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

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Introduction

The (l, 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 `atcactcgttctcctctaatgtgtaaagacgtactaccgaccttа`

S_2 `acgccgaccggtccgatccttgtatagctcctaacgggcatcagc`

S_3 `tcctgactgcatcgcgatctcggtagtttcctgttcatcattttt`

S_4 `ggccctcagcatcgtgcgtcctgctaacacattcccatgcagctt`

S_5 `tgaaaagaatttacggtaaaggatccacatccaatcgtgtgaaag`

Planted motif: ? ?

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S_2 acgccgaccggtccgatccttgtatagctcctaacgggcatcagc

S_3 tcctgactgcatcgcgatctcggtagtttcctgttcatcatttttt

S_4 ggccctcagcatcgtgcgtcctgctaacacattcccatgcagctt

S_5 tgaaaagaatttacggtaaaggatccacatccaatcgtgtgaaag

Planted motif: ccatcgtt

Introduction

The (l, d) planted motif problem

- motifs: significant sub-sequences occuring repeatedly in DNA
- DNA motif finding must allow for mismatches due to mutation
- motif search is known as a difficult (NP-complete) problem in computational biology and CS

Introduction

Key concepts

- *l*-mer
  - sequence of length *l*

$$S_1 = \texttt{atcactcgttctcctctaatgtgtaaagacgtactaccgaccttta}$$

- Hamming distance d_H
  - number of mismatches between *l*-mers

$$x_1 = \texttt{cgatcctt} \qquad d_H(x_1, x_2) = 2$$
$$x_2 = \texttt{ccatcgtt}$$

Introduction

Key concepts

- *d*-neighborhood
  - ex. the set of all *d*-neighbors of acgt, *d*=2:

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

Problem statement

EMS-GT

Demonstration

S_1 atcactcgttctcctctaatgtgtaaagacgtactaccgaccttа

S_2 acgccgaccggtccgatccttgtatagctcctaacgggcatcagc

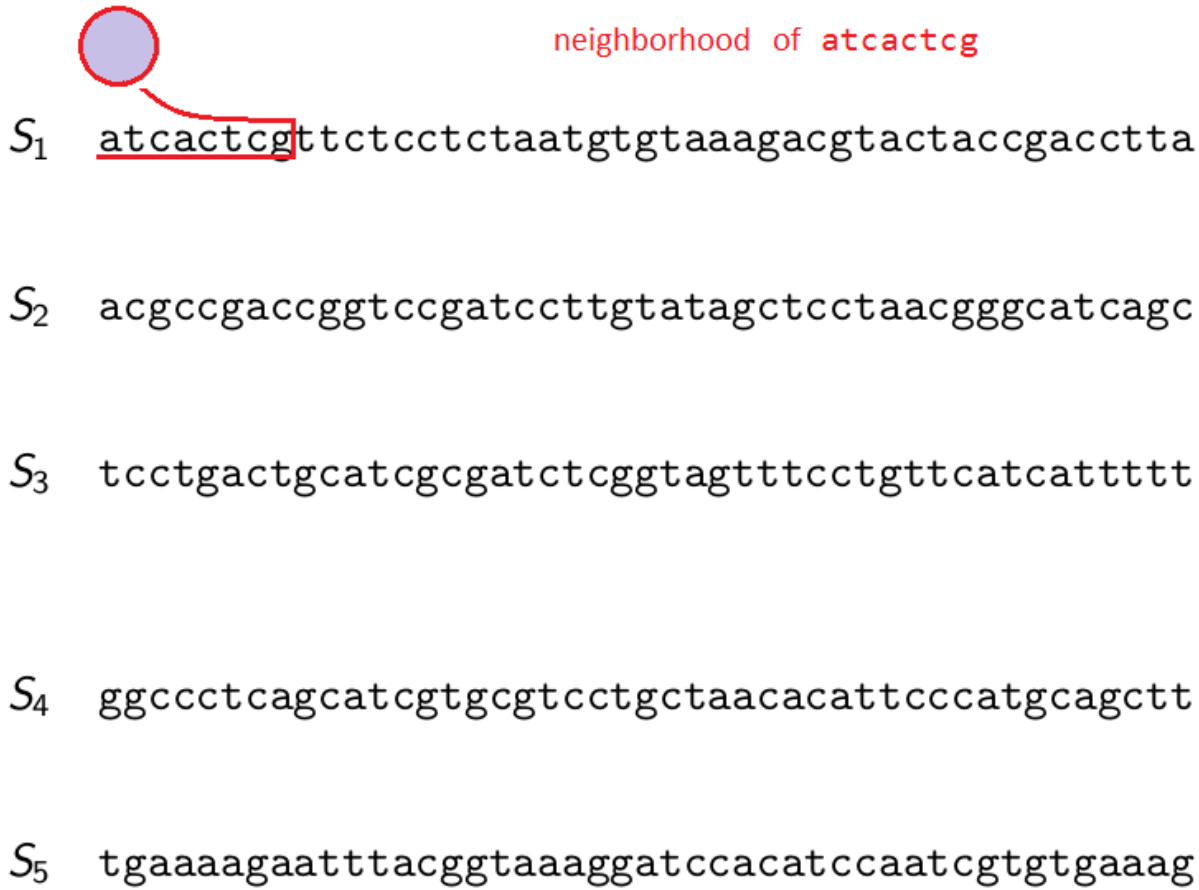
S_3 tcctgactgcatcgcgatctcggtagtttcctgttcatcattttt

