# Lecture 08 sequence alignment



Course: Practical Bioinformatics (BIOL 4220)

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#### Lecture 08 outline

Last time: sequence data

This time: sequence alignment

- sources of sequence variation
- pairwise alignment
- progressive alignment
- generative alignment

## Sequence variation

# Many questions in genome biology are fundamentally *comparative*

- where is this gene located in the genome?
- what amino acid differences cause two proteins to differ in function?
- how are two genes evolutionarily related?

# Sequence variation

Any two sequences can differ in length and/or content

#### TCCAAGCGTTATC

same length, same content

→ TCCAAGCGTTATC

AATCAGTGGTATC 

same length, diff. content

diff. length, diff. content

→ TAGTGGTATC

# Sequence alignment

An *alignment* defines which parts of the sequence are evolutionary or functionally comparable (*homologous*)

(unaligned sequences)

```
sp1 CCAAGCGTTATC
```

sp2 TCAGTGGTATC

sp3 TAGTGGTATC

sp4 CTCAGTGGATC

## What creates sequence variation?

evolutionary time TCAAGCGTTATC

TCAAGTGGTATC

TCA GTGGTATC

CTCAGTGGTATC

original sequence

substitution

deletion

insertion

# Sequence alignment

An *alignment* defines which parts of the sequence are evolutionary or functionally comparable (*homologous*)

```
+ + + + + + + indels

** * * * polymorphisms

sp1 CCAAG-CGTTATC

sp2 -TCAGTGGT-ATC

sp3 -T-AGTGGT-ATC

sp4 CTCAGTGGA--TC
```

homologous site

### substitutions are common indels are rare

5 indels
3 mismatches

### substitutions are rare indels are common

sp1 C-CAAGCGGTTATC

sp2 -TCA-GTGGT-ATC

sp3 -T-A-GTGGT-ATC

sp4 CTCA-GTGG--ATC

6 indels
1 mismatches

## Alignment methods

#### Alignment algorithms find the matrix for which:

- rows are different sequences/genes
- columns are homologous characters
- some optimization criterion is maximized

#### Two dominant method families:

- **heuristic methods** optimize "match scores" for alignment matrix
- **generative methods** reconstruct the most probable history that generated the alignment matrix

## Heuristic alignment

Example: minimize cost of alignment

- +1 Match (11)
- -1 Mismatch (2)
- -2 Gap open (2)
- -1 Gap extension (2)

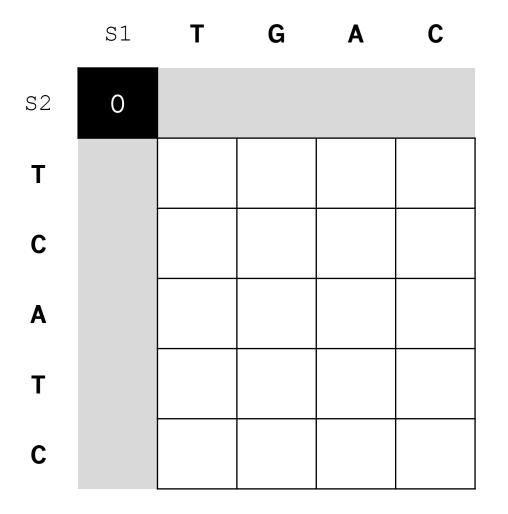
$$+1x11 + -1x2 + -2x2 + -1x2 = +3$$

## Heuristic alignment

Example: minimize cost of alignment

- +1 Match (11)
- -1 Mismatch (0)
- -2 Gap open (4)
- -1 Gap extension (4)

$$+1x11 + -1x0 + -2x4 + -1x4 = -1$$

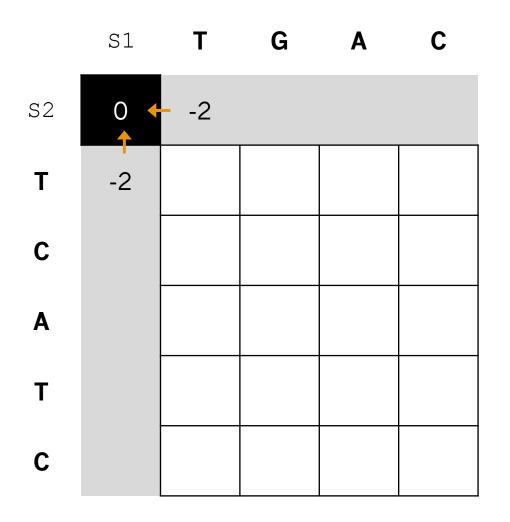


Туре	Score
Match	+1
Mismatch	-1
Gap	-2

S1: ?

