

# Chapter 12

## Set Systems and the Syntenic Distance

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## 12.1 Introduction

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- (c) If  $C_i$ ,  $C_j$ ,  $C_p$ ,  $C_q$  are non-empty then  $\{C_i, C_j\} \rightarrow \{C_p, C_q\}$  is called a **translocation** of  $C_i$  and  $C_j$ .

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## Proposition

$$\text{syd}(\pi_1, \pi_2) = \text{syd}(\pi_2, \pi_1)$$

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This number is denoted by  $\text{syd}(S(h, k))$  and is called the **syntenic distance** of  $S(h, k)$ .

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**Proof.** (idea) Any given move, the number of components in the synteny graph cannot increase by more than 1.

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where  $\text{count}(g)$  is the number of sets of  $S(h, k)$  in which  $g$  appears, for any gene  $g$ .

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*There exists a polynomial-time approximation algorithm  $H$  for computing  $\text{syd}(S(h, k))$  whose ratio equals 2. Its running time is  $O(hkA^{-1}(hk, k))$ , where  $A^{-1}$  is the inverse of Ackermann's function.*

**Proof.** We consider the syntenicity graph  $SG(S(h, k))$  and let  $CC_i$  be its  $p$  connected components, for  $1 \leq i \leq p$ . Let  $k_i$  (resp.  $n_i$ ) be the number of vertices (resp. number of elements) in  $CC_i$ . Then, for each connected component, repeatedly use fusion until only one set is remaining and then repeatedly use fission to separate the remaining elements from the set. In all, we perform

$$\sum_{i=1}^p (h_i + k_i - 2) = h + k - 2p \leq 2h - 2p \text{ moves,}$$

## 12.5 Algorithmic Results

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$$\sum_{i=1}^p (h_i + k_i - 2) = h + k - 2p \leq 2h - 2p \text{ moves,}$$

By [Proposition 12.3](#),  $\text{syd}(S(h, k)) \geq h - p$ , and hence a performance ratio of 2 is achieved.

## Theorem ([3])

*Any algorithm that works only within connected components of the synteny graph cannot have an approximation ratio better than 2*

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*However, this instance can be solved in  $h - 1$  moves.*

## 12.5.2 Easy Cases

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## 12.5.2.1 Linear Synteny

### Definition (Linear Synteny)

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### Theorem ([3])

For any  $h \geq 4$ , the maximal linear syntenic distance between two  $h$ -sized genomes is  $2h - 3$ . Theorem 12.2

## 12.5.2.2 Linear Nested Synteny

### Definition (Linear Nested Synteny)

An instance  $S(h, k) = \{S_1, S_2, \dots, S_k\}$  is said to be *nested* if, for all  $1 \leq i \neq j \leq k$ , one of the three following cases occurs:

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### Definition (Uncovering Synteny)

An instance  $S(h, k) = \{S_1, S_2, \dots, S_k\}$  is said to be *uncovering* if there exists an ordering of the sets  $S_j$ , for  $1 \leq j \leq k$ , such that

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2006, Ting et al.[358] give an  $O(hk)$  algorithm for solving the uncovering synteny problem. Actually, for any uncovering instance, they show that either  $\text{syd}(S(h, k)) = h - p$  or  $\text{syd}(S(h, k)) = h - p + 1$ .

## 12.5.2.5 Fusions and Fissions only

### Theorem ((139))

*For any  $h \geq k$ ,  $\text{syd}_{\text{ff}}(S(h, k)) = h + k - 2p$ .*

Ackermann's function



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## 12.6 Conjectures and Open Problems

### Problem

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### Problem

*Is it possible to characterize those syntenic instances that can be optimally solved by translocations only?*

-  B. DasGupta and T. Jiang and S. Kannan and M. Li and E. Sweedyk, On the Complexity and Approximation of Syntenic Distance, (1998)
-  V. Ferretti, J.H. Nadeau and D. Sankoff, Original Synteny, (1996)
-  D. Liben-Nowell, On the Structure of Syntenic Distance, (2001)
-  D. Liben-Nowell, Gossip is synteny incomplete gossip and syntenic distance between genomes, (2002)

# Ackermann's function.

## Definition

$$A(m, n) = \begin{cases} n + 1 & \text{if } m = 0, \\ A(m - 1, 1) & \text{if } m > 0 \text{ and } n = 0, \\ A(m - 1, A(m, n - 1)) & \text{if } m > 0 \text{ and } n > 0. \end{cases}$$



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Values of  $A(m, n)$

$m \backslash n$	0	1	2	3	4
0	0+1	1+1	2+1	3+1	4+1
1	$A(0, 1)$	$A(0, A(1, 0))$	$A(0, A(1, 1))$	$A(0, A(1, 2))$	$A(0, A(1, 3))$
2	$A(1, 1)$	$A(1, A(2, 0))$	$A(1, A(2, 1))$	$A(1, A(2, 2))$	$A(1, A(2, 3))$
3	$A(2, 1)$	$A(2, A(3, 0))$	$A(2, A(3, 1))$	$A(2, A(3, 2))$	$A(2, A(3, 3))$
4	$A(3, 1)$	$A(3, A(4, 0))$	$A(3, A(4, 1))$	$A(3, A(4, 2))$	$A(3, A(4, 3))$
5	$A(4, 1)$	$A(4, A(5, 0))$	$A(4, A(5, 1))$	$A(4, A(5, 2))$	$A(4, A(5, 3))$
6	$A(5, 1)$	$A(5, A(6, 0))$	$A(5, A(6, 1))$	$A(5, A(6, 2))$	$A(5, A(6, 3))$

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3	$A(2,1)$	$A(2,A(3,0))$	$A(2,A(3,1))$	$A(2,A(3,2))$	$A(2,A(3,3))$
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Values of  $A(m, n)$

$m \setminus n$	0	1	2	3	4	$n$
0	1	2	3	4	5	$n + 1$
1	2	3	4	5	6	$n + 2 = 2 + (n + 3) - 3$
2	3	5	7	9	11	$2n + 3 = 2 \cdot (n + 3) - 3$
3	5	13	29	61	125	$2^{(n+3)} - 3$
4	13 $= 2^{2^2} - 3$	65533 $= 2^{2^{2^2}} - 3$	$2^{65536} - 3$ $= 2^{2^{2^{2^2}}} - 3$	$2^{2^{65536}} - 3$ $= 2^{2^{2^{2^{2^2}}}} - 3$	$2^{2^{2^{65536}}} - 3$ $= 2^{2^{2^{2^{2^{2^2}}}}} - 3$	$\underbrace{2^{2^{\dots^2}}}_{n+3} - 3$