

# Burrows-Wheeler Transform

CMSC702

# Bowtie

Software

Highly accessed

Open access

## Ultrafast and memory-efficient alignment of short DNA sequences to the human genome

Ben Langmead\*, Cole Trapnell, Mihai Pop and Steven L Salzberg

\* Corresponding author: Ben Langmead [langmead@cs.umd.edu](mailto:langmead@cs.umd.edu)

▼ Author Affiliations

Center for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, Institute for Advanced Computer Studies, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, USA

For all author emails, please [log on](#).

*Genome Biology* 2009, **10**:R25 doi:10.1186/gb-2009-10-3-r25

The electronic version of this article is the complete one and can be found online at:

<http://genomebiology.com/2009/10/3/R25>

# BWA

## Fast and accurate short read alignment with Burrows–Wheeler transform



Heng Li and Richard Durbin\*

+ Author Affiliations

\* To whom correspondence should be addressed.

Received February 20, 2009.

Revision received May 6, 2009.

Accepted May 12, 2009.

*Bioinformatics* (2009) 25(14):1754-1760.

# Bowtie Performance

## Varying read length using Bowtie, Maq and SOAP

Length	Program	CPU time	Wall clock time	Peak virtual memory footprint (megabytes)	Bowtie speed-up	Reads aligned (%)
36 bp	Bowtie	6 m 15 s	6 m 21 s	1,305	-	62.2
	Maq	3 h 52 m 26 s	3 h 52 m 54 s	804	36.7x	65.0
	Bowtie -v 2	4 m 55 s	5 m 00 s	1,138	-	55.0
	SOAP	16 h 44 m 3 s	18 h 1 m 38 s	13,619	216x	55.1
50 bp	Bowtie	7 m 11 s	7 m 20 s	1,310	-	67.5
	Maq	2 h 39 m 56 s	2 h 40 m 9 s	804	21.8x	67.9
	Bowtie -v 2	5 m 32 s	5 m 46 s	1,138	-	56.2
	SOAP	48 h 42 m 4 s	66 h 26 m 53 s	13,619	691x	56.2
76 bp	Bowtie	18 m 58 s	19 m 6 s	1,323	-	44.5
	Maq 0.7.1	4 h 45 m 7 s	4 h 45 m 17 s	1,155	14.9x	44.9
	Bowtie -v 2	7 m 35 s	7 m 40 s	1,138	-	31.7

Maq & SOAP build hash table of locations of k-mers

The performance of Bowtie v0.9.6, SOAP v1.10, and Maq versions v0.6.6 and v0.7.1 on the server platform when aligning 2 M untrimmed reads from the 1,000 Genome project (National Center for Biotechnology Information Short Read Archive: SRR003084 for 36 base pairs [bp], SRR003092 for 50 bp, and SRR003196 for 76 bp). For each read length, the 2 M reads were randomly sampled from the FASTQ file downloaded from the Archive such that the average per-base error rate as measured by quality values was uniform across the three sets. All reads pass through Maq's "catfilter". Maq v0.7.1 was used for the 76-bp reads because v0.6.6 does not support reads longer than 63 bp. SOAP is excluded from the 76-bp experiment because it does not support reads longer than 60 bp. Other experimental parameters are identical to those of the experiments in Table 1. CPU, central processing unit.

Langmead et al. (2008)

# Burrows-Wheeler Transform

Text transform that is useful for compression & search.

**banana**

banana\$  
anana\$b  
nana\$ba  
ana\$ban  
na\$bana  
a\$banan  
\$banana

sort



\$banana**a**  
a\$banan**n**  
ana\$ban**n**  
anana\$b**b**  
banana\$  
nana\$b**a**  
na\$bana**a**

BWT(banana) =  
**annb\$aa**

Tends to put runs of the same character together.

Makes compression work well.

“bzip” is based on this.