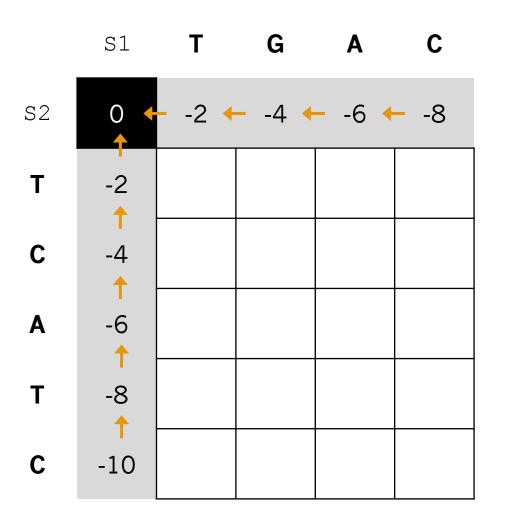
#### Recursive algorithm

- compute local cost to add a match, mismatch, or gap to the pairwise alignment for each cell
- construct path based on best cost
- continue until you reach the final site
- traverse path in reverse order to obtain alignment



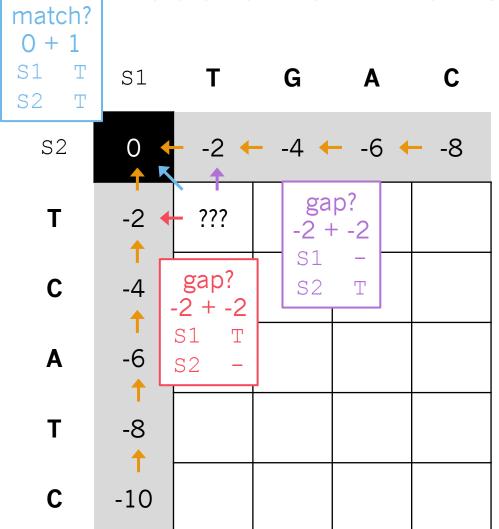
Туре	Score
Match	+1
Mismatch	-1
Gap	-2

S1: ?



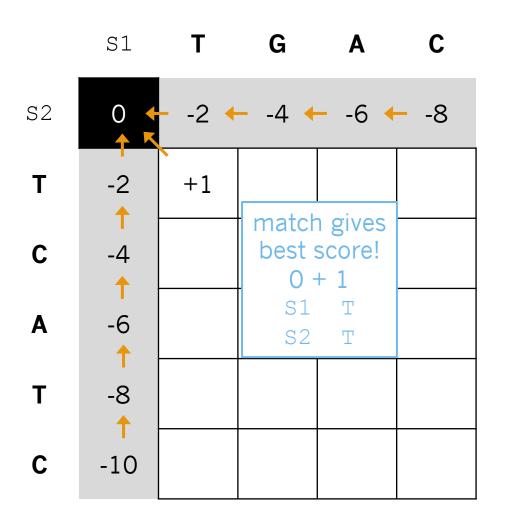
Туре	Score
Match	+1
Mismatch	-1
Gap	-2

S1: ?



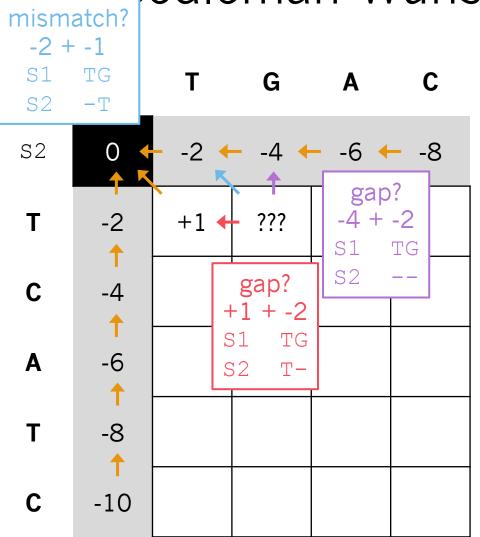
Туре	Score
Match	+1
Mismatch	-1
Gap	-2

S1: ?



