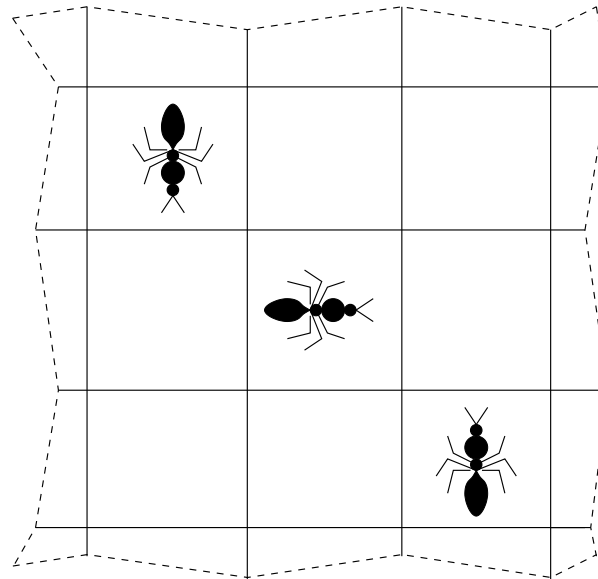


Cellular ANTomata: Principles and Progress

Arnold L. Rosenberg

Computer Science
Northeastern University
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The Cellular ANTomaton Model

The *parallel* component of the model:

An $n \times n$ cellular AUTomaton:

— the $n \times n$ mesh \mathcal{M}_n with identical FSMs at each cell

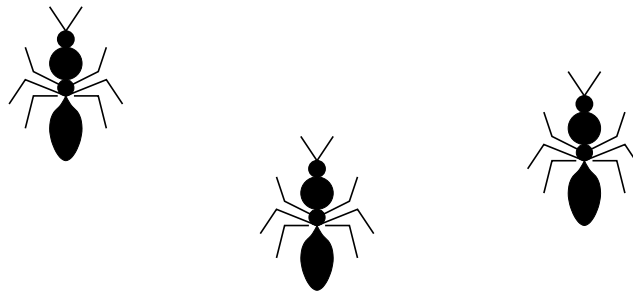
The Cellular ANTomaton Model

The *parallel* component of the model:

An $n \times n$ cellular AUTomaton

The *distributed* component of the model:

A (possibly heterogeneous) team of *mobile* FSMs
— which we call *ANTS*



The Cellular ANTomaton Model

The *parallel* component of the model:

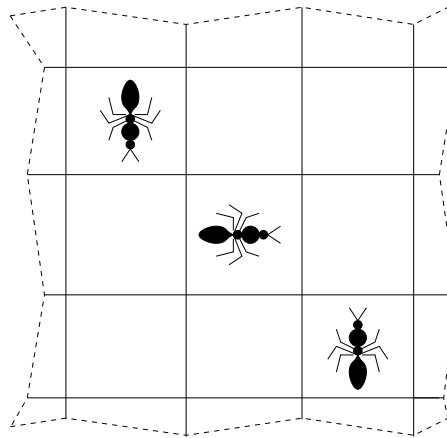
An $n \times n$ cellular AUTomaton

The *distributed* component of the model:

A (possibly heterogeneous) team of *mobile ANTS*

The Ants plus the cellular automaton equals —

A Cellular ANTomaton



Our Goals

We seek—

SCALABLE ALGORITHMS

for reality-inspired problems

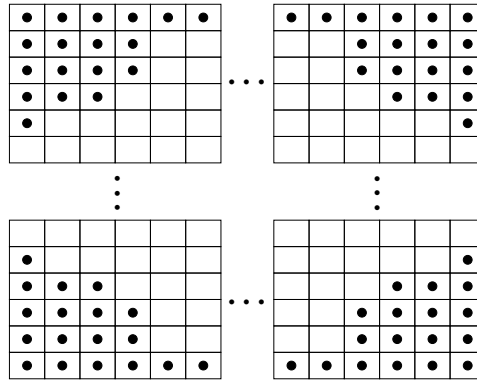
within the

Cellular ANTomaton model

A “Proof of Concept” Problem

**THE *PARKING* PROBLEM
FOR ROBOTIC ANTS**

The *Parking* Problem for Robotic Ants



Informal

Have Ants congregate as compactly as possible in the closest corners of \mathcal{M}_n (measured at moment of initiation)

Formal (for the *southwest quadrant* of \mathcal{M}_n)

Minimize the *parking potential function*:

$$\Pi(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{k=0}^{2n-2} (k+1) \times (\text{number of Ants on diagonal } k \text{ at step } t).$$

The Parking Problem for Robotic Ants

Theorem

A Cellular ANTomaton can park Ants in \mathcal{M}_n in $O(n^2)$ steps.

