We use a function to compute the distance between the factual sequence and the counterfactual candidates. Here, a low distance corresponds to a small change. For reasons explained earlier (**??**), we want to consider the structural and feature distances. Henceforth, we use the previously established Semi-strucured Damerau-Levenshtein distance (SSDLD). The similarity distance uses a cost function as specified in Equation 1.

$$\begin{aligned} cost(a_i, b_j) &= L2(a_i, b_j) \\ a_i, b_j &\in \mathbb{R}^d \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

Here, $dist(x, y)$ is an arbitrary distance metric. i and j are the indices of the sequence elements a and b, respectively. $L2$ denotes the euclidean distance.