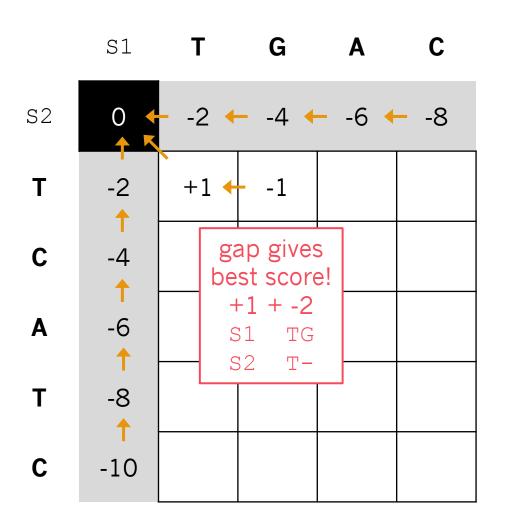
Туре	Score
Match	+1
Mismatch	-1
Gap	-2

S1: ?



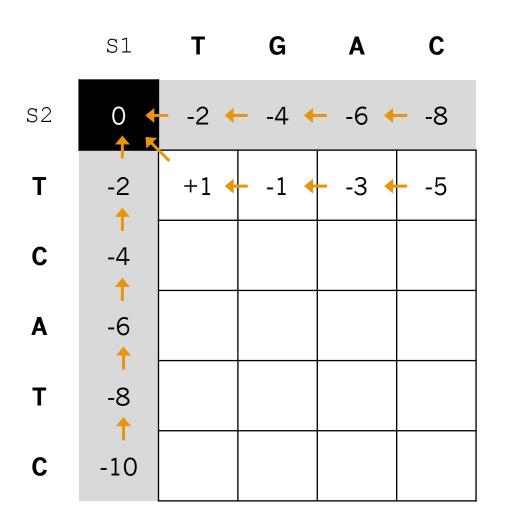
Туре	Score
Match	+1
Mismatch	-1
Gap	-2

S1: ?



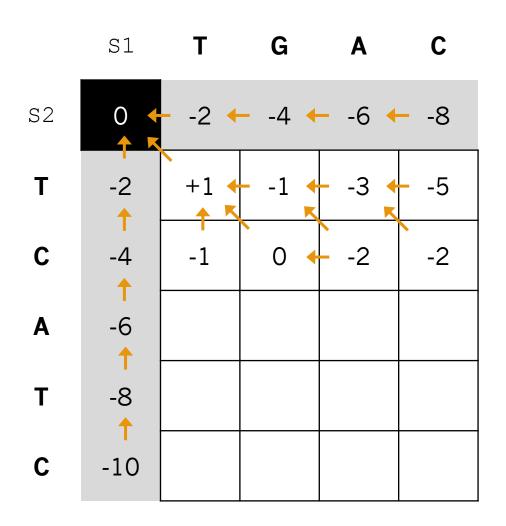
Туре	Score
Match	+1
Mismatch	-1
Gap	-2

S1: ?



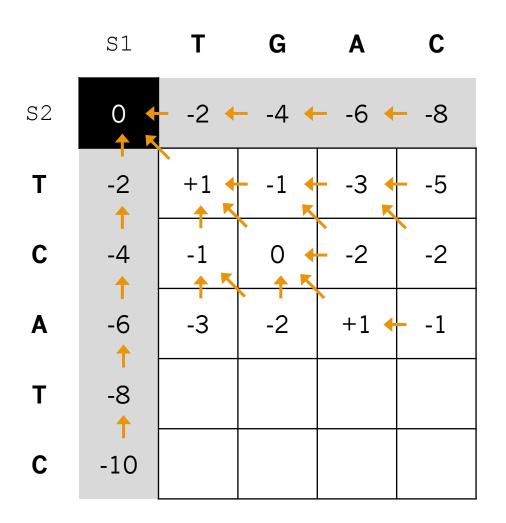
Туре	Score
Match	+1
Mismatch	-1
Gap	-2

S1: ?



