

# Approximate Joins for Data-Centric XML

Nikolaus Augsten<sup>1</sup>   Michael Böhlen<sup>1</sup>   Curtis Dyreson<sup>2</sup>   Johann Gamper<sup>1</sup>

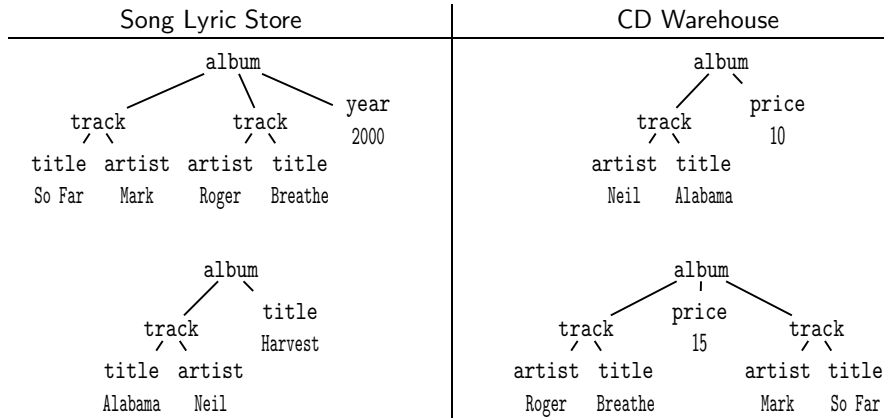
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ICDE, Cancún, Mexico

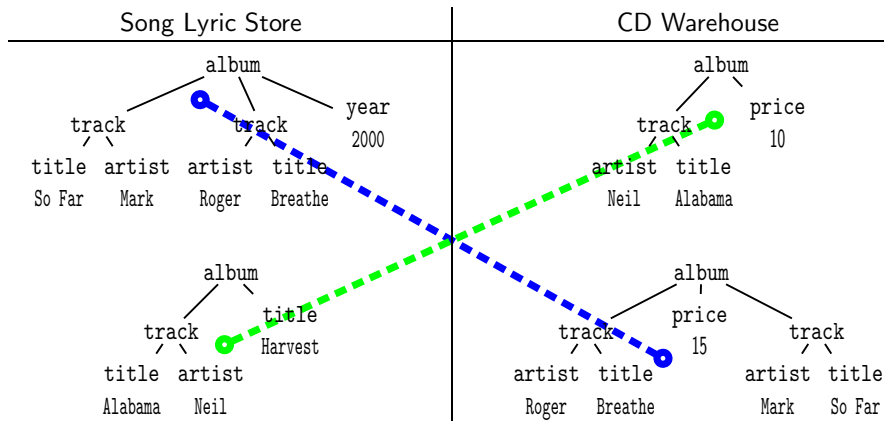
- 1 Motivation
- 2 Windowed  $pq$ -Grams for Data-Centric XML
  - Windowed  $pq$ -Grams
  - Tree Sorting
  - Forming Bases
- 3 Efficient Approximate Joins with Windowed  $pq$ -Gram
- 4 Experiments
- 5 Related Work
- 6 Conclusion and Future Work

# Approximate Join on Music CDs



- **Query:** Give me all album pairs that represent the same music CDs.

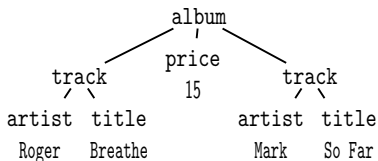
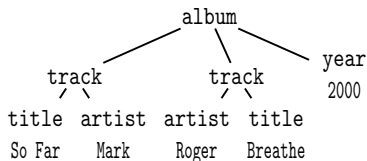
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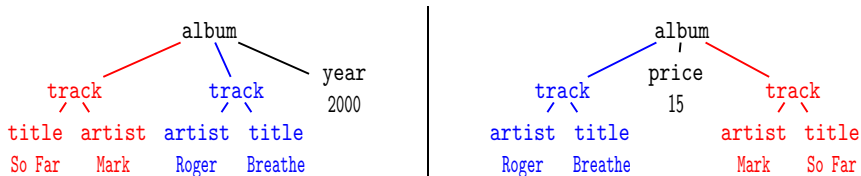
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Minimum number of **node edit operations** (insert, delete, rename) that transforms one ordered tree into the other.

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- **Problem:** permuted subtrees are deleted/re-inserted node by node

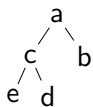
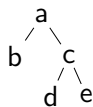
# Ordered vs. Unordered Trees

**Ordered Trees**  
sibling order matters



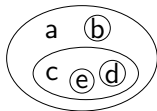
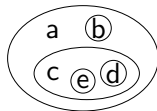
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 $\neq$ 


ignore order

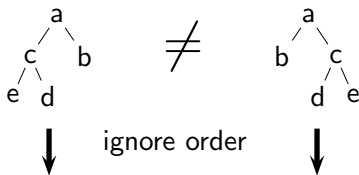
**Unordered Trees**  
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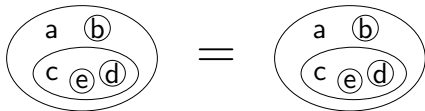


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- **Edit distance** between unordered trees: **NP-complete**  
→ all sibling permutations must be considered!

# Problem Definition

Find an **effective distance** for the approximate matching of hierarchical data represented as **unordered labeled trees** that is **efficient for approximate joins**.