# Another Example

appellee\$

appellee\$

ppellee\$a

pellee\$ap

ellee\$app

lee\$app

lee\$appel

ee\$appell

e\$appelle

\$appellee

sort

\$appellee

appellee\$

e\$appelle

ee\$appell

ellee\$app

lee\$appel

lee\$app

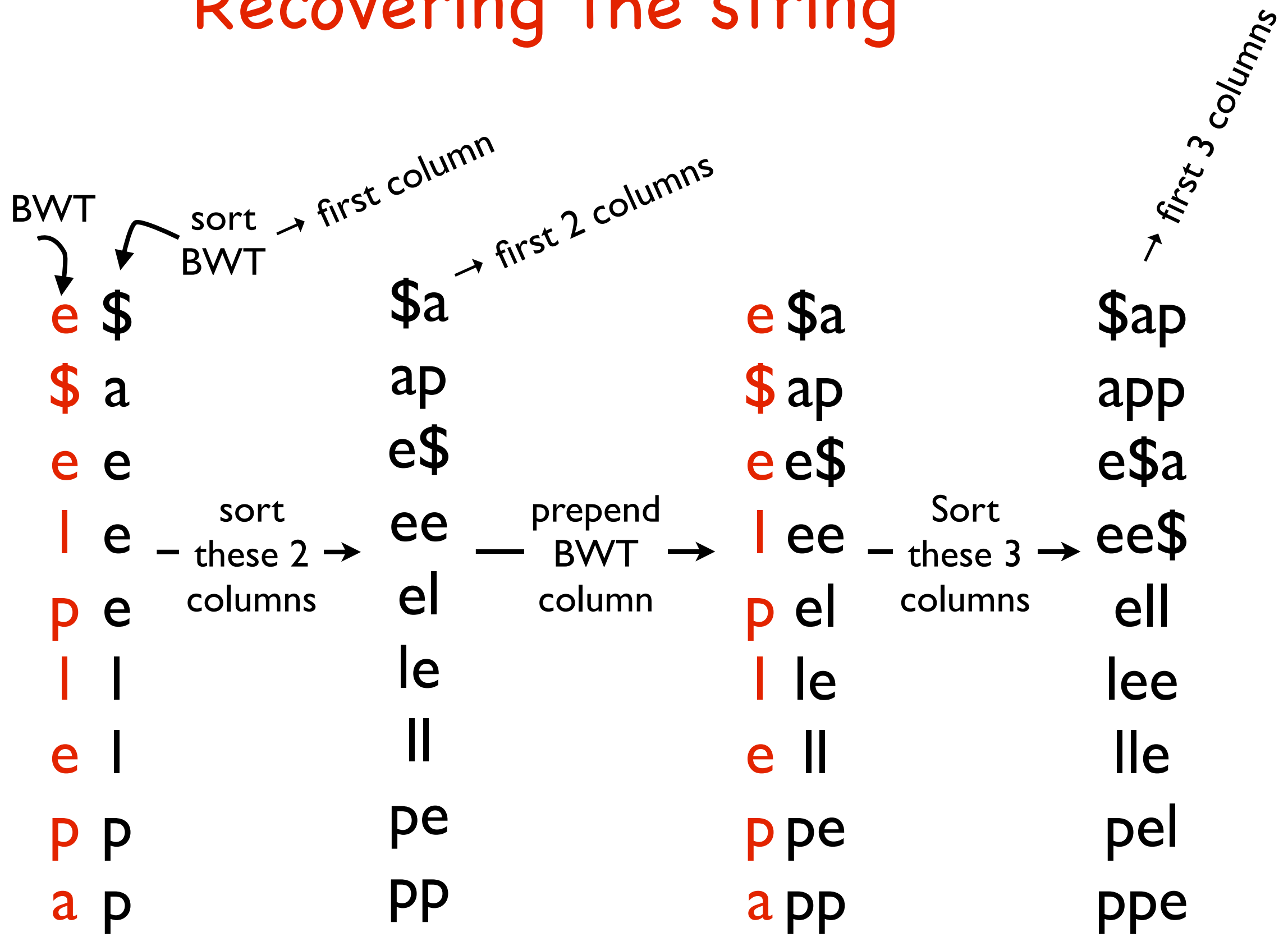
pellee\$ap

ppellee\$a

BWT(appellee\$) =  
e\$elplepa

Doesn't always improve  
the compressibility...

# Recovering the string



\$appellee  
 appellee\$  
 e\$appelle  
 ee\$appell  
 elle\$app  
 lee\$appel  
 llee\$apppe  
 pellee\$app  
 ppellee\$a  
 p p  
 a p

# Inverse BWT

```
def inverseBWT(s):  
    B = [s1, s2, s3, ..., sn]  
    for i = 1..n:  
        sort B  
        prepend si to B[i]  
    return row of B that ends with $
```

# Another BWT Example

dogwood\$  
ogwood\$d  
gwood\$do  
wood\$dog  
ood\$dogw  
od\$dogwo  
d\$dogwoo  
\$dogwood

sort →

\$dogwood  
d\$dogwo  
dogwood\$  
gwood\$d  
od\$dogwo  
ogwood\$d  
ood\$dogw  
wood\$dog

last column →

BWT(dogwood\$) =  
do\$oodwg



# do\$oodwg      Another BWT Example

d \$	\$d	d \$d	\$do	d \$do	\$dog	d \$dog	\$dogw
o d	d\$	o d\$	d\$d	o d\$d	d\$do	o d\$do	d\$dog
\$ d	do	\$ do	dog	\$ dog	dogw	\$ dogw	dogwo
o g	gw	o gw	gwo	o gwo	gwoo	o gwoo	gwood
o o	od	o od	od\$	o od\$	od\$d	o od\$d	od\$do
d o	og	d og	ogw	d ogw	ogwo	d ogwo	ogwoo
w o	oo	w oo	ood	w ood	ood\$	w ood\$	ood\$d
g w	wo	g wo	woo	g woo	wood	g wood	wood\$

