String Periods in the Order-Preserving Model*

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Abstract

The order-preserving model (op-model, in short) was introduced quite recently but has already attracted significant attention because of its applications in data analysis. We introduce several types of periods in this setting (op-periods). Then we give algorithms to compute these periods in time $O(n)$, $O(n \log\log n)$, $O(n \log^2 \log n / \log\log\log n)$, $O(n \log n)$ depending on the type of periodicity. In the most general variant the number of different periods can be as big as $\Omega(n^2)$, and a compact representation is needed. Our algorithms require novel combinatorial insight into the properties of such periods.

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1 Introduction

Study of strings in the *order-preserving* model (*op-model*, in short) is a part of the so-called non-standard stringology. It is focused on pattern matching and repetition discovery problems in the shapes of number sequences. Here the shape of a sequence is given by the relative order of its elements. The applications of the op-model include finding trends in time series which appear naturally when considering e.g. the stock market or melody matching of two musical scores; see [33]. In such problems periodicity plays a crucial role.

One of motivations is given by the following scenario. Consider a sequence D of numbers that models a time series which is known to repeat the same shape every fixed period of time. For example, this could be certain stock market data or statistics data from a social network that is strongly dependent on the day of the week, i.e., repeats the same shape every consecutive week. Our goal is, given a fragment S of the sequence D, to discover such repeating shapes, called here *op-periods*, in S. We also consider some special cases of this setting. If the beginning of the sequence S is synchronized with the beginning of the repeating shape in D, we refer to the repeating shape as to an *initial* op-period. If the synchronization takes place also at the end of the sequence, we call the shape a *full* op-period. Finally, we also consider *sliding* op-periods that describe the case when every factor of the sequence D repeats the same shape every fixed period of time.

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Order-preserving model. Let $[\![a..b]\!]$ denote the set $\{a,\dots,b\}$. We say that two strings $X = X[1]\dots X[n]$ and $Y = Y[1]\dots Y[n]$ over an integer alphabet are *order-equivalent* (*equivalent* in short), written $X \approx Y$, iff $\forall_{i,j\in[\![1..n]\!]}\ \ X[i] < X[j] \Leftrightarrow Y[i] < Y[j]$.

▶ **Example 1.** $5\,2\,7\,5\,1\,3\,10\,3\,5 \approx 6\,4\,7\,6\,3\,5\,9\,5\,6$.

Order-equivalence is a special case of a substring consistent equivalence relation (SCER) that was defined in [38].

For a string S of length n, we can create a new string X of length n such that $X[i]$ is equal to the number of distinct symbols in S that are not greater than $S[i]$. The string X is called the *shape* of S and is denoted by *shape*(S). It is easy to observe that two strings S, T are order-equivalent if and only if they have the same shape.

▶ **Example 2.** $\mathit{shape}(5\,2\,7\,5\,1\,3\,10\,3\,5) = \mathit{shape}(6\,4\,7\,6\,3\,5\,9\,5\,6) = 4\,2\,5\,4\,1\,3\,6\,3\,4$.

Periods in the op-model. We consider several notions of periodicity in the op-model, illustrated by Fig. 1. We say that a string S has a (general) *op-period* p with *shift* $s \in [\![0..p-1]\!]$ if and only if $p < |S|$ and S is a factor of a string $V_1V_2\cdots V_k$ such that:

$$|V_1| = \cdots = |V_k| = p, \quad V_1 \approx \cdots \approx V_k, \quad \text{and } S[s+1..|S|] \text{ is a prefix of } V_2\cdots V_k.$$

The *shape* of the op-period is *shape*(V_1). One op-period p can have several shifts; to avoid ambiguity, we sometimes denote the op-period as (p, s). We define Shifts_p as the set of all shifts of the op-period p.

An op-period p is called *initial* if $0 \in \mathit{Shifts}_p$, *full* if it is initial and p divides $|S|$, and *sliding* if $\mathit{Shifts}_p = [\![0..p-1]\!]$. Initial and sliding op-periods are particular cases of block-based and sliding-window-based periods for SCER, both of which were introduced in [38].

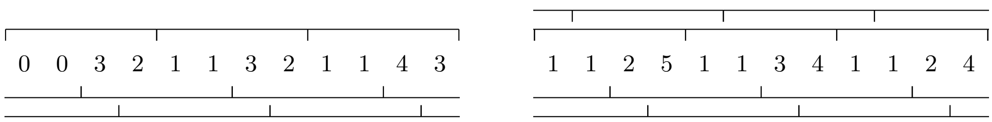

Figure 1 The string to the left has op-period 4 with three shifts: $\mathit{Shifts}_4 = [\![0..0]\!] \cup [\![2..3]\!]$. Due to the shift 0, the string has an initial—therefore, a full—op-period 4. The string to the right has op-period 4 with all four shifts: $\mathit{Shifts}_4 = [\![0..3]\!]$. In particular, 4 is a sliding op-period of the string. Notice that both strings (of length $n = 12$) have (general, sliding) periods 4, but none of them has the order-border (in the sense of [37]) of length $n - 4$.

Models of periodicity. In the standard model, a string S of length n has a period p iff $S[i] = S[i+p]$ for all $i = 1,\dots,n-p$. The famous periodicity lemma of Fine and Wilf [26] states that a "long enough" string with periods p and q has also the period $\gcd(p,q)$. The exact bound of being "long enough" is $p + q - \gcd(p,q)$. This result was generalized to arbitrary number of periods [9, 32, 41].

