A improved exact string matching method for genomic sequencing data

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Running head: Improved exact string matching algorithm using SIMD instructions.

### Abstract

String matching algorithm plays a vital role in Bioinformatics. In this paper, we proposed an improved pattern matching algorithm for biological sequences. According to the feature of biological sequences, the algorithm uses optimized word-size packed string matching instructions. Furthermore, in each test, the algorithm uses a hash table to decide shift distance, which is independent to matching result. And the Intel streaming SIMD extensions (SSE) technology is applied to compute hash values. Experimental results show that the algorithm is more efficient especially when the pattern length is shorter than 64 bytes.

Key words: Exact string matching, SIMD, biological sequence

### Introduction

String matching is an important problem that has been thoroughly studied in computer science. It is applied extensively in bioinformatics. For example, it is used to find similar sequence or locate a segment in a long sequence [10]. Currently, several string matching algorithms are used on biological sequences, such as tvsbs [5], graspm [9] etc. With the development of sequencing techniques, it has become easy to obtain sequences, i.e. the linear arrangement of residues (nucleotides or amino-acids), of DNA, RNA, or protein molecules. So it is meaningful to design more effective string matching algorithms to meet this challenge [1].

Recently, a string matching algorithm called epsm [4] has been used in bioinformatics and had obtained good results. It uses packed string matching technique [3], in which multiple characters are packed into one block-character, so that the characters can be compared in bulk rather than individually. The epsm algorithm also computes fingerprint values by a hash function using SIMD instructions, which supports parallel execution of some operations via a set of special instructions. However, the max shift distance of epsm algorithm is m-8, where m is the length of the given pattern. It was not an optimal shift distance. Also, there will be errors when the length of string is not. In present study, we improve epsm by introducing some methods to get more shift distances greedily and less comparison.

### Material and methods

##### Algorithm

Due to the nature of biological sequences, the algorithm is designed to be the most fast.

The epsm algorithm was divided into two phases.

At the beginning, it define the query table, it record the position of sampling string occurring in the pattern string. In the algorithm, epsm take a string of fixed-length 8 bytes as sampling string. And in the code, the query table is implemented using pointer array (Node\* shift [2048]). And the data structure of Node is as following.

typedef struct node

{

struct node \*next;

int pos;

} NODE;

It record the position of sampling string p1 occurring in pattern string P and p1 use hash value h to locate shift[h].

So in the pre-processing phase:

1. First initialize the array of query table, make shift[i] = null.
2. Let i equals from 0 to m-8, then calculate the CRC of a fixed-length string using the following SSE instruction, \_mm\_crc32\_u64() which receive a string of length 8, i.e. the string P+i and a seed values of 64 bits. Then getting a values of 32 bits with a mask 2023. We use this way to get the hash value h.
3. Let shift[h].pos = i, shift[h].next = null and repeat 2). If it come with hash confict, store the new node into the next list node which relate to shift[h].

In the search phase:

1. Let the pointer point to the position m-8 in matching string and get the sub-string of length 8 bytes, then calculate the hash value h. If shift[h] is not null, proves the sub-string may be the part of the pattern string. Then align the sub-string to the position i of pattern string and call memcmp() function to compare. If shift[h] has many list nodes, then repeat the alignment phase.
2. The pointer jump forward to the length of m-8, and repeat 1).

The algorithm is shown in Fig.1.

According to the pigeonhole principle, m-8 is the longest length of the epsm.

So it is easy to find out when length of sampling string α is shorter, the algorithm can achieve longer jump length m-α. But in the same time, the list relate to shift[h] will be much longer, it result in traverse the list. And on the other hand, when α is bigger, the matching probability grow, offset the improvements in the end.

And according to programming experience, bigger array size, slower query speed cause of CPU cache. So we chose 2048 as suitable size. But for biological sequences, it will result in great hash conflict.

Therefore we take two methods to improve the performance.

