**Multiple serial episodes matching**

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**ABSTRACT.** In [BCGM01] we have generalized the Knuth-Morris-Pratt (KMP) pattern matching algorithm and defined a non-conventional kind of RAM, the MP–RAMs which model more closely the microprocessor operations, and designed an $O(n)$ on-line algorithm for solving the serial episode matching problem on MP–RAMs when there is only one single episode. Here we give two extensions of this algorithm to the case when we search for several patterns simultaneously and compare them. More precisely, given $q + 1$ strings (a text $t$ of length $n$ and $q$ patterns $m_1, \ldots, m_q$) and a natural number $w$, the multiple serial episode matching problem consists in finding the number of size $w$ windows of text $t$ which contain patterns $m_1, \ldots, m_q$ as subsequences, i.e. for each $m_i$, if $m_i = p_1, \ldots, p_k$, the letters $p_1, \ldots, p_k$ occur in the window, in the same order as in $m_i$, but not necessarily consecutively (they may be interleaved with other letters).

**KEYWORDS:** Subsequence matching, algorithm, frequent patterns, episode matching, datamining.
1. Introduction

The recent development of datamining induced the development of computing techniques, among them is episode searching and counting. An example of frequent serial episode search is as follows: let $t$ be a text consisting of requests to a university webserver; assume we wish to count how many times, within at most 10 time units, 'Assignment'. It suffices to count the number of 10-windows of episode searching and counting. An example of frequent serial episode search is as follows: let parallel order, the episode is said to be parallel; a partial order can also be imposed on the events composing an episode (see [MTV95], which proposes several algorithms for episode searching). Searching serial episodes is more complex than searching parallel episodes. Of course, if one has to scan a log file, it is better to do it for several episodes $e_1 e_2 \ldots e_m, f_1 f_2 \ldots f_n, g_1 g_2 \ldots g_q$ simultaneously. We will hence investigate the search of several serial episodes in the same window: each serial episode is ordered, but no order is imposed among occurrences of the episodes in the window.

The problem we address is the following: given a text $t$ of length $n$, patterns $m_1, \ldots, m_q$ on the same alphabet $A$ and an integer $w$, we wish to determine the number of size $w$ windows of text containing all $q$ patterns as serial episodes, i.e. the letters of each $m_i$ appear in the window, in the same order as in $m_i$, but they need not be consecutive because other letters can be interleaved. When searching for a single pattern $m$, this problem with arguments the window size $w$, the text $t$ and pattern $m$ is called serial episode matching problem in [MTV95], episode matching in [DFGGK97] and subsequence matching in [AHU74]; a related problem is the matching with don’t cares of [MBY91, KR97].

This problem is an interesting generalisation of pattern-matching. Without the window size restriction, it is easy to find in linear time whether $p$ occurs in the text: if $p = p_1 \ldots p_k$, a finite state automaton with $k + 1$ states $s_0, s_1, \ldots, s_k$ will read the text; the initial state is $s_0$; after reading letter $p_1$ we go to state $s_1$, then after reading letter $p_2$ we go to state $s_2$, \ldots; the text is accepted as soon as state $s_k$ is reached. Episode matching within a $w$-window is harder; its importance is due to potential applications to datamining [M97, MTV95] and molecular biology [MBY91, KR97, NR02].

For the problem with a single episode in $w$-windows, a standard algorithm is described in [DFGGK97, MTV95]. It is close to the algorithms of pattern-matching [A90, AHU74] and its time complexity is $O(nk)$. Another on-line algorithm is described in [DFGGK97]: the idea is to slice the pattern in $k/ \log k$ well-chosen pieces organised in a trie; its time complexity is $O(nk/ \log k)$. We gave an on-line algorithm reading the text $t$, each text symbol being read only once and whose time complexity is $O(n)$ [BCGM01].

In this paper, we describe two efficient algorithms (Section 5) for solving the problems of simultaneous search of multiple episodes. These algorithms use the $MP{-}\text{RAM}$, that we introduced in [BCGM01], to model microprocessor basic operations, using only the fast operations on bits (shifts), and bit-wise addition; this gives an on-line algorithm in time $O(nq)$ (theorem). In practice, this algorithm based on $MP{-}\text{RAMs}$ and a new implementation of tries, is much faster as shown in section 4. We believe that other algorithms can be considerably improved if programmed on $MP{-}\text{RAMs}$.