Periods were also considered in a number of non-standard models. Partial words, which are strings with don't care symbols, possess quite interesting Fine–Wilf type properties, including probabilistic ones; see [4, 5, 6, 39, 40, 31]. In Section 2, we make use of periodicity graphs introduced in [39, 40]. In the abelian (jumbled) model, a version of the periodicity lemma was shown in [15] and extended in [7]. Also, algorithms for computing three types of periods analogous to full, initial, and general op-periods were designed [19, 24, 25, 34, 35, 36].

In the computation of full and initial op-periods we use some number-theoretic tools initially developed in [34, 35]. Remarkably, the fastest known algorithm for computing general periods in the abelian model has essentially quadratic time complexity [19, 36], whereas for the general op-periods we design a much more efficient solution. A version of the periodicity lemma for the parameterized model was proposed in [2].

Op-periods were first considered in [38] where initial and sliding op-periods were introduced and direct generalizations of the Fine–Wilf property to these kinds of op-periods were developed. A few distinctions between the op-periods and periods in other models should be mentioned. First, "to have a period 1" becomes a trivial property in the op-model. Second, all standard periods of a string have the "sliding" property; the first string in Fig. 1 demonstrates that this is not true for op-periods. The last distinction concerns borders. A standard period p in a string S of length n corresponds to a *border* of S of length $n-p$, which is both a prefix and a suffix of S. In the order-preserving setting, an analogue of a border is an *op-border*, that is, a prefix that is equivalent to the suffix of the same length. Op-borders have properties similar to standard borders and can be computed in $O(n)$ time [37]. However, it is no longer the case that a (general, initial, full, or sliding) op-period must correspond to an op-border; see [38].

Previous algorithmic study of the op-model. The notion of order-equivalence was introduced in [33, 37]. (However, note the related combinatorial studies, originated in [22], on containment/avoidance of shapes in permutations.) Both [33, 37] studied pattern matching in the op-model (op-pattern matching) that consists in identifying all consecutive factors of a text that are order-equivalent to a given pattern. We assume that the alphabet is integer and, as usual, that it is polynomially bounded with respect to the length of the string, which means that a string can be sorted in linear time (cf. [16]). Under this assumption, for a text of length n and a pattern of length m, [33] solve the op-pattern matching problem in $O(n + m \log m)$ time and [37] solve it in $O(n + m)$ time. Other op-pattern matching algorithms were presented in [3, 14].

An index for op-pattern matching based on the suffix tree was developed in [18]. For a text of length n it uses $O(n)$ space and answers op-pattern matching queries for a pattern of length m in optimal, $O(m)$ time (or $O(m + Occ)$ time if we are to report all Occ occurrences). The index can be constructed in $O(n \log \log n)$ expected time or $O(n \log^2 \log n / \log \log \log n)$ worst-case time. We use the index itself and some of its applications from [18].

Other developments in this area include a multiple-pattern matching algorithm for the op-model [33], an approximate version of op-pattern matching [28], compressed index constructions [12, 21], a small-space index for op-pattern matching that supports only short queries [27], and a number of practical approaches [8, 10, 11, 13, 23].

Our results. We give algorithms to compute:

- all full op-periods in $O(n)$ time;
- the smallest non-trivial initial op-period in $O(n)$ time;
- all initial op-periods in $O(n \log \log n)$ time;
- all sliding op-periods in $O(n \log \log n)$ expected time or $O(n \log^2 \log n / \log \log \log n)$ worst-case time (and linear space);
- all general op-periods with all their shifts (compactly represented) in $O(n \log n)$ time and space. The output is the family of sets Shifts_p represented as unions of disjoint intervals. The total number of intervals, over all p, is $O(n \log n)$.

In the combinatorial part, we characterize the Fine–Wilf periodicity property (aka interaction property) in the op-model in the case of coprime periods. This result is at the core of the linear-time algorithm for the smallest initial op-period.

Structure of the paper. Combinatorial foundations of our study are given in Section 2. Then in Section 3 we recall known algorithms and data structures for the op-model and develop further algorithmic tools. The remaining sections are devoted to computation of the respective types of op-periods: full and initial op-periods in Section 4, the smallest non-trivial initial op-period in Section 5, all (general) op-periods in Section 6, and sliding op-periods in Section 7. Some proofs have been omitted due to space constraints; they can be found in the preprint [29].

2 Fine–Wilf Property for Op-Periods

The following result was shown as Theorem 2 in [38]. Note that if p and q are coprime, then the conclusion is void, as every string has the op-period 1.

▶ **Theorem 3** ([38]). *Let $p > q > 1$ and $d = \gcd(p, q)$. If a string S of length $n \geq p + q - d$ has initial op-periods p and q, it has initial op-period d. Moreover, if S has length $n \geq p+q-1$ and sliding op-periods p and q, it has sliding op-period d.*

The aim of this section is to show a periodicity lemma in the case that $\gcd(p, q) = 1$.

2.1 Preliminary Notation

For a string S of length n, by $S[i]$ (for $1 \leq i \leq n$) we denote the ith letter of S and by $S[i..j]$ we denote a *factor* of S equal to $S[i] \dots S[j]$. If $i > j$, $S[i..j]$ denotes the empty string ε.

