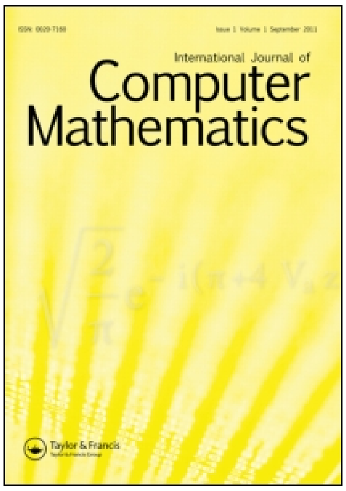

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ALGORITHMS FOR COMPUTING APPROXIMATE REPETITIONS IN MUSICAL SEQUENCES

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Here we introduce two new notions of approximate matching with application in computer assisted music analysis. We present algorithms for each notion of approximation: for approximate string matching and for computing approximate squares.

Keywords: String algorithms; Approximate string matching; Dynamic programming; Computer-assisted music analysis

C. R. Categories: F.2.2, G.2.2, H.5.5, I.5.3

1 INTRODUCTION

This paper focuses on a set of string pattern-matching problems that arise in musical analysis, and especially in musical information retrieval. A musical score can be viewed as a string: at a very rudimentary level, the alphabet could simply be the set of notes in the chromatic or diatonic notation, or the set of intervals that appear between notes (*e.g.* pitch may be represented as MIDI numbers and pitch intervals as number of semitones). Approximate repetitions in one or more musical works play a crucial role in discovering similarities between different musical entities and may be used for establishing "characteristic signatures" (see

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[6]). Such algorithms can be particularly useful for melody identification and musical retrieval.

Both exact and approximate matching techniques have been used for a variety of musical applications (see overviews in McGettrick [23]; Crawford *et al.* [6]; Rolland and Ganascia [28]; Cambouropoulos *et al.* [4]). The specific problem studied in this paper is pattern-matching for numeric strings where a certain tolerance is allowed during the matching procedure. This type of pattern-matching has been considered necessary for various musical applications and has been used by some researchers (see, for instance, Cope [5]). A number of efficient algorithms will be presented in this paper that tackle various aspects of this problem.

Most computer-aided musical applications adopt an absolute numeric pitch representation (most commonly MIDI pitch and pitch intervals in semitones; duration is also encoded in a numeric form). The absolute pitch encoding, however, may be insufficient for applications in tonal music as it disregards tonal qualities of pitches and pitch-intervals (*e.g.* a tonal transposition from a major to a minor key results in a different encoding of the musical passage and thus exact matching cannot detect the similarity between the two passages). One way to account for similarity between closely related but non-identical musical strings is to use what will be referred to as δ-approximate matching (and γ-approximate matching). In δ-approximate matching, equal-length patterns consisting of integers match if each corresponding integer differs by not more than δ— *e.g.* a C-major $\{60, 64, 65, 67\}$ and a C-minor $\{60, 63, 65, 67\}$ sequence can be matched if a tolerance $\delta = 1$ is allowed in the matching process (γ-approximate matching is described in the next section). Two simple musical examples that illustrate the usefulness of the proposed pattern-matching techniques are presented in Appendices I and II.

Exact repetitions have been studied extensively. The repetitions can be either concatenated with the original substring or they may overlap or they may not. Algorithms for finding non-overlapping repetitions in a given string can be found in [1, 8, 15, 18, 21, 26] and algorithms for computing overlapping repetitions can be found in [3, 13, 14, 25]. A natural extension of the repetitions problem is to allow the presence of errors; that is, the identification of substrings that are duplicated to within a certain tolerance k (usually edit distance or Hamming distance). Moreover, the repeated substring may be subject to other constraints: it may be required to be of at least a certain length, and certain positions in it may be required to be invariant.

Furthermore, efficient algorithms for computing the approximate repetitions are also directly applicable to molecular biology (see [11, 17, 24]) and in particular in DNA sequencing by hybridization [27], reconstruction of DNA sequences from known DNA fragments (see [29, 30]), in human organ and bone marrow transplantation as well as the determination of evolutionary trees among distinct species [29].

