

# On the compressibility of sketches

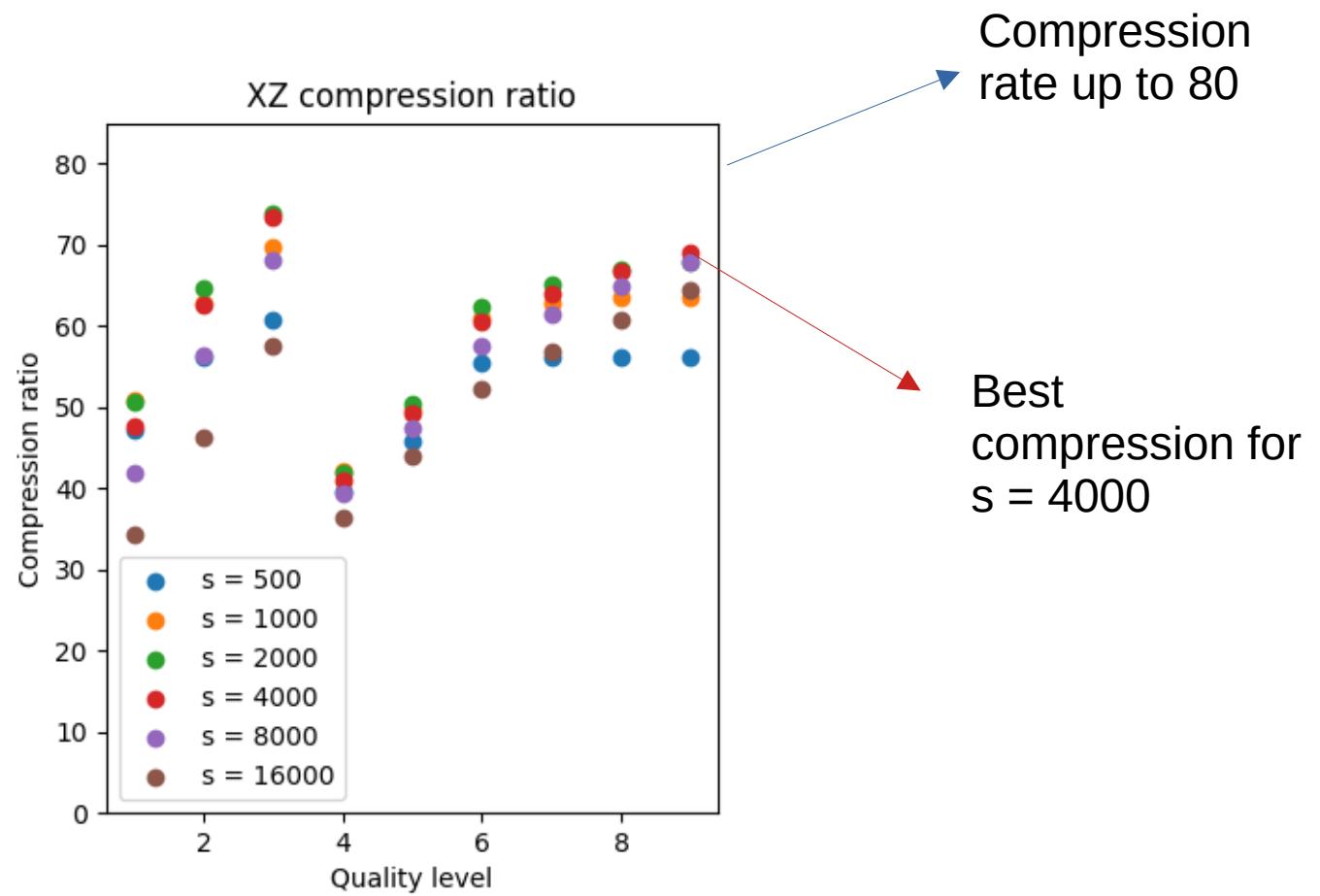
RLE-compression & Hamming distance

Marie Picard

Supervisors : Karel Břinda,  
Leo Ackermann

November 20, 2025

# Quick recap of previous results



## H (informal)

There is a value of sketch size  $s$ , around 2000 to 4000, such that the compressibility of sketches is optimal.