A string which is strictly increasing, strictly decreasing, or constant, is called *strictly monotone*. A *strictly monotone op-period* of S is an op-period with a strictly monotone shape. Such an op-period is called increasing (decreasing, constant) if so is its shape. Clearly, any divisor of a strictly monotone op-period is a strictly monotone op-period as well. A string S is *2-monotone* if $S = S_1 S_2$, where S_1, S_2 are strictly monotone in the same direction.

Below we assume that $n > p > q > 1$. Let a string $S = S[1..n]$ have op-periods (p, i) and (q, j). If there exists a number $k \in [\![1..n-1]\!]$ such that $k \bmod p = i$ and $k \bmod q = j$, we say that these op-periods are *synchronized* and k is a *synchronization point* (see Fig. 2).

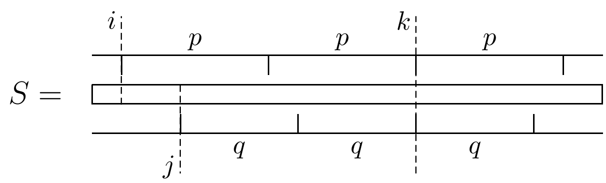

Figure 2 Op-periods (p, i) and (q, j) synchronized at position k.

▶ Remark. The proof of Theorem 3 can be easily adapted to prove the following.

▶ **Theorem 4.** *Let $p > q > 1$ and $d = \gcd(p, q)$. If op-periods p and q of a string S of length $n \geq p + q - 1$ are synchronized, then S has op-period d, synchronized with them.*

2.2 Periodicity Theorem For Coprime Periods

For a string S, by *trace*(S) we denote a string X of length $|S|-1$ over the alphabet $\{+, 0, -\}$ such that:

$$X[i] = \begin{cases} + & \text{if } S[i] < S[i+1] \\ 0 & \text{if } S[i] = S[i+1] \\ - & \text{if } S[i] > S[i+1]. \end{cases}$$

▶ **Observation 5.** (1) *A string is strictly monotone iff its trace is a unary string.*

(2) *If S has an op-period p with shift i, then trace(S) "almost" has a period p, namely, trace$(S)[j]$ = trace$(S)[k]$ for any $j, k \in [\![1..n-1]\!]$ such that $j \equiv k \pmod p$ and $j \not\equiv i \pmod p$. (This is because both trace$(S)[j]$ and trace$(S)[k]$ equal the sign of the difference between the same positions of the shape of the op-period of S.)*

▶ **Example 6.** Consider the string 7 5 8 1 4 6 2 4 5. It has an op-period $(3, 1)$ with shape 2 3 1. The trace of this string is:

$$- + - + + - + +$$

The positions giving the remainder 1 modulo 3 are shown in gray; the sequence of the remaining positions is periodic.

It turns out that the existence of two coprime op-periods makes a string "almost" strictly monotone. One can use periodicity graphs [39, 40] to show the following result.

▶ **Theorem 7.** *Let S be a string of length n that has coprime op-periods p and q with shifts i and j, respectively, such that $n > p > q > 1$. Then:*

(a) *if $n > pq$, then S has a strictly monotone op-period pq;*
(b) *if $2p < n \le pq$ and the op-periods are synchronized, then S is 2-monotone;*
(c) *if $p+q < n \le 2p$ and the op-periods are synchronized, then (q, j) is a strictly monotone op-period of S;*
(d) *if $n > \max\{2p, p+2q\}$ and the op-periods are not synchronized, then S is strictly monotone;*
(e) *if $n > 2p$, the op-periods are not synchronized, and p is initial, then S is strictly monotone;*
(f) *if $p+q < n \le 2p$ and p is initial, then (q, j) is a strictly monotone op-period of S.*

3 Algorithmic Toolbox for Op-Model

For a string S of length n, we introduce a table op-PREF$[1..n]$ such that op-PREF$[i]$ is the length of the longest prefix of $S[i..n]$ that is equivalent to a prefix of S. It is a direct analogue of the PREF array used in standard string matching (see [20]) and can be computed similarly in $O(n)$ time using one of the standard encodings for the op-model that were used in [14, 18, 37].

▶ **Lemma 8.** *For a string of length n, the* op-PREF *table can be computed in $O(n)$ time.*

Let us mention an application of the op-PREF table that is used further in the algorithms. We denote by op-LPP$_p(S)$ ("longest op-periodic prefix") the length of the longest prefix of a string S having p as an initial op-period.

▶ **Lemma 9.** *For a string S of length n,* op-LPP$_p(S)$ *for a given p can be computed in $O($op-LPP$_p(S)/p + 1)$ time after $O(n)$-time preprocessing.*

Proof. We start by computing the op-PREF table for S in $O(n)$ time. We assume that op-PREF$[n+1]=0$. To compute op-LPP$_p(S)$, we iterate over positions $i=p+1, 2p+1, \dots$ and for each of them check if op-PREF$[i] \geq p$. If i_0 is the first position for which this condition is not satisfied (possibly because $i_0 > n-p+1$), we have op-LPP$_p(S) = i_0 +$ op-PREF$[i_0]-1$. Clearly, this procedure works in the desired time complexity. ◀

For a string S, we define a *longest common extension* query op-LCP(i,j) in the order-preserving model as the maximum $k \geq 0$ such that $S[i..i+k-1] \approx S[j..j+k-1]$. Symmetrically, op-LCS$(i,j)$ is the maximum $k \geq 0$ such that $S[i-k+1..i] \approx S[j-k+1..j]$.