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**Naive approaches** that fail:

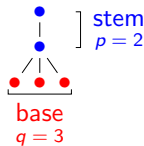
- unordered tree edit distance: NP-complete
- allow subtree move: NP-hard
- compute minimum distance between all permutations:  $O(n!)$
- sort by label and use ordered tree edit distance: error  $O(n)$

# Outline

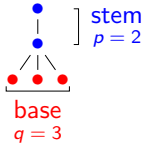
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# Our Solution: Windowed $pq$ -Grams

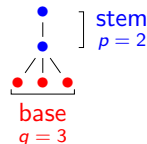
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- **Key Idea:** split unordered tree into set of windowed  $pq$ -grams that is
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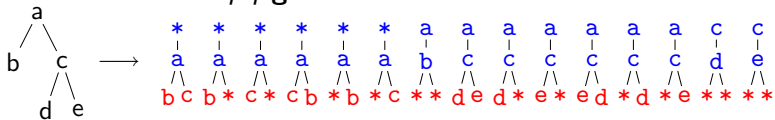
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- **Intuition:** similar unordered trees have similar windowed  $pq$ -grams
- **Systematic computation** of windowed  $pq$ -grams
  1. **sort** the children of each node by their label (works OK for  $pq$ -grams)
  2. **simulate permutations** with a **window**
  3. **split** tree into windowed  $pq$ -grams

# Implementation of Windowed pq-Grams

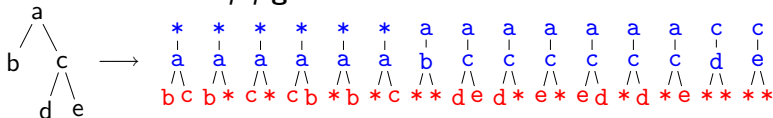
- Set of windowed pq-grams:



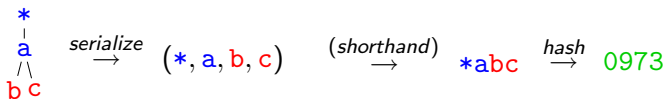


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- Set of windowed pq-grams:



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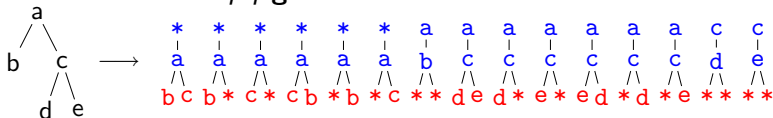


label $l$	$h(l)$
*	0
a	9
b	7
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...	...

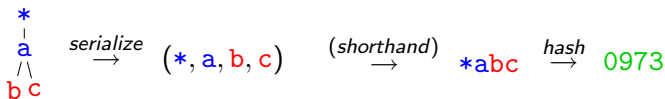
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- pq-Gram index: bag of hashed pq-grams

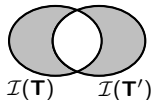
$$\mathcal{I}(T) = \{0973, 0970, 0930, 0937, 0907, 0903, 9700, 9316, 9310, 9360, 9361, 9301, 9306, 3100, 3600\}$$

Tree is represented by a bag of integers!

# The Windowed $pq$ -Gram Distance

- The **windowed  $pq$ -gram distance** between two trees,  $\mathbf{T}$  and  $\mathbf{T}'$ :

$$\text{dist}^{pq}(\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{T}') = |\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{T}) \uplus \mathcal{I}(\mathbf{T}')| - 2|\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{T}) \cap \mathcal{I}(\mathbf{T}')|$$



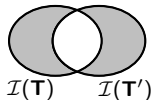
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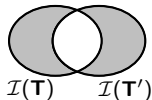
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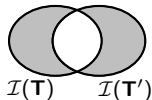
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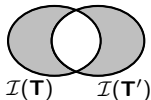
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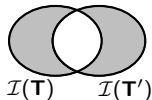
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- Runtime** for the distance computation is  $O(n \log n)$ .



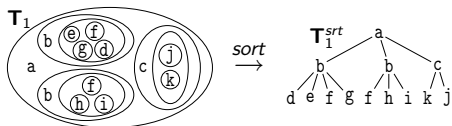
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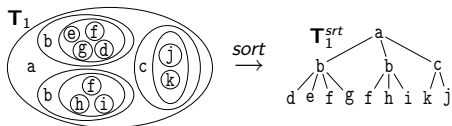
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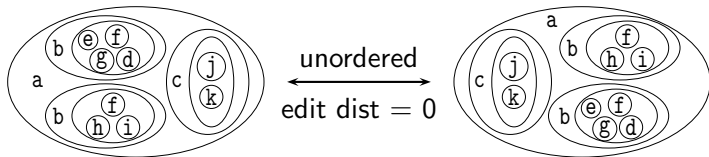


✗ **Edit distance:** tree sorting does not work

✓ **Windowed  $pq$ -Grams:** tree sorting works OK

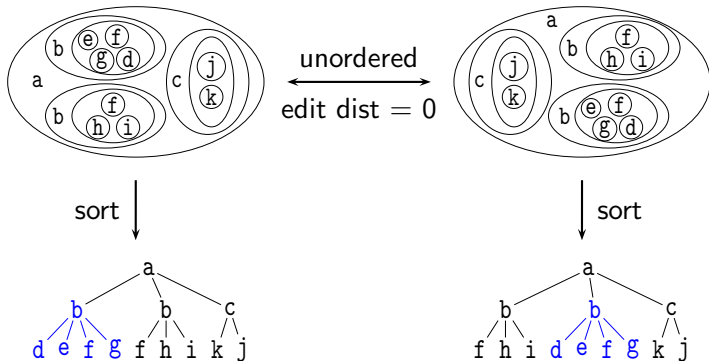
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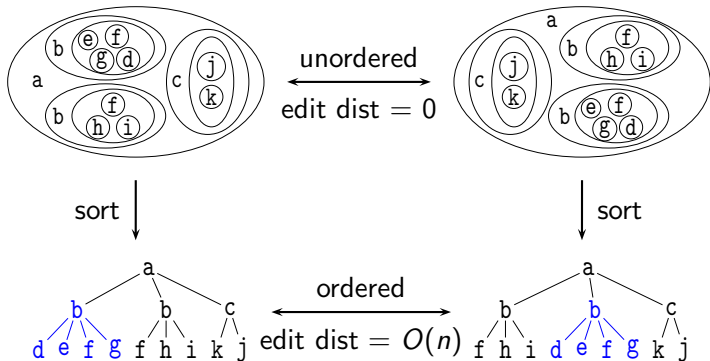
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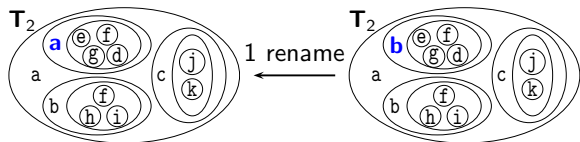
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1. **Non-unique sorting**: edit distance  $O(n)$  for identical trees



