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Questions 1 & 2

Q1

Time taken to run the triplet alignment was approximately 0.62 seconds. Pairwise alignment on the other hand completed in 0.005 seconds. Please refer to the code and execution output sections.

Q2

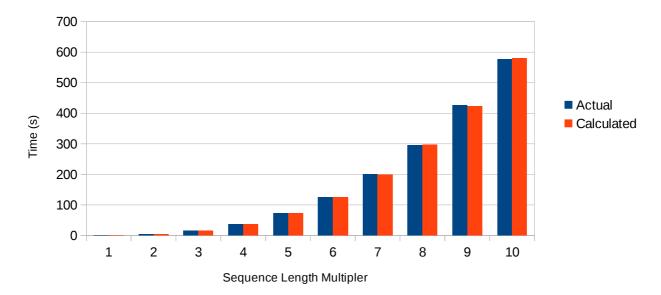
In this question we have doubled the sequence length and it has taken 4.74 seconds to calculate the global alignment of the triplet. The time taken to execute the algorithm has increased by 4.74 / 0.62 which is around 7.65. In triplet alignment we are processing a three dimensional matrix so by increasing the the length of our sequence by a factor of 2 we increase the total number of the cells in the matrix by a factor of $2^3 = 8$. The actual increase in execution time was 7.65.

The performance of the algorithm is $O(n^3)$.

I have written code which calculates the execution time for computing triplet global alignment for sequences of length from n to 10n. These were graphed next to expected execution times and shown below. The expected calculations for $2 \le n \le 10$ is based on n=1.

Global Triplet Alignment Execution Times

Various multiplications of a 30 letter sequence



Code

```
Created on 15/04/2014
@author: s4361277
from sequence import *
import time
seqA1 = Sequence("AGCGCGATTATATAAGACGGACGGCTAAAG")
seqB1 = Sequence("AGCGGATATTTATATCGCACGACGACTACG"
seqC1 = Sequence("GGATCGATTATATAGCCTGGACGAGACATG")
seqB2 = Sequence("GGATCGATTATATAGCCTGGACGAGACATGGGATCGAAGACGACCTGGACGAGACATGAC")
seqC2 = Sequence("AGCGGATATTTATATCGCACGACGACGACGAGGGGAAGACGAGTTTCGCACGACACTACG")
matrix = readSubstMatrix("dna.matrix", DNA Alphabet)
print "pairwise align of short sequences (Q1)"
start time = time.time()
alignGlobal(seqA1, seqB1, matrix, -1)
end_time = time.time()
print("Elapsed time was %g seconds" % (end_time - start_time))
print "triplet align of short sequences (Q1) ..."
start_time = time.time()
tripletAlignGlobal(seqA1, seqB1, seqC1, matrix, -1)
end time = time.time()
print("Elapsed time was %g seconds" % (end time - start time))
print "triplet align of long sequences (Q2) ..."
start time = time.time()
tripletAlignGlobal(seqA2, seqB2, seqC2, matrix, -1)
end_time = time.time()
print("Elapsed time was %g seconds" % (end time - start time))
# the following code provides a more detailed analysis of algorithm time
# the output was use to genmerate a comparison graph of expected vs real
# execution times
print "triplet align: time vs sequence length (Q2) ..."
sequence_string_fragment_1 = "AGCGCGATTATATAAGACGGACGGCTAAAG"
sequence string fragment 2 = "AGCGGATATTTATATCGCACGACGACTACG"
sequence_string_fragment_3 = "GGATCGATTATATAGCCTGGACGAGACATG"
sequence_string_1 = ""
sequence_string_2 = ""
sequence_string_3 = ""
for length multiplier in range(1, 11):
    sequence_string_1 += sequence_string_fragment_1
    sequence_string_2 += sequence_string_fragment_2
    sequence_string_3 += sequence_string_fragment_3
    start time = time.time()
    tripletAlignGlobal(Sequence(sequence_string_1), Sequence(sequence_string_2),
                       Sequence(sequence_string_3), matrix, -1)
   end time = time.time()
    # output produced can be redirected into a CSV file
    print length_multiplier, ",", end_time - start_time
```

