

    Create a single-node tree  $T$  storing  $c$

$Q.insertItem(f(c), T)$

**while**  $Q.size() > 1$  **do**

$f_1 \leftarrow Q.minKey()$

$T_1 \leftarrow Q.removeMinElement()$

$f_2 \leftarrow Q.minKey()$

$T_2 \leftarrow Q.removeMinElement()$

    Create a new tree  $T$  with left subtree  $T_1$  and right subtree  $T_2$ .

$Q.insertItem(f_1 + f_2)$

**return** tree  $Q.removeMinElement()$

- running time for a text of length  $n$  with  $k$  distinct characters:  $O(n + k \log k)$



# Image Compression

- we can use Huffman encoding also for binary files (bitmaps, executables, etc.)
- common groups of bits are stored at the leaves
- Example of an encoding suitable for b/w bitmaps