Similarly as in the standard model [17], LCP-queries in the op-model can be answered using lowest common ancestor (LCA) queries in the op-suffix tree; see the following lemma.

▶ **Lemma 10.** *For a string of length n, after preprocessing in $O(n \log\log n)$ expected time or in $O(n \log^2 \log n / \log\log\log n)$ worst-case time one can answer* op-LCP*-queries in $O(1)$ time.*

The factor $S[i..i+2p-1]$ is called an order-preserving square (*op-square*) iff $S[i..i+p-1] \approx S[i+p..i+2p-1]$. For a string S of length n, we define the set

$$\textit{op-Squares}_p = \{i \in [\![1..n-2p+1]\!] \,:\, S[i..i+2p-1] \text{ is an op-square}\}.$$

Op-squares were first defined in [18] where an algorithm computing all the sets *op-Squares*$_p$ for a string of length n in $O(n \log n + \sum_p |\textit{op-Squares}_p|)$ time was shown.

We say that an op-square $S[i..i+2p-1]$ is *right shiftable* if $S[i+1..i+2p]$ is an op-square and *right non-shiftable* otherwise. Similarly, we say that the op-square is *left shiftable* if $S[i-1..i+2p-2]$ is an op-square and *left non-shiftable* otherwise. Using the approach of [18], one can show the following lemma.

▶ **Lemma 11.** *All the (left and right) non-shiftable op-squares in a string of length n can be computed in $O(n \log n)$ time.*

4 Computing All Full and Initial Op-Periods

For a string S of length n, we define op-PREF$'[i]$ for $i = 0, \dots, n$ as:

$$\text{op-PREF}'[i] = \begin{cases} n & \text{if op-PREF}[i+1] = n-i \\ \text{op-PREF}[i+1] & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Here we assume that op-PREF$[n+1]=0$. In the computation of full and initial op-periods we heavily rely on this table according to the following obvious observation.

▶ **Observation 12.** *p is an initial op-period of a string S of length n if and only if* op-PREF$'[ip] \geq p$ *for all $i = 1, \dots, \lfloor n/p \rfloor$.*

4.1 Computing Initial Op-Periods

Let us introduce an auxiliary array $P[0..n]$ such that:

$$P[p] = \min\{\text{op-PREF}'[ip] \,:\, i = 1, \dots, \lfloor n/p \rfloor\}.$$

Straight from Observation 12 we have:

▶ **Observation 13.** *p is an initial period of S if and only if $P[p] \geq p$.*

The table T could be computed straight from definition in $O(n \log n)$ time. We improve this complexity to $O(n \log \log n)$ by employing Eratosthenes's sieve. The sieve computes, in particular, for each $j = 1, \ldots, n$ a list of all distinct prime divisors of j. We use these divisors to compute the table via dynamic programming in a right-to-left scan, as shown in Algorithm 1.

Algorithm 1: Computing All Initial Op-Periods of S

$T :=$ op-PREF$'$;
for $j := n$ **down to** 2 **do**
    foreach *prime divisor* q *of* j **do**
        $P[j/q] := \min(P[j/q], P[j])$;
for $p := 1$ **to** n **do**
    if $P[p] \geq p$ **then** p is an initial op-period;

▶ **Theorem 14.** *All initial op-periods of a string of length n can be computed in $O(n \log \log n)$ time.*

Proof. By Lemma 8, the op-PREF table for the string—hence, the op-PREF$'$ table—can be computed in $O(n)$ time. Then we use Algorithm 1. Each prime number $q \leq n$ has at most $\frac{n}{q}$ multiples below n. Therefore, the complexity of Eratosthenes's sieve and the number of updates on the table T in the algorithm is $\sum_{q \in Primes, q \leq n} \frac{n}{q} = O(n \log \log n)$; see [1]. ◀

4.2 Computing Full Op-Periods

Let us recall the following auxiliary data structure for efficient gcd-computations that was developed in [35]. We will only need a special case of this data structure to answer queries for $\gcd(x, n)$.

▶ **Fact 15** (Theorem 4 in [35])**.** *After $O(n)$-time preprocessing, given any $x, y \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$, the value $\gcd(x, y)$ can be computed in constant time.*

Let $Div(i)$ denote the set of all positive divisors of i. In the case of full op-periods we only need to compute $P[p]$ for $p \in Div(n)$. As in Algorithm 1, we start with $T =$ op-PREF$'$. Then we perform a preprocessing phase that shifts the information stored in the array from indices $i \notin Div(n)$ to indices $\gcd(i, n) \in Div(n)$. It is based on the fact that for $d \in Div(n)$, $d \mid i$ if and only if $d \mid \gcd(i, n)$. Finally, we perform right-to-left processing as in Algorithm 1. However, this time we can afford to iterate over all divisors of elements from $Div(n)$. Thus we arrive at the pseudocode of Algorithm 2.