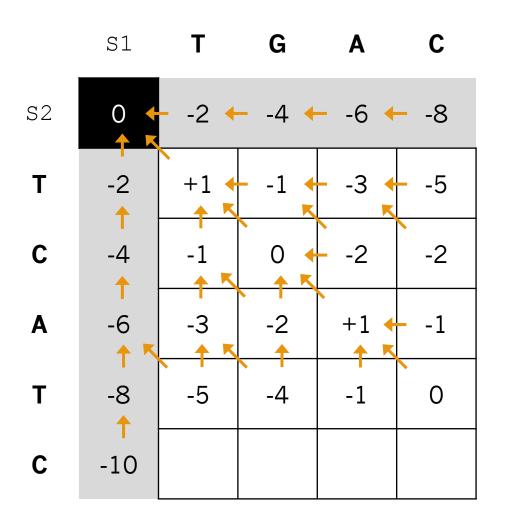
Туре	Score
Match	+1
Mismatch	-1
Gap	-2

S1: ?



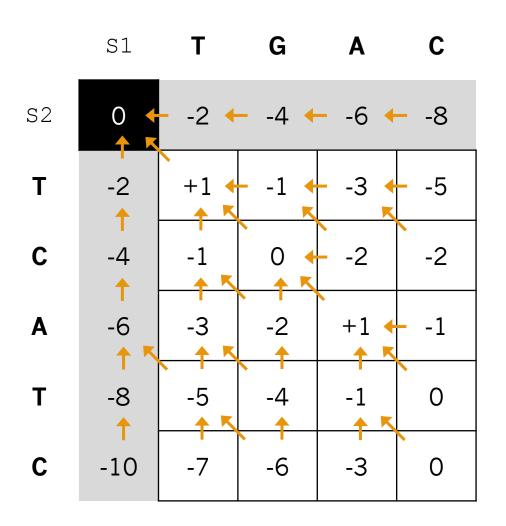
Туре	Score
Match	+1
Mismatch	-1
Gap	-2

S1: ?



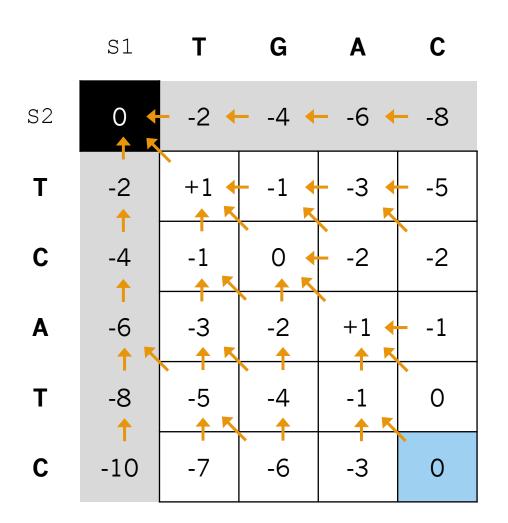
Туре	Score
Match	+1
Mismatch	-1
Gap	-2

S1: ?



Туре	Score
Match	+1
Mismatch	-1
Gap	-2

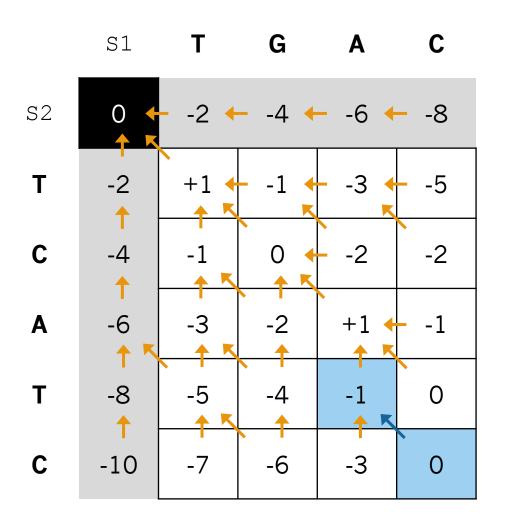
S1: ?



