

# Dynamic Programming 1: Sequence Alignment

Selected Topics in Computer Intelligence - 2015

**Bioinformatics Programming** 

Computer Engineering, Chiang Mai University

## What is Dynamic Programming?

- A method for solving a complex problem by breaking it down into a collection of simpler subproblems [wikipedia]
  - applicable to problems with optimal substructure
  - Takes far less time than exhaustive search



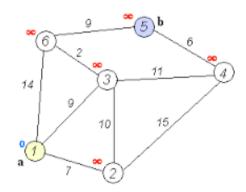
- When using naive method, many subproblems are solved many times
- Dynamic programming approach seeks to a given subproblem that has been computed
  - Stored previously computed solution of subproblems
  - The next time the same solution is needed, it is simply looked up

# Dynamic Programming Applications

Applications in Mathematics, Economics

 $\bigcirc$ 

- Optimization problems
- Computer Network Dijkstra's algorithm

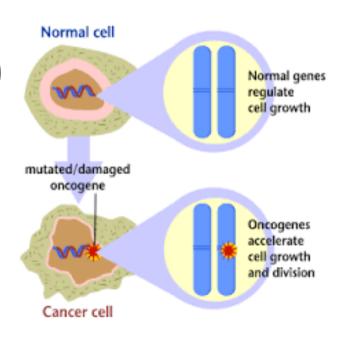


- Bioinformatics
  - Sequence alignment DNA sequence comparison
  - Gene Prediction make inferences about gene function
  - Protein-DNA binding
  - Transcription factor binding

Scarites	С	Т	Т	A	G	A	Т	С	G	Т	Α	С	С	A	A	-	-	-	A	A	Т	A	Т	Т	Α	C
Carenum	c	Т	Т	A	G	A	Т	С	G	т	Α	c	c	A	С	Α	-	Т	A	С	-	Т	Т	Т	A	C
Pasimachus	А	Т	Т	A	G	A	Т	С	G	т	А	С	С	A	С	Т	A	т	A	А	G	Т	т	Т	A	C
Pheropsophus	c	т	т	A	G	Α	Т	С	G	т	т	c	c	Α	С	-	-	-	A	С	A	т	Α	т	Α	c
Brachinus armiger	А	Т	Т	A	G	A	Т	С	G	т	А	С	С	А	С	-	-	-	A	Т	A	Т	А	т	Т	C
Brachinus hirsutus	Α	т	т	A	G	Α	Т	С	G	т	Α	С	c	Α	С	-	-	-	A	т	A	Т	Α	т	A	C
Aptinus	c	Т	Т	А	G	А	Т	С	G	Т	А	c	c	A	С	-	-	-	A	С	A	А	Т	Т	A	C
Pseudomorpha	c	Т	т	А	G	А	Т	c	G	т	Α	c	c	-	-	-	-	_	А	С	А	Α	Α	т	А	c

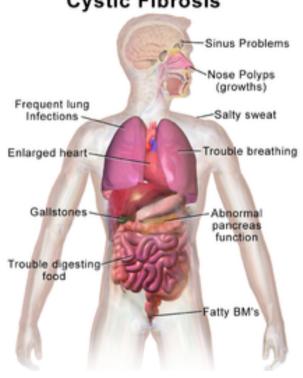
#### The Power of DNA Sequence Comparison

- A common approach to inferring a newly sequenced gene's function is to find similarities with genes of know function
- □ In 1984, a cancer-causing v-sis oncogene was discovered
  - The oncogene matched a normal gene with platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF)
  - Cancer might be caused by a normal growth gene being switched on at the wrong time



#### The Power of DNA Sequence Comparison

#### Health Problems with Cystic Fibrosis

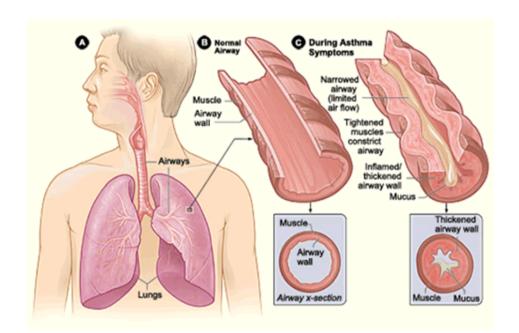


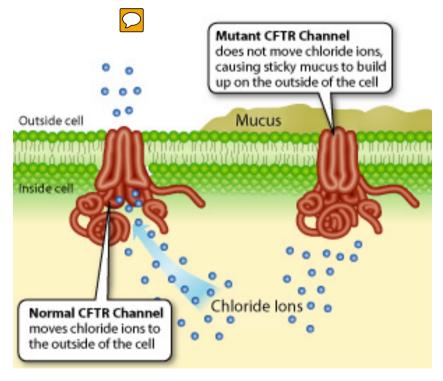
- Cystic Fibrosis (CF)
- Defective gene causes the body to produce abnormally thick mucus that clogs the lung and leads to lung infections
- More than 10M Americans are carriers of defective cystic fibrosis gene
- Searching for the CF gene was narrowed to a region of 1M nucleotides on the human chromosome 7

#### The Power of DNA Sequence Comparison

■ There is similarities between some segment within the region and a gene to code for adenosine triphosphate (ATP) binding proteins:

span the cell membrane



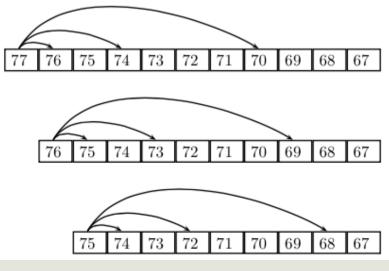


Many applications of sequence comparison are among the key techniques for the discovery of gene function

- Previously we showed that the naïve greedy solution is NOT actually a correction solution
- Recursive Approach
  - Suppose that there are 3 coin values: 1, 3, 7-cent coins

$$bestNumCoins_{M} = \min \left\{ \begin{array}{l} bestNumCoins_{M-1} + 1 \\ bestNumCoins_{M-3} + 1 \\ bestNumCoins_{M-7} + 1 \end{array} \right.$$

- Best combination for 77 cents:
  - 77-1:76, plus a 1-cent coin
  - 77-3:74, plus a 3-cent coin
  - 77-7:70, plus a 7-cent coin



