

Approximate string matching in the high-throughput sequencing era

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Abstract

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1.1 Motivation

This work has been motivated by recent advances of molecular genetics. The human genome has been sequenced in 2001. Also mouse, drosophila, etc. Nowadays # reference model genomes are available in genbank.

Next-generation sequencing has been the second revolution. NGS produces billions of reads for 1000\$ dollars. Why should one re-sequence a known genome? Resequencing applications include variant calling, etc. So NGS impacts biomedicine.

Given a set of reads, two approaches are possible: assembly and mapping.

Assembly methods are based on overlaps, de brujin graphs, or...

Read mapping methods work on a previously assembled reference genome.

The typical SNPs analysis pipeline 1.1 consists of...

In this work we focus on read mapping, although many core algorithms considered are also applicable to assembly, as well as to later pipeline stages.

Figure 1.1: NGS pipeline.

- Plan A: de-novo assembly
- Plan B: reference mapping
- Plan C: reference guided de-novo assembly

1.2 Manuscript organization

Part I

APPROXIMATE STRING MATCHING

We now introduce fundamental definitions and problems of stringology, in order to keep the manuscript self-contained. The reader familiar with basic stringology can skip this section and proceed to section ??.

2.1 Definitions

Let us start by defining primitive objects of stringology: alphabets and strings. An alphabet is a finite set of symbols (or characters); a string (or word) over an alphabet is a finite sequence of symbols from that alphabet. We denote the length of a string s by $|s|$, and by ϵ the empty string s.t. $|\epsilon| = 0$. Given an alphabet Σ , we define $\Sigma^0 = \{\epsilon\}$ as the set containing the empty string, Σ^n as the set of all strings over Σ of length n , and $\Sigma^* = \bigcup_{n=0}^{\infty} \Sigma^n$ as the set of all strings over Σ . Finally, we call any subset of Σ^* a language over Σ .

We now define concatenation, the most fundamental operation on strings. The concatenation operator of two strings is denoted with \cdot and defined as $\cdot : \Sigma^* \times \Sigma^* \rightarrow \Sigma^*$. Given two strings, $x \in \Sigma^m$ with $x = x_1x_2 \dots x_m$, and $y \in \Sigma^n$ with $y = y_1y_2 \dots y_n$, their concatenation $x \cdot y$ (or simply denoted xy) is the string $z \in \Sigma^{m+n}$ consisting of the symbols $x_1x_2 \dots x_my_1y_2 \dots y_n$.

From concatenation we can derive the notion of prefix, suffix, and substring. A string x is a prefix of y iff there is some string z s.t. $y = x \cdot z$. Analogously, x is a suffix of y iff there is some string z s.t. $y = z \cdot x$. Moreover, x is a substring of y iff there is some string w, z s.t. $y = w \cdot x \cdot z$, and then we say that x occurs within y at position $|w|$.

Example 2.1. These definitions allow us to model basic biological sequences. Let us consider the alphabet consisting of DNA bases: $\Sigma = \{A, C, G, T\}$. Examples of strings over Σ are $x = A$, $y = AGGTAC$, $z = TA$. For instance, $y \in \Sigma^6$ and $|y| = 6$. Moreover, the concatenation $x \cdot z$ produces ATA . The string x is a prefix of y , and the string z is a substring of y occurring at position 4 in y .

2.2 Alignments

The next step is to define the minimal set of edit operations to transform one string into another: substitutions, insertions and deletions. Given two strings x, y of equal length n , the string x can be transformed into the string y by substituting (or replacing) all symbols

x_i s.t. $x_i \neq y_i$ into y_i , for $1 \leq i \leq n$. If the given strings have different lengths, insertion and deletion of symbols from x become necessary to transform it into y . Therefore, given any two strings x, y , we define as edit transcript for x, y any finite sequence of substitutions, insertions and deletions transforming x into y . See Figure 2.1 for an example.

Figure 2.1: Example of edit transcript transforming the string $x = AAAA$ into $y = CCCC$. The transcript character M indicates a match, R a replacement, I an insertion, and D a deletion.



An alignment is an alternative yet equivalent way of visualizing a transformation between strings. While an edit transcript provides an explicit sequence of edit operations transforming one string into another, an alignment relates pairs of corresponding symbols between two strings. Because some symbols in one string are not related to any symbol in the other string, i.e. some symbols are inserted or removed, we first need to introduce a gap symbol $-$, which is not part of the string alphabet Σ . Subsequently, we can define the alignment of two strings of length m, n over Σ to be a string of length between $\min\{m, n\}$ and $m + n$ over the pair alphabet $(\Sigma \cup \{-\}) \times (\Sigma \cup \{-\})$.

Example 2.2. An alignment of the strings $x = AAAA$ and $y = CCCC$ is given by the string $z = \binom{A}{A} \binom{A}{-} \binom{A}{C} \binom{G}{G}$

A dotplot is a way to visualize any alignment between two strings and highlight their similarities. Given two string x, y of length m, n , a dotplot is a $m \times n$ matrix containing a dot at position (i, j) iff the symbol x_i matches symbol y_j . We define a dotplot trace to be a monotonical path in the matrix connecting non-decreasing positions of the matrix. A dotplot trace corresponds to an alignment and vice versa. In a trace, match and mismatch columns of the corresponding alignment appear as diagonal stretches, while insertions and deletions are horizontal or vertical stretches. See Figure ??.

2.3 Distance functions

We can assign a cost to any alignment and to its associated edit transformation by defining a weight function $\omega : (\Sigma \cup \{-\}) \times (\Sigma \cup \{-\}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$, where:

- $\omega(\alpha, \beta)$ for all $(\alpha, \beta) \in \Sigma \times \Sigma$ defines the cost of substituting α with β ,
- $\omega(\alpha, -)$ for all $\alpha \in \Sigma$ defines the cost of deleting the symbol α ,
- $\omega(-, \beta)$ for all $\beta \in \Sigma$ defines the cost of inserting the symbol β ,

Figure 2.2: Example of dotplot of the strings $x = AAAA$ and $y = CCCC$. The highlighted trace corresponds to the alignment of Example 2.2.



and by defining the total cost $C(z)$ of an alignment z between two strings as the sum of the weights of all its alignment symbols:

$$C(z) = \sum_{i=0}^{|z|} \omega(z_i) \quad (2.1)$$

Consequently, we can define the distance function $d : \Sigma^* \times \Sigma^* \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$ by taking the minimum cost over all possible alignments of x, y :

$$d(x, y) = \sum_{z \in \mathcal{A}(x, y)} C(z) \quad (2.2)$$

In particular, the edit or *Levenshtein distance* between two strings $x, y \in \Sigma^*$ is defined as the function $d_E : \Sigma^* \times \Sigma^* \rightarrow \mathbb{N}_0$ counting the *minimum* number of edit operation necessary to transform x into y . It is obtained by defining for all $(\alpha, \beta) \in \Sigma \times \Sigma$, $\omega(\alpha, \beta) = 1$ iff $\alpha \neq \beta$ and 0 otherwise, and $\omega(\alpha, -)$ and $\omega(-, \beta)$ as 1. The *Hamming distance* between two strings $x, y \in \Sigma^n$ is defined as the function $d_H : \Sigma^n \times \Sigma^n \rightarrow \mathbb{N}_0$ counting the number of substitutions necessary to transform x into y . We obtain it by defining $\omega(\alpha, \beta)$ as in the edit distance, and by setting all $\omega(\alpha, -)$ and $\omega(-, \beta)$ to be ∞ in order to disallow indels.

Example 2.3. TODO: example of edit and hamming distance.

2.4 Optimal alignments

The problem of finding an optimal alignment between two strings is equivalent to the problem of finding their minimum distance [Gusfield, 1997]. A solution to this optimization problem can be efficiently computed via dynamic programming (DP). Below we describe the three essential components of the DP approach: the recurrence relation, the DP table, and the traceback.

Given two strings x, y of length m, n , for all $1 \leq i \leq m$ and $1 \leq j \leq n$ we define with $d(x_{1..i}, y_{1..j})$ the distance between their prefixes $x_{1..i}$ and $y_{1..j}$. The base conditions of the recurrence relation are:

$$d(\epsilon, \epsilon) = 0 \quad (2.3)$$

$$d(x_{1..i}, \epsilon) = \sum_{l=1}^i \omega(x_l, -) \text{ for all } 1 \leq i \leq m \quad (2.4)$$

$$d(\epsilon, y_{1..j}) = \sum_{l=1}^j \omega(-, y_l) \text{ for all } 1 \leq j \leq n \quad (2.5)$$

and the recursive case is defined as follows:

$$d(x_{1..i}, y_{1..j}) = \min \begin{cases} d(x_{1..i-1}, y_{1..j}) & + \omega(x_i, -) \\ d(x_{1..i}, y_{1..j-1}) & + \omega(-, y_j) \\ d(x_{1..i-1}, y_{1..j-1}) & + \omega(x_i, y_j) \end{cases} \quad (2.6)$$

We can compute the above recurrence relation in time $\mathcal{O}(nm)$ using a dynamic programming table D of $(m+1) \times (n+1)$ cells, where cell $D[i, j]$ stores the value of $d(x_{1..i}, y_{1..j})$. The sole distance without any alignment can be computed in space $\mathcal{O}(\min\{n, m\})$, as we only need column $D[: j - 1]$ to compute column $D[: j]$ (or row $D[i - 1 :]$ to compute $D[i :]$) and we can fill the table D either column-wise or row-wise¹. An optimal alignment can be computed in time $\mathcal{O}(m + n)$ via *traceback* on the table D : We start in the cell $D[m, n]$ and go backwards (either left, up-left, or up) to the previous cell by deciding which condition of Equation 2.6 yielded the value of $D[m, n]$.

Figure 2.3: DP table representing the computation of the edit distance $d_E(x_{1..5}, y_{1..4})$.

ϵ	C	G	C	A	N	A	T	A	T	C	A	G		
ϵ	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
C	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9				
G	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9				
G	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9				
C	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9				
A	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9				
A	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	•				
T														
T														
C														
A														
G														

2.5 String matching

We can now define *exact string matching*, perhaps the most fundamental problem in stringology. Given a string p (with $|p| = m$) called the *pattern* and a longer string t (with

¹ Note that D can be filled also diagonal-wise or antidiagonal-wise.

$|t| = n$) called the *text*, the exact string matching problem is to find all occurrences, if any, of pattern p into text t [Gusfield, 1997]. This problem has been extensively studied from the theoretical standpoint and is well solved in practice.

The definition of distance functions between strings let us generalize exact string matching into a more challenging problem: *approximate string matching*. Given a text t , a pattern p , and a *distance threshold* $k \in \mathbb{N}$, the approximate string matching (a.s.m.) problem is to find all occurrences of p into t within distance k . The a.s.m. problem under the Hamming distance is commonly referred as the *k-mismatches* problem and under the edit distance as the *k-differences* problem. For *k-mismatches* and *k-differences*, it must hold $k > 0$ as the case $k = 0$ corresponds to exact string matching, and $k < m$ as a pattern occurs at any position in the text if we substitute all its m characters. Under these distances, we define the *error rate* as $\epsilon = \frac{k}{m}$, with $0 < \epsilon < 1$ given the above conditions, and we alternatively refer to these a.s.m. problems as ϵ -mismatches and ϵ -differences.

We can classify string matching problems in two categories, *online* and *offline*, depending on which string, the pattern or the text, is given first. Algorithms for online string matching work by preprocessing the pattern and scanning the text from left to right (or right to left); their worst-case runtime complexity ranges from $\mathcal{O}(nm)$ to $\mathcal{O}(n)$ while their worst-case memory complexity ranges from $\mathcal{O}(\sigma^k m^k)$ to $\mathcal{O}(m)$. Algorithms for offline string matching are instead allowed to preprocess the text; their worst-case runtime complexity ranges from $\mathcal{O}(m)$ to $\mathcal{O}(\sigma^k m^k)$ while their worst-case memory complexity is usually $\mathcal{O}(n)$. In practice, if the text is long, static and searched frequently, offline methods largely outperform online methods in terms of runtime, provided the necessary amount of memory. Therefore, we concentrate on offline algorithms.

We can subdivide algorithms for offline string matching in two categories: *fully-indexed* and *filtering*. Fully-indexed algorithms work solely on the index of the text, while filtering methods first use the index to discard uninteresting portions of the text and subsequently use an online method to verify narrow areas of the text. Filtering methods outperform fully-indexed methods for a vast range of inputs² and are thus very interesting from a practical standpoint. Nonetheless, filtering methods are just opportunistic combinations of online and fully-indexed methods.