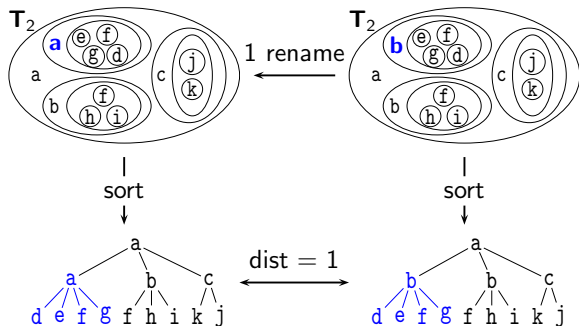
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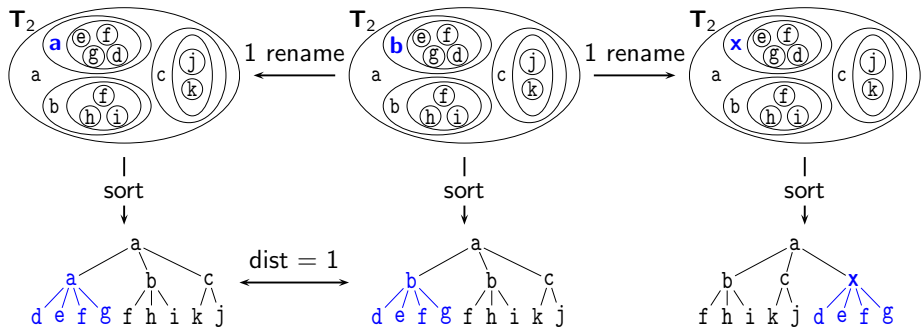
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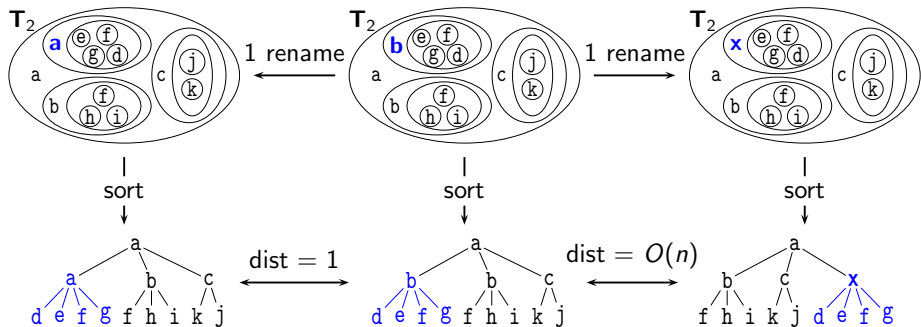
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## 2. Node renaming: edit distance depends on node label



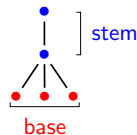
# ✓ Windowed $pq$ -Grams: Tree Sorting Works OK

## Theorem (Local Effect of Node Reordering)

*If  $k$  children of a node are reordered, i.e., their subtrees are moved, only  $O(k)$  windowed  $pq$ -grams change.*

### • Proof (idea):

- $pq$ -grams consist of a **stem** and a **base**
- **stems** are invariant to the sibling order
- **bases**: only the  $O(k)$   $pq$ -grams with the reordered nodes in the bases change



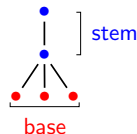
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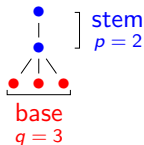
- ✓ **Non-unique sortings** are equivalent: distance is 0 for identical trees
- ✓ **Node renaming** is independent of the node label

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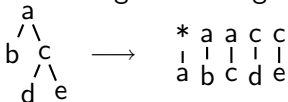
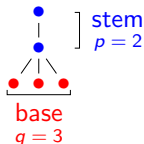
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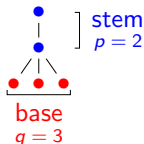
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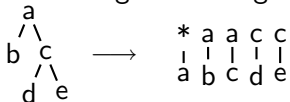


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- **Bases:** do not ignore sibling order!



