# Algorithms and Tools in Bioinformatics

Algorithms: Sequence Alignment (adapted from Prof. Stephan Winkler)

Julia Vetter julia.vetter@fh-hagenberg.at



### Course Content

### Part I

### Part II

### Data, Tools, and Technologies

- (1) Overview
- (2) Standard Datasets/Modern File Formats
- (3) Databases/Platforms
- (4) Data (Pre-) Processing
- (5) Tools
- (6) Machine Learning

### **Algorithms: Sequence Alignment**

- (1) Motivation
- (2) Similarity of Sequences/ Scoring matrices
- (3) Global/Local Alignments
- (4) Heuristic Methods
- (5) Multiple Sequence Alignment
- (6) Phylogenetic Trees

# (1) Motivation



# Why Sequence Comparison / Alignment?

- Biological background
  - Many proteins are members of families with similar biochemical function and/or common evolutionary origin
- Sequence comparison / alignment is done
  - to find functional, structural or evolutionary relationships
  - to identify conserved patterns
  - to find out something about an unknown / unidentified structure / protein
- Outside bioinformatics
  - structural comparison
  - plagiarism detection



- From a computer science point of view, it is the comparison of strings over a given alphabet of characters
  - Comparison of nucleotide sequences: Alphabet consisting of the 4 characters for the 4 nucleic acids
  - Comparison of amino acid sequences: Alphabet consisting of the 20 characters for the 20 amino acids
- The similarity of two sequences is a measure of how well these sequences match.
- An **alignment** is the placing of one sequence on top of another to identify correspondence between similar characters or substrings.



# So many possibilities to align sequences ...

actaccagttcatttgatacttctcaaa taccattaccgtgttaactgaaaggacttaaagact

actaccagttcatttgatacttctcaaa taccattaccgtgttaactgaaaggacttaaagact

sequence 1

sequence 2

 actaccagttcatttgatacttctcaaa taccattaccgtgttaactgaaaggacttaaagact

 actaccagttcatttgatacttctcaaa

I I II

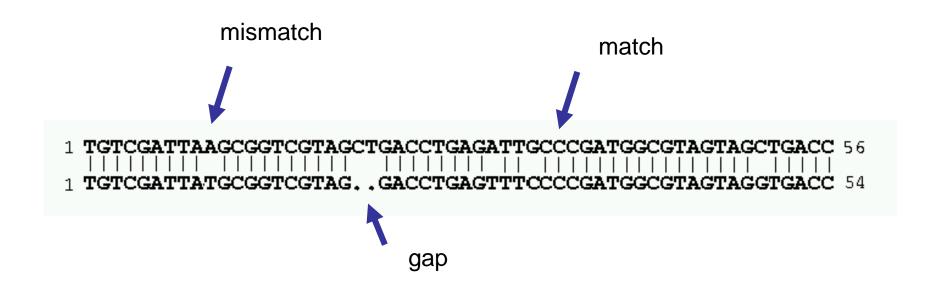
taccattaccgtgttaactgaaaggacttaaagact

actaccagttcatttgatacttctcaaa

| | | | | | |
taccattaccgtgttaactgaaaggacttaaagact



- Many alignments are possible
- Two sequences can always be aligned
- Sequence alignments must be evaluated ("scored)
- Often there can be more than one solution with the same score



# Requirements for Alignment Algorithms (1)

- Algorithms must be able to evaluate gaps, insertions and replacements of different lengths, and consider the physico-chemical properties according to the biological background
- Algorithms are only accepted by the community if they work effectively, i.e. can compare an input sequence with all sequences in a database in a sufficiently short time - runtime efficiency!
- Dynamic Programming: Algorithm for searching a large solution space in O(n²) steps



# Requirements for Alignment Algorithms (2)

### scoring system

- Algorithms work correctly and mechanically on character strings, regardless of the application domain
- Information is introduced from the application domain by specifying scores, which are a measure of the similarity of two symbols, and by introducing costs for gaps in the sequences – this is especially important for DNA/protein sequences

### Statistical evaluation of the results

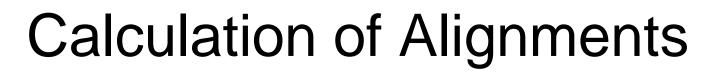
- Not only the score of an alignment has to be evaluated, but also the significance of the score depending on the length of the two
  character strings and the number of sequences stored in the database
- Evaluation of the score depending on the expected value

### Databases

The sequences must be up-to-date

# (2) Similarity of Sequences/ Scoring matrices





- 1. Selection of an appropriate scoring system, depending on the type of sequences to be compared
- 2. Strategy for calculating the cost of inserting gaps
- 3. Algorithm that, on the basis of 1) and 2), calculates an alignment with a maximum score



### Scoring System – Substitution Matrix

### **Definition**

A substitution matrix S over an alphabet  $\Sigma = \{a_1, \ldots, a_\kappa\}$  has  $\kappa \times \kappa$  entries, where each entry (i,j) assigns a score for a substitution of the letter  $a_i$  by the letter  $a_j$  in an alignment.