In the following of this section we thus give a brief and non-exhaustive overview of the fundamental techniques for online and (both fully-indexed and filtering) offline string matching. This overview serves as an introduction to the more involved algorithms presented in chapter ?? and directly used in applications of part ?. For an extensive treatment of the subject, we refer the reader to complete surveys on exact [Faro and Lecroq, 2013] and approximate [Navarro, 2001] online string matching methods, as well as to a succinct survey on indexed methods [Navarro *et al.*, 2001].

2.5.1 Online methods

We consider two classes of algorithms for online string matching, those based on automata and those based on dynamic programming.

² When the error rate is low.

Automata

Exact search of one pattern. Knuth-Morris-Pratt automaton.

Exact search of multiple patterns. Aho-corasick automaton.

Approximate search of one pattern. Ukkonen automaton.

Dynamic programming

The dynamic programming algorithm ?? to compute the distance of two strings can be easily turned into a string matching algorithm. Since an occurrence of the pattern can start and end anywhere in the text, a.s.m. consists of computing the edit distance between the pattern and all substrings of the text. The problem can be thus solved by computing the edit distance between the text and the pattern without penalizing leading and trailing deletions in the text.

We pose $x = p$ and $y = t$ and consider Equation 2.6. Since an occurrence of the pattern can start anywhere in the text, we change the initialization of the top row $D[0 :]$ of the DP matrix according to the condition:

$$d(\epsilon, y_{1..j}) = 0 \text{ for all } 1 \leq j \leq n \quad (2.7)$$

and since an occurrence of the pattern can end anywhere in the text, we check all cells $D[m, j]$ for all $1 \leq j \leq n$ in the bottom row of D for the condition $D[m, j] \leq k$.

Figure 2.4: DP table representing the match of $p = \dots$ in $t = \dots$

	ϵ	C	G	C	A	N	A	T	A	T	C	A	G	A	A	A
ϵ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C	1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9						
G	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9						
G	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9						
C	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9						
A	5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9						
A	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	•						

2.5.2 Indexed methods

No matter how efficient online methods can be, these approaches quickly become impractical when the text is long and searched frequently. If the text is static and given in advance, we are allowed to preprocess it. Therefore we build an index of the text beforehand and use it to speed up subsequent searches. To this intent we introduce the *suffix tree*, an optimal data structure to index all substrings of a text. We take the suffix tree as an idealized data structure to elegantly expose our indexed algorithms solving string matching problems. In chapter ?? we will consider other substring indices to replace the suffix tree in practice.

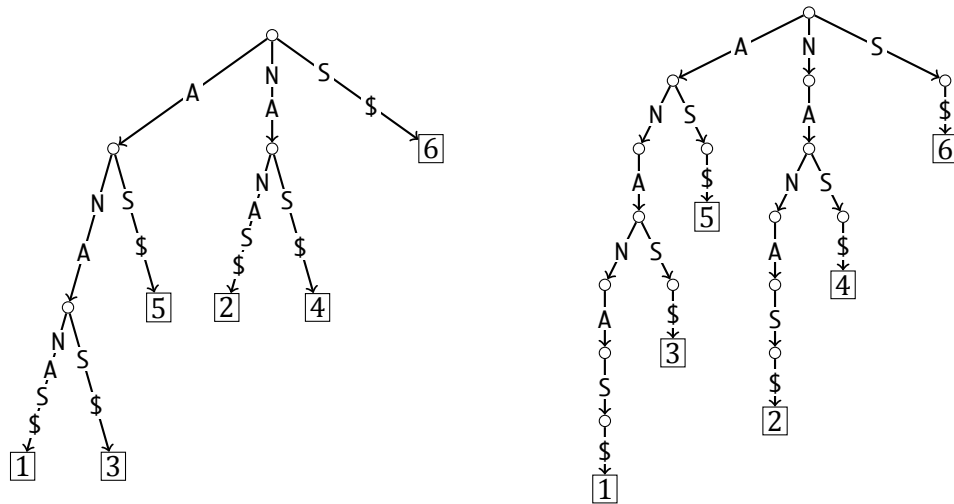
Trie

Suffix tree and suffix trie

The suffix tree [Morrison, 1968] is a lexicographically ordered tree data structure representing all suffixes of a string. Assume w.l.o.g. a string s of length n , padded with a *terminator symbol* $\$$ not being part of the string alphabet Σ^3 . The suffix tree \mathcal{S} of the string s has one node designated as the root and n leaves, each one pointing to a distinct suffix of s , denoted as $l_1 \dots l_n$. Each internal node has more than one child, and each edge is labeled with a non-empty substring of s . Each path from the root to a leaf l_i spells the suffix $s_{i..n}$. Figure 2.5 illustrates.

In the following of this manuscript we consider w.l.o.g. *suffix tries* instead of suffix trees. On suffix tries, internal nodes can have only one child and each edge is labeled by one single character (see Figure ??). This fact simplifies the exposition of all given algorithms without affecting their runtime complexity nor their result. However, we remark that all given algorithms can be generalized to work on trees.

Figure 2.5: Suffix tree and suffix trie for the string ANANAS.



Therefore, from now on we assume the text t to be indexed using a suffix trie \mathcal{T} . Given a node x of \mathcal{T} , we denote with $label(x)$ the label of the edge entering into x , with $\mathbb{C}(x)$ the set of children of x being internal nodes, with $\mathbb{E}(x)$ the set of children of x being leaves, and with $\mathbb{L}(x)$ the set of all leaves of the subtree rooted in x . We remark that entering edges of internal nodes in $\mathbb{C}(x)$ are always labeled with symbols in Σ , while entering edges of leaves in $\mathbb{L}(x)$ and $\mathbb{E}(x)$ are always labeled with terminator symbols.

Exact string matching

Using the suffix trie \mathcal{T} of the text t , we can find all occurrences of a pattern p into t in optimal time $\mathcal{O}(m)$, thus independently of n . Algorithm 2.1 searches a pattern p by starting in the root node of \mathcal{T} and following the path spelling the pattern. If the search ends

³ The terminator symbol is necessary to ensure that no suffix $s_{i..n}$ is a prefix of another suffix $s_{j..n}$.

up in a node x , each leaf $l_i \in \mathbb{L}(x)$ points to a distinct suffix $t_{i..n}$ such that $t_{i..i+m} = p$. Algorithm 2.1 is correct since each path from the root to any internal node of the suffix trie \mathcal{T} spells a different unique substring of t ; consequently all equal substrings of t are represented by a single common path.

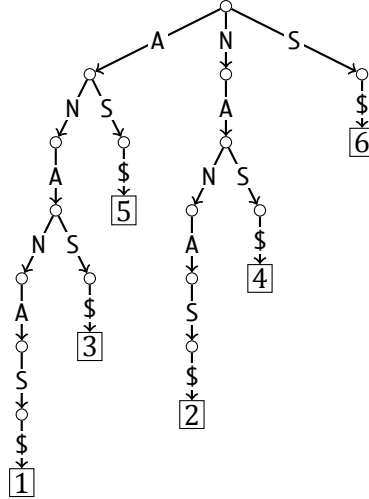
Algorithm 2.1 Exact string matching on a suffix trie.

```

1: procedure EXACTSEARCH( $x, p$ )
2:   if  $p = \epsilon$  then
3:     report  $\mathbb{L}(x)$ 
4:   else if  $\exists c_x \in \mathbb{C}(x) : \text{label}(c_x) = p_1$  then
5:     EXACTSEARCH( $c_x, p_{2..|p|}$ )

```

Figure 2.6: Exact string matching on a suffix tree. The pattern NA is searched exactly in the text ANANAS.



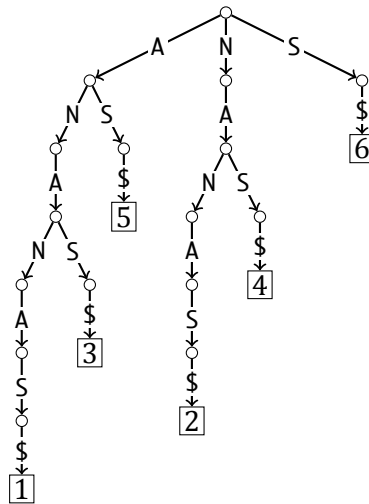
Backtracking k -mismatches

We can solve k -mismatches by backtracking [Ukkonen, 1993; Baeza-Yates and Gonnet, 1999] on the suffix trie \mathcal{T} , in average time sublinear in n [Navarro and Baeza-Yates, 2000]. A top-down traversal on \mathcal{T} spells incrementally all distinct substrings of t . While traversing each branch of the trie, we incrementally compute the distance between the query and the spelled string. If the computed distance exceeds k , we stop the traversal and proceed on the next branch. Conversely, if we completely spelled the pattern p and we ended up in a node x , each leaf $l_i \in \mathbb{L}(x)$ points to a distinct suffix $t_{i..n}$ such that $d_H(t_{i..i+m}, p) \leq k$. See algorithm 2.2.

```

1: procedure KMISMATCHES( $x, p, e$ )
2:   if  $e = 0$  then
3:     EXACTSEARCH( $x, p$ )
4:   else
5:     for all  $c_x \in \mathbb{C}(x)$  do
6:       if  $\text{label}(c_x) = p_1$  then
7:         KMISMATCHES( $c_x, p_{2..|p|}, e$ )
8:       else
9:         KMISMATCHES( $c_x, p_{2..|p|}, e - 1$ )

```



Backtracking k -differences

In algorithm 2.4, any online method can be used to compute the edit distance. However, for theoretical considerations, it is important to consider an algorithm which computes in $\mathcal{O}(1)$ per node. Note that it is sufficient to have an algorithm capable of checking whether the current edit distance is within the imposed threshold k .

2.5.3 Filtering methods

Algorithm 2.3 k -differences on a suffix trie.

```

1: procedure KDIFFERENCES( $x, p, e$ )
2:   if  $e = 0$  then
3:     EXACTSEARCH( $x, p$ )
4:   else
5:     KDIFFERENCES( $x, p_{2..|p|}, e - 1$ )
6:     for all  $c_x \in \mathbb{C}(x)$  do
7:       KDIFFERENCES( $c_x, p, e - 1$ )
8:       if  $\text{label}(c_x) = p_1$  then
9:         KDIFFERENCES( $c_x, p_{2..|p|}, e$ )
10:      else
11:        KDIFFERENCES( $c_x, p_{2..|p|}, e - 1$ )

```

Algorithm 2.4 k -difference on a suffix trie.

```

1: procedure KDIFFERENCES( $x, p, e$ )
2:   for all  $c_x \in \mathbb{C}(x)$  do
3:     KDIFFERENCES( $c_x, p_{2..|p|}, e - d_E(\text{repr}(x), p)$ )

```

the text can be quickly discarded, while narrow and highly similar portions can be verified with a conventional online method. We remark that any filtering method can either work in an online fashion or take advantage of an index of the text to speed up the filtration phase. Here we always consider the filtration phase to be indexed.

Filtering methods work under the assumption that given patterns occur in the text with a *low average probability*. Such probability is a function of the error rate ϵ , in addition to the alphabet size σ , and can be computed or estimated under the assumption of the text being generated by a specific random source. Under the uniform Bernoulli model, where each symbol of Σ occurs with probability $\frac{1}{\sigma}$, Navarro and Baeza-Yates [2000] estimates that $\epsilon < 1 - \frac{1}{\sigma}$ is a conservative bound on the error rate which ensures few matches, and for which filtering algorithms are effective. For higher error rates, non-filtering online and indexed methods work better.

We call a filter *lossless* or *full-sensitive* if it guarantees not to discard any occurrence of the pattern, otherwise we call it *lossy*. Lossy filters can be designed to solve approximately ϵ -differences. We focus our attention on lossless filters.

We now consider two classes of filtering methods: those based on *seeds* and those based on *q-grams*. Filters based on seeds partition the pattern into *non-overlapping* factors called seeds. We can derive full-sensitive partitioning strategies by application of the pigeonhole principle. Instead, filters based on *q-grams* consider all *overlapping* substrings of the pattern having length q , the so-called *q-grams*. Eventually, simple lemmas gives us lower bounds on the number of *q-grams* that must be present in a narrow window of the text as necessary condition for an occurrence of the pattern.

Seed filters

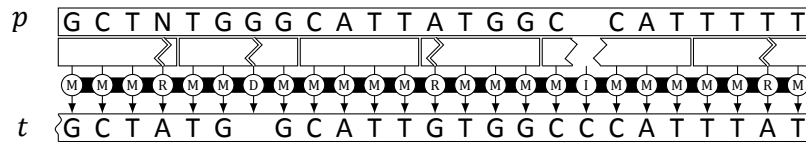
We start by considering the case of two arbitrary strings x, y s.t. $d_E(x, y) \leq k$. If we partition w.l.o.g. y into $k + 1$ non-overlapping seeds, then at least one seed will occur as a factor of x .