This is a very conservative bound: *Could $O(n)$ steps be possible?*

For perspective:

Theorem

It is impossible for discrete Ants on an unintelligent floor to park.

The Parking Problem for Robotic Ants

Theorem

A Cellular ANTomaton can park Ants in \mathcal{M}_n in $O(n^2)$ steps.

1. The Cellular ANTomaton quadrisepts \mathcal{M}_n so each Ant knows its quadrant:
Time: $O(n)$ steps

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1. The Cellular ANTomaton quadrisections \mathcal{M}_n so each Ant knows its quadrant:
Time: $O(n)$ steps
2. Ants move in a “wavefront” toward the correct corner:
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The Parking Problem for Robotic Ants

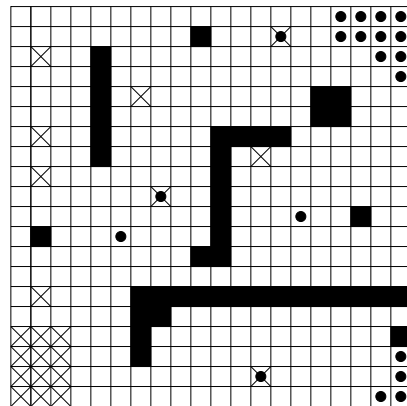
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Time: $O(n)$ steps
2. Ants move in a “wavefront” toward the correct corner:
Time: $O(n)$ steps
3. Ants wander around their corner, to achieve a *compact* configuration
Time: our procedure takes $\Theta(n^2)$ steps

A "Proof of Concept" Problem

**THE *FOOD-SEEKING* PROBLEM
FOR ROBOTIC ANTS**



CIRCLE = Ant
X = Food
Blackened cell = Obstacle

The *Food-Seeking* Problem for Robotic Ants

\mathcal{M}_n contains \underline{r} Ants and \underline{s} food items.

Goal. Match Ants and food items so that:

- if $r \geq s$, then some Ant will reach every food item;
- if $s \geq r$, then every Ant will get food.

The *Food-Seeking* Problem for Robotic Ants

\mathcal{M}_n contains \underline{r} Ants and \underline{s} food items.

Goal. *Match Ants and food items.*

We have developed two algorithms that achieve this goal:

1. The *Food-Initiated algorithm.*

Time: $(r + O(1))n$ steps

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2. The *Active-Ant algorithm.*

Time: $O(n\sqrt{s})$ steps

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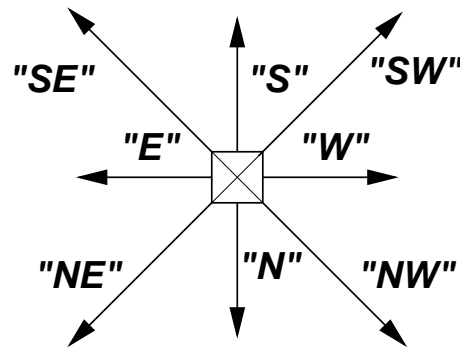
Theorem

A single intelligent Ant on an unintelligent floor requires, in the worst case, $\Omega(n^2)$ steps to find a single food item.

The *Food-Initiated* Algorithm

\mathcal{M}_n contains \underline{r} Ants and \underline{s} food items.