Our algorithm relies upon two ideas: 1) preprocess patterns and window size to obtain a finite automaton solving the problem as in Knuth, Morris, and Pratt algorithm [KMP77] (the solutions preprocessing the text [102, MBY91, S71, U95] are prohibitive here because of their space complexity) and 2) code the states of this automaton to compute its transitions very quickly on MP-RAMS, without precomputing, nor storing the automaton: using the automaton itself is also prohibitive, not the least because of the number of states; we emulate the behaviour of the automaton without computing the automaton. We study: (a) the case when the patterns have no common part and (b) the case when they have similar parts. In each case, an appropriate preprocessing of the set of patterns enables us to build an automaton solving the problem and we show that the behaviour of this automaton can be emulated on-line in MP-RAMS. Moreover, the time complexity of the preprocessing is insignificant because it is smaller than the text size by several orders of magnitude: typically, window and patterns will consist of a few dozen characters while the text will consist of several million characters.

The paper is organised as follows: in section 2, we define the problem, in section 5 we describe the algorithms searching multiple episodes in parallel; we present the experimental results in section 4.
Figure 1: A French advertisement

Figure 2: A text with two 5-windows containing "vie" (in gray), and a single 5-window containing "vile".

2. The problem

2.1. The (multiple) episode problem

An alphabet is a finite non-empty set $A$. A length $n$ word on $A$ is a mapping $t$ from $\{1, \ldots, n\}$ to $A$. The only length zero word is the empty word, denoted by $\varepsilon$. A non-empty word $t : i \mapsto t_i$ is denoted by $t_1t_2\cdots t_n$. A language on alphabet $A$ is a set of words on $A$.

Let $t = t_1t_2\cdots t_n$ be a word which will be called the text in the paper. The word $p = p_1p_2\cdots p_k$ is a factor of $t$ iff there exists an integer $j$ such that $t_{j+i} = p_i$ for $1 \leq i \leq k$. A size $w$ window of on $t$, in short $w$-window, is a size $w$ factor $t_{i+w-1}t_{i+w-2}\cdots t_i$ of $t$; there are $n - w + 1$ such windows in $t$. The word $p$ is an episode (or subsequence) of $t$ iff there exist integers $1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \cdots < i_k \leq n$ such that $t_{i_j} = p_j$ for $1 \leq j \leq k$. If moreover, $i_k - i_1 < w$, $p$ is an episode of $t$ in a $w$-window.

Example 1 If $t = "\text{dans ville il y a une vie}"$ (a French advertisement, see figure 1) then “vie” is a factor and hence a subsequence of $t$. "vile" is neither a factor, nor a subsequence of $t$ in a 4-window, but it is a subsequence of $t$ in a 5-window. See figure 2.\hfill $\square$

Given an alphabet $A$, and words $t, m_1, \ldots, m_q$ on $A$:

- the simultaneous pattern-matching problem consists in finding whether $m_1, \ldots, m_q$ are factors of $t$,
- given moreover a window size $w$:
  - the subsequence existence problem consists in finding whether $m_1, \ldots, m_q$ are subsequences of $t$ in a $w$-window;
  - the multiple episode search problem consists in counting the number of $w$-windows in which all of $m_1, \ldots, m_q$ are subsequences of $t$.

For the simultaneous search of several subsequences $m_1, \ldots, m_q$, we have various different problems:

- either we count the number of occurrences of each $m_i$ in a $w$-window (not necessarily the same): this case will be useful for searching in parallel, with a single scan of the text, a set of patterns which are candidates for being frequent.
- or we count the number of windows containing all the $m_i$s: this case will be useful for trying to verify association rules. For example, the association rule $m_2, \ldots, m_q \Rightarrow m_1$ will be useful if the number of $w$-windows containing all the $m_2, \ldots, m_q$ is high enough, and to check that, we will count the $w$-windows containing all of $m_2, \ldots, m_q$. Our method will enable us to verify more easily both the validity of the association rule ("among the windows containing $m_2, \ldots, m_q$ many contain also $m_1$") and the fact that it is interesting enough ("many windows contain $m_2, \ldots, m_q$"); it will suffice to count simultaneously the windows containing $m_2, \ldots, m_q$ and the windows containing $m_1, m_2, \ldots, m_q$.