Another type of repetition that is used in computer assisted music analysis is that of finding evolutionary chains: given a string t (the "text") and a pattern p (the "motif"), find whether there exists a sequence $u_1 = p, u_2, \ldots, u_\ell$ occurring in the text t such that u_{i+1} occurs to the right of u_i in t and u_i and u_{i+1} are "similar" for $1 \le i < \ell$ (*i.e.* they differ by a certain number of symbols). In [9] and [7] algorithms for overlapping and non-overlapping evolutionary chains were presented and several variants of the problem were studied: computing the longest chain, computing the chain with the least number of errors.

The paper is organised as follows. In the next section we present some basic definitions for strings and background notions for approximate matching. In Section 3 we present an algorithm for δ-approximate (the first notion of approximation) pattern matching. In Section 4 we present an algorithm for $\{\delta, \gamma\}$-approximate (the second notion of approximation) pattern matching. In Section 5 we present algorithms for computing all δ and $\{\delta, \gamma\}$-approximate squares in a given text. Finally, in Section 6 we present our conclusions and open problems.

2 BACKGROUND AND BASIC STRING DEFINITIONS

A *string* is a sequence of zero or more symbols from an alphabet Σ; the string with zero symbols is denoted by ϵ. The set of all strings over the alphabet Σ is denoted by Σ^*. A string x of length n is represented by $x_1 \dots x_n$, where $x_i \in \Sigma$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$. A string w is a *substring* of x if $x = uwv$ for $u, v \in \Sigma^*$; we equivalently say that the string w occurs at position $|u| + 1$ of the string x. The position $|u| + 1$ is said to be the *starting position* of w in x and the position $|w| + |u|$ the *end position* of u in x. A string w is a *prefix* of x if $x = wu$ for $u \in \Sigma^*$. Similarly, w is a *suffix* of x if $x = uw$ for $u \in \Sigma^*$.

The string xy is a *concatenation* of two strings x and y. The concatenations of k copies of x is denoted by x^k. For two strings $x = x_1 \dots x_n$ and $y = y_1 \dots y_m$ such that $x_{n-i+1} \dots x_n = y_1 \dots y_i$ for some $i \geq 1$, the string $x_1 \dots x_n y_{i+1} \dots y_m$ is a *superposition* of x and y. We say that x and y *overlap*.

Let x be a string of length n. A prefix $x_1 \dots x_p$, $1 \leq p < n$, of x is a *period* of x if $x_i = x_{i+p}$ for all $1 \leq i \leq n - p$. The *period* of a string x is the shortest period of x. A string y is a *border* of x if y is a prefix and suffix of x.

Let Σ be an alphabet of integers and δ an integer. Two symbols a, b of Σ are said to be δ-approximate, denoted $a =_\delta b$ if and only if

$$|a - b| \leq \delta$$

We say that two strings x, y are δ-approximate, denoted $x \overset{\delta}{=} y$, if and only if

$$|x| = |y|, \text{and } x_i =_\delta \ y_i, \forall i \in \{1..|x|\} \tag{2.1}$$

Let γ be an integer. Two strings x, y are said to be γ-approximate, denoted $x \overset{\gamma}{=} y$ if and only if

$$|x| = |y|, \text{and } \sum_{1}^{|x|} |x_i - y_i| < \gamma \tag{2.2}$$

Furthermore, we say that two strings x, y are $\{\gamma, \delta\}$-approximate, denoted $x \overset{\gamma,\delta}{=} y$, if and only if x and y satisfy conditions (2.1) and (2.2).

3 δ-APPROXIMATE PATTERN MATCHING

The problem of *δ-approximate pattern matching* is formally defined as follows: given a string $t = t_1 \dots t_n$ and a pattern $p = p_1 \dots p_m$ compute all positions j of t such that

$$p \overset{\delta}{=} t[j..j + m - 1]$$

The algorithm is based on the $O(1)$-time computation of the "Delta states" $DState_j, j \in \{1..n\}$ by using bit operations under the assumption that $m \leq w$, where w is the number of bits in a machine word. The basic steps of the algorithm are as follows:

1. First we compute the "Delta table" DT: we set $DT(\alpha) = r$, where α denotes a symbol occurring in t and $r = r_1 \dots r_m$ is a binary word with r_i equal to 1 if $|\alpha - p_i| \leq \delta$, otherwise r_i is equal to 0 for $i \in \{1..m\}$.