Туре	Score
Match	+1
Mismatch	-1
Gap	-2

S1: C

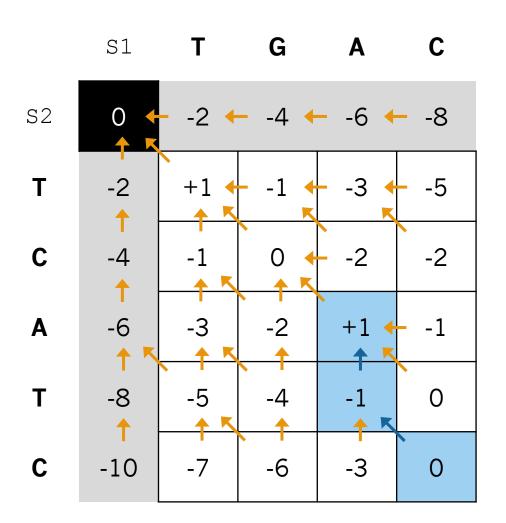
S2: C



Туре	Score
Match	+1
Mismatch	-1
Gap	-2

S1: AC

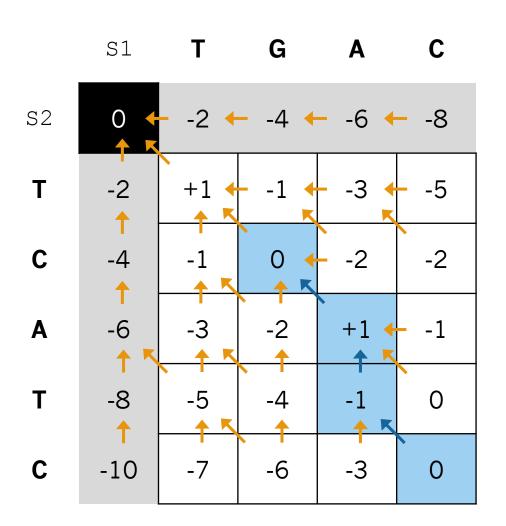
S2: TC



Туре	Score
Match	+1
Mismatch	-1
Gap	-2

S1: A-C

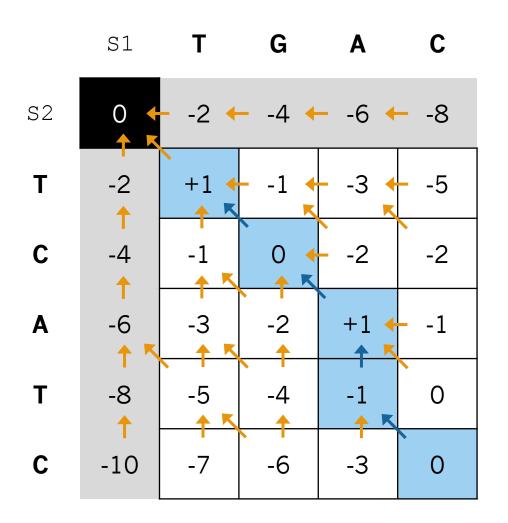
S2: ATC



Туре	Score
Match	+1
Mismatch	-1
Gap	-2

S1: GA-C

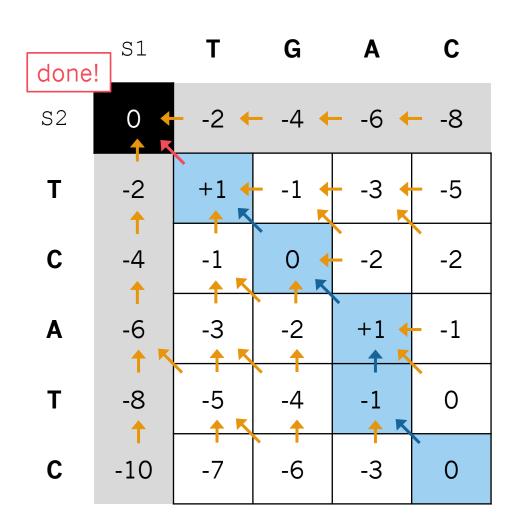
S2: CATC



Туре	Score
Match	+1
Mismatch	-1
Gap	-2

S1: TGA-C

S2: TCATC

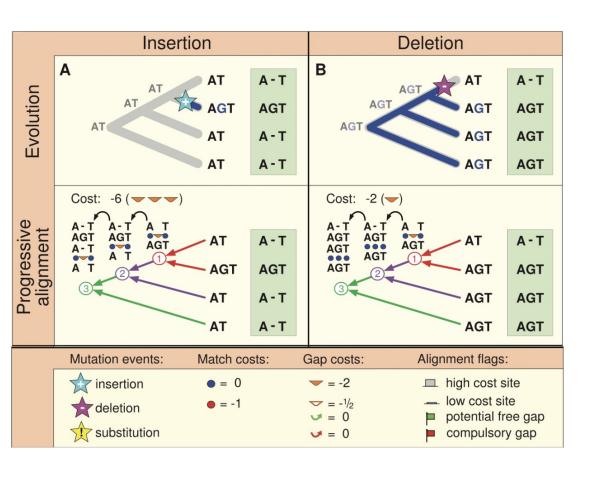


Туре	Score
Match	+1
Mismatch	-1
Gap	-2

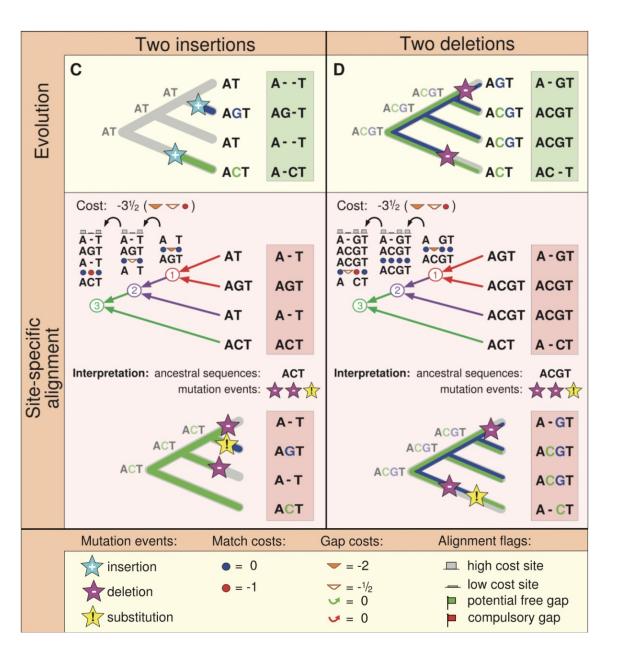
S1: TGA-C

S2: TCATC

# Progressive alignment



Aligns multiple sequences by *progressively* adding new sequences to alignment based on a *guide tree* (*phylogeny*)



Even mildly complex evolutionary scenarios can cause progressive alignments to produce inaccurate homology statements