Lemma 2.1. [Baeza-Yates and Navarro, 1999] Let x, y be two strings s.t. $d_E(x, y) = k$ for some $k \in \mathbb{N}_0$. If $y = y^1 y^2 \dots y^{k+1}$ then $x = ay^i b$ for some a, b .

Proof. We proceed by induction on k . For $k = 0$, the string y is partitioned into only one factor, y itself. The condition $d_E(x, y) = 0$ implies $x = y$, which is true for $a = \epsilon$ and $b = \epsilon$. We suppose the case $k = j - 1$ to be true, thus since $d_E(x, y) = j - 1$ and $y = y^1 y^2 \dots y^j$ then $x = ay^i b$ for some a, b . We consider the case $k = j$. The j -th error can be in (i) $y^1 \dots y^{i-1}$, (ii) y^i , or (iii) $y^{i+1} \dots y^j$. In case i or iii, $x = ay^i b$ clearly holds. In case ii, if we partition y^i in two factors $y^{i'}$ and $y^{i''}$, then either $x = ay^{i'} b'$ or $x = a'y^{i''} b$. \square

Thus, we solve k -differences by partitioning the pattern into $k + 1$ seeds and searching all seeds into the text, e.g. with the help of a substring index. Figure 2.8 shows an example. Note that we are reducing one approximate search into many smaller exact searches. As Lemma 2.1 gives us a necessary but not sufficient condition, we must verify whether any candidate location induced by an occurrence of some seed corresponds to an approximate occurrence of the pattern in the text. Thus, we verify any substring s of the text of length $m - k \leq |s| \leq m + k$ containing one seed of p .

Figure 2.8: Filtration with exact seeds.



How many verifications we expect to have?

$$p_\alpha = \frac{1}{\sigma} \text{ for all } \alpha \in \Sigma \quad (2.8)$$

$$\Pr(H > 0) = \frac{1}{\sigma^q} \quad (2.9)$$

$$E(H) = \sum_{i=1}^{n-q+1} \Pr(H > 0) = \frac{n - q + 1}{\sigma^q} \leq \frac{n}{\sigma^q} \quad (2.10)$$

$$E(V) = (k + 1) \cdot E(H) < \frac{n(k + 1)}{\sigma^q} \quad (2.11)$$

Which is the runtime of the algorithm?

How to choose the partitioning? Which length of q makes filtration lossless? $q = \lfloor \frac{m}{k+1} \rfloor$.

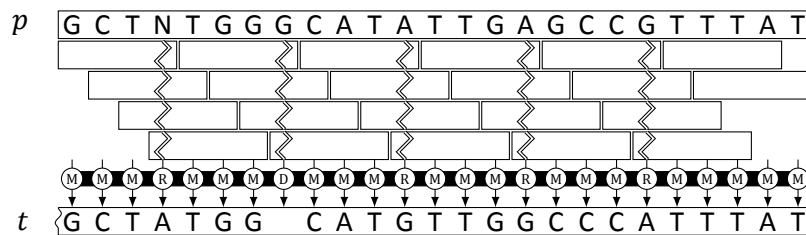
Lemma 2.2. [?] Let x, y be two strings with edit distance k and $\min\{|x|, |y|\} = m$, then x and y have q -gram similarity $\tau_q(m, k) \geq m - q + 1 - kq$.

☐

How can we use this result to solve approximate string matching? The lemma itself does not give us the direct solution, indeed it considers the edit distance between two arbitrary strings, while in a.s.m. the pattern can match any substring of the text. In the case of Hamming distance, if the pattern matches any substring s of t , then s must have length m . In the case of edit distance, it must hold $m - k \leq |s| \leq m + k$. The dot-plot representation helps us to visualize this concept. Hamming distance occurrences cover one single diagonal of the dot-plot, while edit distance occurrences are enclosed inside a parallelogram of side $2k + 1$.

We can design a filtration algorithm that scans the text and counts how many q -grams of the pattern falls into each parallelograms. Only the parallelograms exceeding the threshold $\tau_q(m, k)$ have to be verified with an online method, e.g. standard DP. To speed up the filtration phase, the q -grams can be counted with the help of a substring index.

Figure 2.9: Filtration with q -grams.



⁴ Thus it relates q -gram similarity also to Hamming distance.

3.1 Banded Myers' bit-vector algorithm

3.2 Increased bit-parallelism using SIMD instructions

Suffix trees are elegant data structures but they are rarely used in practice. Although suffix trees provides optimal construction and query time, their high space consumption prohibits practical applicability to large text collections. A practical study on suffix trees [Kurtz, 1999] considers efficient implementations achieving sizes between $12n$ and $20n$ bytes per character. For instance, two years before completing the sequencing of the human genome, Kurtz conjectured the resources required for computing the suffix tree for the complete human genome (consisting of about $3 \cdot 10^9$ bp) in 45.31 GB of memory and nine hours of CPU time, and concluded that “it seems feasible to compute the suffix tree for the entire human genome on some computers”.

We might be tempted to think that such memory requirements are not anymore a limiting factor as, at the time of writing, standard personal computers come with 32 GB of main memory. Indeed, over the last decades, the semiconductors industry followed the exponential trends dictated by Moores’ law and yielded not only exponentially faster microprocessors but also bigger memories. Unfortunately, memory latency improvements have been more modest, leading to the so called memory wall effect [?]: data access times are taking an increasingly fraction of total computation times. Thus, if in 1973 Knuth wrote that “space optimization is closely related to time optimization in a disk memory”, forty years later we can deliberately say that space optimization is closely related to time optimization.

Over the last years, a significant effort has been devoted to the engineering of more space-efficient data structures to replace the suffix tree in practical applications. In particular, much research has been done into designing succinct or even compressed data-structure providing efficient query times using space proportional to that of the uncompressed or compressed input. Thanks to this research, we are able to index the human genome in as little as 2.X GB of memory and at the same time improve query time by a factor of X over classic indices!

In this chapter, we introduce some classic full-text indices (suffix arrays and q -gram indices) and subsequently succinct full-text indices (our FM-index implementations) replacing suffix trees. Afterwards we give approximate string matching algorithms working on any of these data structures.

4.1 Classic Full-Text Indices

4.1.1 Suffix array

The key idea of the suffix array [Manber and Myers, 1990] is that most information explicitly encoded in a suffix tree is superfluous for pattern matching. We can omit suffix tree's internal nodes and outgoing edges. Indeed, leaves pointing to the sorted suffixes are sufficient to perform exact pattern matching or even trie traversals. We can compute on the fly paths from the root to any internal node, via binary searches over the leaves. We are thus willing to pay an additional logarithmic time complexity to reduce space by a linear factor.

Definition 4.1. The suffix array of a string s of length n is defined as an array A containing a permutation of the interval $[1, n]$, such that $s_{A[i]...n} <_{lex} s_{A[i+1]...n}$ for all $1 \leq i < n$.

Figure 4.1: Suffix array for the string ANANAS.

We can construct the suffix array in $\mathcal{O}(n)$ time, for instance using the [Kärkkäinen and Sanders, 2003] algorithm, or using non-optimal but practically faster algorithms [?]. The space consumption of the suffix array is $n \log n$ bits. When $n < 2^{32}$, a 32 bit integer is sufficient to encode any value in the range $[1, n]$. Consequently, the space consumption of suffix arrays for texts shorter than 4 GB is $4n$ bytes. For instance, we construct the suffix array of the human genome in about one hour on a modern computer and the suffix array itself fits in 12 GB of memory.

Suffix trie traversal

We now concentrate on replacing suffix tree functionalities. We replace algorithm 2.1 by algorithm 4.1. The worst case runtime of algorithm 4.1 is $\mathcal{O}(m \log n)$, as the binary search consists of $\mathcal{O}(\log n)$ steps, and each step is performed in $\mathcal{O}(m)$ time, as it requires in the worst case a full lexicographical comparison between the pattern and any suffix of the text.

As shown in [Manber and Myers, 1990], we can decrease the worst case runtime to $\mathcal{O}(m + \log n)$ at the expense of additional $n \log n$ bits, by storing the precomputed longest common prefixes (LCP) between any two consecutive suffixes $s_{A[i]}$, $s_{A[i+1]}$ for all $1 \leq i < n$. Alternatively, we can reduce the average case runtime to $\mathcal{O}(m + \log n)$ without storing any additional information, by using the MLR heuristic [Manber and Myers, 1990]. In practice, the MLR heuristic outperforms the SA + LCP algorithm, due to the higher cost of fetching additional data from the LCP table.

Algorithm 4.1 Exact string matching on a suffix array.

```

1: procedure EXACTSEARCH( $x, p$ )
2:   if  $p = \epsilon$  then
3:     report  $\mathbb{L}(x)$ 

```

Figure 4.2: Exact string matching on a suffix array. The pattern NA is searched exactly in the text ANANAS.

4.1.2 q -Gram index

If we prune our idealized suffix tree to a fixed height q , we can improve again the query time over the suffix array. The idea is to supplement the suffix array A with an additional q -gram directory D storing the suffix array ranges computed by algorithm 4.1 for any possible word of length q .

With the aim of addressing q -grams in the directory D , we impose a canonical code on q -grams through a bijective function $h : \Sigma^q \rightarrow [1 \dots \sigma^q]$ defined as in [Knuth, 1973]:

$$h(p) = 1 + \sum_{i=1}^q \rho(p_i) \cdot \sigma^{q-i} \quad (4.1)$$

where $p \in \Sigma^q$ is any q -gram and the function $\rho : \Sigma \rightarrow [0 \dots \sigma - 1]$ denotes the lexicographic rank of any symbol in the alphabet Σ . This allows us to store in and retrieve from $D[h(p)]$, for each q -gram $p \in \Sigma^q$, the left suffix array interval returned by algorithm ??, i.e. $D[h(p)] = \text{LowerSearch}(p)$. Note that the right interval returned by algorithm ?? is equivalent to the left interval of the lexicographically following q -gram and therefore available in $D[h(p) + 1]$.

Figure 4.3: q -Gram index for the string ANANAS.

Suffix trie traversal

At this point, we are able to replace algorithm 4.1 with algorithm 4.2. Algorithm 4.2 runs in $\mathcal{O}(q)$ time, but in practice the time to compute the function h can be neglected and the lookup requires fetching only two memory locations from D . The downside is that in practice this approach is applicable only for small alphabet and pattern sizes. For instance, $|\Sigma| = 4$ and $q = 14$ require a directory consisting of 268 M entries that, using a 32 bits encoding, consume 1 GB of memory.

If the patterns are shorter or equal to the fixed length q , we access the suffix array only to locate the occurrences, as the directory D alone is sufficient to count. In this case, the

total ordering of the text suffixes in the suffix array can be relaxed to prefixes of length q . This gives us a twofold advantage, as we can: (i) construct the suffix array more efficiently using bucket sorting and (ii) maintain leaves in each bucket sorted by their relative text positions. The latter property allows to compress the suffix array bucket-wise e.g. using Elias δ -coding [?] or to devise cache-oblivious strategies to process the occurrences [?].

If the patterns are longer than q , the q -gram index is still useful. We can devise an hybrid algorithm using the directory D to conduct the search up to depth q and later continue with binary searches. This hybrid index cuts the most expensive binary searches and increases memory locality. Furthermore, this hybrid index can be useful if the suffix array has to reside in external memory.

Algorithm 4.2 Exact string matching on a q -gram index.

```

1: procedure EXACTSEARCH( $A, D, p$ )
2:   report  $A[D[h(p)], D[h(p) + 1]]$ 

```

4.2 Succinct Full-Text Indices

The Burrows-Wheeler transform (BWT) [Burrows and Wheeler, 1994] is a transformation defining a permutation of an input string. The transformed string exposes two important properties: reversibility and compressibility. The former property allows us to reconstruct the original string from its BWT, the latter property makes the transformed string more amenable to compression [?]. Thanks to these two properties, the BWT has been recognized as a fundamental method for text compression and practically used in the bzip2 [?] tool.

More recently, Ferragina and Manzini proposed the BWT as a tool for full-text indexing. They showed in [Ferragina and Manzini, 2000] that the BWT alone allows to perform exact pattern matching and engineered in [Ferragina and Manzini, 2001] a compressed full-text index called FM-index. Over the last years, the FM-index has widely re-implemented and employed by many popular Bioinformatics tools e.g. Bowtie [Langmead *et al.*, 2009], BWA [Li and Durbin, 2009], Soap2 [Li *et al.*, 2009b], and is now considered a fundamental method for the indexing of genomic sequences.