1. We can take some experiments to find the suitable length of sampling string in biological sequences. To make it obtaining longer jump distance and less hash confilict.
2. Because no matter the value of α, the SSE function always read sampling string p0 of length 8 bytes, then get variable length of sampling string p1 with mask. So we can compare the 64bit number relate to p0 with the 64bit number relate to the certain pattern string. With this way, it will reduce the number of function calls memcmp. The specific implementation is adding a new field to record the 64bit number in Node. The data structure of Node is as following.

typedef struct node

{

struct node \*next;

int pos;

unsigned long long val;

} NODE;

The algorithm is shown in Fig.2.

According to the experiments, we get the better performance in biological sequences when α equals 6.

##### Estimating

We conducted two experiments to estimate the performance of the algorithm. The first one was to evaluate the optimal packed string size on different pattern length. The second one was the comparison to five representative string matching algorithms.

The algorithm was implemented using C. And all experiments were conducted on a PC with Intel(R) Xeon E3-1230 V2 at 3.30GHz, 4G memory, running Linux Mint 13.

##### Data collection

We chose five state-of-art string matching algorithms to conduct comparison experiment, i.e., Tvsbs [5], Ufndmq [6], Hashq [7], Fsbndmq [8], Epsm [4]. All the algorithms executed on four test data sets, as follows [11].

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Data set | type | filename | size |
| S1 | Escherichia coli | Escherichia\_albertii\_KF1\_uid232181 | 200MB |
| S2 | Rice | OrySat\_Aug2009.fa | 200MB |
| S3 | gene sequence of the human genome on chromosome 1 | chr1.fa | 200MB |
| S4 | amino acid of the Escherichia coli K12MG1655 | NC\_000913.faa | 200MB |

### Results and discussion

##### Parameter

Experientially, to guarantee the speed of access, we set the size of the SHIFT table as 2048, which is the same as that of epsm. The application of packed string will introduce hash conflicts. The larger packed string will result in more conflicts. Although the dictionary size of biological sequences is 4 or 20 and it performance as random string, we can take the packed string. However length of 8 bytes which epsm take will still remain result in big hash conflict when we choose 2048 as our array size. Thus, unlike epsn which uses fixed size of packed string at 8, we tested different length of packed string.

The experimental results with different packed string size on different pattern size on different data sets are shown in Table 5, Table 6 and Table 7. We can see the influence of the size of packed string. And from the results, we did find out that length 6 was a suitable choice.

##### Efficiency

The experimental results shown in Table 1, Table 2, Table 3 and Table 4 was a comparison between our new algorithm and other five algorithms in four different types of gene data, such as ecoli, rice, human and amino acid.

From these tables, we could see our algorithm perform stably in different data. And the difference of performance is much larger when come with short string, beat all the others in all cases.

This results were as expected. Because of the SIMD instruction, we could obtain great performance when sampling the string. So we could beat the none four algorithms which was not using the SIMD instructions.

And our algorithm could jump the distance of m-α. So the algorithm beat the epsm especially in short string.

### Conclusions

We improve the epsm algorithm in biological sequences. And the experiments show the algorithm obtain the best performance.

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### Tables

Table 1.

Experimental results for searching different length of patterns on a ecoli genome sequence using six algorithm. Running times are expressed in millisecond, best results have been boldfaced and padded.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| m | 8 | 12 | 16 | 20 | 24 | 28 | 32 | 36 |  |
| new | **146.55** | **95.9** | **72.35** | **58.2** | **49.25** | **43.1** | **38.9** | **35.9** |  |
| epsm | 158.05 | 157.8 | 123.55 | 124.75 | 65.05 | 66.1 | 46.35 | 47.15 |  |
| tvsbs | 531.29 | 409.43 | 372.43 | 325.86 | 292 | 276.29 | 300.43 | 278.86 |  |
| ufndmq | 527.86 | 407.29 | 370 | 324.86 | 291 | 275.57 | - | 262.57 |  |
| hashq | 5022.86 | 1015.71 | 574.43 | 400.86 | 307.71 | 253.14 | 216.14 | 187 |  |
| fsbndmq | 376.57 | 296.14 | 226.14 | 184 | 152.71 | 142.14 | 126.29 | 120.57 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| m | 40 | 44 | 48 | 64 | 128 | 256 | 512 | 1024 | 2048 |
| new | **33.7** | **32.25** | **30.95** | 29.2 | 26.4 | 41.25 | 32.1 | 17.65 | 11.65 |
| epsm | 37.2 | 37.5 | 31.3 | **25.9** | **21.45** | **17.95** | **13.4** | **10.95** | **9.15** |
| tvsbs | 245 | 256.71 | 244.29 | 268.71 | 277.14 | 293.86 | 270.57 | 301 | - |
| ufndmq | 225 | 274.86 | 286.71 | 243 | 254.57 | 274.86 | 280.43 | 254.71 | - |
| hashq | 167.14 | 149.57 | 138 | 103.86 | 63.71 | 45.29 | 43.71 | 40.29 | 40.29 |
| fsbndmq | 120.57 | 113.86 | 113.14 | 94.14 | 94.29 | 95.86 | 94 | 97.14 | 96.71 |