## H (formal)

$\forall \mathcal{G}, \exists s \in \mathbb{N}, \frac{1}{s}K(\text{Sketches}(\mathcal{G}, s))$  is minimal where

- ▶  $K$  is Kolmogorov's complexity
- ▶  $\mathcal{G}$  is the set of genomes to sketch
- ▶  $\text{Sketches}(\mathcal{G}, s)$  is the archive of all sketches of  $g \in \mathcal{G}$  of size  $s$

## H (informal)

There is a value of sketch size  $s$ , around 2000 to 4000, such that the compressibility of sketches is optimal.

## H (formal)

$\forall \mathcal{G}, \exists s \in \mathbb{N}, \frac{1}{s}K(\text{Sketches}(\mathcal{G}, s))$  is minimal where

Not computable

- ▶  $K$  is Kolmogorov's complexity
- ▶  $\mathcal{G}$  is the set of genomes to sketch
- ▶  $\text{Sketches}(\mathcal{G}, s)$  is the archive of all sketches of  $g \in \mathcal{G}$  of size  $s$

## H

$\forall \mathcal{G}, \exists s \in \mathbb{N}, \frac{1}{s} RLE(Sketches(\mathcal{G}, s))$  is minimal  
where

- ▶  $RLE$  is run-length encoding
- ▶  $\mathcal{G}$  is the set of genomes to sketch
- ▶  $Sketches(\mathcal{G}, s)$  is the archive of all mash sketches of  $g \in \mathcal{G}$  of size  $s$

## Input

List of mesh sketches :

$$\mathcal{S} = (S_1, \dots, S_{|\mathcal{S}|})$$

such that  $s = |S_1| = \dots = |S_{|\mathcal{S}|}|$

## Compressed representation

- ▶ Union of all sketches (sorted)

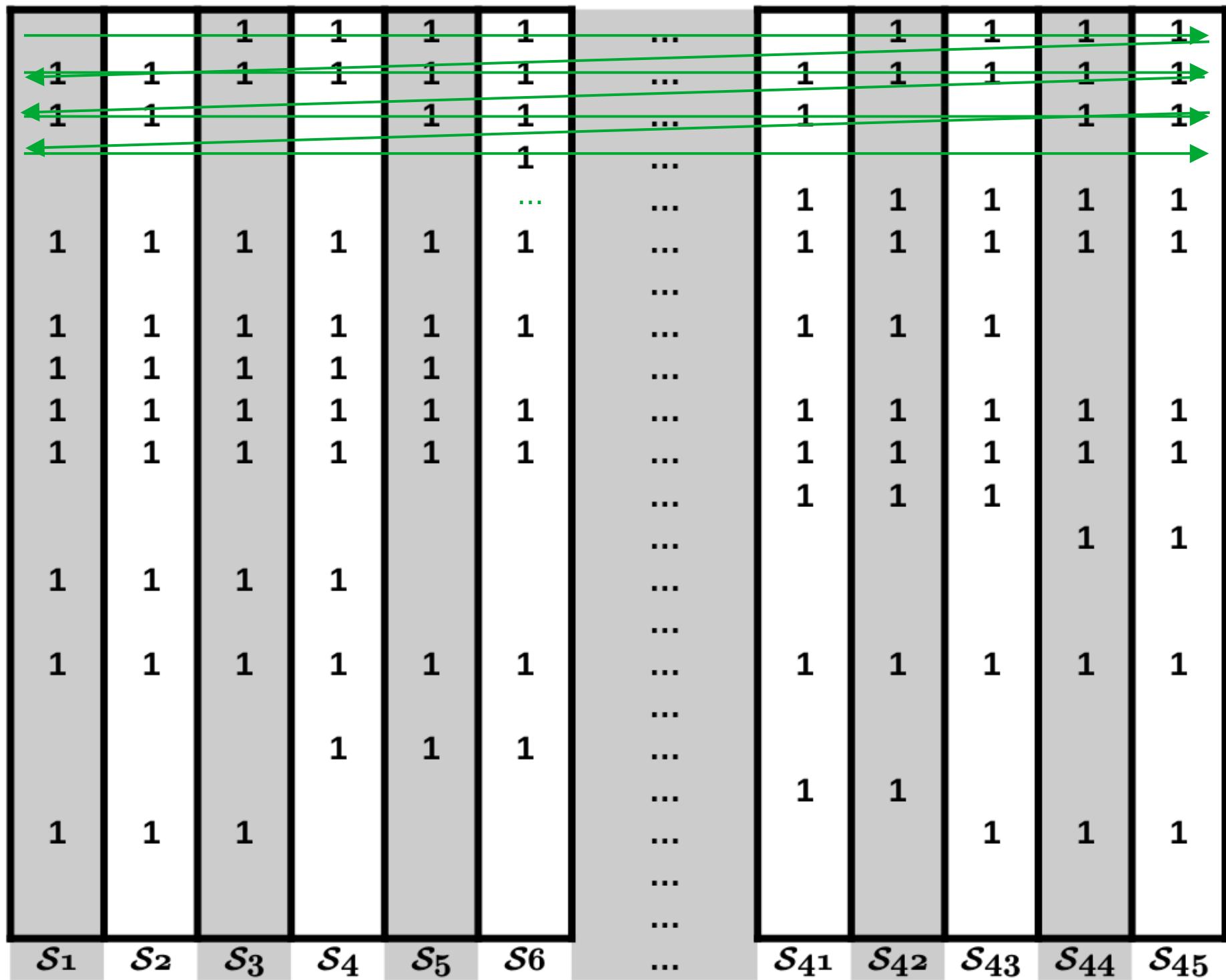
$$\mathcal{S}_U := \bigcup_{S \in \mathcal{S}} S$$