S	Α	G	Т	С
А	1			
G	-2	1		
Т	-2	-2	1	
С	-2	-2	-2	1

Example substitution matrix: (used by BLAST) 
$$\Sigma = \{A, G, T, C\}$$

For a, b 
$$\in \Sigma$$
  
 $S(a_i, a_j) = 1$  für  $a_i = a_j$   
 $S(a_i, a_j) = -2$  für  $a_i \neq a_j$ 

Note: Gaps are not taken into account in substitution matrices!

### Example

### Example:

A = AGGACT

B = GTGAGT

$$P(A,B \mid Z) = (1/4)^6 * (1/4)^6 = \frac{1}{4}^12$$

$$P(A,B|Z) = \prod p(a_i) \prod p(b_i)$$
 (für i=1,n)

Score:

$$-2 + (-2) + 1 + 1 + (-2) + 1 = -3$$

S	Α	G	Т	С
А	1			
G	-2	1		
Т	-2	-2	1	
С	-2	-2	-2	1

### Statistics Framework for Scoring Matrices

- Two models are compared using a likelihood function
  - Null hypothesis assumes that two sequences A and B are unrelated (in the sense of homologous, descended from a common ancestor)
  - Alignment is random, its probability is described by the model Z (for random).
  - Given a random arrangement of all symbols ai and bi in the alignment, the probability for the alignment is simply the product of the symbols occurring in the sequences:  $P(A,B|Z) = \Pi p(a_i) \Pi p(b_i)$  (for i=1,n)



### Statistics Framework for Scoring Matrices

- Two models are compared using a likelihood function
  - Hypothesis H1 is described by a model V (for related) that has two aligned symbols  $a_i$  and  $b_i$  with joint probabilities  $q(a_i,b_i)$ .
  - If the evolutionary divergence is to be evaluated, these values can, for example, express the probabilities that the symbols descend from a common ancestor c.
  - The probability of an alignment is then:  $P(A,B|V) = \Pi q(a_i,b_i)$  (for i=1,n)



## odds-ratio / log-odds ratio



$$\frac{P(A,B|V)}{P(A,B|Z)} = \frac{\prod q(a_i,b_i)}{\prod p(a_i)\prod p(b_i)} = \prod \frac{q(a_i,b_i)}{p(a_i)p(b_i)}$$

- log odds-ratio is calculated using the logarithm (base arbitrary, often 2)
- → ADDITIVE SCORING SCHEME

$$Saib_i = \log \frac{q(a_i,b_i)}{p(a_i)p(b_i)}$$

*Note:* Definition does not define how the relations / probabilites  $q(a_i, b_i)$  are calculated, most empirical / biological information

### 01. TGTGGT 02. TGCGGT 03. TGTGGT 04. GGTGGT 05. AGTGGT 06. AGTGGT 07. TGTGGT 08. TATGGT 09. TGTGGT 10. TGTGGT TCTGGT TGCGGT TGTGGC TGCGGT TGAGGT TGTGGT TGTGGT TGTGGA TGTGGT 20. AGTGGT TGTGGT 22. AGTGGT 23. TGCGGT 24. TGTGGC TGCGGT 26. TGTGGT TGCGGT 28. TCTGGT 29. TGTGGT 30. TGTGGT TGTGGT 32. TATGGT 33. TGAGGT 34. CGTGGT TGTGGT 36. TGAGGT TGTGGT 57. TGAGGT

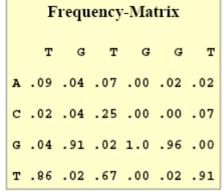
# Example: Position Specific Scoring Matrix (PSSM) Matrix V\$AML1\_01 from TRANSFAC

Count nucleotides  $(n_{i,j})$  at each position in N aligned sequences

Calculate frequency:  $f_{i,j} = n_{i,j} / N$ 

Calculate log-likelihood per position  $w_{i,j} = \ln(f_{i,j}/p_i)$  $p_i = a \ priori \ probability$ of symbol 0.25

# Count-Matrix T G T G G T A 5 2 4 0 1 1 C 1 2 14 0 0 4 G 2 52 1 57 55 0 T 49 1 38 0 1 52



Weigth-Matrix						
	т	G	т		G	
						-2.5
С	-2.5	-1.9	0.0	-4.1	-4.1	-1.2
G	-1.9	1.3	-2.5	1.4	1.3	-4.1
т	1.2	-2.5	1.0	-4.1	-2.5	1.3

### Position Specific Scoring Matrix - Statistics

 The probability of a certain sequence given a frequency matrix can be calculated as follows:

$$P(S) = P(s_1, \ldots, s_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n P(s_i)$$

Example: CGAGGT:

 $.02 \times .91 \times .07 \times 1.0 \times .96 \times .91 = 0.001$ 

Frequency-Matrix						
	T	G	T	G	G	T
A	.09	.04	.07	.00	.02	.02
С	.02	.04	. 25	.00	.00	.07
G	.04	.91	.02	1.0	.96	.00
т	.86	.02	.67	.00	.02	.91

- As a comparison, the probability of the sequence under the null model is calculated.
- Example: all basis are equiprobable:  $0.25^6 = 0.0002$

### Position Specific Scoring Matrix - Statistics

- Every single sequence is very unlikely.
- We calculate the likelihood ratio to see what is more likely that there is a relation (hypothesis H1) or that there is no connex (null hypothesis)

$$LR(s_1,\ldots,s_n) = \frac{\prod_i P(s_i)}{\prod_i Q(s_i)}$$

Calculate the logarithm

$$LLR(S) = \log \left( \frac{\prod_{i} P(s_i)}{\prod_{i} Q(s_i)} \right) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \log \frac{P(s_i)}{Q(s_i)}$$

Example: 0.001 / 0.0002 = 5 => log likelihood score 1.6

### Position Specific Scoring Matrix - Statistics

Position specific scores:

$$Score_i(s_i) = \log \frac{P(s_i)}{Q(s_i)}$$

Those are collected in the scoring matrix (weight matrix) and added:

$$Score(S) = \sum_{i} Score_{i}$$

```
Weigth-Matrix

T G T G G T

A -1.0 -1.9 -1.2 -4.1 -2.5 -2.5

C -2.5 -1.9 0.0 -4.1 -4.1 -1.2

G -1.9 1.3 -2.5 1.4 1.3 -4.1

T 1.2 -2.5 1.0 -4.1 -2.5 1.3
```

• Example: CGAGGT : -2.5 + 1.3 - 1.2 + 1.4 + 1.3 + 1.3 = 1.6

# And now for something completely different...



from

Position Specific

to

- Position Independent Scoring
  - Identity Matrices
  - PAMs
  - BLOSUMs





- Simplest scoring matrices
- All diagonal elements have the same positive value s
- All other elements have the same negative value s
- If s=- <u>s</u>, a local alignment must have more matches than mismatches to get a positive total score - usually finds short, compact alignments
- If s>>- <u>s</u>, a match compensates for several mismatches and long and weaker alignments are usually formed

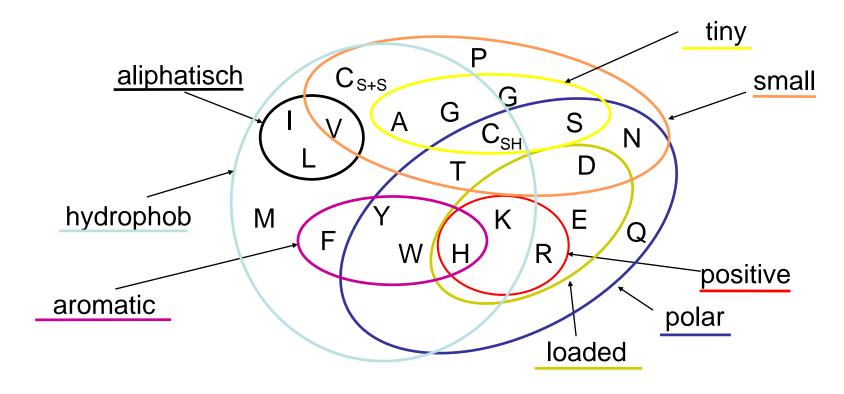


# Scoring Matrices for Proteins

- Similarity measures beyond equal/unequal comparisons, implicit model of evolution:
  - Not all amino acids are the same
  - Some are more easily replaced than others
  - Certain mutations happen more easily than others
  - Some exchanges last longer than others
  - Mutations favor certain exchanges
  - Some amino acids have similar codons (AGU serine, AGA arginine)
  - These are more likely to be mutated by mutation of the DNA
  - Selection favors certain exchanges
  - Some amino acids have similar properties and structure
- Most frequently used: PAM and BLOSUM

### Scoring Matrices for Proteins

Amino acids have different biochemical and physical properties, thereby increasing their relative interchangeability over time influenced by evolution

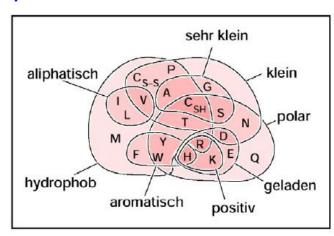




## How to get this?

How to get reasonable values for scoring matrices?