Prepend

Sort

Prepend

Sort

Prepend

Sort

Prepend

Sort

d \$dogw	\$dogwo	d \$dogwo	\$dogwoo	d \$dogwoo	\$dogwood
o d\$dog	d\$dogw	o d\$dogw	d\$dogwo	o d\$dogwo	d\$dogwoo
\$ dogwo	dogwoo	\$ dogwoo	dogwood	\$ dogwood	<b>dogwood\$</b>
o gwood	gwood\$	o gwood\$	gwood\$d	o gwood\$d	gwood\$do
o od\$do	od\$dog	o od\$dog	od\$dogw	o od\$dogw	od\$dogwo
d ogwoo	ogwood	d ogwood	ogwood\$	d ogwood\$	ogwood\$d
w ood\$d	ood\$do	w ood\$do	ood\$dog	w ood\$dog	ood\$dogw
g wood\$	wood\$d	g wood\$d	wood\$do	g wood\$do	wood\$dog

Prepend

Sort

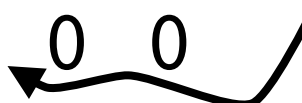
Prepend

Sort

Prepend

Sort

# Searching with BWT: LF Mapping

BWVT(unabashable)	LF Mapping									# of times letter appears before this position in the <b>last</b> <b>column</b> .
	\$	a	b	e	h	l	n	s	u	
\$unabashable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
abashable\$un	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
able\$unabash	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	
ashable\$unab	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	
bashable\$una	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	
ble\$unabasha	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	
e\$unabashabl	0	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	
hable\$unabas	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	
le\$unabashab	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	
nabashable\$u	0	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	
shable\$unaba	0	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	
unabashable\$	0	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	
	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	

**LF Property:** The  $i^{\text{th}}$  occurrence of a letter  $X$  in the **last column** corresponds to the  $i^{\text{th}}$  occurrence of  $X$  in the **first column**.

# BWT Search

BWTSearch(aba)

Start from the **end** of the pattern

Step 1: Find the range of “a”s in the first column

Step 2: Look at the same range in the last column.

Step 3: “b” is the next pattern character. Set B = the LF mapping entry for b in the first row of the range.

Set E = the LF mapping entry for b in the last + 1 row of the range.

Step 4: Find the range for “b” in the first row, and use B and E to find the right subrange within the “b” range.

BWT(unabashable)	LF Mapping									
	$\Sigma$									
	\$	a	b	e	h	l	n	s	u	
\$unabashable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
→ abashable\$un ←	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
able\$unabash	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	
ashable\$unab ←	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	
→ bashable\$una ←	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	
→ ble\$unabasha	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	
e\$unabashabl	0	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	
hable\$unabas	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	
le\$unabashab	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	
nabashable\$u	0	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	
shable\$unaba	0	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	
unabashable\$	0	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	
	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	

# BWT Searching Example 2

pattern = "bana"

	a	\$	a	b	n
→	\$bananna	0	0	0	0
→	a\$banann	0	1	0	0
	ananna\$b	0	1	0	1
→	anna\$ban	0	1	1	1
→	bananna\$	0	1	1	2
	na\$banan	1	1	1	2
	nanna\$ba	1	1	1	3
	nna\$bana	1	2	1	3
		1	3	1	3

	n	\$	a	b	n
	\$bananna	0	0	0	0
←	a\$banann	0	1	0	0
	ananna\$b	0	1	0	1
	anna\$ban	0	1	1	1
←	bananna\$	0	1	1	2
	na\$banan	1	1	1	2
	nanna\$ba	1	1	1	3
	nna\$bana	1	2	1	3
		1	3	1	3

	n	\$	a	b	n
	\$bananna	0	0	0	0
	a\$banann	0	1	0	0
	ananna\$b	0	1	0	1
	anna\$ban	0	1	1	1
→	bananna\$	0	1	1	2
→	na\$banan	1	1	1	2
	nanna\$ba	1	1	1	3
→	nna\$bana	1	2	1	3
		1	3	1	3

(B,E) = 0, 2

	a	\$	a	b	n
	\$bananna	0	0	0	0
	a\$banann	0	1	0	0
	ananna\$b	0	1	0	1
	anna\$ban	0	1	1	1
	bananna\$	0	1	1	2
←	na\$banan	1	1	1	2
	nanna\$ba	1	1	1	3
←	nna\$bana	1	2	1	3
		1	3	1	3

(B,E) = 1, 2

	a	\$	a	b	n
→	\$bananna	0	0	0	0
→	a\$banann	0	1	0	0
→	ananna\$b	0	1	0	1
→	anna\$ban	0	1	1	1
→	bananna\$	0	1	1	2
	na\$banan	1	1	1	2
	nanna\$ba	1	1	1	3
	nna\$bana	1	2	1	3
		1	3	1	3

