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### Adjacency as a long-distance relation

The problem of identifying natural classes of representations is complicated when underspecification is a possibility, since an underspecified representation describes a class of more richly specified ones. The problem arises not only with respect to segments (discussed in previous work), but also with respect to sequences---it is not obvious how to distinguish representationally an immediate precedence requirement from a general precedence requirement, since the latter includes the former. In this talk, I propose solving the problem by introducing a SEARCH algorithm (based on work with F. Mailhot) into phonological computation. Various phonological phenomena can be captured in a straightforward fashion by varying conditions on the starting point and terminating point of SEARCH, as well as conditions on other operations that combine with SEARCH, such as COPY. The SEARCH algorithm allows us to treat immediate precedence as just a special case of precedence, thus adjacency is just a special case of a long-distance relation.