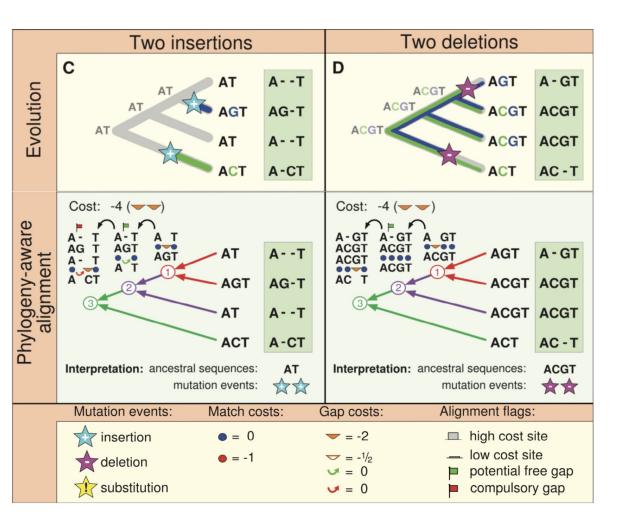
See the two-insertion scenario (left)

## Generative alignment

**Generative** methods uses guide tree to reconstruct the series of substitution, insertion, and deletion events that most likely generated a sequence alignment

Alignment score depends on rates of:

- substitution
- deletion
- insertion



This software (PRANK; left) "flags" events as scored so they're not double-counted

Generative alignments tend to be "gappier"

More evolutionarily accurate statements of homology

## list exact matches, grep -o

lists all instances that match "ore"

```
$ cat limerick.txt
A UNIX sales lady, Lenore,
Enjoys work, but she likes the beach more.
She found a good way
To combine work and play:
She sells C shells by the seashore.
$ grep -o ore limerick.txt
ore
ore
ore
```

## Overview for Lab 08