1. FSMs with food send *food-announcing message* to all neighbors.

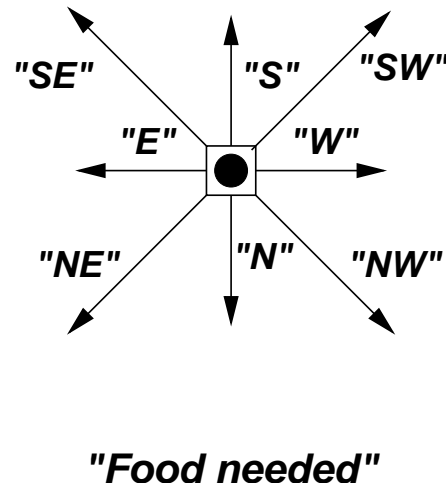


"Food available"

The *Food-Initiated* Algorithm

\mathcal{M}_n contains \underline{r} Ants and \underline{s} food items.

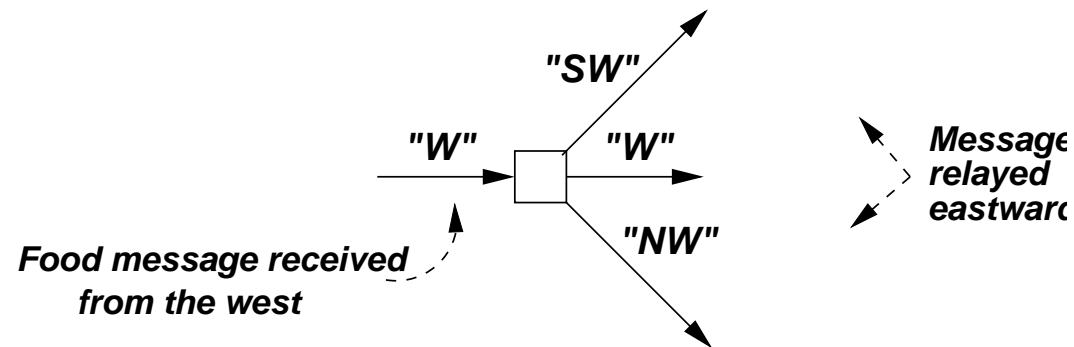
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The *Food-Initiated* Algorithm

\mathcal{M}_n contains \underline{r} Ants and \underline{s} food items.

1. FSMs with food send *food-announcing message* to all neighbors.
2. FSMs with Ants send *food-seeking message* to all neighbors.
3. All FSMs relay all messages (combining similar ones).



The *Food-Initiated* Algorithm

\mathcal{M}_n contains r ants and s food items.

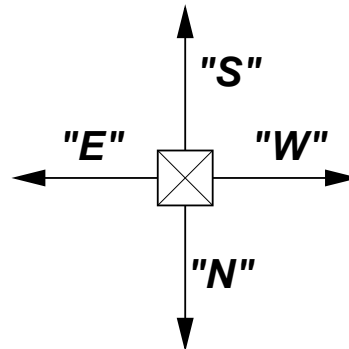
1. FSMs with food send *food-announcing message* to all neighbors.
2. FSMs with Ants send *food-seeking message* to all neighbors.
3. All FSMs relay all messages (combining similar ones).
4. FSMs send Ants in the direction of a food-announcing message.

The *Active-Ant* Algorithm

\mathcal{M}_n contains \underline{r} Ants and \underline{s} food items.

Goal. *Match Ants and food items.*

1. FSMs with food send *food-announcing message* on NEWS arcs.



"Food available"

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Goal. *Match Ants and food items.*

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1. FSMs with food send *food-announcing message* on NEWS arcs.
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3. FSMs send Ants clockwise around perimeter of \mathcal{M}_n .

The *Active-Ant* Algorithm

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1. FSMs with food send *food-announcing message* on NEWS arcs.
2. All FSMs relay food-announcing messages on NEWS arcs.
3. FSMs send Ants clockwise around perimeter of \mathcal{M}_n .
4. Ants (a) stay with food they encounter on way to perimeter
(b) follow messages to food from perimeter
—they rejoin the perimeter-walk if food has already been taken

A “Proof of Concept” Problem

**THREE *PATTERN-MATCHING* PROBLEMS
INSPIRED BY BIOINFORMATICS**

Bio-Inspired Pattern-Matching

Problem 1. A CA \mathcal{C} has:

- length- n *master pattern* Π along row 0
 - length- $(m \leq n)$ *input pattern* π left-justified along row $n - 1$
- \mathcal{C} identifies all positions in Π where a copy of π begins.