(B,E) = 0, 1

	b	\$	a	b	n
	\$bananna	0	0	0	0
	a\$banann	0	1	0	0
	ananna\$b	0	1	0	1
	anna\$ban	0	1	1	1
→	bananna\$	0	1	1	2
→	na\$banan	1	1	1	2
	nanna\$ba	1	1	1	3
	nna\$bana	1	2	1	3
		1	3	1	3

# BWT Searching Notes

- Don't have to store the LF mapping. A more complex algorithm (later slides) lets you compute it in  $O(1)$  time in **compressed** data on the fly with some extra storage.
- To find the range in the first column corresponding to a character:
  - Pre-compute array  $C[c] = \#$  of occurrences in the string of characters lexicographically  $< c$ .
  - Then start of the "a" range, for example, is:  $C["a"] + 1$ .
- Running time:  $O(|\text{pattern}|)$ 
  - Finding the range in the first column takes  $O(1)$  time using the  $C$  array.
  - Updating the range takes  $O(1)$  time using the LF mapping.

# Relationship Between BWT and Suffix Arrays

s = appellee\$  
123456789

\$	a	p	p	e	e	e	e	e
a	p	p	e	e	e	e	e	e
p	p	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
p	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e

BWT matrix

\$
a
p
p
e
e
e
e
e
e
e
e
e
e
e
e
e
e
e
e
e

The suffixes are obtained by deleting everything after the \$

These are still in sorted order because "\$" comes before everything else

9
1
8
7
4
6
5
3
2

Suffix array (start position for the suffixes)

- subtract 1 →

s[9-1]	=	e
s[1-1]	=	\$
s[8-1]	=	e
s[7-1]	=	l
s[4-1]	=	p
s[6-1]	=	l
s[5-1]	=	e
s[3-1]	=	p
s[2-1]	=	a

Suffix position - 1 = the position of the last character of the BWT matrix (\$ is a special case)

# Relationship Between BWT and Suffix Trees

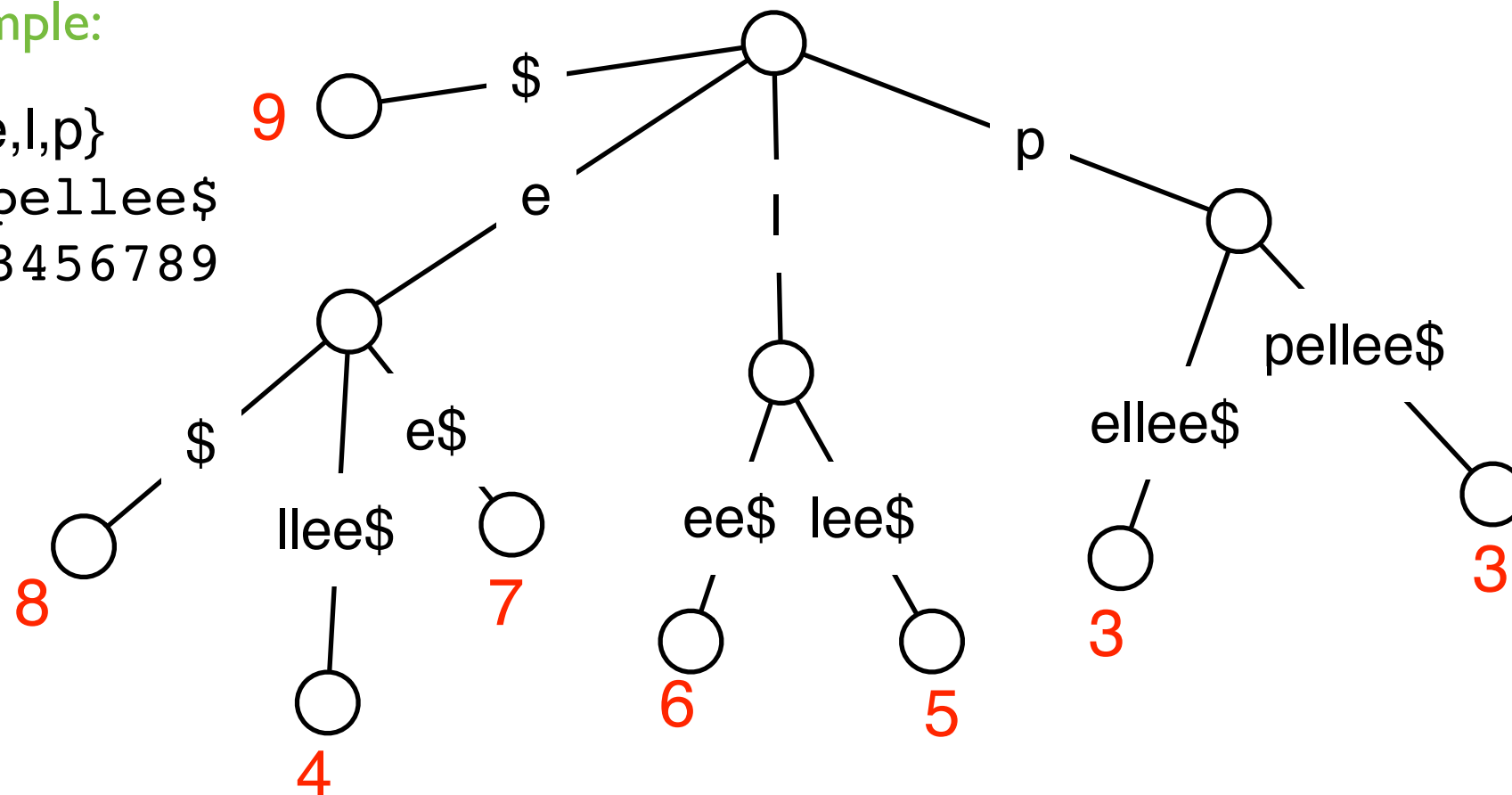
- Remember: Suffix Array = suffix numbers obtained by traversing the leaf nodes of the (ordered) Suffix Tree from left to right.
- Suffix Tree  $\Rightarrow$  Suffix Array  $\Rightarrow$  BWT.