2. Let *LeftShift* be a bit-wise operation that shifts the bits of a binary word by one position to the left. We define

$$DState_j = (LeftShift(DState_{j-1}) \text{ OR } 1) \text{ AND } DT[t_j] \tag{3.1}$$

   for $j = 1 \dots n$ and $DState_0 = 0$; hence this procedure is called "SHIFT-AND". Once we have computed the DT table, we can use it to compute the $DState_j$ for $j = 1 \dots n$, using the recursive formula (3.1).
3. We say that there is a δ-approximate match (or simply δ-match) at position $j - m + 1$ if and only if the mth bit of $DState_j$ is 1 or equivalently if and only if $DState_j$, is greater or equal to 2^{m-1} when it is viewed as a decimal integer.

Example For $\Sigma = \{1, \dots, 9\}$ let us consider $p = 3, 4, 6, 2$, $t = 3, 4, 6, 2, 8, 2, 4, 5, 7, 1$ and $\delta = 1$. In the preprocessing table, $DT(\alpha)$ denotes the position where $|\alpha - p_i| \leq \delta$. For example, $DT[3] = 1011$ because $|3 - p_i| \leq 1$ for $i = 1, 2, 4$.

The table below evaluates $DState_j$ using the relation (3.1). For example,

$$\begin{aligned} DState_4 &= (LeftShift(DState_3) \text{ OR } 1) \text{ AND } DT[t_4] \\ &= (LeftShift(0100) \text{ OR } 1) \text{ AND } DT[2] \\ &= (1000 \text{ OR } 1) \text{ AND } 1001 \\ &= 1001 \text{ AND } 1001 \\ &= 1001 \end{aligned}$$

which implies that there is a match starting at position 1 of t, since the 4th bit of $DState_4$ is 1.

A δ-approximate match occurs at position $j - m + 1$ of t if $[DState_j]_{10} \geq 2^{m-1}$, where $[DState_j]_{10}$ denotes the $DState_j$ as a decimal integer. Therefore, there is one match ending at position 4 of t ({3, 4, 6, 2}) and another one at position 10 of t ({4, 5, 7, 1}) since $\{DState_4, DState_{10}\} \geq 2^3$.

TABLE I The table DT for pattern $p = 2, 6, 4, 3$ and alphabet $\Sigma = \{1, \dots, 9\}$.

i	p_i	$DT[1]$	$DT[2]$	$DT[3]$	$DT[4]$	$DT[5]$	$DT[6]$	$DT[7]$	$DT[8]$	$DT[9]$
4	2	**1**	**1**	**1**	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	6	0	0	0	0	**1**	**1**	**1**	0	0
2	4	0	0	**1**	**1**	**1**	0	0	0	0
1	3	0	**1**	**1**	**1**	0	0	0	0	0

TABLE II Computing the *DStates* and finding the δ-approximate matches.

j	*1*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9*	*10*
t_j	3	4	6	2	8	2	4	5	7	1
$LeftShift(DState_{j-1})$ OR 1	0001	0011	0111	1001	0011	0001	0011	0111	1101	1001
$DT[t_j]$	1011	0011	0100	1001	0000	1001	0011	0110	0100	1000
$DState_j$	0001	0011	0100	**1001**	0000	0001	0011	0110	0100	**1000**
$[DState_j]_{10}$	1	3	4	**9**	0	1	3	6	4	**8**

```
1. procedure SHIFT-AND($p$, $t$, $\delta$)  { $n = |t|$, $m = |p|$ }
2. begin
3.    $DT_i[\alpha] \leftarrow \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } |\alpha - p_i| \le \delta \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad \forall i \in \{1..m\},\ \forall \alpha \in \Sigma$
4.    $DState_0 \leftarrow 0$
5.    for $j \leftarrow 1$ to $n$ do
6.       $DState_j \leftarrow (LeftShift(DState_{j-1})$ OR 1 ) AND $DT[t_j]$
7.       if $DState_j \ge 2^{m-1}$ then write $j$-$m$+1
8.    od
9. end
```

FIGURE 1 The SHIFT-AND procedure.

3.1 Pseudo-Code

Figure 1 gives a complete specification of the algorithm. In line 3 we have the preprocessing phase which computes the *DT* table. In line 6 we use the recursive formula to compute the *DStates*. Finally, in line 7 we apply the matching criteria to see whether there is a δ-approximate match or not.

3.2 Running Time

Assuming that the pattern length is no longer than the memory word size of the machine (thus $O(1)$ size), the time complexity of the preprocessing phase is $O(n)$ (since we need to evaluate *DT* only for the symbols that occur in t) and the time complexity of the searching phase is $O(n)$. Figure 2 shows the timing[1] for different text sizes.

