

SIT330-770: Natural Language Processing

Week 3 - Text processing

Regular Expressions, Text Normalization, Edit Distance

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SIT330-770: Natural Language Processing

Week 3.1 - Regular Expressions

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- A formal language for specifying text strings
- How can we search for any of these?
 - woodchuck
 - woodchucks
 - Woodchuck
 - Woodchucks



- Letters inside square brackets []

Pattern	Matches
<code>[wW]oodchuck</code>	Woodchuck, woodchuck
<code>[1234567890]</code>	Any digit

- Ranges `[A-Z]`

Pattern	Matches	
<code>[A-Z]</code>	An upper case letter	<u>D</u> renched Blossoms
<code>[a-z]</code>	A lower case letter	<u>m</u> y beans were impatient
<code>[0-9]</code>	A single digit	Chapter <u>1</u> : Down the Rabbit Hole

- Negations `[^Ss]`
 - Carat means negation only when first in []

Pattern	Matches	
<code>[^A-Z]</code>	Not an upper case letter	O <u>y</u> fn pripetchik
<code>[^Ss]</code>	Neither 'S' nor 's'	<u>I</u> have no exquisite reason"
<code>[^e^]</code>	Neither e nor ^	Look h <u>e</u> re
<code>a^b</code>	The pattern a carat b	Look up <u>a^b</u> now

- Woodchuck is another name for groundhog!
- The pipe `|` for disjunction

Pattern	Matches
<code>groundhog woodchuck</code>	woodchuck
<code>yours mine</code>	yours
<code>a b c</code>	= <code>[abc]</code>
<code>[gG]roundhog [Ww]oodchuck</code>	Woodchuck

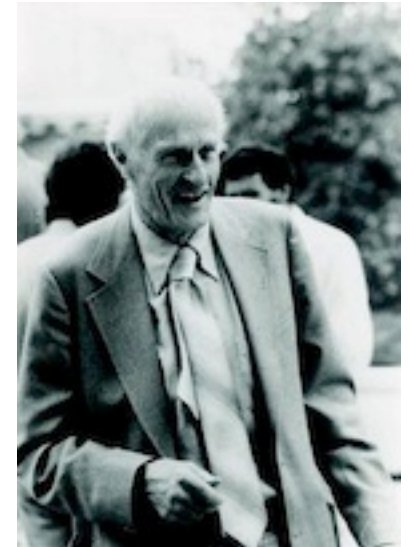


Regular Expressions:

? * + .



Pattern	Matches	
<code>colou?r</code>	Optional previous char	<u>color</u> <u>colour</u>
<code>oo*h!</code>	0 or more of previous char	<u>oh!</u> <u>ooh!</u> <u>oooh!</u> <u>ooooh!</u>
<code>o+h!</code>	1 or more of previous char	<u>oh!</u> <u>ooh!</u> <u>oooh!</u> <u>ooooh!</u>
<code>baa+</code>		<u>baa</u> <u>baaa</u> <u>baaaa</u> <u>baaaaa</u>
<code>beg.n</code>		<u>begin</u> <u>begun</u> <u>begun</u> <u>beg3n</u>



Stephen C Kleene
Kleene *, Kleene +



Pattern	Matches
<code>^[A-Z]</code>	<u>P</u> alo Alto
<code>^[^A-Za-z]</code>	<u>1</u> <u>"</u> Hello"
<code>\. \$</code>	The end <u>.</u>
<code>. \$</code>	The end <u>?</u> The end <u>!</u>

- Find me all instances of the word “the” in a text.

the

Misses capitalized examples

[tT]he

Incorrectly returns other or theology

[^a-zA-Z][tT]he[^a-zA-Z]

- The process we just went through was based on **fixing two kinds of errors:**

1. Matching strings that we should not have matched (**there, then, other**)

False positives (Type I errors)

2. Not matching things that we should have matched (The)

False negatives (Type II errors)

- In NLP we are always dealing with these kinds of errors.
- Reducing the error rate for an application often involves two antagonistic efforts:
 - Increasing accuracy or precision (minimizing false positives)
 - Increasing coverage or recall (minimizing false negatives).

- Regular expressions play a surprisingly large role
 - Sophisticated sequences of regular expressions are often the first model for any text processing
- For hard tasks, we use machine learning classifiers
 - But regular expressions are still used for pre-processing, or as features in the classifiers
 - Can be very useful in capturing generalizations

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Week 3.2- More Regular Expressions:
Substitutions and ELIZA

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- Substitution in Python and UNIX commands:

`s/regexpl/pattern/`

e.g.:

`s/colour/color/`

- Say we want to put angles around all numbers:

the 35 boxes → *the <35> boxes*

- Use parens () to "capture" a pattern into a numbered register (1, 2, 3...)
- Use \1 to refer to the contents of the register

s / ([0-9] +) / < \1 > /

- `/the (.*)er they (.*) , the \1er we \2/`

- Matches

the faster they ran, the faster we ran

- But not

the faster they ran, the faster we ate

But suppose we don't want to capture?



- Parentheses have a double function: grouping terms, and capturing
- Non-capturing groups: add a ?: after paren:
- E.g.: `/ (? : some | a few) (people | cats) like some \1/`
 - matches
 - `some cats like some cats`
 - but not
 - `some cats like some some`

- `(?= pattern)` is true if pattern matches, but is **zero-width**; **doesn't advance character pointer**
- `(?! pattern)` true if a pattern does not match
- How to match, at the beginning of a line, any single word that doesn't start with "Volcano":
 - `/^(?!Volcano)[A-Za-z]+/`

- Early NLP system that imitated a Rogerian psychotherapist
 - Joseph Weizenbaum, 1966.
 - Uses pattern matching to match, e.g.,:
 - "I need X"
- and translates them into, e.g.
- "What would it mean to you if you got X?"

Men are all alike.

IN WHAT WAY

They're always bugging us about something or other. CAN YOU THINK OF A SPECIFIC EXAMPLE

Well, my boyfriend made me come here.

YOUR BOYFRIEND MADE YOU COME HERE

He says I'm depressed much of the time.

