Structural analysis of approximate pattern matching and algorithmic applications

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Implementations of PILLAR operations in different settings: the standard setting and the compressed setting.

Further improvements to the obtained algorithm for approximate pattern matching under edit distance.

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We say that a string S is periodic if $per(S) \leq |S|/2$.

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 $(p,q) \rightarrow (p,q-p) \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow (p,q \mod p)$

This yields gcd(p,q) as in Euclid's algorithm (for computing the gcd of p and q).

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The solutions to many string algorithmic problems distinguish between the aperiodic and periodic cases.

A prime example: Pattern matching and the Morris-Pratt algorithm I
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Each successful letter comparison consumes a letter of T, while each unsuccessful letter comparison shifts $P. \rightarrow O(n)$ time!



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*.



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

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The standard trick: Our assumption on the length of the text is not restrictive. If the text is much longer that the pattern, we can always consider separately $\mathcal{O}(n/m)$ fragments of T of length $\leq \frac{3}{2}m$ that overlap by m-1 positions.

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We will discuss the structure of approximate pattern matching under each of these metrics and see how the structural analysis yields efficient algorithms in several settings.

Pattern Matching under Hamming Distance

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This result was tightened and extended to also cover approximate pattern matching under the edit distance by C., Kociumaka, and Wellnitz in 2020.

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Observation: Let us partition P into k + 1 (roughly) equal chunks, each of length $\approx m/(k+1)$. In any approximate match of P in T, at least one of the chunks must be matched exactly.



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Observation: If a chunk P_i is aperiodic, its occurrences cannot overlap by more than $|P_i|/2$ positions \Rightarrow at most $n/(|P_i|/2)$ occurrences, which is $\mathcal{O}(k \cdot n/m)$. **The Marking Trick (for Hamming distance and** $n \leq 2m$ **)**

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Complexity of the seeding technique in an aperiodic case:

- \triangleright $\mathcal{O}(k)$ calls to exact pattern matching, one for each chunk;
- \$\mathcal{O}(k^2)\$ attempts to extend a seed (\$\mathcal{O}(k)\$ for each of the \$\mathcal{O}(k)\$ chunks).
 Each seed gives a candidate starting position for an approximate occurrence.

This gives us an $O(k^2)$ bound on approximate occurrences in the case where all chunks are aperiodic!

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Marking trick: Partition P into 2k chunks, each of length $\approx m/(2k)$. In any approximate match of P in T, at least k of the chunks must be matched exactly.



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For each exact match of a chunk, give a mark to the candidate starting position of an approximate occurrence in *T*. Then, we only need to verify candidate starting positions with $\geq k$ marks. These are $\mathcal{O}(k)$ as we have $\mathcal{O}(k^2)$ marks overall.

The First Structural Result for Hamming Distance [BKW'19]

Theorem (Bringmann-Künnemann-Wellnitz, SODA 2019)

Given a pattern P of length m, a text T of length $n \le 2m$, and a threshold $k \le m$, at least one of the following holds:

- The number of k-mismatch occurrences of P in T is $O(k^2)$.
- The pattern P is almost periodic (at HD $\leq 6k$ to a string with period O(m/k)).

Т

Structural Theorem (HD) [Bringmann-Künnemann-Wellnitz, SODA 2019]

For a pattern P of length m and a text T of length $\leq 2|P|$, at least one of the following holds:

- The number of *k*-mismatch occurrences of *P* in *T* is at most 1000*k*².
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Consider T': shortest substring of T that contains all k-mismatch occurrences of P.

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Partition P into 16k parts P_i of (roughly) equal length.

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In any k-mismatch occurrence of P in T' at least one of the P_i's must be matched exactly. Fix some P_i and assume that it is periodic; otherwise it only has O(k) occurrences in T.

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■ Consider **power stretches** of Q_i in T' of length $\ge |P_i|$ \rightarrow at most 150k different power stretches.

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• Fix a power stretch T_i of Q_i in T'.

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For a pattern P of length m and a text T of length $\leq 2|P|$, at least one of the following holds:

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Insight

Must align at least one misperiod. (For intuition, consider the case where $T' = Q_i^t$ for some integer t. Then, for any exact match of P_i all misperiods in P yield mismatches between P and T'!)

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- The number of *k*-mismatch occurrences of *P* in *T* is at most $1000k^2$.
- P is at Hamming distance $\leq 6k$ to a string with period O(m/k).



Almost there

At most $O(k^4)$ k-mismatch occurrences: O(k) choices for P_i , O(k) choices for a power stretch, $O(k^2)$ pairs of aligned misperiods per combination.