In the next subsections, we give the fundamental ideas behind the BWT and the FM-index. Subsequently, we discuss our succinct FM-index implementations covering texts and text collections.

4.2.1 Burrows-Wheeler transform

Let t be a string of length n over an alphabet Σ , terminated by a symbol $\$ \notin \Sigma$ such that $\$ <_{lex} c$ for all $c \in \Sigma$. Consider the square matrix M consisting of all cyclic shifts of the text t (the i -th cyclic shift has the form $t_{i...n}t_{1...i-1}$) sorted in lexicographical order. Note how the matrix M is related to the suffix array A of t : the cyclic shift in the i -th row is $M[i:] = t_{A[i]...n}t_{1...A[i]-1}$ (except when $A[i] = 1$).

Definition 4.2. The BWT of t is the string l obtained concatenating the symbols in the last column of the cyclic shifts matrix M , i.e. $l = M[:, n]$.

The matrix M is conceptual. We do not have to construct it explicitly to derive the BWT of a text. We can obtain the BWT in linear time by scanning the suffix array A and assigning to the i -th BWT symbol the text character $t_{A[i]-1}$ (and when $A[i] = 1$ the character t_n). Various direct BWT construction algorithms have been recently proposed [Bauer *et al.*, 2013; Crochemore *et al.*, 2013], as constructing the suffix array is not desirable due to its space consumption of $n \log n$ bits.

Multiple sequences

TODO.

Inversion

We now describe how to invert the BWT to reconstruct the original text. Inverting the BWT means being able to know where any BWT character occurs in the original text. To this extent, we define two permutations $LF : [1, n] \rightarrow [1, n]$ and $\Psi : [1, n] \rightarrow [1, n]$, with $LF = \Psi^{-1}$, where the value of $LF(i)$ gives the position j in f where character l_i occurs and the value $\Psi(j)$ gives back the position i in l where f_j occurs. We recover t by starting in f at the position of \$ and following the cycle defined by the permutation Ψ . Or we recover the reverse text \bar{t} by starting in l at the position of \$ and following the cycle defined by the permutation LF .

We recover t as follows:

$$t_i = f_{\Psi^{i-1}(j)} \quad (4.2)$$

where

$$\Psi^0(j) = j \quad (4.3)$$

$$\Psi^{i+1}(j) = \Psi(\Psi^i(j)) \quad (4.4)$$

Example 4.1. Recover t .

$l =$

$\Psi = (\dots)$

We recover \bar{t} as follows:

$$\bar{t}_i = t_{LF^{i-1}(j)} \quad (4.5)$$

where

$$LF^0(j) = j \quad (4.6)$$

$$LF^{i+1}(j) = LF(LF^i(j)) \quad (4.7)$$

Example 4.2. Recover \bar{t} .

$l =$

$LF = (\dots)$

LF-mapping

Again, the permutation LF is conceptual. We do not have to explicitly store it but we can deduce it from the BWT l , with the help of some additional character counts. This is possible due to two simple observations on the cyclic shifts of the matrix M [Burrows and Wheeler, 1994]:

- For all $i \in [1, n]$ l_i precedes the character f_i in the original text t ;
- For all characters $c \in \Sigma$ the i -th occurrence of c in f corresponds to the i -th occurrence of c in l .

Given the above observations, we define the permutation LF as [Burrows and Wheeler, 1994; Ferragina and Manzini, 2000]:

$$LF(i) = C(l_i) + Occ(l_i, i) \quad (4.8)$$

where we denote with $C : \Sigma \rightarrow [1, n]$ the total number of occurrences in t of all characters alphabetically smaller than c , and with $Occ : \Sigma \times [1, n] \rightarrow [1, n]$ the number of occurrences of character c in the prefix $l_{1..i}$.

The key problem of representing the permutation LF is how to represent function Occ , as function C can be easily tabulated by a small array of size $\sigma \log n$ bits. In the next subsection we address the problem of representing function Occ efficiently. Subsequently, in subsection 4.2.3 we see how to build a full-text index out of function LF .

4.2.2 Rank dictionaries

We want to represent the function Occ in succinct space and at the same time answer efficiently the question: how many times a given character c occurs in the prefix $l_{1..i}$? The general problem on arbitrary sequences has been tackled by several studies on the succinct representation of data structures [Jacobson, 1989]. Our specific question takes the name of *rank query* and a data structure answering rank queries is called *rank dictionary*.

Definition 4.3. Given a sequence s over an alphabet Σ and a character $c \in \Sigma$, $rank_c(s, i)$ returns the number of occurrences of c in the prefix $s_{1..i}$.

Rank dictionaries maintain a succinct (or compressed) representation of the input sequence and attach a dictionary to it. By doing so, it is possible to answer rank queries in constant time on the RAM model, using $n + o(n)$ bits for an input binary sequence of n bits [Jacobson, 1989]. First we consider the binary case $\Sigma_B = \{0, 1\}$ and later we extend it to arbitrary alphabets.

Binary alphabet

We start by describing a simple rank dictionary answering rank queries in constant time but consuming $2n$ bits and later we extend it to consume only $n + o(n)$ bits. Given the binary sequence $s \in \Sigma_B$, we partition it in blocks of size $b = \log n$ bits. We attach to the binary sequence s an array R of length $\frac{n}{b}$, where the i -th entry gives a summary

of the number of occurrences of the bit 1 in $s_{1...ib}$, i.e. $R[\frac{i}{b}] = \text{rank}_1(s, \frac{i}{b})$. Note that $\text{rank}_0(s, i) = i - \text{rank}_1(s, i)$ so we consider only $\text{rank}_1(s, i)$. Therefore we are able to rewrite our rank query as:

$$\text{rank}_1(s, i) = R[\frac{i}{b}] + \text{rank}_1(s_{\frac{i}{b} \dots \frac{i}{b} + b}, i \bmod b) \quad (4.9)$$

and answer it in constant time as (i) we fetch in constant time the rank summary from R and (ii) we compute in constant time¹ the number of occurrences of the bit 1 in the subsequence of length $\mathcal{O}(\log n)$. The array R stores $\frac{n}{\log n}$ positions and each position in s requires $\log n$ bits, so R consumes n bits. Thus, this rank dictionary consumes $2n$ bits.

To squeeze our rank dictionary to consume only $n + o(n)$ bits of space, we add another array R' summarizing the ranks on $\log^2 n$ bits boundaries and let our initial array R store only local positions within the corresponding block defined by R' . We rewrite $\text{rank}_1(s, i)$ accordingly:

$$\text{rank}_1(s, i) = R'[\frac{i}{b^2}] + R[\frac{i}{b}] + \text{rank}_1(s_{\frac{i}{b} \dots \frac{i}{b} + b}, i \bmod b) \quad (4.10)$$

Each entry of R now has to represent only values in the range $[1, \log^2 n]$ and thus consumes $\log \log^2 n$ only bits. This two-levels rank dictionary consumes n bits for the input sequence, $\mathcal{O}(\frac{n}{\log n})$ bits for R' and $\mathcal{O}(\frac{n \log \log^2 n}{\log n})$ bits for R . Overall, this two-levels rank dictionary consumes $n + o(n)$ bits.

Small alphabets

The extension to small alphabets, e.g. Σ_{DNA} is easy. Here we show how to extend the one-level rank dictionary. Given an input sequence $s \in \Sigma_{\text{DNA}}$ of size n bits (and length $\frac{n}{\log \sigma}$ symbols), we partition it in blocks of $b_\sigma = \frac{\log n}{\log \sigma}$ symbols (as before, $b = \log n$ bits). We supplement each block with an occurrences summary for all symbols in Σ , thus we use a matrix R_σ of size $\frac{n}{b_\sigma} \times \sigma$ entries. We rewrite $\text{rank}_c(s, i)$ ² as:

$$\text{rank}_c(s, i) = R_\sigma[\frac{i}{b_\sigma}][\rho(c)] + \text{rank}_c(s_{\frac{i}{b_\sigma} \dots \frac{i}{b_\sigma} + b_\sigma}, i \bmod b_\sigma) \quad (4.11)$$

In order to answer rank queries in constant time, we have to count the number of occurrences of the character c inside a block of $\log n$ bits. The matrix R_σ has $\frac{n}{\log n}$ entries, each one consuming $\sigma \log n$ bits. Thus R_σ consumes $n\sigma$ bits, and the whole rank dictionary $n + n\sigma$ bits.

Wavelet tree

For large alphabets.

¹ On modern processors using the SSE 4.2 popcnt instruction [?], otherwise by means of the four-Russians tabulation technique [?].

² Note that i is the i -th symbol in s , not the i -th bit in s .

4.2.3 FM-index

We now turn to the problem of implementing a full-text index exploiting the LF -mapping. First we see how to emulate a traversal of the nodes of a suffix trie, which is sufficient to count the number of occurrences of any substring in the original text. Later we focus on how to represent the leaves, which is necessary to locate the occurrences in the original text.

Suffix trie traversal

We can use the permutation LF to decode the intervals computed during a suffix trie traversal. This is possible because of the relationship between the cyclic shifts matrix M and the suffix array A . We show how to answer $sl^{-1}(v, c)$, i.e. given a node v and a character $c \in \Sigma$, return the node w such that $repr(w) = c \cdot repr(v)$.

We easily obtain the interval of the node labeled by c as $[C(c), C(c + 1)]$. Now we suppose that we are in an arbitrary node v of known interval $[b_v, e_v]$ and we want to navigate to the node w of unknown interval $[b_w, e_w]$ such that $repr(w) = c \cdot repr(v)$ for some $c \in \Sigma$. Thus, we know all suffixes of t prefixed by $repr(v)$ and we are looking for all the suffixes of t prefixed by $c \cdot repr(v)$. All these characters c are in $l_{b_v \dots e_v}$, since l_i is the character $t_{A[i]-1}$ preceding the suffix pointed by $A[i]$. Moreover, we know that these characters c are (i) contiguous and (ii) in relative order in f [Ferragina and Manzini, 2000]. If b and e are the first and last position in l within $[b_v, e_v]$ such that $l_b = c$ and $l_e = c$, then $b_w = LF(b)$ and $e_w = LF(e)$. We can rewrite $LF(b)$ as:

$$\begin{aligned} LF(b) &= C(l_b) + Occ(l_b, b) \\ &= C(c) + Occ(c, b) \\ &= C(c) + Occ(c, b_v - 1) + 1 \end{aligned} \tag{4.12}$$

Analogously, we can rewrite $LF(e)$ as $C(c) + Occ(c, e_v)$.

Locating occurrences

TODO.

4.3 Backtracking

4.3.1 k -Mismatches

4.3.2 k -Differences

Algorithm 4.3 Exact search on a virtual suffix trie.

```

1: procedure EXACTSEARCH( $t, p$ )
2:   if ATEND( $p$ ) then
3:     report ( $t, p$ )
4:   else
5:     GONEXT( $p$ )
6:     if GODOWN( $t, value(p)$ ) then
7:       EXACTSEARCH( $t, p$ )

```

Algorithm 4.4 Multiple exact search on a virtual suffix trie.

```

1: procedure MULTIPLEEXACTSEARCH( $t, p$ )
2:   if ISLEAF( $p$ ) then
3:     report ( $t, p$ )
4:   else
5:     GODOWN( $p$ )
6:     repeat
7:       if GODOWN( $t, label(p)$ ) then
8:         MULTIPLEEXACTSEARCH( $t, p$ )
9:       GOUP( $t$ )
10:    until GORIGHT( $p$ )

```

Algorithm 4.5 k -mismatches on a virtual suffix trie.

```

1: procedure KMISMATCHES( $t, p, e$ )
2:   if  $e = k$  then
3:     EXACTSEARCH( $t, p$ )
4:   else if  $e < k$  then
5:     if ATEND( $p$ ) then
6:       report ( $t, p, e$ )
7:     else if GODOWN( $t$ ) then
8:       repeat
9:          $d \leftarrow \omega(label(t), value(p))$ 
10:        GONEXT( $p$ )
11:        KMISMATCHES( $t, p, e + d$ )
12:        GOPREVIOUS( $p$ )
13:      until GORIGHT( $t$ )

```

Algorithm 4.6 Multiple k -mismatches on a virtual suffix trie.

```
1: procedure MULTIPLEKMISMATCHES( $t, p, e$ )
2:   if  $e = k$  then
3:     MULTIPLEEXACTSEARCH( $t, p$ )
4:   else if  $e < k$  then
5:     if ISLEAF( $p$ ) then
6:       report ( $t, p, e$ )
7:     else if GODOWN( $t$ ) then
8:       repeat
9:         GODOWN( $p$ )
10:      repeat
11:         $d \leftarrow \omega(\text{label}(t), \text{label}(p))$ 
12:        MULTIPLEKMISMATCHES( $t, p, e + d$ )
13:      until GORIGHT( $p$ )
14:      GOUP( $p$ )
15:    until GORIGHT( $t$ )
```

Algorithm 4.7 k -differences on a virtual suffix trie.

```
1: procedure KDIFFERENCES( $t, p, d$ )
2:   if  $e = k$  then
3:     EXACTSEARCH( $t, p$ )
4:   else if  $e < k$  then
5:     if ATEND( $p$ ) then
6:       report ( $t, p, e$ )
7:     else if GODOWN( $t$ ) then
8:       repeat
9:          $d \leftarrow \omega(\text{label}(t), \text{value}(p))$ 
10:        GONEXT( $p$ )
11:        KMISMATCHES( $t, p, e + d$ )
12:        GOPREVIOUS( $p$ )
13:      until GORIGHT( $t$ )
```

We now concentrate on designing stronger filters for approximate string matching. Whenever the total time of our filtering algorithm is dominated by verification time, we can think of adopting a stronger filter yielding a lower number of candidate locations to verify. The idea is to improve the total time by means of a significant reduction of verification time, at the expense of a moderate increase in filtration time.

