

# Package: ahocorasick (via r-universe)

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**Title** Fast Multi-Pattern String Matching with Aho-Corasick

**Version** 0.1.0

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**Description** Provides fast multi-pattern string matching for R via the Aho-Corasick algorithm, powered by the Rust 'aho-corasick' crate. Build reusable automata, detect matches, count matches, locate character or byte offsets, extract matched text, and replace matches in character vectors.

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**URL** <https://yousa-mirage.github.io/r-ahocorasick/>,  
<https://github.com/Yousa-Mirage/r-ahocorasick>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/Yousa-Mirage/r-ahocorasick/issues>

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ac_build	<i>Build an Aho-Corasick automaton</i>
----------	--

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## Description

ac\_build() compiles a character vector of patterns into a reusable automaton backed by the Rust aho-corasick crate.

## Usage

```
ac_build(
  patterns,
  match_kind = c("standard", "leftmost_first", "leftmost_longest"),
  implementation = c("auto", "noncontiguous_nfa", "contiguous_nfa", "dfa"),
  ascii_case_insensitive = FALSE,
  duplicate = c("keep", "error", "deduplicate")
)
```

## Arguments

patterns	A character vector of non-empty patterns.
match_kind	Matching semantics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"standard" supports overlapping search (Default).</li> <li>"leftmost_first" returns leftmost non-overlapping matches, breaking ties by pattern order.</li> </ul>

- "leftmost\_longest" returns leftmost non-overlapping matches, breaking ties by longest match.

implementation Rust automaton implementation. "auto" lets the crate choose.

ascii\_case\_insensitive

Use ASCII-only case-insensitive matching. Default is FALSE.

duplicate

How duplicate patterns are handled:

- "keep" preserves duplicates in their original order.
- "error" fails if patterns contains duplicates.
- "deduplicate" keeps the first occurrence of each pattern and drops later duplicates.

## Value

An immutable <ac\_automaton> object.

## See Also

[ac\\_locate\(\)](#), [ac\\_locate\\_df\(\)](#), [ac\\_detect\(\)](#), [ac\\_count\(\)](#), [ac\\_extract\(\)](#), [ac\\_extract\\_df\(\)](#), [ac\\_replace\(\)](#), [ac\\_patterns\(\)](#).

## Examples

```
ac <- ac_build(c("hello", "world"))
length(ac)
ac_info(ac)
```

---

ac\_count

*Count pattern matches in documents*

---

## Description

ac\_count() returns the number of pattern matches in each document.

## Usage

```
ac_count(ac, doc, overlapping = FALSE, na = c("keep", "zero", "error"))
```

## Arguments

ac	An <ac_automaton> object created by ac_build().
doc	A character vector of documents to search.
overlapping	Default is FALSE. If TRUE, count overlapping matches. This is only supported when ac was built with match_kind = "standard".
na	How to handle NA documents. "keep" returns NA_integer_ (default); "zero" treats missing documents as zero matches; "error" fails.

**Value**

An integer vector with the same length as doc.

**See Also**

[ac\\_detect\(\)](#), [ac\\_locate\(\)](#), [ac\\_extract\(\)](#).

**Examples**

```
if (requireNamespace("dplyr", quietly = TRUE)) {
  ac <- ac_build(c("hello", "world"))
  docs <- data.frame(doc = c("hello world", "nothing", "world"))
  dplyr::mutate(docs, n_matches = ac_count(ac, doc))
}
```

---

ac\_detect

*Detect pattern matches in documents*

---

**Description**

ac\_detect() returns whether each document has at least one pattern match.

**Usage**

```
ac_detect(ac, doc, na = c("keep", "false", "error"))
```

**Arguments**

ac	An <ac_automaton> object created by ac_build().
doc	A character vector of documents to search.
na	How to handle NA documents. "keep" returns NA (default); "false" treats missing documents as not matched; "error" fails.

**Value**

A logical vector with the same length as doc.

**See Also**

[ac\\_count\(\)](#), [ac\\_locate\(\)](#), [ac\\_extract\(\)](#).

**Examples**

```
if (requireNamespace("dplyr", quietly = TRUE)) {
  ac <- ac_build(c("hello", "world"))
  docs <- data.frame(doc = c("hello world", "nothing", "world"))
  dplyr::mutate(docs, matched = ac_detect(ac, doc))
}
```

---

ac_extract	<i>Extract pattern matches from documents</i>
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### Description

ac\_extract() returns one list element per document. Each element contains the matched text and the corresponding pattern values.