- ▶ presence matrix  $\mathcal{M}$   
 $\mathcal{M}_{i,j} = 1$  iff the  $i^{\text{th}}$  element of  $\mathcal{S}_U \in S_j$

## Matrix of sketches

RLE

## Matrix of sketches



## distance $\delta$

$$\delta = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{|S|-1} d_{Hamming}(S_i, S_{i+1})$$

- ▶ Easy to compute
- ▶ Determines the RLE compression rate

$$\delta = 0$$

## Matrix of sketches

$$\delta = 1$$

## Matrix of sketches

$$\delta = 2$$

## Matrix of sketches

$$\delta \geq 8$$

## Matrix of sketches

## Line changes

Number of bit changes upon line skips :

$$x = \sum_{i=1}^{|S_U|-1} |\mathcal{M}_{i,|S|} - \mathcal{M}_{i+1,1}|$$

$$\delta \geq 8$$

$$x = 10$$

## Matrix of sketches

- ▶  $2\delta + x$  bit changes in RLE
- ▶  $x \leq 2s - 1$

So at most  $2\delta + 2s - 1$  bit changes.

Size of output :

$$|\mathcal{S}_U| + |RLE(\mathcal{M})|$$

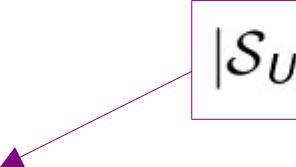
- ▶  $2\delta + x$  bit changes in RLE
- ▶  $x \leq 2s - 1$

So at most  $2\delta + 2s - 1$  bit changes.

Size of output :

$$|S_U| + |RLE(\mathcal{M})|$$

$64s \leq |S_U| \leq 64(s + \delta)$



- ▶ 64 bits for each hash
- ▶ between  $s$  and  $s + \delta$  hashes

- ▶  $2\delta + x$  bit changes in RLE
- ▶  $x \leq 2s - 1$

So at most  $2\delta + 2s - 1$  bit changes.

Size of output :

