

Faster Pattern Matching under Edit Distance

*Panagiotis Charalampopoulos*¹, Tomasz Kociumaka²,
Philip Wellnitz²

1. BIRKBECK, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON, UK

2. MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR INFORMATICS,
SAARLAND INFORMATICS CAMPUS, SAARBRÜCKEN, GERMANY

FOCS 2022

Denver, USA

The Problem

The Problem

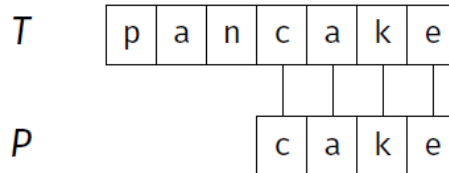
Pattern Matching

Given a text T and a pattern P , compute the occurrences of P in T .

The Problem

Pattern Matching

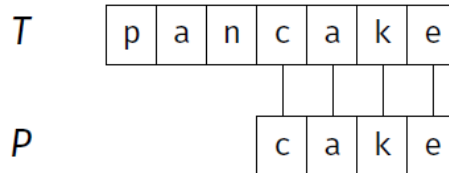
Given a text T and a pattern P , compute the occurrences of P in T .



The Problem

Pattern Matching

Given a text T and a pattern P , compute the occurrences of P in T .



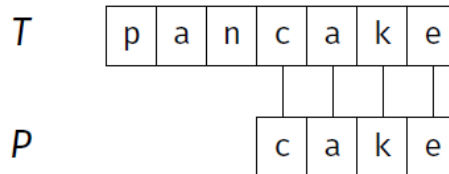
Pattern Matching under Edit Distance

Given a text T , a pattern P , and an integer threshold k , compute the (starting positions of) substrings of T that are at **edit distance** at most k from P .

The Problem

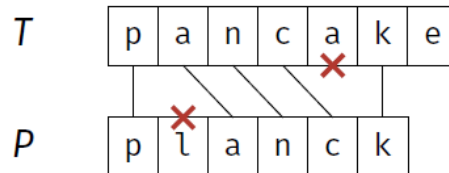
Pattern Matching

Given a text T and a pattern P , compute the occurrences of P in T .



Pattern Matching under Edit Distance

Given a text T , a pattern P , and an integer threshold k , compute the (starting positions of) substrings of T that are at **edit distance** at most k from P .



History and our Result

History and our Result

$\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ [Sellers; J. Algorithms 1980]

History and our Result

$\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ [Sellers; J. Algorithms 1980]

$\mathcal{O}(nk^2)$ [Landau, Vishkin; JCSS 1988]

History and our Result

$\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ [Sellers; J. Algorithms 1980]

$\mathcal{O}(nk^2)$ [Landau, Vishkin; JCSS 1988]

$\mathcal{O}(nk)$ [Landau, Vishkin; J. Algorithms 1989]

History and our Result

$\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ [Sellers; J. Algorithms 1980]

$\mathcal{O}(nk^2)$ [Landau, Vishkin; JCSS 1988]

$\mathcal{O}(nk)$ [Landau, Vishkin; J. Algorithms 1989]

$\tilde{\mathcal{O}}(n + k^{8+1/3} \cdot n/m^{1/3})$ [Sahinalp, Vishkin; FOCS 1996]

History and our Result

$\mathcal{O}(n^2)$	[Sellers; J. Algorithms 1980]
$\mathcal{O}(nk^2)$	[Landau, Vishkin; JCSS 1988]
$\mathcal{O}(nk)$	[Landau, Vishkin; J. Algorithms 1989]
$\tilde{\mathcal{O}}(n + k^{8+1/3} \cdot n/m^{1/3})$	[Sahinalp, Vishkin; FOCS 1996]
$\mathcal{O}(n + k^4 \cdot n/m)$	[Cole, Hariharan; SICOMP 2002]

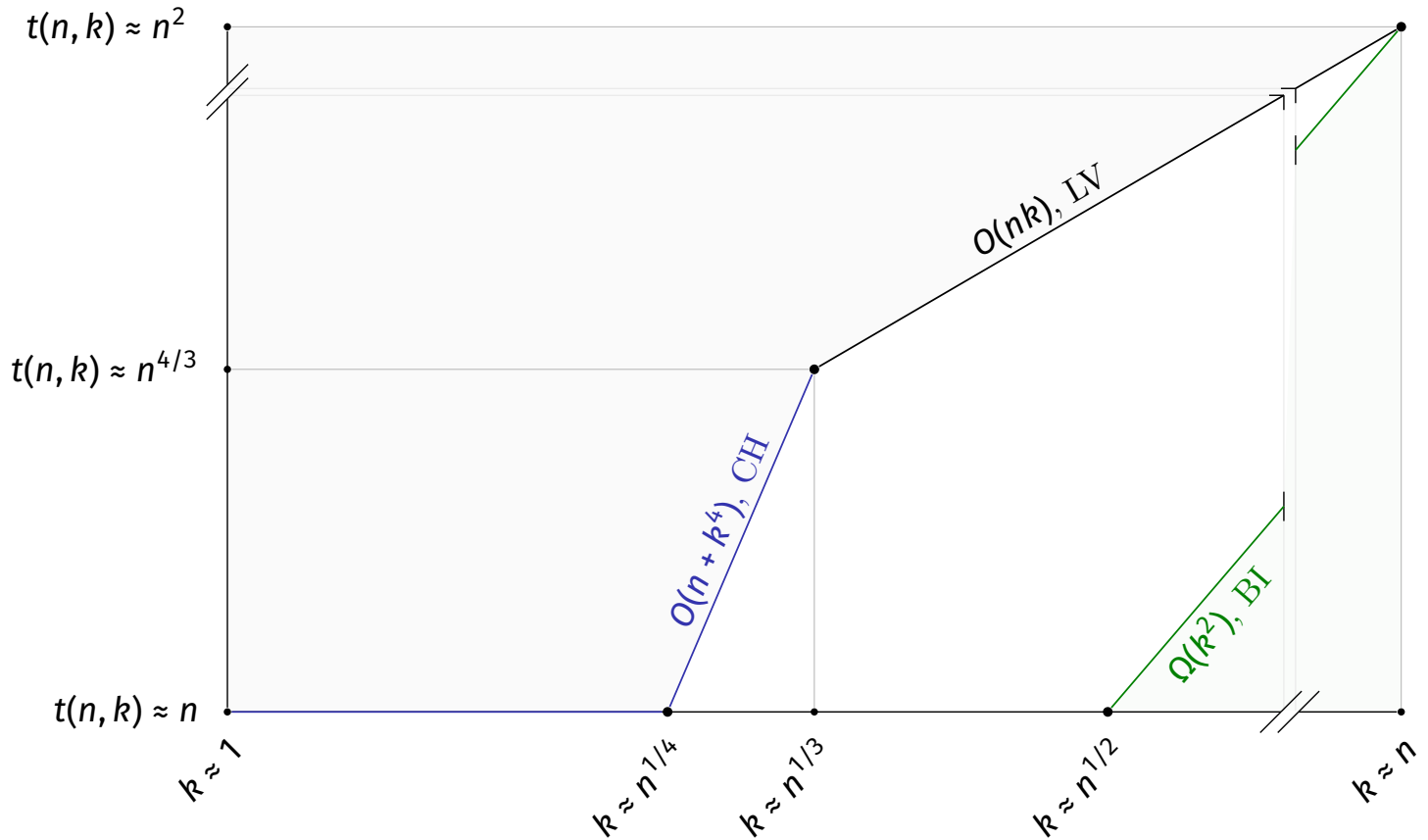
History and our Result

$\mathcal{O}(n^2)$	[Sellers; J. Algorithms 1980]
$\mathcal{O}(nk^2)$	[Landau, Vishkin; JCSS 1988]
$\mathcal{O}(nk)$	[Landau, Vishkin; J. Algorithms 1989]
$\tilde{\mathcal{O}}(n + k^{8+1/3} \cdot n/m^{1/3})$	[Sahinalp, Vishkin; FOCS 1996]
$\mathcal{O}(n + k^4 \cdot n/m)$	[Cole, Hariharan; SICOMP 2002]
$\tilde{\mathcal{O}}(n + k^{3.5} \cdot n/m)$	This work

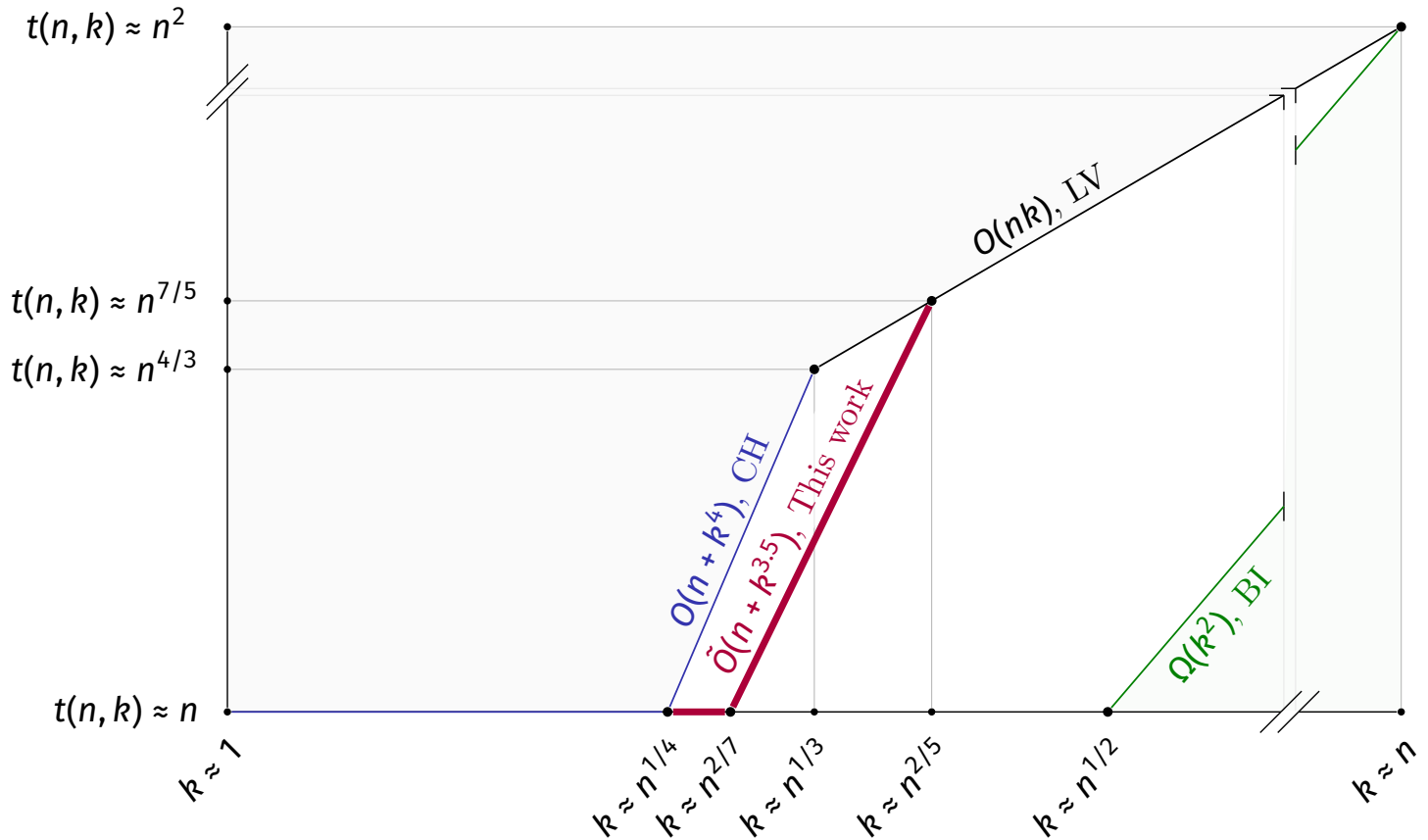
History and our Result

$\mathcal{O}(n^2)$	[Sellers; J. Algorithms 1980]
$\mathcal{O}(nk^2)$	[Landau, Vishkin; JCSS 1988]
$\mathcal{O}(nk)$	[Landau, Vishkin; J. Algorithms 1989]
$\tilde{\mathcal{O}}(n + k^{8+1/3} \cdot n/m^{1/3})$	[Sahinalp, Vishkin; FOCS 1996]
$\mathcal{O}(n + k^4 \cdot n/m)$	[Cole, Hariharan; SICOMP 2002]
$\tilde{\mathcal{O}}(n + k^{3.5} \cdot n/m)$	This work
$\Omega(k^2)$	[Backurs, Indyk; SICOMP 2018]