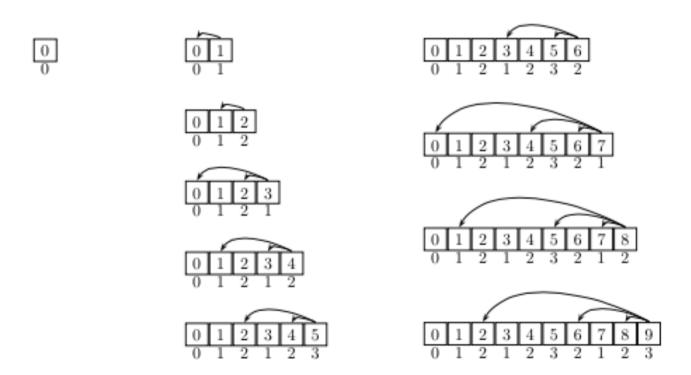
Recursive Approach in the more general case:

```
bestNumCoins_{M} = \min \left\{ \begin{array}{l} bestNumCoins_{M-c_{1}} + 1 \\ bestNumCoins_{M-c_{2}} + 1 \\ \vdots \\ bestNumCoins_{M-c_{d}} + 1 \end{array} \right. \quad \mathbf{c} = (c_{1}, \dots, c_{d})
```

- Reversing the order of computation:
  - The solution for M relies on solutions for M  $c_1$ , M  $c_2$ , and so on
  - We can use previously computed solutions to form solutions to larger problems - avoiding recomputation

```
\begin{array}{lll} \mathsf{DPCHANGE}(M,\mathbf{c},d) \\ 1 & bestNumCoins_0 \leftarrow 0 \\ 2 & \mathbf{for} \ m \leftarrow 1 \ \mathbf{to} \ M \\ 3 & bestNumCoins_m \leftarrow \infty \\ 4 & \mathbf{for} \ i \leftarrow 1 \ \mathbf{to} \ d \\ 5 & \mathbf{if} \ m \geq c_i \\ 6 & \mathbf{if} \ bestNumCoins_{m-c_i} + 1 < bestNumCoins_m \\ 7 & bestNumCoins_m \leftarrow bestNumCoins_{m-c_i} + 1 \\ 8 & \mathbf{return} \ bestNumCoins_M \end{array}
```

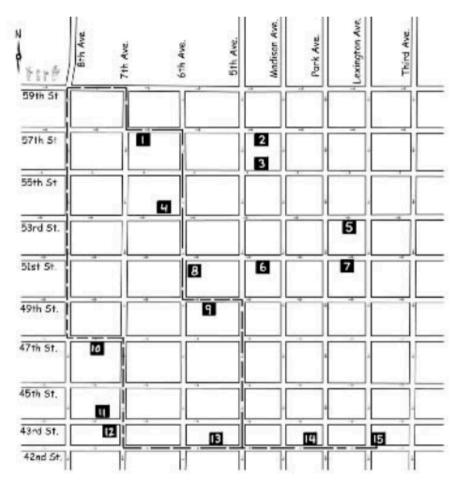
- Reversing the order of computation:
  - $\blacksquare$  The solution for 9 cents ( $bestNumCoins_9$ )
    - Depends on the solution of 8, 6, and 2 cents



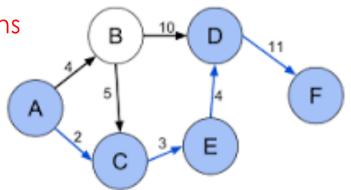
Based on the Manhattan tourist problem, we can use it to describe DNA sequence alignment problem

#### Manhattan Tourist Problem:

- Tourist want to see as many as attractions as possible
- Tourist are allowed to move along traffic direction – one way
- Which path give the maximum number of attractions to visit?



- The map can be represented as a graph
  - Vertices the intersections of streets
  - Edges the streets that connect different intersections
    - Weight the number of attractions on every block
- Path a continuous sequence of edges
  - Length of a path the sum of the weights in the path
- Goal of the Manhattan Tourist problem
  - Find the a path with the maximum # attractions
  - The longest path in the graph



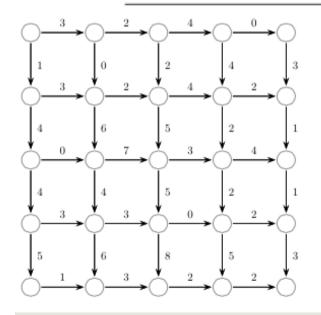
#### Problem Formulation

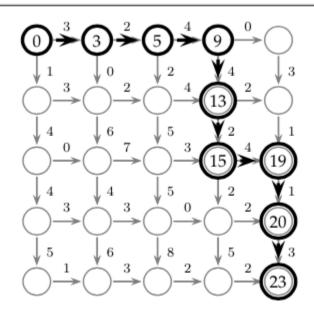
#### Manhattan Tourist Problem:

Find a longest path in a weighted grid.

**Input:** A weighted grid *G* with two distinguished vertices: a *source* and a *sink*.

**Output:** A longest path in *G* from *source* to *sink*.



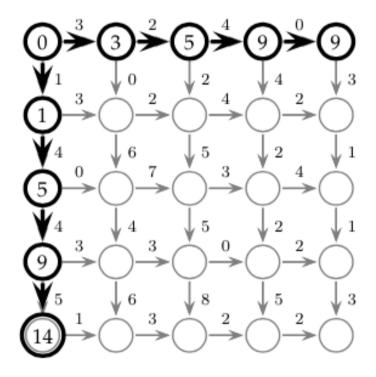


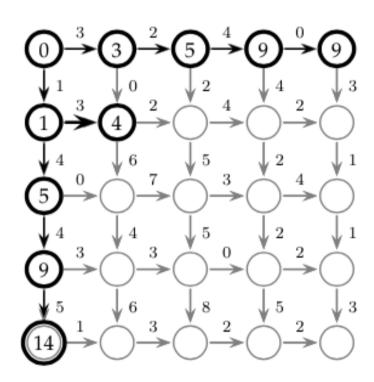
Source vertex: (0, 0) Sink vertex: (4, 4)

- The brute force approach is NOT an option even for a moderately large grid
- What about the greedy approach?
  - Choosing between two possible directions based on # attractions tourists would see if moved one block on each direction
  - This may provide a "good" option in the beginning

- The more general problem
  - Finding the longest path from source (0, 0) to arbitrary vertex (i, j)
  - The length of the best path :  $S_{i,j}$  ( $0 \le i \le n$  and  $0 \le j \le m$ )
  - $\square$   $S_{n,m}$  the weight of the path that is the solution to the problem
- Solving the more general problem
  - $\blacksquare$  Finding the longest length to all vertex (i, j)
  - Starting from  $S_{i,0}$  ( $0 \le i \le n$ )
  - Starting from  $S_{0,i}$  ( $0 \le j \le n$ )

