Introduction
Automatic Alignment Analyses
Alignments in Historical Linguistics
LingPy
Performance of the Method

Multiple Sequence Alignment in Historical Linguistics

A Sound Class Based Approach

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Structure of the Talk

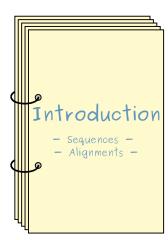
TPPSR

Introduction Sequences Alignments **Automatic Alignment Analyses** Pairwise Sequence Alignment Multiple Sequence Alignment Alignments in Historical Linguistics Similarity Sound Classes LingPy Main Ideas Working Principle Scoring Performance of the Method Usage Example



Sequences Alignments

Introduction





Sequences

Sets

- Sets are unordered lists of unique objects.
- Sets are compared by comparing the objects of different sets.

Sequences

- Sequences are ordered lists of non-unique objects.
- Sequences are compared by comparing both the objects (segments) and the structure of different sequences.



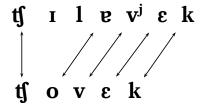
Sequence Alignment

In alignment analyses, the corresponding **segments** of two or more **sequences** are ordered in such a way that they are **set against each other**. Segments which do not correspond to any other segments are marked by **gaps** (-). In this way, both, the structure and the segments of two or more sequences can be compared.

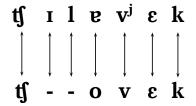


$$tf$$
 1 l e v^{j} ϵ k



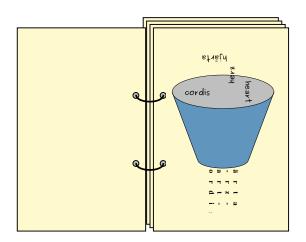








Automatic Alignment Analyses





- Create a matrix which confronts all segments of two sequences, either with each other, or with gaps.
- Seek the path through the matrix which is of the lowest cost (or the highest score).
- Calculate the cost (or the score) cumulatively by scoring the matching of segments with segments and with gaps by means of a specific scoring function.





































Guide Tree Heuristics

- Due to computational restrictions, multiple sequence alignment (MSA) is based on **heuristics**.
- Heuristics based on guide-trees are the most common ones used in computational biology.
- Based on pairwise alignment scores, a guide-tree is reconstructed, and the sequences are stepwise added to the MSA along it (Feng & Dolittle 1987).













t∫ılev^jεk

Russian

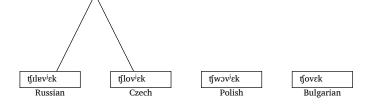
tʃlov^jεk Czech t∫wɔv^jεk

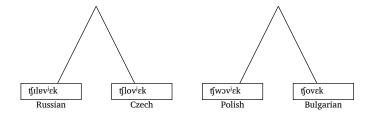
Polish

t∫ovεk

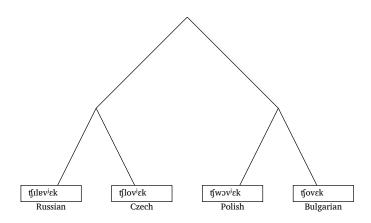
Bulgarian



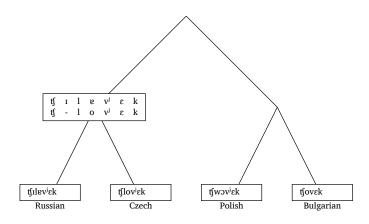




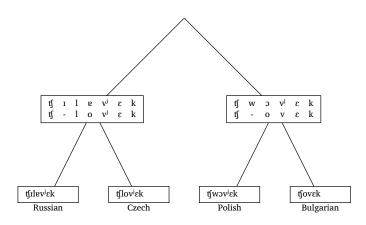




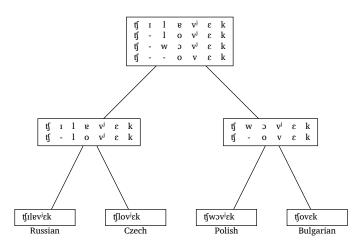










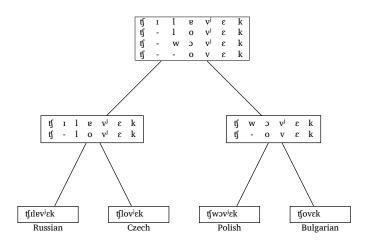




Profiles

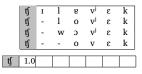
- The guide-tree heuristic can be enhanced by the application of **profiles**.
- A profile consists of the relative frequency of all segments of an MSA in all its positions, thus, a profile represents an MSA as a sequence of vectors.
- Aligning profiles to profiles instead of aligning two representative sequences of two given MSA yields better results, since more information can be taken into account.