Ordered suffix tree for previous example:

$\Sigma = \{\$,e,l,p\}$

$s = \text{appellee}\$$

123456789



# Computing BWT in $O(n)$ time

- Easy  $O(n^2 \log n)$ -time algorithm to compute the BWT (create and sort the BWT matrix explicitly).
- Several direct  $O(n)$ -time algorithms for BWT. These are space efficient.
- Also can use suffix arrays or trees:
  - Compute the suffix array, use correspondence between suffix array and BWT to output the BWT.
  - $O(n)$ -time and  $O(n)$ -space, but the constants are large.



# Move-To-Front Coding

To encode a letter, use its index in the current list, and then move it to the front of the list.

	$\Sigma$	do\$oodwg
<i>List with all letters from the allowed alphabet</i> →	\$dgow	1
	d\$gow	1 3
	od\$gw	1 3 2
	\$odgw	1 3 2 2
	o\$dgw	1 3 2 2 0
	o\$dgw	1 3 2 2 0 2
	do\$gw	1 3 2 2 0 2 4
	wdo\$g	1 3 2 2 0 2 4 4 = MTF(do\$oodwg)

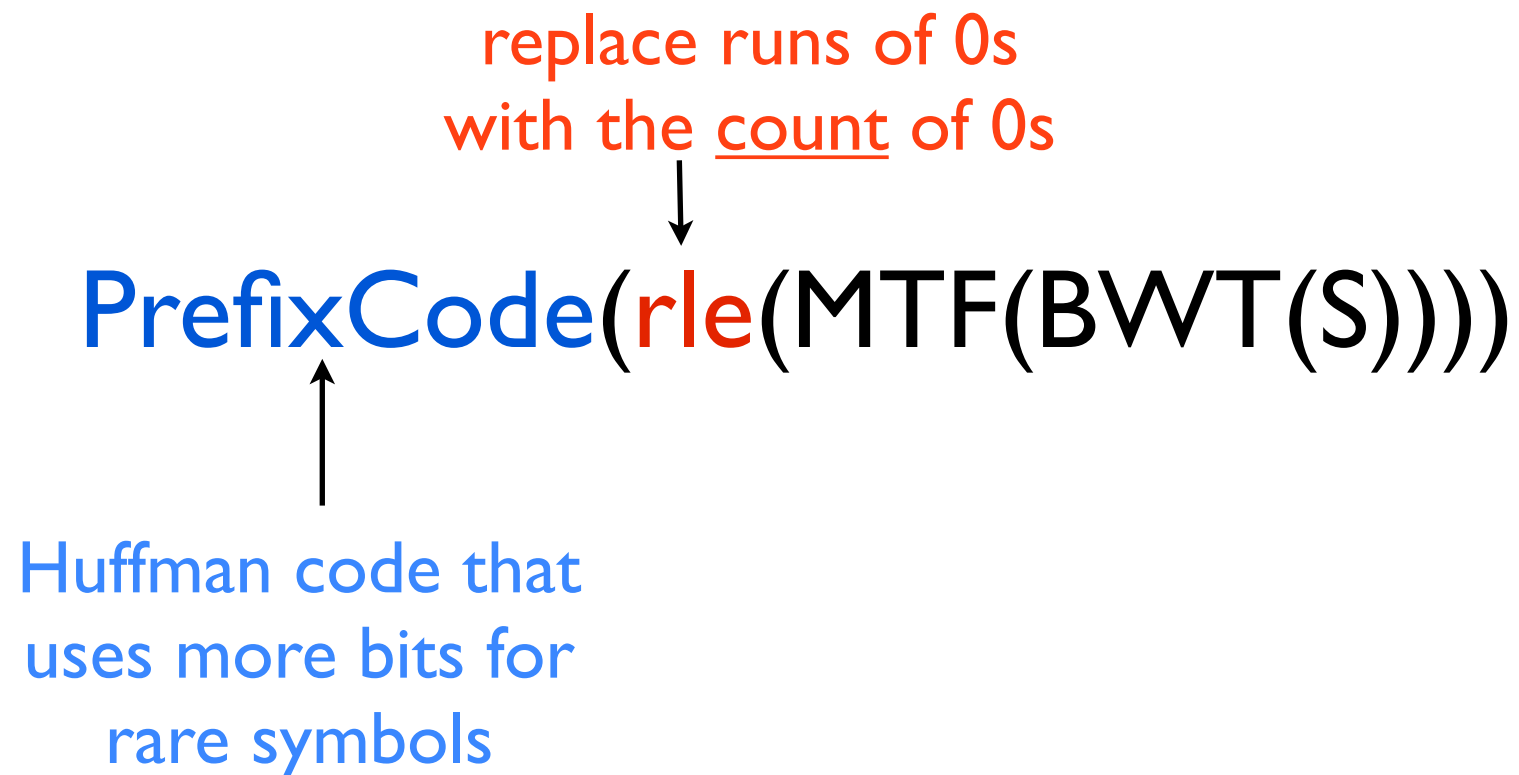
Benefits:

- Runs of the same letter will lead to runs of 0s.
- Common letters get small numbers, while rare letters get big numbers.

# Compressing BWT Strings

Lots of possible compression schemes will benefit from preprocessing with BWT (since it tends to group runs of the same letters together).

One good scheme proposed by Ferragina & Manzini:



# Pseudocode for CountingOccurrences in BWT w/o stored LF mapping

**function** Count( $S_{\text{bwt}}$ ,  $P$ ):

$c = P[p]$ ,  $i = p$

$sp = C[c] + 1$ ;  $ep = C[c+1]$

**while** ( $sp \leq ep$ ) **and** ( $i \geq 2$ ) **do**

$c = P[i-1]$

$sp = C[c] + \text{Occ}(c, sp-1) + 1$

$ep = C[c] + \text{Occ}(c, ep)$

$i = i - 1$

**if**  $ep < sp$  **then**

    return "not found"

**else**

    return  $ep - sp + 1$

$C[c]$  = index into first column  
where the "c"s begin.

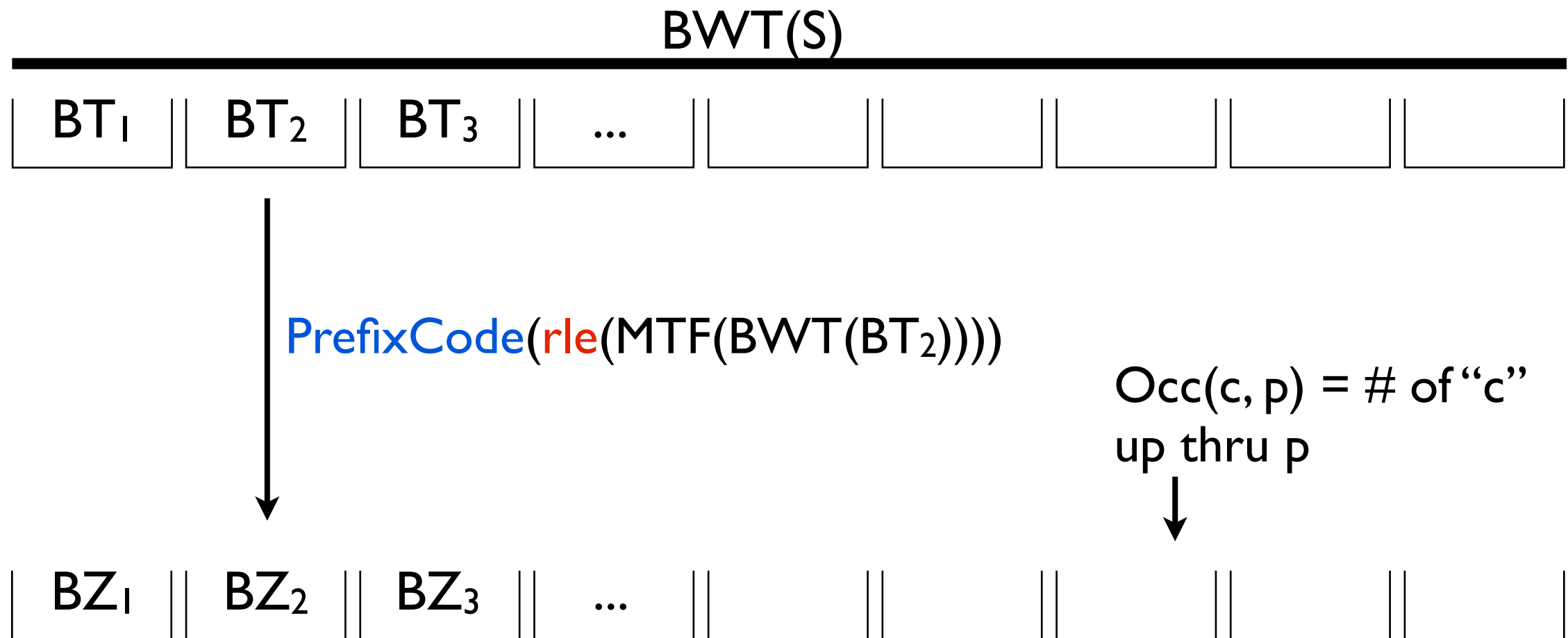


$\text{Occ}(c, p)$  = # of of c in the  
first  $p$  characters of BWT(S),  