History and our Result



History and our Result



The Structure of Pattern Matching

The Structure of Pattern Matching

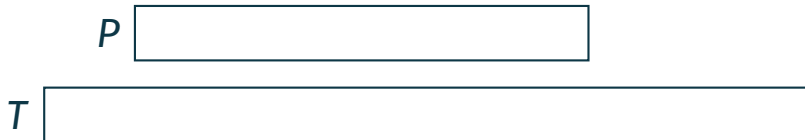
Fact [folklore] Given a pattern P of length m and a text T of length $n \leq \frac{3}{2}m$ at least one of the following holds:



The Structure of Pattern Matching

Fact [folklore] Given a pattern P of length m and a text T of length $n \leq \frac{3}{2}m$ at least one of the following holds:

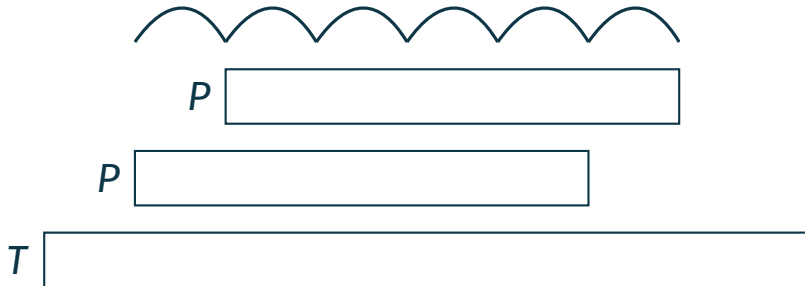
- The pattern P has at most one occurrence in T .



The Structure of Pattern Matching

Fact [folklore] Given a pattern P of length m and a text T of length $n \leq \frac{3}{2}m$ at least one of the following holds:

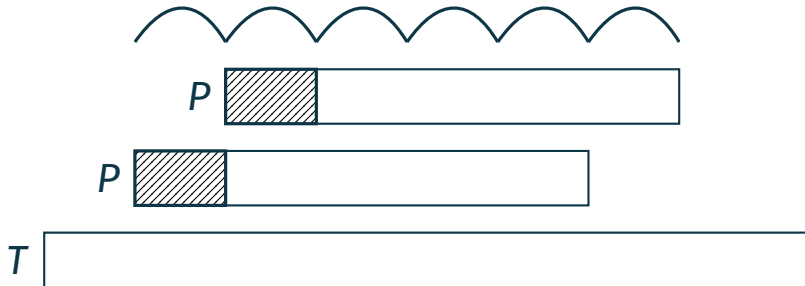
- The pattern P has at most one occurrence in T .
- The pattern P is **periodic**.



The Structure of Pattern Matching

Fact [folklore] Given a pattern P of length m and a text T of length $n \leq \frac{3}{2}m$ at least one of the following holds:

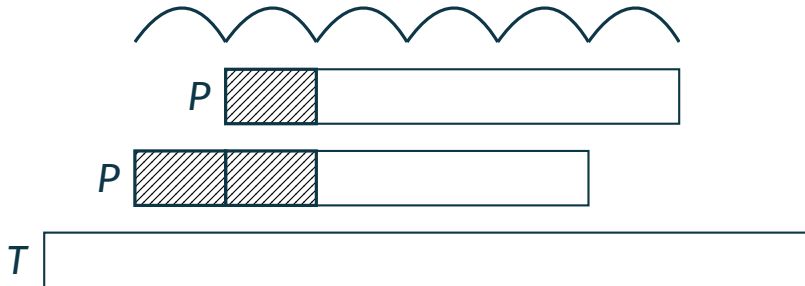
- The pattern P has at most one occurrence in T .
- The pattern P is **periodic**.



The Structure of Pattern Matching

Fact [folklore] Given a pattern P of length m and a text T of length $n \leq \frac{3}{2}m$ at least one of the following holds:

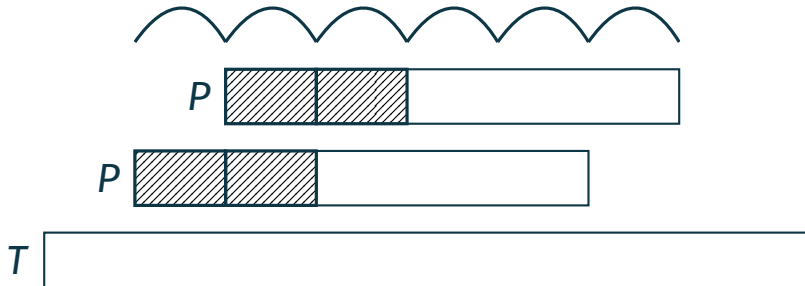
- The pattern P has at most one occurrence in T .
- The pattern P is **periodic**.



The Structure of Pattern Matching

Fact [folklore] Given a pattern P of length m and a text T of length $n \leq \frac{3}{2}m$ at least one of the following holds:

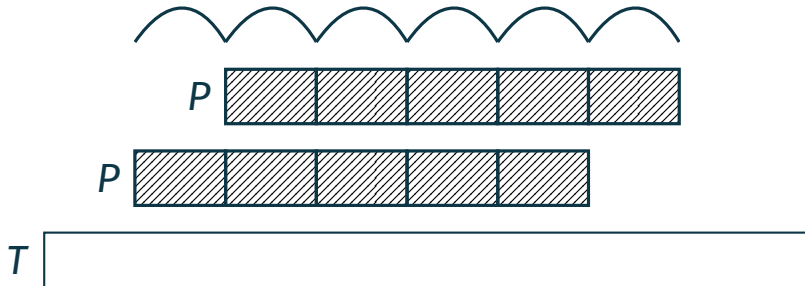
- The pattern P has at most one occurrence in T .
- The pattern P is **periodic**.



The Structure of Pattern Matching

Fact [folklore] Given a pattern P of length m and a text T of length $n \leq \frac{3}{2}m$ at least one of the following holds:

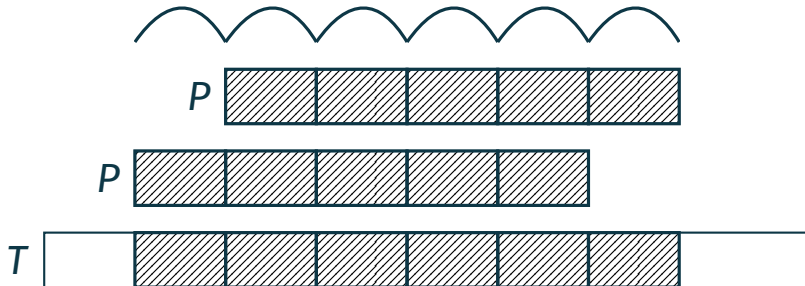
- The pattern P has at most one occurrence in T .
- The pattern P is **periodic**.



The Structure of Pattern Matching

Fact [folklore] Given a pattern P of length m and a text T of length $n \leq \frac{3}{2}m$ at least one of the following holds:

- The pattern P has at most one occurrence in T .
- The pattern P is **periodic**.



The fragment of T spanned by P 's occurrences is **periodic** as well.

The Structure of Pattern Matching under Edit Distance

The Structure of Pattern Matching under Edit Distance

Theorem [CKW; FOCS'20] Given a pattern P of length m and a text T of length $n \leq \frac{3}{2}m$, and a threshold $k \leq m$ at least one of the following holds:

The Structure of Pattern Matching under Edit Distance

Theorem [CKW; FOCS'20] Given a pattern P of length m and a text T of length $n \leq \frac{3}{2}m$, and a threshold $k \leq m$ at least one of the following holds:

- The pattern P has $\mathcal{O}(k^2)$ k -error occurrences in T .

The Structure of Pattern Matching under Edit Distance

Theorem [CKW; FOCS'20] Given a pattern P of length m and a text T of length $n \leq \frac{3}{2}m$, and a threshold $k \leq m$ at least one of the following holds:

- The pattern P has $\mathcal{O}(k^2)$ k -error occurrences in T .
- The pattern is **almost periodic**: at edit distance $< 2k$ from a string with period $\mathcal{O}(m/k)$.

The Structure of Pattern Matching under Edit Distance

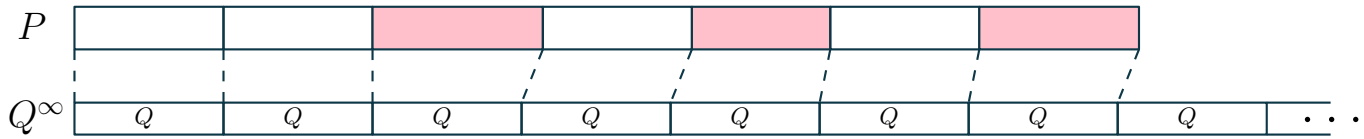
Theorem [CKW; FOCS'20] Given a pattern P of length m and a text T of length $n \leq \frac{3}{2}m$, and a threshold $k \leq m$ at least one of the following holds:

- The pattern P has $\mathcal{O}(k^2)$ k -error occurrences in T .
- The pattern is **almost periodic**: at edit distance $< 2k$ from a string with period $\mathcal{O}(m/k)$. **This is the bottleneck.**

The Structure of Pattern Matching under Edit Distance

Theorem [CKW; FOCS'20] Given a pattern P of length m and a text T of length $n \leq \frac{3}{2}m$, and a threshold $k \leq m$ at least one of the following holds:

- The pattern P has $\mathcal{O}(k^2)$ k -error occurrences in T .
- The pattern is **almost periodic**: at edit distance $< 2k$ from a string with period $\mathcal{O}(m/k)$. **This is the bottleneck.**

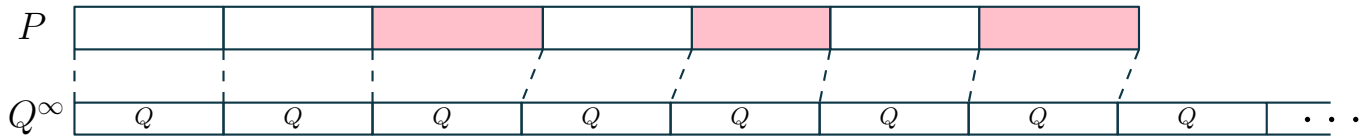


Q will denote a **primitive string**; it does not match any of its rotations.