	tſ	I	1	я	\mathbf{v}^{j}	ε	k
	tſ	-	1	o	\mathbf{v}^{j}	ε	k
	tſ	-	w	Э	\mathbf{v}^{j}	ε	k
İ	tſ	-	-	0	v	ε	k

tſ	1.0				
I		.25			
-		.75			



tſ	I	1	я	\mathbf{v}^{j}	3	k
tſ	-	1	0	\mathbf{v}^{j}	3	k
tſ	-	w	Э	\mathbf{v}^{j}	3	k
tſ	-	-	0	v	ε	k

	tſ	1.0				
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	-		.75	.25		
	1			.5		
ĺ	w			.25		



tſ	I	1	я	V ^j	3	k
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tſ	-	w	Э	V,j	3	k
tſ	-	-	0	v	3	k

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я				.25		



tſ	I	1	я	\mathbf{v}^{j}	ε	k
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tſ	-	-	0	v	ε	k

tſ	1.0					
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\mathbf{v}^{j}					.75 .25	
v					.25	



tſ	I	1	я	\mathbf{v}^{j}	ε	k
tf tf	-	1	0	\mathbf{v}^{j}	ε	k
tſ	-	w	Э	\mathbf{v}^{j}	ε	k
tſ	-	-	0	v	ε	k

tʃ	1.0						
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Э				.25			
a				.25			
\mathbf{v}^{j}					.75 .25		
v					.25		
3						1.0	



tſ	I	1	я	\mathbf{v}^{j}	з	k
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tſ	-	w	Э	\mathbf{v}^{j}	3	k
tſ	-	-	0	v	ε	k

			_				
tſ	1.0						
I		.25					
-		.75	.25				
1			.5				
w			.25				
О				.5			
Э				.25			
я				.25			
\mathbf{v}^{j}					.75 .25		
v					.25		
ε						1.0	
k							1.0

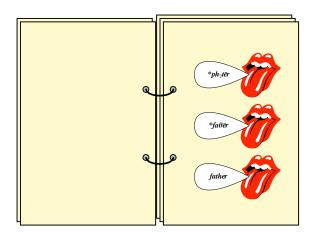


tſ	I	1	я	\mathbf{V}^{j}	3	k
tſ	-	1	0	\mathbf{v}^{j}	3	k
tf tf tf	-	w	Э	\mathbf{v}^{j}	3	k
tſ	-	-	0	\mathbf{v}	ε	k

tſ	1.0						
I		.25					
-		.75	.25				
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я				.25			
\mathbf{v}^{j}					.75 .25		
v					.25		
3						1.0	
k							1.0



Alignments in Historical Linguistics





Synchronic Similarity

Sounds in different languages are judged to be **similar**, if they show **resemblences** regarding **the way they are produced or perceived**.

Diachronic Similarity

Sounds in different languages are judged to be **similar**, if they **go back to a common ancestor**.



Language	Word	Meaning
Mandarin	ma ⁵⁵ ma ³	"mother"
German	mama	"mother"
Russian	tak	"in this way"
German	t ^h a:k	"day"



Language	Word	Meaning
German	ts ^h a:n	"tooth"
English	tu:θ	"tooth"
Italian	dente	"tooth"
French	dã	"tooth"



German English Italian French

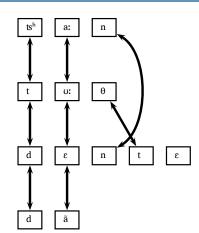


German

English

Italian

French

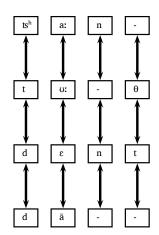


German

English

Italian

French

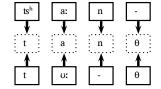






* Proto-Germanic

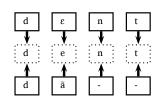
English



Italian

* Proto-Romance

French





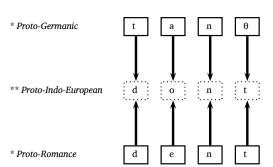
* Proto-Germanic

t a n θ

* Proto-Romance

d e n t







Similarity Sound Classes

Similarity

** Proto-Indo-European

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О

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Correspondence Classes

In sound class approaches, sounds are "divided into several types and thereby distinguished in such a way that phonetic correspondences inside a 'type' are more regular than those between different 'types'" (Dolgopolsky 1986: 35).