We have already seen in section 2.5.3 an example of such trade-off between filtration speed and strength: non-overlapping seeds versus q -gram filters. The former filters minimize filtration time but yield weak filtration, the latter provide a more involved but stronger filtration. In practice, we know that seeds filters work best at low error rates, while q -gram filters become competitive at higher error rates. Thus we would adopt one or the other filtration method depending on the requested error rate.

The simple analysis of section 2.5.3 show us that filtration specificity is strongly correlated to the parameter q being the seed or q -gram length. Therefore the crux of designing stronger filters lies into increasing the seed or q -gram length while guaranteeing full-sensitivity. To this intent, the following techniques have been proposed in literature: (i) gapped q -grams generalizing contiguous q -grams, (ii) multiple gapped q -grams further generalizing gapped q -grams; (iii) approximate seeds generalizing exact seeds, (iv) suffix filters further extending approximate seeds.

The idea of gapped q -grams is to lower the correlation between consecutive q -grams. We have seen in the q -gram lemma 2.2 that one error covers q consecutive q -grams. Thus, the occurrence of a q -gram is strongly correlated to the occurrence of its preceding and following q -grams. Therefore, we introduce *don't care positions* to skip characters at fixed positions inside all q -grams. By doing so, a mismatch does not cover anymore all consecutive q -grams. As less q -grams are now covered by mismatches, we can (i) increase the filtering threshold or (ii) increase the number q of considered characters, in either cases preserving full-sensitivity. Note that however, this concept poorly extends to edit distance, and the design of gapped q -grams is hard.

TODO families.

The idea of approximate seeds is that, to increase seed length, we can factorize the pattern in less than $k + 1$ non-overlapping seeds. The pigeonhole lemma 2.1 however tells us that, by doing so, no seed will be guaranteed to be error-free. Therefore, we are obliged to search the seeds approximately, but within a distance threshold smaller than the original threshold k . We can search approximate seeds with backtracking techniques of section ?? In a nutshell, instead of reducing an approximate search into smaller exact

searches, we reduce it into smaller approximate searches.

Problems of exact and approximate seeds filters are that (i) it is not evident which factorization yields optimal filtration, and (ii) they yield duplicate occurrences whenever errors are not distributed in the worst-case combination. Suffix filters are based on tighter pigeonhole lemmas yielding stronger, less redundant, and more adaptive filtration using more efficiently the index. The drawback is that the effort to implement them is slightly higher.

In the following of this chapter we first present (multiple) gapped q -grams and problems associated with their design. Then we move to more practical approximate seeds, which we will adopt later in chapter ?? . Finally we discuss suffix filters and their practicality. Overall, through this chapter:

- we present a framework for the design of (multiple) gapped q -grams consisting of efficient exact and approximate solutions;
- we provide generic parallel implementations of filters based on exact and approximate seeds;
- we evaluate these filtration schemes in practice.

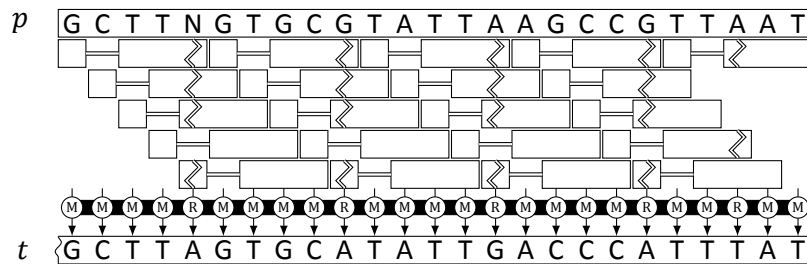
5.1 Gapped q -grams

In section 2.5.3 we introduced the q -gram similarity measure as the number of substrings of length q common to two given strings. We now generalize this similarity measure to consider the number of common subsequences¹ of length q whose symbols are taken from a fixed set Q of positions.

Definition 5.1. We call Q -gram a finite sequence Q of natural numbers starting with the unit element, i.e. $Q \subset \mathbb{N}$ and $1 \in Q$. We denote by $w(Q)$ the *weight* of Q as the cardinality of the set $|Q|$, and by $s(Q)$ the *span* of Q as the maximum element of the set Q .

In literature, Q -grams are visualized as words over the alphabet $\{1, *\}$ or $\{\#, -\}$. We adopt the former notation and represent the Q -gram by the word $w \in \{1, *\}^{s(Q)}$ such that $w_j = 1$ iff $j \in Q$. Figure ?? shows an example of Q -gram.

Figure 5.1: Filtration with gapped q -grams.



¹ A subsequence is a non-contiguous sequence of symbols of a given string.

The first thing we remark is that, compared to contiguous q -grams, we obtain a higher threshold, as mismatches do not cover don't care positions. The q -gram lemma (??) does not provide us anymore with a tight threshold, but only with a lower bound. Note that, as in the q -gram lemma, the threshold depends only on Q and parameters m, k . Indeed, the pattern of covered q -grams does not depend on the text or pattern sequences but only on their transcript, i.e. on the position of the mismatches in the pattern.

Gapped q -grams raise hard combinatorial questions. Given a gapped q -gram, (i) does it yield a full-sensitive filter for k -mismatches? If so, either (ii) which is the maximum q -gram threshold t that guarantees full-sensitivity? or (iii) which is the maximum error k for which full-sensitivity is guaranteed? If the answer to question ?? is negative and the filter is lossy, (iv) how many false negatives our filter discards? Considering filtration efficiency, (v) how many false positives our filter produces? If we take the weight as a simplified criterion predicting filtration efficiency, (vi) which is the maximum weight lossless shape?

Question ii has been first considered in [Burkhardt and Karkkainen, 2001; Kucherov *et al.*, 2005], the more general questions i and vi have been introduced in [Nicolas and Rivals, 2005], while we consider here for the first time questions iii-v. With the aim of elucidating these questions, we first introduce simple characteristic functions to formally define transcripts detected by gapped q -grams. Afterwards, we recapitulate known results for questions i-vi and give new exact and approximate solutions.

5.1.1 Characteristic functions

Consider an arbitrary transcript σ as a m -dimensional vector over \mathbb{B} , where $|\sigma|_0$ indicates the Hamming distance of the transcript. Let $\mathbb{B}_k^m \subset \mathbb{B}^m$ be the set containing all transcripts σ such that $|\sigma|_0 = k$.

Definition 5.2. A Q -gram occurs at position i in a similarity σ iff $\forall j \in Q \sigma_{i+j} = 1$. Fixed a Q -gram threshold t , the Q -gram detects σ iff it occurs at least t times in σ .

Boolean functions

Let $T_Q^m : \mathbb{B}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$ denote a *boolean function* such that $T_Q^m(\sigma)$ is true iff the Q -gram occurs at least one time in a similarity σ of length m . We define such boolean function as the disjunction

$$T_Q^m(\sigma) = \bigvee_{i=1}^{m-s(Q)+1} \bigwedge_{j \in Q} \sigma_{i+j} \quad (5.1)$$

where each *clause* of T_Q^m represents a single possible occurrence of Q in σ . We define an analogous boolean function for a Q -gram family F as the disjunction

$$T_F^m(\sigma) = \bigvee_{Q_i \in F} T_{Q_i}^m(\sigma) \quad (5.2)$$

By definition, T_Q^m and T_F^m are *monotone nondecreasing* boolean functions in *disjunctive normal form (DNF)*. Since all monotone boolean functions in DNF are minimal, T_Q^m and T_F^m are *minimal*.

In general, (Q, t) detects σ iff σ satisfies at least t clauses of T_Q^m .

Pseudo-boolean functions

Let the function $t_Q^m : \mathbb{B}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{N}_0$ be the boolean function T_Q^m acting on \mathbb{N}_0 . We defined such *pseudo-boolean function* as

$$t_Q^m(\sigma) = \sum_{i=1}^{m-s(Q)+1} \prod_{j \in Q} \sigma_{i+j} \quad (5.3)$$

Here $t_Q^m(\sigma)$ counts how many times a Q -gram occurs in a similarity σ of length m . It is useful to define the complementary function \bar{t}_Q^m , counting how many times a Q -gram does not occur in a similarity σ , as

$$\bar{t}_Q^m(\sigma) = m - s(Q) + 1 - t_Q^m(\sigma) \quad (5.4)$$

Analogously, we define a pseudo-boolean function for a Q -gram family F

$$t_F^m(\sigma) = \sum_{Q_i \in F} t_{Q_i}^m(\sigma) \quad (5.5)$$

along with its complementary function

$$\bar{t}_F^m(\sigma) = \sum_{Q_i \in F} (m - s(Q_i) + 1) - t_F^m(\sigma) \quad (5.6)$$

The above functions expose important properties which will let us devise approximate solutions. *Nondecreasing monotonicity* of functions t_Q^m and t_F^m follow from nondecreasing monotonicity of their boolean counterparts T_Q^m and T_F^m . Consequently \bar{t}_Q^m and \bar{t}_F^m are *monotone nonincreasing*. From definition ??, function t_Q^m is *supermodular*, thus it follows that \bar{t}_Q^m is *submodular*. Since super and submodular functions are closed under non-negative linear combination, functions t_F^m and \bar{t}_F^m are respectively super and submodular.

5.1.2 Full-sensitivity

NON DETECTION [Nicolas and Rivals, 2005]. Does a given gapped q -gram yield a full-sensitive filter for k -mismatches?

Problem definition

Instance A Q -gram, two integers m, k with $0 < k < m$.

Question Does it exist a similarity $\sigma \in \mathbb{B}_k^m$ such that $T_Q^m(\sigma)$ is false?

Hardness results

NON DETECTION is *strongly* NP-complete [Nicolas and Rivals, 2005]. Nicolas and Rivals introduce an intermediate problem, called SOAPY SET COVER. They reduce EXACT COVER BY 3-SETS to SOAPY SET COVER and SOAPY SET COVER to NON DETECTION. Strong NP-completeness implies that no *FPTAS* nor any *pseudo-polynomial* algorithm for it exist, under the assumption that $P \neq NP$.

Our FPRAS solution

Describe FPRAS.

5.1.3 Optimal threshold

Which is the highest Q -gram threshold t that guarantees full-sensitivity? This problem has been introduced in [Burkhardt and Karkkainen, 2001].

Problem definition

Instance A Q -gram, two integers m, k such that $0 < k < m$.

Solution The largest integer t^* such that NON DETECTION for $(Q, t^*), m, k$ answers *no*.

Recalling Q -gram pseudo-boolean functions 5.3, we can define the optimal threshold problem as the minimization of a supermodular function subject to linear constraints

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & t_Q^m(\sigma) \\ \text{w.r.t.} \quad & \sigma \in \mathbb{B}_k^m \end{aligned} \tag{5.7}$$

Exact DP solution

Optimal threshold is fixed-parameter tractable (FPT) in the span of the q -gram shape. Burkhardt and Karkkainen give a DP algorithm computing the optimal threshold in time $O(m \cdot k \cdot 2^{s(Q)})$ [Burkhardt and Karkkainen, 2001]. Kucherov *et al.* give an extension for Q -gram families in [Kucherov *et al.*, 2005].

All possible assignments, i.e. $\mathbb{B}^s(Q)$, for the first clause $\bigwedge_{j \in Q} \sigma_j$ of the boolean function T_Q^m are considered and all satisfying assignments for it, i.e. $\phi(Q)$, are computed. Clause Q_2 is considered next...