Algorithm 2: Computing All Full Op-Periods of S

$T :=$ op-PREF$'$;
for $i := 1$ **to** n **do**
    $k := \gcd(i, n)$;
    $P[k] := \min(P[k], P[i])$;
foreach $i \in Div(n)$ *in decreasing order* **do**
    foreach $d \in Div(i)$ **do**
        $P[d] := \min(P[d], P[i])$;
foreach $p \in Div(n)$ **do**
    if $P[p] \geq p$ **then** p is a full op-period;

▶ **Theorem 16.** *All full op-periods of a string of length n can be computed in $O(n)$ time.*

Proof. We apply Algorithm 2. The complexity of the first for-loop is $O(n)$ by Fact 15. The second for-loop works in $O(n)$ time as the sizes of the sets $Div(n)$, $Div(i)$ are $O(\sqrt{n})$ and the elements of these sets can be enumerated in $O(\sqrt{n})$ time as well. ◀

5 Computing Smallest Non-Trivial Initial Op-Period

If a string is not strictly monotone itself, it has $O(n)$ such op-periods and they can all be computed in $O(n)$ time. We use this as an auxiliary routine in the computation of the smallest initial op-period that is greater than 1.

▶ **Theorem 17.** *If a string of length n is not strictly monotone, all of its strictly monotone op-periods can be computed in $O(n)$ time.*

Let us start with the following simple property.

▶ **Lemma 18.** *The shape of the smallest non-trivial initial op-period of a string has no shorter non-trivial full op-period.*

Proof. A full op-period of the initial op-period of a string S is an initial op-period of S. ◀

Now we can state a property of initial op-periods, implied by Theorem 7, that is the basis of the algorithm.

▶ **Lemma 19.** *If a string of length n has initial op-periods $p > q > 1$ such that $p + q < n$ and $\gcd(p, q) = 1$, then q is strictly monotone.*

Proof. Let us consider three cases. If $n > pq$, then by Theorem 7(a), both p and q are strictly monotone. If $2p < n \le pq$, then Theorem 7(e) implies that $S[1..pq - 1]$ is strictly monotone, hence p and q are strictly monotone as well. Finally, if $p + q < n \le 2p$, we have that q is strictly monotone by Theorem 7(f). ◀

Algorithm 3: Computing the Smallest Non-Trivial Initial Op-Period of S

if *S has a non-trivial strictly monotone op-period* **then**
  return *smallest such op-period*; ▷ Theorem 17
$p :=$ the length of the longest monotone prefix of S plus 1;
while $p \le n$ **do**
  $k :=$ op-LPP$_p(S)$;
  if $k = n$ **then return** p;
  $p := \max(p + 1, k - p - 1)$;
return $\min(p_{mon}, n)$;

▶ **Theorem 20.** *The smallest initial op-period $p > 1$ of a string S of length n can be computed in $O(n)$ time.*

Proof. We follow the lines of Algorithm 3. If S is not strictly monotone itself, we can compute the smallest non-trivial strictly monotone initial op-period of S using Theorem 17. Otherwise, the smallest such op-period is 2. If S has a non-trivial strictly monotone initial op-period and the smallest such op-period is $q > 1$, then none of $2, \dots, q - 1$ is an initial op-period of S. Hence, we can safely return q.

Let us now focus on the correctness of the while-loop. The invariant is that there is no initial op-period of S that is smaller than p. If the value of $k = \text{op-LPP}_p(S)$ equals n, then p is an initial op-period of S and we can safely return it. Otherwise, we can advance p by 1. There is also no smallest initial op-period p' such that $p < p' < k - p - 1$. Indeed, Lemma 19 would imply that p is strictly monotone if $\gcd(p, p') = 1$ (which is impossible due to the initial selection of p) and Theorem 3 would imply an initial op-period of $S[1..p']$ that is smaller than p' and divides p' if $\gcd(p, p') > 1$ (which is impossible due to Lemma 18). This justifies the way p is increased.

Now let us consider the time complexity of the algorithm. The algorithm for strictly monotone op-periods of Theorem 17 works in $O(n)$ time. By Lemma 9, k can be computed in $O(k/p + 1)$ time. If $k \le 3p$, this is $O(1)$. Otherwise, p at least doubles; let p' be the new value of p. Then $O(k/p + 1) = O((p + p' - 1)/p + 1) = O(p' + 1)$. The case that p doubles can take place at most $O(\log n)$ times and the total sum of p' over such cases is $O(n)$. ◀

6 Computing All Op-Periods

An *interval representation* of a set X of integers is $X = [\![i_1..j_1]\!] \cup [\![i_2..j_2]\!] \cup \dots \cup [\![i_k..j_k]\!]$ where $j_1 + 1 < i_2, \dots, j_{k-1} + 1 < i_k$; k is called the *size* of the representation.

Our goal is to compute a *compact representation* of all the op-periods of a string that contains, for each op-period p, an interval representation of the set Shifts_p.

For an integer set X, by $X \bmod p$ we denote the set $\{x \bmod p : x \in X\}$. The following technical lemma provides efficient operations on interval representations of sets.

▶ **Lemma 21.** (a) *Assume that X and Y are two sets with interval representations of sizes x and y, respectively. Then the interval representation of the set $X \cap Y$ can be computed in $O(x + y)$ time.*

(b) *Assume that $X_1, \dots, X_k \subseteq [\![0..n]\!]$ are sets with interval representations of sizes $x_1, \dots, x_k$ and $p_1, \dots, p_k$ be positive integers. Then the interval representations of all the sets $X_1 \bmod p_1, \dots, X_k \bmod p_k$ can be computed in $O(x_1 + \dots + x_k + k + n)$ time.*

▶ **Lemma 22.** *For a string of length n, interval representations of the sets op-$\mathit{Squares}_p$ for all $1 \le p \le n/2$ can be computed in $O(n \log n)$ time.*

Proof. Let us define the following two auxiliary sets.

$$\mathcal{L}_p = \{i \in [\![1..n - 2p + 1]\!] \,:\, S[i..i + 2p - 1] \text{ is a left non-shiftable op-square}\}$$
$$\mathcal{R}_p = \{i \in [\![1..n - 2p + 1]\!] \,:\, S[i..i + 2p - 1] \text{ is a right non-shiftable op-square}\}.$$

By Lemma 11, all the sets $\mathcal{L}_p$ and $\mathcal{R}_p$ can be computed in $O(n \log n)$ time. In particular, $\sum_p |\mathcal{L}_p| = O(n \log n)$.

