



# Minimum Edit Distance

## Definition of Minimum Edit Distance



# How similar are two strings?

- Spell correction

- The user typed “graffe”

Which is closest?

- graf
    - graft
    - grail
    - giraffe

- Computational Biology

- Align two sequences of nucleotides

```
AGGCTATCACCTGACCTCCAGGCCGATGCCC
TAGCTATCACGACCGCGGTTCGATTGCCCGAC
```

- Resulting alignment:

```
-AGGCTATCACCTGACCTCCAGGCCGA--TGCCC---
TAG-CTATCAC--GACCGC--GGTCGATTGCCCGAC
```

- Also for Machine Translation, Information Extraction, Speech Recognition



# Edit Distance

- The minimum edit distance between two strings
- Is the minimum number of editing operations
  - Insertion 原本沒有的字，後來出現
  - Deletion 原本有的字，後來被刪除
  - Substitution 替換字
- Needed to transform one into the other



## Minimum Edit Distance

- Two strings and their **alignment**:

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



## Minimum Edit Distance

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



# Alignment in Computational Biology

並不是拿到兩個字串就直接比  
而是要適度的留白  
試著找到一個編輯距離最小的對應法

- Given a sequence of bases

AGGCTATCACCTGACCTCCAGGCCGATGCCC  
TAGCTATCACGACCGCGGTCGATTGCCCCGAC

- An alignment:

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

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



## Other uses of Edit Distance in NLP

- Evaluating Machine Translation and speech recognition

<b>R</b>	Spokesman	confirms		senior	government	adviser was shot	
<b>H</b>	Spokesman	said	the	senior		adviser was shot	dead
		S	I		D		I

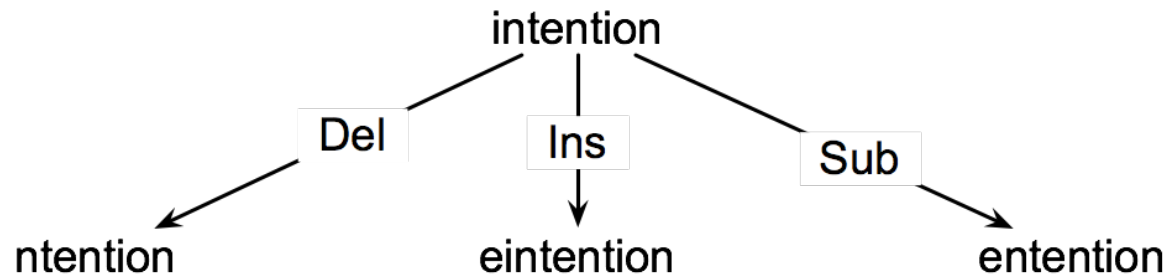
- Named Entity Extraction and Entity Coreference

- **IBM Inc.** announced today    IBM Inc和IBM只差一個字，所以可以說他們是一樣的字
- **IBM** profits    下面這個例子也只差了President，所以可以說是一樣的字  
這就是最小編輯距離的應用
- **Stanford President John Hennessy** announced yesterday
- for **Stanford University President John Hennessy**



