# On the Compressibility of **Highly Repetitive Sequences**

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Millennium Institute Foundational Research on Data

#### The world is drowning in data! (Jeff Vitter, 2008)

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Introduction

The world is drowning in data In recent years, we have been deluged by a torrent of data from a variety of increasing/data-intensive applications, including databases, scientific computations, graphics, entertainment, multimedia, sensors, web applications, and email. NASA's Earth Observing System project, the core part of the Earth Science Enterprise (formerly Mission to Planet Earth), produces petalytes ( $10^{15}$  bytes) of raster data per year [148]. A petalyte corresponds roughly to the amount of information in one billion graphically formatted books. The unline databases of satellite images used by Microsoft TerraSorver (part of MSN Virtual Earth) [325] and Google Earth [180] are multiple terabytes ( $10^{12}$  bytes) in size. Val-Mart's sales data warehouse contains over a half petalyte (500 terabytes) of data. A major challenge is to develop mechanisms for processing the data, or else much of the data will be useless.

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We are still drowning in data, but...... are we drowning in information?

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- Myriad genomes of the same species.



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- Periodic sky surveys.



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# GitHub





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Using Lempel-Ziv compression.

#### Our focus

We will focus on sequence data, and on the following questions:

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- How to best measure the entropy, or amount of information, of an individual text T[1..n]?
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Can we access the text efficiently within that space?

### Shannon's entropy?

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- But it is useless to capture repetitiveness,  $H(T \cdot T) \approx H(T)$ .



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- It would be adequate, but... it is uncomputable.
- It is also too general, not just about repetitiveness.
- Ad-hoc measures from dictionary compression are used as gold standards.



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- The number z of phrases is the Lempel-Ziv complexity.



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- The base of practical compressors like LZ77 and LZ78, with immense success.



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- It may double upon a single character edit on *T* [Akagi, Funakoshi, Inenaga 2022].

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- Any LZ-End parse enables accessing an individual symbol in time O(log<sup>5</sup> n) [Kempa & Saha 2022].
- *z<sub>e</sub>* is reasonably close to *z* in practice.

$$\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{a} \ \mathbf{l} \ \mathbf{a} \ \mathbf{b} \ \mathbf{a} \ \mathbf{r} \ \mathbf{a} \ \mathbf{l} \ \mathbf{a} \ \mathbf{l} \ \mathbf{a} \ \mathbf{b} \ \mathbf{a} \ \mathbf{r} \ \mathbf{d} \ \mathbf{a} \ \mathbf{s} \\ z = 7 \\ z_{no} = 7 \end{array}$$

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- Never reached popularity, though.







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For some families,  $z = \Omega(b \log n)$  [Gagie, N., Prezza 2018].

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  - At the leaf we reach the terminal T[i].
  - We can extract  $T[i..i + \ell]$  in time  $O(\ell + \log n)$ .







- This holds for O(g) space in general.
- Because every grammar can be made binary and balanced within the same asymptotic size [Ganardi, Jez, Lohrey 2020].

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- For example,  $a^{k_1}ba^{k_2}ba^{k_3}b\cdots ba^{k_q}$ , with  $k_1 \ge k_i$  for all i, and  $q = \Theta(\log k_1)$ .

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• Its grammar requires size  $\Omega(\log^2 k_1 / \log \log k_1)$ .

Recap



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### **Run-length grammars**

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• The same proof shows that  $g_{rl} = \Omega(z_e \log n / \log \log n)$ .

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- They define a locally consistent run-length grammar to prove g<sub>rl</sub> = O(b log(n/b)).
  - It is analyzed by considering an underlying bidirectional macro sheme.

# More relations with g<sub>rl</sub>

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They (easily) prove z = O(g<sub>rl</sub>), thus the bound we already saw, z = O(b log(n/b)).



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- So one can access any T[i..i + ℓ] within O(g<sub>rl</sub>) space in time O(log n + ℓ).

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- Then the blocks always point earlier in time.