- Partition the pattern into 16k chunks P_i of length $\approx m/16k$.
- Each aperiodic chunk has O(k) exact occurrences. Each such occurrence gives a single candidate starting position for a k-mismatch occurrence of P. $O(k^2)$ overall.
- For each periodic chunk P_i , extend the periodicity in both sides, allowing 3k misp.
 - If all of *P* gets covered, we conclude that the pattern is almost periodic.
 - Else, for each of the O(k) power stretches with period per(P_i) that contain occurrences of P_i, extend the periodicity in both sides, allowing 2k misperiods.
 Crucial observation: in any k-error occurrence that matches P_i exactly, a misperiod in P must be aligned with a misperiod in T.

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 Crucial observation: in any k-error occurrence that matches P_i exactly, k misperiods in P must be aligned with misperiods in T.

At least $k P_i$'s must nominate any potential starting position.

Finally there, maybe

At most $O(k^2)$ k-mismatch occurrences: O(k) choices for P_i , O(k) choices for a power stretch, $O(k^2)$ pairs of aligned misp. per combination. Need $\ge k$ pairs of aligned misp. Need $\ge k$ nominations.
Is this result tight?

Can we find a pattern P of length m that is not almost periodic and has $O(k^2)$ k-mismatch occurrences in a text T of length $n \le 2m$? Is 6k the right value for defining "almost periodic"?

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Exercise

Construct an example where the pattern P

- is not at Hamming distance O(k) from any string with period O(m/k),
- has $\Omega(k)$ k-mismatch occurrences in T.

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Exercise

Construct an example where the pattern P

- is not periodic,
- it is at Hamming distance O(k) from a string with period O(m/k),
- it has $\Omega(n)$ k-mismatch occurrences in T.



Both *P* and *T* far from periodic, but there are 2*k* + 1 *k*-mismatch occurrences of *P* in *T*.



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Both *P* and *T* at HD up to *k* from periodic, and *P* matches all *m*-length substrings of *T*.



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In particular, this happens if several adjacent chunks share the same period. This leads to an overcounting of the *k*-mismatch occurrences that is hard to control.

Idea: Analyse the (periodic structure of the) pattern as a whole.

Improved Structural Results for PM with Mismatches

Structural Theorem (HD) [C.-Kociumaka-Wellnitz, FOCS 2020]

Given a pattern P of length m, a text T of length $n \le \frac{3}{2}m$, and a threshold $k \le m$, at least one of the following holds:

- The number of k-mismatch occurrences of P in T is $O(k^2) O(k)$.
- The pattern P is almost periodic (at HD $\leq 6k < 2k$ to a string Q with period O(m/k)).

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Key Lemma (Analyze)

For each string *P* of length *m*, at least one of the following holds:

- P contains 2k disjoint breaks; each break has length m/8k and period > m/128k.
- *P* contains disjoint repetitive regions R_i with total length $\ge 3/8 \cdot m$; each region has length $\ge m/8k$ and is almost periodic with HD exactly $8k/m \cdot |R_i|$.
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Observation [BKW'19, refined]

If P contains $\ge 2k$ disjoint breaks, there are O(k) k-mismatch occ's of P in T.

Consider an example with k = 2.



T			
1			

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If P contains $\geq 2k$ disjoint breaks, there are O(k) k-mismatch occ's of P in T.

Let us focus on a single break B.



_

Observation [BKW'19, refined]

If P contains $\geq 2k$ disjoint breaks, there are O(k) k-mismatch occ's of P in T.

B has O(k) occurrences in T since $n \le \frac{3}{2}m$ and the period of B is > m/(128k).



Observation [BKW'19, refined]

If P contains $\ge 2k$ disjoint breaks, there are O(k) k-mismatch occ's of P in T.

For each such occurrence, we put a mark in the position of *T* where *P* starts if we align the break with the occurrence.



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Over all breaks, we place $O(k^2)$ marks. A position of T can be the starting position of a k-mismatch occurrence of P in T only if it has $\ge k$ marks.



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Observation [BKW'19, refined]

Consider again k = 2. We denote only the letters at positions where P differs from the length-m prefix of Q^{∞} , that is the misperiods.



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P can only have *k*-mismatch occurrences in positions equiv. 1 mod |*Q*| due to periodicity. (We have many copies of *Q*, and *Q* does not match any of its rotations.)



Observation [BKW'19, refined]

For each k-mismatch occurrence T[i..j] of P, as P has $\ge 2k$ mismatches with $Q^{\infty}[1..m]$, at least k of P's misperiods must coincide with misperiods of T[i..j].