The Structure of Pattern Matching under Edit Distance

Theorem [CKW; FOCS'20] Given a pattern P of length m and a text T of length $n \leq \frac{3}{2}m$, and a threshold $k \leq m$ at least one of the following holds:

- The pattern P has $\mathcal{O}(k^2)$ k -error occurrences in T .
- The pattern is **almost periodic**: at edit distance $< 2k$ from a string with period $\mathcal{O}(m/k)$. **This is the bottleneck.**



Q will denote a **primitive string**; it does not match any of its rotations.

We call this a **tile decomposition** of P with respect to Q .

The PILLAR Model and the Reduction of [CKW'20]

The PILLAR Model and the Reduction of [CKW'20]

In the PILLAR model [CKW'20], algorithms rely on primitive operations.

The PILLAR Model and the Reduction of [CKW'20]

In the PILLAR model [CKW'20], algorithms rely on primitive operations.

For any setting, e.g., when the strings are given in compressed form, an efficient implementation of the primitive operations yields a fast algorithm.

The PILLAR Model and the Reduction of [CKW'20]

In the PILLAR model [CKW'20], algorithms rely on primitive operations.

For any setting, e.g., when the strings are given in compressed form, an efficient implementation of the primitive operations yields a fast algorithm.

Standard setting: The primitive operations take $\mathcal{O}(1)$ time after an $\mathcal{O}(n)$ -time preprocessing.

The PILLAR Model and the Reduction of [CKW'20]

In the PILLAR model [CKW'20], algorithms rely on primitive operations.

For any setting, e.g., when the strings are given in compressed form, an efficient implementation of the primitive operations yields a fast algorithm.

Standard setting: The primitive operations take $\mathcal{O}(1)$ time after an $\mathcal{O}(n)$ -time preprocessing.

$\mathcal{O}(k^4 \cdot n/m)$ PILLAR-time algorithm [CKW'20] matches [Cole, Hariharan; SICOMP 2002] for the standard setting.

The PILLAR Model and the Reduction of [CKW'20]

In the PILLAR model [CKW'20], algorithms rely on primitive operations.

For any setting, e.g., when the strings are given in compressed form, an efficient implementation of the primitive operations yields a fast algorithm.

Standard setting: The primitive operations take $\mathcal{O}(1)$ time after an $\mathcal{O}(n)$ -time preprocessing.

$\mathcal{O}(k^4 \cdot n/m)$ PILLAR-time algorithm [CKW'20] matches [Cole, Hariharan; SICOMP 2002] for the standard setting.

Reduction [CKW'20]: An algorithm that solves the almost periodic case in $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}(k^a \cdot n/m)$ PILLAR-time, for $a \geq 3$, implies an algorithm that solves the general case in $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}(k^a \cdot n/m)$ PILLAR-time.

Dynamic Puzzle Matching

Dynamic Puzzle Matching

Input: An integer k and a family \mathcal{F} of strings containing a distinguished primitive string Q with $\sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}} \delta_E(F, Q) = \mathcal{O}(k)$.

Dynamic Puzzle Matching

Input: An integer k and a family \mathcal{F} of strings containing a distinguished primitive string Q with $\sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}} \delta_E(F, Q) = \mathcal{O}(k)$.

Maintain: A sequence $\mathcal{I} = (U_1, V_1) \cdots (U_z, V_z)$ of pairs from \mathcal{F}^2 .

Dynamic Puzzle Matching

Input: An integer k and a family \mathcal{F} of strings containing a distinguished primitive string Q with $\sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}} \delta_E(F, Q) = \mathcal{O}(k)$.

Maintain: A sequence $\mathcal{I} = (U_1, V_1) \cdots (U_z, V_z)$ of pairs from \mathcal{F}^2 .

Updates: Insertions and deletions of pairs in \mathcal{I} .

Dynamic Puzzle Matching

Input: An integer k and a family \mathcal{F} of strings containing a distinguished primitive string Q with $\sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}} \delta_E(F, Q) = \mathcal{O}(k)$.

Maintain: A sequence $\mathcal{I} = (U_1, V_1) \cdots (U_z, V_z)$ of pairs from \mathcal{F}^2 .

Updates: Insertions and deletions of pairs in \mathcal{I} .

Queries: Compute the k -error occurrences of $U_1 \cdots U_z$ in $V_1 \cdots V_z$.

Dynamic Puzzle Matching

Input: An integer k and a family \mathcal{F} of strings containing a distinguished primitive string Q with $\sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}} \delta_E(F, Q) = \mathcal{O}(k)$.

Maintain: A sequence $\mathcal{I} = (U_1, V_1) \cdots (U_z, V_z)$ of pairs from \mathcal{F}^2 .

Updates: Insertions and deletions of pairs in \mathcal{I} .

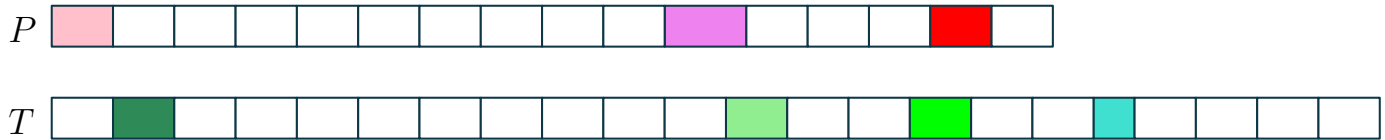
Queries: Compute the k -error occurrences of $U_1 \cdots U_z$ in $V_1 \cdots V_z$.

After $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}(k^3)$ -time preprocessing, updates and queries take $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}(k)$ time.

Using Dynamic Puzzle Matching

Using Dynamic Puzzle Matching

Think of: $k = 4$ and $|Q| \approx \sqrt{m}$.



Each string has $\mathcal{O}(k)$ special tiles.

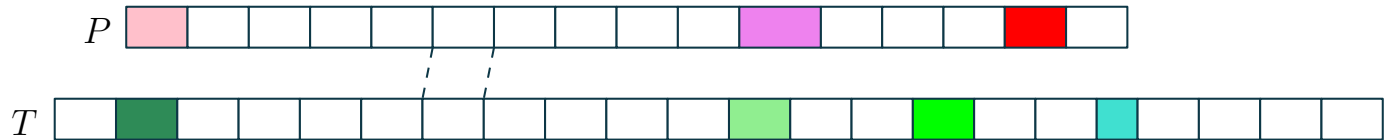
Using Dynamic Puzzle Matching

Think of: $k = 4$ and $|Q| \approx \sqrt{m}$.



Using Dynamic Puzzle Matching

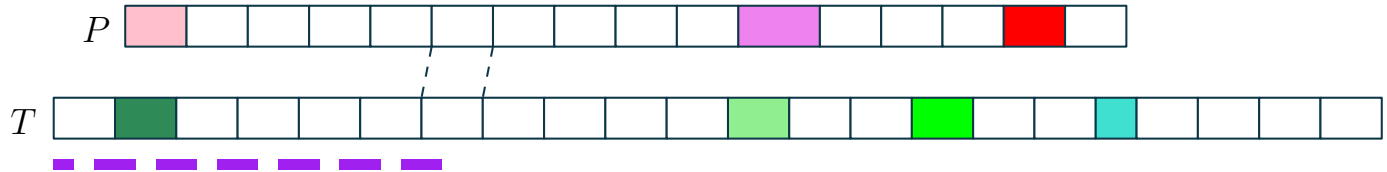
Think of: $k = 4$ and $|Q| \approx \sqrt{m}$.



$> k$ copies of Q in $P \implies \geq 1$ must be matched exactly

Using Dynamic Puzzle Matching

Think of: $k = 4$ and $|Q| \approx \sqrt{m}$.

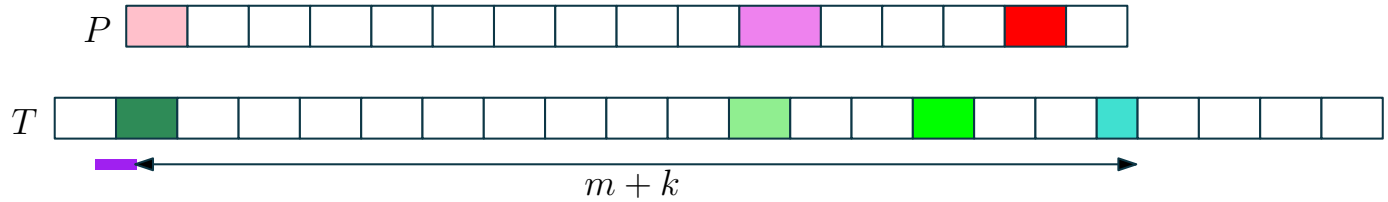


$> k$ copies of Q in $P \implies \geq 1$ must be matched exactly

Starting positions of k -error occs in T are within $\mathcal{O}(k)$ from endpoints of tiles.

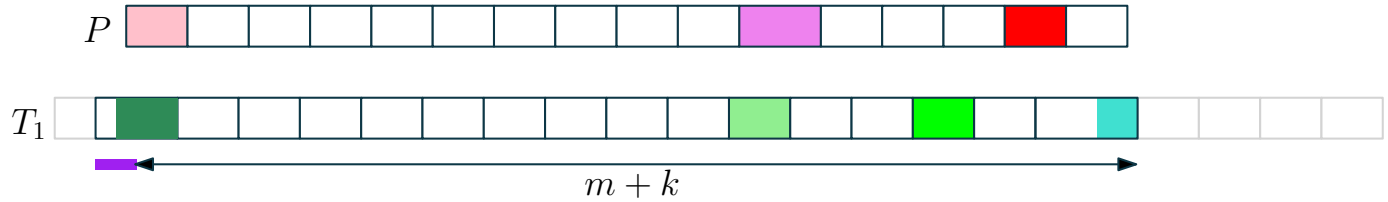
Using Dynamic Puzzle Matching

Think of: $k = 4$ and $|Q| \approx \sqrt{m}$.