N., Ochoa, Prezza [2021] proved c = O(z)

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- Self-referential phrases are handled with run-length rules.



Recap





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For repetitive texts, *r* is small [Mäkinen et al. 2008].

\$ alabaralalabarda a \$ a abaralal a b a r d alalabarda\$ а b a r а rda\$alabara a b a а ralalabarda S а а b а labarda\$alabar а а barda\$alabar а а а aralalabarda\$ а Т а b r = 10arda\$alabar al а a b baral alabarda\$a а barda\$alabar а а da\$al abaralal a b а alalabarda\$ L abar а abarda\$alaba r а а barda\$al а b a а а а abarda\$a Т а а L а b a rda\$al abar а а а

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lt is not known how to access T[i] within O(r) space.

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- Yet, it can be proved that b = O(r) [Gagie, N., Prezza 2018].

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- Unknown if z = o(v) for some text family.

# Recap





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Thue-Morse sequences, 01, 01 10, 0110 1001, ...

# alabaralalabarda\$

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- A set \[Gamma] of positions in \[T] such that any substring of \[T] has a copy including an element of \[Gamma].

- The size  $\gamma$  of the smallest attractor is the measure.
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#### Relations

- There is a string family where  $\gamma = O(1)$  and  $b = \Omega(\log n)$  [Kutsukake et al. 2020, Bannai et al. 2021]
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- Spoiler: Kociumaka thinks he can prove  $g = O(\gamma \log(n/\gamma))$ .

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- NP-hard to compute.
- Unreachable? Can one represent T in  $O(\gamma)$  space?

# Accessing with attractors

Block-tree-like structure



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- It grows only by 1 upon a single character edit on T [Akagi, Funakoshi, Inenaga 2022].



#### Some upper bounds in terms of $\delta$

•  $z = O(\delta \log(n/\delta))$  [Raskhodnikova et al. 2013], so this is reachable.

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  - This cannot be achieved with g.
- ► It also holds  $r = O(\delta \log \delta \log(n/\delta))$  [Kociumaka & Kempa 2019] and  $z_e = O(\delta \log^2(n/\delta))$  [Kempa & Saha 2022].

#### Lower bounds in terms of $\delta$ [Kociumaka, N., Prezza 2020]

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Using a generalized variant of the above family.

## Recap



►  $z \approx v \approx 1.5-2.5 \cdot \delta$ ►  $g \approx 3-6 \cdot \delta$ ►  $r \approx 7-11 \cdot \delta$ 

**b** is the limit of copy-paste representations.



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- Most measures within  $\delta$  and  $\delta \log(n/\delta)$ .



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- Can we access T in  $O(z_{no})$  or O(r) space?

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Iteration of morphisms as a mechanism to capture repetitions.



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• Then the string has  $\gamma = O(\log n)$  [Shallit 2020].

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- Plus a desired pruning depth and string length.

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  - 0, 001, 0010011, 001001100100111, ...
  - It is shown to have  $\delta = \Omega(\log n)$ , with  $\ell = O(1)$ .

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- A deterministic Lindenmayer system.
- Plus a desired pruning depth and string length.
- Let  $\ell$  be the size of the smallest L-system generating T.
- We only have the upper bound  $\ell = O(g)$ .
- On Thue-Morse words:

 $\blacktriangleright b = \Theta(\log n), \gamma = O(1),$ 

- $\ell = O(1)$  beats any cut-and-paste method
- In some cases,  $\ell = \Omega(\delta \log n)$  because it is reachable.
- But it might also be that  $\delta = \Omega(\ell \log n)$ :
  - Initial symbol 0, rules  $0 \rightarrow 001$  and  $1 \rightarrow 1$ .
  - 0, 001, 0010011, 001001100100111, ...
  - It is shown to have  $\delta = \Omega(\log n)$ , with  $\ell = O(1)$ .
  - Maybe l captures better some repetitive structured texts?

# Thanks for your attention!

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