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Problem 2. \mathcal{C} solves a sequence of instances of **Problem 1** for pattern Π and a sequence of input patterns, π_1, \dots, π_r of lengths $n \geq m_1 \geq \dots \geq m_r$.

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Bio-Inspired Pattern-Matching

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Time: $n + m_1 + \dots + m_r$ steps.

Problem 3. Expand **Problem 1**: Allow occurrences of π to *wrap around* Π . (as if Π were a *ring of symbols*).

Time: $O(n)$ steps.

**Bio-Inspired Pattern-Matching
Underlying Algorithmic Ideas**

Idea 1. Zip-matching

Bio-Inspired Pattern-Matching Underlying Algorithmic Ideas

Idea 1. Zip-matching

The motivating challenge:

As \mathcal{C} searches for all positions in Π where π begins, partial data “piles up.”

σ_0	σ_1	σ_2	σ_3	\dots
τ_0	τ_1	\dots		
	τ_0	τ_1	\dots	
		τ_0	τ_1	\dots

Each column represents one parallel comparison-step.

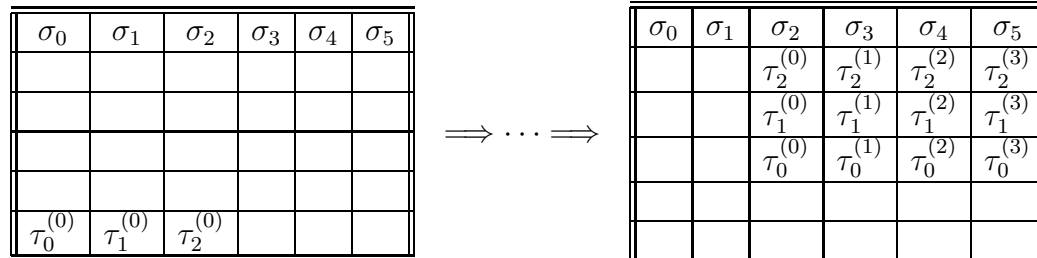
Bio-Inspired Pattern-Matching Underlying Algorithmic Ideas

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The motivating challenge:

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Zip-matching avoids this congestion



