

1.

1) Brute-force algorithm is to check all possibilities. We use \sum_i denotes the i^{th} symbol in set \sum , t denotes the representative, s_i represents i^{th} sequence is S

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1  Boolean Brute-force Search( $S, \sum$ ){
2      for each  $\sum_i$  in  $\sum$  do  $t[1] = \sum_i$ 
3          for each  $\sum_i$  in  $\sum$  do  $t[2] = \sum_i$ 
4              ...
5                  for each  $\sum_i$  in  $\sum$  do  $t[m-1] = \sum_i$ 
6                      for each  $\sum_i$  in  $\sum$  do  $t[m] = \sum_i$ 
7                          for each  $s_i$  in  $S$ :
8                              if (  $dis = distance(t, s_i) > d$  ) break
9                              if (  $dis \leq d$  ) return TRUE // all distance  $\leq d$ 
10                     return FALSE
11 }
```

2) Use $|\sum|$ to denote the number of symbol set \sum . The distance computation for all the n sequences requires nm (calculated position by position). The run time for the Brute force algorithm is $O(|\sum|^m nm)$, which can be simplified as $O(|\sum|^m)$.

2.

For the m columns, check the same column of the n sequences each time, the greedy decision is to select the symbol which has the highest frequency to the current position. If for some positions, all the symbols from different sequences are the same, then the decision reaches the optimal.

3.

If there is a representative t for set S , then for each s_i in S , it holds that $dist(s_i, t) \leq d$. The total distance is $n * dist(s_i, t) \leq nd$ which indicates nd is the maximum of positions where not all S sequences have the same symbol, as shown in the table below. Red symbols in each sequence stand for symbols that are different from the representative.

Intuitively, for $m \leq nd$, the maximum positions where not all sequences have the same number will not exceed nd .

For $m > nd$, if the positions where not all sequences have the same number is larger than nd , then there is at least one sequence which has a distance to the representative is larger than d . This means there exists no representative for set S .

Representative	T_1	...	T_d	T_{d+1}	...	T_{2d}	...	$T_{(n-1)d+1}$	...	T_{nd}	T_{nd+1}	...	T_m
S_1	S_{11}	...	S_{1d}	$S_{1(d+1)}$	...	$S_{1(2d)}$	...	$S_{1[(n-1)d+1]}$	...	$S_{1(nd)}$	$S_{1(nd+1)}$	...	S_{1m}
S_2	S_{21}	...	S_{2d}	$S_{2(d+1)}$	...	$S_{2(2d)}$	...	$S_{2[(n-1)d+1]}$	...	$S_{2(nd)}$	$S_{2(nd+1)}$	...	S_{2m}
.	.												
.	.												
.	.												
S_n	S_{n1}	...	S_{nd}	$S_{n(d+1)}$	...	$S_{n(2d)}$	...	$S_{n[(n-1)d+1]}$	...	$S_{n(nd)}$	$S_{n(nd+1)}$	...	S_{nm}

4.

If there exists representative t for set S , each s_i in S has distance $dist(s_i, t) \leq d$ which means there are at most d different positions between s_i and t . Thus, when we randomly pick a sequence, if we change the d different positions, the sequence becomes the representative. Thus, at most d positions need to be changed.

5.

As there are at most l changes and one position is changed at each level of the tree. Thus, search tree's depth is l . Changes on $0, 1, \dots, l$ (up-to l) positions are possible. To find all the situations, the algorithm follows sequential orders of the m positions as $m, m-1, \dots, 2, 1, 0$ where changes at position 0 means nothing changes.

For the first level of search tree, the algorithm has $(m+1)$ branches:

- change symbol at position m ,
- keep position m , changing position $m-1$;
- ...
- keep position $m, m-1, \dots, 3$, change position 2
- keep position $m, m-1, \dots, 2$, change position 1
- keep position $m, m-1, \dots, 1$, change position 0 (this stands for no change)

In the next level, it follows the same procedure as above, with the starting position is decided by the parent level node. For example, if we take the branch which change symbol at position k, then we know positions k+1,..., m are already decided. Thus we can start considering position k-1 until position 0 as next-level branches of this node.

Each time a change happens, l is decreased by 1, which is $l = l - 1$. But when the current position $< l$, then we update $l = p - 1$ (p:position). For example, if we modifies at $p = 2$, which means position 3,...,m are already settled, thus, at most $p - 1 = 1$ change could happen, then we update $l = p - 1$.

For each change at a position, generally we have at most $|\sum|$ possible symbols to select from. (An alternative way is to try every different symbols contained in the current position of all the sequences in S, which will be at most n different symbols.)

l : allowed changes t: candidate representative randomly selected from S

$|\sum|$: the number of symbols in \sum \sum_i : the i^{th} symbol in \sum

The sequences are treated as the String type for better description purpose.

```

1 String Representative(m, l, t, S, d){
2 // base case
3   if(l<=0){
4     for(each  $s_i$  in S){if(dist( $s_i$ , t) > d) return NULL}      //not all distance satisfy  $\leq d$ 
5     return t                                                //all satisfy, return representative t
6   }
7 // recursive and for-loop
8   for (p = 0 to m){
9     if(p == 0) a = representation(p-1, p-1, t, S, d)        // m+1 possibilities (keep or change on position 1 to m)
10    for (update =  $\sum_1$  to  $\sum_{|\sum|}$ ){                          //no further changes
11      t[p] = update                                          //select symbol to update candidate
12      if(p  $\geq$  l) a = representation(p-1, l-1, t, S, d)
13      else b = representative(p-1, p-1, t, S, d)
14    }
15  }
16  return a
17 }
```

6.

As the algorithm enumerates all the possible situations/combinations of positions need to be changed. And for each position, we try every possible symbols which may be selected. Thus, the algorithm tries every possibility for changing the candidate representative in l changes (theoretically similar to Brute-force algorithms). As it is indicated, at most l changes will lead to a correct result. Thus, it means our algorithms will finally find a representative after checking with every possibility. Above all, those can prove the correctness for the algorithm.

7.

Follow the algorithm, we have:

$$T(m, l) = |\sum| T(m-1, l-1) + |\sum| T(m-2, l-1) + \dots + |\sum| T(l, l-1) + \dots + |\sum| T(2, 1) + |\sum| T(1, 0) \leq m|\sum| T(m-1, l-1)$$

Thus,

$$T(m, l) = \begin{cases} = nm & l \leq 0 \text{ (calculating distance position by position takes time } nm \text{)} \\ \leq m|\sum| T(m-1, l-1) & l > 0 \end{cases}$$

The run time is $O(m^l |\sum|^l * nm)$, thus $O^*(m^l |\sum|^l)$. As shown, the algorithm satisfies $O(p(n) * f(l))$ with the exponential part bounded by fixed parameter l . Thus, the algorithm is fixed-parameter tractable.

Note: When updating, if we don't select a new symbol from the whole set \sum , we select a new symbol which exists in the current position of at least one of the sequences in S instead, then we have at most n choice due to there are n different sequences. Then, the runtime can be generally written as $O(m^l n^l * nm)$ and $O^*(m^{l+1} n^{l+1})$.