

Algorithmen der Bioinformatik I

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Optimal alignments in linear space

Eugene W. Myers^{1,2} and Webb Miller²

Abstract

Space, not time, is often the limiting factor when computing optimal sequence alignments, and a number of recent papers in the biology literature have proposed space-saving strategies. However, a 1975 computer science paper by Hirschberg presented a method that is superior to the new proposals, both in theory and in practice. The goal of this paper is to give Hirschberg's idea the visibility it deserves by developing a linear-space version of Gotoh's algorithm, which accommodates affine gap penalties. A portable C-software package implementing this algorithm is available on the BIONET free of charge.

where $\sigma_{\max} = \max_{a,b} \sigma(a,b)$ (Smith *et al.*, 1981). Thus, to produce an alignment that maximizes the similarity score, first apply these transformations and then run the program described in this paper with the resulting w , g and h . If the minimum conversion score is C , then the corresponding maximum alignment score is $\frac{1}{2}(M + N)\sigma_{\max} - C$.

Gotoh (1982) gave an algorithm that solves such problems in $O(MN)$ time. If only the minimum cost is desired, then it is easy to implement the algorithm in $O(N)$ space, where N can be taken as the shorter sequence length. If one also desires a set of operations attaining the minimum cost, then straightforward implementations need $O(MN)$ space. In practice, this space

Downloaded from <http://bibsonline.org>

Figure: Application of Hirschberg's linear-space algorithm to pairwise alignment: G. Myers and W. Miller, 1988, *Optimal alignments in linear space*



Alignment with linear memory

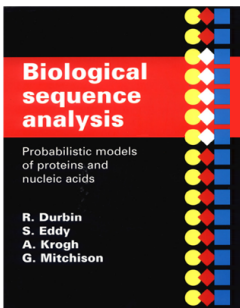


Figure: Alternative algorithm: R. Durbin *et al.*, 1998, *Biological Sequence Analysis*, pp. 34-35



Alignment with linear memory

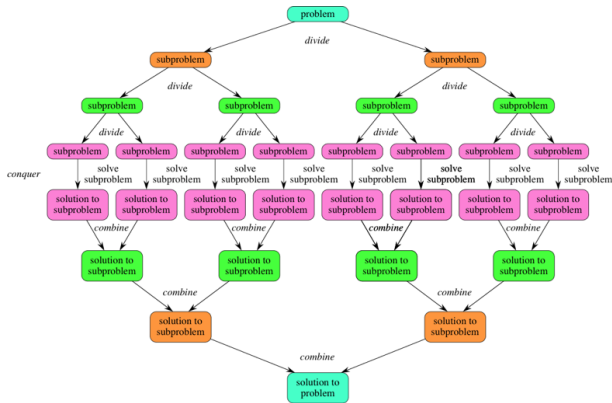


Figure: Divide-and-conquer principle (<https://www.khanacademy.org/>).



Alignment with linear memory

Idea (Divide and Conquer for optimal alignment):

- Find position in *middle* column of DP matrix through which optimal path (alignment) runs ('optimal midpoint').
- Only upper-left and lower-right sections of DP matrix have to be considered to find optimal path.
- Calculate optimal path for upper-left and lower-right sub-matrices independently.
- Repeat recursively until search space small enough.



Alignment with linear memory

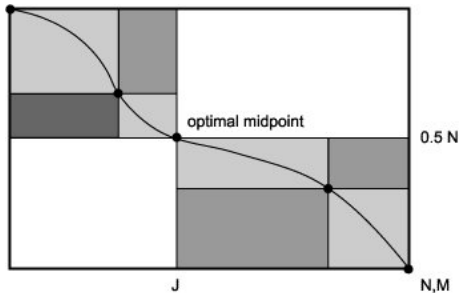


Figure: Finding optimal midpoint in DP matrix. (D. Mount, *Bioinformatics*)

Alignment with linear memory

In more detail: for sequences of length m and n , consider

$$m' = \left\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \right\rfloor$$

To find optimal 'midpoint' in middle column, calculate for (i, j) with $i \geq m'$

$$c(i, j)$$

such that optimal path from $(0, 0)$ to (i, j) goes through

$$(m', c(i, j))$$

Idea: use *DP* algorithm; calculate $c(i, j)$ together with $d(i, j)$



Alignment with linear memory

$c(i, j)$ depends on where maximum is obtained in recursion formula

$$F(i, j) = \max \begin{cases} F(i-1, j-1) & + & s(X_i, Y_j) \\ F(i-1, j) & - & g \\ F(i, j-1) & - & g \end{cases}$$

Depending on where maximum is obtained:

$$c(i, j) = \begin{cases} c(i-1, j-1) & \text{if maximum in 1st line} \\ c(i-1, j) & \text{if maximum in 2nd line} \\ c(i, j-1) & \text{if maximum in 3rd line} \end{cases}$$

\Rightarrow Optimal path from $(0, 0)$ to (m, n) goes through $(m', c(m, n))$.