S_4 ggccctcagcatcgtgcgtcctgctaacacattcccatgcagctt

S_5 tgaaaagaatttacggtaaaggatccacatccaatcgtgtgaaag

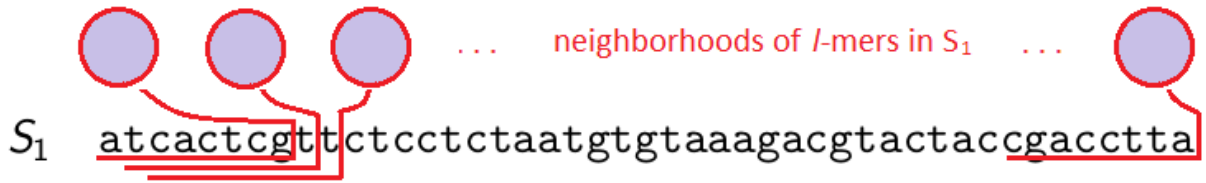
EMS-GT

Demonstration



EMS-GT

Demonstration



S_1 atcactcgttctcctctaatgtgtaaagacgtactaccgaccttа

S_2 acgccgaccggtccgatccttgtatagctcctaacgggcatcagc

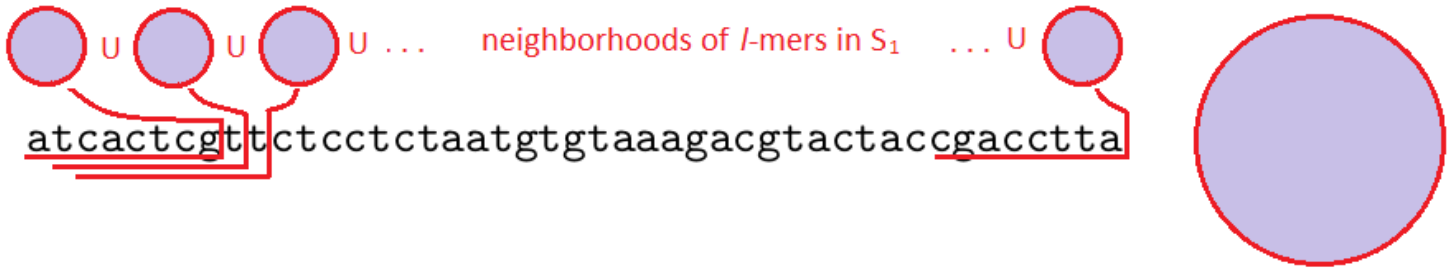
S_3 tcctgactgcatcgcgatctcggtagtttcctgttcatcattttt