I AM SORRY TO HEAR YOU ARE DEPRESSED

- s/. * I'M (depressed|sad) . */ I AM SORRY TO HEAR YOU ARE \1/
- s/. * I AM (depressed|sad) . */ WHY DO YOU THINK YOU ARE \1/
- s/. * all . */ IN WHAT WAY?/
- s/. * always . */ CAN YOU THINK OF A SPECIFIC EXAMPLE?/

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Week 3.3 - Words and Corpora

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- "I do uh main- mainly business data processing"
 - Fragments, filled pauses
- "Seuss's **cat** in the hat is different from other **cats**!"
 - **Lemma**: same stem, part of speech, rough word sense
 - **cat** and **cats** = same lemma
 - **Wordform**: the full inflected surface form
 - **cat** and **cats** = different wordforms

they lay back on the San Francisco grass and looked at the stars and their

- **Type:** an element of the vocabulary.
- **Token:** an instance of that type in running text.
- How many?
 - 15 tokens (or 14)
 - 13 types (or 12) (or 11?)

How many words in a corpus?



N = number of tokens

V = vocabulary = set of types, $|V|$ is size of vocabulary

Heaps Law = Herdan's Law = $|V| = kN^\beta$, where often $0.67 < \beta < 0.75$

i.e., vocabulary size grows with $>$ square root of the number of word tokens

	Tokens = N	Types = $ V $
Switchboard phone conversations	2.4 million	20 thousand
Shakespeare	884,000	31 thousand
COCA	440 million	2 million
Google N-grams	1 trillion	13+ million

Words don't appear out of nowhere!

A text is produced by

- a specific writer(s),
- at a specific time,
- in a specific variety,
- of a specific language,
- for a specific function.

- **Language:** 7097 languages in the world
- **Variety**, like African American Language varieties.
 - AAE Twitter posts might include forms like "*iont*" (*I don't*)
- **Code switching**, e.g., Spanish/English, Hindi/English:
 - S/E: Por primera vez veo a @username actually being hateful! It was beautiful:)
[For the first time I get to see @username actually being hateful! it was beautiful:]
 - H/E: dost tha or ra- hega ... dont worry ... but dherya rakhe
["he was and will remain a friend ... don't worry ... but have faith"]
- **Genre:** newswire, fiction, scientific articles, Wikipedia
- **Author Demographics:** writer's age, gender, ethnicity, SES

Gebru et al (2020), Bender and Friedman (2018)

Motivation:

- Why was the corpus collected?
- By whom?
- Who funded it?

Situation: In what situation was the text written?

Collection process: If it is a subsample how was it sampled? Was there consent? Pre-processing?

- **+Annotation process, language variety, demographics, etc.**

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Week 3.4 - Word tokenization

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- Every NLP task requires text normalization:
 1. Tokenizing (segmenting) words
 2. Normalizing word formats
 3. Segmenting sentences

- A very simple way to tokenize
 - For languages that use space characters between words
 - Arabic, Cyrillic, Greek, Latin, etc., based writing systems
 - Segment off a token between instances of spaces
- Unix tools for space-based tokenization
 - The "tr" command
 - Inspired by Ken Church's UNIX for Poets
 - Given a text file, output the word tokens and their frequencies

- Given a text file, output the word tokens and their frequencies

```
tr -sc 'A-Za-z' '\n' < shakes.txt
```

Change all non-alpha to newlines

```
| sort
```

Sort in alphabetical order

```
| uniq -c
```

Merge and count each type

```
1945 A
    72 AARON
    19 ABBESS
    5 ABBOT
    . . . . .
```

The first step: tokenizing



```
tr -sc 'A-Za-z' '\n' < shakes.txt | head
```

```
THE  
SONNETS  
by  
William  
Shakespeare  
From  
fairest  
creatures  
We  
...
```

The second step: sorting



```
tr -sc 'A-Za-z' '\n' < shakes.txt | sort | head
```

A

A

A

A

A

A

A

A

A

...

- Merging upper and lower case

```
tr 'A-Z' 'a-z' < shakes.txt | tr -sc 'A-Za-z' '\n' | sort | uniq -c
```

- Sorting the counts

```
tr 'A-Z' 'a-z' < shakes.txt | tr -sc 'A-Za-z' '\n' | sort | uniq -c | sort -n -r
```

```
23243 the
22225 i
18618 and
16339 to
15687 of
12780 a
12163 you
10839 my
10005 in
8954 d
```

What happened here?

- Can't just blindly remove punctuation:
 - m.p.h., Ph.D., AT&T, cap'n
 - prices (\$45.55)
 - dates (01/02/06)
 - URLs (<http://www.stanford.edu>)
 - hashtags ([#nlproc](#))
 - email addresses (someone@cs.colorado.edu)
- Clitic: a word that doesn't stand on its own
 - "are" in [we're](#), French "je" in [j'ai](#), "le" in [l'honneur](#)
- When should multiword expressions (MWE) be words?
 - [New York](#), [rock 'n' roll](#)


```
>>> text = 'That U.S.A. poster-print costs $12.40...'
>>> pattern = r'''(?x)      # set flag to allow verbose regexps
...      ([A-Z]\.)+        # abbreviations, e.g. U.S.A.
...      | \w+(-\w+)*      # words with optional internal hyphens
...      | \$?\d+(\.\d+)?%? # currency and percentages, e.g. $12.40, 82%
...      | \.\.\.          # ellipsis
...      | [][.,;"'()? : - _ ' ] # these are separate tokens; includes ], [
...      , , ,
>>> nltk.regexp_tokenize(text, pattern)
['That', 'U.S.A.', 'poster-print', 'costs', '$12.40', '...']
```

```
>>> text = 'That U.S.A. poster-print costs $12.40...'  
>>> pattern = r''' (?x) # set flag to allow verbose regexps  
...      ([A-Z]\.)+ # abbreviations, e.g. U.S.A.
```

- Many languages (like Chinese, Japanese, Thai) don't use spaces to separate words!
- How do we decide where the token boundaries should be?

- Chinese words are composed of characters called "**hanzi**" (or sometimes just "**zi**")
- Each one represents a meaning unit called a morpheme.
- Each word has on average 2.4 of them.
- But deciding what counts as a word is complex and not agreed upon.

How to do word tokenization in Chinese?



姚明进入总决赛 “Yao Ming reaches the finals”

- 3 words?

姚明 进入 总决赛

YaoMing reaches finals

- 5 words?

姚 明 进入 总 决赛

Yao Ming reaches overall finals

- 7 characters? (don't use words at all):

姚 明 进 入 总 决 赛

Yao Ming enter enter overall decision game

- So, in Chinese it's common to just treat each character (zi) as a token.
 - So, the **segmentation** step is very simple
- In other languages (like Thai and Japanese), more complex word segmentation is required.
 - The standard algorithms are neural sequence models trained by supervised machine learning.