## How to find the Min Edit Distance?

- 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







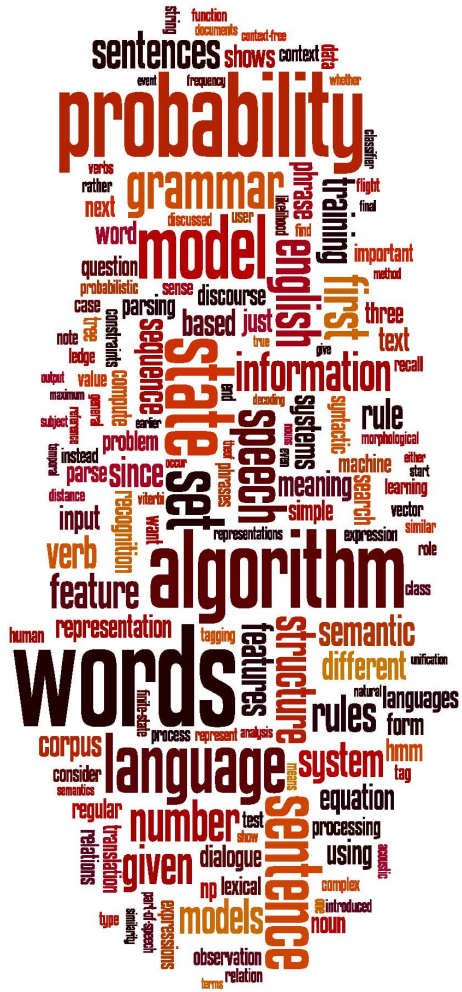
## Minimum Edit as Search

- But the space of all edit sequences is huge!
  - We can't afford to navigate naïvely 不可能窮舉所有的可能
  - 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.



## Defining Min Edit Distance

- 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  $D(n,m)$



# Minimum Edit Distance

# Definition of Minimum Edit Distance



# Computing Minimum Edit Distance



# Dynamic Programming for Minimum Edit Distance

- **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

$D(i, 0) = i$  長度為 $i$ 的句子 $x$ ，和長度為 $0$ 的句子 $y$ ，編輯距離= $i$  ( $i$ 次deletion)

$D(0, j) = j$  長度為 $0$ 的句子 $x$ ，和長度為 $j$ 的句子 $y$ ，編輯距離= $j$  ( $j$ 次insertion)

- Recurrence Relation:

```

For each i = 1...M
  For each j = 1...N
    D(i, j) = min {
      D(i-1, j) + 1
      D(i, j-1) + 1
      D(i-1, j-1) + 2; { if X(i) ≠ Y(j)
                        0; { if X(i) = Y(j)
    
```

- Termination:

$D(N, M)$  is distance

$D(i, j)$  的值，有三種可能

1. 原本 $D(i-1, j)$ ，在 $x$ 新增一個值
2. 原本 $D(i, j-1)$ ，在 $y$ 新增一個值
3. 原本 $D(i-1, j-1)$ ，在 $x$ 和 $y$ 都加入一個值



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



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



向右 : +1

向上 : +1

右上 : +2 or +0

向右或向上一定是insertion/deletion, 所以只會是+1

Dan Jurafsky



## 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



# The Edit Distance Table

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



# Computing Minimum Edit Distance



# Minimum Edit Distance

# Backtrace for Computing Alignments



# Computing alignments

- 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

找出兩個字串的最小編輯距離還不夠  
還要找出這兩個義串應該要怎麼對應  
才能得到最小編輯距離



# 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

向右 : +1

向上 : +1

右上 : +2 or +0

要知道每一個值是從哪個方向來的  
再一一遞迴到起點

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

ANS:

intention  
#execution



# Adding Backtrace to Minimum Edit Distance

- Base conditions:

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

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

Termination:

$$D(N, M) \text{ is distance}$$

- Recurrence Relation:

For each  $i = 1 \dots M$

For each  $j = 1 \dots N$

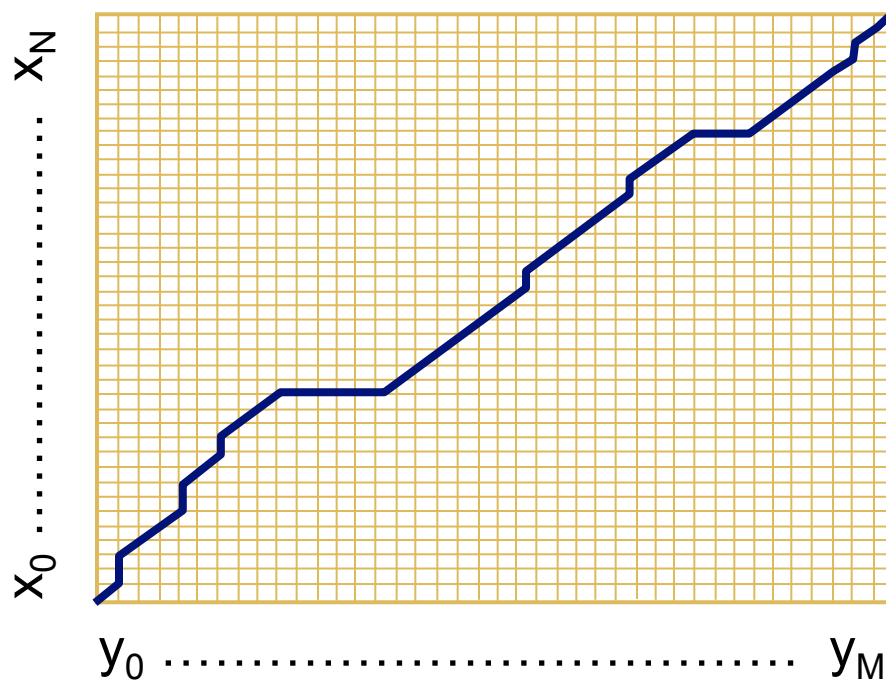
$$D(i, j) = \min \begin{cases} D(i-1, j) + 1 & \text{deletion} \\ D(i, j-1) + 1 & \text{insertion} \\ D(i-1, j-1) + \begin{cases} 2; & \text{if } X(i) \neq Y(j) \\ 0; & \text{if } X(i) = Y(j) \end{cases} & \text{substitution} \end{cases}$$