Our exact ILP solution

We reduce this problem to *maximum coverage* [?] and solve it with the following ILP

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & |c|_1 \\ \text{w.r.t.} \quad & \sigma \in \mathbb{B}_k^m \\ & c \in \mathbb{B}^{m-s(Q)+1} \\ & \sigma_i \geq c_j \end{aligned} \tag{5.8}$$

where variable c_j indicates the truthfulness of the j -th clause in T_Q^m . Given the ILP solution c^* , we obtain the optimal threshold $t^* = |c^*|_1$.

Our APX solution

We reduce the complementary optimal threshold problem to the maximization of a submodular function subject to linear constraints

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \bar{t}_Q^m(\sigma) \\ \text{w.r.t.} \quad & \sigma \in \mathbb{B}_k^m \end{aligned} \tag{5.9}$$

where the complementary optimal threshold is $\bar{t}^* = m - s(Q) + 1 - t^*$.

We compute an approximate solution via deepest descent. Our greedy algorithm for complementary OPTIMAL THRESHOLD has an APX-ratio of $1 + 1/e$ [?]. The same *absolute error* applies to OPTIMAL THRESHOLD.

5.1.4 Maximum error

Which is the maximum error k^* for which full-sensitivity is guaranteed?

Problem definition

Instance A Q -gram, an integer $m > 0$.

Solution The largest integer k^* such that NON DETECTION for Q, m, k^* answers *no*.

Recalling pseudo-boolean functions 5.3, we define our problem as the minimization of a linear function subject to submodular constraints

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & |\sigma|_1 \\ \text{w.r.t.} \quad & \sigma \in \mathbb{B}^m \\ & \bar{t}_Q^m(\sigma) \leq 0 \end{aligned} \tag{5.10}$$

Our ILP solution

We reduce our problem to MINIMUM SET COVER [?], solve it with the following ILP

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & |\sigma|_1 \\ \text{w.r.t.} \quad & \sigma \in \mathbb{B}^m \\ & b \in \mathbb{B}^{m-s(Q)+1} \\ & A\sigma \geq b \end{aligned} \tag{5.11}$$

where the value A_{ij} of the coefficient matrix A is defined as

$$A_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i - j + 1 \in Q \\ 0 & \text{if } i - j + 1 \notin Q \end{cases} \tag{5.12}$$

and find the maximum error for which full-sensitivity is guaranteed as $k^* = |\bar{\sigma}^*|_1$ given the solution σ^* to the ILP.

Note that contiguous q -grams provide an interesting special case of this ILP. If A has the *consecutive ones property*, it is *totally unimodular*. The *polytope* defined by a totally unimodular coefficient matrix is *integral*. Hence the optimal solution of the relaxed LP is also the optimal solution of the original ILP.

Our APX solution

Again, we compute an approximate solution via deepest descent. APX-ratio of $H_{w(Q)}$ [?].

5.1.5 Specificity

How many false positives our filter produces?

Problem definition

Instance A Q -gram, two integers m, k such that $0 < k < m$.

Solution The number of false positives produced by the Q -gram.

False positives are true points of the boolean function 5.1 which have weight inferior to $m-k$ and satisfy more than t clauses of $T_{Q,t}^m$. Hence we define the function FP_k^m counting the number of false positives of filter (Q, t) in instance (m, k) as

$$FP_k^m(Q, t) = \sum_{\sigma \in \mathbb{B}_k^m} T_{Q,t}^m(\sigma) \quad (5.13)$$

Our FPRAS solution

We reduce counting false positives to counting the number of true assignments to a boolean function in DNF. The latter problem can be approximated via importance sampling. ? introduces a *RPTAS* approximating the number of true points of a DNF.

5.1.6 Optimal gapped q -grams

Introduced in [Nicolas and Rivals, 2005].

Problem definition

Instance A finite set S of similarities.

Solution A Q -gram that detects all similarities of S .

Measure The weight $w(Q)$ of the Q -gram.

Given a set of similarities, find the Q -gram of maximum weight detecting all similarities. This applies to the DNA Homology Search Framework as well.

Hardness and inapproximability results

Nicolas et al. [Nicolas and Rivals, 2005] perform an approximation preserving reduction from MAXIMUM INDEPENDENT SET. MWLS is NP-hard and APX-hard within $(|S|)^{0.25-\epsilon}$ unless $P = NP$. If $S = \mathbb{B}_k^m$, $|S| = \binom{m}{k}$.

Branch-and-bound search

Burkhardt et al. [Burkhardt and Karkkainen, 2001] bounding criterion. If $Q_1 \subseteq Q_2$, then $t_{Q_2}(m, k) \leq t_{Q_1}(m, k)$. Such bounding criterion allows to discard parts of the search space which do not solve the considered (m, k) instance.

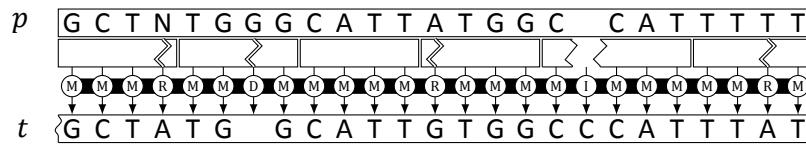
5.2 Approximate seeds

Approximate seeds have been proposed in [Myers, 1994; Navarro and Baeza-Yates, 2000] as a practical and effective generalization of exact seeds, yielding stronger filters both for edit and Hamming distance. The key idea of approximate seeds is to reduce an approximate search into smaller approximate searches.

Lemma 5.1. [Siragusa et al., 2013] *Let x, y be two strings s.t. $d_E(x, y) = k$ for some $k \in \mathbb{N}$. If we assign to $(k \bmod s) + 1$ seeds distance $\lfloor k/s \rfloor$ and to the remaining seeds distance $\lfloor k/s \rfloor - 1$, at least one seed occurs within its assigned distance.*

Proof. To prove full-sensitivity it suffices to see that, if none of the seeds occurs within its assigned distance, the total distance must be at least $s \cdot \lfloor k/s \rfloor + (k \bmod s) + 1 = k + 1$. \square

Figure 5.2: Filtration with approximate seeds.



Note that we can assign arbitrary error thresholds to seeds, as long as the total sum t of the thresholds plus the number of seeds is bigger than $k + 1$

$$s + \sum t - 1 \geq k \quad (5.14)$$

but we usually distribute error thresholds evenly because the seeds with the highest threshold dominate the overall filtration time.

5.2.1 Parameterization

With approximate seeds we are free to choose the number of seeds s which gives us $q = \lfloor m/s \rfloor$, or vice versa, if we fix the minimum seed length q then it must hold $s = \lfloor m/q \rfloor$. The resulting filter is flexible, indeed by increasing q filtration becomes more specific at the expense of a higher filtration time. For $s = 1$ we obtain the most specific filtration i.e. we perform only backtracking and we do not even need to verify the reported locations, while for $s = k + 1$ we obtain the fastest but weakest filtration.

In practice, it is not easy to find which filter parameterization yields an optimal filtration. Both Myers, and Navarro and Baeza-Yates carried out involved analysis to estimate the optimal parameters. Navarro and Baeza-Yates find out that the optimal number of seeds $\Theta(\frac{m}{\log_\sigma n})$ yields an overall time complexity sublinear for an error rate $\epsilon < 1 - \frac{e}{\sqrt{\sigma}}$. Myers reports an analogous sublinear time when $q = \Theta(\log_\sigma n)$ is the seed length. However, these results did not help us in our experiments. The optimal partitioning depends on (i) the full-text index, (ii) the verification algorithm, (iii) the statistical properties of the text. One seed more or less than the optimal can result in a runtime penalty even of an order of magnitude.

5.2.2 Redundancy

Another practical problem of seeds is redundant filtration. Whenever errors are not distributed according to a worst-case combination for lemma 2.1 or 5.1, more than one seed reports the same candidate location. Consider the case of exact seeds: If two errors fall in some seed, then at least two seeds will occur exactly.

In practice, we can choose to avoid redundancy before or after verifying candidate locations. After collecting all candidate locations for a pattern, we have to consider only the induced diagonal positions in the implicit DP matrix. This requires locating and sorting all candidate locations for a pattern. Alternatively, we can prefer to verify directly all candidate locations, e.g. if the verification algorithm is fast and the number of redundant candidate locations is low. Nonetheless, to avoid reporting duplicate occurrences, we have to consider redundant all occurrences either beginning or ending at the same position in the text. This requires memorizing and sorting all occurrences of a pattern.

How many redundant error configurations² are produced by seeds filters? For simplicity we consider exact seeds and combinations of exactly k errors. We have to cover all possible ways of distributing k errors among $k + 1$ seeds, that is $\binom{2k}{k}$ error combinations. However, for a fixed seed, we cover all combinations where the seed itself contains no errors and all k errors are distributed among the remaining k seeds, i.e. $\binom{2k-1}{k}$ error combinations. Thus the fraction of error combinations covered by filtration with exact seeds over the minimal ones is

$$\frac{(k+1)\binom{2k-1}{k}}{\binom{2k}{k}} = \frac{k+1}{2} \quad (5.15)$$

² Here we consider the fraction of redundant error combinations and not the fraction of redundant candidate locations reported by the filter.

For instance, filtration with exact seeds covers three times more combinations than required when $k = 5$. With approximate seeds we partition the pattern in less seeds and thus we indirectly reduce filter redundancy. In the next section we see how suffix filters consider only minimal error combinations.

5.3 Suffix filters

Part II

READ MAPPING

Next generation sequencing is a terrific technology. A wealth of applications have been developed on top of it. Data analysis pipelines for variant calling and structural variation discovery from DNA-seq, mRNA transcripts abundance estimation and novel non-coding RNA discovery from RNA-seq, transcription factor binding-sites prediction from ChIP-seq. All these applications rely on a common prerequisite step: mapping NGS reads to a known reference genome.

Read mapping is a critical step in all NGS data analysis pipelines. NGS reads produced by all current technologies contain sequencing errors, in form of single miscalled bases or stretches of oligonucleotides. Moreover, the donor genome from which reads have been sequenced contains small genomic variations (SNVs, Indels) in addition to CNV, inversions and translocations. After all, spotting genomic variation is one reason for which we resequence genomes. Thus, when mapping a read to a reference genome, it is not sufficient to consider the loci where the reads map exactly; it is necessary to consider any loci of relevant sequence similarity, being possible origins of the sequenced reads.

6.1 Sequencing technologies

6.1.1 Illumina

Illumina / Solexa.

6.1.2 Ion Torrent

Life Technologies / Ion Torrent.

6.1.3 454 Life Sciences

Roche / 454 Life Sciences.

6.1.4 SOLiD

ABI / SOLiD.

6.2 Sequencing applications

6.2.1 DNA-seq

6.2.2 RNA-seq

6.2.3 ChIP-seq

6.3 Sequencing quality

Phred base quality values have been introduced in [Ewing *et al.*, 1998; Ewing and Green, 1998] to assess the quality of sequencing single bases in capillary reads. Instead of directly discarding low-quality regions present in capillary reads, Phred calls each base and annotates it with a quality score encoding the probability that it has been wrongly called. As this method has been widely accepted, base callers annotate reads issued of all sequencing technologies with Phred base quality scores.

To formally define Phred base quality values, let us fix the alphabet $\Sigma = \{A, C, G, T\}$, and consider a known donor genome g over Σ and a read r sequenced at location l from the template $g_{l \dots l+|r|-1}$. We define the base calling error ϵ_i at position i in the read r , as the probability ϵ_i of miscalling a base r_i instead of calling its corresponding base g_{l+i-1} in the donor genome. Therefore, we define the Phred base quality Q_i at position i as:

$$Q_i = -10 \log_{10} \epsilon_i. \quad (6.1)$$

Given the above, the probability $p(r_i | g_{l+i-1})$ of calling the base r_i in the read r , given the donor genome base g_{l+i-1} , is:

$$p(r_i | g_{l+i-1}) = \begin{cases} 1 - \epsilon_i & \text{if } g_{l+i-1} = r_i \\ \frac{\epsilon_i}{|\Sigma|-1} & \text{if } g_{l+i-1} \in \Sigma \setminus \{r_i\} \end{cases} \quad (6.2)$$

and assuming i.i.d. base calling errors, it follows that the probability $p(r | g, l)$ of observing the read r , given the donor genome template $g_{l \dots l+|r|-1}$, is:

$$p(r | g, l) = \prod_{i=1}^{|r|} p(r_i | g_{l+i-1}) \quad (6.3)$$

6.4 Mappability

Genome resequencing is a non-trivial task.