S_4 ggccctcagcatcgtgcgtcctgctaacacattcccatgcagctt

S_5 tgaaaagaatttacggtaaaggatccacatccaatcgtgtgaaag

EMS-GT

Demonstration



S_1 atcactcgttctcctctaatgtgtaaagacgtactaccgaccttа

S_2 acgccgaccggtccgatccttgtatagctcctaacgggcatcagc

S_3 tcctgactgcatcgcgatctcggtagtttcctgttcatcattttt

S_4 ggccctcagcatcgtgcgtcctgctaacacattcccatgcagctt

S_5 tgaaaagaatttacggtaaaggatccacatccaatcgtgtgaaag

EMS-GT

Demonstration

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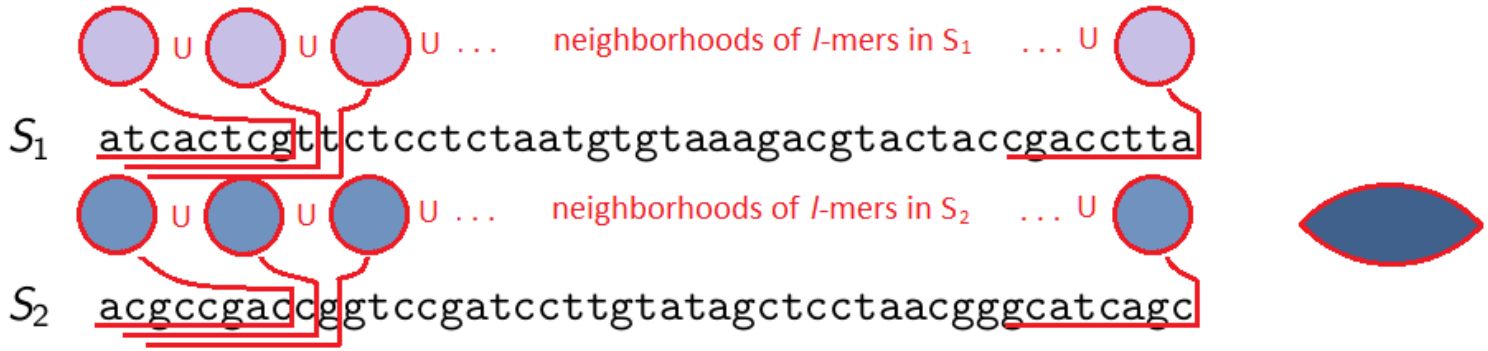

S_3 tcctgactgcatcgcgatctcggtagtttcctgttcatcattttt

S_4 ggccctcagcatcgtgcgtcctgctaacacattcccatgcagctt

S_5 tgaaaagaatttacggtaaaggatccacatccaatcgtgtgaaag

EMS-GT

Demonstration

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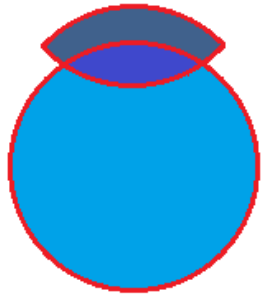


S_4 ggccctcagcatcgtgcgtcctgctaacacattcccatgcagctt

S_5 tgaaaagaatttacggtaaaggatccacatccaatcgtgtgaaag

EMS-GT

Demonstration

EMS-GT

Introduction

- exact motif search (EMS) algorithm
  - *exact* - performs an exhaustive search for possible motifs
    - as opposed to *heuristic* methods
- uses a generate-and-test (GT) search approach
  - *generate* - narrows the search to a set of candidate motifs
  - *test* - checks each candidate to see if it is a motif

