An Efficient Exact Solution to the (I,d) Planted Motif Problem

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Context of the problem

(I, d) planted motif problem

- ▶ DNA motif finding: known as a difficult (NP-complete) problem in computational biology and computer science
- motifs: important sequences that occur repeatedly (but not cleanly, due to mutation) in DNA
- ▶ (*I*, *d*) planted motif problem: search for a common motif of length *I*, allowing for up to *d* mismatches due to mutation.

Context of the problem

(I, d) planted motif problem

Find a motif of length l=8 across these DNA sequences. Each contains the motif with at most d=2 mismatches.

- S_1 atcactcgttctcctctaatgtgtaaagacgtactaccgacctta
- $S_{\!\scriptscriptstyle 2}$ acgccgaccggtcccatccttgtatagctcctaacgggcatcagc
- S_3 tcctgactgcatcgcgatctcggtagtttcctgttcatcattttt
- S_4 ggccctcagcatcgtgcgtcctgctaacacattcccatgcagctt
- $S_{5} \quad {\tt tgaaaagaatttacggtaaaggatccacatccaatcatttgaaag}$

Planted motif: ??

Context of the problem

(I, d) planted motif problem

Find a motif of length l=8 across these DNA sequences. Each contains the motif with at most d=2 mismatches.

- S_1 at cactcgtt ctcctctaatgtgtaaagacgtactaccgacctta
- S_2 acgccgaccggtcccatccttgtatagctcctaacgggcatcagc
- S_3 tcctgactgcatcgcgatctcggtagtttcctgttcatcattttt
- S_4 ggccctcagcatcgtgcgtcctgctaacacattcccatgcagctt
- S_5 tgaaaagaatttacggtaaaggatccacatccaatctttgaaag

Planted motif: ccatcgtt



Key concepts

(I, d) planted motif problem

- ▶ an I-mer is a sequence of length I
- ▶ two *l*-mers are *d*-neighbors if they have at most *d* mismatches

$$l=8, d=3,$$
 $x_1 = \text{cgatcctt}$ $d_H(x_1, x_2) = 2$ $x_2 = \text{ccatcgtt}$

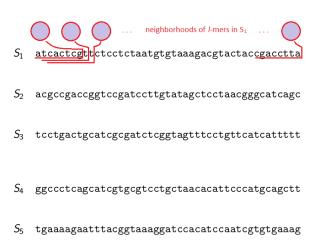
EMS-GT

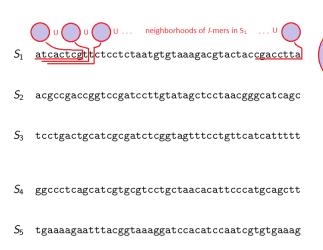
- we developed an exact motif search (EMS) algorithm that uses the candidate generate-and-test (GT) approach
- generate narrow down the search to a set of candidate motifs
- test check each candidate to determine if it is a motif

- S_1 atcactcgttctcctctaatgtgtaaagacgtactaccgacctta
- S_2 acgccgaccggtccgatccttgtatagctcctaacgggcatcagc
- S_3 tcctgactgcatcgcgatctcggtagtttcctgttcatcattttt

- S_4 ggccctcagcatcgtgcgtcctgctaacacattcccatgcagctt
- S_5 tgaaaagaatttacggtaaaggatccacatccaatcgtgtgaaag



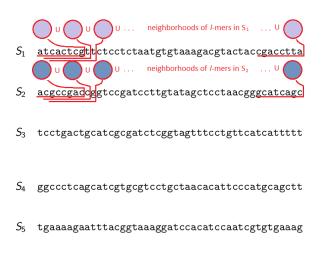






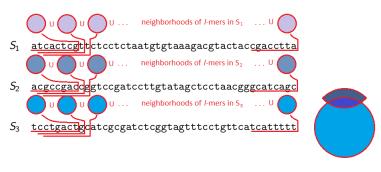


- S_4 ggccctcagcatcgtgcgtcctgctaacacattcccatgcagctt
- S_5 tgaaaagaatttacggtaaaggatccacatccaatcgtgtgaaag