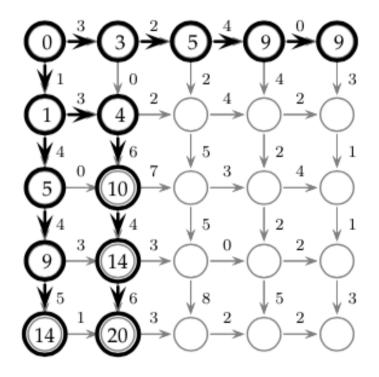
#### Example

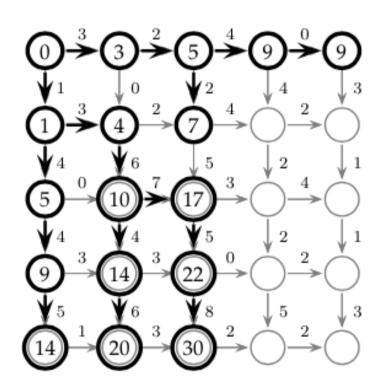




$$s_{1,1} = \max \left\{ \begin{array}{l} s_{0,1} + \text{ weight of the edge (block) between (0,1) and (1,1)} \\ s_{1,0} + \text{ weight of the edge (block) between (1,0) and (1,1)} \end{array} \right.$$

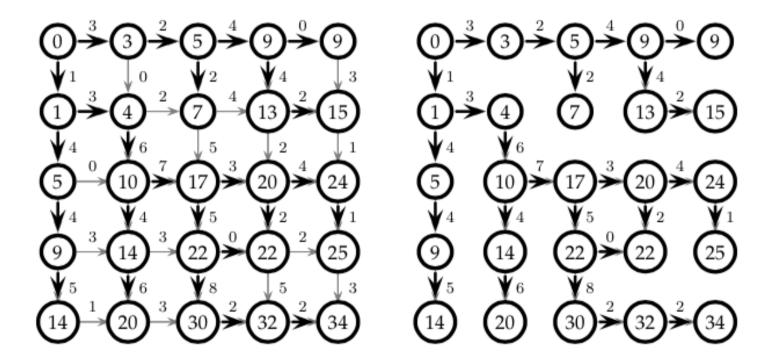
#### Example





$$s_{1,2} = \max$$
  $\begin{cases} s_{1,1} + \text{ weight of the edge between (1,1) and (1,2)} \\ s_{0,2} + \text{ weight of the edge between (0,2) and (1,2)} \end{cases}$ 

#### Example



$$s_{i,j} = \max \left\{ \begin{array}{l} s_{i-1,j} + \text{ weight of the edge between } (i-1,j) \text{ and } (i,j) \\ s_{i,j-1} + \text{ weight of the edge between } (i,j-1) \text{ and } (i,j) \end{array} \right.$$

■ The algorithm ManhattanTourist

```
\begin{array}{lll} \operatorname{MANHATTANTOURIST}(\overset{\downarrow}{\mathbf{w}},\overset{\rightarrow}{\mathbf{w}},n,m) & \downarrow \\ 1 & s_{0,0} \leftarrow 0 & w & : 2 \mathrm{D} \text{ array of vertical weights} \\ 2 & \mathbf{for} \ i \leftarrow 1 \ \mathbf{to} \ n & w & : 2 \mathrm{D} \text{ array of horizontal weights} \\ 3 & s_{i,0} \leftarrow s_{i-1,0} + \overset{\downarrow}{w}_{i,0} & \downarrow \\ 4 & \mathbf{for} \ j \leftarrow 1 \ \mathbf{to} \ m & \downarrow \\ 5 & s_{0,j} \leftarrow s_{0,j-1} + \overset{\rightarrow}{w}_{0,j} & \overset{\downarrow}{w}_{i,j} : \text{weight of the edge from } (i-l,j) \ \mathrm{to} \ (i,j) \\ \hline 6 & \mathbf{for} \ i \leftarrow 1 \ \mathbf{to} \ n & w_{i,j} : \text{weight of the edge from } (i,j-l) \ \mathrm{to} \ (i,j) \\ \hline 7 & \mathbf{for} \ j \leftarrow 1 \ \mathbf{to} \ m \\ 8 & s_{i,j} \leftarrow \max \left\{ \begin{array}{c} s_{i-1,j} + \overset{\downarrow}{w}_{i,j} \\ s_{i,j-1} + \overset{\downarrow}{w}_{i,j} \end{array} \right. \\ \hline 9 & \mathbf{return} \ s_{n,m} \end{array}
```

- Most of the dynamic programming algorithms in the context of DNA sequence comparison will be similar to MANHATTANTOURIST e.g., sequence comparison algorithm
  - Using appropriate model to the specific biological problem
  - Defining the weight that reflect the cost of mutation
- However, the real Manhattan is NOT a perfect grid
  - We can use Directed Acyclic Graph (DAGs) to represent the imperfect grid

## Longest Path in DAGs

- Directed Acyclic Graphs
  - Directed edges one directional edge
  - No directed cycles no loops
  - Graph representation:

G = (V, E) , V is the set of vertices, E is the set of edges

#### Longest Path in a DAG Problem:

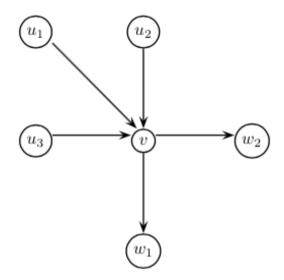
Find a longest path between two vertices in a weighted DAG.

**Input:** A weighted DAG *G* with *source* and *sink* vertices.

**Output:** A longest path in *G* from *source* to *sink*.

## Longest Path in DAGs

- Directed Acyclic Graphs
  - indegree # edges entering a vertex
  - outdegree # edges leaving a vertex
  - Predecessor any vertex that can be reached by traveling backwards along inbound edge



- $\square$  Suppose a vertex v has indegree of 3
  - lacksquare Set of predecessor  $\{u_1, u_2, u_3\}$
  - $\blacksquare$  The longest path to v:

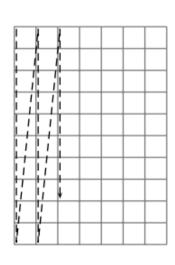
$$s_v = \max \left\{ \begin{array}{l} s_{u_1} + \text{ weight of edge from } u_1 \text{ to } v \\ s_{u_2} + \text{ weight of edge from } u_2 \text{ to } v \\ s_{u_3} + \text{ weight of edge from } u_3 \text{ to } v \end{array} \right.$$