# Requirements for Bases

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  - detection of node moves
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  - detection of node moves
  - robustness to different sortings
  - balanced node weight
- **Our solution:**
  - **windows:** simulate all permutations within a window
  - **wrapping:** wrap windows that extend beyond the right border
  - **dummies:** extend small sibling sets with dummy nodes

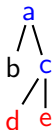
# Solution: Windowed $pq$ -Gram Bases

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Algorithm 1: **Form bases** from a sorted sibling sequence

---

- **Example:** stem, sorted sibling sequence, window  $w = 3$



# Solution: Windowed $pq$ -Gram Bases

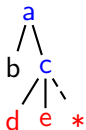
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Algorithm 2: **Form bases** from a sorted sibling sequence

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1 if *sibling sequence* < *window* then extend with dummy nodes;

- 
- **Example:** stem, sorted sibling sequence, window  $w = 3$



# Solution: Windowed $pq$ -Gram Bases

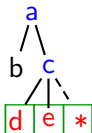
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Algorithm 3: **Form bases** from a sorted sibling sequence

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- 1 if *sibling sequence* < *window* then extend with dummy nodes;
- 2 initialize window: start with leftmost node;

- **Example:** stem, sorted sibling sequence, window  $w = 3$



# Solution: Windowed $pq$ -Gram Bases

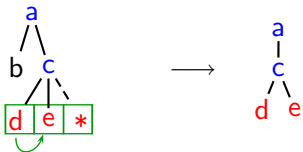
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Algorithm 4: **Form bases** from a sorted sibling sequence

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- 1 if *sibling sequence* < *window* then extend with dummy nodes;
  - 2 initialize window: start with leftmost node;
  - 3 repeat
  - 4     **form bases** in window: all  $q$ -permutations that contain start node;
  
  - 7 until *processed all window positions*
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- **Example:** stem, sorted sibling sequence, window  $w = 3$

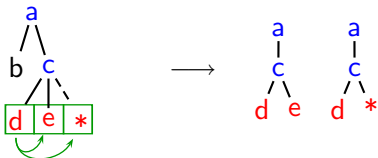


# Solution: Windowed $pq$ -Gram Bases

Algorithm 5: **Form bases** from a sorted sibling sequence

- 1 if *sibling sequence* < *window* then **extend with dummy nodes**;
- 2 **initialize window**: start with leftmost node;
- 3 repeat
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- **Example**: **stem**, **sorted sibling sequence**, **window**  $w = 3$



# Solution: Windowed $pq$ -Gram Bases

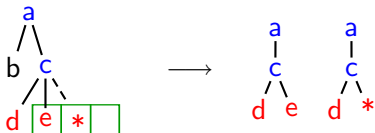
---

**Algorithm 6: Form bases** from a sorted sibling sequence

---

- 1 if *sibling sequence* < *window* then extend with dummy nodes;
  - 2 initialize window: start with leftmost node;
  - 3 repeat
  - 4     form bases in window: all  $q$ -permutations that contain start node;
  - 5     shift window to the right by one node;
  - 7 until *processed all window positions*
- 

- **Example:** stem, sorted sibling sequence, window  $w = 3$





# Solution: Windowed $pq$ -Gram Bases

---

**Algorithm 7: Form bases** from a sorted sibling sequence

---

- 1 if *sibling sequence*  $<$  *window* then **extend with dummy nodes**;
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  - 5     **shift window** to the right by one node;
  - 6     if *window extends the right border* then **wrap window**;
  - 7 until *processed all window positions*
- 

- **Example:** stem, sorted sibling sequence, window  $w = 3$

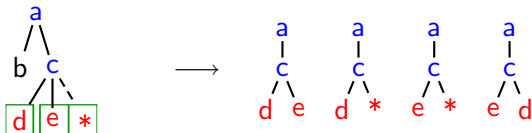


# Solution: Windowed $pq$ -Gram Bases

Algorithm 8: **Form bases** from a sorted sibling sequence

- 1 if *sibling sequence*  $<$  *window* then **extend with dummy nodes**;
- 2 **initialize window**: start with leftmost node;
- 3 repeat
- 4     **form bases** in window: all  $q$ -permutations that contain start node;
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- **Example**: **stem**, **sorted sibling sequence**, **window**  $w = 3$

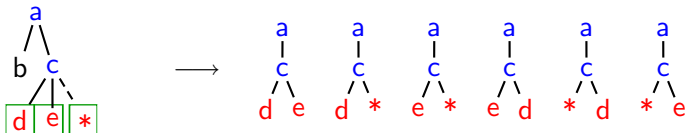


# Solution: Windowed pq-Gram Bases

Algorithm 9: **Form bases** from a sorted sibling sequence

- 1 if *sibling sequence* < *window* then **extend with dummy nodes**;
- 2 **initialize window**: start with leftmost node;
- 3 repeat
- 4     **form bases** in window: all  $q$ -permutations that contain start node;
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- **Example**: **stem**, **sorted sibling sequence**, **window**  $w = 3$

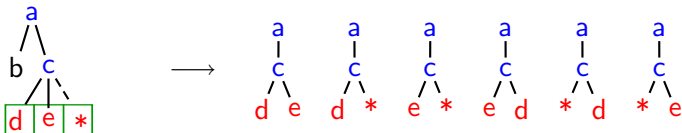


# Solution: Windowed pq-Gram Bases

Algorithm 10: **Form bases** from a sorted sibling sequence

- 1 if *sibling sequence* < *window* then extend with dummy nodes;
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- **Example:** stem, sorted sibling sequence, window  $w = 3$



# Optimal Windowed $pq$ -Grams

## Theorem (Optimal Windowed $pq$ -Grams)

*For trees with fanout  $f$ , windowed  $pq$ -grams with base size  $q = 2$  and window size  $w = \frac{f+1}{2}$  have the following properties:*

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base recall  $\rho = 1$  (all sibling pairs are encoded)

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2. **Robustness to different sortings:** ( $k$  edit operations)

$$\text{base error } \epsilon \leq \frac{2k}{f}$$

3. **Balanced node weight:**

Each non-root node appears in exactly  $2w - 2$  bases.

