## Four Russians'

## Speedup <br> 02-714

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Block Edit Distance


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## Block Function

Assume we have a function of the following form:


If we can compute $f$ faster than $O\left(t^{2}\right)$, we win.
We will see how to compute it in $O(t)$ time.

## Assumptions

We're computing the plain edit distance: gaps and mismatches cost 1 and matches cost 0 .

The alphabet $\Sigma$ is a constant size.
$n=k(t-1)$ for some $k$ (that is the blocks perfectly tile the matrix, with a single overlapping row and column between each adjacent pair)

## Precomputing $f$

The way we compute $f$ fast is to precompute $f(x)$ for all possible $x=(\llcorner, \sim\}$,$) .$

How may different $x$ values are there?


Every cell contains a number between

0 and $n$.
This many pairs of strings, each of length $t$.

Computing each would take $\mathrm{O}\left(\mathrm{t}^{2}\right)$ time, taking in total $O\left(\left.(n+1)^{2}|\Sigma|\right|^{2} t^{2}\right)=O\left(n^{2}\right)$ time. Bad!

## Offset Encoding

The trick to making it work is realizing that in fact there are fewer possible functionally different inputs to $x$.
The elements of the rows and columns in the input are not independent.
Notation. $D$ is the matrix and $D(i, j)$ is the value at position $i, j$.
Lemma. Adjacent values of $D$ in a row, column, or diagonal differ by at most 1 .
Consider element q of row i:

- $D(i, q) \leq D(i, q-1)+1$ because we can always insert a gap if we wanted to.
- Suppose we throw away character q to consider $\mathrm{D}(\mathrm{i}, \mathrm{q}-1)$ :
- If character q is matched, the edit distance increases by $\leq 1$ (we can align what is was matched to against a gap):

$$
D(i, q-1) \leq D(i, q)+1
$$

- If character q is not matched, the edit distance goes down (by 1 since we eliminate a gap): $D(i, q-1) \leq D(i, q)$

- Therefore: $D(i, q-1)-1 \leq D(i, q)$


## Offset Encoding, II

Can encode a row of the matrix as an initial value plus a sequence of $-1,0,1$ :

Example. $567767 \rightarrow 5110-11$
Definition. An offset vector is the encoding of a row or column as above, except that the first entry is set to 0 .

Example. $567767 \rightarrow 01100-11$
So: given the first value $C$ and the offset vector, you can reconstruct the row or column.

## Offset Encoding, III

Thm. Given only the offset vectors of $\quad$ and $\}$ one can compute the offset vectors of $\square$

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| 1 | $C+3$ | $C+2$ | $C+1$ | $C+2$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | $C+2$ | $C+1$ | $C+1$ | $C+1$ |
| 1 | $C+1$ | $C+1$ | $C$ | $C+1$ |
| 0 | $C$ | $C$ | $C+1$ | $C+2$ |
|  | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

## Offset Encoding, III

Thm. Given only the offset vectors of $\square$ and $\boldsymbol{n}$ m one can compute the offset vectors of $\square$

c bac

|  | 0 | -1 | -1 | 1 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | $\mathrm{C}+3$ | $\mathrm{C}+2$ | $\mathrm{C}+1$ | $\mathrm{C}+2$ |
| 1 | $\mathrm{C}+2$ | $\mathrm{C}+1$ | $\mathrm{C}+1$ | $\mathrm{C}+1$ |
| 1 | $\mathrm{C}+1$ | $\mathrm{C}+1$ | C | $\mathrm{C}+1$ |
| 0 | C | C | $\mathrm{C}+1$ | $\mathrm{C}+2$ |

## Offset Encoding, III

Thm. Given only the offset vectors of $\square$ and $\}$ one can compute the offset vectors of $\square$

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## Preprocessing Time

There are $2^{2(t-1)}$ offset vectors.
There are $2^{\left.2(t-1)|\Sigma|\right|^{2 t}}$ possible inputs $x$ to $f$.
Computing all values of $f(x)$ takes now time $O\left((2|\Sigma|)^{2 t} t^{2}\right)$.
Setting $t=\log _{2|\Sigma|} n$, this becomes $O\left(n(\log n)^{2}\right)$

## Storing for quick access

We have $2^{2(t-1)|\Sigma| 2 t}$ possible inputs $x$ to $f$.
How do we store the values $f(x)$ so we can access $f(x)$ in time $O(t)$ ?

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## Total Running time

We have $O\left(n^{2} / t^{2}\right)$ blocks to compute.
Accessing $f(x)$ for each takes time $O(t)$, so our time to "fill in" the matrix is $O\left(\mathrm{tn}^{2} / \mathrm{t}^{2}\right)=\mathrm{O}\left(\mathrm{n}^{2} / \mathrm{t}\right)$

With $t=O(\log n)$ the total time is:

$$
O\left(n^{2} / \log n+n(\log n)^{2}\right)=O\left(n^{2} / \log n\right) \text { FTW! }
$$

(In the RAM model, where we can access things of size log $n$ in constant time, we get the even better time of $O\left(n^{2} / \log ^{2} n\right)$ )

## In Practice

Often useful to take $t=$ some constant instead of $\log n$.
Doesn't give you an asymptotic speed up, but now runs in time $O\left(n^{2} / t\right)$ so the constant factor is better.