4 {δ,γ}-APPROXIMATE PATTERN MATCHING

The problem of $\{\delta,\gamma\}$-*approximate pattern matching* is formally defined as follows: given a string $t = t_1 \dots t_n$ and a pattern $p = p_1 \dots p_m$ compute all positions j of t such that

$$p \overset{\delta,\gamma}{=} t[j..j+m-1]$$

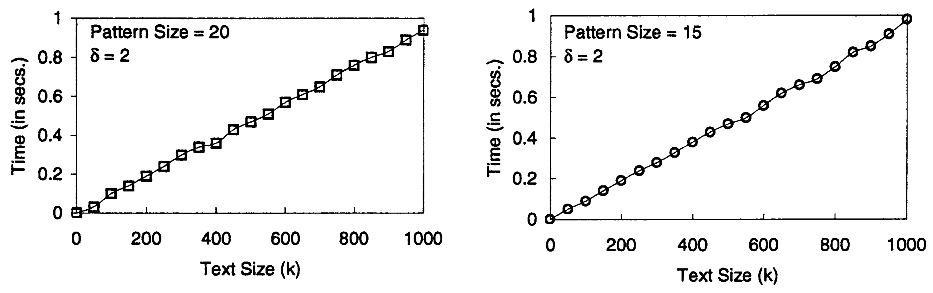

FIGURE 2 Timing curves for the SHIFT-AND procedure.

[1] Using a SUN Ultra Enterprise 300 MHz running Solaris Unix.

In order to solve this problem we first make use of the SHIFT-AND algorithm to find the δ-approximate matches of pattern p in t. Once we find a δ-approximate match we want to know whether it is also a γ-approximate match. To do so, we seek to compute successive "Delta States" $DState_j$ and "Gamma State" $GStates_j$ in $O(1)$ time using bit operations under the assumption that $m \leq w$ where w is the number of bits in a machine word. The main steps of the algorithm are as follows:

1. We need to compute the "Delta Table" DT as we did before and the "Gamma Table" GT table; we set $GT(\alpha) = r$, where α denotes a symbol in the alphabet and $r = r_1 \ldots r_m$ is a word with r_i equal to $|\alpha - p_i|$ if $|\alpha - p_i| \leq \delta$, otherwise r_i is equal to 0 for $i \in \{1..m\}$. Each $r_i, i \in \{1..m\}$ is stored as a binary number of d bits where $d = \lceil \log(\delta \times m) \rceil$.
2. Let *LeftShift* be a bit-wise operation that shifts the bits of a binary word one position to the left and *RightShift* shifts the bits of a binary word d positions to the right. Once we have computed the DT and GT tables, we can use them to compute the $DState_j$ and $GState_j$ for $j = 1 \ldots n$, using the recursive formulas

$$DState_j = (LeftShift(DState_{j-1})\ OR\ 1)\ AND\ DT[t_j] \tag{4.1}$$

$$GState_j = RightShift(GState_{j-1}, d) + GT[t_j] \tag{4.2}$$

   We also need to define the seeds $DState_0 = 0$ and $GState_0 = 0$. We call this procedure "SHIFT-PLUS" because we use the "shift" and "plus" operators to compute a new state.
3. We say that there is a match ($\{\delta,\gamma\}$-approximate match) at position $j - m + 1$ if and only if the mth bit of $DState_j$ is 1 and the m-th block of d bits taken as an integer is $\leq \gamma$.

Example. For our example, let $\Sigma = \{1, \ldots, 9\}$, the pattern $p = 3, 4, 6, 2$, the text $t = 3, 4, 6, 2, 8, 2, 4, 5, 7, 1, \delta = 1$ and $\gamma = 3$. We will use blocks of size 3 ($d = 3$) to store the $|\alpha - p_i|$ value where $|\alpha - p_i| \leq \delta$. For example, $GT[3] = 000100000100$ because $|3 - p_i| \leq 1$ for $i = 1, 2, 4$ and the differences are 0,1,1 respectively (see left hand table of Table III).