Let us note that, for each p, $|\mathcal{L}_p| = |\mathcal{R}_p|$. Thus let $\mathcal{L}_p = \{\ell_1, \dots, \ell_k\}$ and $\mathcal{R}_p = \{r_1, \dots, r_k\}$. The interval representation of the set op-$\mathit{Squares}_p$ is $[\![\ell_1..r_1]\!] \cup \dots \cup [\![\ell_k..r_k]\!]$. Clearly, it can be computed in $O(|\mathcal{L}_p|)$ time. ◀

We will use the following characterization of op-periods.

▶ **Observation 23.** *p is an op-period of S with shift i if and only if all the following conditions hold:*

(A) *$S[i + 1 + kp..i + (k + 2)p]$ is an op-square for every $0 \le k \le (n - 2p - i)/p$,*
(B) *$\text{op-LCP}(1, p + 1) \ge \min(i, n - p)$,*
(C) *$\text{op-LCS}(n, n - p) \ge \min((n - i) \bmod p, n - p)$.*

▶ **Theorem 24.** *A representation of size $O(n \log n)$ of all the op-periods of a string of length n can be computed in $O(n \log n)$ time.*

Proof. We use Algorithm 4. The sets $\mathcal{A}_p$, $\mathcal{B}_p$, and $\mathcal{C}_p$ describe the sets of shifts i that satisfy conditions (A), (B), and (C) from Observation 23, respectively.

A crucial role is played by the set $\mathcal{N}_p$ of all positions which are *not* the beginnings of op-squares of length $2p$. It is computed as a complement of the set $\mathit{op\text{-}Squares}_p$.

Algorithm 4: Computing a Compact Representation of All Op-Periods

Compute $\mathit{op\text{-}Squares}_p$ for all $p = 1, \dots, n$; ▷ Lemma 22
for $p := 1$ **to** n **do**
  $\mathcal{N}_p := [\![1..n - 2p + 1]\!] \setminus \mathit{op\text{-}Squares}_p$;
  $k :=$ op-LCP$(1, p + 1)$; $\ell :=$ op-LCS$(n, n - p)$;
  if $k = n - p$ **then** $\mathcal{B}_p := \mathcal{C}_p := [\![1..n]\!]$;
  else $\mathcal{B}_p := [\![1..k]\!]$; $\mathcal{C}_p := [\![n - \ell + 1..n]\!]$;
for $p := 1$ **to** n *simultaneously* **do**
  $\mathcal{N}_p := \{(x - 1) \bmod p : x \in \mathcal{N}_p\}$; $\mathcal{B}_p := \mathcal{B}_p \bmod p$; $\mathcal{C}_p := \mathcal{C}_p \bmod p$; ▷ Lemma 21(b)
$\mathit{Shifts}_1 := [\![0]\!]$;
for $p := 2$ **to** n **do**
  $\mathcal{A}_p := [\![0..p - 1]\!] \setminus \mathcal{N}_p$;
  $\mathit{Shifts}_p := \mathcal{A}_p \cap \mathcal{B}_p \cap \mathcal{C}_p$; ▷ Lemma 21(a)
return Shifts_p *for* $p = 1, \dots, n$*;*

Operations "mod" on sets are performed simultaneously using Lemma 21(b). All sets $\mathcal{A}_p$, $\mathcal{B}_p$, $\mathcal{C}_p$ have $O(n \log n)$-sized representations. This guarantees $O(n \log n)$ time. ◀

7 Computing Sliding Op-Periods

For a string S of length n, we define a family of strings $SH_1, \dots, SH_n$ such that $SH_k[i] = \mathit{shape}(S[i..i + k - 1])$ for $1 \le i \le n - k + 1$. Note that the characters of the strings are shapes. Moreover, the total length of strings SH_k is quadratic in n, so we will not compute those strings explicitly. Instead, we use the following observation to test if two symbols are equal.

▶ **Observation 25.** $SH_k[i] = SH_k[i']$ *if and only if* op-LCP$(i, i') \ge k$*.*

Sliding op-periods admit an elegant characterization based on SH_k; see Figure 3.

▶ **Lemma 26.** *An integer p, $1 \le p \le n$, is a sliding op-period of S if and only if $p \le \frac{1}{2}n$ and p is a period of SH_p, or $p > \frac{1}{2}n$ and $S[1..n - p] \approx S[p + 1..n]$.*

For a string X, we denote the shortest period of X by $\mathsf{per}(X)$.