Using Dynamic Puzzle Matching

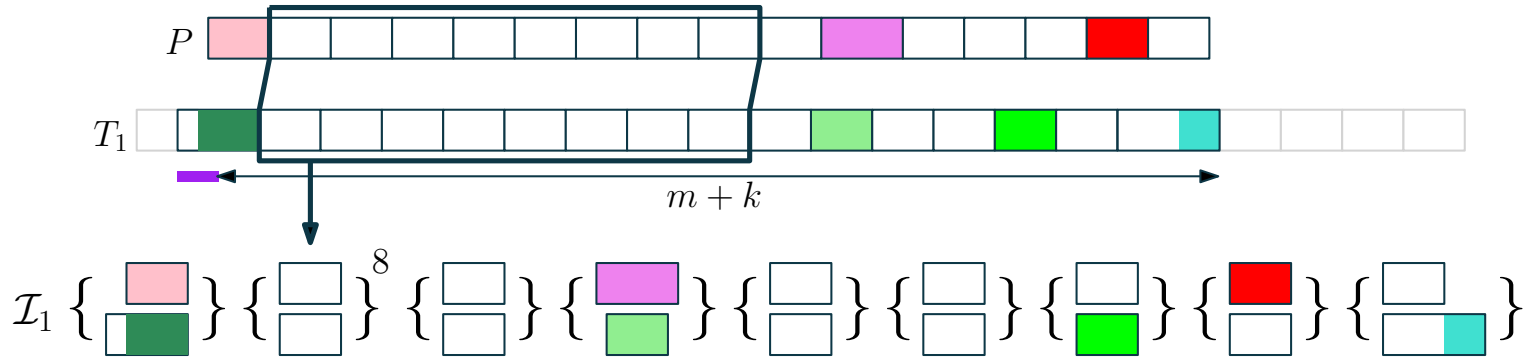
Think of: $k = 4$ and $|Q| \approx \sqrt{m}$.



$$|T_j| = m + \mathcal{O}(k)$$

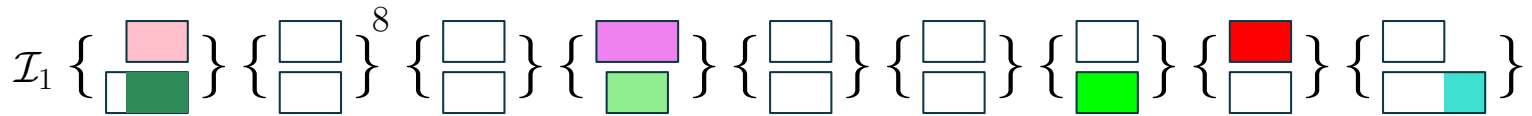
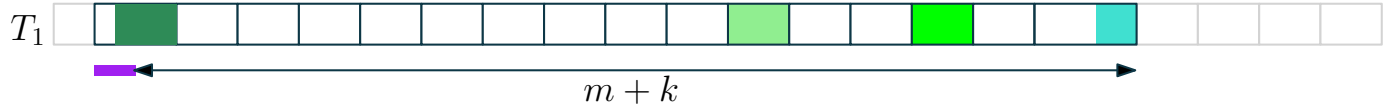
Using Dynamic Puzzle Matching

Think of: $k = 4$ and $|Q| \approx \sqrt{m}$.



Using Dynamic Puzzle Matching

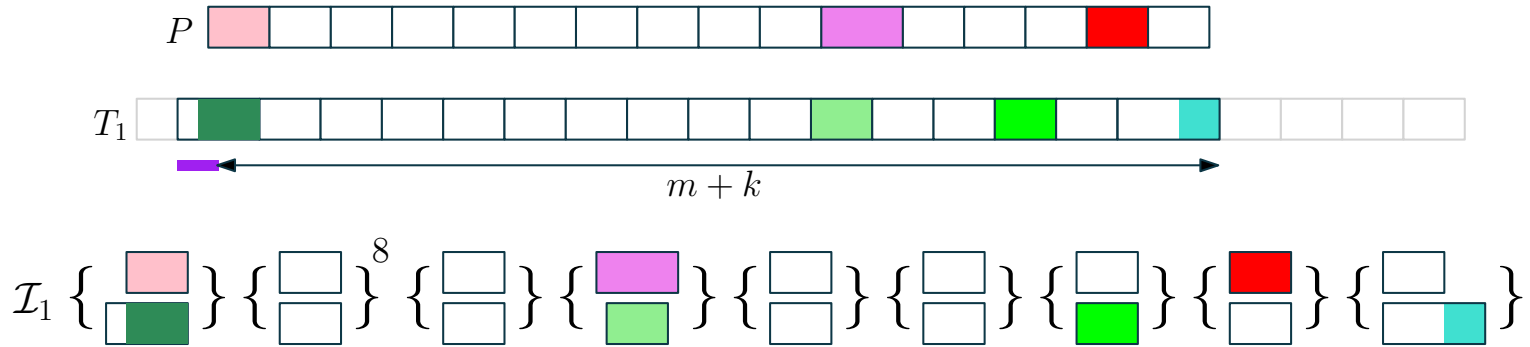
Think of: $k = 4$ and $|Q| \approx \sqrt{m}$.



Goal: Iterate over all \mathcal{I}_j 's in a DPM instance.

Using Dynamic Puzzle Matching

Think of: $k = 4$ and $|Q| \approx \sqrt{m}$.

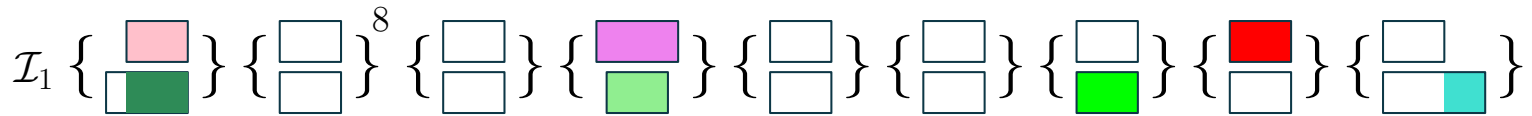
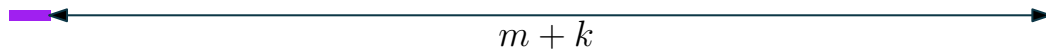


Goal: Iterate over all \mathcal{I}_j 's in a DPM instance.

(The leading and trailing pairs are treated separately.)

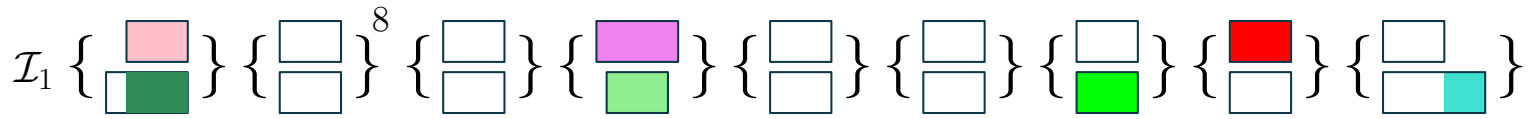
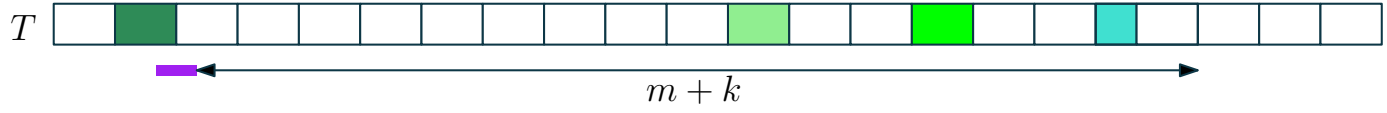
Using Dynamic Puzzle Matching

Think of: $k = 4$ and $|Q| \approx \sqrt{m}$.



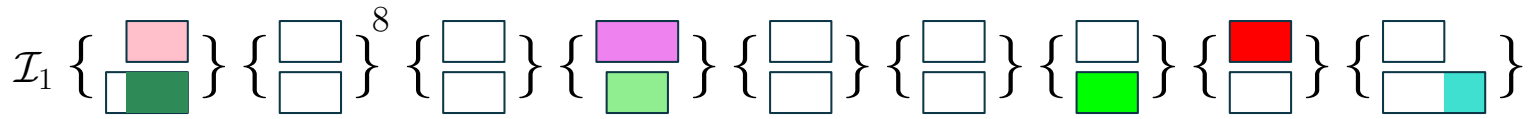
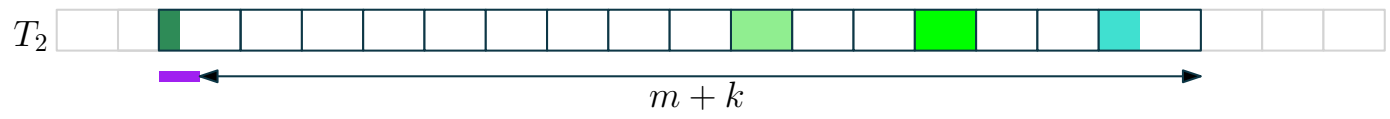
Using Dynamic Puzzle Matching

Think of: $k = 4$ and $|Q| \approx \sqrt{m}$.



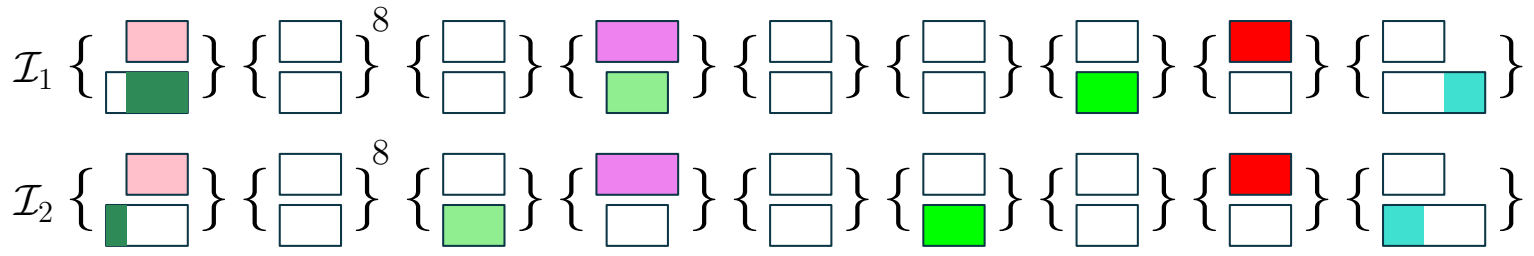
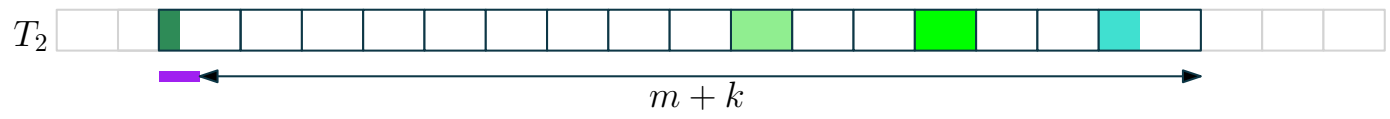
Using Dynamic Puzzle Matching

Think of: $k = 4$ and $|Q| \approx \sqrt{m}$.



