

Algorithm 3.10: Approximate string matching
Input: text $T[1..n]$, pattern $P[1..m]$, and integer k
Output: end positions of all approximate occurrences of P

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(1) for  $i \leftarrow 0$  to  $m$  do  $g_{i0} \leftarrow i$ 
(2) for  $j \leftarrow 1$  to  $n$  do  $g_{0j} \leftarrow 0$ 
(3) for  $j \leftarrow 1$  to  $n$  do
(4)   for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $m$  do
(5)      $g_{ij} \leftarrow \min\{g_{i-1,j-1} + \delta(A[i], B[j]), g_{i-1,j} + 1, g_{i,j-1} + 1\}$ 
(6)     if  $g_{mj} \leq k$  then output  $j$ 
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- Time and space complexity is $\mathcal{O}(mn)$ on general alphabet.
- The space complexity can be reduced to $\mathcal{O}(m)$ by storing only one column as in Algorithm 3.5.

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Lemma 3.12: For every $i \in [1..m]$ and every $j \in [1..n]$,
 $g_{ij} = g_{i-1,j-1}$ or $g_{ij} = g_{i-1,j-1} + 1$.

Proof. By definition, $g_{ij} \leq g_{i-1,j-1} + \delta(P[i], T[j]) \leq g_{i-1,j-1} + 1$. We show that $g_{ij} \geq g_{i-1,j-1}$ by induction on $i + j$.

The induction assumption is that $g_{pq} \geq g_{p-1,q-1}$ when $p \in [1..m]$, $q \in [1..n]$ and $p + q < i + j$. At least one of the following holds:

1. $g_{ij} = g_{i-1,j-1} + \delta(P[i], T[j])$. Then $g_{ij} \geq g_{i-1,j-1}$.
2. $g_{ij} = g_{i-1,j} + 1$ and $i > 1$. Then

$$g_{ij} = g_{i-1,j} + 1 \stackrel{\text{ind. assump.}}{\geq} g_{i-2,j-1} + 1 \stackrel{\text{definition}}{\geq} g_{i-1,j-1}$$

3. $g_{ij} = g_{i,j-1} + 1$ and $j > 1$. Then

$$g_{ij} = g_{i,j-1} + 1 \stackrel{\text{ind. assump.}}{\geq} g_{i-1,j-2} + 1 \stackrel{\text{definition}}{\geq} g_{i-1,j-1}$$

4. $g_{ij} = g_{i-1,j} + 1$ and $i = 1$. Then $g_{ij} = 0 + 1 > 0 = g_{i-1,j-1}$.

5. $g_{ij} = g_{i,j-1} + 1$ and $j = 1$. Then $g_{ij} = i + 1 = (i-1) + 2 = g_{i-1,j-1} + 2$, which cannot be true. Thus this case can never happen. \square

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The row on the current column corresponding to the smallest undiscarded diagonal is kept in a variable top .

Algorithm 3.14: Ukkonen's cut-off algorithm
Input: text $T[1..n]$, pattern $P[1..m]$, and integer k
Output: end positions of all approximate occurrences of P