- S_4 ggccctcagcatcgtgcgtcctgctaacacattcccatgcagctt
- S_5 tgaaaagaatttacggtaaaggatccacatccaatcgtgtgaaag



- S_4 ggccctcagcatcgtgcgtcctgctaacacattcccatgcagctt
- S_5 tgaaaagaatttacggtaaaggatccacatccaatcgtgtgaaag



- S_4 ggccctcagcatcgtgcgtcctgctaacacattcccatgcagctt
- S_5 tgaaaagaatttacggtaaaggatccacatccaatcgtgtgaaag

• ex. the *d*-neighborhood of acgt, for d=2 (67 neighbors)

```
acgt,

ccgt, gcgt, tcgt, aagt, aggt, atgt,
acat, acgt, actt, acga, acgc, acgg,

cagt, cggt, ctgt, ccat, ccct, cctt, ccga, ccgc, ccgg,
gagt, gggt, gtgt, gcat, gcct, gctt, gcga, gcgc, gcgg,
tagt, tggt, ttgt, tcat, tcct, tctt, tcga, tcgc, tcgg,
aaat, aact, aatt, aaga, aagc, aagg, agat, agct, agtt,
agga, aggc, aggg, atat, atct, attt, atga, atgc, atgg,
acaa, acac, acag, acca, accc, accg, acta, actc, actg.
```

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- ▶ thus, EMS-GT can represent any set of *I*-mers with 4^{*I*} bits:
 - ▶ set to 1 if the corresponding *I*-mer is a member of the set,
 - set to 0 otherwise.

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- ▶ thus, EMS-GT can represent any set of *I*-mers with 4^{*I*} bits:
 - ▶ set to 1 if the corresponding *I*-mer is a member of the set,
 - set to 0 otherwise.
- ► For efficiency, EMS-GT stores the 4¹ bits as $\frac{4^1}{32}$ 32-bit integers.

• ex. the d-neighborhood of acgt, for d=2 (67 neighbors)

```
acgt,

ccgt, gcgt, tcgt, aagt, aggt, atgt,
acat, acgt, actt, acga, acgc, acgg,

cagt, cggt, ctgt, ccat, ccct, cctt, ccga, ccgc, ccgg,
gagt, gggt, gtgt, gcat, gcct, gctt, gcga, gcgc, gcgg,
tagt, tggt, ttgt, tcat, tcct, tctt, tcga, tcgc, tcgg,
aaat, aact, aatt, aaga, aagc, aagg, agat, agct, agtt,
agga, aggc, aggg, atat, atct, attt, atga, atgc, atgg,
acaa, acac, acag, acca, accc, accg, acta, actc, actg.
```

- \triangleright ex. the *d*-neighborhood of acgt, for d=2 (67 neighbors)
- ▶ /=4

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- ► $l=4 \rightarrow 4^l = 256$ possible l-mers

- ex. the *d*-neighborhood of acgt, for d=2 (67 neighbors)
- ► $l=4 \rightarrow 4^l = 256$ possible l-mers $\rightarrow \frac{4^l}{32} = 8$ 32-bit integers

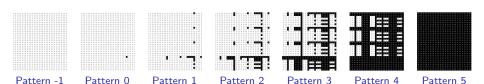
- \triangleright ex. the *d*-neighborhood of acgt, for *d*=2 (67 neighbors)
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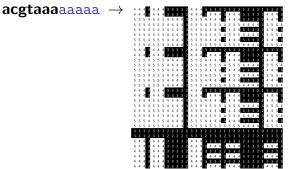
Given the neighborhood bit-array N_x for I-mer x, if we partition N_x into blocks of 4^k bits each, k < I, each block conforms to one of (k + 2) patterns.