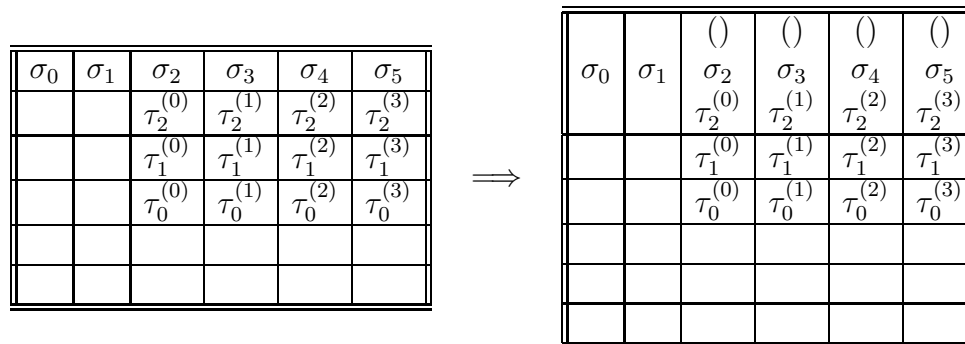
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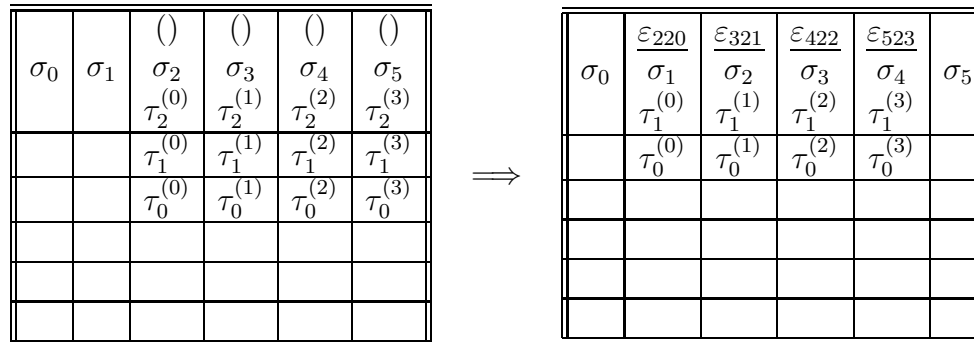
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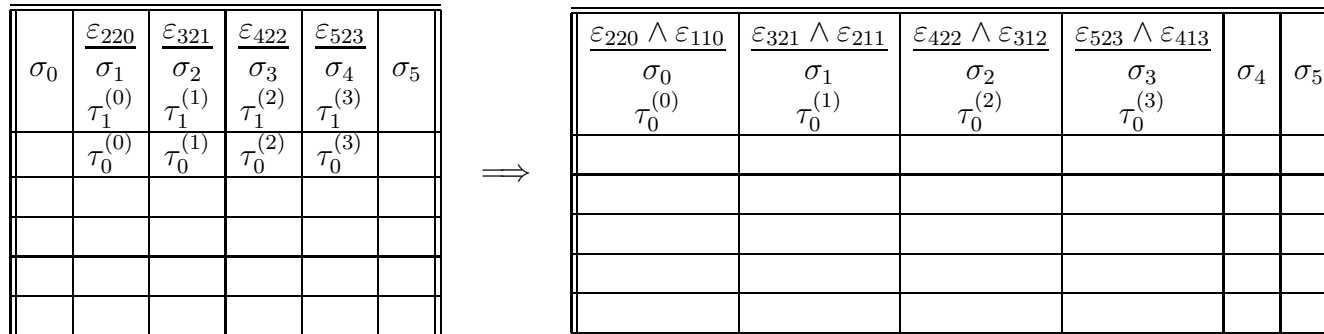
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Bio-Inspired Pattern-Matching Underlying Algorithmic Ideas

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Zip-matching avoids this congestion

$\varepsilon_{220} \wedge \varepsilon_{110}$	$\varepsilon_{321} \wedge \varepsilon_{211}$	$\varepsilon_{422} \wedge \varepsilon_{312}$	$\varepsilon_{523} \wedge \varepsilon_{413}$	σ_4	σ_5
σ_0 $\tau_0^{(0)}$	σ_1 $\tau_0^{(1)}$	σ_2 $\tau_0^{(2)}$	σ_3 $\tau_0^{(3)}$		



$\varepsilon_{220} \wedge \varepsilon_{110} \wedge \varepsilon_{000}$	$\varepsilon_{321} \wedge \varepsilon_{211} \wedge \varepsilon_{101}$	$\varepsilon_{422} \wedge \varepsilon_{312} \wedge \varepsilon_{202}$	$\varepsilon_{523} \wedge \varepsilon_{413} \wedge \varepsilon_{303}$	σ_4	σ_5
σ_0	σ_1	σ_2	σ_3		

Bio-Inspired Pattern-Matching Underlying Algorithmic Ideas

Idea 1. Zip-matching: **Time:** $n + m$ steps

Zip-matching on length- n Π and length- $(m \leq n)$ π can be done in $n + m$ steps.

Bio-Inspired Pattern-Matching Underlying Algorithmic Ideas

Idea 1. Zip-matching: Time: $n + m$ steps

Idea 2. Tracks and Layers

Bio-Inspired Pattern-Matching Underlying Algorithmic Ideas

Idea 1. Zip-matching: **Time:** $n + m$ steps

Idea 2. Tracks and Layers

The symbols within FSMs' memories can have *structure*

Bio-Inspired Pattern-Matching Underlying Algorithmic Ideas

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e.g., they can be *tuples* of atomic symbols: $\alpha = \langle \beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3 \rangle$

Bio-Inspired Pattern-Matching Underlying Algorithmic Ideas

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Bio-Inspired Pattern-Matching Underlying Algorithmic Ideas

