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

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Introduction

The (l, d) planted motif problem

- motifs: repeated, biologically significant subsequences in DNA
- DNA motif finding must allow for mismatches due to mutation
- known as a difficult problem in computational biology and CS (NP-complete)

Introduction

The (l, d) planted motif problem

Find a motif of length l=8 across these 5 DNA sequences. Each contains the motif with at most d=2 mismatches.

S_1 atcactcgttctcctctaatgtgtaaagacgtactaccgaccttа

S_2 acgccgaccggtccgatccttgtatagctcctaacgggcatcagc

S_3 tcctgactgcatcgcgatctcggtagtttcctgttcatcatttttt

S_4 ggccctcagcatcgtgcgtcctgctaacacattcccatgcagctt

S_5 tgaaaagaatttacggtaaaggatccacatccaatcgtgtgaaag

Planted motif: ccatcgtt

Introduction

Key concepts

- l-mer
- Hamming distance d_H
- d-neighbor

EMS-GT

Introduction

- an exact motif search (EMS) algorithm that uses the candidate generate-and-test (GT) approach
- exact algorithms search exhaustively to find all possible motifs,
  - as opposed to heuristic ones which sample/guess motifs
- *generate* - narrows the search to a set of candidate motifs
  test - checks each candidate to see if it is a motif