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ex. patterns in $N_{\rm acgtacgtacgt}$ for $k{=}5~\rightarrow~4^5{=}32{\times}32$ bits per block



▶ **prefix** = first (l-k) characters, k-suffix = last k characters



 $\leftarrow acgtaaattttt$

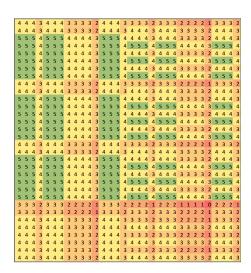
▶ due to the alphabetical ordering, *I*-mers in the same block all have the same prefix, and differ only in their *k*-suffixes

For the neighborhood N_x of I-mer x,

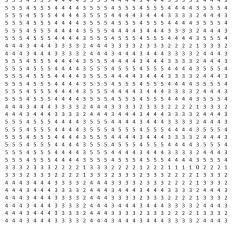
- x's prefix determines which patterns apply to which blocks;
- ► x's k-suffix determines the structure of the patterns

▶ ex. d=5, k=5
x = acgtacgtacgt

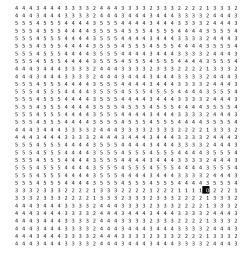
color map: number of mismatches from x's suffix tacgt of all possible k-suffixes



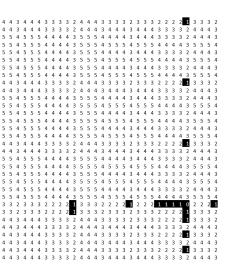
- ▶ ex. d=5, k=5
 x = acgtacgtacgt
- if prefix = Cgacatc
 (6 mismatches from acgtacg)
- we cannot use any k-suffix to form a neighbor of x



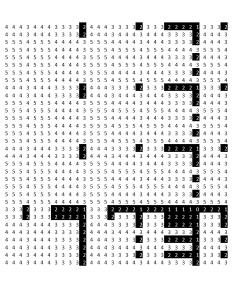
- ► ex. d=5, k=5 x = acgtacgtacgt
- if prefix = agacatc
 (5 mismatches from acgtacg)
- ► adding the *k*-suffix tacgt forms a neighbor of *x*



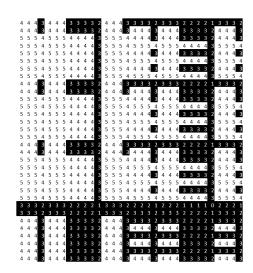
- ▶ ex. d=5, k=5
 x = acgtacgtacgt
- if prefix = agacatg
 (4 mismatches from acgtacg)
- ▶ any k-suffix with up to 1 mismatch from tacgt forms a neighbor of x



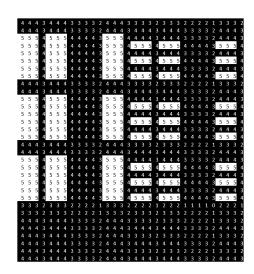
- ▶ ex. d=5, k=5
 x = acgtacgtacgt
- if prefix = agatatg
 (3 mismatches from acgtacg)
- ▶ any k-suffix with up to 2 mismatches from tacgt forms a neighbor of x



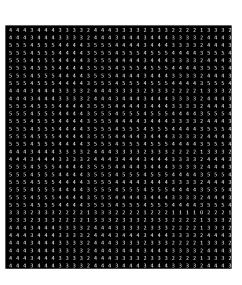
- ▶ ex. d=5, k=5
 x = acgtacgtacgt
- if prefix = acatatg
 (2 mismatches from acgtacg)
- any k-suffix with up to 3 mismatches from tacgt forms a neighbor of x



- ▶ ex. d=5, k=5
 x = acgtacgtacgt
- ▶ if prefix = acatacg (1 mismatch from acgtacg)
- any k-suffix with up to 4 mismatches from tacgt forms a neighbor of x



- ▶ ex. d=5, k=5
 x = acgtacgtacgt
- ▶ if prefix = acgtacg (0 mismatches, x's actual prefix)
- any k-suffix forms a neighbor of x, since all k-suffixes have at most 5 mismatches from tacgt



Performance

EMS-GT