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(1)  $top \leftarrow \min(k + 1, m)$ 
(2) for  $i \leftarrow 0$  to  $top$  do  $g_{i0} \leftarrow i$ 
(3) for  $j \leftarrow 1$  to  $n$  do  $g_{0j} \leftarrow 0$ 
(4) for  $j \leftarrow 1$  to  $n$  do
(5)   for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $top$  do
(6)      $g_{ij} \leftarrow \min\{g_{i-1,j-1} + \delta(A[i], B[j]), g_{i-1,j} + 1, g_{i,j-1} + 1\}$ 
(7)     while  $g_{top,j} > k$  do  $top \leftarrow top - 1$ 
(8)     if  $top = m$  then output  $j$ 
(9)     else  $top \leftarrow top + 1; g_{top,j} \leftarrow k + 1$ 
```

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Myers' Bitparallel Algorithm

Another way to speed up the computation is bitparallelism.

Instead of the matrix (g_{ij}) , we store differences between adjacent cells:

$$\text{Vertical delta: } \Delta v_{ij} = g_{ij} - g_{i-1,j}$$

$$\text{Horizontal delta: } \Delta h_{ij} = g_{ij} - g_{i,j-1}$$

$$\text{Diagonal delta: } \Delta d_{ij} = g_{ij} - g_{i-1,j-1}$$

Because $g_{i0} = i$ ja $g_{0j} = 0$,

$$g_{ij} = \Delta v_{1j} + \Delta v_{2j} + \dots + \Delta v_{ij} \\ = i + \Delta h_{i1} + \Delta h_{i2} + \dots + \Delta h_{ij}$$

Because of diagonal monotonicity, $\Delta d_{ij} \in \{0, 1\}$ and it can be stored in one bit. By the following result, Δh_{ij} and Δv_{ij} can be stored in two bits.

Lemma 3.15: $\Delta h_{ij}, \Delta v_{ij} \in \{-1, 0, 1\}$ for every i, j that they are defined for.

The proof is left as an exercise.

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Ukkonen's Cut-off Heuristic

We can speed up the algorithm using the diagonal monotonicity of the matrix (g_{ij}) :

A diagonal d , $-m \leq d \leq n$, consists of the cells g_{ij} with $j - i = d$. Every diagonal in (g_{ij}) is monotonically non-decreasing.

Example 3.11: Diagonals -3 and 2.

| g | r | e | m | a | c | h | i | n | e |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| m | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| a | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| t | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| c | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| h | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 |

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We can reduce computation using diagonal monotonicity:

- Whenever the value on a diagonal d grows larger than k , we can discard d from consideration, because we are only interested in values at most k on the row m .
- We keep track of the smallest undiscarded diagonal d . Each column is computed only up to diagonal $d + 1$.

Example 3.13: $P = \text{strict}$, $T = \text{datastructure}$, $k = 1$

| g | d | a | t | a | s | t | r | u | c | t | r | e |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| s | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| t | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| r | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| i | | | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| c | | | | | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| t | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | | | | | | | | | 2 | 1 | 2 | |

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The time complexity is proportional to the computed area in the matrix (g_{ij}) .

- The worst case time complexity is still $\mathcal{O}(mn)$ on ordered alphabet.
- The average case time complexity is $\mathcal{O}(kn)$. The proof is not trivial.

There are many other algorithms based on diagonal monotonicity. Some of them achieve $\mathcal{O}(kn)$ worst case time complexity.

Example 3.16: '-' means -1, '=' means 0 and '+' means +1

| | r | e | m | a | c | h | i | n | e |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| m | 0 = 0 = 0 = 0 = 0 = 0 = 0 = 0 = 0 = 0 = 0 | | | | | | | | |
| a | + + + + + = + + + + + + + + + + + + + | | | | | | | | |
| t | 1 = 1 = 1 = 1 = 0 + 1 = 1 = 1 = 1 = 1 = 1 | | | | | | | | |
| c | + + + + + = + = - = + + + + + + + + + + | | | | | | | | |
| h | 2 = 2 = 2 = 2 = 1 = 0 + 1 + 2 = 2 = 2 = 2 | | | | | | | | |
| | + + + + + = + = + + + + + + + + + + + + | | | | | | | | |
| | 3 = 3 = 3 = 3 = 2 = 1 = 1 + 2 + 3 = 3 = 3 | | | | | | | | |
| | + + + + + = + = + = + = + = + = + + + + + | | | | | | | | |
| | 4 = 4 = 4 = 4 = 3 = 2 = 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 = 4 | | | | | | | | |
| | + + + + + = + = + = + = - = - = - = - = - | | | | | | | | |
| | 5 = 5 = 5 = 5 = 4 = 3 = 2 = 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 | | | | | | | | |

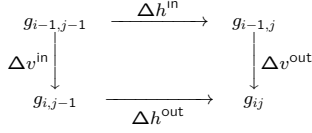
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In the standard computation of a cell:

- **Input** is $g_{i-1,j}$, $g_{i-1,j-1}$, $g_{i,j-1}$ and $\delta(P[i], T[j])$.
- **Output** is g_{ij} .

In the corresponding bitparallel computation:

- **Input** is $\Delta v^{\text{in}} = \Delta v_{i,j-1}$, $\Delta h^{\text{in}} = \Delta h_{i-1,j}$ and $Eq_{ij} = 1 - \delta(P[i], T[j])$.
- **Output** is $\Delta v^{\text{out}} = \Delta v_{i,j}$ and $\Delta h^{\text{out}} = \Delta h_{i,j}$.



The algorithm does not compute the Δd values but they are useful in the proofs.

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To enable bitparallel operation, we need two changes:

- The Δv and Δh values are “trits” not bits. We encode each of them with two bits as follows:

$$Pv = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \Delta v = +1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad Mv = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \Delta v = -1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$Ph = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \Delta h = +1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad Mh = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \Delta h = -1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Then

$$\Delta v = Pv - Mv \\
 \Delta h = Ph - Mh$$

- We replace arithmetic operations (+, -, min) with Boolean (logical) operations (\wedge , \vee , \neg).

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According to Lemma 3.18, the bit representation of the matrix can be computed as follows.