$$|S_U| + |RLE(\mathcal{M})|$$

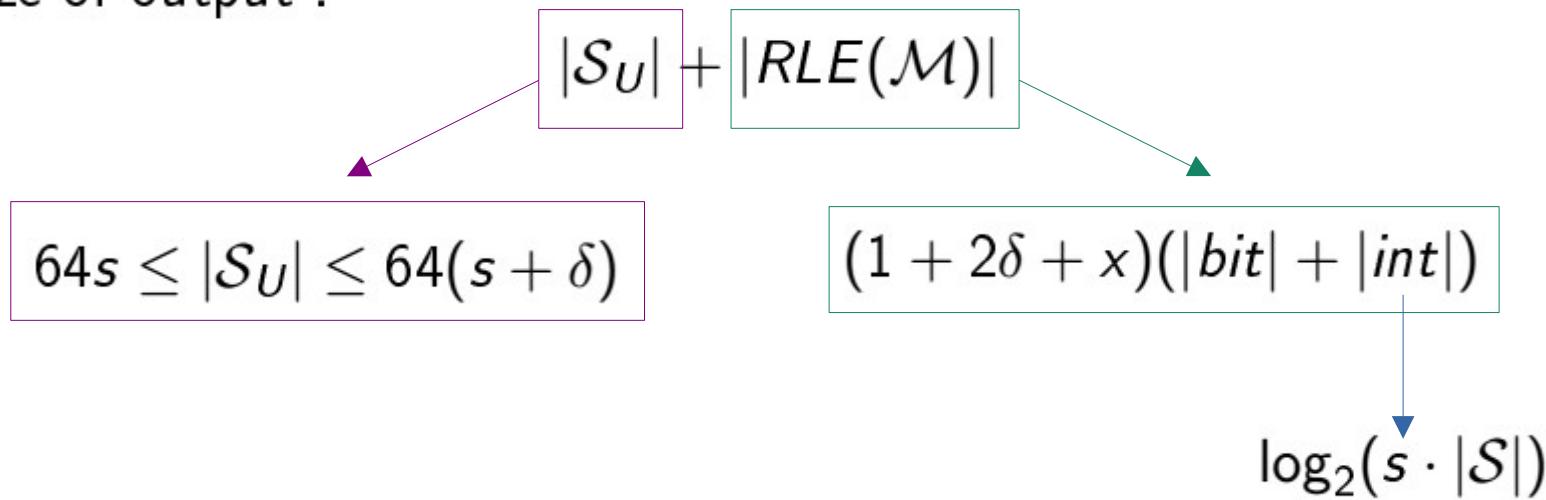
$64s \leq |S_U| \leq 64(s + \delta)$

$(1 + 2\delta + x)(|bit| + |int|)$

- ▶  $2\delta + x$  bit changes in RLE
- ▶  $x \leq 2s - 1$

So at most  $2\delta + 2s - 1$  bit changes.

Size of output :



For  $s \leq 16000$ ,  $|\mathcal{S}| \leq 131000$ ,  $\log_2(s \cdot |\mathcal{S}|) \leq 31$

- ▶  $2\delta + x$  bit changes in RLE
- ▶  $x \leq 2s - 1$

So at most  $2\delta + 2s - 1$  bit changes.

Size of output :

$$|S_U| + |RLE(\mathcal{M})|$$

64s ≤ |S\_U| ≤ 64(s + δ)
(1 + 2δ + x)(|bit| + |int|)

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\leq 64(\delta + s)
 \end{aligned}$$

Size of input :

$$\geq 64 \cdot |\mathcal{S}| \cdot s$$

- ▶ 64 bits per hash
- ▶  $s$  hashes per sketch
- ▶  $|\mathcal{S}|$  sketches in  $\mathcal{S}$

Compression ratio  $r$  :