Table 2.

Experimental results for searching different length of patterns on a rice genome sequence using six algorithm. Running times are expressed in millisecond, best results have been boldfaced and padded.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| m | 8 | 12 | 16 | 20 | 24 | 28 | 32 | 36 |  |
| new | **148.05** | **96.3** | **71.95** | **58.5** | **49.8** | **44.05** | **39.6** | **36.4** |  |
| epsm | 161.5 | 164.45 | 122.6 | 124.25 | 65.15 | 65.9 | 46.75 | 47.4 |  |
| tvsbs | 502 | 385.86 | 371.86 | 369.71 | 306.14 | 283 | 281.86 | 260.71 |  |
| ufndmq | 500.29 | 385.57 | 370.29 | 368.43 | 304.14 | 283.29 | - | 293 |  |
| hashq | 5033 | 1016.14 | 570.86 | 399.71 | 308.71 | 252.71 | 213.71 | 186.43 |  |
| fsbndmq | 317 | 280.29 | 224.43 | 180 | 148.14 | 139.71 | 124.57 | 116.57 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| m | 40 | 44 | 48 | 64 | 128 | 256 | 512 | 1024 | 2048 |
| new | **34.4** | **33.35** | **31.7** | 30 | 26.95 | 42.9 | 32.45 | 18.1 | 11.45 |
| epsm | 37.4 | 38.1 | 31.75 | **26.25** | **21.8** | **18.7** | **13.7** | **11.75** | **9.65** |
| tvsbs | 273.43 | 224 | 216 | 211.57 | 198.43 | 263.43 | 235.71 | 144.86 | - |
| ufndmq | 228 | 239.57 | 219.29 | 247.14 | 213 | 202 | 229.29 | 219.29 | - |
| hashq | 165.29 | 149.86 | 136.71 | 102 | 62.14 | 44.86 | 42.86 | 40 | 39.57 |
| fsbndmq | 121.43 | 117.86 | 107.43 | 93.43 | 92.14 | 94.43 | 91.71 | 91.43 | 93.71 |

Table 3.

Experimental results for searching different length of patterns on a human genome sequence using six algorithm. Running times are expressed in millisecond, best results have been boldfaced and padded.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| m | 8 | 12 | 16 | 20 | 24 | 28 | 32 | 36 |  |
| new | **146.5** | **95.9** | **71.75** | **57.85** | **49.25** | **42.9** | **39.05** | **35.9** |  |
| epsm | 163.05 | 159.2 | 123.45 | 125.6 | 65.5 | 66.8 | 47.1 | 47.35 |  |
| tvsbs | 509.71 | 426.86 | 370.86 | 302.86 | 299.71 | 281.86 | 284.29 | 293.71 |  |
| ufndmq | 505.43 | 424.29 | 369 | 301.29 | 297.29 | 280.43 | - | 281.43 |  |
| hashq | 5028.29 | 1015.71 | 571.71 | 400.57 | 308.86 | 252.29 | 214.57 | 186.57 |  |
| fsbndmq | 360.29 | 281.29 | 215.14 | 182.86 | 166.14 | 137.14 | 126.86 | 118.57 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| m | 40 | 44 | 48 | 64 | 128 | 256 | 512 | 1024 | 2048 |
| new | **34** | **32.2** | **31.2** | 29.7 | 27.2 | 44.1 | 33.1 | 18.3 | 12.15 |
| epsm | 37.9 | 38.2 | 32.1 | **26.65** | **22.25** | **18.85** | **14.05** | **11.75** | **9.9** |
| tvsbs | 293.43 | 241.43 | 229.43 | 237.14 | 231.57 | 169.86 | 211 | 239.29 | - |
| ufndmq | 265.57 | 284.43 | 263.43 | 249.71 | 234.14 | 233.29 | 240.14 | 216.14 | - |
| hashq | 167 | 149 | 137.86 | 102.57 | 62.57 | 44.29 | 43 | 40.29 | 39.57 |
| fsbndmq | 120.14 | 117.14 | 113.43 | 91.14 | 96.29 | 96.14 | 95.43 | 96.29 | 93.43 |