```

for i ← 1 to m do
  Pvi0 ← 1; Mvi0 ← 0
for j ← 1 to n do
  Ph0j ← 0; Mh0j ← 0
  for i ← 1 to m do
    Xhij ← Eqij ∨ Mhi-1,j
    Phij ← Mvi,j-1 ∨ ¬(Xhij ∨ Pvi,j-1)
    Mhij ← Pvi,j-1 ∧ Xhij
  for i ← 1 to m do
    Xvij ← Eqij ∨ Mvi,j-1
    Pvij ← Mhi-1,j ∨ ¬(Xvij ∨ Phi-1,j)
    Mvij ← Phi-1,j ∧ Xvij

```

This is not yet bitparallel though.

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Lemma 3.19: $Xh_{ij} = \exists \ell \in [1, i] : Eq_{\ell j} \wedge (\forall x \in [\ell, i-1] : Pv_{x,j-1})$.

Proof. We use induction on i .

Basis $i = 1$: The right-hand side reduces to Eq_{1j} , because $\ell = 1$. By Lemma 3.18, $Xh_{1j} = Eq_{1j} \vee Mh_{0j}$, which is Eq_{1j} because $Mh_{0j} = 0$ for all j .

Induction step: The induction assumption is that $Xh_{i-1,j}$ is as claimed. Now we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \exists \ell \in [1, i] : Eq_{\ell j} \wedge (\forall x \in [\ell, i-1] : Pv_{x,j-1}) \\
 &= Eq_{ij} \vee \exists \ell \in [1, i-1] : Eq_{\ell j} \wedge (\forall x \in [\ell, i-1] : Pv_{x,j-1}) \\
 &= Eq_{ij} \vee (Pv_{i-1,j-1} \wedge \exists \ell \in [1, i-1] : Eq_{\ell j} \wedge (\forall x \in [\ell, i-2] : Pv_{x,j-1})) \\
 &= Eq_{ij} \vee (Pv_{i-1,j-1} \wedge Xh_{i-1,j}) \quad (\text{ind. assump.}) \\
 &= Eq_{ij} \vee Mh_{i-1,j} \quad (\text{Lemma 3.18}) \\
 &= Xh_{ij} \quad (\text{Lemma 3.18})
 \end{aligned}$$

□

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The computation rule is defined by the following result.

Lemma 3.17: If $Eq = 1$ or $\Delta v^{\text{in}} = -1$ or $\Delta h^{\text{in}} = -1$, then $\Delta d = 0$, $\Delta v^{\text{out}} = -\Delta h^{\text{in}}$ and $\Delta h^{\text{out}} = -\Delta v^{\text{in}}$. Otherwise $\Delta d = 1$, $\Delta v^{\text{out}} = 1 - \Delta h^{\text{in}}$ and $\Delta h^{\text{out}} = 1 - \Delta v^{\text{in}}$.

Proof. We can write the recurrence for g_{ij} as

$$\begin{aligned}
 g_{ij} &= \min\{g_{i-1,j-1} + \delta(P[i], T[j]), g_{i,j-1} + 1, g_{i-1,j} + 1\} \\
 &= g_{i-1,j-1} + \min\{1 - Eq, \Delta v^{\text{in}} + 1, \Delta h^{\text{in}} + 1\}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Then $\Delta d = g_{ij} - g_{i-1,j-1} = \min\{1 - Eq, \Delta v^{\text{in}} + 1, \Delta h^{\text{in}} + 1\}$ which is 0 if $Eq = 1$ or $\Delta v^{\text{in}} = -1$ or $\Delta h^{\text{in}} = -1$ and 1 otherwise.