The difficulty of unambiguously finding the correct mapping location of next-generation sequencing reads comes from the non-random nature of genomes. Genomes evolved through multiple types of duplication events, including (i) whole-genome duplications [?] or large-scale segmental duplications in chromosomes [?], (ii) transposition of repetitive elements as short tandem repeats (microsatellites) and interspersed nuclear elements (LINE, SINE) [?], (iii) proliferation of repetitive structural elements as telomeres

and centromeres [?]. As a result of these events, about 50 % of the human genome is composed of repeats.

An analysis of the k -mer spectra of the genomes of some model organisms shows how genomes are statistically different from texts randomly generated according to uniform bernoulli models.

Repeats present in general technical challenges for all *de novo* assembly and sequence alignment programs [Lee and Schatz, 2012]. In the case of short reads mapping, the first evident effect of the heavy tail in the k -mer distribution of reference genomes is the dramatic loss of specificity in certain regions, which increases the computational cost of programs based on filtration methods. But the most subtle challenge lies in the interpretation of these results: it is not evident how to consider reads mapping to multiple locations.

Common strategies to deal with multi-reads are (i) to discard them all, (ii) to randomly pick one best mapping location, (iii) to consider all or up to k best mapping locations within a given distance threshold [Treangen and Salzberg, 2011].

A practical challenge is represented by reporting and handling the resulting datasets of mapping locations, which can have a size up to two orders of magnitude bigger compared to the corresponding input read sets.

Genome mappability can bias NGS analysis more than we might think at a first glance. Two recent studies [Derrien *et al.*, 2012; Lee and Schatz, 2012] show which is the bias of mappability.

6.4.1 Genome mappability

We now give a definition of genome mappability analogous to [Derrien *et al.*, 2012]. Let fix a q -gram length, a distance measure as the Hamming or edit distance, and a distance threshold k . Given a genomic sequence g , we define the (q, k) -frequency $F_k^q(l)$ of the q -gram $g_{l..l+q-1}$ at location l in g as the number of occurrences of the q -gram in g and its reverse complement \bar{g} . We define the (q, k) -mappability $M_k^q(l)$ as the inverse (q, k) -frequency, i.e. $M_k^q(l) = F_k^q(l)^{-1}$ with $M_k^q : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow]0, 1]$. Note that $M_k^q(l)$ can be seen as the prior probability that any read of length q originating at location l will be mapped correctly. The values of (q, k) -frequency and mappability obviously vary with the distance threshold k . Nonetheless, under any distance measure, it holds that the q -gram at location l is unique up to distance k iff $M_k^q(l) = 1$ and repeated otherwise.

Which is the minimum q -gram length from which we expect (q, k) -mappability to be 1 for the genomes of model organisms? Let consider the simple case of exact $(q, 0)$ -mappability. By assuming a genomic sequence of length n as being randomly generated under the uniform bernoulli model, the emission probability of any nucleotide is $p = \frac{1}{4}$ and, under i.i.d. assumptions, the emission probability of any q -gram is $p_q = \frac{1}{4^q}$. It follows that the expected value of $(q, 0)$ -frequency is $E[F_0^q] \simeq \frac{2n}{4^q}$. Thus, for $E[F_0^q] \leq 1$ it must

hold:

$$2n \leq 4^q \quad (6.4)$$

$$\log 2n \leq \log 4^q \quad (6.5)$$

$$q \geq \log_4 2n \quad (6.6)$$

Thus, we would expect any q -gram of length $\log_4 2n$ to occur about once in a genomic sequence of length n . Sticking to these assumption, in the human genome ($n \approx 3 \cdot 10^9$) almost all 17-mers would be unique, on fly ($n \approx 1.2 \cdot 10^8$) all 15-mers, on worm ($n \approx 4.2 \cdot 10^7$) all 13-mers. However, the q -gram distribution of model genomes does not fit the uniform bernoulli distribution. In [?] the k -mers distribution can be approximated by a double Pareto log-normal distribution, i.e. a distribution with a heavy tail. This is a result of the evolution of genomes being driven by gene duplications, retrotransposons [?].

Consequently, we would expect 36 bp reads produced by early Illumina sequencers to induce an almost perfect mappability. However, reads have to be mapped approximately to the reference genome. The expected number of approximate occurrences of a k -mer is higher than the exact one. Thus the above estimate is a lower bound.

Uniqueome

Derrien *et al.* quantified the whole genome unique mappability for human, mouse, fly, and worm. At a (36, 2) mapping, about 30 % of the human genome is not uniquely mappable. Unique mappability rises to 83 % by increasing the read length to 75 bp; however to map a significant fraction of the reads, we should consider 3–4 edit distance errors.

	H.sapiens (hg19)	M.musculus (mm9)	D.mel (dm3)
Repeats content [%]	45.25	42.33	26.50
Uniqueome (36 bp, 2 msm) [%]	69.99	72.07	68.09
Uniqueome (50 bp, 2 msm) [%]	76.59	77.06	69.44
Uniqueome (75 bp, 2 msm) [%]	83.09	81.65	71.00

The uniqueome plays an important role in ChIP-seq experiments. It is common practice [?] to rely on short (36 bp) reads and discard the non-unique ones. Not only a significant fraction of the sequencing data is thrown out. Worse than that, we end up with holes in 30 % of the genome. A ChIP-seq peak caller considering multi-reads calls up to 30 % more peaks.

Cite regions of clinical relevance, e.g. HLA-A. Cite regions of biological relevance, e.g. 5S rRNA.

Paired-end mappability

Pileup mappability

If we focus our attention to the resequencing accuracy at a single locus, we have to consider the mappability of all the possible reads spanning that given locus. Pileup mappability [Derrien *et al.*, 2012] at position i is the average mappability of all reads spanning position i .

$$M_p(i) = 1/q \sum_{j=i}^{i+1} M(j)$$

6.4.2 Mapping quality score

Mapping quality has been introduced in [Li *et al.*, 2008]. The study considers short reads of length ranging from 30 bp to 40 bp, produced by early Illumina/Solexa and ABI/SOLiD sequencing technologies, whose sequencing error rates were quite high. Given the short lengths and high error rates, a significant fraction of such reads can be aligned to multiple mapping locations, even considering only co-optimal Hamming distance locations.

The key point is that the Hamming distance is not an adequate scoring scheme to guess the correct mapping location of many reads. The authors claim¹ that:

It is possible to act conservatively by discarding reads that map ambiguously at some level, but this leaves no information in the repetitive regions and it also discards data, reducing coverage in an uneven fashion, which may complicate the calculation of coverage.

Since base callers output base call probabilities in Phred-scale along with the reads, Li *et al.* propose a novel probabilistic scoring scheme called mapping quality, giving the probability that a given read has been aligned correctly at a given mapping location in the reference genome.

By applying Bayes' theorem, we can derive the posterior probability $p(l|g, r)$, that location l in the reference genome g is the correct mapping location of read r . Assuming uniform coverage, each location $l \in [1, |g| - |r| + 1]$ has equal probability of being the origin of a read in the donor genome, thus the prior probability $p(l)$ is simply:

$$p(l) = \frac{1}{|g| - |r| + 1} \quad (6.7)$$

Therefore, recalling $p(r|g, l)$ from equation 6.3, the posterior probability $p(l|g, r)$ equals the probability of the read r originating at location l normalized over all possible locations in the reference genome:

$$p(l|g, r) = \frac{p(r|g, l)}{\sum_{i=1}^{|g|-|r|+1} p(r|g, i)} \quad (6.8)$$

which in Phred-scale becomes:

$$Q(l|g, r) = -10 \log_{10}[1 - p(l|g, r)] \quad (6.9)$$

¹ Li *et al.* do not show in their study what is the effect of relying on mapping quality rather than on mapping uniqueness.

Computing the exact mapping quality as in equation requires aligning each read to all positions in the reference genome. On one hand, this computation would not be practical, indeed the vast majority of a reference genome is discarded when mapping reads by means of filtering and fully-indexed methods. On the other hand, the contribution of discarded locations to the sum in equation 6.8 can be neglected. Therefore, equation 6.8 is approximated using only relevant mapping locations found by the read mapper.

Mapping quality has been initially used in [Li *et al.*, 2008] and [Li *et al.*, 2009a] to maximize variant calling confidence by discarding reads whose best mapping location is below a given mapping quality threshold. This measure has been widely accepted: nowadays it is computed by most popular read mappers and used by almost all variant calling pipelines e.g. the Genome Analysis ToolKit (GATK) [DePristo *et al.*, 2011].

Nonetheless, some important objections can be moved against mapping quality. First, the mapping quality score is derived under the unlikely assumption of the reference genome being equal to the donor genome. In other words, mapping quality considers only errors due to base miscalls and disregards genetic variation; thus the risk is to prefer mapping locations supported by known low base qualities rather than by true but unknown SNVs. Second, mapping quality is nonetheless strongly correlated to mapping uniqueness, as discussed in section 6.4; it is easy to see that the mapping probability in equation 6.8 is diluted in presence of a large number of co-optimal mapping locations. Third, mapping quality tends to become less relevant as base calls improve, due to advances of sequencing technologies, and thus degenerates in a shallow measure of uniqueness.

6.4.3 Genome mappability score

Genome mappability score (GMS) [Lee and Schatz, 2012] is analogous to pileup mappability. Instead of considering the inverse mapping frequency (q, k) -mappability, we can interpret mapping quality (see subsection 6.4.2) as the probability that a read originating at a given position can be mapped correctly. Therefore, we consider the average mapping probability of any read spanning a location l of a reference genome g^2 :

$$p(l|g) = \sum_{r \in \mathcal{R}(l)} \frac{p(l|g, r)}{|\mathcal{R}(l)|} \quad (6.10)$$

which in Phread-scale becomes:

$$Q(l|g) = \sum_{r \in \mathcal{R}(l)} \frac{1 - 10^{-\frac{Q(l|g, r)}{10}}}{|\mathcal{R}(l)|} \quad (6.11)$$

and thus, fixed a genomic sequence g , we define the genome mappability score $\text{GMS}(l)$ as its percentual value:

$$\text{GMS}(l) = 100Q(l|g) \quad (6.12)$$

² Equation 3 in [Lee and Schatz, 2012] is not precise, please refer to our equation 6.10.

Lee and Schatz simulate reads having length and error profiles similar to those issued by actual sequencing technologies, define low GMS regions as those locations for which $GMS(l) \leq 10$, and measure the percentage of such locations in the human genome.

Sequencing technology	Read length [bp]	Error rate [%] (msm, ins, del)	Low GMS [%]	High GMS [%]
SOLiD-like	75	(0.10, 0.00, 0.00)	11.14	88.86
Illumina-like	100	(0.10, 0.00, 0.00)	10.51	89.49
Ion Torrent-like	200	(0.04, 0.01, 0.95)	9.35	90.65
Roche/454-like	800	(0.18, 0.54, 0.36)	8.91	91.09
PacBio-like	2000	(1.40, 11.47, 3.43)	100.0	0.00
PacBio EC-like	2000	(0.33, 0.33, 0.33)	8.61	91.39

7.1 Masai

7.1.1 Approximate seeds

7.1.2 Multiple backtracking

7.1.3 Single-end mapping

All-mapping

Mapping by strata

7.1.4 Paired-end mapping

7.2 Yara

7.2.1 Single-end mapping

All-mapping

Mapping by strata

7.2.2 Paired-end mapping

All-mapping

Mapping by strata

7.2.3 Parallelization

7.2.4 Hardware acceleration

8.1 Popular read mappers

Critic the surveys classifying hundreds of mappers [Li and Homer, 2010], [Fonseca *et al.*, 2012].

Critic the benchmarks [Hatem *et al.*, 2013] [Holtgrewe *et al.*, 2011].

The task of a read mapper is to guess where a read originates. Fixed a similarity scoring scheme that confidently models this problem, the optimal alignment under this scoring scheme correspond to the most likely explanation and induces a locus being the origin of the read. The simplest scoring scheme is the edit distance; more involved scoring schemes take into account base quality values, score gaps using affine cost functions, or allow to trim for free a prefix or a suffix of the read.

The above definition does not consider two problems: what if there are many co-optimal candidates, and what if the correct solution corresponds to a sub-optimal candidate. The former problem is exacerbated by genome mappability. One would expect such situations to arise very rarely, but instead it is a relevant problem. The latter problem arises whenever our model is not adequate to explain the difference between a read and its genomic origin. For instance, an evolutionary event producing an indel of length l might be considered as a unit, whether edit distance would consider it as l independent events. Under the edit distance, an alignment with less than l independent point mutations would be considered more likely than an alignment containing only one indel of length l .