▶ **Lemma 27.** *Suppose that $p = \mathsf{per}(SH_k[1..\ell]) < \ell$. Then*
(a) *p is also a period of $SH_{k'}[1..\ell + k - k']$ for $1 \le k' \le k$,*
(b) *$q = \mathsf{per}(SH_k[1..\ell + 1])$ satisfies $p = q$ or $p + q > \ell$.*

We introduce a two-dimensional table PER, where:
$PER[k, \ell] = \mathsf{per}(SH_k[1..\ell])$ if $\mathsf{per}(SH_k[1..\ell]) \le \frac{1}{3}\ell$, and $PER[k, \ell] = \perp$ (undefined) otherwise. The size of PER is quadratic in n. However, Algorithm 5 computes PER column after column, keeping only the current column $P = PER[\cdot, \ell]$. The total number of differences between consecutive columns is linear. Hence, any requested $O(n)$ values $PER[k, \ell]$ can be computed in $O(n)$ time. We also use an analogous table PER^R for the reverse string S^R.

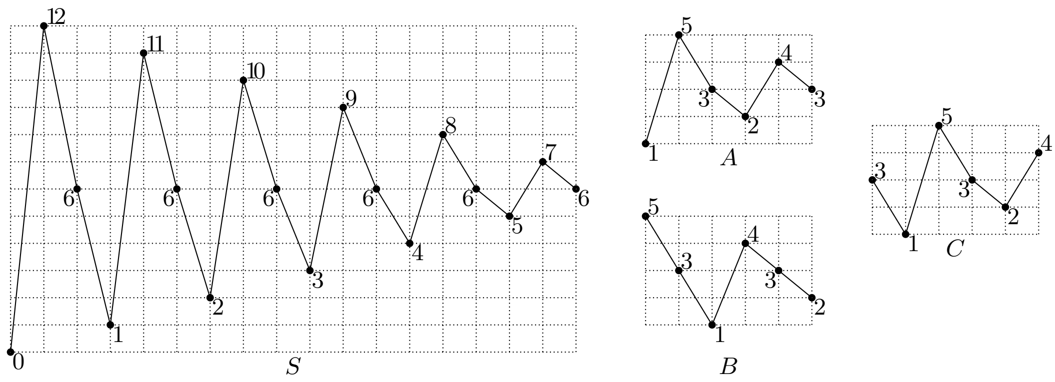

Figure 3 A string $S = 0\,12\,6\,1\,11\,6\,2\,10\,6\,3\,9\,6\,4\,8\,6\,5\,7\,6$ is graphically illustrated above (the ith point has coordinates $(i, S[i])$). We have $SH_6 = ABCABCABCA$, where $A = 1\,5\,3\,2\,4\,3$, $B = 5\,3\,1\,4\,3\,2$, and $C = 3\,1\,5\,3\,2\,4$. The shortest period of SH_6 is 3. Hence, 6 is a sliding op-period of S. Moreover, Lemma 27(b) implies that 3 is a period of SH_3, hence a sliding op-period of S.

Algorithm 5: Computation of $PER[\cdot, \ell]$ from $PER[\cdot, \ell - 1]$

```
P[1..n] := [⊥, ..., ⊥]; t := 1; ℓ' := 3;
for ℓ := 1 to n do
    if t > 1 and SH_{t-1}[ℓ] ≠ SH_{t-1}[ℓ - P[t - 1]] then
        t := t - 1; P[t] := ⊥; ℓ' := 2ℓ;
    if ℓ ≥ ℓ' then
        while per(SH_t[1..ℓ]) = (1/3)ℓ do
            P[t] := (1/3)ℓ; t := t + 1; ℓ' := 2ℓ;
    ▷ Invariant: P[k] = PER[k, ℓ], t = min{k : P[k] = ⊥}, and per(SH_t[1..ℓ]) ≥ (1/3)ℓ'.
```

▶ **Lemma 28.** *Algorithm 5 is correct, that is, it satisfies the invariant.*

Proof. First, observe that the invariant is satisfied after the first iteration. This is because $\mathsf{per}(SH_k[1..1]) = 1$ for each k and the initial values are not changed during this iteration.

Thus, our task is to prove that the invariant is preserved after each subsequent ℓth iteration. Let $t = \min\{k : PER[k, \ell - 1] = \bot\}$ and $t' = \min\{k : PER[k, \ell] = \bot\}$.

First, we consider the values $PER[k, \ell]$ for $k < t$. For this, we assume $t > 1$ and denote $p = PER[t-1, \ell-1]$. Since p is a period of $SH_{t-1}[1..\ell-1]$, Lemma 27(a) yields that p is also a period of $SH_k[1..\ell]$ for $k < t-1$. We apply Lemma 27(b) for $p' = \mathsf{per}(SH_k[1..\ell-1])$. Since $p' + p \le \ell - 1$, we conclude that $p' = \mathsf{per}(SH_k[1..\ell])$, i.e., $PER[k, \ell - 1] = p' = PER[k, \ell]$. Now, we consider the value $PER[t-1, \ell]$. Lemma 27(b), applied for $p = \mathsf{per}(SH_{t-1}[1..\ell-1])$ and $q = \mathsf{per}(SH_{t-1}[1..\ell])$, yields $p = q$ or $p + q \ge \ell$. To verify the first case, we check whether $SH_{t-1}[\ell] = SH_{t-1}[\ell - p]$. In the second case, we conclude that $q \ge \frac{2}{3}\ell$, so $PER[t-1, \ell] = \bot$ (and $\ell' := 2\ell$ is also set correctly).