EMS-GT

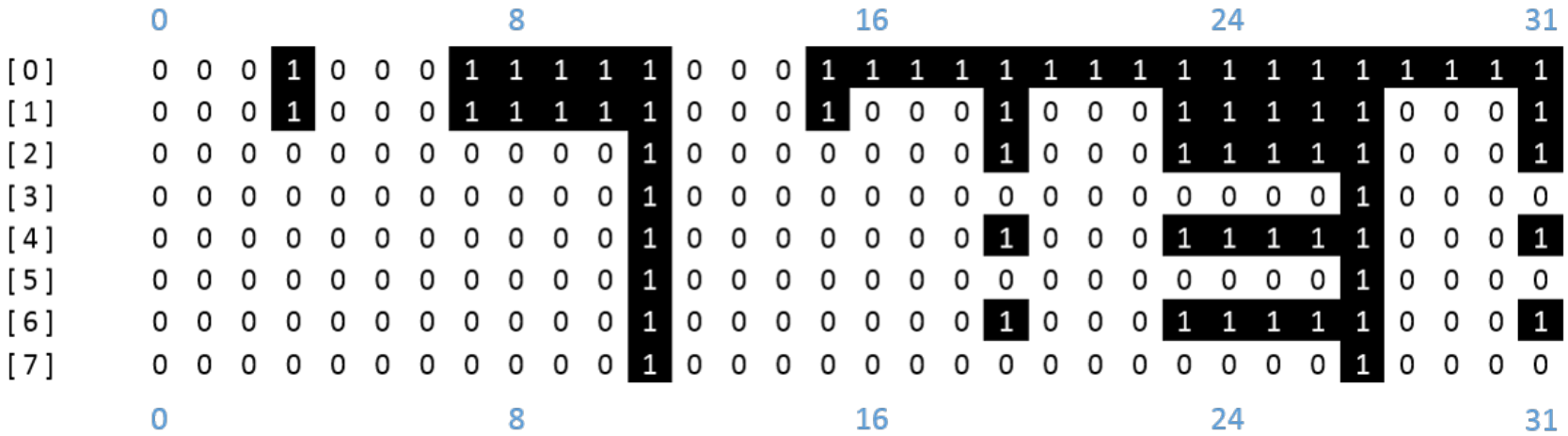
Representing sets

- EMS-GT must operate on sets of l-mers.
- There are 4^l possible l-mers that can be formed with $\{\mathtt{a},\mathtt{c},\mathtt{g},\mathtt{t}\}$
- Thus, to represent a set of l-mers, EMS-GT uses 4^l bits,
  - set to 1 if the corresponding l-mer is a member of the set,
  - set to 0 otherwise.
- For efficiency, EMS-GT stores the 4^l bits as $\frac{4^l}{32}$ 32-bit integers.

EMS-GT

Representing sets

- $N($ acgt, 1 $)$ $\quad l{=}4;\ 4^l = 256,\ \frac{4^l}{32} = 8$



EMS-GT

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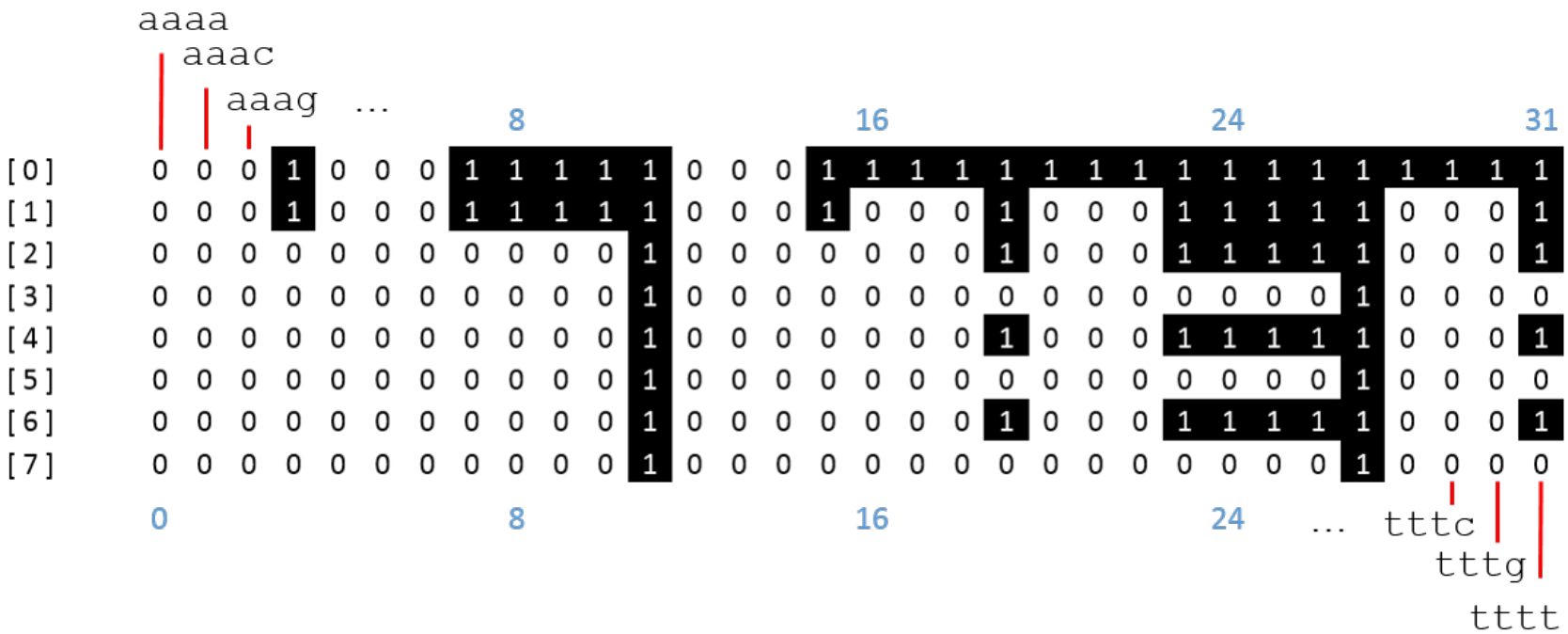