TABLE III The left hand side table is the "Gamma Table" GT and the right hand side table is the table for finding $\{\gamma,\delta\}$-approximate matches.

i	p_i	*1*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9*
1	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	4	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

j	*1*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9*	*10*
t_j	3	4	6	2	8	2	4	5	7	1
3	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	1	0	1	**0**	1	0	1	0	0	**0**
	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	0	0	1	**0**
	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	0	0	0	1

```
1.  procedure SHIFT-PLUS($p$, $t$, $\delta$, $\gamma$)   $\{ n = |t|,\ m = |p| \}$
2.  begin
3.      $DT_i[\alpha] \leftarrow \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } |\alpha - p_i| \leq \delta \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$   $\forall i \in \{1..m\}, \forall \alpha \in \Sigma$
4.      $GT_{di-d...di-1}[\alpha] \leftarrow \begin{cases} |\alpha - p_i| & \text{if } DT_i[\alpha] = 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$   $\forall i \in \{1..m\}, \forall \alpha \in \Sigma$
5.      $DState_0 \leftarrow 0$
6.      $GState_0 \leftarrow 0$
7.      for $j \leftarrow 1$ to $n$ do
8.          $DState_j \leftarrow (LeftShift(DState_{j-1})$ OR 1) AND $DT[t_j]$
9.          $GState_j \leftarrow RightShift(GState_{j-1}, d) + GT[t_j]$
10.         if $DState_j \geq 2^{m-1}$ AND $GState_{dm-d...dm-1} \leq \gamma$ then write $j-m+1$
11.     od
12. end
```

FIGURE 3 The SHIFT-PLUS algorithm.

The right hand table above shows the computation of the *DStates* and the *GStates* using (4.2). For example,

$$\begin{aligned} GState_9 &= RightShift(000010010000, 3) + 000000100000 \\ &= 000000010010 + 000000100000 = 000000110010 \end{aligned}$$

We already know that there are two δ-approximate matches ending at positions 4 and 10 of t. Now we can use the last three bits of $GState_4$, and $GState_{10}$ to find out the values of γ, which are 0 and 4 respectively (see right hand table of Table III).

4.1 Pseudo-Code

Figure 3 gives a complete description of the algorithm. In lines 3 and 4 are the preprocessing phase which computes the *DT* table and *GT* table respectively. In lines 8 and 9 we compute the next *DState* and *GState* respectively. Finally, in line 10 we apply the matching criteria to see whether there is a match or not.

4.2 Running Time

Assuming that $\delta \times m \leq 2^d - 1$ the time complexity of the preprocessing phase if $O(\delta \times m + |\Sigma|)$ and the time complexity of the searching phase in $O(n)$, thus independent from the alphabet size and the pattern length. Figure 4 shows the timing for different text sizes.

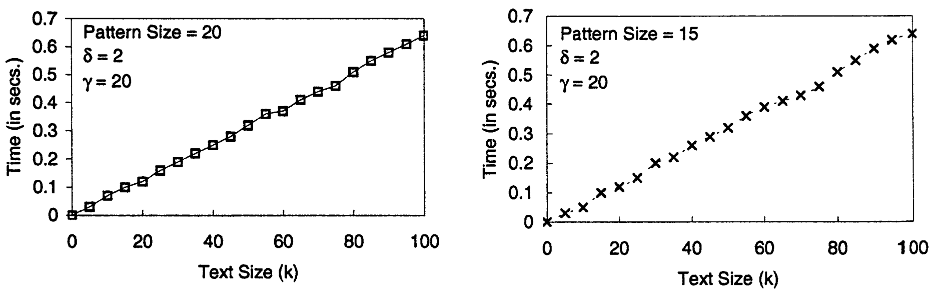

FIGURE 4 Timing curves for the SHIFT-PLUS algorithm.

5 COMPUTING APPROXIMATE SQUARES

The problem of computing all δ-*approximate squares* is formally defined as follows: given a string $t = t_1 \dots t_n$ and an integer δ, compute all positions j of t for which there exists a word u of length m such that

$$t[j..j+m] \overset{\delta}{=} u \text{ and } t[j+m+1..j+2m] \overset{\delta}{=} u$$

where u is said to be the *root* of the square.

The problem of computing all $\{\delta,\gamma\}$-*approximate squares* is formally defined as follows: given a string $t = t_1 \dots t_n$ and two integers δ and γ, compute all positions j of t for which there exists a word u of length m such that

$$t[j..j+m] \overset{\delta,\gamma}{=} u \text{ and } t[j+m+1..j+2m] \overset{\delta,\gamma}{=} u$$

where u is said to be the *root* of the square.

When we look for a square we will run into two possibilities: the root does or does not occur necessarily in the square.