Next, we consider the values $PER[k, \ell]$ for $k \ge t$. Since $PER[k, \ell - 1] = \bot$, we have $PER[k, \ell] = \bot$ or $PER[k, \ell] = \frac{1}{3}\ell$. More precisely, $PER[k, \ell] = \bot$ for $k \ge t'$ and $PER[k, \ell] = \frac{1}{3}\ell$ for $t \le k < t'$. Thus, we check if $\mathsf{per}(SH_k[1..\ell]) = \frac{1}{3}\ell$ for subsequent values $k \ge t$. Since $\mathsf{per}(SH_t[1..\ell]) \ge \frac{1}{3}\ell'$, no verification is needed if $\ell < \ell'$. To complete the proof, we need to show that the update $\ell' := 2\ell$ is valid if $t' > t$. For a proof by contradiction suppose that $r := \mathsf{per}(SH_{t'}[1..\ell]) < \frac{2}{3}\ell$. By Lemma 27(a), r is a period of $SH_t[1..\ell]$. Since $r + \frac{1}{3}\ell \le \ell$, Periodicity Lemma yields $\frac{1}{3}\ell \mid r$, and thus $r = \frac{1}{3}\ell$, which contradicts the definition of t'. ◀

▶ **Lemma 29.** *Algorithm 5 can be implemented in time $O(n)$ plus the time to answer $O(n)$* op-LCP *queries in S.*

Algorithm 6: Computing the sliding op-periods $p \le \frac{1}{2}n$

---

1 $p := 1$;
2 **while** $p \le \frac{1}{2}n$ **do**
3   **if** $(q := PER[p, n-2p+1]) = PER^R[p, n-2p+1] \neq \perp$ **then**
4   **if** *p is a period of $SH_p[1..p+q]$* **then** report p;
5         $p := \min\{p' > p : p'$ is a period of $SH_p[1..p+2q]\}$
6   **else if** $PER[p, \lceil\frac{3}{4}(n-2p+1)\rceil] = PER^R[p, \lceil\frac{3}{4}(n-2p+1)\rceil] \neq \perp$ **then** $p := p+1$;
7   **else**
8   **if** *p is a period of SH_p* **then** report p;
9         $p := \min\{p' > p : p'$ is a period of $SH_p\}$;

▶ **Lemma 30.** *Algorithm 6 is correct, that is, it reports all sliding op-periods $p \le \frac{1}{2}n$ of S.*

Proof. Let p_i be the value of p at the beginning of the ith iteration of the while-loop and let $\ell_i = n - 2p_i + 1$. We shall prove that p_i is reported if and only if it is a sliding op-period and that there is no sliding op-period strictly between p_i and p_{i+1}.

First, suppose that $q = \mathsf{per}(SH_{p_i}[1..\ell_i]) = \mathsf{per}(SH_{p_i}[p_i+1..p_i+\ell_i]) \le \frac{1}{3}\ell_i$, i.e., we are in the first branch. If $SH_{p_i}[1..q] = SH_{p_i}[p_i+1..p_i+q]$, then we must have $SH_{p_i}[1..\ell_i] = SH_{p_i}[p_i+1..p_i+\ell_i]$, i.e., p_i is a period of $SH_{p_i} = SH_{p_i}[1..p_i+\ell_i]$ and p_i is a sliding op-period due to Lemma 26. Moreover, any sliding op-period $p' > p_i$ must be a period of SH_{p_i} (and, in particular, of $SH_{p_i}[1..p_i+2q]$) due to Lemma 27(a). Consequently, $p' \ge p_{i+1}$, as claimed.

In the second branch we only need to prove that $SH_{p_i}[1..\ell_i] \neq SH_{p_i}[p_i+1..p_i+\ell_i]$. For a proof by contradiction, suppose that we have an equality. The condition from Line 6 means that the length-$\lceil\frac{3}{4}\ell_i\rceil$ prefix and suffix of $SH_{p_i}[1..\ell_i] = SH_{p_i}[p_i+1..p_i+\ell_i]$ has the common shortest period $q \le \frac{1}{3}\lceil\frac{3}{4}\ell_i\rceil \le \lceil\frac{1}{4}\ell_i\rceil$. The prefix and the suffix overlap by at least $\lceil\frac{1}{2}\ell_i\rceil$ characters, so we actually have $q = \mathsf{per}(SH_{p_i}[1..\ell_i]) = \mathsf{per}(SH_{p_i}[p_i+1..p_i+\ell_i])$. Hence, in that case we would be in the first branch.

Finally, in the third branch we directly use Lemma 26 to check if p_i is a sliding op-period. Moreover, if $p' > p_i$ is also a sliding op-period, then p' is a period of SH_{p_i}, i.e., $p' \ge p_{i+1}$. ◀

▶ **Lemma 31.** *Algorithm 6 can be implemented in time $O(n)$ plus the time to answer $O(n)$* op-LCP *and* op-LCS *queries in S.*

▶ **Theorem 32.** *All sliding op-periods of a string of length n can be computed in $O(n)$ space and $O(n \log\log n)$ expected time or $O(n \log^2 \log n / \log\log\log n)$ worst-case time.*

Proof. First, we apply Lemma 10 so that op-LCP and op-LCS queries can be answered in $O(1)$ time. Next, we run Algorithm 6 to report sliding op-periods $p \le \frac{1}{2}n$. Then, we iterate over $p > \frac{1}{2}n$ and report p if $\text{op-LCP}(1, p+1) = n - p$. Correctness follows from Lemmas 30 and 26. The overall time is $O(n)$ (Lemma 31) plus the preprocessing time of Lemma 10. ◀

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