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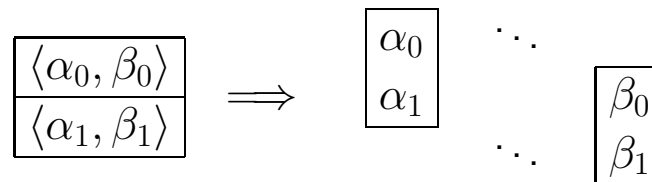
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The symbols within FSMs' memories can have *structure*

e.g., they can be *tuples* of atomic symbols: $\alpha = \langle \beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3 \rangle$

Thereby, we can endow a mesh's rows and columns with *tracks*

—even to the point of endowing \mathcal{M}_n with complete *layers*:



Bio-Inspired Pattern-Matching Underlying Algorithmic Ideas

Idea 1. Zip-matching: **Time:** $n + m$ steps

Idea 2. Tracks and Layers: **Time:** $O(n)$ steps

\mathcal{C} can implement Tracks and Layers on rows, columns, or all of \mathcal{M}_n by performing a barrier synchronization. The *Firing Squad Protocol* achieves this in time $O(n)$.

Bio-Inspired Pattern-Matching Underlying Algorithmic Ideas

Idea 1. Zip-matching: Time: $n + m$ steps

Idea 2. Tracks and Layers: Time: $O(n)$ steps

Idea 3. The L-C transformation: Fast Cyclic Rotations

Bio-Inspired Pattern-Matching Underlying Algorithmic Ideas

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When one cyclically rotates a pattern, intersymbol distances can change a lot:

Bio-Inspired Pattern-Matching Underlying Algorithmic Ideas

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Idea 2. Tracks and Layers: **Time:** $O(n)$ steps

Idea 3. The L-C transformation: Fast Cyclic Rotations

When one cyclically rotates a pattern, intersymbol distances can change a lot:

cf., σ_{n-1} and σ_{n-2} within $\underline{\Pi = \sigma_0 \cdots \sigma_{n-2} \sigma_{n-1}}$ and $\underline{\rho(\Pi) = \sigma_{n-1} \sigma_0 \cdots \sigma_{n-2}}$

Bio-Inspired Pattern-Matching Underlying Algorithmic Ideas

Idea 1. Zip-matching: **Time:** $n + m$ steps

Idea 2. Tracks and Layers: **Time:** $O(n)$ steps

Idea 3. The L-C transformation: Fast Cyclic Rotations

When one cyclically rotates a pattern, inter-symbol distance can change a lot:

The Linear-Cyclic (L-C) transformation avoids this: distances stay small!

Bio-Inspired Pattern-Matching Underlying Algorithmic Ideas

Idea 1. Zip-matching: **Time:** $n + m$ steps

Idea 2. Tracks and Layers: **Time:** $O(n)$ steps

Idea 3. The L-C transformation: Fast Cyclic Rotations

When one cyclically rotates a pattern, inter-symbol distance can change a lot:

The L-C transformation:

Write $\sigma_0 \cdots \sigma_{n-1}$ by selecting symbols from alternating ends:

$$\lambda(\sigma_0 \sigma_1 \cdots \sigma_{n-2} \sigma_{n-1}) = \sigma_0 \sigma_{n-1} \sigma_1 \sigma_{n-2} \cdots$$

Bio-Inspired Pattern-Matching Underlying Algorithmic Ideas

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When one cyclically rotates a pattern, inter-symbol distance can change a lot:

The L-C transformation:

Write $\sigma_0 \cdots \sigma_{n-1}$ by selecting symbols from alternating ends.

The interplay between the *rotation operator* ρ and the L-C operator λ (for both odd- and even- n):

ξ	$= \sigma_0 \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_3 \sigma_4 \sigma_5$	η	$= \tau_0 \tau_1 \tau_2 \tau_3 \tau_4 \tau_5 \tau_6$
$\lambda(\xi)$	$= \sigma_0 \sigma_5 \sigma_1 \sigma_4 \sigma_2 \sigma_3$	$\lambda(\eta)$	$= \tau_0 \tau_6 \tau_1 \tau_5 \tau_2 \tau_4 \tau_3$
$\rho(\xi)$	$= \sigma_5 \sigma_0 \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_3 \sigma_4$	$\rho(\eta)$	$= \tau_6 \tau_0 \tau_1 \tau_2 \tau_3 \tau_4 \tau_5$
$\lambda(\rho(\xi))$	$= \sigma_5 \sigma_4 \sigma_0 \sigma_3 \sigma_1 \sigma_2$	$\lambda(\rho(\eta))$	$= \tau_6 \tau_5 \tau_0 \tau_4 \tau_1 \tau_3 \tau_2$