EMS-GT

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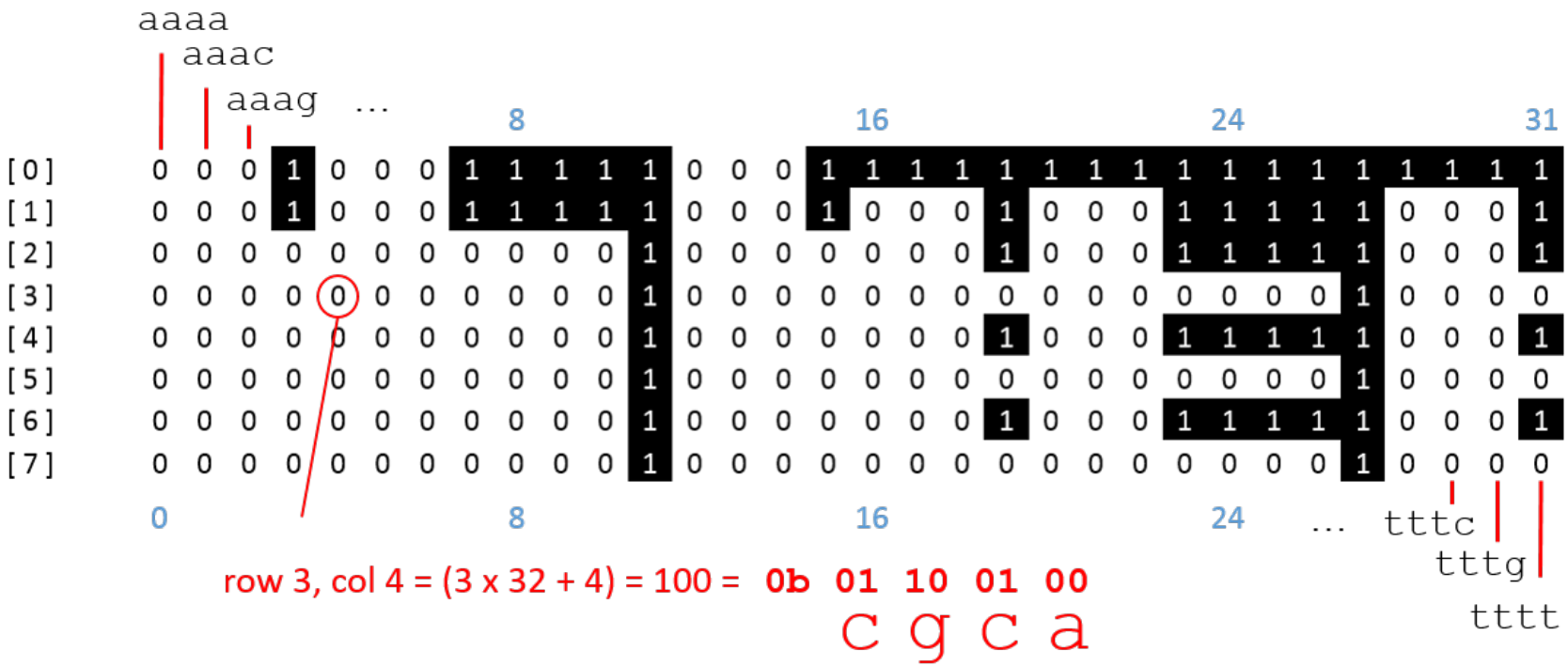
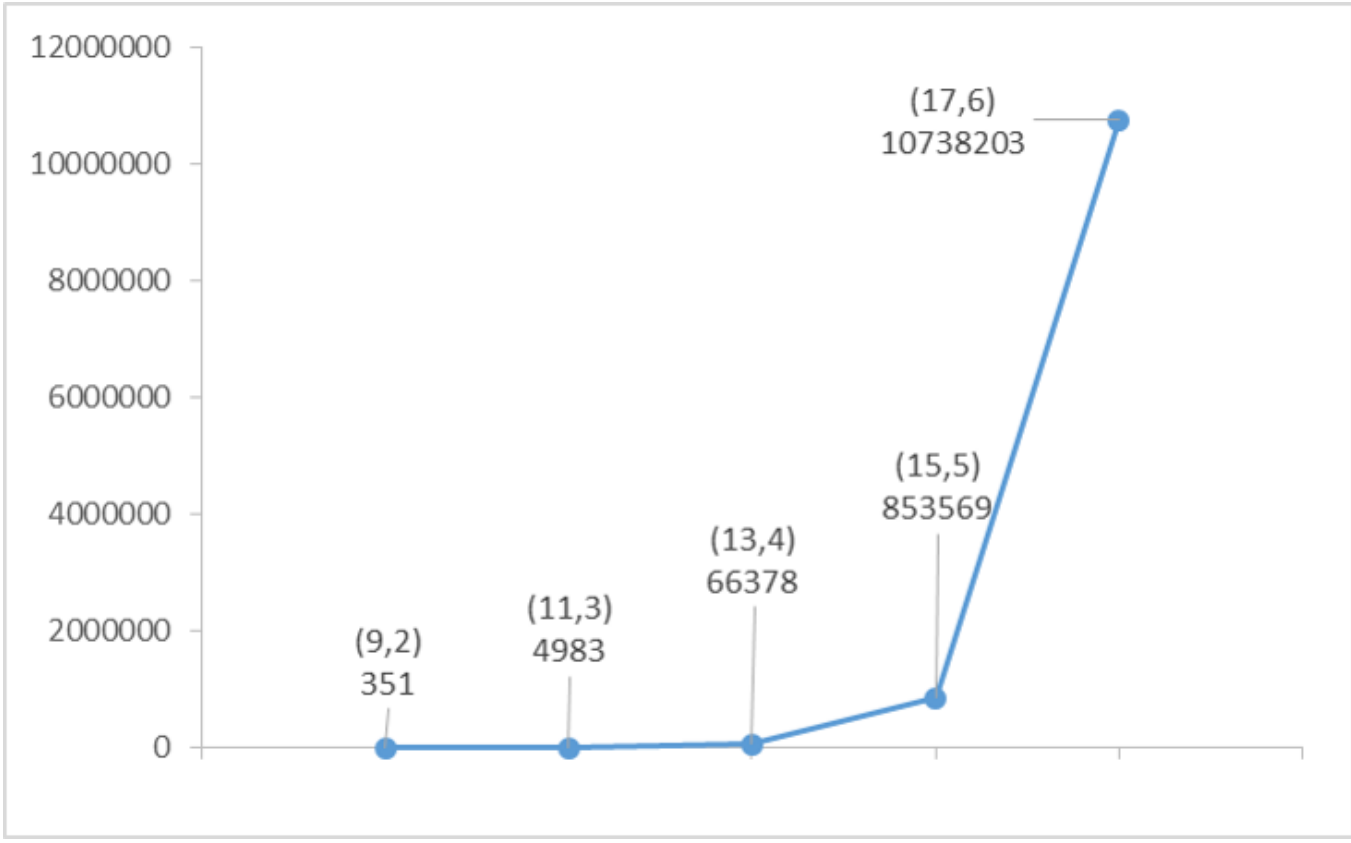