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Week 3.5 - Byte Pair Encoding

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- Instead of
 - white-space segmentation
 - single-character segmentation
- **Use the data** to tell us how to tokenize.
- **Subword tokenization** (because tokens can be parts of words as well as whole words)

- Three common algorithms:
 - **Byte-Pair Encoding (BPE)** (Sennrich et al., 2016)
 - **Unigram language modeling tokenization** (Kudo, 2018)
 - **WordPiece** (Schuster and Nakajima, 2012)
- All have 2 parts:
 - A token **learner** that takes a raw training corpus and induces a vocabulary (a set of tokens).
 - A token **segmenter** that takes a raw test sentence and tokenizes it according to that vocabulary

- Let vocabulary be the set of all individual characters
= {A, B, C, D,..., a, b, c, d....}
- Repeat:
 - Choose the two symbols that are most frequently adjacent in the training corpus (say 'A', 'B')
 - Add a new merged symbol 'AB' to the vocabulary
 - Replace every adjacent 'A' 'B' in the corpus with 'AB'.
- Until k merges have been done.

function BYTE-PAIR ENCODING(strings C , number of merges k) **returns** vocab V

$V \leftarrow$ all unique characters in C # initial set of tokens is characters

for $i = 1$ **to** k **do** # merge tokens til k times

$t_L, t_R \leftarrow$ Most frequent pair of adjacent tokens in C

$t_{NEW} \leftarrow t_L + t_R$ # make new token by concatenating

$V \leftarrow V + t_{NEW}$ # update the vocabulary

 Replace each occurrence of t_L, t_R in C with t_{NEW} # and update the corpus

return V

- Most subword algorithms are run inside space-separated tokens.
- So we commonly first add a special end-of-word symbol '___' before space in training corpus
- Next, separate into letters.

- Original (very fascinating 🤔) corpus:
- low low low low low lowest lowest newer newer newer newer newer
newer wider wider wider new new
- Add end-of-word tokens, resulting in this vocabulary:

Corpus

```
5 l o w _  
2 l o w e s t _  
6 n e w e r _  
3 w i d e r _  
2 n e w _
```

Vocabulary

```
_, d, e, i, l, n, o, r, s, t, w
```

Corpus

5 l o w _
2 l o w e s t _
6 n e w e r _
3 w i d e r _
2 n e w _

Vocabulary

_, d, e, i, l, n, o, r, s, t, w

Merge [e r] to [er]

Corpus

5 l o w _
2 l o w e s t _
6 n e w **er** _
3 w i d **er** _
2 n e w _

Vocabulary

_, d, e, i, l, n, o, r, s, t, w, **er**

Corpus

5 l o w _
2 l o w e s t _
6 n e w e r _
3 w i d e r _
2 n e w _

Vocabulary

_, d, e, i, l, n, o, r, s, t, w, e r

Merge [er _] to [er_]

Corpus

5 l o w _
2 l o w e s t _
6 n e w **er_**
3 w i d **er_**
2 n e w _

Vocabulary

, d, e, i, l, n, o, r, s, t, w, e r, **er**

Corpus

5 l o w _
2 l o w e s t _
6 n e w er_
3 w i d er_
2 n e w _

Vocabulary

, d, e, i, l, n, o, r, s, t, w, er, er

Merge [n e] to [ne]

Corpus

5 l o w _
2 l o w e s t _
6 **ne** w er_
3 w i d er_
2 **ne** w _

Vocabulary

, d, e, i, l, n, o, r, s, t, w, er, er, **ne**

- The next merges are:

Merge	Current Vocabulary
(ne, w)	_, d, e, i, l, n, o, r, s, t, w, er, er_, ne, new
(l, o)	_, d, e, i, l, n, o, r, s, t, w, er, er_, ne, new, lo
(lo, w)	_, d, e, i, l, n, o, r, s, t, w, er, er_, ne, new, lo, low
(new, er_)	_, d, e, i, l, n, o, r, s, t, w, er, er_, ne, new, lo, low, newer_
(low, _)	_, d, e, i, l, n, o, r, s, t, w, er, er_, ne, new, lo, low, newer_, low_

On the test data, run each merge learned from the training data:

- Greedily
- In the order we learned them
- (test frequencies don't play a role)

So: merge every [e r] to [er], then merge [er _] to [er_], etc.

- Result:

- Test set "n e w e r _" would be tokenized as a full word
- Test set "l o w e r _" would be two tokens: "low er_"

- Usually include frequent words and frequent subwords
 - Which are often morphemes like *-est* or *-er*
- A **morpheme** is the smallest meaning-bearing unit of a language
 - *unlikeliest* has 3 morphemes *un-*, *likely*, and *-est*

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Week 3.6 - Word Normalization and other issues

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- Putting words/tokens in a standard format
 - U.S.A. or USA
 - uhhuh or uh-huh
 - Fed or fed
 - am, is, be, are

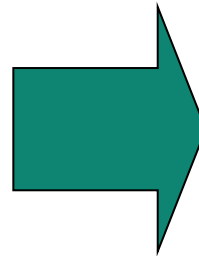
- Applications like IR: reduce all letters to lower case
 - Since users tend to use lower case
 - Possible exception: upper case in mid-sentence?
 - e.g., *General Motors*
 - *Fed* vs. *fed*
 - *SAIL* vs. *sail*
- For sentiment analysis, MT, Information extraction
 - Case is helpful (***US*** versus ***us*** is important)

- Represent all words as their lemma, their shared root = dictionary headword form:
 - *am, are, is* → *be*
 - *car, cars, car's, cars'* → *car*
 - Spanish **quiero** ('I want'), **quieres** ('you want')
→ **querer** 'want'
 - *He is reading detective stories*
→ *He be read detective story*

- Morphemes:
 - The small meaningful units that make up words
 - **Stems**: The core meaning-bearing units
 - **Affixes**: Parts that adhere to stems, often with grammatical functions
- Morphological Parsers:
 - Parse *cats* into two morphemes *cat* and *s*
 - Parse Spanish *amaren* ('if in the future they would love') into morpheme *amar* 'to love', and the morphological features *3PL* and *future subjunctive*.

- Reduce terms to stems, chopping off affixes crudely

This was not the map we found
in Billy Bones's chest, but an
accurate copy, complete in all
things-names and heights and
soundings-with the single
exception of the red crosses
and the written notes.