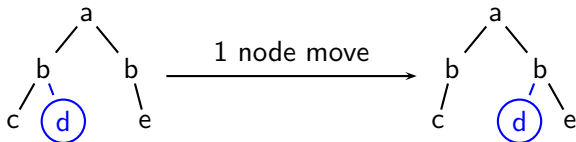


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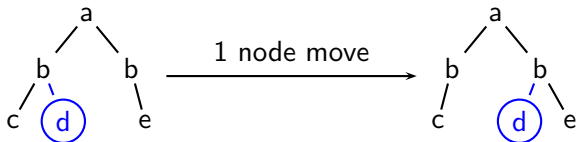
**Goal:**

bases must change

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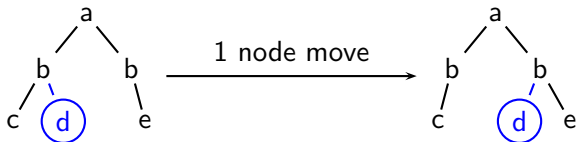
c, d, e

no bases change

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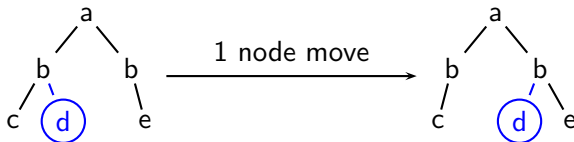
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# Illustration: Detection of Node Moves

- **Single Node:** each node forms a base of size  $q = 1$
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bases must change

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**Window:**

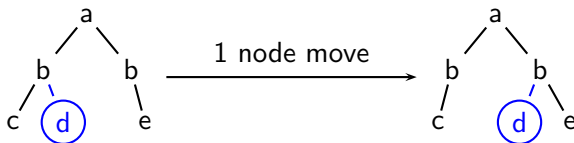
cd, c\*, d\*, dc,  
\*c, \*d, e\*, ...

33% bases change

c\*, c\*, \*\*, \*c,  
\*c, \*\*, de, ...

# Illustration: Detection of Node Moves

- **Single Node:** each node forms a base of size  $q = 1$
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c, d, e

no bases change

c, d, e

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\*<sub>c</sub>, \*<sub>d</sub>, e\*, ...

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c\*, c\*, \*\*, \*<sub>c</sub>,  
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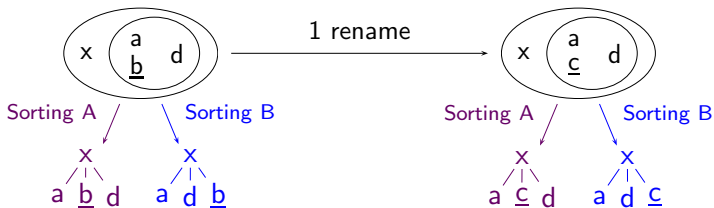
Windowed  $pq$ -grams detect node moves.

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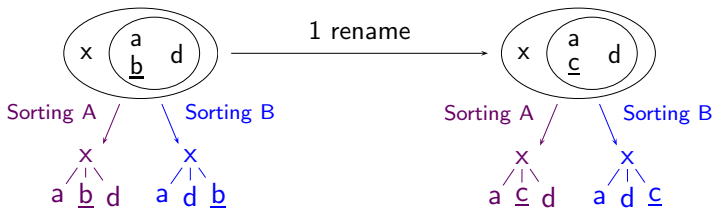


**Goal:** Same number of bases change for both sortings.



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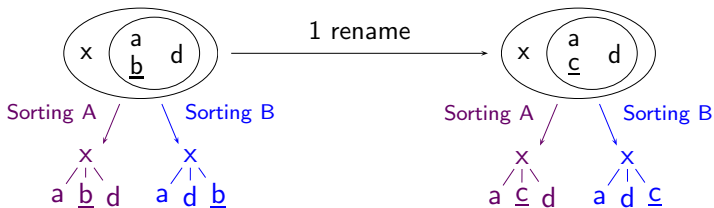


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<b>Consecutive:</b>	Sort A	a <u>b</u> <u>b</u> c	100% bases change	a <u>c</u> <u>c</u> d
	Sort B	a d <u>b</u>	50% bases change	a d <u>c</u>

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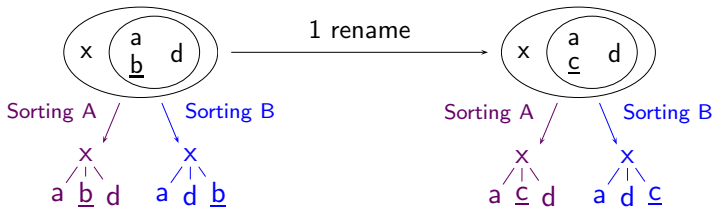


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# Illustration: Robustness to Different Sortings

- **Consecutive siblings** form a base (no permutation)
- **Window:** all sibling permutations within the window form bases

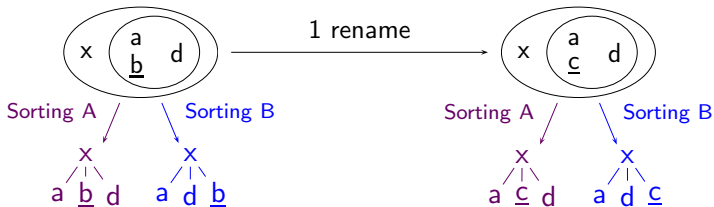


**Goal:** Same number of bases change for both sortings.

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<b>Window:</b>	Sort A	a d a <u>b</u> <u>b</u> ...	33% bases change	a d a <u>c</u> <u>c</u> ...
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	Sort B	a <u>d</u> a <u>b</u> <u>db</u> ...	33% bases change	a <u>d</u> a <u>c</u> <u>dc</u> ...