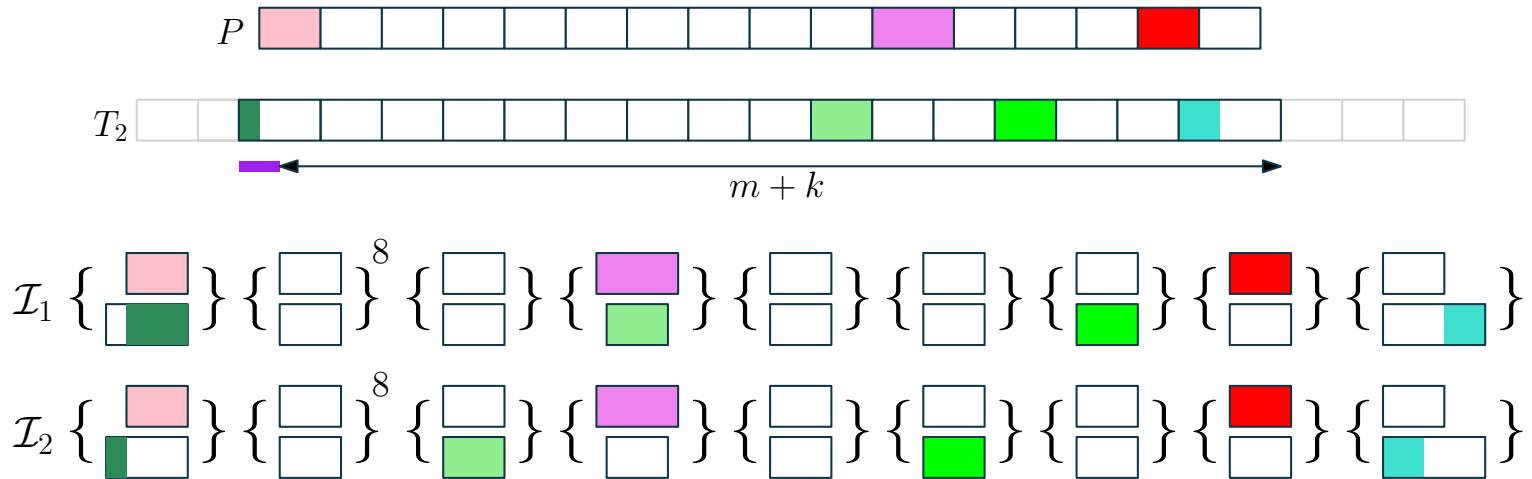
Using Dynamic Puzzle Matching

Think of: $k = 4$ and $|Q| \approx \sqrt{m}$.



Using Dynamic Puzzle Matching

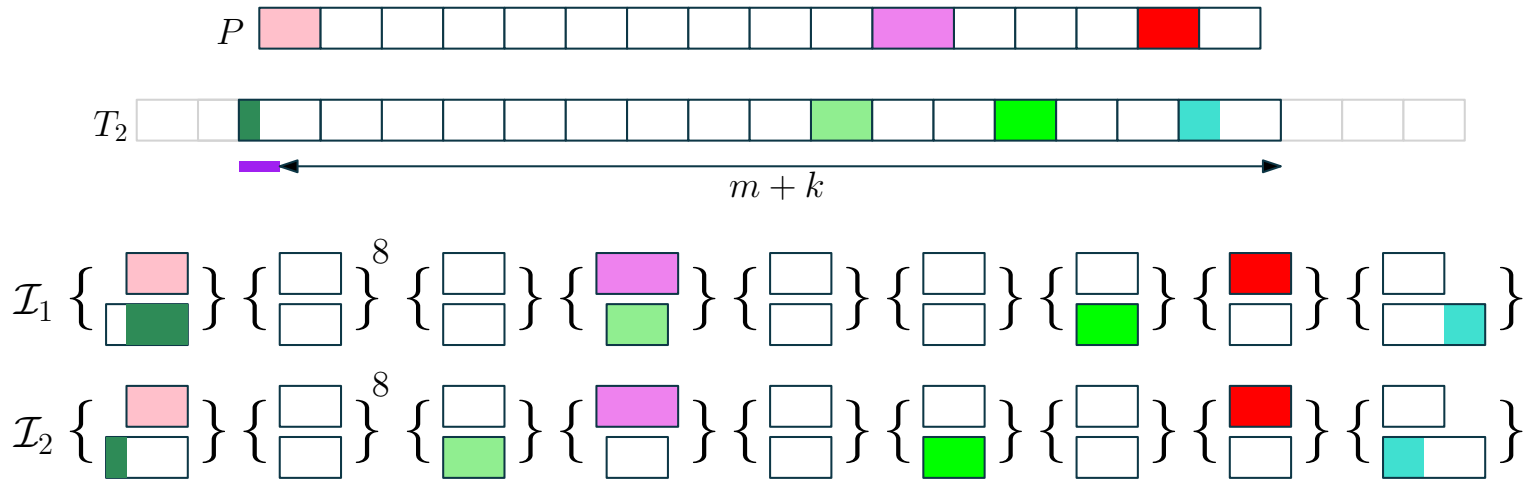
Think of: $k = 4$ and $|Q| \approx \sqrt{m}$.



We only need to update $\mathcal{O}(k)$ pairs; there has to be a pair $\neq (Q, Q)$ involved!

Using Dynamic Puzzle Matching

Think of: $k = 4$ and $|Q| \approx \sqrt{m}$.

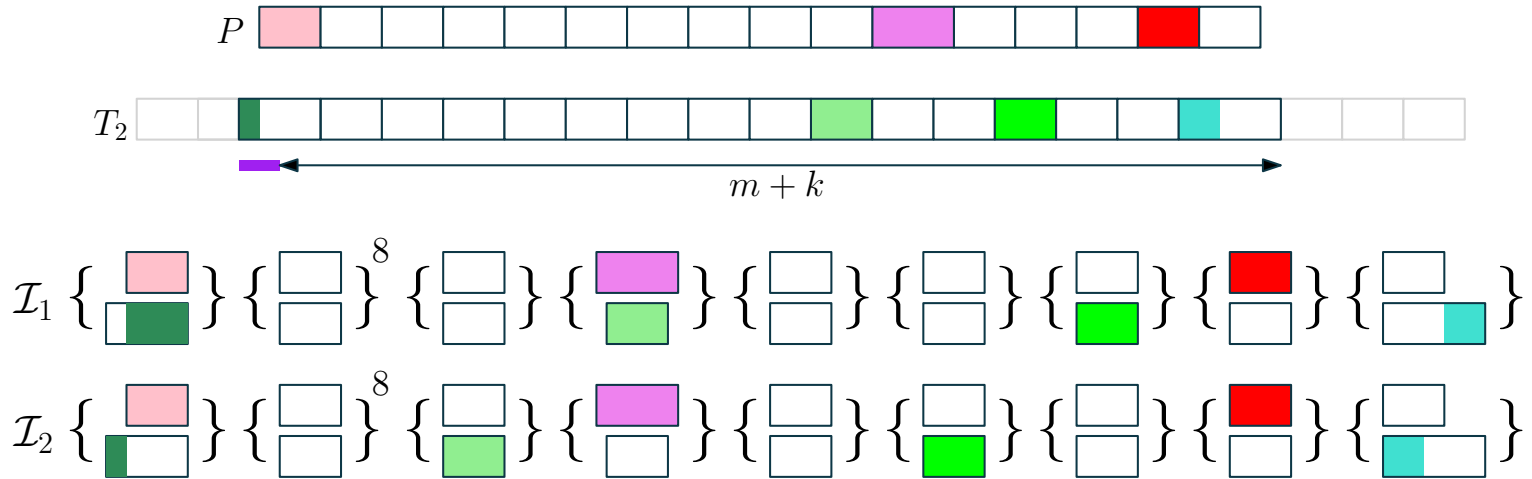


We only need to update $\mathcal{O}(k)$ pairs; there has to be a pair $\neq (Q, Q)$ involved!

Over the $\Theta(\sqrt{m})$ shifts of P , we need $\mathcal{O}(\sqrt{m} \cdot k)$ DPM-updates.

Using Dynamic Puzzle Matching

Think of: $k = 4$ and $|Q| \approx \sqrt{m}$.



We only need to update $\mathcal{O}(k)$ pairs; there has to be a pair $\neq (Q, Q)$ involved!

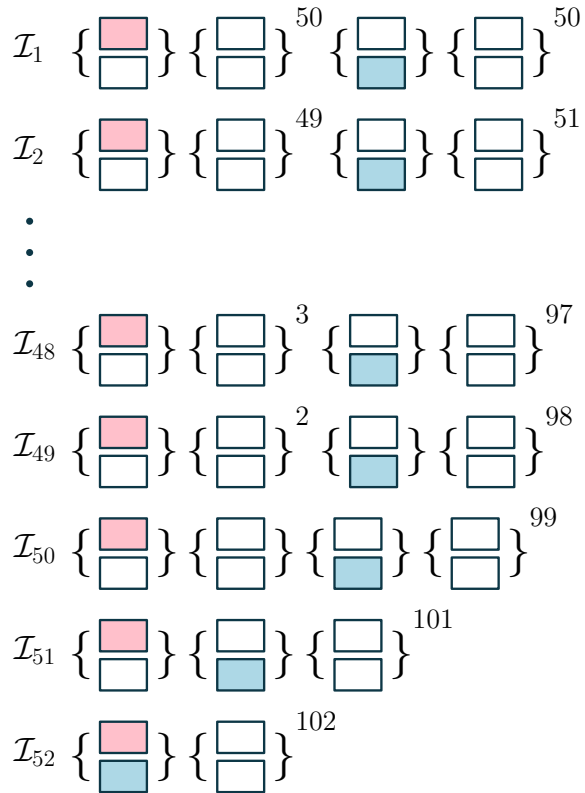
Over the $\Theta(\sqrt{m})$ shifts of P , we need $\mathcal{O}(\sqrt{m} \cdot k)$ DPM-updates.

Yields $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}(k^3 + \sqrt{m} \cdot k^2)$.

$\mathcal{O}(k^3)$ DPM-updates via Primitivity

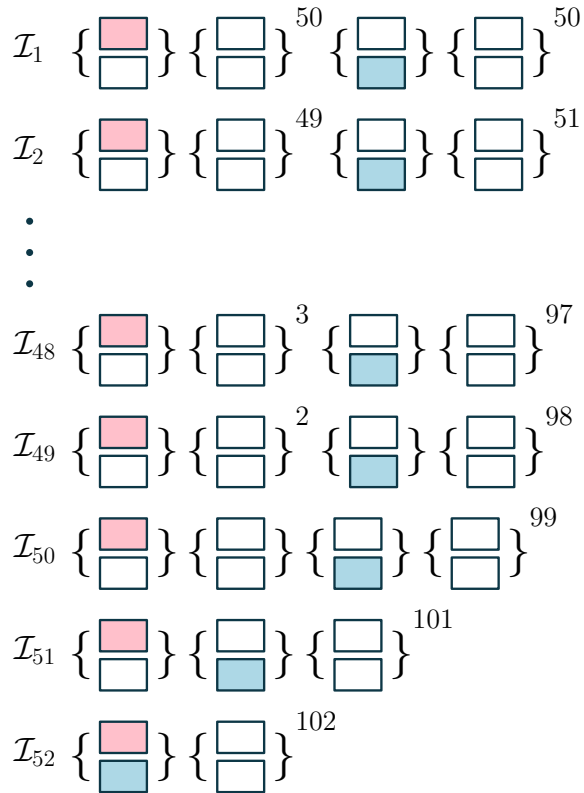
$\mathcal{O}(k^3)$ DPM-updates via Primitivity

$k = 2$



$\mathcal{O}(k^3)$ DPM-updates via Primitivity

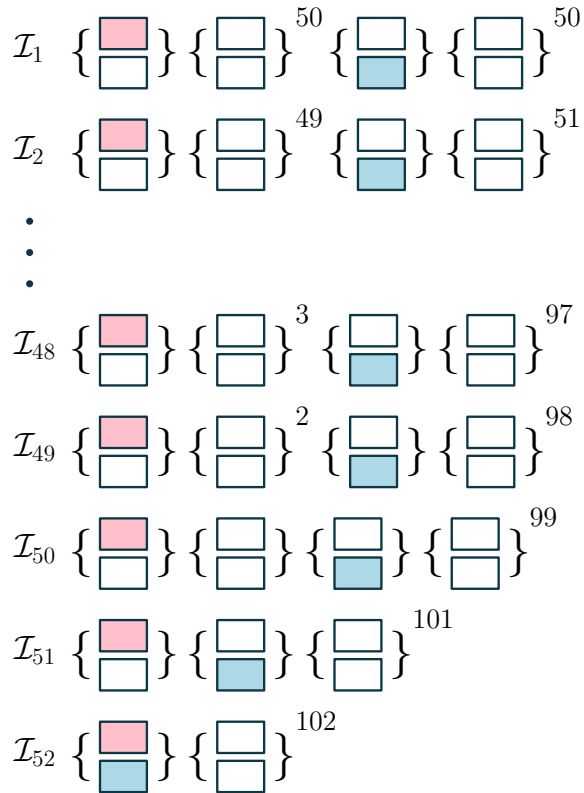
$k = 2$



For a **plain** run $(Q, Q)^y$, at least $y - k$ copies of Q will be matched exactly in a k -error occurrence.