From the former problem, we conclude that considering only one optimal mapping location is not sufficient, no matter how good our scoring scheme can be. The latter problem tells us to be careful about relying on strict optimality. Therefore, in general a read mapper should return a comprehensive set of relevant mapping locations along with the likelihood that they correspond to the original location.

8.1.1 Bowtie

Bowtie [Langmead *et al.*, 2009] is a mapper designed to have a small memory footprint and quickly report a few good mapping locations for early generation Illumina/Solexa and ABI/SOLiD short reads of length up to 50 bp. It achieves the former goal by indexing the reference genome with an FM-index and the latter goal by performing a greedy depth-first traversal on it.

The greedy depth-first traversal visits first the subtree yielding the least number of mismatches and stops after having found a candidate (not guaranteed to be optimal when $k > 1$). In addition, Bowtie speeds up backtracking by applying case pruning, a simple application of the pigeonhole principle. However this technique is mostly suited for $k = 1$ and requires the index of the forward and reverse text.

Bowtie can be configured to search by strata, however the search time increases significantly while the traversal still misses a large fraction of the search space due to seeding heuristics. Main practical drawbacks of the tool are too many cryptic options.

Bowtie 2 [Langmead and Salzberg, 2012] has been designed to quickly report a couple of mapping locations for recent Illumina/Solexa, Ion Torrent and Roche/454 reads, usually having lengths in the range from 100 bp to 400 bp.

This tool uses an heuristic seed-and-extend approach, collecting seeds of fixed length, partially overlapping, and searching them exactly in the reference genome using an FM-index. Candidate locations to verify are chosen randomly, to avoid uncompressing large CSA intervals and executing many DP instances. Each mapping location is verified using a striped vectorial dynamic programming algorithm, implemented using SIMD instructions, previously introduced by [Farrar, 2007] and extended to compute end-to-end alignments.

Bowtie 2 can be configured to report end-to-end or local alignments, scored using a tunable affine scoring scheme. For this reason, it is believed to be good at reporting alignments containing indels. However, its completely heuristic filtration strategy, independent of the scoring scheme, makes it hard to believe what it promises.

8.1.2 BWA

BWA-backtrack [Li and Durbin, 2009] is designed to map Illumina/Solexa reads up to 100 bp and report a few best end-to-end alignments. The program performs a greedy breadth-first search on an FM-index of the reference genome. Nodes to be visited are ranked by edit distance score: the best node is popped from a priority queue and visited, its children are then inserted again in the queue. The traversal considers indels using a more involved 9-fold recursion. Backtracking is sped up by adopting a more stringent pruning strategy that nonetheless takes some preprocessing time and requires the index of the reverse reference genome.

BWA performs paired-end alignments by trying to anchor both paired-end reads and verifying the corresponding mate, within an estimated insert size, using the classic DP-based Smith-Waterman algorithm. Consequently, the program in paired-end mode aligns reads at a slower rate than in single-end mode. The program is not fully multi-threaded, therefore BWA scales poorly on modern multi-core machines.

BWA-SW [Li and Durbin, 2010] is designed to map Roche/454 reads, which have an average length of 400 bp. It is an heuristic version of BWT-SW, designed to report a few good local alignments.

This version of BWA adopts a double indexing strategy: it indexes all substrings of one read in a DAWG. It performs Smith-Waterman of all read substrings directly on the FM-index, by backtracking as soon as no viable alignment can be obtained. As in BWA-

backtrack, the traversal proceeds in a greedy fashion. In addition, BWA-SW implements some seeding heuristics to limit backtracking and jump in the reference genome to verify candidate locations whenever this becomes favorable.

This version of BWA does not support paired-end reads, presumably because it was meant for Roche/454 reads.

8.1.3 Soap

Soap 2 [Li *et al.*, 2009b] is very similar to Bowtie: it has been designed to produce a very quick but shallow mapping of Illumina/Solexa reads up to 75 bp with no more than 2 mismatches and no indels. However, its underlying algorithm is based on the so-called bi-directional (or 2-way) BWT. The tool support paired-end mapping but at a slower alignment rate. Practical drawbacks are the lack of native output in the de-facto standard SAM format and is closed source. Soap 3 [Liu *et al.*, 2012] is algorithmically similar to Soap 2 but targets only NVIDIA CUDA accelerators.

8.1.4 SHRiMP

SHRiMP 2 TODO.

8.1.5 RazerS

RazerS [Weese *et al.*, 2009] has been designed to report all mapping locations within a fixed hamming or edit distance error rate. It is based on a full-sensitive q -gram filtration method (SWIFT semi-global) combined with the Myers edit distance verification algorithm. On demand, the SWIFT filter can be configured to become lossy within a fixed loss rate. The lossy filter becomes more stringent and produces a lower number of candidates to verify, thus improving the overall speed of the program. All in all, the SWIFT filter is very slow while not highly specific.

RazerS 3 [Weese *et al.*, 2012] is a faster version featuring shared-memory parallelism, a faster banded-Myers verification algorithm, and a faster filtration scheme based on exact seeds that however turns out to be very weak on mammal genomes. Because of this, RazerS 3 is one-two orders of magnitude slower than Bowtie 2 and BWA-backtrack on mammal genomes.

All RazerS versions index the reads and scan the reference genome. One positive aspect of this strategy is that no preprocessing of the reference genome is required. However, other mapping strategies beyond all-mapping, e.g. mapping by strata, cannot be efficiently implemented. Moreover, the program exhibit an high memory footprint as it must remember the mapping locations of all input reads until the whole reference genome has been scanned.

8.1.6 mr(s)Fast

The tools mrFast [Ahmadi *et al.*, 2012] and mrsFast [Hach *et al.*, 2010] are designed to report all mapping locations within a fixed absolute number errors, respectively under the hamming and edit distance, given Illumina/Solexa reads of length ranging from 50 bp to 125 bp. Similarly to RazerS 3, they are based on a full-sensitive filtration strategy using exact seeds, which turns out to be very weak on mammal genomes.

The peculiarity of their underlying method is a cache-oblivious strategy to mitigate the high cost of verifying clusters of candidate locations. In addition, mrsFast computes the edit distance between one read and one mapping location in the reference genome with an antidiagonal-wise vectorial dynamic programming algorithm, implemented using SIMD instructions.

These tools are as slow as RazerS 3 and appealing for nothing more than all-mapping. They lack multi-threading support and exhibit various bugs. Furthermore, they only accept reads of fixed length and produce files of impractical size.

8.1.7 GEM

The GEM mapper [Marco-Sola *et al.*, 2012] is a flexible read aligner for Illumina/Solexa, ABI/SOLiD, and Ion Torrent reads. It is full-sensitive and can be configured either as an all-mapper, as a best/unique-mapper, or to search by strata.

GEM uses a combination of state of the art approximate string matching methods, e.g. approximate seeds and suffix filters. The program indexes the reference genome with an FM-index, tries to find an optimal filtration strategy per read, and verifies candidate locations using Myers algorithm. Paired-reads are either mapped independently and then combined, or left/right are mapped and their mates verified using an online strategy.

Unfortunately the tool lacks direct SAM output, it is not open source, and provides many obscure parameters.

8.1.8 Masai

8.1.9 Yara

	platform				strategy			method			index		
					best	strata	all	alignment	optimal	algorithm	type	reference	reads
	Illumina	Ion	454	SOLID									
Bowtie	≤ 50	✗	✗	✓	✓	•	•	mismatches	✗	backtracking	FM-index	✓	✗
Bowtie 2	≥ 75	✓	✓	✗	✓	•	•	local	✗	exact seeds	FM-index	✓	✗
BWA	≤ 100	✗	✗	✗	✓	•	•	indels	✗	backtracking	FM-index	✓	✗
BWA-SW	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	local	✗	backtracking	FM-index	✓	✓
Soap 2	≤ 75	✗	✗	✗	✓	•	•	mismatches	✗	backtracking	FM-index	✓	✗
RazerS	≥ 50	✗	✗	✗	•	•	✓	indels	✓	q -grams	q -gram index	✗	✓
RazerS 3	≥ 50	✓	✗	✗	•	•	✓	indels	✓	exact seeds	q -gram index	✗	✓
SHRiMP 2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	•	•	local	✗	q -grams	q -gram index	✓	✗
mrsFast	≤ 75	✗	✗	✗	•	✗	✓	mismatches	✓	exact seeds	q -gram index	✓	✓
mrFast	≤ 125	✗	✗	✗	•	✗	✓	indels	✓	exact seeds	q -gram index	✓	✓
GEM	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	indels	✓	apx seeds	FM-index	✓	✗
Masai	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	•	✓	indels	✓	apx seeds	generic	✓	✓
Yara	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	indels	✓	apx seeds	generic	✓	✗

8.2 Rabema results

8.3 Variant detection results

8.4 Runtime results

CHAPTER

9

Discussion

A.1 Dictionary search

Dictionary search is a restriction of string matching. Given a set of database strings \mathbb{D} and a query string q , the approximate dictionary search problem is to find all strings in \mathbb{D} within distance k from q . Note that usually the query string q has length similar to strings in \mathbb{D} , as $||d| - |q|| \leq k$ is a necessary condition for $d_E(d, q) \leq k$.

A.1.1 Online methods

The problem can be solved by checking whether $d_E(d, q) \leq k$ for all $d \in \mathbb{D}$. Answering the question whether the distance $d_E(d, q) \leq k$ is an easier problem than computing the edit distance $d_E(d, q)$: a band of size $k + 1$ is sufficient.

Lemma A.1. *The k -differences global alignment problem can be solved by computing only a diagonal band of the DP matrix of width $k + 1$, where the leftmost band diagonal is $\lfloor \frac{m-n+k}{2} \rfloor$ cells left of the main diagonal (see Figure ??).*

Proof. Indirect. Assume that a cell outside the band is part of a global alignment with at most k errors. If the cell is left of the band, the traceback that starts in the top left corner would go down at least $c = \lfloor \frac{m-n+k}{2} \rfloor + 1$ cells. Then it needs to go right at least $n - m + c$ cells to end in the bottom right corner. Hence it contains at least $n - m + 2c > n - m + 2\frac{m-n+k}{2} = k$ errors. The assumption that the cell is right of the band can be falsified analogously. \square

A.1.2 Indexed methods

Using a radix tree \mathcal{D} we can find all strings in \mathbb{D} equal to a query string q , in optimal time $\mathcal{O}(|q|)$ and independently of $||\mathbb{D}||$.

A.1.3 Filtering methods

Filtering methods of section 2.5.3 can be directly applied to solve the dictionary search problem. Database strings satisfying the filtering condition can be verified with algorithm ??.

Figure A.1: DP table representing the match of $p = \dots$ in $t = \dots$

	ϵ	C	G	C	A	N	A	T	A	A	T	C	A	G
ϵ	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7						
C	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8					
G	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9				
G	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
C	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
A		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
A			0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
T				0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
T														
A														
T														
C														
A														
G														

Algorithm A.1 Exact dictionary search on a radix trie.

```

1: procedure EXACTSEARCH( $x, p$ )
2:   if  $p = \epsilon$  then
3:     report  $\mathbb{E}(x)$ 
4:   else if  $\exists c_x \in \mathbb{C}(x) : \text{label}(c_x) = p_1$  then
5:     EXACTSEARCH( $c_x, p_{2..|p|}$ )

```

A.2 Local similarity search

Define score and scoring scheme.

Define local similarity.

A.2.1 Online methods

Give dynamic programming solution.

A.2.2 Indexed methods

Backtracking over substring index. BWT-SW.

A.2.3 Filtering methods

SWIFT/Stellar is based on the q -gram lemma.

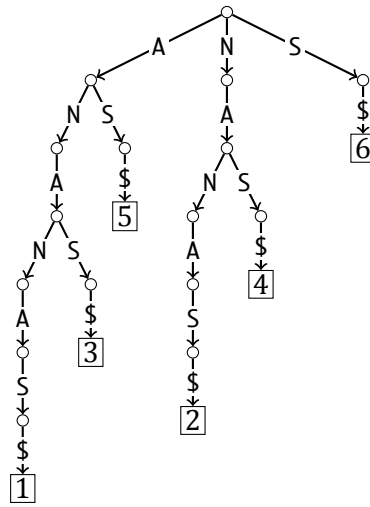
A.3 Overlaps computation

Define problem.

A.3.1 Online methods

DP solution.

Figure A.2: Exact dictionary search on a suffix trie.



A.3.2 Indexed methods

Indexed solution, exact and approximate.

B

Declaration

I declare that this thesis is my own work and has not been submitted in any form for another degree or diploma at any university or other institute of tertiary education. Information derived from the published and unpublished work of others has been acknowledged in the text and a list of references is given.

Enrico Siragusa
March 11, 2014

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