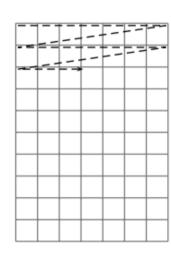
## Longest Path in DAGs

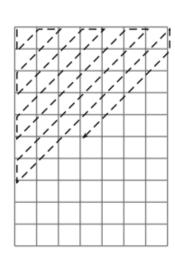
In general,

$$s_v = \max_{u \in Predecessors(v)} (s_u + \text{ weight of edge from } u \text{ to } v)$$

- The order to visit the vertices topological ordering
  - lacksquare  $S_u$  of all predecessors of v must have been computed before visiting the vertex v
- Three popular strategies
  - Column by column
  - Row by row
  - Diagonal by diagonal







- What is "sequence similarity"?
- Hamming distance is NOT typically used to compare DNA sequence or protein sequences
  - lacktriangle Assumes that the  $i^{th}$  symbol of one sequence is aligned against the  $i^{th}$  symbol of the other
- $\Box$   $i^{th}$  symbol in one sequence is often corresponds to a symbol at a different (and unknown) position in the other
  - DNA replication errors cause substitutions, insertions, and deletions leading to modified DNA text

Example of sequence similarity

```
A T A T A T A T -
: : : : : : : :
- T A T A T A T A
```

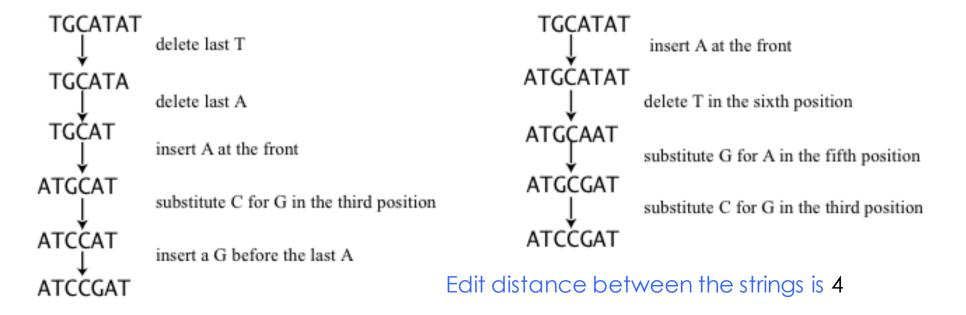
(a) Alignment of ATATATAT against TATATATA.

```
A T A T A T A T
: : : : : : :
- T A T A - A T
```

(b) Alignment of ATATATAT against TATAAT.

#### Edit Distance

- Introduced by Valadimir Levenshtein in 1966
- The minimum # editing operations needed to transform one string into another
  - Insertion, deletion, and substitution



- Edit Distance allows to compare strings of different length
- $\blacksquare$  The alignment of string v (n-character) and w (m-character)
  - lacktriangle Two-row matrix with  $oldsymbol{v}$  in the 1st row and  $oldsymbol{w}$  in the 2nd row
  - Characters in each string appear in order, NOT necessarily adjacently
  - Matches columns that contain the same letter in both row
  - Mismatches columns that contain different letter
  - *indels* columns that contain one space
    - insertions contains space in the top row

П	deletions - contains	concein	thak	anttom row
	aetetions – Commans	s space in		JOHOHHOW

A T - G T T A T -A T C G T - A - C

Resulting matrix and a path:

$$\left(\begin{array}{c}0\\0\end{array}\right)\left(\begin{array}{c}1\\1\end{array}\right)\left(\begin{array}{c}2\\2\end{array}\right)\left(\begin{array}{c}2\\3\end{array}\right)\left(\begin{array}{c}3\\4\end{array}\right)\left(\begin{array}{c}4\\5\end{array}\right)\left(\begin{array}{c}5\\5\end{array}\right)\left(\begin{array}{c}6\\6\end{array}\right)\left(\begin{array}{c}7\\6\end{array}\right)\left(\begin{array}{c}7\\7\end{array}\right)$$

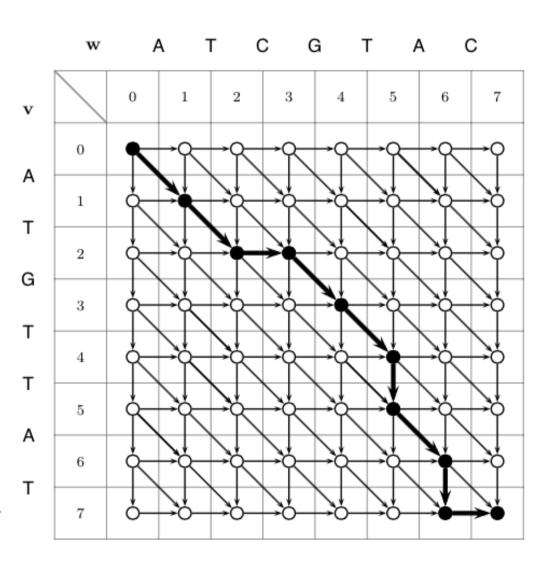
$$(0,0) \to (1,1) \to (2,2) \to (2,3) \to (3,4) \to (4,5) \to (5,5) \to (6,6) \to (7,6) \to (7,7)$$

#### Alignment Grid

$$row \longrightarrow 0$$
 1 2 2 3 4 5 6 7 7  
 $v = A T - G T T A T -$   
 $w = A T C G T - A - C$   
 $col \longrightarrow 0$  1 2 3 4 5 5 6 6 7  
A T - G T T A T -  
A T C G T - A - C

Every alignment corresponds to a path in the alignment grid from (0, 0) to (n, m)

By choosing different scoring function, we can solve different string comparison prob.



- The simplest form of a sequence similarity analysis
- LCS problem allows only insertion and deletion
  - Eliminates substitute operation
- Subsequence (of a string)
  - An ordered sequence of characters from a string
  - Not necessarily consecutive

```
If v = ATTGCTA then

AGCA, ATTA are subsequences of v

TGTT, TCG are NOT subsequences
```

Common subsequence of two string: v and w

$$v_{i_t} = w_{j_t} \text{ for } 1 \le t \le k.$$
 
$$1 \le i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_k \le n$$
$$1 \le j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_k \le m$$

e.g., TCTA is common subsequence to ...