Thi wa not the map we found
in Billi Bone s chest but an
accur copi complet in all
thing name and height and
sound with the singl except
of the red cross and the
written note.

- Based on a series of rewrite rules run in series
 - A cascade, in which output of each pass fed to next pass
- Some sample rules:

ATIONAL → ATE (e.g., ATIONAL → ATE)

ING → ϵ if stem contains vowel (e.g., motoring → motor)

SSES → SS (e.g., grasses → grass)

Dealing with complex morphology is necessary for many languages



- e.g., the Turkish word:
- **Uygarlastiramadiklarimizdanmissinizcasina**
- `(behaving) as if you are among those whom we could not civilize`
- **Uygar** `civilized` + **las** `become`
 - + **tir** `cause` + **ama** `not able`
 - + **dik** `past` + **lar** `plural`
 - + **imiz** `p1pl` + **dan** `abl`
 - + **mis** `past` + **siniz** `2pl` + **casina** `as if`

- !, ? mostly unambiguous but **period** “.” is very ambiguous
 - Sentence boundary
 - Abbreviations like Inc. or Dr.
 - Numbers like .02% or 4.3
- Common algorithm: Tokenize first: use rules or ML to classify a period as either (a) part of the word or (b) a sentence-boundary.
 - An abbreviation dictionary can help
- Sentence segmentation can then often be done by rules based on this tokenization.

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Week 3.7 - Definition of Minimum Edit Distance

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- Spell correction

- The user typed “graffe”

Which is closest?

- graf
- graft
- grail
- giraffe

- Computational Biology

- Align two sequences of nucleotides

```
AGGCTATCACCTGACCTCCAGGCCGATGCCC  
TAGCTATCACGACCGCGGTTCGATTGCCCCGAC
```

- Resulting alignment:

```
-AGGCTATCACCTGACCTCCAGGCCGA--TGCCC---  
TAG-CTATCAC--GACCGC--GGTCGATTGCCCCGAC
```

- Also for Machine Translation, Information Extraction, Speech Recognition

- The minimum edit distance between two strings
- Is the minimum number of editing operations
 - Insertion
 - Deletion
 - Substitution
- Needed to transform one into the other

- Two strings and their **alignment**:

I	N	T	E	*	N	T	I	O	N
*	E	X	E	C	U	T	I	O	N

I N T E * N T I O N
| | | | | | | | | |
* E X E C U T I O N
d s s i s

- If each operation has cost of 1
 - Distance between these is 5
- If substitutions cost 2 (Levenshtein)
 - Distance between them is 8

- Given a sequence of bases

```
AGGCTATCACCTGACCTCCAGGCCGATGCCC  
TAGCTATCACGACCGCGGGTCGATTTGCCCGAC
```

- An alignment:

```
-AGGCTATCACCTGACCTCCAGGCCGA--TGCCC--  
TAG-CTATCAC--GACCGC--GGTCGATTTGCCCGAC
```

- Given two sequences, align each letter to a letter or gap

- Evaluating Machine Translation and speech recognition

R Spokesman confirms senior government adviser was appointed

H Spokesman said the senior adviser was appointed

S

I

D

I

- Named Entity Extraction and Entity Coreference

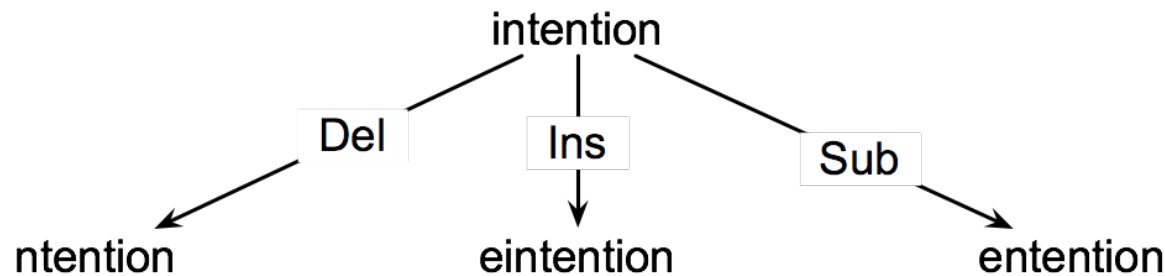
- IBM Inc. announced today

- IBM profits

- Stanford Professor Jennifer Eberhardt announced yesterday

- for Professor Eberhardt...

- Searching for a path (sequence of edits) from the start string to the final string:
 - **Initial state:** the word we're transforming
 - **Operators:** insert, delete, substitute
 - **Goal state:** the word we're trying to get to
 - **Path cost:** what we want to minimize: the number of edits



- But the space of all edit sequences is huge!
 - We can't afford to navigate naively
 - Lots of distinct paths wind up at the same state.
 - We don't have to keep track of all of them
 - Just the shortest path to each of those revisited states.

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Week 3.8 - Computing Minimum Edit Distance

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- For two strings
 - X of length n
 - Y of length m
- We define $D(i, j)$
 - the edit distance between $X[1..i]$ and $Y[1..j]$
 - i.e., the first i characters of X and the first j characters of Y
 - The edit distance between X and Y is thus $D(n, m)$

- **Dynamic programming:** A tabular computation of $D(n, m)$
- Solving problems by combining solutions to subproblems.
- Bottom-up
 - We compute $D(i, j)$ for small i, j
 - And compute larger $D(i, j)$ based on previously computed smaller values
 - i.e., compute $D(i, j)$ for all i ($0 < i < n$) and j ($0 < j < m$)

Defining Min Edit Distance (Levenshtein)



Initialization

$$D(i, 0) = i$$

$$D(0, j) = j$$

Recurrence Relation:

For each $i = 1 \dots M$

For each $j = 1 \dots N$

$$D(i, j) = \min \begin{cases} D(i-1, j) + 1 \\ D(i, j-1) + 1 \\ D(i-1, j-1) + \begin{cases} 2; & \text{if } X(i) \neq Y(j) \\ 0; & \text{if } X(i) = Y(j) \end{cases} \end{cases}$$

Termination:

$D(N, M)$ is distance

The Edit Distance Table




N	9									
O	8									
I	7									
T	6									
N	5									
E	4									
T	3									
N	2									
I	1									
#	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	#	E	X	E	C	U	T	I	O	N