aka the LF mapping.



# Computing Occ in Compressed String

Break BWT(S) into blocks of length L (we will decide on a value for L later):

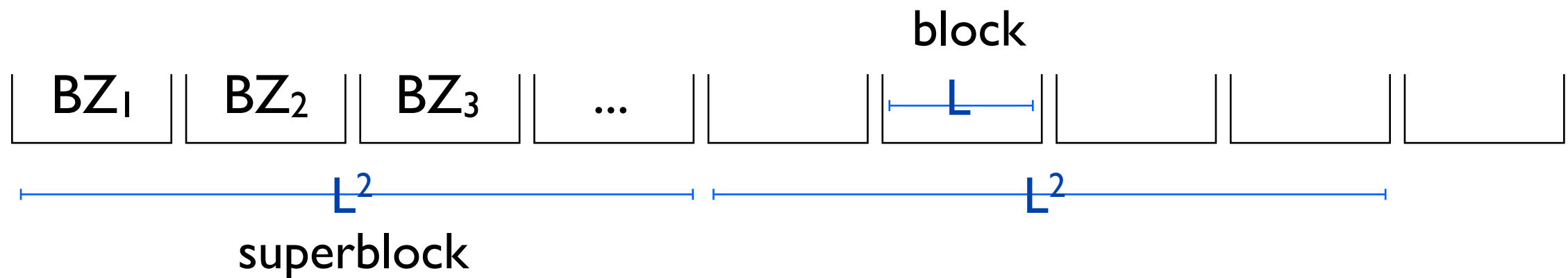


Assumes every run of 0s is contained in a block [just for ease of explanation].

We will store some extra info for each block (and some groups of blocks) to compute  $Occ(c, p)$  quickly.

# Extra Info to Compute Occ

**block:** store  $|\Sigma|$ -long array giving # of occurrences of each character up thru and including this block *since the end of the last super block.*



**superblock:** store  $|\Sigma|$ -long array giving # of occurrences of each character up thru *and including* this superblock

# Extra Info to Compute Occ

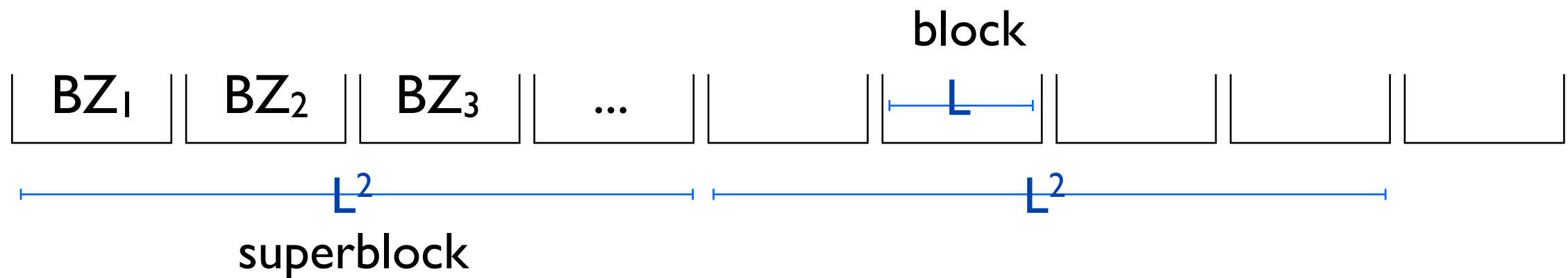
$u$  = compressed length

Choose  $L = O(\log u)$

$u/L$  blocks, each array is  $|\Sigma| \log L$  long  $\Rightarrow$

$\frac{u}{L} \log L = \frac{u}{\log u} \log \log u$  total space.