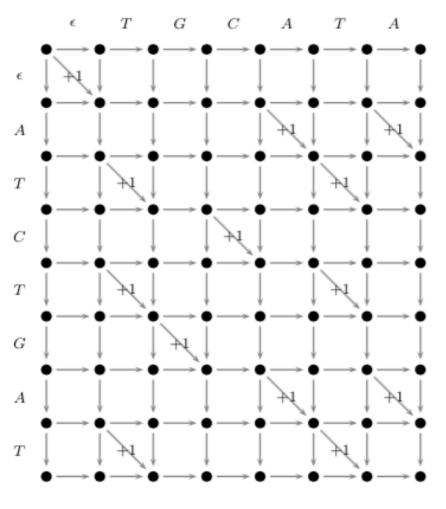
ATCTGAT and TGCATA

We are looking for the longest CS

$$s(v, w)$$
 - length of LCS of  $v$  and  $w$   
 $d(v, w)$  - edit distance between  $v$  and  $w$ 

$$d(v, w) = n + m - 2s(v, w)$$

#### Alignment:

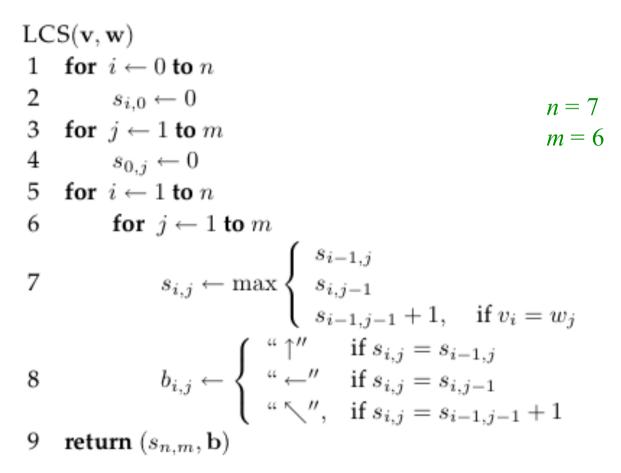


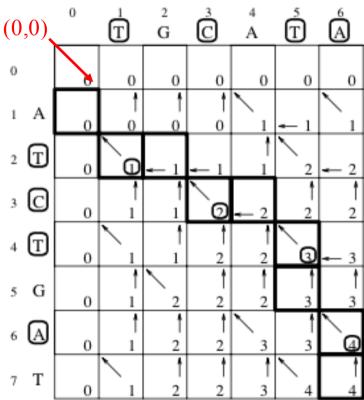
- Every common subsequence corresponds to an alignment with no mismatches
  - By removing all diagonal edges whose characters do NOT match, we get an LCS edit graph
- Looks like Manhattan Tourist Problem?

$$s_{i,0} = s_{0,j} = 0$$
  $1 \le i \le n$   
 $1 \le j \le m$ 

$$s_{i,j} = \max \begin{cases} s_{i-1,j} + 0 \\ s_{i,j-1} + 0 \\ s_{i-1,j-1} + 1, & \text{if } v_i = w_j \end{cases}$$

#### LCS algorithm – similarity score





#### b - backtracking pointers:

- Takes ←, ↑, or <sup>↑</sup>
   (deletion, insertion, match)
  - specify which of the cases holds

- PRINTLCS algorithm
  - Recursively print out

```
PRINTLCS(b, v, i, j)

1 if i = 0 or j = 0

2 return

3 if b_{i,j} = " \ "

4 PRINTLCS(b, v, i - 1, j - 1)

5 print v_i

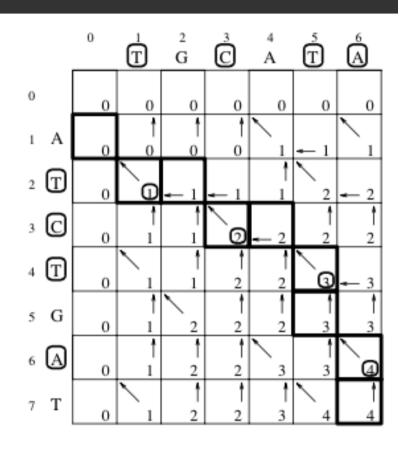
6 else

7 if b_{i,j} = " \ "

8 PRINTLCS(b, v, i - 1, j)

9 else

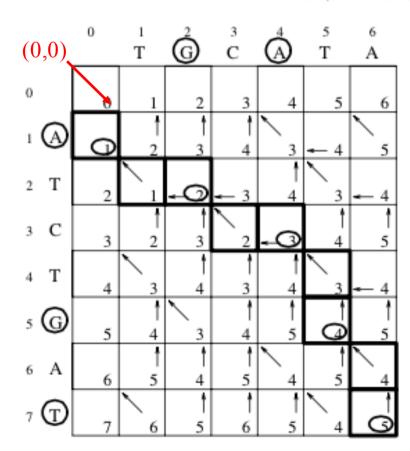
10 PRINTLCS(b, v, i, j - 1)
```



b - backtracking pointers:

- Takes ←, ↑, or \
   (deletion, insertion, match)
- specify which of the cases holds

- □ LCS algorithm edit distance
  - lacksquare Initial conditions:  $d_{i,0}=i$ ,  $d_{0,j}=j$   $egin{array}{c} 1 \leq i \leq n \ 1 \leq j \leq m \end{array}$



$$n = 7$$
 $m = 6$ 

$$d_{i,j} = \min \left\{ \begin{array}{l} d_{i-1,j} + 1 \\ d_{i,j-1} + 1 \\ d_{i-1,j-1}, \quad \text{ if } v_i = w_j \end{array} \right.$$

# Global Sequence Alignment

- Generalizing scoring
  - $\blacksquare$  Extend the k-letter alphabet to include gap, '-'
    - $\square$  k is typically 4 (for DNA) and 20 (for protein)
  - lacksquare  $\delta$  scoring matrix of size  $(k+1) \times (k+1)$ 
    - $\square$   $\delta(x,y)$  the score of column (x,y)
    - Alignment score sum of the scores of the columns

#### Global Alignment Problem:

Find the best alignment between two strings under a given scoring matrix.

**Input:** Strings **v**, **w** and a scoring matrix  $\delta$ .

**Output:** An alignment of v and w whose score (as defined by the matrix  $\delta$ ) is maximal among all possible alignments of v and w.