The Edit Distance Table

N	9									
O	8									
I	7									
T	6									
N	5									
E	4									
T	3									
N	2									
I	1									
#	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	#	E	X	E	C	U	T	I	O	N

$$D(i,j) = \min \begin{cases} D(i-1,j) + 1 \\ D(i,j-1) + 1 \\ D(i-1,j-1) + \begin{cases} 2; & \text{if } S_1(i) \neq S_2(j) \\ 0; & \text{if } S_1(i) = S_2(j) \end{cases} \end{cases}$$



The Edit Distance Table

$$D(i,j) = \min \begin{cases} D(i-1,j) + 1 \\ D(i,j-1) + 1 \\ D(i-1,j-1) + \begin{cases} 2; & \text{if } S_1(i) \neq S_2(j) \\ 0; & \text{if } S_1(i) = S_2(j) \end{cases} \end{cases}$$

N	9									
O	8									
I	7									
T	6									
N	5									
E	4									
T	3									
N	2									
I	1									
#	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	#	E	X	E	C	U	T	I	O	N

The Edit Distance Table



N	9	8	9	10	11	12	11	10	9	8
O	8	7	8	9	10	11	10	9	8	9
I	7	6	7	8	9	10	9	8	9	10
T	6	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11
N	5	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	10
E	4	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	9
T	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	8
N	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	7
I	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	6	7	8
#	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	#	E	X	E	C	U	T	I	O	N

SIT770: Natural Language Processing

Week 3.9 - Backtrace for Computing Alignments

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- Edit distance isn't sufficient
 - We often need to **align** each character of the two strings to each other
- We do this by keeping a "backtrace"
- Every time we enter a cell, remember where we came from
- When we reach the end,
 - Trace back the path from the upper right corner to read off the alignment

Edit Distance

$$D(i,j) = \min \begin{cases} D(i-1,j) + 1 \\ D(i,j-1) + 1 \\ D(i-1,j-1) + \begin{cases} 2; & \text{if } S_1(i) \neq S_2(j) \\ 0; & \text{if } S_1(i) = S_2(j) \end{cases} \end{cases}$$

N	9									
O	8									
I	7									
T	6									
N	5									
E	4									
T	3									
N	2									
I	1									
#	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	#	E	X	E	C	U	T	I	O	N

MinEdit with Backtrace



n	9	↓ 8	↙←↓ 9	↙←↓ 10	↙←↓ 11	↙←↓ 12	↓ 11	↓ 10	↓ 9	↙ 8	
o	8	↓ 7	↙←↓ 8	↙←↓ 9	↙←↓ 10	↙←↓ 11	↓ 10	↓ 9	↙ 8	← 9	
i	7	↓ 6	↙←↓ 7	↙←↓ 8	↙←↓ 9	↙←↓ 10	↓ 9	↙ 8	← 9	← 10	
t	6	↓ 5	↙←↓ 6	↙←↓ 7	↙←↓ 8	↙←↓ 9	↙ 8	← 9	← 10	←↓ 11	
n	5	↓ 4	↙←↓ 5	↙←↓ 6	↙←↓ 7	↙←↓ 8	↙←↓ 9	↙←↓ 10	↙←↓ 11	↙↓ 10	
e	4	↙ 3	← 4	↙← 5	← 6	← 7	←↓ 8	↙←↓ 9	↙←↓ 10	↓ 9	
t	3	↙←↓ 4	↙←↓ 5	↙←↓ 6	↙←↓ 7	↙←↓ 8	↙ 7	←↓ 8	↙←↓ 9	↓ 8	
n	2	↙←↓ 3	↙←↓ 4	↙←↓ 5	↙←↓ 6	↙←↓ 7	↙←↓ 8	↓ 7	↙←↓ 8	↙ 7	
i	1	↙←↓ 2	↙←↓ 3	↙←↓ 4	↙←↓ 5	↙←↓ 6	↙←↓ 7	↙ 6	← 7	← 8	
#	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
	#	e	x	e	c	u	t	i	o	n	

Adding Backtrace to Minimum Edit Distance



Base conditions:

$$D(i, 0) = i$$

$$D(0, j) = j$$

Termination:

$D(N, M)$ is distance

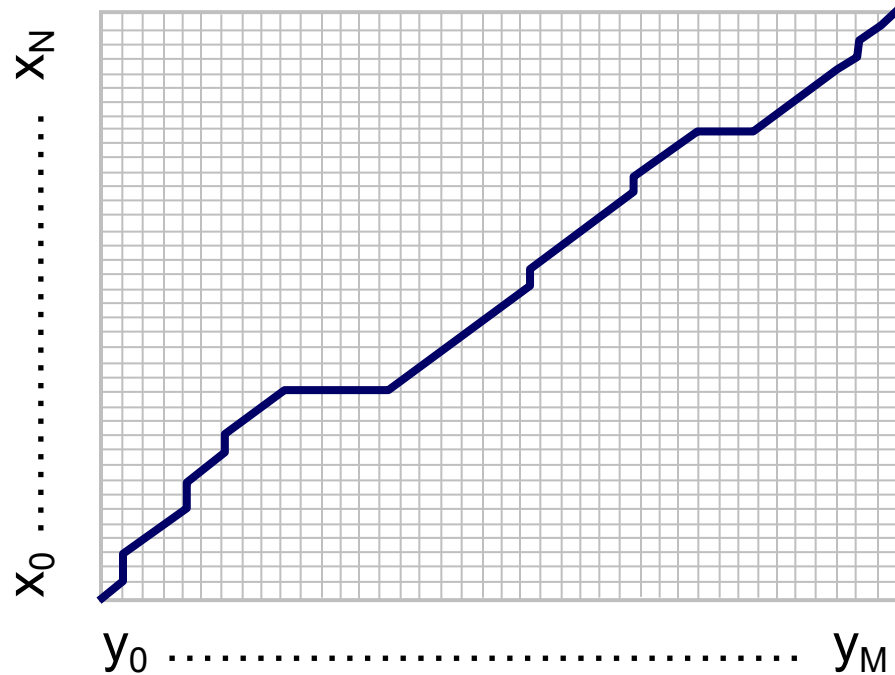
Recurrence Relation:

For each $i = 1 \dots M$

For each $j = 1 \dots N$

$$D(i, j) = \min \begin{cases} D(i-1, j) + 1 & \text{deletion} \\ D(i, j-1) + 1 & \text{insertion} \\ D(i-1, j-1) + \begin{cases} 2; & \text{if } X(i) \neq Y(j) \\ 0; & \text{if } X(i) = Y(j) \end{cases} & \text{substitution} \end{cases}$$

$$\text{ptr}(i, j) = \begin{cases} \text{LEFT} & \text{insertion} \\ \text{DOWN} & \text{deletion} \\ \text{DIAG} & \text{substitution} \end{cases}$$



Every non-decreasing path

from $(0,0)$ to (M, N)

corresponds to

an alignment

of the two sequences

An optimal alignment is composed of optimal subalignments

- Two strings and their **alignment**:

I	N	T	E	*	N	T	I	O	N
*	E	X	E	C	U	T	I	O	N

- Time:
 - $O(nm)$
- Space:
 - $O(nm)$
- Backtrace
 - $O(n+m)$

SIT770: Natural Language Processing

Week 3.10 - Weighted Minimum Edit Distance

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- Why would we add weights to the computation?
 - Spell Correction: some letters are more likely to be mistyped than others
 - Biology: certain kinds of deletions or insertions are more likely than others

Confusion matrix for spelling errors



sub[X, Y] = Substitution of X (incorrect) for Y (correct)

X	Y (correct)																									
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
a	0	0	7	1	342	0	0	2	118	0	1	0	0	3	76	0	0	1	35	9	9	0	1	0	5	0
b	0	0	9	9	2	2	3	1	0	0	0	5	11	5	0	10	0	0	2	1	0	0	8	0	0	0
c	6	5	0	16	0	9	5	0	0	0	1	0	7	9	1	10	2	5	39	40	1	3	7	1	1	0
d	1	10	13	0	12	0	5	5	0	0	2	3	7	3	0	1	0	43	30	22	0	0	4	0	2	0
e	388	0	3	11	0	2	2	0	89	0	0	3	0	5	93	0	0	14	12	6	15	0	1	0	18	0
f	0	15	0	3	1	0	5	2	0	0	0	3	4	1	0	0	0	6	4	12	0	0	2	0	0	0
g	4	1	11	11	9	2	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	2	1	3	5	13	21	0	0	1	0	3	0
h	1	8	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	12	14	2	3	0	3	1	11	0	0	2	0	0	0
i	103	0	0	0	146	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	49	0	0	0	2	1	47	0	2	1	15	0
j	0	1	1	9	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
k	1	2	8	4	1	1	2	5	0	0	0	0	5	0	2	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	4	0	0	3
l	2	10	1	4	0	4	5	6	13	0	1	0	0	14	2	5	0	11	10	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
m	1	3	7	8	0	2	0	6	0	0	4	4	0	180	0	6	0	0	9	15	13	3	2	2	3	0
n	2	7	6	5	3	0	1	19	1	0	4	35	78	0	0	7	0	28	5	7	0	0	1	2	0	2
o	91	1	1	3	116	0	0	0	25	0	2	0	0	0	0	14	0	2	4	14	39	0	0	0	18	0
p	0	11	1	2	0	6	5	0	2	9	0	2	7	6	15	0	0	1	3	6	0	4	1	0	0	0
q	0	0	1	0	0	0	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
r	0	14	0	30	12	2	2	8	2	0	5	8	4	20	1	14	0	0	12	22	4	0	0	1	0	0
s	11	8	27	33	35	4	0	1	0	1	0	27	0	6	1	7	0	14	0	15	0	0	5	3	20	1
t	3	4	9	42	7	5	19	5	0	1	0	14	9	5	5	6	0	11	37	0	0	2	19	0	7	6
u	20	0	0	0	44	0	0	0	64	0	0	0	0	2	43	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	8	0
v	0	0	7	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	8	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
w	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	7	0	6	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
x	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
y	0	0	2	0	15	0	1	7	15	0	0	0	2	0	6	1	0	7	36	8	5	0	0	1	0	0
z	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	5	0	0	0	0	2	21	3	0	0	0	0	3	0



- Initialization:

$$D(0, 0) = 0$$

$$D(i, 0) = D(i-1, 0) + \text{del}[x(i)]; \quad 1 < i \leq N$$

$$D(0, j) = D(0, j-1) + \text{ins}[y(j)]; \quad 1 < j \leq M$$

- Recurrence Relation:

$$D(i, j) = \min \begin{cases} D(i-1, j) & + \text{del}[x(i)] \\ D(i, j-1) & + \text{ins}[y(j)] \\ D(i-1, j-1) & + \text{sub}[x(i), y(j)] \end{cases}$$

- Termination:

$D(N, M)$ is distance

Where did the name, dynamic programming, come from?



...The 1950s were not good years for mathematical research. [the] Secretary of Defense ...had a pathological fear and hatred of the word, research...

I decided therefore to use the word, “**programming**”.

I wanted to get across the idea that this was dynamic, this was multistage... I thought, let’s ... take a word that has an absolutely precise meaning, namely **dynamic**... it’s impossible to use the word, **dynamic**, in a pejorative sense. Try thinking of some combination that will possibly give it a pejorative meaning. It’s impossible.

Thus, I thought dynamic programming was a good name. It was something not even a Congressman could object to.”

Richard Bellman, “Eye of the Hurricane: an autobiography” 1984.

SIT770: Natural Language Processing

Week 3.11 - Minimum Edit Distance in Computational Biology

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AGGCTATCACCTGACCTCCAGGCCGATGCCC
TAGCTATCACGACCGCGGGTCGATTGCCCCGAC

–AGGCTATCACCTGACCTCCAGGCCGA––TGCCC––
TAG–CTATCAC––GACCGC––GGTCGATTGCCCCGAC

Why sequence alignment?



