

Problem Definition:

We are given a set of n sequences $S = \{s^{(1)}, \dots, s^{(n)}\}$, each sequence has m vertices (numbers) $s^{(i)} = (v_1^{(i)}, \dots, v_m^{(i)})$, each vertex colored in one out of 10 colors (digits).

We are given a secret sequence $s^* = (v_1^*, \dots, v_m^*)$ for which the colors of the vertices are unknown.

A vertex $v_j^{(i)}$ is **correct** iff its color is equal to v_j^* .

We are given the number of correct vertices in each sequence in S , denoted by $\{d^{(1)}, \dots, d^{(n)}\}$, and are promised that given S and D , the colors of s^* are unique.

Our goal is to discover the colors of the vertices in s^* .

Problem Example:

▷ Number of sequences given: $n = 6$

▷ Length of each sequence: $m = 5$

▷ The colors of the vertices in S are:

$$\begin{aligned} s^{(1)} &= (9, 0, 3, 4, 2), s^{(2)} = (7, 0, 7, 9, 4), s^{(3)} = (3, 9, 4, 5, 8) \\ s^{(4)} &= (3, 4, 1, 0, 9), s^{(5)} = (5, 1, 5, 4, 5), s^{(6)} = (1, 2, 5, 3, 1) \end{aligned}$$

▷ The number of correct vertices in S is given to be $\{2, 0, 2, 1, 2, 1\}$.

Modeling as an ILP (Integer Linear Program):

Let $\{x_{i,c}\}_{i \in [m], c \in [10]}$ be binary variables indicating the color of the digits in s^* , that is:

$$x_{j,c} = 1 \iff v_j^* = c$$

Since each vertex in s^* has only one color, we get the constraints:

$$\left\{ \sum_{c=0}^9 x_{j,c} = 1 \right\}_{j \in [m]}$$

And from the input of correct vertices we get the constraints:

$$\left\{ \sum_{j \in [m]} x_{j, v_j^{(i)}} = d^{(i)} \right\}_{i \in [n]}$$

Since we are guaranteed that only one solution exists, we can put a dummy objective function of our choice, and solve the ILP to get the unique solution.