# Global Sequence Alignment

- Needleman-Wunsch Algorithm
  - lacktriangle Score  $s_{i,j}$  of an optimal alignment:

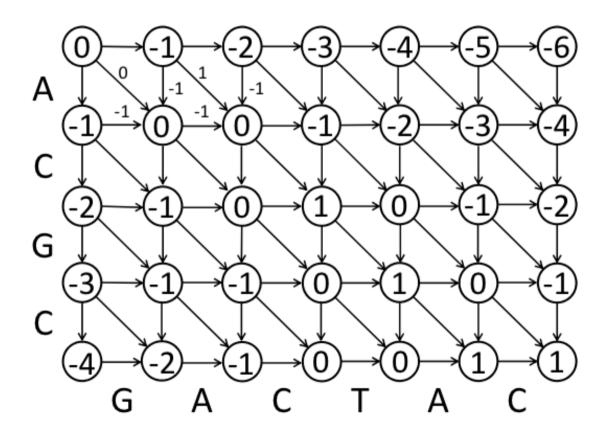
$$s_{i,j} = \max \begin{cases} s_{i-1,j} - \sigma \\ s_{i,j-1} - \sigma \\ s_{i-1,j-1} - \mu, \text{ if } v_i \neq w_j \\ s_{i-1,j-1} + 1, \text{ if } v_i = w_j \end{cases}$$

- $\blacksquare$  Mismatches are penalized by:  $-\mu$
- $\blacksquare$  Indels (or gaps) are penalized by:  $-\sigma$
- $\blacksquare$  Matches are rewarded with: +1
- Resulting score:

 $\#matches - \mu \cdot \#mismatches - \sigma \cdot \#indels$ 

# Global Sequence Alignment

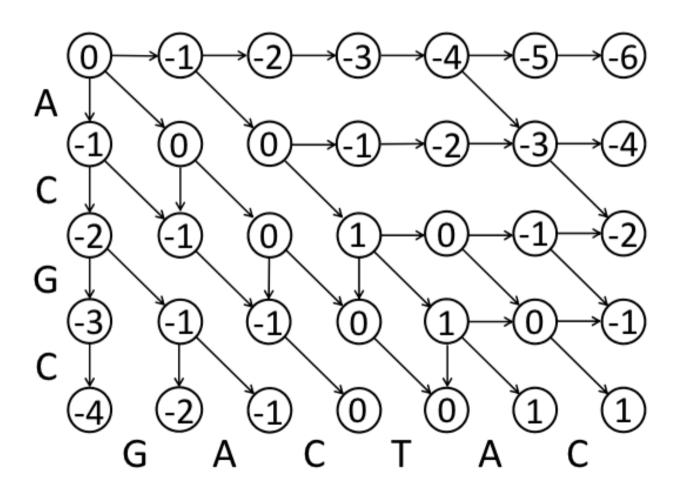
Example



Scores: Match +1 Mismatch 0 Gap -1

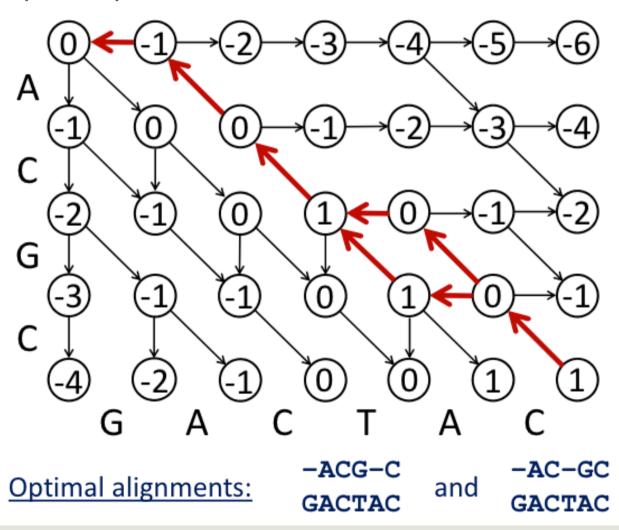
# Global Sequence Alignment

■ Example (cont.)



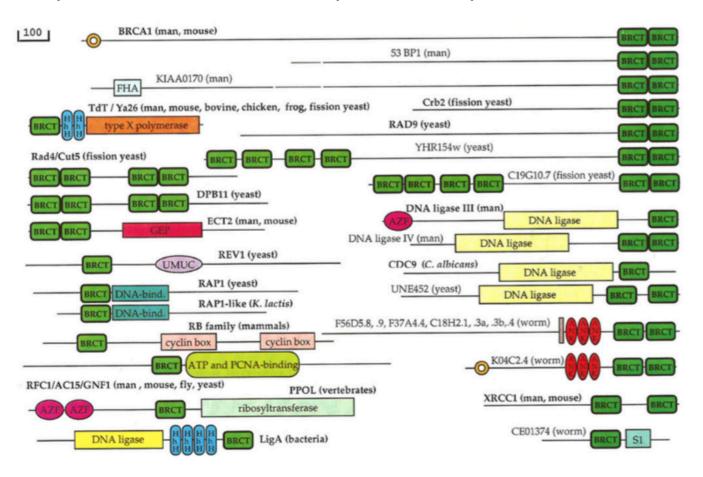
# Global Sequence Alignment

■ Example (cont.)

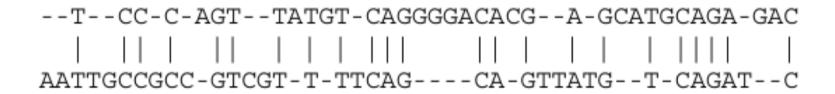


- □ GSA problem seek similarities between 2 entire strings
  - Protein sequences from the same family
  - Often very conserved
  - Almost have the same length in organisms
- In many biological applications
  - Score of an alignment between substrings may be larger than that of the entire strings
- Homeobox genes regulate embryonic development
  - Present in variety of species (very different)
  - One region in each gene is highly conserved

■ Family of proteins shared only isolated regions of similarity were found - superfamily



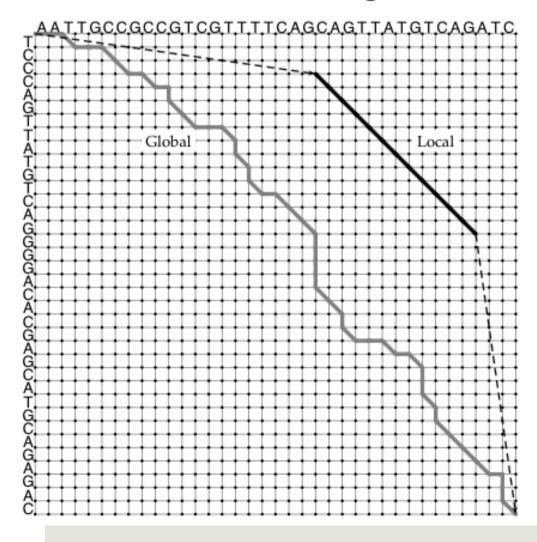
☐ Global vs. Local Alignment



tccCAGTTATGTCAGgggacacgagcatgcagagac

aattgccgccgtcgttttcagCAGTTATGTCAGatc

☐ Global vs. Local Alignment



Local alignment has much worse score according to the global scheme

Local alignment correctly locates the conserved domain

- □ In 1981, Temple Smith & Michael Waterman modified the global algorithm that solves the local sequence alignment
- Biologist attempts to maximize the alignment score over substring  $v_i...v_{i'}$  of v and  $w_i...w_{i'}$  of w
  - This is Local Alignment Problem

#### **Local Alignment Problem:**

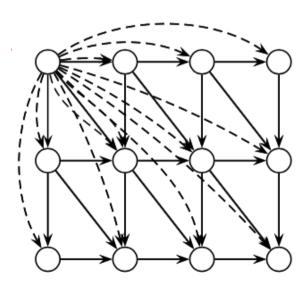
Find the best local alignment between two strings.