A naive solution exists for pattern-matching. Its time complexity on RAM is $O(nk)$, where $k$ is the pattern size. Knuth, Morris, and Pratt [KMP77] gave a well-known algorithm solving the problem in linear time $O(n + k)$. A solution in $O(nk)$ is given in [MTV95] for searching a single size $k$ episode. We gave in [BCGM01] an algorithm with time complexity $O(n)$ (on MP–RAM) for searching a single episode.
2.2. The notation $o(nk)$

Let us first make precise the meaning of the notation $o(nk)$.

The notation $o(h(n))$ was introduced to compare growth rates of functions with one argument; for comparing functions with several arguments, various non-equivalent interpretations $o(h(m, ...))$ are possible. Consider a function $t(n, k); t(n, k) = o(nk)$ could mean:

1) either $\lim_{n+k \to +\infty} t(n, k)/nk = 0$;
2) or $\lim_{n \to +\infty} t(n, k)/nk = 0, \text{ i.e. } \forall \epsilon, \exists N, \forall n, \forall k (n > N \text{ and } k > N \implies t(n, k) < \epsilon nk)$.

With meaning 1, no algorithm can solve the single episode within a window problem in time $o(nk)$. Indeed, any algorithm for the episode within a window problem must scan the text at least once, hence $t(n, k) \geq n$. For a given $k$, for example $k = 2$, we have $t(n, k)/nk \geq 1/2$. Hence $\lim_{n+k \to +\infty} t(n, k)/nk = 0$ is impossible. We thus have to choose meaning 2.

2.3. Algorithms on MP–RAM

Given a window size $w$ and $q$ patterns, we preprocess (patterns + window size $w$) to build a virtual finite state automaton $A$; we will then emulate on-line the behaviour of $A$ to scan text $t$ and count in time $nq$ the number of windows containing our patterns as episodes. Note that our method is different from both: 1) methods preprocessing the text $[102][MBY91][SY71][U95]$ (we preprocess the pattern) and 2) methods using suffixes of the pattern $[C88][MBY91][KR97][U95]$ (we use prefixes of the patterns). We encode the subset of states of $A$ needed to compute the transitions on-line on an MP-RAM. Indeed, $A$ has $O(w + 1)^k$ states, where $k$ is the size of the structure encoding the $q$ patterns $m_1, \ldots, m_q$; for $w$ and $q$ large, the time and space complexity for computing the states of $A$ becomes prohibitive, whence the need to compute the states on-line quickly without having to precompute or store them. We introduced MP-RAMs to this end.

Pattern-matching algorithms are often given on RAMs. This model is not good when there are too many different values to be stored, for example $O(w + 1)^k$ states for $A$. As early as 1974, the motivation of $[PRS74]$ for introducing “vector machines” was the remark that boolean bit-wise operations and shifts which are implemented on computers are faster and better suited for many problems. This work was the starting point of a series of papers: $[TRL92][BG95]$ comparing the complexities of computations on various models of machines allowing for boolean bit-wise operations and shifts with computation complexities on classical machines, such as Turing machines, RAMs etc. The practical applications of this technique to various pattern-matching problems start with $[BYG92][WM92]$, they are known as bit-parallelism, or shift-OR techniques. We follow this track with the episode search problem, close to the problems studied in $[BYG92][WM92][BYN96]$, albeit different from these problems.

In the sequel, we use a variant of RAMs, which is a more realistic computation model in some aspects, and we encode $A$ to ensure that (i) each state of $A$ is stored in a single memory cell and (ii) only the most basic microprocessor operations are used to compute the transitions of $A$. Our RAMs have the same control structures as classical RAMs$^1$, but the operations are enriched by allowing for boolean bit-wise operations and shifts, which we will preferably use whenever possible. Such RAMs are close to microprocessors, this is why we called them MP–RAMs.

Definition 1 An MP–RAM is a RAM extended by allowing new operations:

1) the bit-wise and, denoted by $\&$,
2) the left shift, denoted by $\ll$ or $\text{shl}$, and
3) the right shift, denoted by $\gg$ or $\text{shr}$.

The new operations are low-level operations, executable much faster than the more complex $\text{MULT} , \text{DIV}$ operations.