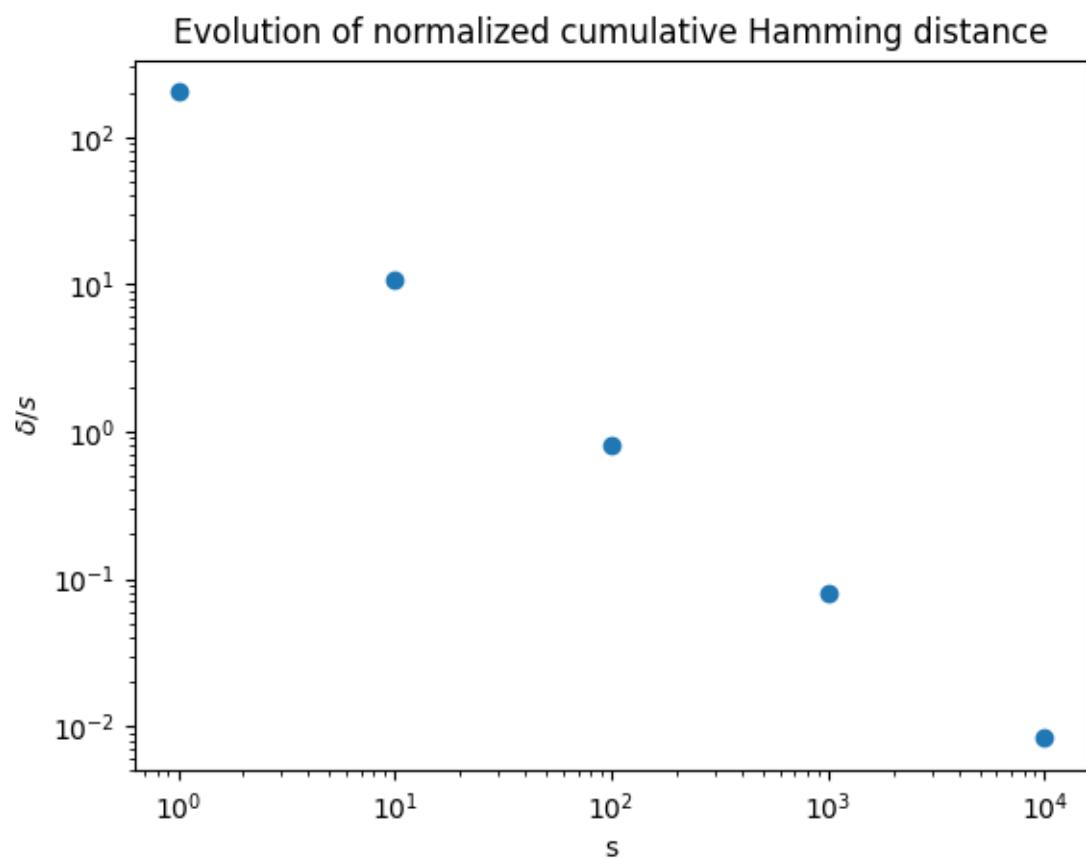
$$r = \frac{|Input|}{|Output|}$$

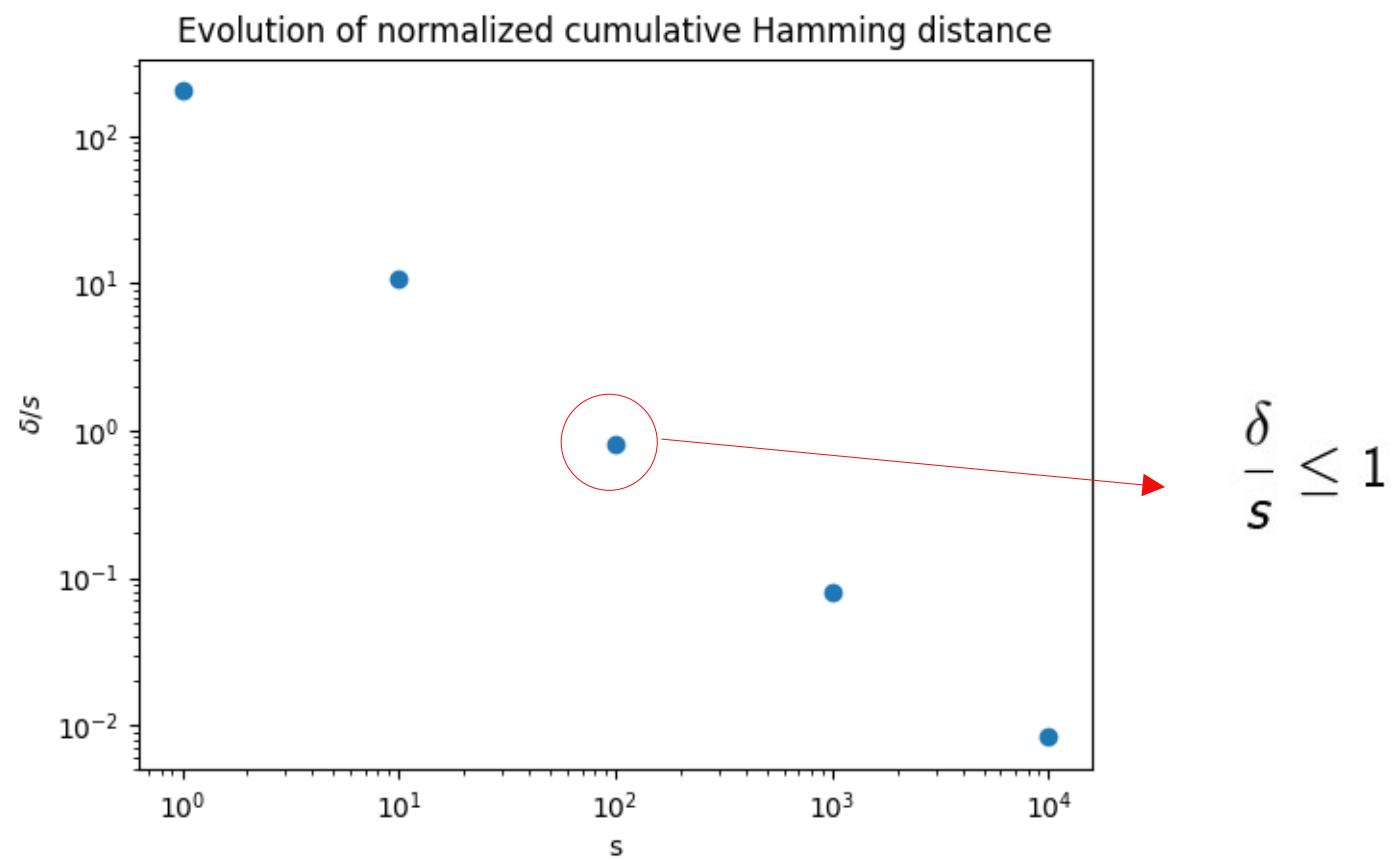
$$\geq \frac{64 \cdot |\mathcal{S}| \cdot s}{2 \cdot 64(\delta + s)}$$