$\mathcal{O}(k^3)$ DPM-updates via Primitivity

$k = 2$

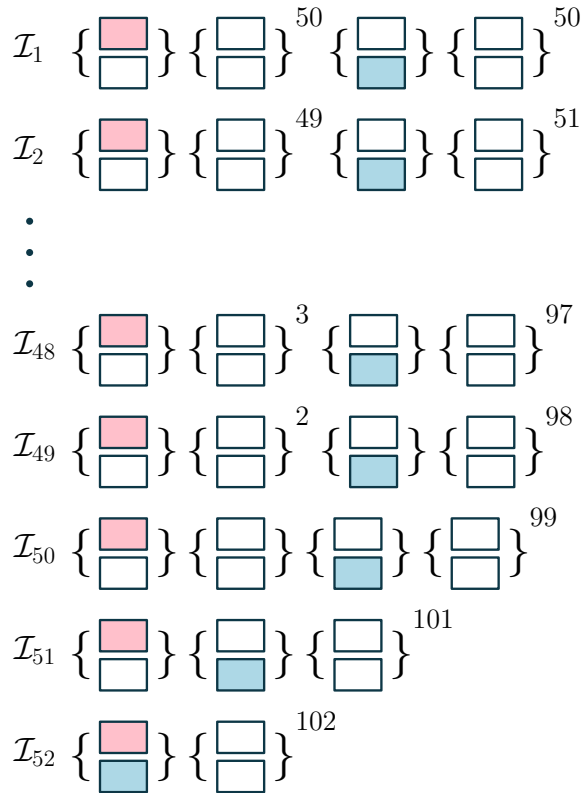


For a **plain** run $(Q, Q)^y$, at least $y - k$ copies of Q will be matched exactly in a k -error occurrence.

Cap exponents of plain runs at $k + 1$.

$\mathcal{O}(k^3)$ DPM-updates via Primitivity

$k = 2$



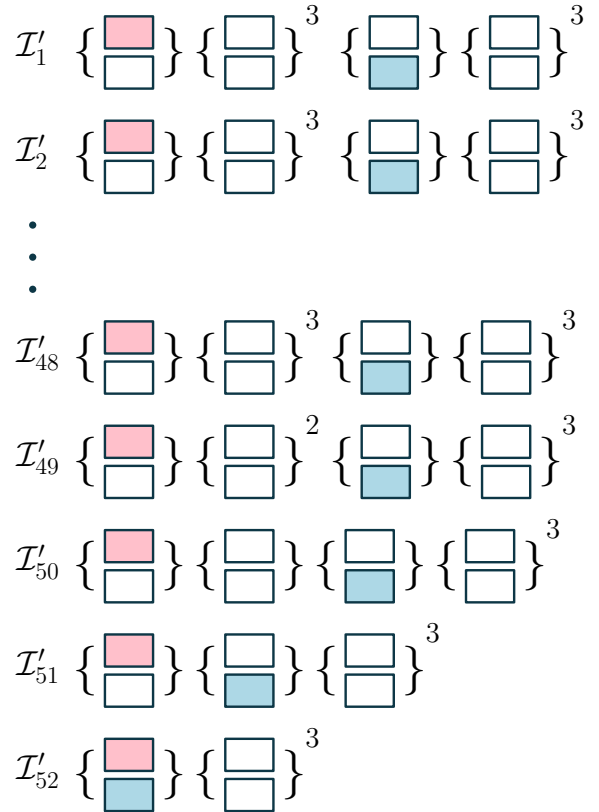
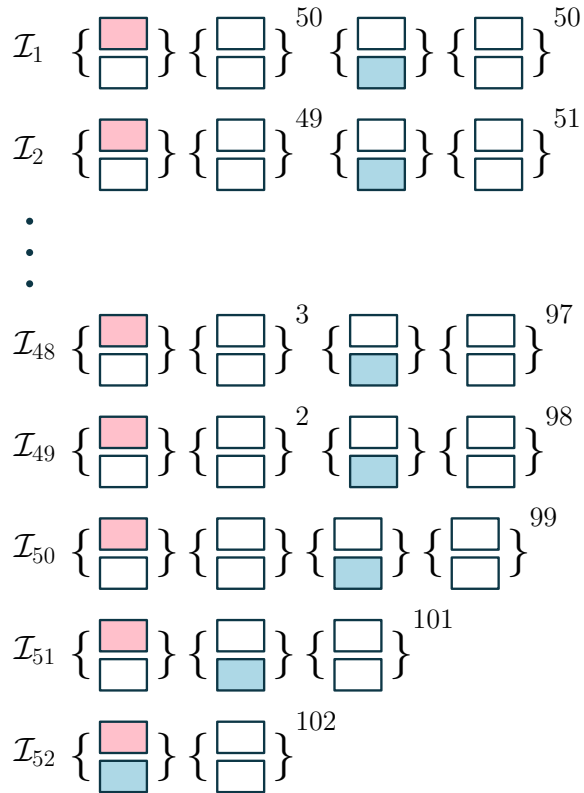
For a **plain** run $(Q, Q)^y$, at least $y - k$ copies of Q will be matched exactly in a k -error occurrence.

Cap exponents of plain runs at $k + 1$.

We do not lose or gain any k -error occs.

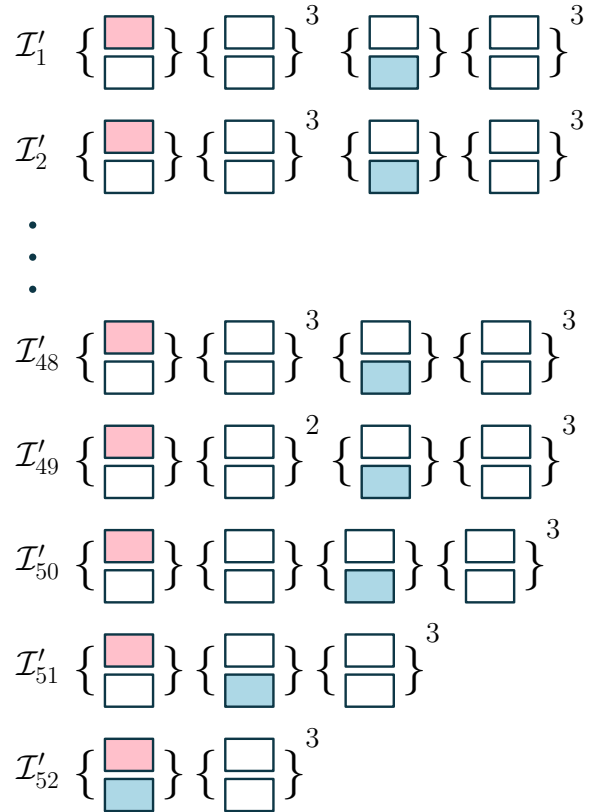
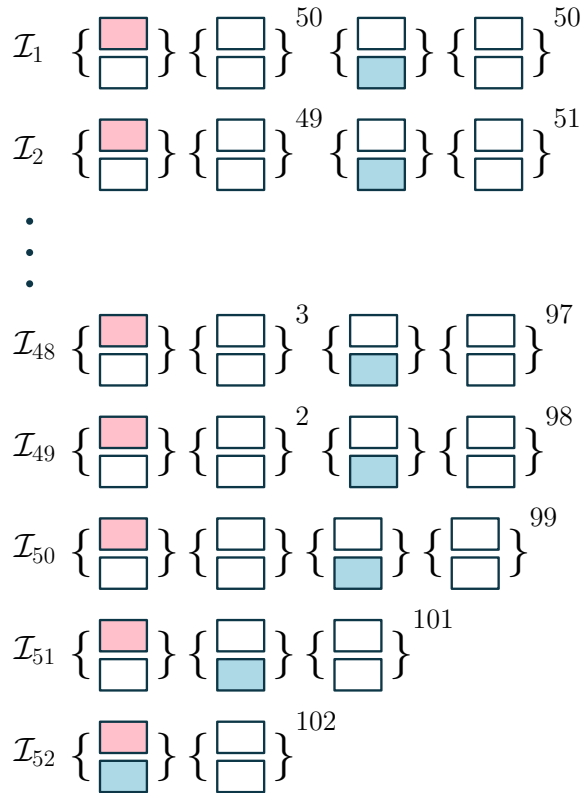
$\mathcal{O}(k^3)$ DPM-updates via Primitivity

$k = 2$



$\mathcal{O}(k^3)$ DPM-updates via Primitivity

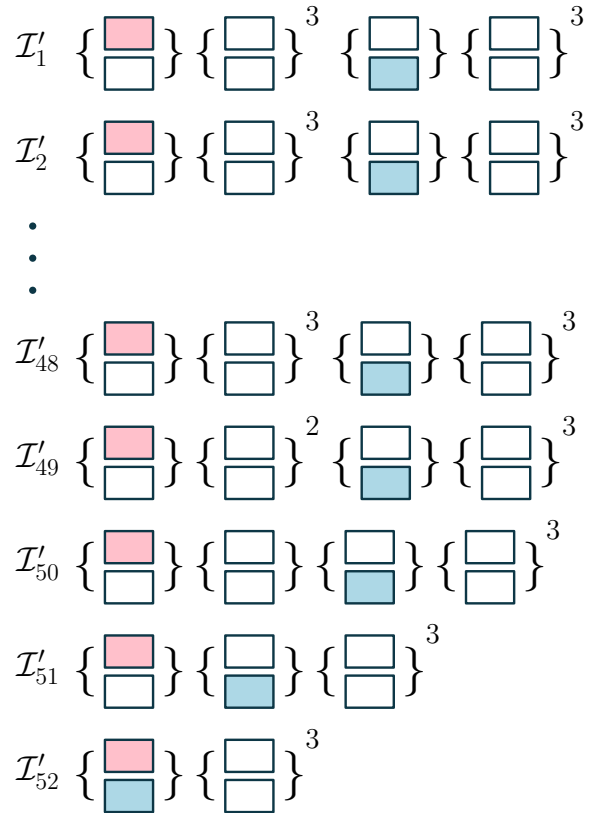
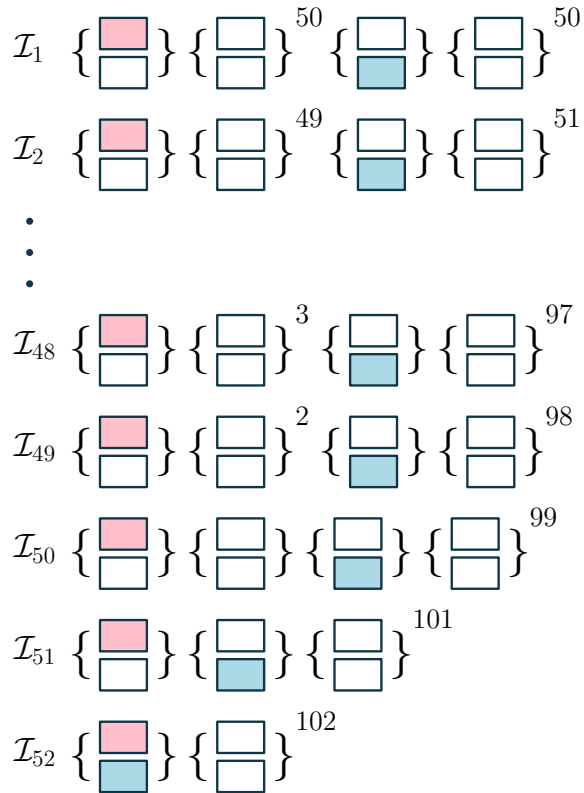
$k = 2$



The shown pair of **special tiles** implies $\mathcal{O}(k)$ DPM-updates.