$^1$ See $[AHU74]$ pages 5–11, for a definition of classical RAMs.
Example 2  Assume our MP–RAMs have unbounded memory cells. We will have for example: (10110 & 01101) = 100, (10110 << 4) = 101100000 and (10110 >> 3) = 10. If memory cells have at most 8 bits, we will have: (10110 << 4) = 1100000, that will be written as (00010110 << 4) = 01100000.

3. Parallel search of several patterns

Let us recall the problems. Given patterns $m_1, m_2, \ldots, m_q$, we can:

- either count the number of occurrences of each $m_i$ in a $w$-window (not necessarily the same one);
- or count the number of $w$-windows containing $m_1, m_2, \ldots, m_q$.

The algorithm we described in [BCGM01] for counting the number of $w$-windows containing a single pattern $m$ can be adapted to all these cases, only the acceptance or counting condition will change.

To search simultaneously several patterns $m_1, \ldots, m_q$, [WM92] propose a method concatenating all the patterns. To search simultaneously several episodes $m_1, \ldots, m_q$, we generalise our algorithm [BCGM01]: we use $q$ counters $c_1, \ldots, c_q$ initially set to 0, and we define an appropriate multiple counting condition such that each time $m_i$ is in a $w$-window, the corresponding counter $c_i$ is incremented. This method has a drawback: if the patterns are too long, it will need more than one memory cell for coding the states of the automaton. For searching multiple patterns the method proposed by [DFGGK97] to optimise the search, when words $m_1, \ldots, m_q$ have common prefixes, is to organise $m_1, \ldots, m_q$ in a trie [K97] before applying the standard algorithm. We apply our algorithm on MP-RAMs in a similar way, and implement tries in a new way. We thus can encode the set of patterns compactly, and then encode the states of the automaton on a single memory cell.

3.1. Representing patterns by a trie

Consider for example episodes $m_1 = tu$, $m_2 = tue$, and $m_3 = tutu$. We choose this example because it illustrates most of the difficulties in encoding the automaton: episode $taie$ is very simple because all letters are different, $tati$ is less simple because there are two occurrences of $t$ which must be distinguished, $tutu$ a bit more complex (the first occurrence of $tu$ must be distinguished from the second one), $turlututu$ would be even more complex. We represent these three episodes by the trie $t$ pictured in figure 3.

We implement this trie $t$ by the three tables below:

$$
tr = \begin{array}{cccc}
t & u & e & t \\
\end{array}
\quad pr = \begin{array}{cccc}
0 & 1 & 2 & 4 \\
\end{array}
\quad f = \begin{array}{cccc}
2 & 3 & 5 \\
\end{array}
$$

Table $tr$ represents the “flattened” trie. Predecessors are in table $pr$: $pr[i]$ gives the index in $tr$ of the parent of $tr[i]$ in the trie; 0 means there is no predecessor and hence it is a pattern start\footnote{Numbering of indices starts at 1 in order to indicate pattern starts by 0.}. Finally $f$ marks patterns ends: $f[i]$ is the index in $tr$ of the end of pattern $i$.

3.2. Preprocessing the trie and algorithm

We preprocess the trie of patterns and this gives us a finite state automaton $A$. Its alphabet is $A$. The states are the $k$-tuples of integers $(l_1, \ldots, l_k)$ with $l_j$ belonging to $\{1, \ldots, w, +\infty\}$, where $k$ is the size of table $tr$ and $w$ the window size.
We describe informally the behaviour of $A$. A scans $t$, it will be in state $\langle l_1, \ldots, l_k \rangle$ after scanning $t_1 \ldots t_m$ iff $l_i$ is the length of the shortest suffix of $t_1 \ldots t_m$ shorter than $w$ and containing $tr[j_i] \ldots tr[i]$ as subsequence for $i = 1, \ldots, k$, where $tr[j_i] \ldots tr[i]$ is the sequence of letters labelling the path going from the root of the trie to the node represented by $tr[i]$. If no suffix (of length less than $w$) of $t_1 \ldots t_m$ contains $tr[j_i] \ldots tr[i]$ as a subsequence, we let $l_i = +\infty$.