- We want to measure the biological relevance of the similarity
- Possibilty 1: chemical properties
  - Charge, size, polarity, ...
  - Numerous factors with unclear weighting
  - How to express this in a scoring scheme?
  - Not applied in praxis
- Possibility 2: Observation
  - Observation of evolution
  - Measure factual mutations
  - Needs large sets of homologous sequences



## PAM / Dayhoff Matrices

- Uses an empirical evolution model
- Designed by Margret Dayhoff and colleagues in the 1970s
- Model of evolution is based on the following assumption:
  - Proteins change during evolution
  - by a sequence of independent point mutations,
  - which are accepted after selection in a population and then observed in the sequences.
- Dayhoff and colleagues introduced the term point accepted mutation as a measure of evolutionary distance:
  - Two sequences A and B differ by 1 PAM unit if B arose from A through a series of accepted point mutations and there was an average of 1 point mutation per 100 residues.
- The aim is to construct a model that describes the probability of accepted mutations with sufficient accuracy → mutation model



### **Mutation Modell**

In the mutation model M we assume that the alignment of S1 and S2 can be exmplained my mutations.

Thus, the probability of an alignment of S1 and S2 is

$$P(S_1, S_2 \mid M) = \prod_{i=1}^n p_{x_i} p_{x_i, y_i}$$

where  $p_{ab}$  is the probability that amino acid a mutates into amino acid b  $(p_{ab} = p_{ba})$ 



- We consider two sequences  $S_1 = x_1x_2...x_n$  and  $S2 = y_1y_2...y_n$  and their alignment (without gaps, i.e. without insertions and deletions) under two competing models.
- In the random model R, the assumption is that each amino acid a occurs independently with a probability p<sub>a</sub>. The probability of an alignment of S1 and S2 in the random model is:

$$P(S_1, S_2 \mid R) = \prod_{i=1}^n p_{x_i} \prod_{j=1}^n p_{y_j}$$



## **Model Comparison**

We now compare these two models:

$$\frac{P(S_1, S_2 \mid M)}{P(S_1, S_2 \mid R)} = \prod_{i=1}^{n} \frac{p_{x_i} p_{x_i, y_i}}{p_{x_i} p_{y_j}}$$

If this value is greater than 1, then the mutation model describes the alignment better than the random model; otherwise it is vice versa. Taking the logarithm gives an additive measure:

$$score(S_1, S_2) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} score(x_i, y_i) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \log \frac{p_{x_i} p_{x_i, y_i}}{p_{x_i} p_{y_j}}$$

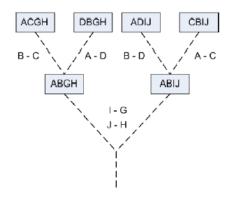
$$also \ score(a, b) = \log \frac{p_{a,b}}{p_b}$$

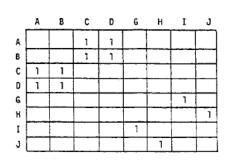


## Design of the PAM1 Matrix

- Step 1: Dayhoff used alignments of sequences that were at least 85 percent identical. 34 protein families with 71 phylogenetic trees and 1572 replacements were used
- Step 2: Construct phylogenetic trees and infer lineage sequences
- Step 3: Construct a replacement matrix A by counting the replacements in all pairwise comparisons. Each A<sub>ij</sub> represents the number of times amino acid *j* was replaced by amino acid *i* in all comparisons

#### Phylogenetischer Baum





### Accepted Mutations, Transition Matrix

- A list of accepted mutations is obtained by identifying all known mutations of the form
  "amino acid i mutated into amino acid j" in (in characters: (i->j)) sequences that are already
  known to be "related".
- It should be noted here that only undirected ((i.e. (i->j)= (j->i)) and direct mutations can be considered.
- It is also determined how often an amino acid j occurs, which is denoted by the probability p<sub>j</sub>.
- Probabilities sum up to 1:

$$\sum p_j = 1$$

# Replacement Matrix and Relative Frequencies (Example)

```
ARNDCQEGHILKMFPS
Α
R 30
N 109 17
                                                     0.089
                                                                                          0.034
D 154 0 532
                                               Glv
                                                            Val
                                                                 0.065
                                                                        Arg
                                                                             0.041
                                                                                    _{
m His}
C 33 10 0 0
                                                Ala
                                                     0.087
                                                            Thr
                                                                 0.058
                                                                             0.040
                                                                                          0.033
                                                                        Asn
                                                                                    Cys
Q 93 120 50 76 0
                                                     0.085
                                                           Pro
                                                                 0.051
                                                                        Phe
                                                                             0.040
                                                                                          0.030
                                               Leu
                                                                                    Tyr
E 266 0 94 831 0 422
                                               Lvs
                                                     0.081
                                                            Glu
                                                                 0.050
                                                                        Gln
                                                                             0.038
                                                                                          0.015
G 579 10 156 162 10 30 112
                                                     0.070
                                                                 0.047
                                                                        Ile
                                                                             0.037
                                                                                    Trp
                                                                                          0.010
                                                            Asp
H 21 103 226 43 10 243 23 10
I 66 30 36 13 17 8
                                                             relative frequencies of all AAs in
L 95 17 37
               0 75 15 17 40 253
               0 147 104 60 23 43 39
                                                                      all sequences
K 57 477 322 85
                            0 - 57
                                                                   (initial probabilities)
                      0
                        17 20 90 167
            10 10 93 40 49 50 7
                                  43
S 772 137 432 98 117 47 86 450 26 20 32 168 20 40 269
T 590 20 169 57 10 37 31 50 14 129 52 200 28 10 73 696
                            3 0
                                  13
                                        0 10 0
                  0 10 0 40 13 23 10 0 260 0
V 365 20 13 17 33 27 37 97 30 661 303 17 77 10 50 43 186 0 17
```