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Observation [BKW'19, refined]

As we have $\Theta(k^2)$ pairs of misperiods, we have O(k) k-mismatch occurrences of P in T.



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If P has HD $\ge 2k$ and < 8k to a string w/ period O(m/k), there are O(k) k-mism. occ's of P in T.

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Process P from left to right, m/8k new characters at a time.

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■ If a fragment has a period > *m*/128*k*, add it to the found breaks.

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• Otherwise, find the shortest prefix (longer than *m*/8*k*) that is a repetitive region.

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■ If we found 2*k* breaks, return the breaks.

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For each string *P* of length *m*, at least one of the following holds:

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- P is almost periodic (at HD < 8k to a string with period $\leq m/(128k)$).



• If the total length of the repetitive regions is > $3/8 \cdot m$, return the repetitive regions.

Key Lemma (Analyze)

For each string *P* of length *m*, at least one of the following holds:

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- P is almost periodic (at HD < 8k to a string with period $\leq m/(128k)$).



■ If we reach the end of *P*, try to find a single repetitive region starting from the end.

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If we found a repetitive region, return it.

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■ If we again don't obtain a repetitive region, *P* is almost periodic.

Key Lemma (Analyze) 🗸

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What about PM with errors?

Structural Results for PM with Errors

Structural Theorem (HD) [C.-Kociumaka-Wellnitz, FOCS 2020]

Given a pattern P of length m, 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 number of k-mismatch occurrences of P in T is O(k).
- The pattern P is almost periodic (at HD < 2k to a string Q with period O(m/k)).

Structural Theorem (ED) [C.-Kociumaka-Wellnitz, FOCS 2020]

Given a pattern P of length m, a text T of length $n \le \frac{3}{2}m$, and a threshold $k \le m$, at least one of the following holds:

- The number of (starting positions of) k-error occurrences of P in T is $O(k^2)$.
- The pattern P is almost periodic (at ED < 2k to a string Q with period O(m/k)).

Structural Results for PM with Errors

Structural Theorem (HD) [C.-Kociumaka-Wellnitz, FOCS 2020]

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Structural Theorem (ED) [C.-Kociumaka-Wellnitz, FOCS 2020]

Given a pattern P of length m, a text T of length $n \le \frac{3}{2}m$, and a threshold $k \le m$, at least one of the following holds:

- The starting positions of all k-error occurrences of P in T lie in O(k) intervals of length O(k) each.
- The pattern P is almost periodic (at ED < 2k to a string Q with period O(m/k)).

What next?

Consider more complicated settings.

For instance, the case where (approximately) matching any rotation of the pattern is acceptable has been already considered.

$$P = \underbrace{\texttt{a a b b b b}}_{0\ 1\ 2\ 3\ 4\ 5} \qquad T = \underbrace{\texttt{a a c c b b x b a a}}_{0\ 1\ 2\ 3\ 4\ 5\ 6\ 7\ (\$) 9\ 10\ 11}_{\text{anchor}=\$}$$
$$\mathsf{rot}_2(P) = \underbrace{\texttt{b b b b a a}}_{2\ 3\ 4\ 5\ 0\ 1}$$

Either the pattern is almost periodic or there are O(k) anchors for k-mismatch circular occurrences. (Each anchor gives O(k) intervals of occurrences.) [CKPRRSWZ, ESA'22]

• $O(n\sqrt{m \log m})$ – [Abrahamson, SICOMP'87], [Kosaraju '87]

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- O(nk) [Landau-Vishkin, TCS'86]

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- $\tilde{O}(n + k^2 \cdot n/m) [CKW'_{20}]$ (improvement in log-factors)

How do we turn the structural insights into algorithms?

Obtaining Faster Algorithms

- Create algorithms that rely on a small set of essential operations:
 - LCP(S, T): Compute the length of the longest common prefix of S and T.
 - LCP^R(S, T): Compute the length of the longest common suffix of S and T.
 - IPM(*P*, *T*): Compute all exact matches of *P* in *T*.
 - Length(S): Compute the length |S| of S.
 - Access(S, i): Retrieve the character S[i].
 - Extract(S, l, r): Extract the fragment (or substring) S[l..r) from S.

The PILLAR Model

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An algorithm for the almost periodic case

Consider a pattern P that is at Hamming distance < 2k from a prefix of Q^{∞} , where Q is primitive and $|Q| \le m/(128k)$, and a string P that is at Hamming distance < 6k from a prefix of Q^{∞} .

Suppose that we are given the O(k) misperiods for each of P and T.

How fast can we compute a representation of *k*-mismatch occurrences of *P* in *T*?