Let us now describe our algorithm. Let $\Omega$ be the least integer such that $w + 2 \leq 2^\Omega$. The rôle of $+\infty$ is played by $2^\Omega - 1$, whose binary encoding is a sequence of $\Omega$ ones. We define the function $\text{Next}_\Omega$ by:

$$\text{Next}_\Omega(l) = \begin{cases} l + 1, & \text{if } l < 2^\Omega - 1; \\ 2^\Omega - 1, & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

State $\langle l_1, \ldots, l_k \rangle$ is encoded by integer:

$$L = \sum_{i=1}^{k} l_i (2^\Omega + 1)^{i-1} = \sum_{i=1}^{k} \left( l_i \ll ((\Omega + 1)(i - 1)) \right).$$  \hspace{1cm} [1]

Let $\overline{l}_i$ denote the binary expansion of $l_i$, $i = 1, \ldots, k$, prefixed by zeros in such a way that $\overline{l}_i$ occupies $\Omega$ bits (all $l_i$s are smaller than $2^\Omega - 1$, hence they will fit in $\Omega$ bits). The binary expansion of $L$ is obtained by concatenating the $\overline{l}_i$s, each prefixed by a zero (figure 3). These initial zeros are needed for implementing function $\text{Next}_\Omega$ to indicate overflows. Every integer smaller than $2^k(\Omega + 1)$ can be written as $k$ big blocks of $(\Omega + 1)$ bits, the first bit of each big block is 0 (and is called the overflow bit) and the $\Omega$ remaining bits constitute a small block. The blocks are numbered 1 to $k$ from right to left (the rightmost block is block 1, the leftmost block is block $k$).

By the definition in equation (1), the initial state $\langle +\infty, \ldots, +\infty \rangle$ is encoded by:

$$I_0 = \sum_{i=1}^{k} (2^\Omega - 1)2^{(\Omega + 1)(i-1)} = \sum_{i=1}^{k} \left( (1 \ll \Omega) - 1 \ll ((\Omega + 1)(i - 1)) \right).$$

One might see a multiplication here. In fact we will need a loop for $i = 1$ to $k$. We will execute each time we go through the loop a shift of $\Omega + 1$, and the multiplication will disappear. All equations below are treated in the same way.

Assume that the window size is $w = 13$ hence $\Omega = 4$. With the notations of figure 5: state $l = \langle 2, 5, \infty, 5, \infty \rangle$ is encoded by:

$$L = \begin{array}{cccc} 0 : \overline{1}_5 & 0 : \overline{1}_4 & 0 : \overline{1}_3 & 0 : \overline{1}_2 \end{array}$$

The initial state is represented by:

$$I_0 = \begin{array}{cccc} 0 : 1111 & 0 : 1111 & 0 : 1111 & 0 : 1111 & 0 : 1111 \end{array}$$

3. Word $s$ is a prefix (resp. suffix) of word $t$ iff there exists a word $v$ such that $t = sv$ (resp. $t = vs$).
or, writing 1 instead of the Ω ones representing ∞:

\[ I_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 0:1 & 0:1 & 0:1 & 0:1 & 0:1 \end{bmatrix} \]

In transition \( l = \langle l_1, \ldots, l_k \rangle \xrightarrow{\sigma} l' = \langle l'_1, \ldots, l'_k \rangle \), the \( l'_i \) component of the new state \( l' \) is either \( \text{Next}_\Omega(l_{pr[i]}) \) or \( \text{Next}_\Omega(l_i) \) according to whether the scanned letter \( \sigma \) is equal to \( tr[i] \) or not. The cases \( l'_i = \text{Next}_\Omega(l_{pr[i]}) \) and \( l'_i = \text{Next}_\Omega(l_i) \) respectively yield a first type computation and a second type computation.

To generalise the algorithm of [BCGM01], we must define several masks \( M_\sigma \) for each letter \( \sigma \) of alphabet A. If \( \sigma \) has several occurrences in table \( tr \), we will need as many masks \( M_\sigma \) as occurrences \( tr[i] \) and \( tr[i'] \) of \( \sigma \) with \( j = i - pr[i] \neq i' - pr[i'] = j' \) (a single mask will suffice for the set of all occurrences such that \( i - pr[i] \) has the same value \( j \), because they correspond to the same shift of \( j \) big blocks). The \( M_\sigma^j \) are the masks preparing first type computations. Precisely, if \( tr[i] = \sigma \) and \( i - pr[i] = j \), the operation \((L \ll j(\Omega + 1))\&M_\sigma^j\) will shift everything of \( j \) big blocks leftwards and will erase the blocks for which \( \sigma \neq p_i \) or \( i - pr[i] \neq j \). For \( i > 1 \), the \( i \)-th block will thus contain \( l_{pr[i]} \) iff \( tr[i] = \sigma \) and \( i - pr[i] = j \). It will contain 0 otherwise.