### Usage

```
ac_extract(ac, doc, overlapping = FALSE, na = c("keep", "empty", "error"))
```

### Arguments

ac	An <ac_automaton> object created by ac_build().
doc	A character vector of documents to search.
overlapping	Default is FALSE. If TRUE, extract overlapping matches. This is only supported when ac was built with match_kind = "standard".
na	How to handle NA documents. "keep" returns one row with missing matches and patterns values (default); "empty" treats missing documents as no matches; "error" fails.

### Value

A list with the same length as doc. Each element is a data frame with one row per match and two columns:

- matches: Text matched in the document.
- patterns: Pattern values corresponding to each match.

### See Also

[ac\\_extract\\_df\(\)](#), [ac\\_locate\(\)](#), [ac\\_detect\(\)](#), [ac\\_count\(\)](#).

### Examples

```
if (
  requireNamespace("dplyr", quietly = TRUE) &&
  requireNamespace("tibble", quietly = TRUE) &&
  requireNamespace("tidyr", quietly = TRUE)
) {
  ac <- ac_build(c("hello", "world"))
  tibble::tibble(doc = c("hello world", "nothing", "world")) |>
    dplyr::mutate(extracted = ac_extract(ac, doc)) |>
    tidyr::unnest(extracted)
}
```

---

ac_extract_df	<i>Extract pattern matches as a data frame</i>
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---

### Description

ac\_extract\_df() is the data-frame form of [ac\\_extract\(\)](#). It is useful when you want one row per match instead of one list element per document.

### Usage

```
ac_extract_df(ac, doc, overlapping = FALSE, na = c("omit", "keep", "error"))
```

### Arguments

ac	An <ac_automaton> object created by <a href="#">ac_build()</a> .
doc	A character vector of documents to search.
overlapping	Default is FALSE. If TRUE, extract overlapping matches. This is only supported when ac was built with match_kind = "standard".
na	How to handle NA documents. "omit" drops missing documents (default); "keep" returns one row with missing result columns for each missing document; "error" fails.

### Value

A data frame with one row per match and three columns: doc\_id, matches, and patterns.

### See Also

[ac\\_extract\(\)](#), [ac\\_locate\\_df\(\)](#).

### Examples

```
ac <- ac_build(c("hello", "world"))
doc <- c("hello world", "nothing", "world hello")
ac_extract_df(ac, doc)
```

---

ac_info	<i>Return automaton metadata</i>
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---

**Description**

Return automaton metadata

**Usage**

```
ac_info(ac)
```

**Arguments**

ac                   An <ac\_automaton> object created by `ac_build()`.

**Value**

A list of automaton metadata.

**See Also**

[ac\\_build\(\)](#), [ac\\_patterns\(\)](#).

**Examples**

```
ac <- ac_build(c("hello", "world"))
ac_info(ac)
```

---

ac_locate	<i>Locate pattern matches in strings</i>
-----------	--

---

**Description**

`ac_locate()` searches a character vector with a compiled automaton and returns one list element per document. Character offsets are 1-based and inclusive, so they can be used directly with `substr()`.

**Usage**

```
ac_locate(ac, doc, overlapping = FALSE, na = c("keep", "empty", "error"))
```

**Arguments**

ac	An <code>&lt;ac_automaton&gt;</code> object created by <code>ac_build()</code> .
doc	A character vector of documents to search.
overlapping	Default is <code>FALSE</code> . If <code>TRUE</code> , report overlapping matches. This is only supported when <code>ac</code> was built with <code>match_kind = "standard"</code> .
na	How to handle NA documents. "keep" returns one row with missing <code>pattern_id</code> , <code>start</code> , and <code>end</code> values (default); "empty" treats missing documents as no matches; "error" fails.

**Value**

A list with the same length as `doc`. Each element is a data frame with one row per match and three columns:

- `pattern_id`: Index of the matched pattern in `ac_patterns(ac)`.
- `start`: 1-based index of the first character in each match.
- `end`: 1-based index of the last character in each match.

**See Also**

[ac\\_locate\\_df\(\)](#), [ac\\_locate\\_bytes\(\)](#), [ac\\_extract\(\)](#), [ac\\_detect\(\)](#), [ac\\_count\(\)](#).