**block:** store  $|\Sigma|$ -long array giving # of occurrences of each character up thru and including this block *since the end of the last super block.*



**superblock:** store  $|\Sigma|$ -long array giving # of occurrences of each character up thru *and including* this superblock

# Extra Info to Compute Occ

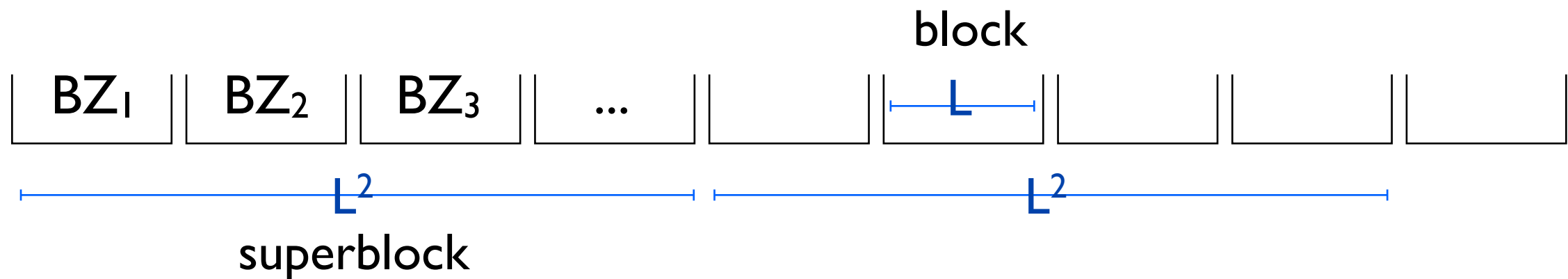
$u$  = compressed length

Choose  $L = O(\log u)$

$u/L$  blocks, each array is  $|\Sigma| \log L$  long  $\Rightarrow$

$\frac{u}{L} \log L = \frac{u}{\log u} \log \log u$  total space.

**block:** store  $|\Sigma|$ -long array giving # of occurrences of each character up thru and including this block *since the end of the last super block.*

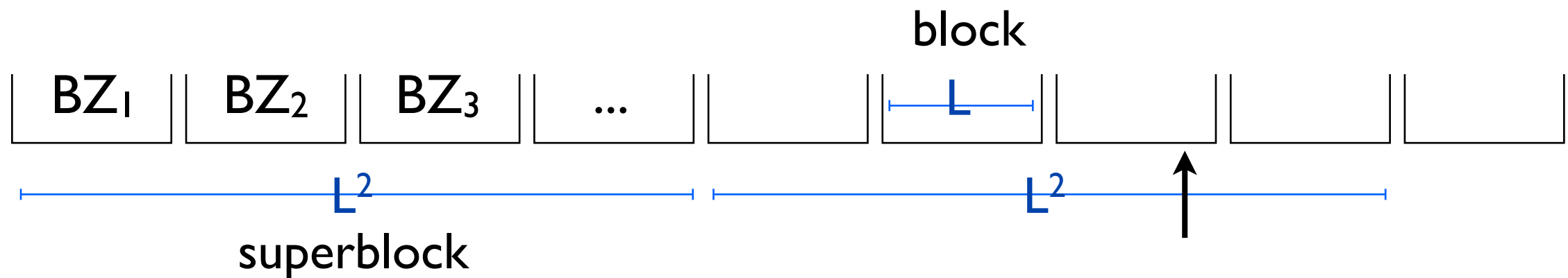


**superblock:** store  $|\Sigma|$ -long array giving # of occurrences of each character up thru *and including* this superblock

$u/L^2$  superblocks, each array is  $|\Sigma| \log u$  long  $\Rightarrow \frac{u}{(\log u)^2} \log u = \frac{u}{\log u}$  total space.

# Extra Info to Compute Occ

$u$  = compressed length  
Choose  $L = O(\log u)$



$\text{Occ}(c, p) = \#$  of "c" up thru  $p$ :  
sum value at last superblock, value  
at end of previous block, but then  
need to handle *this block*.

Store an array:  $M[c, k, BZ_i, MTF_i] = \#$  of occurrences of  $c$  through the  $k$ th letter  
of a block of type  $(BZ_i, MTF_i)$ .

Size:  $O(|\Sigma|L^2|\Sigma|) = O(L^2) = O(u^c \log u)$  for  $c < L$  (since the string is  
compressed)



# Recap

BWT useful for searching and compression.

BWT is *invertible*: given the BWT of a string, the string can be reconstructed!

BWT is computable in  $O(n)$  time.

Close relationships between Suffix Trees, Suffix Arrays, and BWT:

- Suffix array = order of the suffix numbers of the suffix tree, traversed left to right
- BWT = letters at positions given by the suffix array entries - 1

Even after compression, can search string quickly.

This only covered exact matching

- Need inexact matches to handle errors and sequence variants
- Bowtie used a heuristic branch and bound approach:
  - when a mismatch is found try the other three letters and continue...
- Bowtie2 uses a different approach:
  - use BWT to exact match *seed* alignments, use dynamic programming to *extend* alignments