EMS-GT

Generating *d*-neighborhoods

Q: *How can we generate the neighborhood of an l-mer x?*

- generate each *d*-neighbor, find its bit flag, and set to 1?

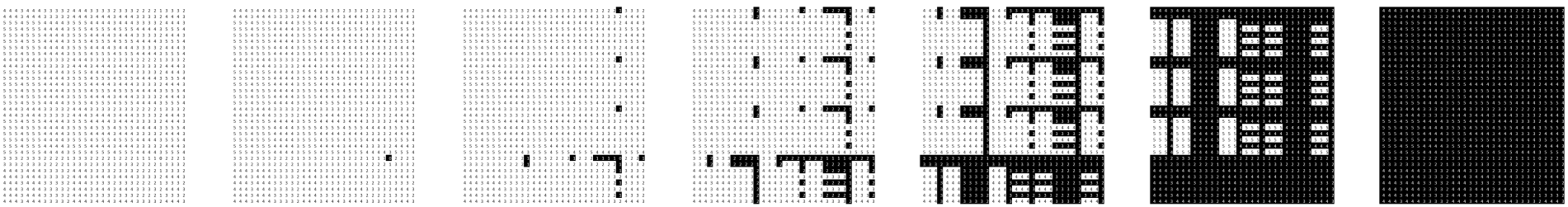


EMS-GT

Generating d-neighborhoods

Q: *How can we generate the neighborhood of an l-mer x?*

- generate the neighborhood in blocks, using $(k+2)$ patterns
  - use the last k characters of x to determine the patterns
  - use the first $l-k$ characters of x to assign patterns to blocks



Pattern -1 Pattern 0 Pattern 1 Pattern 2 Pattern 3 Pattern 4 Pattern 5

EMS-GT

Building sets in blocks

EMS-GT

Results