$\mathcal{O}(k^3)$ DPM-updates via Primitivity

$k = 2$

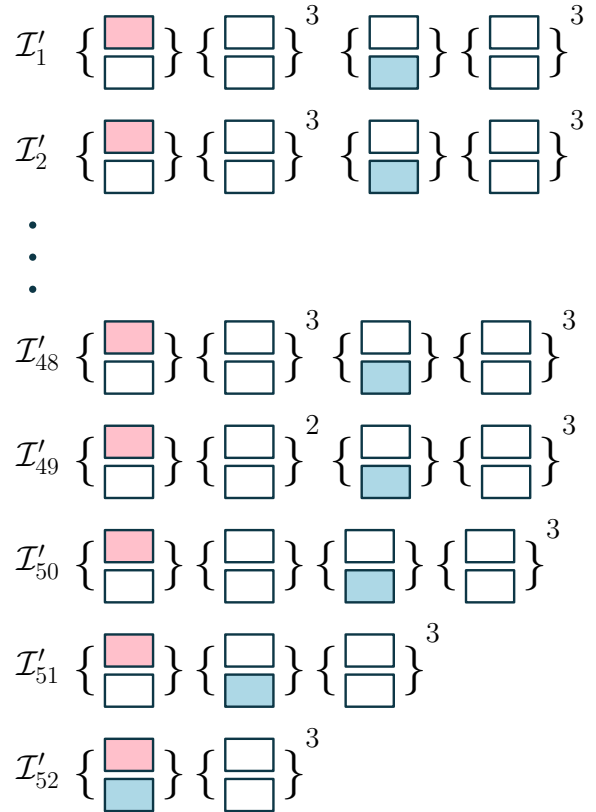
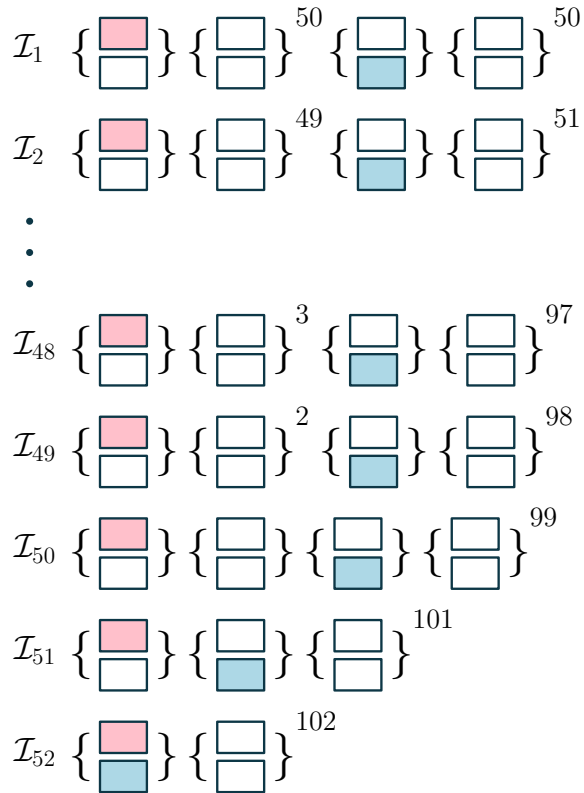


The shown pair of **special tiles** implies $\mathcal{O}(k)$ DPM-updates.

We have $\mathcal{O}(k^2)$ pairs of **special tiles**!

$\mathcal{O}(k^3)$ DPM-updates via Primitivity

$k = 2$



Alternative $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}(k^4)$ -time algorithm!

Overview for $\mathcal{O}(k^{2.5})$ DPM-updates

Overview for $\mathcal{O}(k^{2.5})$ DPM-updates

Cap exponents of plain runs at \sqrt{k} .

Overview for $\mathcal{O}(k^{2.5})$ DPM-updates

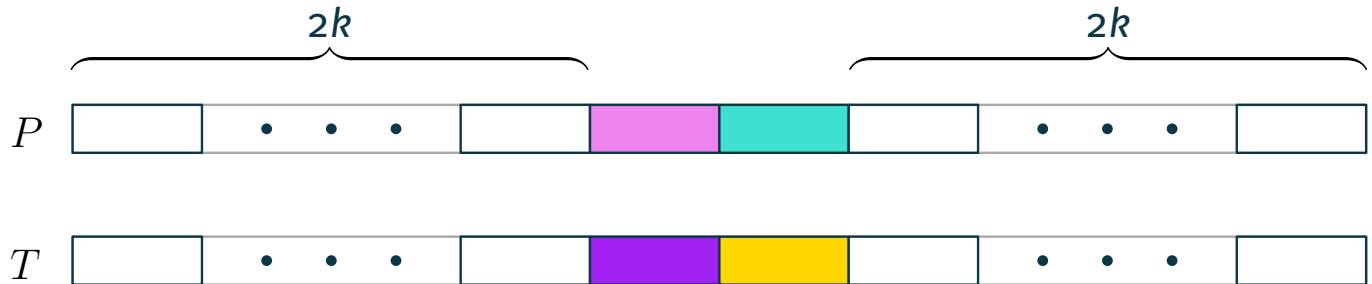
Cap exponents of plain runs at \sqrt{k} .

We may get **false positives** when we have $\geq \sqrt{k}$ edits in a run of (Q, Q) .

Overview for $\mathcal{O}(k^{2.5})$ DPM-updates

Cap exponents of plain runs at \sqrt{k} .

We may get **false positives** when we have $\geq \sqrt{k}$ edits in a run of (Q, Q) .



Overview for $\mathcal{O}(k^{2.5})$ DPM-updates

Cap exponents of plain runs at \sqrt{k} .

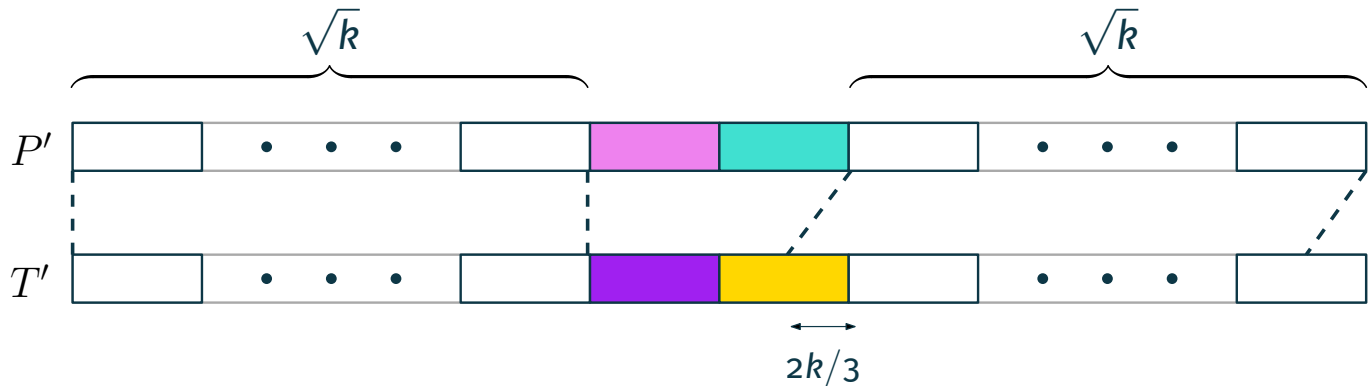
We may get **false positives** when we have $\geq \sqrt{k}$ edits in a run of (Q, Q) .



Overview for $\mathcal{O}(k^{2.5})$ DPM-updates

Cap exponents of plain runs at \sqrt{k} .

We may get **false positives** when we have $\geq \sqrt{k}$ edits in a run of (Q, Q) .



Cost: $0 + 0 + \sqrt{k} \cdot \delta_E(Q, \text{rot}^{2k/3}(Q))$.

Overview for $\mathcal{O}(k^{2.5})$ DPM-updates

Cap exponents of plain runs at \sqrt{k} .

We may get **false positives** when we have $\geq \sqrt{k}$ edits in a run of (Q, Q) .

In this case, we must be **saving** $\geq \sqrt{k}$ by **canceling out** errors between P and Q^∞ with errors between T and Q^∞ .

Overview for $\mathcal{O}(k^{2.5})$ DPM-updates

Cap exponents of plain runs at \sqrt{k} .

We may get **false positives** when we have $\geq \sqrt{k}$ edits in a run of (Q, Q) .

In this case, we must be **saving** $\geq \sqrt{k}$ by **canceling out** errors between P and Q^∞ with errors between T and Q^∞ .

We quantify potential savings using a **marking scheme** based on **overlaps of special tiles** and verify $\mathcal{O}(k^{2.5})$ positions with $\geq \sqrt{k}$ marks using known techniques.

Overview for $\mathcal{O}(k^{2.5})$ DPM-updates

Cap exponents of plain runs at \sqrt{k} .

We may get **false positives** when we have $\geq \sqrt{k}$ edits in a run of (Q, Q) .

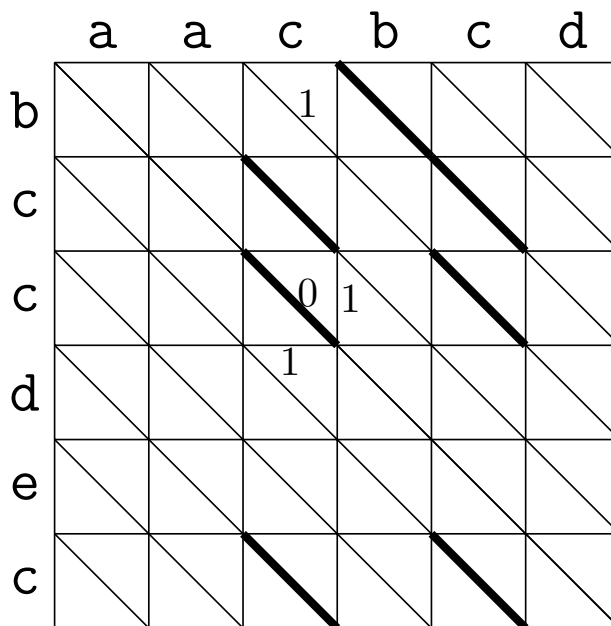
In this case, we must be **saving** $\geq \sqrt{k}$ by **canceling out** errors between P and Q^∞ with errors between T and Q^∞ .