15720 replacements

## Replacement Matrix

List of accepted mutations  $L = [(a_1, b_1), \dots, (a_n, b_n)]$  (accepted point mutations)

 $p_{a,b}$  is the probability that b is in a sequence where previously there was an a:

$$p_{a,b} = P(b \mid a) = \frac{P(a,b)}{P(a)}$$

 $n_{a,b}$  := number of pairs (a, b) in L

*n* := number of all pairs in L

 $P(a,b) \approx \frac{n_{a,b}}{n}$  = relative probability of mutation of a into b

### **Transition Matrix**

### In total we get:

$$p_{a,b} = P(b \mid a) = \frac{P(a,b)}{P(a)} \approx \frac{n_{a,b}}{n \cdot p_a}$$

We define that 1 PAM (percent accepted mutations) is that time period in which 1% of the amino acids mutate:

$$p_{a,b} := \frac{n_{a,b}}{100 \cdot n \cdot p_a}$$

$$p_{\mathsf{a},\mathsf{a}} := 1 - \sum_{b 
eq \mathsf{a}} p_{\mathsf{a},b}$$



### **Transition Matrix**

$$\sum_{a} p_{a} \cdot p_{a,a} = \sum_{a} p_{a} \left( 1 - \sum_{b \neq a} p_{a,b} \right)$$

$$= \sum_{a} p_{a} - \sum_{b \neq a} \sum_{b \neq a} p_{a} \cdot p_{a,b}$$

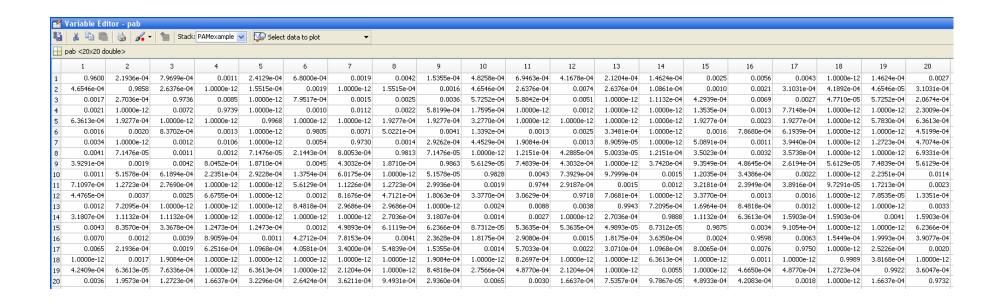
$$= 1 - \sum_{a} \sum_{b \neq a} p_{a} \cdot \frac{n_{a,b}}{100n \cdot p_{a}}$$

$$= 1 - \frac{1}{100n} \cdot \sum_{a} \sum_{b \neq a} n_{a,b}$$

$$= 1 - \frac{1}{100n} \cdot n = 0,99$$

probability that there is no mutation is 0.99

### 1 – PAM Transition Matrix (Example)





#### **Score Matrix PAM1**

#### PAM1 scoring matrix:

$$score(a, b) = \frac{p_{a,b}}{p_b} = \frac{\frac{n_{a,b}}{100n \cdot p_a}}{p_b} = \frac{n_{a,b}}{100n \cdot p_a \cdot p_b}$$

In fact we apply the log10 and each entry is multiplied with factor 10 (for better readability)





How to PAM score matrices that represent evolutinoary distances > PAM1?

 $P^{(n)} = P \times P \times \dots \times P$ n -mal

#### **PAM-250**:

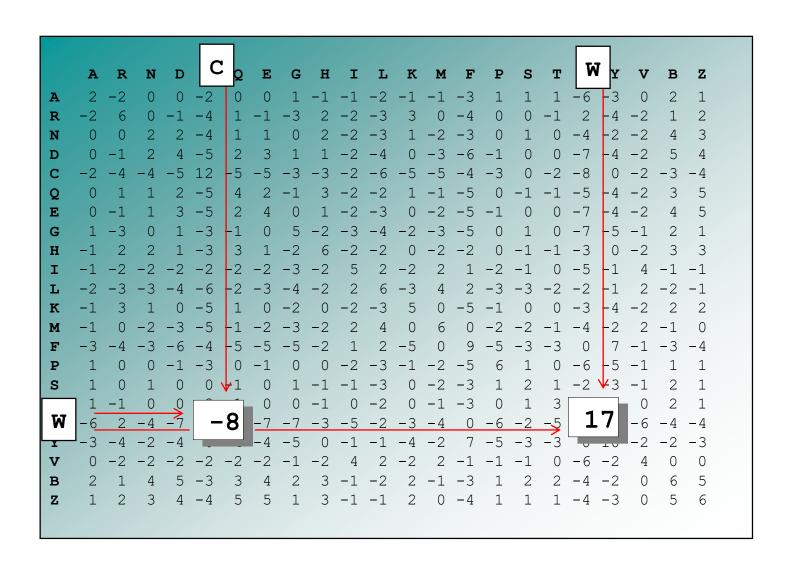
2.5 mutations per residue, ca. 20% hits (accordance), thus changes in 80% of the positions