Table 4.

Experimental results for searching different length of patterns on a protein genome sequence using six algorithm. Running times are expressed in millisecond, best results have been boldfaced and padded.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| m | 8 | 12 | 16 | 20 | 24 | 28 | 32 | 36 |  |
| new | 128.15 | **84.6** | **64.05** | **52.2** | **44.4** | **39.95** | **36.25** | **33.6** |  |
| epsm | **123** | 122.8 | 122.55 | 125.6 | 64.85 | 65.85 | 46.25 | 46.85 |  |
| tvsbs | 222.29 | 152 | 120.86 | 103.57 | 90.86 | 81.71 | 70.57 | 64.43 |  |
| ufndmq | 222.57 | 152.43 | 120.29 | 103.71 | 90.43 | 81 | - | 66.14 |  |
| hashq | 5018 | 1010.14 | 566.14 | 431.43 | 317.29 | 249.71 | 211.43 | 184.71 |  |
| fsbndmq | 126.86 | 86.86 | 68.57 | 57.86 | 52.14 | 46.57 | 43.57 | 40.29 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| m | 40 | 44 | 48 | 64 | 128 | 256 | 512 | 1024 | 2048 |
| new | **32** | **30.65** | **29.9** | 28.1 | 29 | 40.4 | 29.6 | 17.05 | 10.8 |
| epsm | 37.25 | 37.6 | 31.5 | **26** | **21.8** | **18.6** | **13.4** | **10.7** | **8.9** |
| tvsbs | 59.14 | 54.71 | 50.86 | 42.14 | 31.57 | 29.29 | 31.57 | 28 | - |
| ufndmq | 60 | 56 | 50 | 43 | 31.86 | 28.71 | 31.43 | 29.14 | - |
| hashq | 163 | 147 | 133.71 | 100.14 | 59.71 | 42.71 | 41.43 | 39.43 | 39.43 |
| fsbndmq | 39.86 | 40.43 | 41.29 | 41.43 | 40.14 | 39.86 | 39.29 | 38 | 39 |

Table 5.

Experimental results for searching different length of patterns on a ecoli genome sequence using different length of packed string. Running times are expressed in millisecond, best results have been boldfaced and padded.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| m | 8 | 12 | 16 | 20 | 24 | 28 | 32 | 36 |  |
| 5 | 149.9 | 98.45 | 73.95 | 60.3 | 51.25 | 45.35 | 40.6 | 38.1 |  |
| 6 | **146.55** | **95.9** | **72.35** | **58.2** | **49.25** | **43.1** | **38.9** | **35.9** |  |
| 7 | 151.85 | 98.75 | 74.3 | 59.85 | 50.60 | 43.90 | 40.10 | 36.15 |  |
| 8 | 163.85 | 99.8 | 72.8 | 58.25 | 49.6 | 43.3 | 39.45 | 36.95 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| m | 40 | 44 | 48 | 64 | 128 | 256 | 512 | 1024 | 2048 |
| 5 | 35.35 | 34.6 | 32.6 | 30.15 | **26.2** | 42.35 | 44.15 | 37.35 | 32.75 |
| 6 | **33.7** | **32.25** | **30.95** | **29.2** | 27.45 | 41.05 | 35.4 | 21.15 | 15.6 |
| 7 | 33.80 | 32.90 | 31.45 | 29.7 | 26.5 | 40.65 | 32.35 | 26.40 | 18.35 |
| 8 | 34.4 | 32.9 | 31.85 | 29.3 | 26.4 | **41.25** | **32.1** | **17.65** | **11.65** |

Table 6.

