

Bounded Edit Distance

Optimal Static and Dynamic Algorithms for Small Integer Weights

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Weighted Edit Distance

Weighted Edit Distance $\text{ed}^w(X, Y)$

$w: (\Sigma \cup \{\varepsilon\}) \times (\Sigma \cup \{\varepsilon\}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$

The minimum cost of transforming X into Y by editing individual characters, where:

- inserting b costs $w(\varepsilon, b)$;
- deleting a costs $w(a, \varepsilon)$;
- substituting a for b costs $w(a, b)$.

$w :$

	ε	a	b
ε	0	1	4
a	1	0	2
b	3	2	0

$X : b \ b \ a \ b \ a \ b \ a \ a \ b$
 $Y : b \ a \ b \ a \ b \ a \ a \ a \ b \ b$

$$\text{ed}^w(X, Y) = 6$$

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$w :$

	ε	a	b
ε	0	1	1
a	1	0	1
b	1	1	0

$X : b \text{ } \color{red}{b} \text{ } a \text{ } b \text{ } a \text{ } b \text{ } \color{red}{b} \text{ } a \text{ } a \text{ } b$
| / / / / / /
 $Y : b \text{ } a \text{ } b \text{ } a \text{ } b \text{ } \color{red}{a} \text{ } a \text{ } a \text{ } b \text{ } \color{red}{b}$

$\text{ed}(X, Y) = 3$

Static State of the Art

Notation: $n = |X| + |Y|$

Reference

Time

Weights

[Vin68,NW70,Sel74,WF74]

$\mathcal{O}(n^2)$

any

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Problem

Maintain strings $X, Y \in \Sigma^{\leq n}$ subjects to updates (character edits) and report $\text{ed}^w(X, Y)$ after each update.

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$X : b \textcolor{red}{b} a b a b \textcolor{red}{b} a a b$
| // // // // //
 $Y : b a b a b \textcolor{red}{a} a a b \textcolor{red}{b}$

$$\text{ed}(X, Y) = 3$$

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$X : \text{b b a b a b } \textcolor{red}{\text{b}} \text{ a a b}$
| | | | | | | | |
 $Y : \text{b } \textcolor{blue}{\text{b}} \text{ a b a b } \textcolor{red}{\text{a}} \text{ a a b } \textcolor{red}{\text{b}}$

$$\text{ed}(X, Y) = 2$$

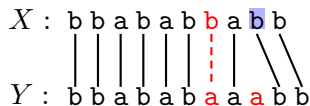
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Summary and Open Problems

■ *Static algorithms:*

■ $\tilde{O}(n + \sqrt{nk^3})$ for arbitrary normalized weights (tight if $\sqrt{n} \leq k \leq n$).

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■ $\tilde{O}(n + Wk^2)$ for weights in $\{1, 2, \dots, W\}$ (tight if $k \leq n$ and $W = n^{o(1)}$).

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- Takeaway: The past few years have seen the development of many new edit distance tools, and some are likely to yield more results in the future.

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Paper PDF

Thank you!



Long talk recording