In our example \((m_1 = tu, m_2 = tue, \text{and } m_3 = tutu)\), we will need two masks \( M_t \) but a single mask \( M_u \) will suffice:

\[ M_t^1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0:0 & 0:0 & 0:0 & 0:0 & 0:0 \end{bmatrix} \]
\[ M_t^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0:1 & 0:0 & 0:0 & 0:0 & 0:0 \end{bmatrix} \]
\[ M_u^1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0:1 & 0:0 & 0:0 & 0:1 & 0:0 \end{bmatrix} \]
\[ M_e^1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0:0 & 0:0 & 0:1 & 0:0 & 0:0 \end{bmatrix} \]

where 0 = 0000 and 1 = 1111.

Mask \( N_\sigma \) is the complement of \( \sum_j M_\sigma^j \), preparing second type computations. The operation \( L\&N_\sigma \) will erase the blocks for which \( \sigma = tr[i] \). For our example, we have:

\[ N_t = \begin{bmatrix} 0:1 & 0:0 & 0:1 & 0:1 & 0:0 \end{bmatrix} \]
\[ N_u = \begin{bmatrix} 0:0 & 0:1 & 0:1 & 0:0 & 0:1 \end{bmatrix} \]
\[ N_e = \begin{bmatrix} 0:1 & 0:1 & 0:0 & 0:1 & 0:1 \end{bmatrix} \]

Generally, if \( k \) is table \( tr \) size,

\[ M_\sigma^j = \sum_{i \leq j \leq k} \left( ((1 \ll \Omega) - 1) \ll ((\Omega + 1)(i - 1)) \right) \]

and

\[ N_\sigma = \sum_{i \leq j \leq k} \left( ((1 \ll \Omega) - 1) \ll ((\Omega + 1)(i - 1)) \right) \]

\( N_\sigma \) is the complement of \( \sum_j M_\sigma^j \).

Transition \( l = \langle l_1, \ldots, l_k \rangle \xrightarrow{\sigma} l' = \langle l'_1, \ldots, l'_k \rangle \) is computed by:

\[ T = \sum_j \left( (L \ll j(\Omega + 1))\&M_\sigma^j \right) + (L\&N_\sigma) + E_1 \]

where:
Adding $E_1$ amounts to add 1 to each small block.

In our example, if we scan letter $t$, the transition is computed by:

$$T = \left( (L \ll 2(\Omega + 1)) \& M^1_r \right) + \left( (L \ll (\Omega + 1)) \& M^1_t \right) + (L \& N_t) + E_1$$

yielding for $l = (2, 5, \infty, 5, \infty)$, encoded by:

$$L = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

the result:

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

All the blocks contain the correct result, except for the leftmost block and the middle block where an overflow occurred. To treat blocks where overflow occurred it suffices of initialise again these blocks by replacing $T$ with $L' = T - (T \& E_2) \gg \Omega$, where:

$$E_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

We find:

$$T \& E_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Hence:

$$(T \& E_2) \gg \Omega = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

and finally:

$$L' = T - (T \& E_2) \gg \Omega = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Last we define a counter $c_i$ for each pattern $m_i$, and increment it whenever $l_{f[i]} < w + 1$, which is implanted by: $M_i \& L < (w + 1)2^{(\Omega + 1)(f[i] - 1)}$, for $i = 1, \ldots, k$, where $M_i = ((1 \ll \Omega) - 1) \ll ((\Omega + 1)(f[i] - 1))$.

Our algorithm treats the more complex case where we demand that all episodes appear in a same window, a case that cannot be treated by the separate counting of the number of windows containing each episode. A simple modification of the counting condition enables us to also count with a single scan of the text the number of windows containing each individual episode, in a more efficient way than if the text were to be scanned for each episode.

**Theorem 1** There exists an on-line algorithm in time $O(nq)$ solving the parallel search of $q$ serial episodes in a size $n$ text (assuming the episode alphabet has at most $\sqrt{n}/q$ letters) on MP–RAM.