PAM: 1 30 80 110 200 250

Sequance similarity (%): 99 75 50 60 25 20

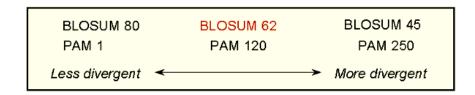


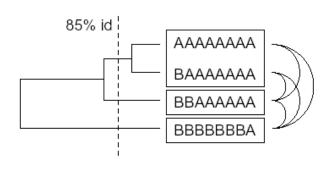
#### PAM 250 – log-odds Matrix

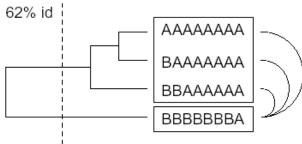


# BLOSUMS (Blocks Substitution Matrices)

- Similar ideas
- Count known mutations in sequences
- Use trees to cluster sequences
- Cutoff threshold defines number of BLOSUM (BLOSUM60, ...)



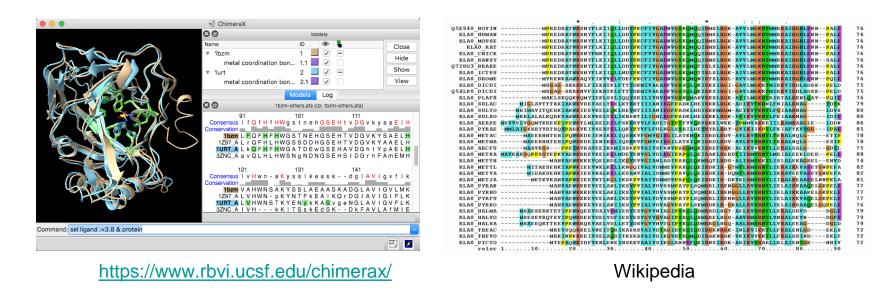






# And again, now for something completely different...

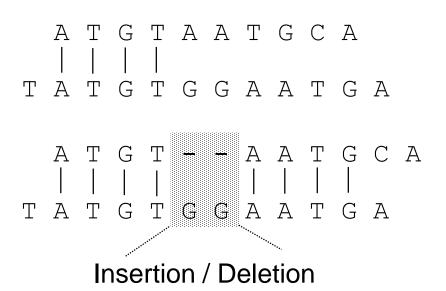
Now we know how to score pairs / alignments of sequences



• But: How do we get these alignments?

## Score of Insertions and Deletions (Indels, Gaps)





Insertion of a gap: negative score



#### How to set the costs of a gap?



```
1 GTGATAGACACAGACCGGTGGCATTGTGGA 29
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
1 GTGTCGGGAAGCAGATAACTCCGATGGTTG 29
```

2. Gaps too cheap => stretched alignment, unspecific



## Affine Gap Costs

Score with linear costs:

$$\gamma(g) = -gd$$

Score with affine costs:

$$\gamma(g) = -d - (g - 1)e$$

 $\gamma(g)$  = costs for gap with length g d = costs for opening a gap e = costs for prolongiation of a gap g = gap length



#### Affine Gap Costs

Match = 1Mismatch = 0

Total score: 4

Total score: 8 - 3.2 = 4.8

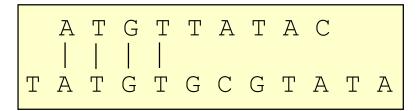
#### Gap parameters:

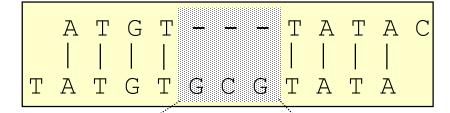
$$d = 3$$
 (gap opening)

$$e = 0.1$$
 (gap extension)

$$g = 3$$
 (gap length)

$$\gamma(g) = -3 - (3 - 1) \cdot 0.1 = -3.2$$





insertion / deletion

#### Remarks

- Proper gap assessment along with the correct score matrix is crucial, especially for more difficult alignment problems (e.g. sequences with little similarity)
- As a rule, suitable gap evaluations are calculated for the score matrices and can be used by default
- "Overhanging" start and end sequences are usually not penalized
- Low gap costs can turn a local alignment into a global one, the alignment is stretched