Bio-Inspired Pattern-Matching Underlying Algorithmic Ideas

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Idea 2. Tracks and Layers: **Time:** $O(n)$ steps

Idea 3. The L-C transformation: Fast Cyclic Rotations: **Time:** $O(n)$ steps

The L-C transformation can be done and undone to a pattern Π in linear time.

**Bio-Inspired Pattern-Matching
Solving the Three Problems**

Problem 1.

The enabling tool is *Zip-Matching*

Bio-Inspired Pattern-Matching Solving the Three Problems

Problem 1.

The enabling tool is *Zip-Matching*

Turning π “on its head” and replicating it along row 0 is “tailor-made” for cellular automata.

Bio-Inspired Pattern-Matching
Solving the Three Problems

Problem 1. Enabling tool: *Zip-Matching*, Time: $n + m$ steps

**Bio-Inspired Pattern-Matching
Solving the Three Problems**

Problem 1. Enabling tool: *Zip-Matching*, Time: $n + m$ steps

Problem 2.

The enabling tool is *Pipelined Zip-Matching*

Bio-Inspired Pattern-Matching Solving the Three Problems

Problem 1. Enabling tool: *Zip-Matching*, Time: $n + m$ steps

Problem 2.

The enabling tool is *Pipelined Zip-Matching*

Time the pipeline must be done carefully — a straightforward challenge for cellular automata

**Bio-Inspired Pattern-Matching
Solving the Three Problems**

Problem 1. Enabling tool: *Zip-Matching*; **Time:** $n + m$ steps

Problem 2. Enabling tool: *Pipelined Zip-Matching*; **Time:** $n + m_1 + \dots + m_r$ steps

Bio-Inspired Pattern-Matching Solving the Three Problems

Problem 1. Enabling tool: *Zip-Matching*; Time: $n + m$ steps

Problem 2. Enabling tool: *Pipelined Zip-Matching*; Time: $n + \sum_i m_i$ steps

Problem 3. (the most complex problem)

1. Establish 3 layers in \mathcal{M}_n : π -layer, Π -layer, flow-layer

Bio-Inspired Pattern-Matching Solving the Three Problems

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3. Prepare π for Zip-Matching at row 0 within the π -layer
4. Inductively:
 - (a) as $n - m$ copies of π (in the π -layer) get Zip-Matched to a cyclic rotation of Π (say at row k of the Π -layer),
 - (b) \mathcal{C} sends a replica of the $n - m$ copies of π (in the flow layer) southward to the cyclic rotation of Π at row $k + 1$

Bio-Inspired Pattern-Matching Solving the Three Problems

Problem 1. Enabling tool: *Zip-Matching*; Time: $n + m$ steps

Problem 2. Enabling tool: *Pipelined Zip-Matching*; Time: $n + \sum_i m_i$ steps

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4. Inductively:
 - (a) as $n - m$ copies of π (in the π -layer) get Zip-Matched to a cyclic rotation of Π (say at row k of the Π -layer),
 - (b) \mathcal{C} sends a replica of the $n - m$ copies of π (in the flow layer) southward to the cyclic rotation of Π at row $k + 1$

\mathcal{C} enhances parallelism by orchestrating step 4 in the manner of a *Systolic Array*.

Therefore, the entire solution of Problem 3 is accomplished within $O(n)$ steps.

Bio-Inspired Pattern-Matching Summing Up

Problem 1. Enabling tool: *Zip-Matching*;

Time: $n + m$ steps

Problem 2. Enabling tool: *Pipelined Zip-Matching*;

Time: $n + \sum_i m_i$ steps

Problem 3. *Several tools*; **Time:** $O(n)$ steps