Alignment with linear memory

Complexity of algorithm:

- *Memory* complexity linear
- *Time* complexity:
 - ▶ 1. step takes $m \cdot n$ time
 - ▶ 2. step takes $\frac{1}{2} \cdot m \cdot n$ time
 - ▶ k -th step takes $2^{-k} \cdot m \cdot n$ time

\Rightarrow for k steps, algorithm takes

$$\sum_0^k 2^{-i} \cdot m \cdot n \rightarrow 2 \cdot m \cdot n$$

time



Phylogeny Reconstruction

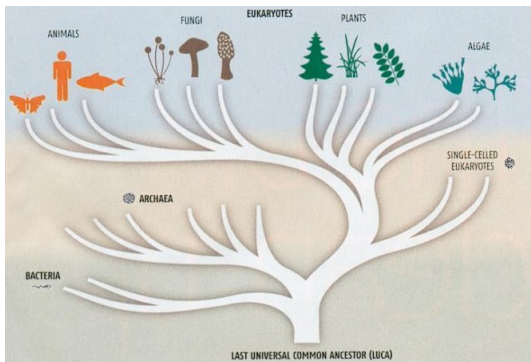


Figure: The tree of life (source: <http://universe-review.ca>)

Phylogeny Reconstruction

Goal: phylogeny reconstruction for

- Species
- Molecules (e.g. protein families)

Data basis: *sequence data* (protein or nucleic acid).

- Given: sequence family with multiple sequence alignment
- Wanted: tree – with or without ‘root’ – that ‘fits’ sequence data



Phylogeny Reconstruction

seq1	R	Y	L	V	M	R	E	A	Q	E	W			
seq2	Y	I	M	Q	E	V	Q	Q	E	R	A			
seq3	W	T	Y	L	V	M	E	A	Q	Y	E	S	A	Q
seq4	A	L	Y	I	A	M	E	V	Q	Y	E	S	A	



Phylogeny Reconstruction

seq1	-	R	Y	L	V	M	R	E	A	Q	-	E	W	-	-
seq2	-	-	Y	I	-	M	Q	E	V	Q	Q	E	R	A	-
seq3	W	T	Y	L	V	M	-	E	A	Q	Y	E	S	A	Q
seq4	A	L	Y	I	A	M	-	E	V	Q	Y	E	S	A	-



Phylogeny Reconstruction

Approaches:

- (1) Distance methods:
Calculate pairwise distances between species/sequences.
Find tree that represents distances.
- (2) Maximum Parsimony:
Find tree that minimizes number of mutations
- (3) Probabilistic methods:
 - ▶ Maximum Likelihood.
 - ▶ Bayesian methods.



Distance Methods for Tree Reconstruction

Input: distance matrix with pairwise distances between OTUs
(‘Operational Taxonomic Units’, = species, sequences *etc.*)

Output: tree with OTUs at the leaves that ‘represents’ input distances.

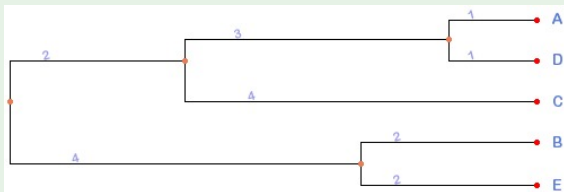
More precisely: length of paths between leaves are equal to distances in matrix.



Distance Methods for Tree Reconstruction

Example (Distance matrix and tree)

	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>E</i>
<i>A</i>	0	12	8	2	12
<i>B</i>		0	12	12	4
<i>C</i>			0	8	12
<i>D</i>				0	12
<i>E</i>					0



Distance Methods for Tree Reconstruction

For a given distance matrix:

How do we know if there is a tree representing the distances?

Simplest case: all leaves have same distance from 'root'.



Distance Methods for Tree Reconstruction

Definition (Ultrametric)

A distance function d on a set X is called ultrametric if it satisfies

$$d(x, y) \geq 0$$

$$d(x, y) = 0 \Leftrightarrow x = y$$

$$d(x, y) = d(y, x)$$

$$d(x, z) \leq \max\{d(x, y), d(y, z)\}$$

for all x, y, z .