## (3) Alignments

Dotplot

Global/Local Alignment (Dynamic Programming)

**Heuristic Methods** 

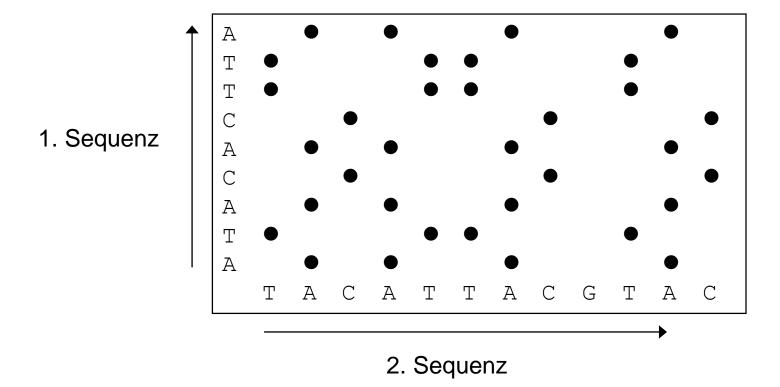
#### Methods of Sequence Alignments

- dotplot analysis
  - first impression,
  - shows insertions/omissions, repeats
- Dynamic programming
  - · gives optimal alignment,
  - all possible combinations,
  - cpu intensive
- Word methods
  - Collect "islands"
  - fast
  - Heuristic
  - used for DB searches (special slides desk)



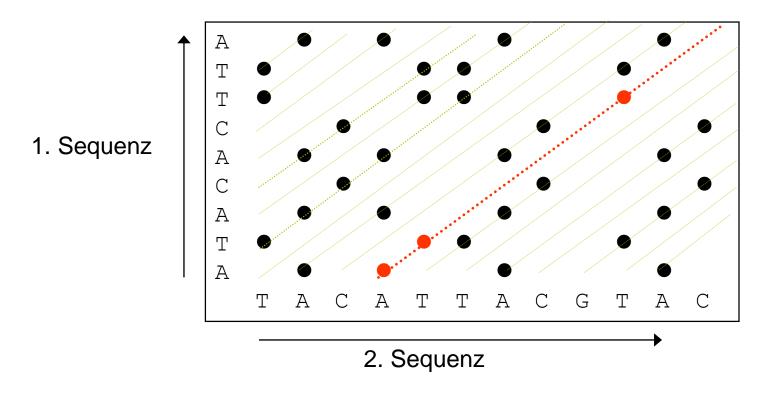
### **Dotplots**

Overview of all possible alignments



#### Dotplot -2

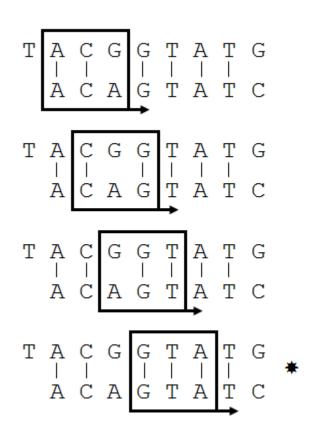
Each diagonal corresponds to a possible alignment



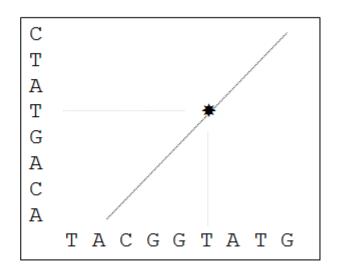
**Possible alignment:** 



## Chars -> Words Dotplots with Windowing

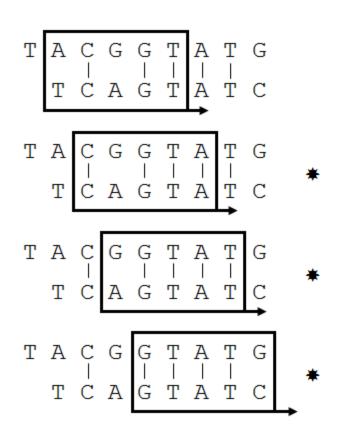


Wortgröße = 3 = Fenstergröße

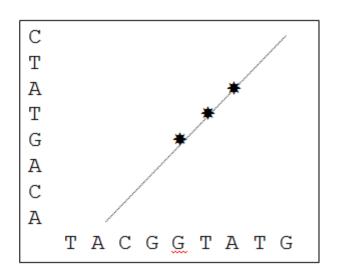




#### Windows / Stringency



Fenster = 5 / Stringenz = 4



#### Windows / Stringency



... also for amino acids...