Diachronic Similarity

Similarity is not based on **synchronic resemblances** of sounds but on **class-membership**: two sounds, how dissimilar they may be from a synchronic perspective, may still belong to the same class. Class membership indicates that the **probability that sounds occur in a correspondence relationship** in genetically related languages is considerably high.

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 \bigcirc

(p)

(b)

(t)

(4)

(f)

v

(t)

(d)

(1)

(3)

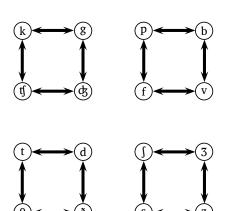
 Θ

(ð)

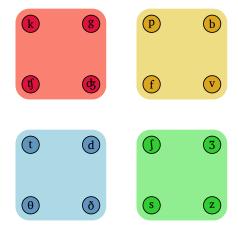
(s)

 $\left(\mathbf{z}\right)$

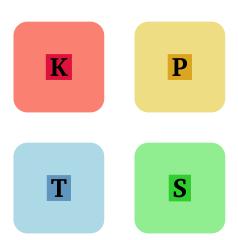






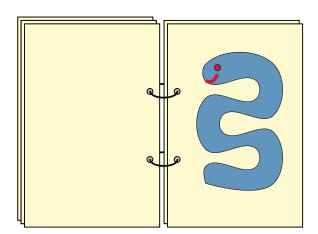








LingPy





LingPy

A Python Library for Sequence Alignment

LingPy (www.lingulist.de/lingpy) is a suite of open source Python modules for sequence comparison, and distance analyses in quantitative historical linguistics. The library allows to carry out both pairwise and multiple alignments of strings encoded in IPA or X-Sampa, using different methods and algorithms, such as global (Needleman & Wunsch 1970) and local (Smith & Waterman 1981) pairwise alignments, multiple alignments based on guide trees (Feng & Doolittle 1987), profiles (Thompson et al. 1994), or iteration (Barton & Sternberg 1987).

Main Ideas

Alignment of Sound Class Sequences

In contrast to previous approaches, which base the alignment on the sequences as **they are given from the input**, within the sound class approach, the input strings are first **converted to sound classes** before they are aligned.

Transitions Between Sound Classes

In contrast to previous sound class approaches (cf. e.g. Turchin et al. 2010), which do not allow for **transitions between sound classes**, this approach is based on a **specific scoring function**, which defines (diachronic) similarity among different sound classes.

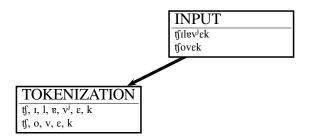


Main Ideas Working Principle Scoring

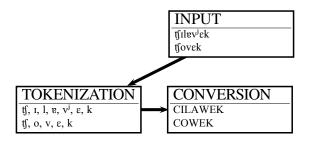
Working Principle

INPUT fj:levⁱek fjovek

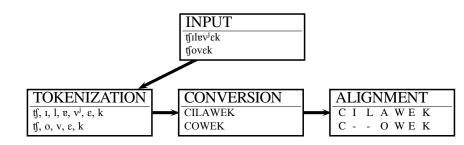




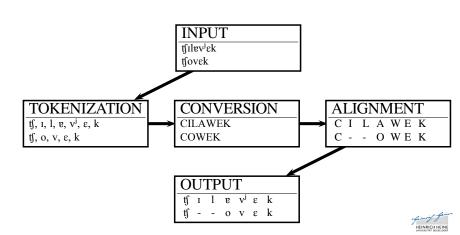












Main Ideas Working Principle Scoring

Scoring

Directionality of Sound Changes

One crucial characteristic of certain well-known sound changes is their **directionality**, i.e. if certain sounds change, this change will go into a certain direction and the **reverse change can rarely be attested**.

Directionality and Sound Correspondences

While the nature of certain sound changes **may be directional**, sound correspondences do not directly reflect this directionality, and neither do scoring functions for sequence alignments, since these are **not directional** *per definitionem*, since the distance or similarity between two segments is always the same, regardless from which segment we start to compare.