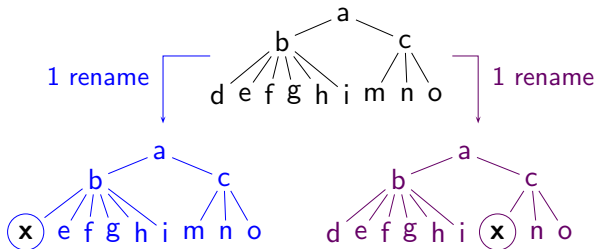
Windowed  $pq$ -grams: Robust to different sortings.

# Illustration: Balancing the Node Weight

- **Permutations:** all permutations of size  $q$  form a base

# Illustration: Balancing the Node Weight

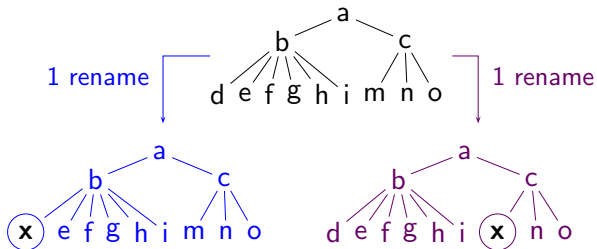
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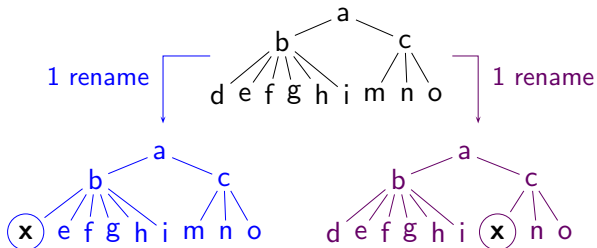


**Goal:** Same number of bases change for both renames.

**Permutations:** 60/137 bases change      6/137 bases change

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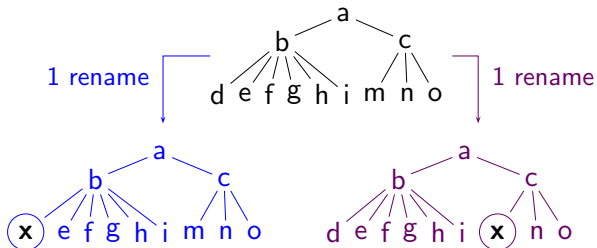
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# Illustration: Balancing the Node Weight

- **Permutations:** all permutations of size  $q$  form a base
- **Window:** only permutations within window form a base



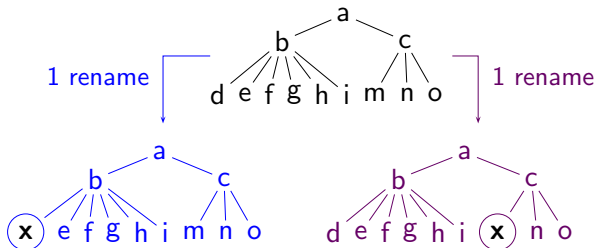
**Goal:** Same number of bases change for both renames.

**X Permutations:** 60/137 bases change (blue)      6/137 bases change (purple)

**Window:** 12/51 bases change (blue)      12/51 bases change (purple)

# Illustration: Balancing the Node Weight

- **Permutations:** all permutations of size  $q$  form a base
- **Window:** only permutations within window form a base



**Goal:** Same number of bases change for both renames.

**✗ Permutations:** 60/137 bases change      6/137 bases change

**✓ Window:** 12/51 bases change      12/51 bases change

Windowed  $pq$ -grams: Node weight is independent of sibling number.

# Outline

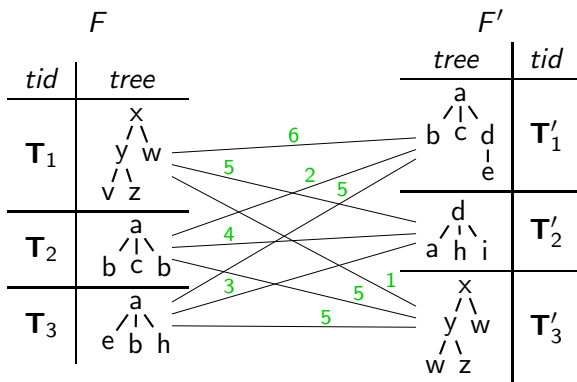
- 1 Motivation
- 2 Windowed  $pq$ -Grams for Data-Centric XML
  - Windowed  $pq$ -Grams
  - Tree Sorting
  - Forming Bases
- 3 Efficient Approximate Joins with Windowed  $pq$ -Gram
- 4 Experiments
- 5 Related Work
- 6 Conclusion and Future Work

# Approximate Join

$F$	
$tid$	$tree$
$T_1$	<pre>       x      / \     y   w    / \   v   z           </pre>
$T_2$	<pre>       a      / \     b   c   b           </pre>
$T_3$	<pre>       a      / \     e   b   h           </pre>

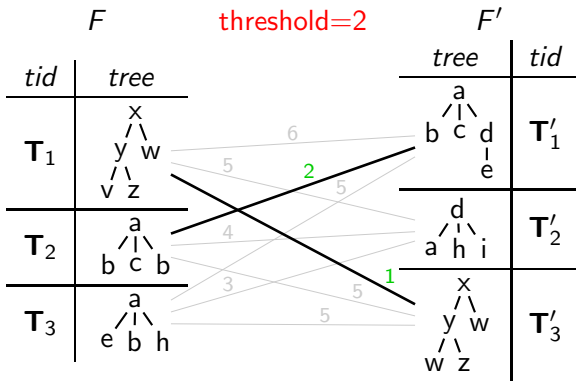
$F'$	
$tree$	$tid$
<pre>       a      / \     b   c   d                     e           </pre>	$T'_1$
<pre>       d      / \     a   h   i           </pre>	$T'_2$
<pre>       x      / \     y   w    / \   w   z           </pre>	$T'_3$