EMS-GT

Demonstration

S_1 atcactcgttctcctctaatgtgtaaagacgtactaccgaccttа

S_2 acgccgaccggtccgatccttgtatagctcctaacgggcatcagc

S_3 tcctgactgcatcgcgatctcggtagtttcctgttcatcattttt

S_4 ggccctcagcatcgtgcgtcctgctaacacattcccatgcagctt

S_5 tgaaaagaatttacggtaaaggatccacatccaatcgtgtgaaag

EMS-GT

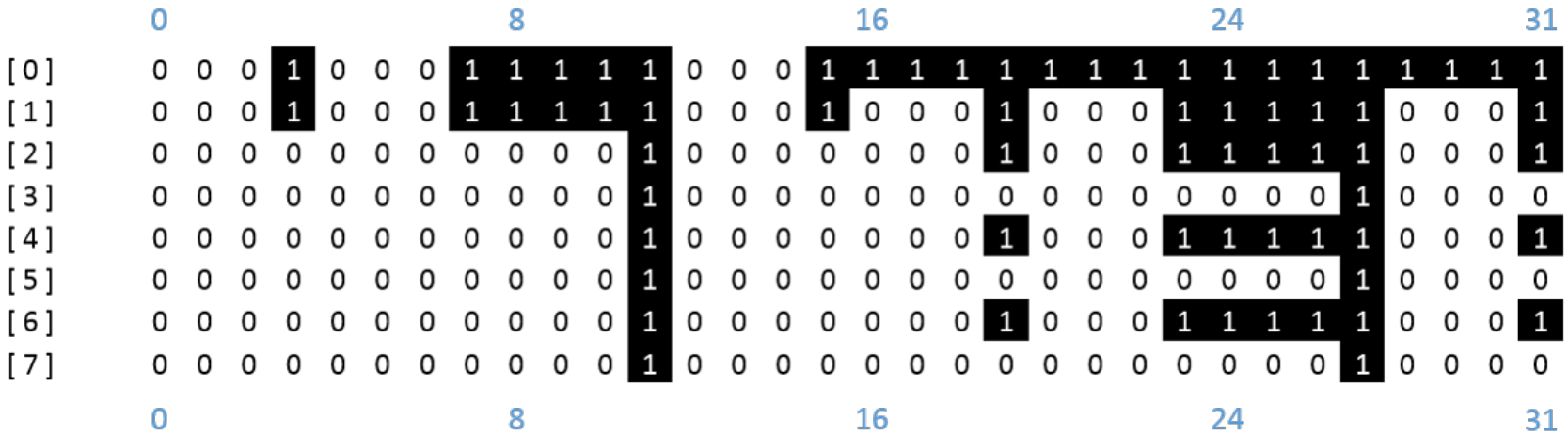
Representing sets

- 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

Representing sets

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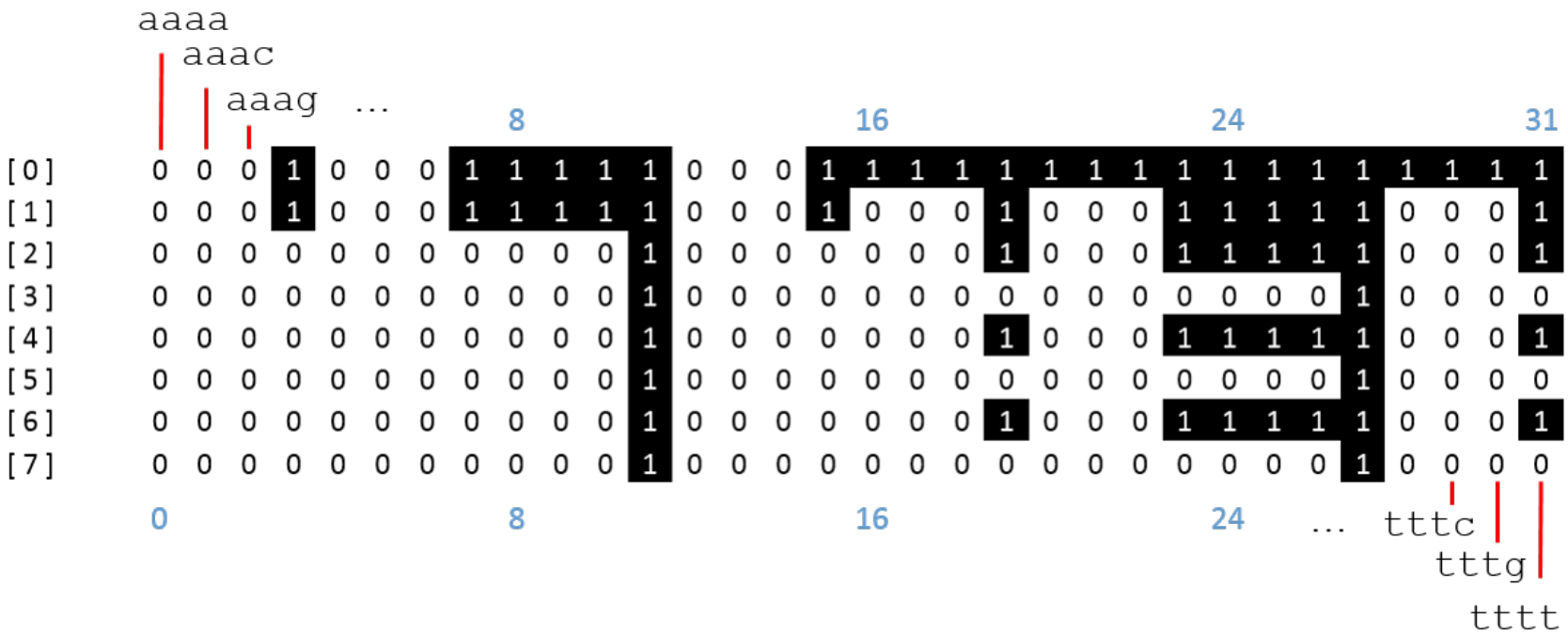

EMS-GT

Representing sets

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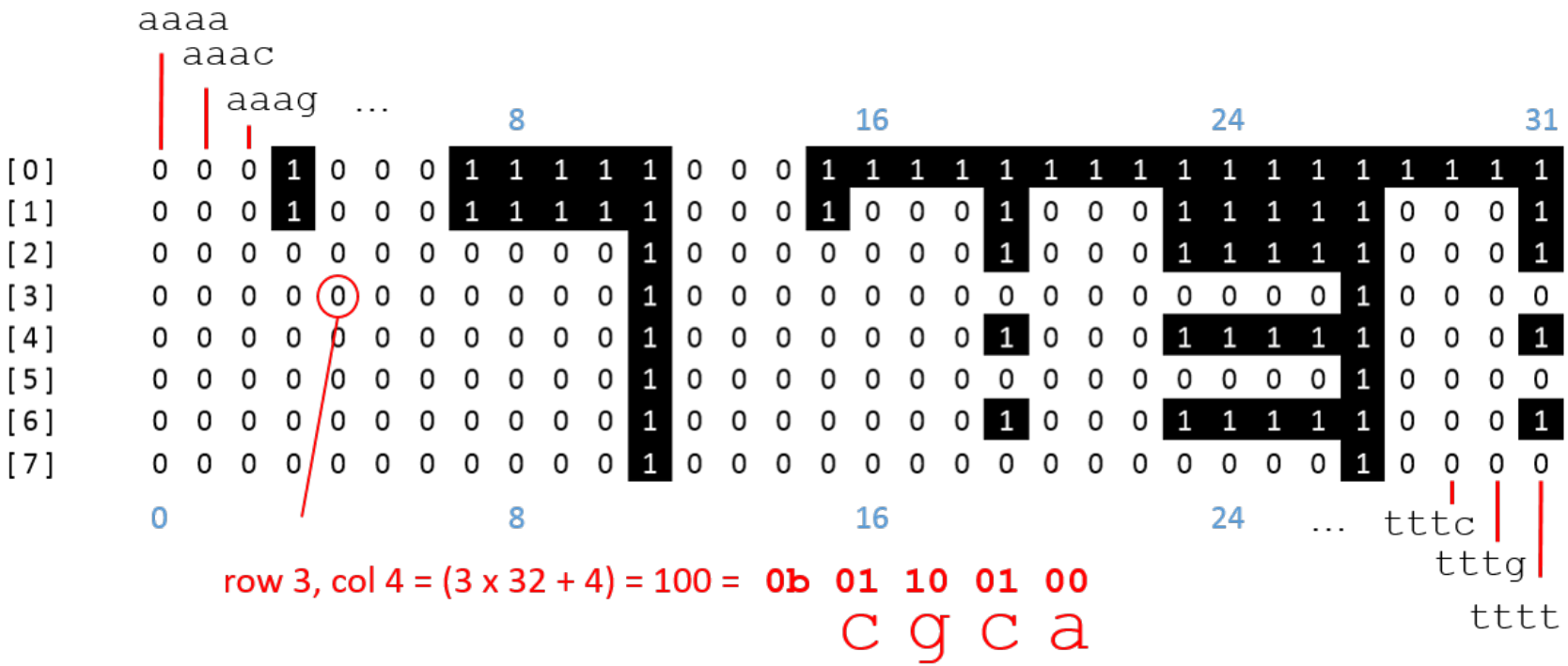

EMS-GT

Building sets

discuss recursive

EMS-GT

Building sets in blocks

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Results