Last line equivalent to: two of the distances $d(x, y)$, $d(y, z)$, $d(x, z)$ are equal, and the third one is smaller or equal than these two.



Distance Methods for Tree Reconstruction

Definition (Ultrametric tree)

A rooted tree is called ultrametric tree, if all distances from the root to the leaves are equal.

Theorem

If a distance matrix M has the ultrametric property, then there exists an ultrametric tree representing the distances from M .

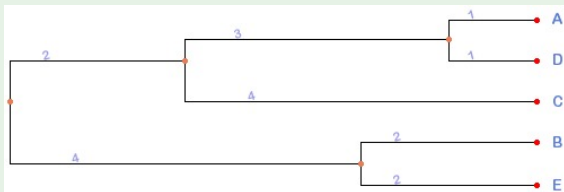
For ultrametric $n \times n$ distance matrix, clustering method *UPGMA* finds 'correct' tree representing distances.



Distance Methods for Tree Reconstruction

Example (Ultrametric distance matrix and tree)

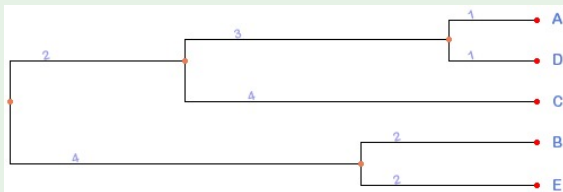
	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>E</i>
<i>A</i>	0	12	8	2	12
<i>B</i>		0	12	12	4
<i>C</i>			0	8	12
<i>D</i>				0	12
<i>E</i>					0



Distance Methods for Tree Reconstruction

Example (Ultrametric distance matrix and tree)

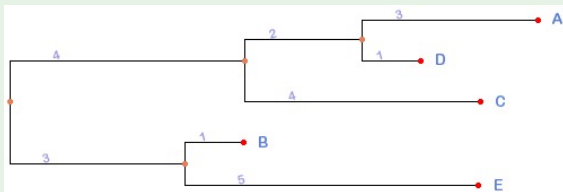
	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>E</i>
<i>A</i>	0	12	8	2	12
<i>B</i>		0	12	12	4
<i>C</i>			0	8	12
<i>D</i>				0	12
<i>E</i>					0



Distance Methods for Tree Reconstruction

Example (*Non-ultrametric* distance matrix and tree)

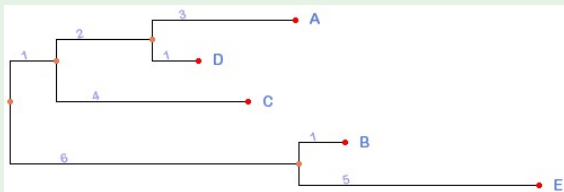
	A	B	C	D	E
A	0	13	9	4	17
B		0	12	11	6
C			0	7	16
D				0	15
E					0



Distance Methods for Tree Reconstruction

Example (Same distance matrix, tree with different root position)

	A	B	C	D	E
A	0	13	9	4	17
B		0	12	11	6
C			0	7	16
D				0	15
E					0



Distance Methods for Tree Reconstruction

Result:

For non-ultrametric distance matrix, tree can be found, but position of root not clear.

⇒ Find tree *without* root.

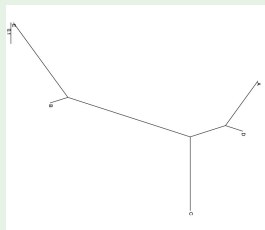
For given distance matrix, *Neighbour Joining* finds tree representing input distances – if such a tree exists.



Distance Methods for Tree Reconstruction

Example (Distance matrix and *unrooted* tree)

	A	B	C	D	E
A	0	13	9	4	17
B		0	12	11	6
C			0	7	16
D				0	15
E					0



How to find a root for the tree?

Some phylogeny methods produce *unrooted* trees.

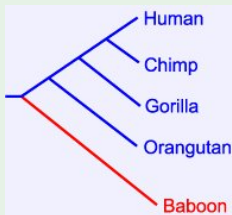
Use *outgroup* to define root.

- Chose organism (or group of organisms), that are *not* part of the group under study, but not too far away.
- Construct tree for group under study *and* outgroup, define branching point of the two groups as root for group under study.



How to find a root for the tree?

Example (Outgroup to find root for unrooted tree)



Baboon used as 'outgroup' to study phylogeny of Human, Chimp, Gorilla, Orangutan