Experimental results for searching different length of patterns on a rice genome sequence using different length of packed string. Running times are expressed in millisecond, best results have been boldfaced and padded.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| m | 8 | 12 | 16 | 20 | 24 | 28 | 32 | 36 |  |
| 5 | 149.7 | 98.1 | 73.3 | 59.65 | 50.9 | 44.85 | 40.85 | 37.55 |  |
| 6 | **148.05** | **96.3** | **71.95** | **58.5** | **49.8** | **44.05** | **39.6** | **36.4** |  |
| 7 | 152.15 | 99.3 | 74.3 | 60.15 | 50.65 | 44.0 | 39.64 | 37.25 |  |
| 8 | 163.35 | 99.05 | 72.5 | 58.15 | 49.4 | 43.55 | 39.75 | 36.75 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| m | 40 | 44 | 48 | 64 | 128 | 256 | 512 | 1024 | 2048 |
| 5 | 35.65 | 33.65 | 32.7 | 30.5 | 26.65 | 44.55 | 44.3 | 35.25 | 30.9 |
| 6 | **34.4** | **33.35** | **31.7** | 30 | 28.55 | 43.95 | 36.05 | 22.1 | 15.7 |
| 7 | 34.74 | 33.40 | 31.90 | 29.65 | **26.40** | 42.05 | 32.65 | 21.90 | 13.90 |
| 8 | 34.85 | 33.35 | 32.1 | **29.4** | 26.95 | **42.9** | **32.45** | **18.1** | **11.45** |

Table 7.

Experimental results for searching different length of patterns on a human genome sequence using different length of packed string. Running times are expressed in millisecond, best results have been boldfaced and padded.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| m | 8 | 12 | 16 | 20 | 24 | 28 | 32 | 36 |  |
| 5 | 149.45 | 97.35 | 73.85 | 59.8 | 51.3 | 45.15 | 40.85 | 38.3 |  |
| 6 | **146.5** | **95.9** | **71.75** | **57.85** | **49.25** | **42.9** | **39.05** | **35.9** |  |
| 7 | 153.05 | 99.15 | 73.80 | 60.05 | 50.07 | 44.00 | 39.30 | 36.15 |  |
| 8 | 164.35 | 99.45 | 73.05 | 58.7 | 49.65 | 43.75 | 40 | 37.3 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| m | 40 | 44 | 48 | 64 | 128 | 256 | 512 | 1024 | 2048 |
| 5 | 35.5 | 34.2 | 32.95 | 30.75 | 26.9 | 44.3 | 44.7 | 36.45 | 33 |
| 6 | **34** | **32.2** | **31.2** | **29.7** | 27.9 | **42.75** | 34.9 | 21.4 | 15.05 |
| 7 | 34.10 | 32.40 | 31.75 | 30.30 | 27.45 | 43.75 | 33.25 | 18.30 | 13.65 |
| 8 | 35.1 | 33.7 | 32.5 | 29.95 | **27.2** | 44.1 | **33.1** | **18.3** | **12.15** |

### Figure legends

Fig. 1 The algorithm.

### Figures

Fig. 1

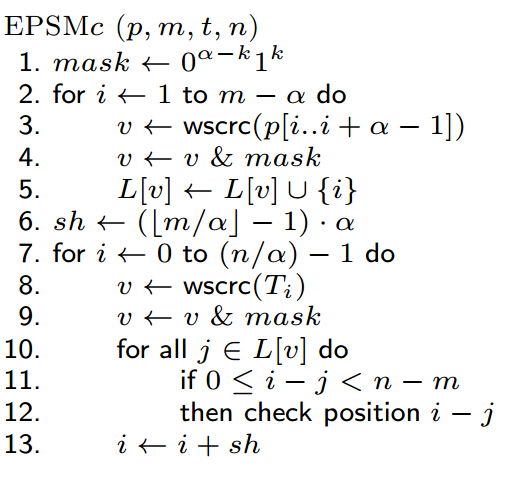


Fig. 2