5.1 Consider an Approximate Square such that the Root Occurs in the Square

The diagonal diag(i) corresponds to the pair of positions $(j, j+i)$ and therefore to the candidates for squares of length $2i$. There exists an approximate square of length $2i$ at position j if there exists a run of values not greater than δ of length at least i on the diagonal diag(i) starting at position j.

For example, consider diag(2) (see Table IV) and $\delta = 1$. We are trying to locate runs of length at least 2 containing only values not greater than $\delta = 1$. We obtain:

Position	Square	Roots
14	(2, 3, 1, 4)	(2, 3) or (1, 4)

TABLE IV Table for computing approximate squares.

	i	*1*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9*	*10*	*11*	*12*	*13*	*14*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*18*	*19*	
		2	− 3	− 5	4	− 1	− 7	1	− 5	− 5	3	− 3	1	1	2	3	1	4	5	7	
j																					
1	2	0	5	**7**	2	3	9	1	7	7	1	5	1	1	0	1	1	2	3	5	diag(18)
2	− 3	—	0	2	**7**	2	4	4	2	2	6	0	4	4	5	6	4	7	8	10	diag(17)
3	− 5	—	—	0	9	**4**	2	6	0	0	8	2	6	6	7	8	6	9	10	12	diag(16)
4	4	—	—	—	0	5	**11**	3	9	9	1	7	3	3	2	1	3	0	1	3	diag(15)
5	− 1	—	—	—	—	0	6	**2**	4	4	4	2	2	2	3	4	2	5	6	8	diag(14)
6	− 7	—	—	—	—	—	0	8	**2**	2	10	4	8	8	9	10	8	11	12	14	diag(13)
7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	6	**6**	2	4	0	0	1	2	0	3	4	8	diag(12)
8	− 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0	**8**	2	6	6	7	8	6	9	10	12	diag(11)
9	− 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	8	**2**	6	6	7	8	6	9	10	12	diag(10)
10	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	6	**2**	2	1	0	2	1	2	4	diag(9)
11	− 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	4	**4**	5	6	4	7	8	10	diag(8)
12	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0	**1**	2	0	3	4	6	diag(7)
13	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	1	**2**	0	3	4	6	diag(6)
14	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	1	**1**	2	3	5	diag(5)
15	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	2	**1**	2	4	diag(4)
16	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	3	**4**	6	diag(3)
17	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	1	**3**	**diag(2)**
18	5 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	2	diag(1)
19	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	diag(0)

For this example we only have a δ-approximate square starting at position 14 which root can be either (2,3) or (1,4). Note that the roots certainly occur in the square.

5.2 Consider an Approximate Square such that the Root does not Occur Necessarily in the String

We say that there exists an approximate square of length $2i$ at position j if there exists a run of values not greater than 2δ of length at least i on the diagonal diag(i) starting at position j. In other words, we are using 2δ instead of δ.

For example, consider diag(2) (see Table IV) and $\delta = 1$. We are trying to locate runs of length at least 2 containing only values not greater than $2\delta = 2$. We obtain:

Position	Square	Roots
5	$(-1, -7, 1, -5)$	$(0, -6)$
9	$(-5, 3, -3, 1)$	$(-4, 2)$
12	$(1, 1, 2, 3)$	$(1, 2)$ or $(2, 2)$
13	$(1, 2, 3, 1)$	$(2, 1)$ or $(2, 2)$
14	$(2, 3, 1, 4)$	$(1, 3)$, $(1, 4)$, $(2, 3)$ or $(2, 4)$

Furthermore, consider diag(3) and $\delta = 1$. We are trying to locate runs of length at least 3 containing only values not greater than $2\delta = 2$. We obtain:

Position	Square	Roots
1	$(2, -3, -5, 4, -1, -7)$	$(3, -2, -6)$
6	$(-7, 1, -5, -5, 3, -3)$	$(-6, 2, -4)$
12	$(1, 1, 2, 3, 1, 4)$	$(2, 0, 3)$, $(2, 1, 3)$ or $(2, 2, 3)$
13	$(1, 2, 3, 1, 4, 5)$	$(0, 3, 4)$, $(1, 3, 4)$ or $(2, 3, 4)$

In those cases where we want to consider a $\{\delta,\gamma\}$-approximate square we just check each δ-approximate match to see if it is also a $\{\delta,\gamma\}$-approximate square.

