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 take the structural distance and the feature distance into account. Henceforth, we use the previously established Semi-strucured Damerau-Levenshtein distance (SS-DLD). The similarity distance uses a cost function as specified in Equation 1.

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

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

Let us consider an example: Let's say we have two sequences as shown in **??**