Clearly $\Delta d = \Delta v^{\text{in}} + \Delta h^{\text{out}} = \Delta h^{\text{in}} + \Delta v^{\text{out}}$. Thus $\Delta v^{\text{out}} = \Delta d - \Delta h^{\text{in}}$ and $\Delta h^{\text{out}} = \Delta d - \Delta v^{\text{in}}$. □

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Now the computation rules can be expressed as follows.

Lemma 3.18: $Pv^{\text{out}} = Mh^{\text{in}} \vee \neg(Xv \vee Ph^{\text{in}})$ $Mv^{\text{out}} = Ph^{\text{in}} \wedge Xv$
 $Ph^{\text{out}} = Mv^{\text{in}} \vee \neg(Xh \vee Pv^{\text{in}})$ $Mh^{\text{out}} = Pv^{\text{in}} \wedge Xh$
 where $Xv = Eq \vee Mv^{\text{in}}$ and $Xh = Eq \vee Mh^{\text{in}}$.

Proof. We show the claim for Pv and Mv only. Ph and Mh are symmetrical.

By Lemma 3.17,

$$\begin{aligned}
 Pv^{\text{out}} &= (\neg \Delta d \wedge Mh^{\text{in}}) \vee (\Delta d \wedge \neg Ph^{\text{in}}) \\
 Mv^{\text{out}} &= (\neg \Delta d \wedge Ph^{\text{in}}) \vee (\Delta d \wedge 0) = \neg \Delta d \wedge Ph^{\text{in}}
 \end{aligned}$$

Because $\Delta d = \neg(Eq \vee Mv^{\text{in}} \vee Mh^{\text{in}}) = \neg(Xv \vee Mh^{\text{in}}) = \neg Xv \wedge \neg Mh^{\text{in}}$,

$$\begin{aligned}
 Pv^{\text{out}} &= ((Xv \vee Mh^{\text{in}}) \wedge Mh^{\text{in}}) \vee (\neg Xv \wedge \neg Mh^{\text{in}} \wedge \neg Ph^{\text{in}}) \\
 &= Mh^{\text{in}} \vee \neg(Xv \vee Mh^{\text{in}} \vee Ph^{\text{in}}) = Mh^{\text{in}} \vee \neg(Xv \vee Ph^{\text{in}}) \\
 Mv^{\text{out}} &= (Xv \vee Mh^{\text{in}}) \wedge Ph^{\text{in}} = (Xv \wedge Ph^{\text{in}}) \vee (Mh^{\text{in}} \wedge Ph^{\text{in}}) = Xv \wedge Ph^{\text{in}}
 \end{aligned}$$

All the steps above use just basic laws of Boolean algebra except the last step, where we use the fact that Mh^{in} and Ph^{in} cannot be 1 simultaneously. □

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To obtain a bitparallel algorithm, the columns Pv_{*j} , Mv_{*j} , Xv_{*j} , Ph_{*j} , Mh_{*j} , Xh_{*j} and Eq_{*j} are stored in bitvectors.

Now the second inner loop can be replaced with the code