Hint 1: The exact occurrences of $(ab)^{70}$ in $(ab)^{100}$ can be represented as a single arithmetic progression $\{1 + 2i : i \in [0, 30]\}$.

Hint 2: *k*-mismatch occurrences of *P* can only start at positions of *T* that are \equiv 1 mod |Q|.

What Changes for Edit Distance?

Brief discussion on the board.

The PILLAR Model: Fast PILLAR Algorithms

The PILLAR operations: LCP, LCP^{*R*}, IPM, Length, Access, Extract

Theorem (PILLAR Alg. for PM w/ Mism.)

Given a pattern *P* of length *m*, a text *T* of length *n*, and a positive threshold $k \le m$, we can compute (a representation of) all *k*-mismatch occurrences of *P* in *T* using $O(n/m \cdot k^2 \log \log k)$ time plus $O(n/m \cdot k^2)$ PILLAR operations.

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Theorem (PILLAR Alg. for PM w/ Errors)

Given a pattern *P* of length *m*, a text *T* of length *n*, and a positive threshold $k \le m$, we can compute (a representation of) all *k*-error occurrences of *P* in *T* using $\tilde{O}(n/m \cdot k^{3.5})$ PILLAR operations.

The PILLAR Model: The Standard Setting (HD)

The PILLAR operations: LCP, LCP^{*R*}, IPM, Length, Access, Extract Uncompressed strings: pattern *P* of length *m*, text *T* of length *n*.
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Theorem (Algorithm for PM w/ Mism.)

For any positive threshold $k \le m$, we can compute all k-mismatch occurrences of P in T in time $O(n+n/m \cdot k^2 \log \log k)$. What if the text and the pattern are *huge*?



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anpanis on e of the popular japaneses weet bound it have the an inthe centertuday there are nany types of sweet been centered in the anpan forex anglegona and iro an uguis van kurian and et cout the original of it is the normal ank on a devit hred bean in the centered in the centered

anpanisajapaneses weetroll no st connon ly filled with red be an paste an pancanal so be prepared withother fillings including white be an sgreen be an ssesane and chest nut

What if the text and the pattern are given in a compressed representation?

anpanisoneof the popular japaneses weet bun with sweet bean in the center to day there are any types of sweet been centered in the anpan for example gona anshir nanuguisuan kurian and etc but the original of it is then ornal ankon a dewith red bean

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Grammar Compression

For a string *T*, a grammar compression of *T* is a context-free grammar G_T that generates {*T*}. The grammar G_T is wlog. a straight-line program or SLP.

Straight-Line Program (SLP)

An SLP G_T is a set of non-terminals $\{T_1, ..., T_n\}$ and productions of the form $T_i \rightarrow a, a \in \Sigma$ or $T_i \rightarrow T_{\ell}T_r$, where $\ell, r < i$. The starting symbol is T_n .

Straight-Line Program (SLP)

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$$T_1 \rightarrow a; T_2 \rightarrow n; T_3 \rightarrow p$$
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$$T_4 \rightarrow T_1 T_2; \qquad T_5 \rightarrow T_4 T_3$$

$$T_6 \rightarrow T_5 T_4; \qquad T_7 \rightarrow T_5 T_6$$



Problem	uncompressed text and pattern	SLP text and pattern $n = \Omega(\log N), m = \Omega(\log M)$
Pattern	O(N + M)	Õ(n + m)
Matching	[KMP'77]	[Jeż'15]
PM with <i>k</i> Mismatches	$\tilde{O}(N + k^2 \cdot N/M), \tilde{O}(N + kN/\sqrt{M})$ [CFPSS'16] [GU'18]	Õ(nk ⁴ + Mk) [BKW'19]
PM with <i>k</i>	<i>O</i> (<i>N</i> + <i>k</i> ⁴ · <i>N</i> / <i>M</i>)	O(nm poly(k))
Errors	[CH'02]	[BLRSSW'15]

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Improvements obtained via improved/new structural insights in solution structure.

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For any positive threshold $k \le |P|$, we can compute the number of all k-mismatch occ's of P in T in time $O(m \log(|P| + |T|) + nk^2 \log^3(|P| + |T|))$. (Reporting of all occurrences takes time linear in the number of occurrencess.)

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Let us see how on the board!

Known Results: The Dynamic Setting (HD)

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Theorem (Algorithm for PM w/ Mism.)

For any two strings $P,T \in X$ and any threshold k, we support the additional operation "Find all k-mismatch occ's of P in T" in $O(|T|/|P| \cdot k^2 \log^2 N)$ time (w.h.p).