Score 
$$= 11$$



Score = 11



Score = 7



Matrix: PAM250

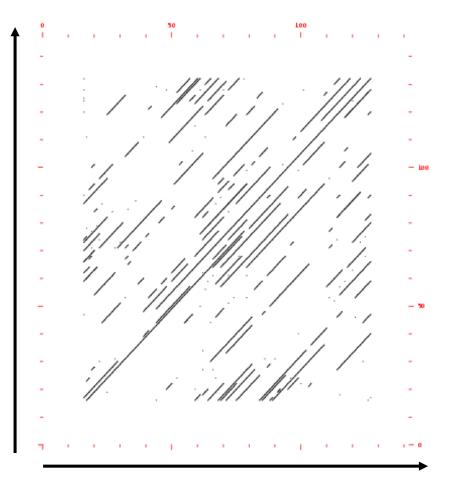
window size: 12

stringency: 9

### Example Hemoglobin, Window Size 30 / Stringency = 9



Hemoglobin β-chain



... Stringency to low ...

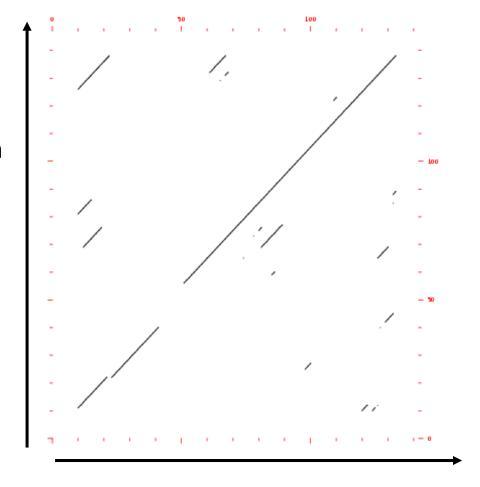
Graphics from Compare und DotPlot2



## Window Size 18 / Stringency = 10

Example Hemoglobin,

Hemoglobin β-chain



... stringency ok...

Graphics from Compare und DotPlot2

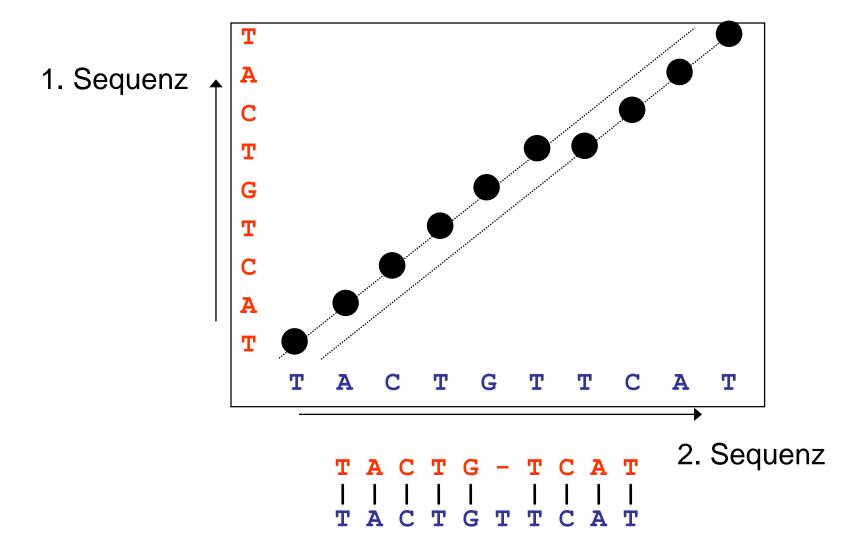


#### Comments

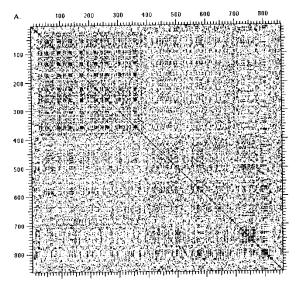
- Window/stringency method is more sensitive than pure word method
- the smaller the window, the more statistical weight mutations have
   statistical fluctuations are also displayed
- but: large windows reduce the sensitivity for small sequences
- => optimal window stringency setting must be determined (by trial and error).
- Insertions, omissions are not displayed directly, but indirectly:



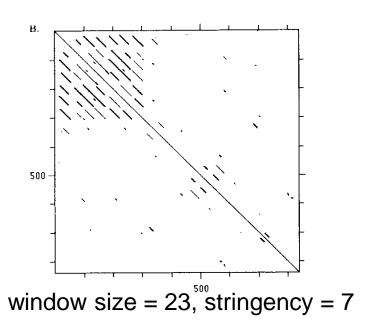
### Indels in a Dotplot



#### Repeats



window size = 1, stringency = 1



- sequence mapped onto itself
- plot is symmetrical
- repeats are smaller diagonals
- here: e.g. 6 repeats in the upper left corner
- repeats are not all the same length => contain mutations
- again: only observable with correct choice of window size and stringency

#### **Dynamic Programming**

Automated process, algorithm that finds the best alignment (with optimal score) depending on the given parameters (gap costs, score matrix)

Needleman - Wunsch Algorithm:
 Global Alignment

• Smith - Waterman Algorithm : Local Alignment