**Examples**

```
if (
  requireNamespace("dplyr", quietly = TRUE) &&
  requireNamespace("tibble", quietly = TRUE) &&
  requireNamespace("tidyr", quietly = TRUE)
) {
  ac <- ac_build(c("hello", "world"))
  tibble::tibble(doc = c("hello world", "nothing", "world")) |>
    dplyr::mutate(hits = ac_locate(ac, doc)) |>
    tidyr::unnest(hits)
}
```

---

ac\_locate\_bytes

*Locate pattern matches with byte offsets*

---

**Description**

`ac_locate_bytes()` searches a character vector with a compiled automaton and returns byte offsets from the Rust `aho-corasick` crate. Byte offsets are 0-based, and `byte_end` is end-exclusive.

**Usage**

```
ac_locate_bytes(ac, doc, overlapping = FALSE, na = c("omit", "keep", "error"))
```

**Arguments**

ac	An <ac_automaton> object created by ac_build().
doc	A character vector of documents to search.
overlapping	Default is FALSE. If TRUE, report overlapping matches. This is only supported when ac was built with match_kind = "standard".
na	How to handle NA documents. "omit" drops missing documents (default); "keep" returns one row with missing result columns for each missing document; "error" fails.

**Value**

A data frame with one row per match and four columns: doc\_id, pattern\_id, byte\_start, and byte\_end.

**See Also**

[ac\\_locate\(\)](#), [ac\\_locate\\_df\(\)](#).

**Examples**

```
ac <- ac_build(c("hello", "world"))
doc <- c("hello world", "nothing", "world hello")
ac_locate_bytes(ac, doc)
```

---

ac_locate_df	<i>Locate pattern matches as a data frame</i>
--------------	---

---

**Description**

ac\_locate\_df() is the data-frame form of [ac\\_locate\(\)](#). It is useful when you want one row per match instead of one list element per document.

**Usage**

```
ac_locate_df(ac, doc, overlapping = FALSE, na = c("omit", "keep", "error"))
```

**Arguments**

ac	An <ac_automaton> object created by ac_build().
doc	A character vector of documents to search.
overlapping	Default is FALSE. If TRUE, report overlapping matches. This is only supported when ac was built with match_kind = "standard".
na	How to handle NA documents. "omit" drops missing documents (default); "keep" returns one row with missing result columns for each missing document; "error" fails.

**Value**

A data frame with one row per match and four columns: doc\_id, pattern\_id, start, and end.

**See Also**

[ac\\_locate\(\)](#), [ac\\_locate\\_bytes\(\)](#), [ac\\_extract\\_df\(\)](#).

**Examples**

```
ac <- ac_build(c("hello", "world"))
doc <- c("hello world", "nothing", "world hello")
ac_locate_df(ac, doc)
```

---

ac\_patterns

*Return patterns stored in an automaton*

---

**Description**

Return patterns stored in an automaton

**Usage**

```
ac_patterns(ac)
```

**Arguments**

ac An <ac\_automaton> object created by `ac_build()`.

**Value**

A character vector of stored patterns.

**See Also**

[ac\\_build\(\)](#), [ac\\_info\(\)](#).

**Examples**

```
ac <- ac_build(c("hello", "world"))
ac_patterns(ac)
```

---

ac_replace	<i>Replace pattern matches in documents</i>
------------	---

---

**Description**

ac\_replace() replaces all non-overlapping matches in each document with the corresponding replacement string.

**Usage**

```
ac_replace(ac, doc, replace_with, na = c("keep", "empty", "error"))
```

**Arguments**

ac	An <ac_automaton> object created by ac_build().
doc	A character vector of documents to search and replace.
replace_with	A character vector of replacements. If length 1, the same replacement is used for every pattern. Otherwise, it <b>MUST</b> have the same length as ac_patterns(ac), and replacements are matched to patterns by position.
na	How to handle NA documents. "keep" returns NA_character_ (default); "empty" treats missing documents as empty strings; "error" fails.

**Value**

A character vector with the same length and names as doc.

**See Also**

[ac\\_build\(\)](#), [ac\\_detect\(\)](#), [ac\\_count\(\)](#), [ac\\_extract\(\)](#), [ac\\_locate\(\)](#).

**Examples**

```
ac <- ac_build(c("fox", "brown", "quick"))
ac_replace(
  ac,
  "The quick brown fox.",
  c("sloth", "grey", "slow")
)
```

```
ac <- ac_build(c("append", "appendage", "app"), match_kind = "leftmost_first")
ac_replace(ac, "append the app to the appendage", c("x", "y", "z"))
```

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