# Approximate Join



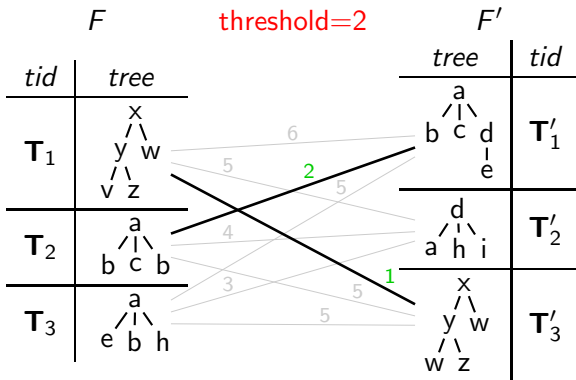
- **Simple approach:** distance join
  1. compute **distance** between all pairs of trees

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# Approximate Join



- **Simple approach:** distance join
  1. compute **distance** between all pairs of trees
  2. return document pairs within **threshold**
- Very **expensive:**  $N^2$  distance computations!

# Usual Join Optimization Does not Apply

- **Distance join:** expensive
  - nested loop join: evaluate distance function between every input pair
- **Equality join:** efficient
  - implementation as sort-merge or hash join



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- **Solution:** reduce **distance join to equality join** on  $pq$ -grams

# Reducing a Distance Join to an Equality Join

- **Distance join** between trees:  $N^2$  intersections between integer bags

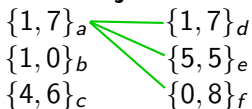
$\{1, 7\}_a$        $\{1, 7\}_d$

$\{1, 0\}_b$        $\{5, 5\}_e$

$\{4, 6\}_c$        $\{0, 8\}_f$

# Reducing a Distance Join to an Equality Join

- **Distance join** between trees:  $N^2$  intersections between integer bags



$$|a \cap d| = 2 \quad |a \cap e| = 0 \quad |a \cap f| = 0$$

# Reducing a Distance Join to an Equality Join

- Distance join between trees:  $N^2$  intersections between integer bags



# Reducing a Distance Join to an Equality Join

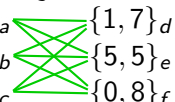
- Distance join between trees:  $N^2$  intersections between integer bags

$\{1, 7\}_a$		$\{1, 7\}_d$	$ a \cap d  = 2$	$ a \cap e  = 0$	$ a \cap f  = 0$
$\{1, 0\}_b$		$\{5, 5\}_e$	$ b \cap d  = 1$	$ b \cap e  = 0$	$ b \cap f  = 1$
$\{4, 6\}_c$		$\{0, 8\}_f$	$ c \cap d  = 0$	$ c \cap e  = 0$	$ c \cap f  = 0$

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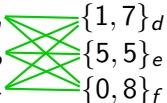
- Optimized  $pq$ -gram join: empty intersections are never computed!

1. union

$$\{1_a, 7_a, 1_b, 0_b, 4_c, 6_c\} \quad \{1_d, 7_d, 5_e, 5_e, 0_f, 8_f\}$$

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$$\{1_a, 7_a, 1_b, 0_b, 4_c, 6_c\} \quad \{1_d, 7_d, 5_e, 5_e, 0_f, 8_f\}$$

- sort

$0_b$	$0_f$
$1_a$	$1_d$
$1_b$	$5_e$
$4_c$	$5_e$
$6_c$	$7_d$
$7_a$	$8_f$



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- sort

- merge-join

$0_b$	$0_f$
$1_a$	$1_d$
$1_b$	$5_e$
$4_c$	$5_e$
$6_c$	$7_d$
$7_a$	$8_f$

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- sort

- merge-join

$$0_b \text{ --- } 0_f$$

$$1_a \quad 1_d$$

$$1_b \quad 5_e$$

$$4_c \quad 5_e$$

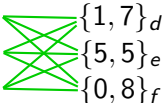
$$6_c \quad 7_d$$

$$7_a \quad 8_f$$

$$|b \cap f| \quad |$$

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- Distance join between trees:  $N^2$  intersections between integer bags

$\{1, 7\}_a$		$\{1, 7\}_d$	$ a \cap d  = 2$	$ a \cap e  = 0$	$ a \cap f  = 0$
$\{1, 0\}_b$		$\{5, 5\}_e$	$ b \cap d  = 1$	$ b \cap e  = 0$	$ b \cap f  = 1$
$\{4, 6\}_c$		$\{0, 8\}_f$	$ c \cap d  = 0$	$ c \cap e  = 0$	$ c \cap f  = 0$

- Optimized pq-gram join: empty intersections are never computed!

- union

$$\{1_a, 7_a, 1_b, 0_b, 4_c, 6_c\} \quad \{1_d, 7_d, 5_e, 5_e, 0_f, 8_f\}$$

- sort

- merge-join

$$0_b \text{ --- } 0_f$$

$$1_a \text{ --- } 1_d$$

$$1_b \quad 5_e$$

$$4_c \quad 5_e$$

$$6_c \quad 7_d$$

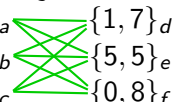
$$7_a \quad 8_f$$

$$|b \cap f| \quad |$$

$$|a \cap d| \quad |$$

# Reducing a Distance Join to an Equality Join

- Distance join between trees:  $N^2$  intersections between integer bags

$\{1, 7\}_a$		$\{1, 7\}_d$	$ a \cap d  = 2$	$ a \cap e  = 0$	$ a \cap f  = 0$
$\{1, 0\}_b$		$\{5, 5\}_e$	$ b \cap d  = 1$	$ b \cap e  = 0$	$ b \cap f  = 1$
$\{4, 6\}_c$		$\{0, 8\}_f$	$ c \cap d  = 0$	$ c \cap e  = 0$	$ c \cap f  = 0$

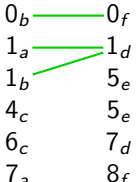
- Optimized  $pq$ -gram join: empty intersections are never computed!