Main Ideas Working Principle Scoring

Scoring

Reflecting Directionality in Undirected Networks

In this approach, the directionality of certain sound changes is accounted for by creating a **non-metric scoring function**. While in a metric scoring function the distance between two segments *A* and *B* would depend on the distance of *A* and *B* to a third segment *C* in such a way that, according to the **triangle inequality** the distance from *A* to *B* could **not exceed the sum of the distances from** *A* **to** *C* **and from** *B* **to** *C***, this does not hold for the probability of those sound correspondences, which occur as a product of directional sound change.**



Main Ideas Working Principle Scoring

Scoring

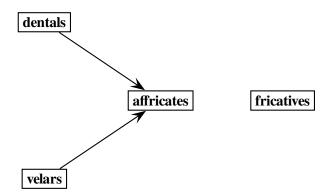
dentals

affricates

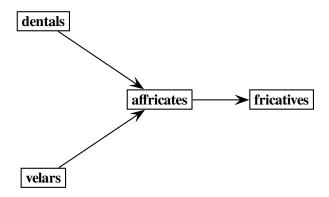
fricatives

velars



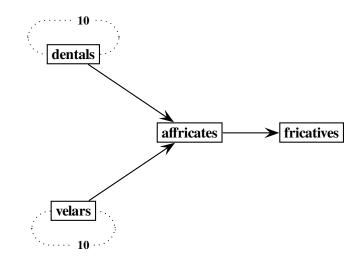




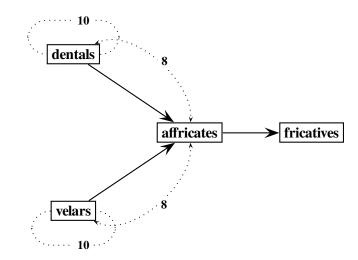




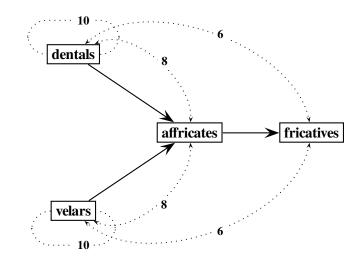
Main Ideas Working Principle Scoring





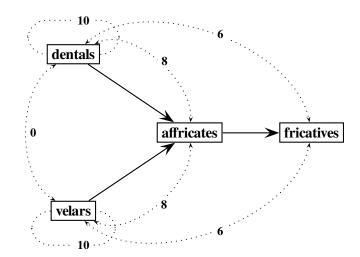






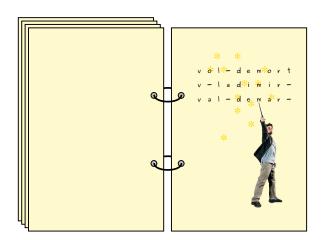


Main Ideas Working Principle Scoring





Performance of the Method





Usage Example TPPSR



>>> from lingpy.compare.seqcom import Multiple



```
>>> from lingpy.compare.seqcom import Multiple
>>> mult = Multiple(['twovisk', 'tovsk',\
... 'tslovisk', 'tslevisk'])
```



Usage Example TPPSR

```
>>> from lingpy.compare.seqcom import Multiple
>>> mult = Multiple(['twovisk', 'tovsk',\
... 'tflovisk', 'trlevisk'])
>>> print ', '.join(mult.ipt_seqs)
```



```
>>> from lingpy.compare.seqcom import Multiple
>>> mult = Multiple(['twovjsk', 'tfovsk',\
... 'tflovjsk', 'tflevjsk'])
>>> print ', '.join(mult.ipt_seqs)
tfwovjsk, tfovsk, tflevjsk
```



```
>>> from lingpy.compare.seqcom import Multiple
>>> mult = Multiple(['twov'ek', 'tfovek', \
... 'tflov'ek', 'tfrlev'ek'])
>>> print ', '.join(mult.ipt_seqs)
tfwov'ek, tfovek, tflov'ek, tfrlev'ek
>>> mult.prog_align(method='sca',mode='profile')
```



Usage Example TPPSR



Usage Example TPPSR



```
>>> from lingpy.compare.segcom import Multiple
>>> mult = Multiple(['twovjek', 'tovek',\
... 'tlovisk', 'tllevisk'l)
>>> print ', '.join(mult.ipt_segs)
twoviek, tovek, tloviek, tileviek
>>> mult.prog_align(method='sca', mode='profile')
tf - l ο v<sup>j</sup> ε k
  τ l p vj ε k
>>> mult.show_guide_tree()
                   /-0:twoviek
                   \-1:tovεk
                  /-3:tflovisk
          \ -----
                   \-2:ffrleviek
```



```
>>> from lingpy.compare.segcom import Multiple
>>> mult = Multiple(['twovjek', 'tovek',\
... 'tloviek', 'tlleviek'l)
>>> print ', '.join(mult.ipt_segs)
twoviek, tovek, tloviek, tileviek
>>> mult.prog_align(method='sca', mode='profile')
   k s tv c w -
tf - l ο v<sup>j</sup> ε k
  τ l p vj ε k
>>> mult.show_guide_tree()
                  /-0:twoviek
                   \-1:tovεk
                  /-3:fflovisk
                   \-2:ffrleviek
>>> print ', '.join([seq.cls_str for seq in \
... mult.lingpy_segs])
```



```
>>> from lingpy.compare.segcom import Multiple
>>> mult = Multiple(['twovjek', 'tovek',\
... 'tloviek', 'tlleviek'l)
>>> print ', '.join(mult.ipt_segs)
twoviek, tovek, tloviek, tileviek
>>> mult.prog_align(method='sca', mode='profile')
  - w o v i ε k
tf - l ο v<sup>j</sup> ε k
 τ l p vj ε k
>>> mult.show_guide_tree()
                  /-0:twoviek
                  \-1:fovek
                  /-3:ffloviek
                   \-2:ffrleviek
>>> print ', '.join([seq.cls_str for seq in \
... mult.lingpy_segs])
CWOWEK, COWEK, CLOWEK, CILAWEK
```