```

Xv*j ← Eq*j ∨ Mv*j-1
Pv*j ← (Mh*j << 1) ∨ ¬(Xv*j ∨ (Ph*j << 1))
Mv*j ← (Ph*j << 1) ∧ Xv*j

```

A similar attempt with the for first inner loop leads to a problem:

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Xh*j ← Eq*j ∨ (Mh*j << 1)
Ph*j ← Mv*j-1 ∨ ¬(Xh*j ∨ Pv*j-1)
Mh*j ← Pv*j-1 ∧ Xh*j

```

Now the vector Mh_{*j} is used in computing Xh_{*j} before Mh_{*j} itself is computed! Changing the order does not help, because Xh_{*j} is needed to compute Mh_{*j} .

To get out of this dependency loop, we compute Xh_{*j} without Mh_{*j} using only Eq_{*j} and Pv_{*j-1} which are already available when we compute Xh_{*j} .

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At first sight, we cannot use Lemma 3.19 to compute even a single bit in constant time, let alone a whole vector Xh_{*j} . However, it can be done, but we need more bit operations:

- Let $\underline{\vee}$ denote the xor-operation: $0 \underline{\vee} 1 = 1 \underline{\vee} 0 = 1$ and $0 \underline{\vee} 0 = 1 \underline{\vee} 1 = 0$.
- A bitvector is interpreted as an integer and we use **addition** as a bit operation. The **carry** mechanism in addition plays a key role. For example $0001 + 0111 = 1000$.

In the following, for a bitvector B , we will write

$$B = B[1..m] = B[m]B[m-1] \dots B[1]$$

The reverse order of the bits reflects the interpretation as an integer.

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Let us analyze the **average case** time complexity of the verification phase.

- The best pattern partitioning is as even as possible. Then each pattern factor has length at least $r = \lfloor m/(k+1) \rfloor$.
- The expected number of exact occurrences of a random string of length r in a random text of length n is at most n/σ^r .
- The expected total verification time is at most

$$\mathcal{O}\left(\frac{m^2(k+1)n}{\sigma^r}\right) \leq \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{m^3n}{\sigma^r}\right).$$

This is $\mathcal{O}(n)$ if $r \geq 3 \log_\sigma m$.

- The condition $r \geq 3 \log_\sigma m$ is satisfied when $(k+1) \leq m/(3 \log_\sigma m + 1)$.

Theorem 3.24: The average case time complexity of the Baeza-Yates–Perleberg algorithm is $\mathcal{O}(n)$ when $k \leq m/(3 \log_\sigma m + 1) - 1$.

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Many variations of the algorithm have been suggested:

- The filtration can be done with a **different multiple exact string matching algorithm**.
- The verification time can be reduced using a technique called **hierarchical verification**.
- The pattern can be partitioned into **fewer than $k+1$ pieces**, which are searched **allowing a small number of errors**.

A lower bound on the average case time complexity is $\Omega(n(k + \log_\sigma m)/m)$, and there exists a filtering algorithm matching this bound.

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Summary: Approximate String Matching

We have seen two main types of algorithms for approximate string matching:

- Basic dynamic programming time complexity is $\mathcal{O}(mn)$. The time complexity can be improved to $\mathcal{O}(kn)$ using diagonal monotonicity, and to $\mathcal{O}(n\lceil m/w \rceil)$ using bitparallelism.
- Filtering algorithms can improve average case time complexity and are the fastest in practice when k is not too large. The partitioning into $k+1$ factors is a simple but effective filtering technique.

More advanced techniques have been developed but are not covered here (except in study groups).

Similar techniques can be useful for other variants of edit distance but not always straightforwardly.

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