- union

$$\{1_a, 7_a, 1_b, 0_b, 4_c, 6_c\} \quad \{1_d, 7_d, 5_e, 5_e, 0_f, 8_f\}$$

- sort

- merge-join

$0_b$		$0_f$	$ b \cap f $	
$1_a$		$1_d$	$ a \cap d $	
$1_b$		$5_e$	$ b \cap d $	
$4_c$		$5_e$		
$6_c$		$7_d$		
$7_a$		$8_f$		

# Reducing a Distance Join to an Equality Join

- Distance join between trees:  $N^2$  intersections between integer bags

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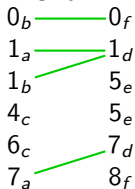
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$$\{1_a, 7_a, 1_b, 0_b, 4_c, 6_c\} \quad \{1_d, 7_d, 5_e, 5_e, 0_f, 8_f\}$$

- sort

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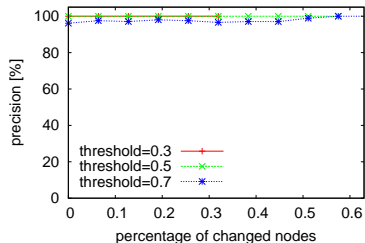
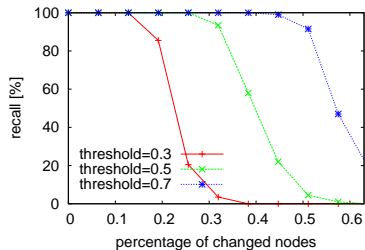
$$\begin{array}{l}
 |b \cap f| \quad | \\
 |a \cap d| \quad || \\
 |b \cap d| \quad |
 \end{array}$$

# Outline

- 1 Motivation
- 2 Windowed  $pq$ -Grams for Data-Centric XML
  - Windowed  $pq$ -Grams
  - Tree Sorting
  - Forming Bases
- 3 Efficient Approximate Joins with Windowed  $pq$ -Gram
- 4 Experiments
- 5 Related Work
- 6 Conclusion and Future Work

# Effectiveness of the Windowed $pq$ -Gram Join

# Effectiveness of the Windowed $pq$ -Gram Join



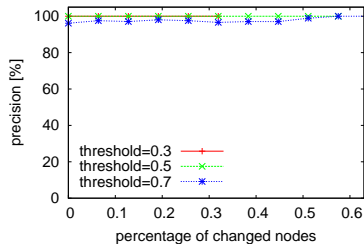
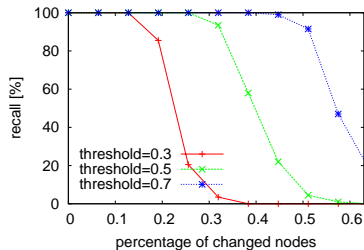
**Experiment:** match **DBLP** articles

- add noise to articles (missing elements and spelling mistakes)
- approximate join between original and noisy data
- measure precision and recall for different thresholds

**Windowed  $pq$ -grams are effective for data-centric XML**



# Effectiveness of the Windowed $pq$ -Gram Join



## Experiment: match DBLP articles

- add noise to articles (missing elements and spelling mistakes)
- approximate join between original and noisy data
- measure precision and recall for different thresholds

## Datasets:

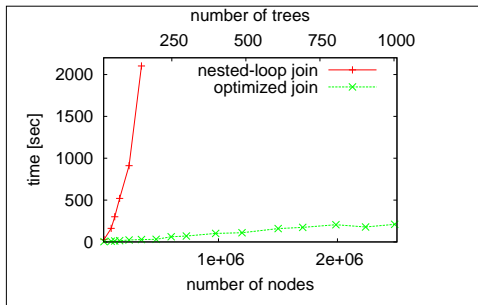
- **DBLP:** articles  
depth 1.9, 15 nodes (max 1494 nodes)
- **SwissProt:** protein descriptions  
depth 3.5, 104 nodes (max 2640 nodes)
- **Treebank:** tagged English sentences  
depth 6.9 (max depth 30), 43 nodes

**Windowed  $pq$ -grams are effective for data-centric XML**

# Efficiency of the Optimized $pq$ -Gram Join

# Efficiency of the Optimized $pq$ -Gram Join

Optimized  $pq$ -gram join: very efficient



- compute nested-loop join between trees
- compute optimized  $pq$ -gram join between trees
- measure wallclock time

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# Distances between Unordered Trees

## Edit Distances between Unordered Trees

- [Zhang et al., 1992]: proof for NP-completeness
- [Kailing et al., 2004]: lower bound for a restricted edit distance
- [Chawathe and Garcia-Molina, 1997]:  $O(n^3)$  heuristics
- Our solution:  $O(n \log n)$  approximation

## Approximate Join

- [Gravano et al., 2001]: efficient approximate join **for strings**

# Conclusion and Future Work

## Windowed $pq$ -grams for unordered trees:

- $O(n \log n)$  approximation of NP-complete edit distance
- **Key problem:** all permutations must be considered
- **Our approach:** sort trees and simulate permutations with window
- **Sorting:** works for  $pq$ -grams, but not for edit distance
- **Window technique** guarantees core properties
  - detection of node moves
  - robustness to different sortings
  - balanced node weight
- **Efficient approximate join:** reduces distance join to equality join

# Conclusion and Future Work

## Windowed $pq$ -grams for unordered trees:

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  - robustness to different sortings
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## Future work:

- incremental updates of the windowed  $pq$ -gram index
- include approximate string matching into XML distance



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