>>> mult.flat_cluster(0.3,method='sca')



```
>>> mult.flat_cluster(0.3,method='sca')
[1, 1, 1, 1]
```



```
>>> mult.flat_cluster(0.3,method='sca')
[1, 1, 1, 1]
>>> mult.prog_align(method='sca',mode='profile')\
... # profile-based alignment
```



```
>>> mult.flat_cluster(0.3,method='sca')
[1, 1, 1, 1]
>>> mult.prog_align(method='sca',mode='profile')\
... # profile-based alignment

tf - w o v s k

tf - - o v s k

tf - l o v s s k

tf r l e v s s k
```









Usage Example TPPSR





Usage Example TPPSR

```
>>> mult.flat cluster(0.3,method='sca')
[1, 1, 1, 1]
>>> mult.prog_align(method='sca',mode='profile') \
... # profile-based alignment
   - l o v<sup>j</sup> ε k
   T l p vi s k
>>> mult.sum of pairs()
39.666666666666664
>>> mult.prog_align(method='sca',mode='fd') \
... # simple guide-tree alignment
                             k
    - 1 o v<sup>j</sup>
              ty q
>>> mult.iterate()
Old SoP score: 37.8333333333
New SoP score: 39.666666667
```



Usage Example TPPSR

Usage Example

```
>>> mult.flat cluster(0.3,method='sca')
[1, 1, 1, 1]
>>> mult.prog_align(method='sca',mode='profile') \
   # profile-based alignment
             o vi
                77 j
>>> mult.sum of pairs()
39.666666666666664
>>> mult.prog_align(method='sca',mode='fd') \
... # simple guide-tree alignment
                             k
                   VΪ
>>> mult.iterate()
Old SoP score: 37.8333333333
New SoP score: 39.666666667
              a tv o
```

VΪ



IPA-Encoding of the TPPSR

The Tableaux phonétiques des patois suisses romand (TPPSR, Gauchat et al. 1925) is a collection of phonetic dialect data, which was digitized in an earlier research project of the Institute for Romance Languages and Literature (Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf). The original data was converted to IPA in order make it suitable for alignment analyses using the LingPy library. The dataset consists of 480 charts (480 words and phrases) which contain phonetic information for 62 dialect points.

Analysis within LingPy

The analysis within LingPy is done via a simple terminal-based interface which takes text-files as input and outputs the results of the alignment analyses as text-files.



```
tppsr
69, sont tout près, pressu
     sõ.to.pri:
3
     i.sõ.to.ke:
5
     ei.səõ.to.prei
8
     sõ.pre
11
     sõ.to.pru:tso
18
     sõ.pre
19
     sõ.to.pre
30
     ∫on.pre
31
     ∫õn.to.prei
34
     i.sõ.to.pre
54
     ε.sõ.to.prε
55
     prej
56
     a.são.to.d.ko:t
57
     sõ.to.pre:
58
     a.sõ.to.pren
```



```
tppsr
69, sont tout près, pressu
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```
tppsr
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```





− Cluster−ID

```
tppsr
69, sont tout près, pressu
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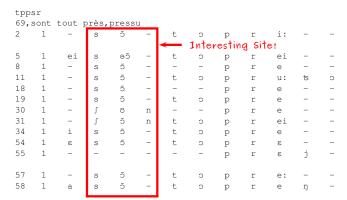
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tppsr
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Thank You for Listening! Special thanks to the German Federal Mi-Q nistry of Education and Research (BMBF) for funding our research project on evolution and clas-sification in biology, linguistics, and the history of science (EvoClass).