Known Results: The Quantum Setting

Exercise

PILLAR operations can be performed in roughly $O(\sqrt{n})$ time by a quantum computer (without any preprocessing). How fast can we solve approximate pattern matching under each of the two studied distances in the quantum setting using the results we have already seen?

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For HD, an $\tilde{O}(k\sqrt{n})$ -time algorithm is known [Jin-Nogler, SODA 2023].

Longest common prefix

Input: A string S of length n.

Query: Given positions *i* and *j*, compute the length of the longest common prefix of $S[i \dots n]$ and $S[j \dots n]$.

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The longest common prefix of S[1..4] and S[2..4] is the string spelled on the path from the root to the lowest common ancestor of the two nodes "representing" these substrings. Internal pattern matching queries (standard setting)

Input: A string S of length n.

Query: Compute the occurrences of a substring *U* of *S* in another substring *V* of *S*.

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We will see a very cool reduction due to Mäkinen and Navarro [LATIN 2006].
T: a d a a a a b a a b b a a c 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

















Exercises

Exercise: Given a fragment S[i ... j] = abcabc of a text and the period of this fragment, explain how we can find how much the periodicity extends (on both sides) using LCE queries. In other words, the task is to compute the longest fragment of S that contains <math>S[i...j] and has period 3.

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Exercise: Given a fragment $S[i \dots j] = abcabc$ of a text and the period of this fragment, explain how we can find how much the periodicity extends (on both sides) using LCE queries. In other words, the task is to compute the longest fragment of S that contains $S[i \dots j]$ and has period 3.

Exercise: Reduce a query that checks if a fragment of a string *S* is periodic (and if so, also returns its period) to an internal pattern matching query and a longest common extension query on *S*.

 $egin{aligned} X_{\mathrm{o}} &
ightarrow \mathrm{b} \ X_{\mathrm{1}} &
ightarrow \mathrm{a} \ X_{\mathrm{2}} &
ightarrow X_{\mathrm{1}} X_{\mathrm{o}} \ X_{\mathrm{3}} &
ightarrow X_{\mathrm{2}} X_{\mathrm{1}} \end{aligned}$

 $X_4 \rightarrow X_3 X_2$

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 $egin{aligned} X_0 &
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- Some nodes in the parse tree of *w* are preserved no matter the context.
- ► Topmost such nodes form a small layer: $\mathcal{O}(\log N)$ nodes.
- These nodes define O(log N) breakpoints for each substring; they partition it into phrases.





Either fully contained in a phrase



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Two SLPs that correspond to *P* and *T*, can be efficiently recompressed, so that the resulting parsings are locally consistent and have depth $O(\log N)$. [Jeż, TALG'15; Jeż, JACM'16; I, CPM'17]



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How can we efficiently compute the occurrences of a substring U in a substring V if |V| < 2|U|?



Either fully contained in a phrase, or a breakpoint of *P* is aligned with a breakpoint of $T[i \dots j]$.

Two SLPs that correspond to *P* and *T*, can be efficiently recompressed, so that the resulting parsings are locally consistent and have depth $O(\log N)$. [Jeż, TALG'15; Jeż, JACM'16; I, CPM'17]

How can we efficiently compute the occurrences of a substring U in a substring V if |V| < 2|U|? For each non-terminal in the parse tree whose production "breaks" a fragment of V of length at least m, try to align the breakpoint with each of U's $\mathcal{O}(\log N)$ breakpoints!

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Of course, periodicity causes trouble: we have $\mathcal{O}(\log N)$ groups of breakpoints.
PILLAR Operations in the Compressed Setting

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After a preprocessing that runs in time nearly-linear in the size of the SLPs that generate *P* and *T*, we can perform each PILLAR operation in $O(\log^2 N \log \log N)$ time.

[I, CPM'17; CKW'20]

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 $\Omega(k^2)$ [Backurs, Indyk; SICOMP 2018]





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

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

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

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



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







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





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Starting positions of k-error occs in T are within O(k) from endpoints of tiles.





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






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



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(The leading and trailing pairs are treated separately.)











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





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







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The shown pair of special tiles implies $\mathcal{O}(k)$ DPM-updates. We have $\mathcal{O}(k^2)$ pairs of special tiles!



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

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Cost: $O + (k/3 + 1) + \sqrt{k} \cdot \delta_E(Q, rot^{2k/3}(Q))$.

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

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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.

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



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





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



Preprocessing: Build distance matrices for these small alignment grids.



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

The End

Thank you for your attention!

Many thanks to Philip Wellnitz for sharing his slides from SODA 2019! I have edited the portion I used, so I am responsible for any errors. :)