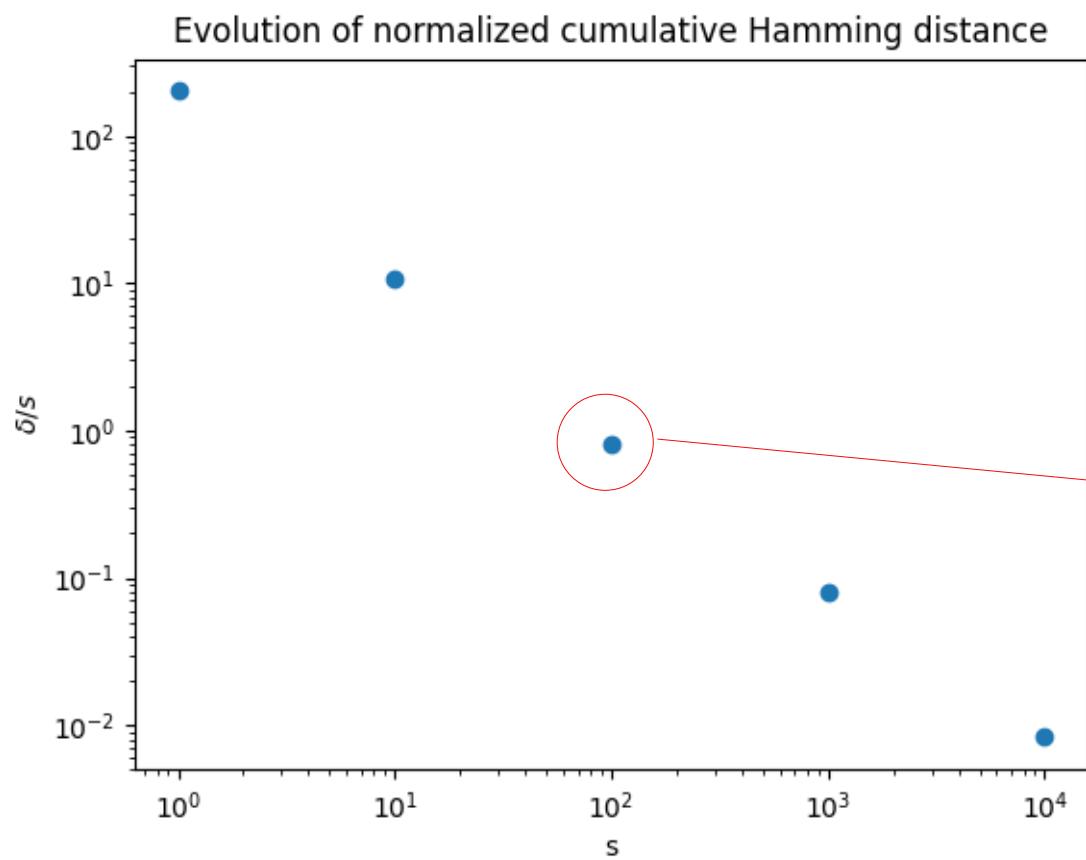
$$\geq \frac{|\mathcal{S}|}{2(1 + \frac{\delta}{s})}$$

