Computing Edit Distance

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Abstract

The edit distance (or Levenshtein distance) between two strings $x, y$ is the minimum number of character insertions, deletions, and substitutions needed to convert $x$ into $y$. It has numerous applications in various fields from text processing to bioinformatics so algorithms for edit distance computation attract lot of attention. In this talk I will survey recent progress on computational aspects of edit distance in several contexts: computing edit distance approximately, sketching and computing it in streaming model, exchanging strings in communication complexity model, and building error correcting codes for edit distance. I will point out many problems that are still open in those areas.

2012 ACM Subject Classification Theory of computation → Pattern matching

Keywords and phrases edit distance, streaming algorithms, approximation algorithms, sketching

Digital Object Identifier 10.4230/LIPIcs.CPM.2021.2

Category Invited Talk