**Input:** Strings **v** and **w** and a scoring matrix  $\delta$ .

**Output:** Substrings of v and w whose global alignment, as defined by  $\delta$ , is maximal among all global alignments of all substrings of v and w.

- Finding the longest path among paths between arbitrary vertices (i, j) and (i', j') in the edit graph
- $\square$  Making vertex (0,0) a predecessor of every vertex (i,j)
  - $\blacksquare$  Adding edges of weight 0 from (0,0) to every vertices
  - Provide a "free ride" from source to any other vertices
- Finding the longest path to every other vertex

$$s_{i,j} = \max \begin{cases} 0 \\ s_{i-1,j} + \delta(v_i, -) \\ s_{i,j-1} + \delta(-, w_j) \\ s_{i-1,j-1} + \delta(v_i, w_j) \end{cases}$$



- Backtracking starts at the highest scoring matrix cell and proceeds until a cell with score=0
  - Giving the highest scoring local alignment
- $\square$  Scoring matrix ( $\delta$ or H):

$$H(i,0) = 0, \ 0 \le i \le m$$

$$H(0,j) = 0, \ 0 \le j \le n$$

$$H(i,j) = \max \begin{cases} 0 \\ H(i-1,j-1) + s(a_i,b_j) \\ \max_{i \in J} H(i-k,j) + W_i \end{cases}$$

Note: this algorithm puts **v** in row direction w in column direction

 $H(i,j) = \max \begin{cases} 0 & \bigvee \\ H(i-1,j-1) + s(a_i,b_j) & \text{Match/Mismatch} \\ \max_{k \geq 1} \{H(i-k,j) + W_k\} & \text{Deletion} \\ \max_{l \geq 1} \{H(i,j-l) + W_l\} & \text{Insertion} \end{cases}, \ 1 \leq i \leq m, 1 \leq j \leq n$ 

s(a,b) is a similarity function on the alphabet

H(i,j) – is the maximum Similarity-Score between a suffix of a[1...i] and a suffix of b[1...j]  $W_i$  is the gap-scoring scheme

ACACACTA vs. AGCACACA

$$H(i,j) = \max \begin{cases} 0 \\ H(i-1,j-1) + s(a_i,b_j) \\ \max_{k \ge 1} \{H(i-k,j) + W_k\} \\ \max_{l \ge 1} \{H(i,j-l) + W_l\} \end{cases}$$
 
$$S(a,b) = +2 \text{ if } a = b \text{ (match)}, -1 \text{ if } a \ne b \text{ (mismatch)}$$
 
$$W_i = -i$$

$$s(a,b) = +2$$
 if  $a = b$  (match),  $-1$  if  $a \neq b$  (mismatch)  $W_i = -i$ 

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} - & A & C & A & C & A & C & T & A \\ - & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ A & 0 & 2 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 2 \\ G & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ C & 0 & 0 & 3 & 2 & 3 & 2 & 3 & 2 & 1 \\ A & 0 & 2 & 2 & 5 & 4 & 5 & 4 & 3 & 4 \\ C & 0 & 1 & 4 & 4 & 7 & 6 & 7 & 6 & 5 \\ A & 0 & 3 & 3 & 6 & 6 & 9 & 8 & 7 & 8 \\ C & 0 & 2 & 4 & 5 & 8 & 8 & 11 & 10 & 9 \\ A & 0 & 4 & 3 & 6 & 7 & 10 & 10 & 10 & 12 \end{pmatrix}$$

ACACACTA vs. AGCACACA

Backtracking: (8,8), (7,7), (7,6), (6,5), (5,4), (4,3), (3,2), (2,1), (1,1), and (0,0),

A-CACACTA AGCACAC-A

### Example

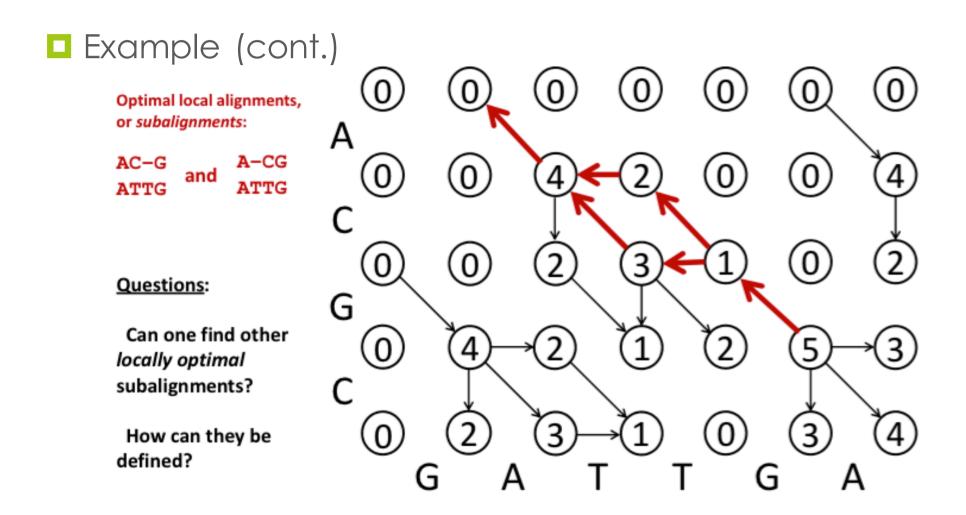
Two modifications to Needleman-Wunsch:

- 1) Allow a node to start at 0.
- 2) Record the highestscoring node, and trace back from there.