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





# The Distance Matrix



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



## Result of Backtrace

- Two strings and their **alignment**:

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



## Performance

- Time:

$O(nm)$

Matrix Size =  $n * m$

- Space:

$O(nm)$

- Backtrace

$O(n+m)$



# Minimum Edit Distance

# Backtrace for Computing Alignments

[illegible]



# Weighted Edit Distance

- 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

有些字在鍵盤擺設上可能就在旁邊，比較容易打錯  
這種錯誤就是比較能夠被容忍的



# 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

Dan Jurafsky







# Weighted Min Edit Distance

- 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:

Weight

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

- Termination:

$D(N,M)$  is distance

Dan Jurafsky



# 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.



# Minimum Edit Distance

# Weighted Minimum Edit Distance





# Sequence Alignment

AGGCTATCACCTGACCTCCAGGCCGATGCCC  
TAGCTATCACGACCGCGGTCGATTGCCCCGAC

–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



## Alignments in two fields

- 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:

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

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

$d$ : cost of insertion/deletion

- Recurrence Relation:

$s$ : cost of substitution from  $x(i)$  to  $y(j)$

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

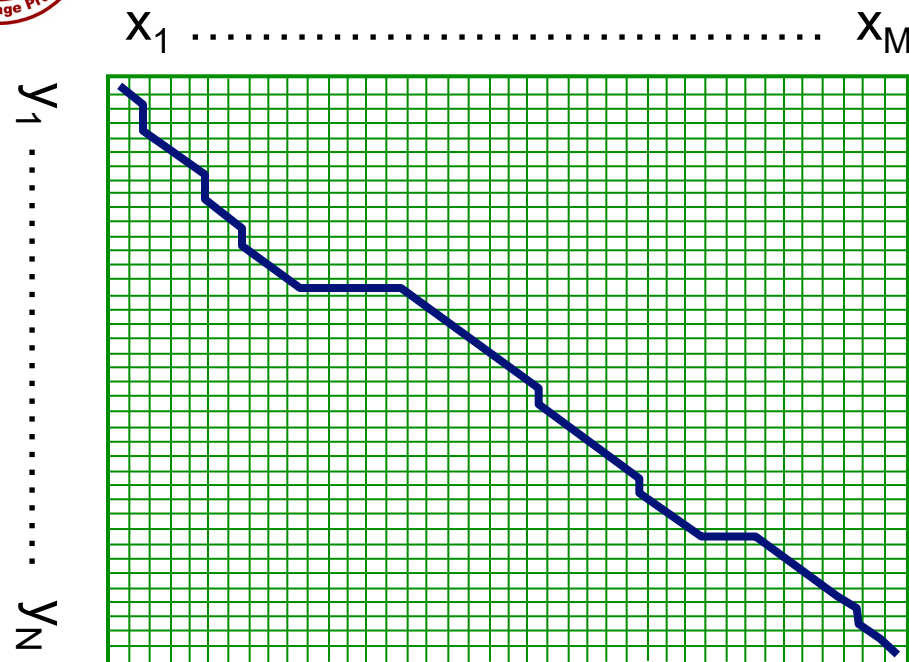
- Termination:

$D(N, M)$  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:

可能在整段基因當中  
只有在某一個片段有大幅相近的現象  
那我們只要擷取這個片段即可  
不要過度懲罰前後補償的GAP

-----CTATCACCTGACCTCCAGGCCGATGCCCCTTCCGGC  
GCGAGTTCATCTATCAC--GACCGC--GGTCG-----

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



# Different types of overlaps

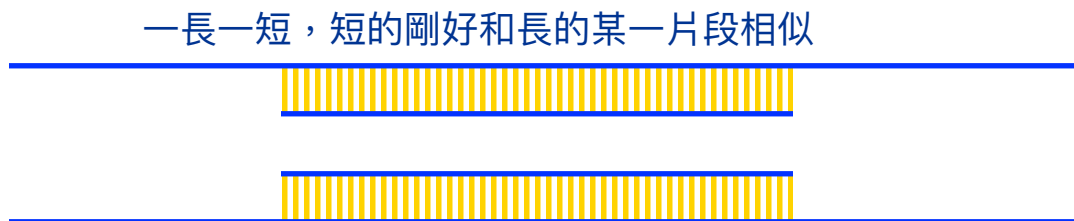
兩種Overlap



兩條長度差不多，但只有各取某個片段才相似

**Example:**

2 overlapping “*reads*” from a sequencing project



一長一短，短的剛好和長的某一片段相似

**Example:**

Search for a mouse gene within a human chromosome

Slide from Serafim Batzoglou

如何用演算法找出Overlap的部分？

## 1. Initialization

## 2. Termination

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



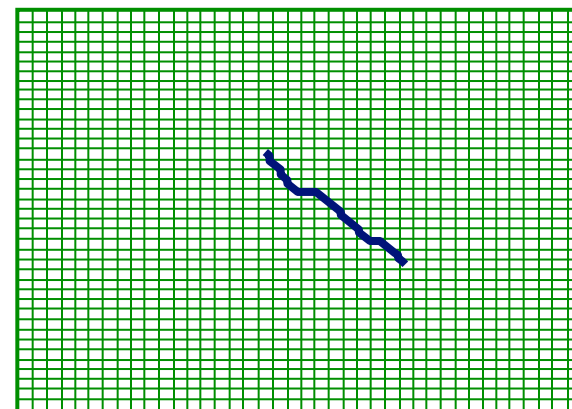
# The Local Alignment Problem

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



$x = \text{aaaacc}\text{cccgggg}\text{tta}$

$y = \text{ttcccggggaaccaacc}$



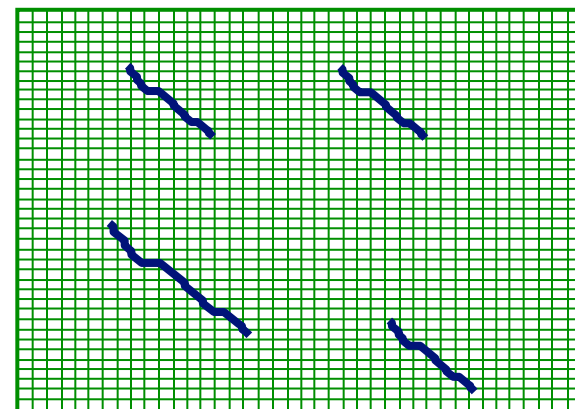
# The Smith-Waterman algorithm

**Idea:** Ignore badly aligning regions

Modifications to Needleman-Wunsch:

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

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





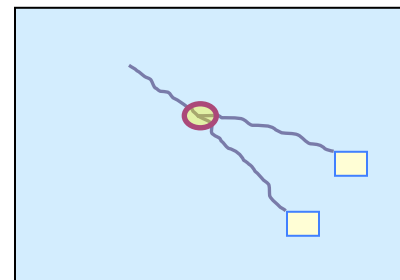
# The Smith-Waterman algorithm

## Termination:

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

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

Find  $F_{\text{OPT}}$  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

Slide from Serafim Batzoglou



## 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



## 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