**Proof:** Let $\alpha$ be the number of letters of the alphabet. As in [DFGGK97], we treat in the same way all letters not occurring in the patterns; this leads to defining two masks $M_{other}$ and $N_{other}$ common to all such letters. Let $|w|$ be the length of the binary expansion of $w$. The algorithm consists of four steps:

1) compute (at most) $q \times (k + 1)$ integers representing the masks $M^1_i$, $(k + 1)$ integers representing the masks $N_i$ and the integers $\Omega, \Delta, I_0, F, E_1, E_2$; all these integers are of size $k(|w| + 2)$ and are computed simultaneously in $k$ iterations at most. The integer $k$ is the size of the trie representing the patterns: $k \leq \sum_{i=1}^q |m_i| \leq \sqrt{n}$.

2) let $c = 0$ (c is the number of $w$-windows containing all the patterns).
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Figure 6: The continuous thin lines represent the execution time of the MP–RAM algorithm (with trie); the dotted line represents the execution time of the MP–RAM algorithm (with concatenation); the dashed lines the execution time of the standard algorithm (with concatenation) and the continuous thick lines the execution time of the standard algorithm (with trie).

3) let \( L = I_0 \).
4) scan text \( t \); after scanning \( t_i \), compute the new state \( L \) (on-line and without preprocessing with an MP–RAM) and if \( c_i < w \) for \( i = 1, \ldots, q \), increment \( c_i \) by 1.

Our algorithm uses only the simple and fast operations \& , together with a careful implementation of \( <, > \) and addition. Step 1 of preprocessing is in time \( qk(k+1)+q(k+1)+\log(w) \leq q(\sqrt{n})^2+2q\sqrt{n}+q+\log(w) = O(nq) \); in general, \( k, q \) and \( w \) are smaller than \( n \) by several orders of magnitude and we will have: \( qk(k+1)+q(k+1)+\log(w) = o(n) \). In step 4 we scan text \( t \) linearly in time \( O(n) \) and perform \( q \) comparisons (one for each counter \( c_i \)). Complexity is thus in time \( nq \), hence finally a time complexity \( O(nq) \) for the algorithm. □

4. Experimental results

The algorithm on MP–RAM has a better complexity than the standard algorithm, however, the underlying computation models being different, we checked experimentally that the MP–RAM algorithm is faster. We implemented all algorithms in C++. Experiments were realised on a PC (256 Mo, 1Ghz) with Linux. The text was a randomly generated file. We measured the time with machine clock ticks.

For searching multiple patterns, we took 3 to 5 patterns of length 2 to 4; in figure 6 case (a) is the case of patterns having no common prefix, and case (b) is the case of patterns having common prefixes. In case (a), the MP–RAM algorithm where we concatenate the patterns is at least twice as fast as the standard “naive” algorithm where patterns are concatenated; both standard algorithms (with patterns concatenated or organised in a trie) are equivalent, the algorithm with concatenation being slightly faster; this was predictable since a trie organisation will not give a significant advantage in that case; the MP–RAM algorithm where the patterns are organised in a trie is 30 to 50% faster than the standard algorithm with trie, and 10 to 15% slower than the MP–RAM algorithm where the patterns are concatenated. However, as soon as the total length of the patterns is larger than 7 or 8, or the window size is larger than 30, if patterns are concatenated, the automaton state can no longer be encoded in a single 32 bits memory cell, and it is better to use the MP–RAM algorithm with trie (figure 6 case (b)). Figure 6 case (b) shows that, for patterns having common prefixes, the MP–RAM algorithm with trie is 1.3 to 1.5 times faster than the standard algorithm with trie, itself 1.4 to 1.6 times faster than the standard algorithm with concatenation.

5. Conclusion

We presented new algorithms for multiple episode search, much more efficient than the standard algorithms. This was confirmed by our experimental analysis. Note that with our method, counting the number of windows containing several episodes is not harder than checking the existence of one window containing these episodes. This is not true with most other problems; usually counting problems are much harder than the corresponding existence problems; for example, for the “matching with don’t cares” problem, the existence problem is in linear time while the counting problem is in polynomial time [KR97] and in the particular case of [MBY91], the existence problem is in logarithmic time while the counting problem is in sub-linear time.

6. References