# Experimental evaluation

- Genomes to sketch : `neisseria_gonorrhoeae_01.tar.xz` in part 54 - <https://zenodo.org/records/15367750>
- Values of  $s$  : 1, 10, 100, 1000



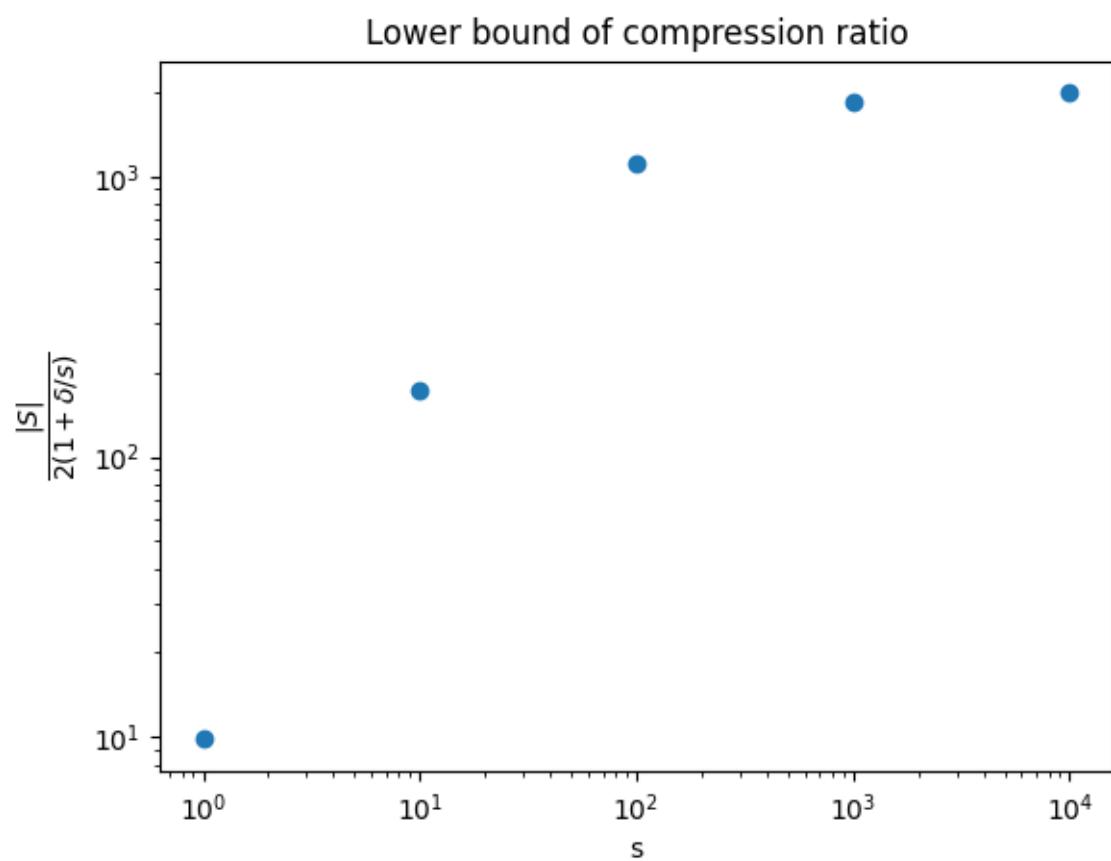




$$\frac{\delta}{s} \leq 1$$

$$r \geq \frac{4000}{4} \geq 1000$$

!!!



Conclusions :

- ▶ Compression rate of  $RLE$  increases with  $s$  for nongo
- ▶ Much better compression rates than with XZ/GZIP !

To do :

- ▶ Look into biological model of  $\frac{\delta}{s}$
- ▶ Finer lower bound of  $r$
- ▶ Compress  $\mathcal{S}_U$  (Elias Fano ?)
- ▶ Implement compression