In the last example we will like to consider $\delta = 1$ and $\gamma = 4$. This means that we are trying to locate runs of length at least 2 containing only values not greater than $2\delta = 2$ but with $\gamma \leq 4$. We obtain:

Position	Square	Roots	γ
12	$(1, 1, 2, 3, 1, 4)$	$(2, 0, 3)$, $(2, 1, 3)$ or $(2, 2, 3)$	4
13	$(1, 2, 3, 1, 4, 5)$	$(0, 3, 4)$, $(1, 3, 4)$ or $(2, 3, 4)$	4

5.3 Pseudo-Code

Figure 5 gives the algorithm that solves the δ-approximation square problem. Figure 6 gives the algorithm that solves the $\{\delta,\gamma\}$-approximation square problem.

5.4 Running Time

The complexity of these algorithms is easily seen to be $O(n^2)$. Figure 7 shows the timing for different text sizes.

```
procedure DeltaSquares($t$, $\delta$)   { $n = |t|$ }
begin
   for $diag \leftarrow 2$ to $n/2$ do
      i $\leftarrow 0$; $dsum \leftarrow 0$
      for $j \leftarrow diag$ to $n$ do
         $diff \leftarrow |t[i] - t[j]|$
         if $diff \leq \delta$ then $dsum \leftarrow dsum + 1$
         else $dsum \leftarrow 0$
         if $dsum \geq diag$ then write $j - 2 * diag + 2$
         $i \leftarrow i + 1$
      od
   od
end
```

FIGURE 5 The DeltaSquares algorithm.

```
procedure DeltaGammaSquares($t$, $\delta$, $\gamma$)   { $n = |t|$ }
begin
   for $diag \leftarrow 2$ to $n/2$ do
      i $\leftarrow 0$; $dsum \leftarrow 0$; $gsum \leftarrow 0$
      for $j \leftarrow diag$ to $n$ do
         $diff \leftarrow |t[i] - t[j]|$
         if $diff \leq \delta$ then
         begin
            $dsum \leftarrow dsum + 1$
            $gsum \leftarrow gsum + diff$
            if $dsum > diag$ then $gsum \leftarrow gsum - |t[i - diag] - t[j - diag]|$
         end
         else
         begin
            $dsum \leftarrow 0$; $gsum \leftarrow 0$
         end
         if $dsum \geq diag$ AND $gsum \leq g$ then write $j - 2 * diag + 2$
         $i \leftarrow i + 1$
      od
   od
end
```

FIGURE 6 The DeltaGammaSquares algorithm.

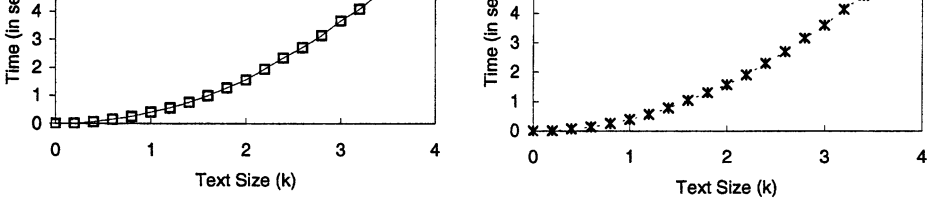

FIGURE 7 Timing curves for $\{\delta,\gamma\}$-approximate squares.

6 CONCLUSION AND OPEN PROBLEMS

The running time of the computation of δ-approximate squares can be reduced to $O(n \log n)$; A theoretical algorithm is presented in [16] that shadows the Main and Lorentz algorithm [21].

The following two problems are still open:

Problem 1. Given a string $t = t_1 \dots t_n$ and two integers m and δ, compute all positions j of t, that there exists a string $\hat{t}$ such that

$$\begin{gathered} t[j..j+m] \overset{\delta}{=} \hat{t} \\ t[j+m+1..j+2m] \overset{\delta}{=} \hat{t} \\ \dots \\ t[j+\ell m+1..j+(\ell+1)m] \overset{\delta}{=} \hat{t} \end{gathered}$$

Problem 2. Given a string $t = t_1 \dots t_n$ and three integers m, δ and γ, compute all positions j of t, that there exists a string $\hat{t}$ such that

$$\begin{gathered} t[j..j+m] \overset{\delta,\gamma}{=} \hat{t} \\ t[j+m+1..j+2m] \overset{\delta,\gamma}{=} \hat{t} \\ \dots \\ t[j+\ell m+1..j+(\ell+1)m] \overset{\delta,\gamma}{=} \hat{t} \end{gathered}$$

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