- Comparing genes or regions from different species
 - to find important regions
 - determine function
 - uncover evolutionary forces
- Assembling fragments to sequence DNA
- Compare individuals to looking for mutations

- In Natural Language Processing
 - We generally talk about **distance** (minimized)
 - And **weights**
- In Computational Biology
 - We generally talk about **similarity** (maximized)
 - And **scores**

The Needleman-Wunsch Algorithm



- Initialization:

$$D(i, 0) = -i * d$$

$$D(0, j) = -j * d$$

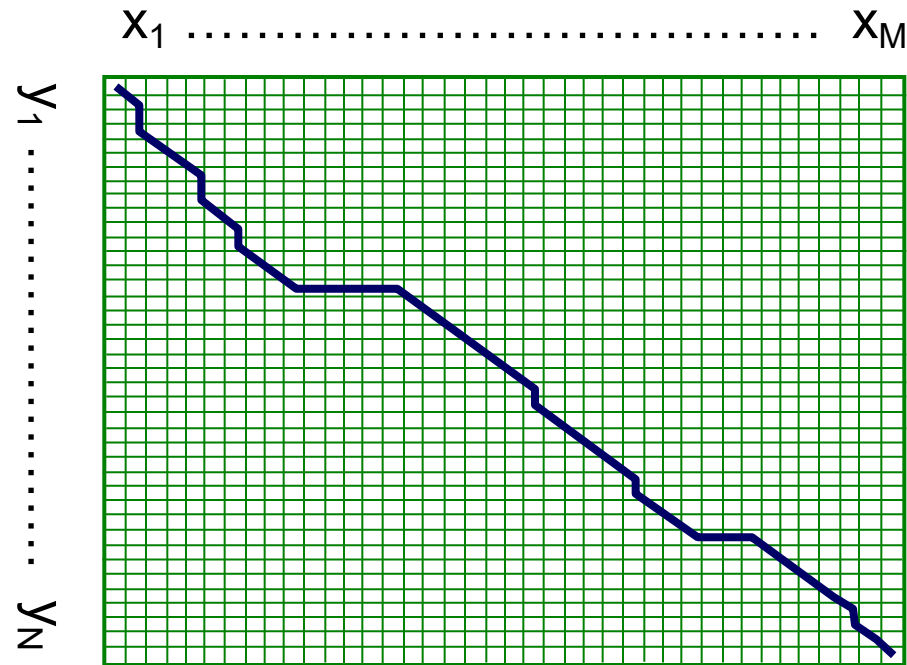
- Recurrence Relation:

$$D(i, j) = \max \begin{cases} D(i-1, j) & - d \\ D(i, j-1) & - d \\ D(i-1, j-1) & + s[x(i), y(j)] \end{cases}$$

- Termination:

$D(N, M)$ is distance

The Needleman-Wunsch Matrix



(Note that the origin is at the upper left.)

A variant of the basic algorithm:

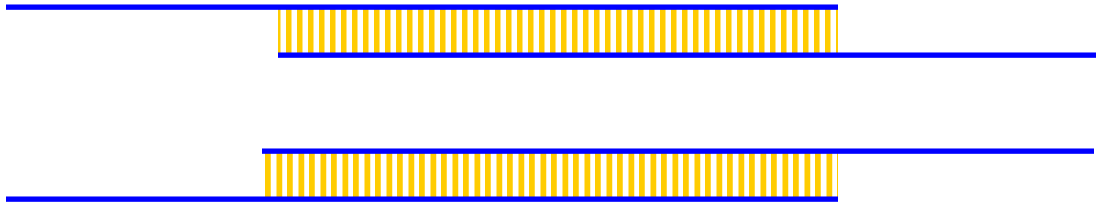


- Maybe it is OK to have an unlimited # of gaps in the beginning and end:

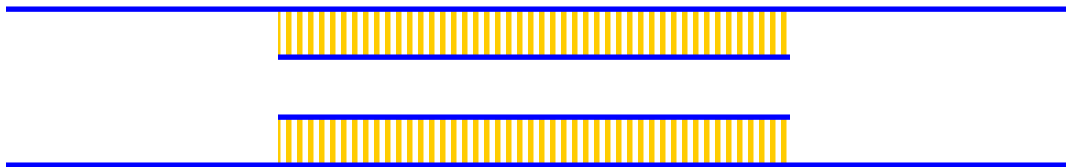
-----CTATCACCTGACCTCCAGGCCGATGCCCCCTTCCGGC
GCGAGTTCATCTATCAC--GACCGC--GGTCG-----

- If so, we don't want to penalize gaps at the ends

Different types of overlaps

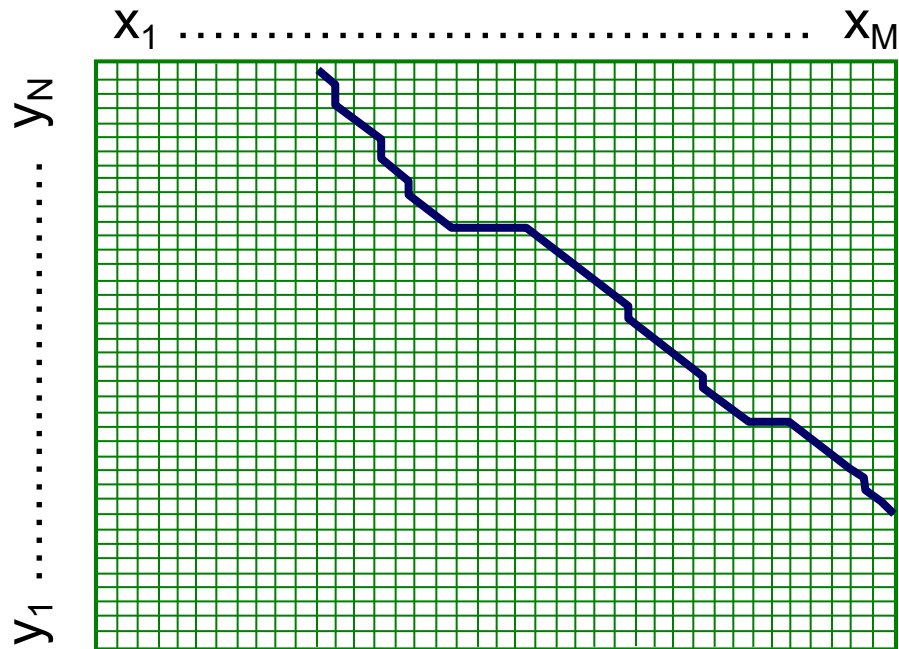


Example:
2 overlapping “reads” from a sequencing project



Example:
Search for a mouse gene within a human chromosome

The Overlap Detection variant



Changes:

1. Initialization

For all i, j ,

$$F(i, 0) = 0$$

$$F(0, j) = 0$$

2. Termination

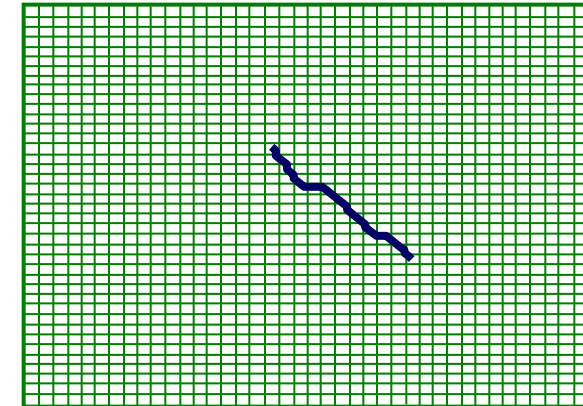
$$F_{\text{OPT}} = \max \begin{cases} \max_i F(i, N) \\ \max_j F(M, j) \end{cases}$$

The Local Alignment Problem

Given two strings $x = x_1 \dots x_M$,
 $y = y_1 \dots y_N$

Find substrings x' , y' whose similarity
(optimal global alignment value)
is maximum

$x = \text{aaaacccc}\boxed{\text{cggg}}\text{tta}$
 $y = \text{ttcc}\boxed{\text{cggga}}\text{accaacc}$



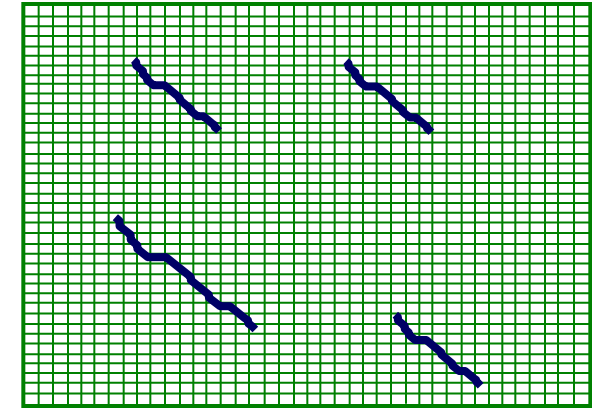
The Smith-Waterman algorithm

Idea: Ignore badly aligning regions

Modifications to Needleman-Wunsch:

Initialization: $F(0, j) = 0$
 $F(i, 0) = 0$

Iteration:
$$F(i, j) = \max \begin{cases} 0 \\ F(i-1, j) - d \\ F(i, j-1) - d \\ F(i-1, j-1) + s(x_i, y_j) \end{cases}$$

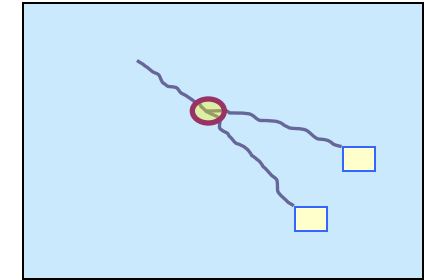


Termination:

1. If we want the **best** local alignment...

$$F_{\text{OPT}} = \max_{i,j} F(i, j)$$

Find F_{OPT} and trace back



2. If we want **all** local alignments **scoring** $> t$

?? For all i, j find $F(i, j) > t$, and trace back?

Complicated by overlapping local alignments

Local alignment example



X = ATCAT

Y = ATTATC

Let:

m = 1 (1 point for match)

d = 1 (-1 point for del/ins/sub)

		A	T	T	A	T	C
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0						
T	0						
C	0						
A	0						
T	0						

Local alignment example



X = ATCAT

Y = ATTATC

		A	T	T	A	T	C
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
T	0	0	2	1	0	2	0
C	0	0	1	1	0	1	3
A	0	1	0	0	2	1	2
T	0	0	2	0	1	3	2

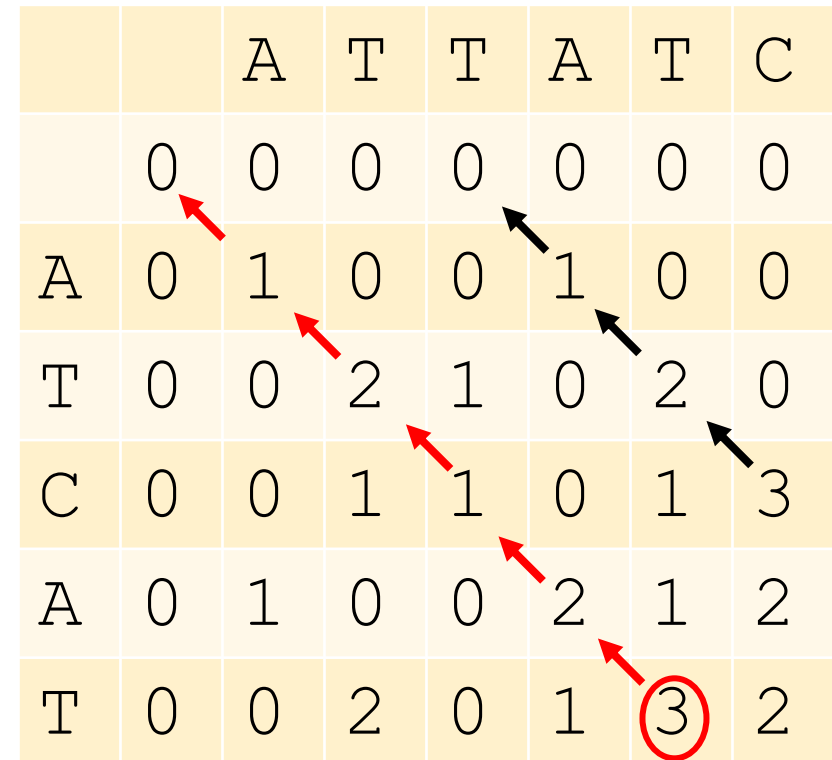
A diagram showing a local alignment path between the sequences X = ATCAT and Y = ATTATC. The path is indicated by black arrows starting from the cell (A, A) at row 2, column 2 and ending at the cell (C, C) at row 4, column 7. The path follows the sequence of cells: (A, A) → (T, T) → (C, C). The cells along the path have values 1, 2, and 3 respectively, representing the local alignment score at each step.

Local alignment example

X = **ATCAT**

Y = **ATTAT**C

		A	T	T	A	T	C
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
T	0	0	2	1	0	2	0
C	0	0	1	1	0	1	3
A	0	1	0	0	2	1	2
T	0	0	2	0	1	3	2



Local alignment example

X = **ATC**AT

Y = ATT**ATC**

		A	T	T	A	T	C
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
T	0	0	2	1	0	2	0
C	0	0	1	1	0	1	3
A	0	1	0	0	2	1	2
T	0	0	2	0	1	3	2