We quantify potential savings using a **marking scheme** based on **overlaps of special tiles** and verify $\mathcal{O}(k^{2.5})$ positions with $\geq \sqrt{k}$ marks using known techniques.

This yields $\mathcal{O}(k^{2.5})$ DPM-updates and hence $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}(k^{3.5})$ time overall.

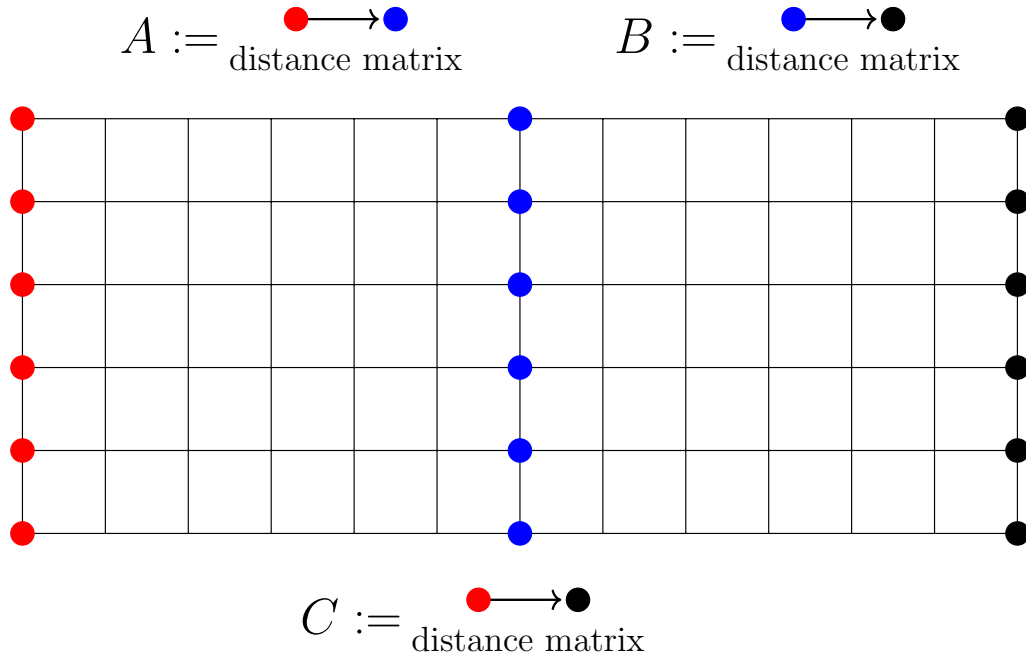
A Solution to DPM and a Grid View

A Solution to DPM and a Grid View

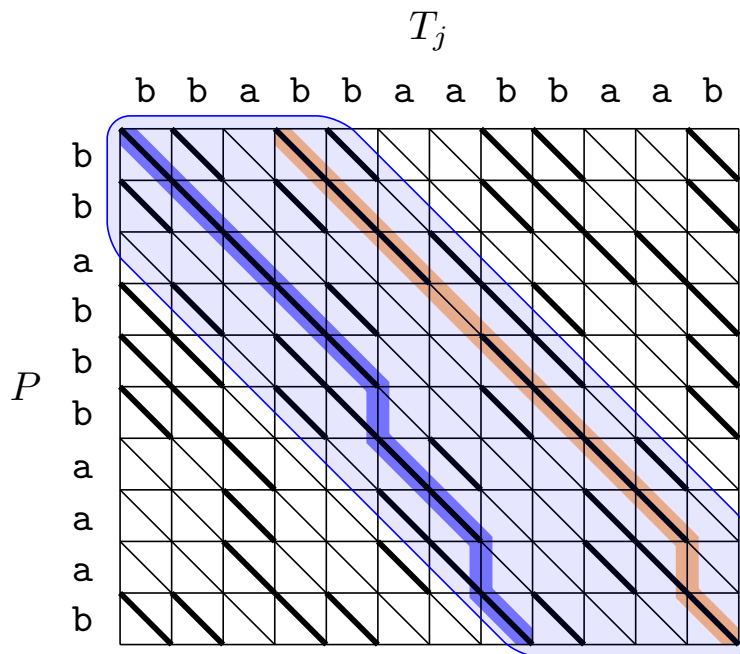


A Solution to DPM and a Grid View

Theorem [Tiskin; Algorithmica 2015] Matrix C can be computed from (small representations of) $n \times n$ matrices A and B in $\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$ time.



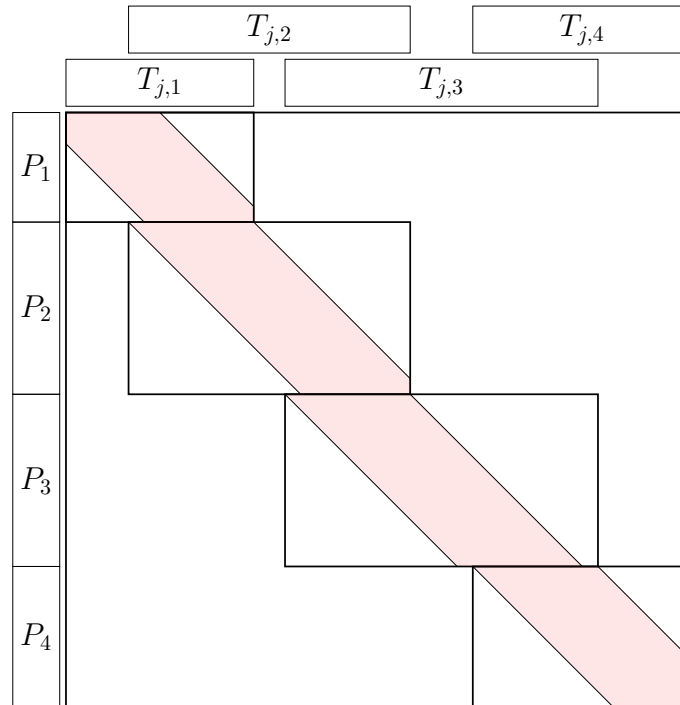
A Solution to DPM and a Grid View



$$P = 10, T_j = 12, k = 2.$$

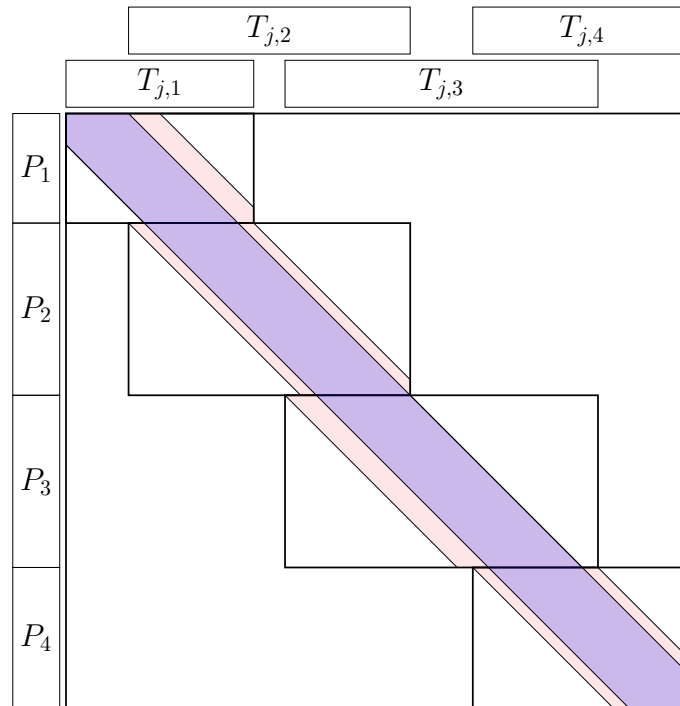
Only $|T_j| - |P| + 2k + 1 = \mathcal{O}(k)$ diagonals are relevant.

A Solution to DPM and a Grid View



Preprocessing: Build distance matrices for these small alignment grids.

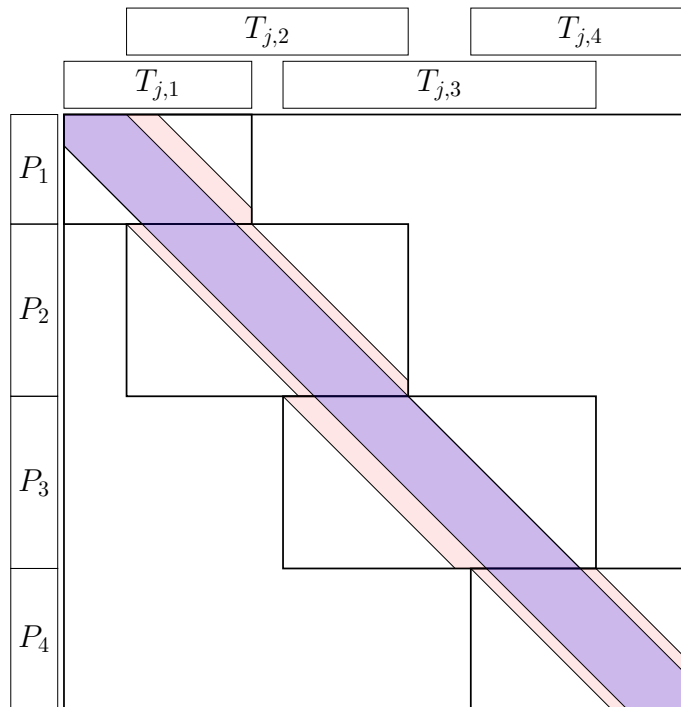
A Solution to DPM and a Grid View



Preprocessing: Build distance matrices for these small alignment grids.

Update: Maintain a balanced binary tree over them, **stitching** them together.

A Solution to DPM and a Grid View



Preprocessing: Build distance matrices for these small alignment grids.

Update: Maintain a balanced binary tree over them, **stitching** them together.

Each stitching operation takes $\tilde{O}(k)$ time.

Final Remarks and Open Problems

Final Remarks and Open Problems

What is the right exponent?

Cole and Hariharan's conjecture: $\mathcal{O}(n + k^3 \cdot n/m)$ should be possible.

Final Remarks and Open Problems

What is the right exponent?

Cole and Hariharan's conjecture: $\mathcal{O}(n + k^3 \cdot n/m)$ should be possible.

Is the decision version easier?

Final Remarks and Open Problems

What is the right exponent?

Cole and Hariharan's conjecture: $\mathcal{O}(n + k^3 \cdot n/m)$ should be possible.

Is the decision version easier?

What if we allow for some approximation by also reporting an arbitrary subset of the positions in $\text{Occ}_{(1+\epsilon)k}^E(P, T) \setminus \text{Occ}_k^E(P, T)$ for a small $\epsilon > 0$?

Final Remarks and Open Problems

What is the right exponent?

Cole and Hariharan's conjecture: $\mathcal{O}(n + k^3 \cdot n/m)$ should be possible.

Is the decision version easier?

What if we allow for some approximation by also reporting an arbitrary subset of the positions in $\text{Occ}_{(1+\epsilon)k}^E(P, T) \setminus \text{Occ}_k^E(P, T)$ for a small $\epsilon > 0$?

We report starting positions. How fast can we report substrings?

The End

Thank you for your attention!