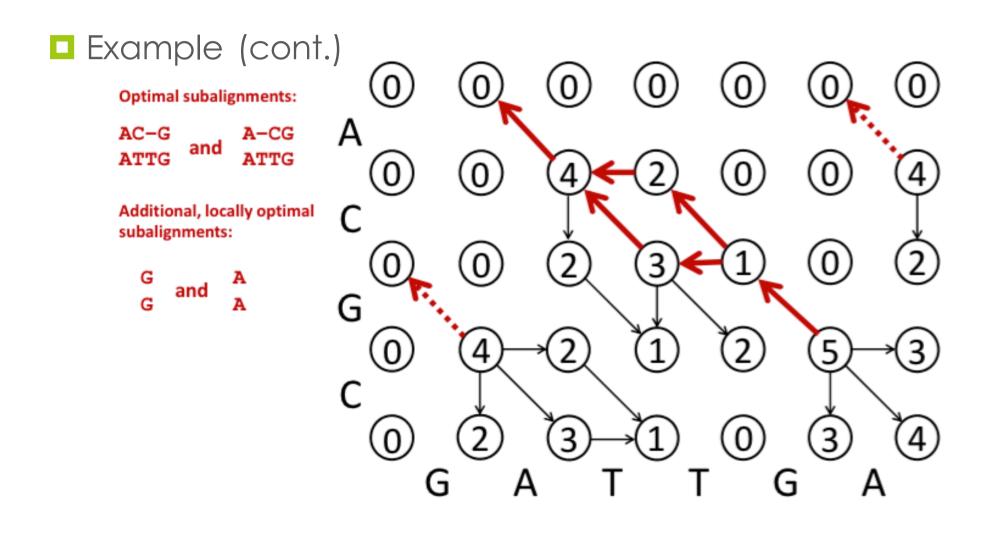
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Why does this algorithm yield an optimal local alignment?

Scores: Match +4 Mismatch -1 Gap -2



Scores: Match +4 Mismatch -1 Gap -2



Scores: Match +4 Mismatch -1

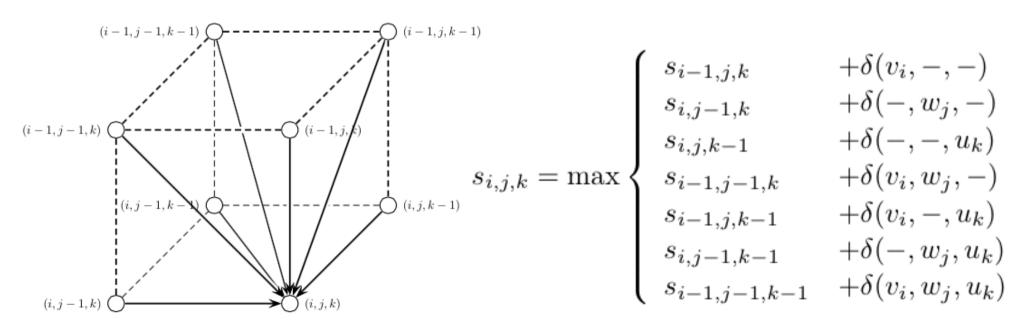
Gap -2

- Biologically similar proteins may NOT exhibit a strong sequence similarity
  - Pairwise alignment can fail to identify biological related sequences
- Simultaneous comparison of many sequences often allows to find similarities that are invisible in pairwise comparison

 $\blacksquare$  Multiple alignment of strings  $v_1, ..., v_k$ 

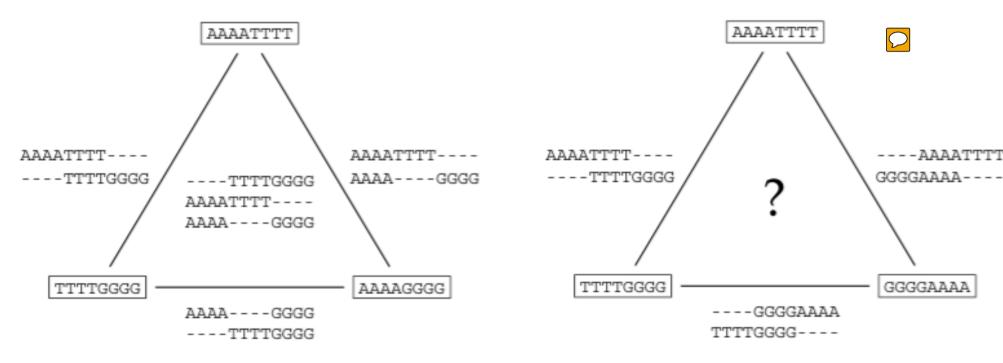
- No column in a multiple alignment contains only spaces
- This a generalization of the pairwise alignment, k > 2 sequences
- Multiple alignment score:
  - Sum of the columns, with optimal alignment (max the score)
- Consensus of an alignment:
  - A string of the most common characters in each column

- $\square$  Suppose that we have 3 sequences: u, v, and w
  - We want to find the "best" alignment of all three
  - Every multiple alignment corresponds to a path in 3D Manhattan like edit graph !!!
  - $\blacksquare$  To get to vertex (i, j, k) in a 3D edit graph:



- Some improvements of the algorithm, and many heuristics have been proposed
  - Compute all optimal pairwise alignment between very pair of strings
  - Combine them together in such a way that pairwise alignments induced by multiple alignment are close to the optimal ones
- Not always possible to combine...

Compatible vs. Incompatible pairwise alignments



(b) Incompatible pairwise alignments

- Greedy progressive multiple alignment
  - Iteratively adds one string to the growing multiple alignment
  - Select a pair of strings with greatest similarity and merge them into a new string
    - "once a gap, always a gap" principle
  - The choice of the closest strings at the beginning provide the most reliable information about a real alignment seed
  - If we start with bad seed, the error will propagate all the way to the whole multiple alignment

- k-dimensional scoring matrices are NOT very practical
- The choice of scoring function can affect the quality of the resulting alignment
  - No single scoring approach is perfect in all circumstances
- We want to assignment higher scores to the columns with a low variation in letters
  - High scores correspond to highly conserved sequences

- Entropy approach:
  - The score is the sum of the entropies of the columns, defined as

$$\sum_{x \in \mathcal{A}'} p_x \log p_x$$
 where  $p_x$  is the frequency of letter  $x \in \mathcal{A}'$ 

- The more conserved the column, the larger the entropy score
  - A column that has each nucleotides present k/4 times will have a  $score = 4 \times (1/4 \log (1/4)) = -2$
  - $\blacksquare$  A completely conserved column has a score = 0
- It can be difficult to design efficient algorithms that optimize this scoring function