Execution

Screen shot below shows the execution of the code for questions 1 and 2.

```
Terminal
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
jacekrad@z400 ~/var/github/prac04/src $ time python question1 2.py
pairwise align of short sequences (Q1)
Elapsed time was 0.00509787 seconds
triplet align of short sequences (Q1) ...
Elapsed time was 0.62357 seconds
triplet align of long sequences (Q2) ...
Elapsed time was 4.74108 seconds
triplet align: time vs sequence length (Q2) ...
  , 0.580306053162
  , 4.61684989929
   15.7325119972
   36.8982918262
    72.221380949
    125.038820982
   200.297755003
 , 294.624313831
 , 427.168880939
10 , 577.339603901
real
        29m20.062s
user
        29m18.732s
sys
        0m0.336s
```

Question 4

a, b & c

All of the sequences in this alignment are from the highly conserved FOXP2 gene. One could conclude for the alignment to be reasonable if there are few gaps and the conserved regions are visible in the HTML output. Looking at the HTML representation of the alignment (see below) we can clearly see that only few gaps are present and from the colours matches we can conclude that the sequences are highly conserved. With the exception of the "unknown" sequence all sequences are highly conserved with many regions identical or almost identical.

Alignment

The screen grabs are shown. First is of the head of the alignment and the second show full length of the alignment.



Code

```
Created on 15/04/2014

@author: s4361277

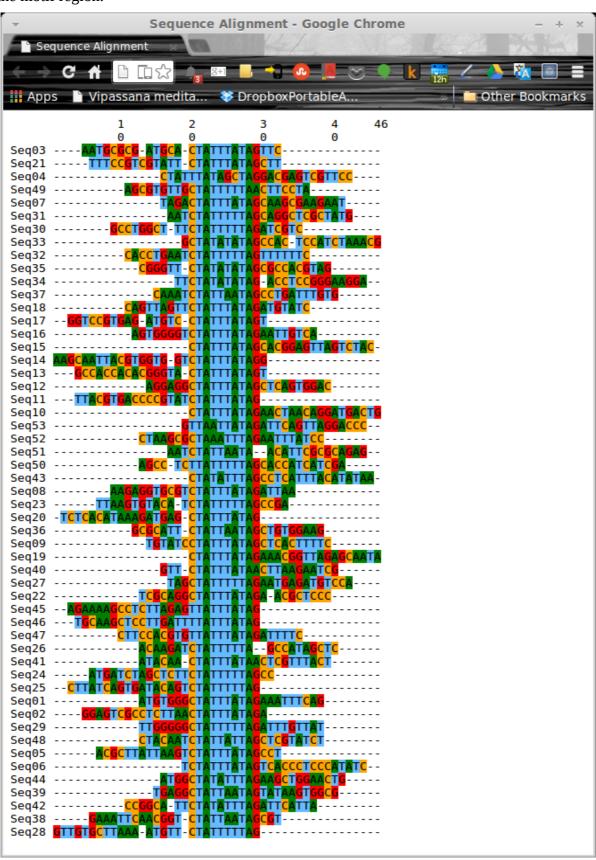
from sequence import *
import time

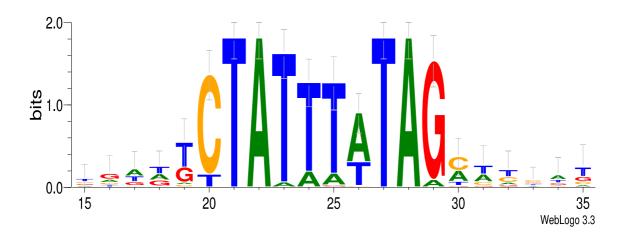
multi_align_sequences = readFastaFile("multiAlign.fasta", DNA_Alphabet)

start_time = time.time()
alignment = runClustal(multi_align_sequences)
end_time = time.time()
print("Elapsed time was %g seconds" % (end_time - start_time))
alignment.writeClustal("multiAlign.aln")
alignment.writeHTML("alignment.html")
```

Question 6

Two screen shots are provided. First shows the HTML representation of the alignment clearly showing the similar region. Second is the logo coloured similarly to the HTML file and "zoomed" on the motif region.





Question 7

Consensus sequence for the highly conserved region is CTATTTATAG.

I have used two regular expressions The first ("CTAT[AT] {3}TAG") was a strict version and the second ("[CT]TA[TA] {4}TA[GA\-]") is much more flexible. Both regular expressions will match a sequence of 10 letters which corresponds to the highly conserved region (see logo position 20-29).

Table below provides short justification for each position/column in both regular expressions.

| Position | Strict | Flexible |
|----------|-------------------------------|--|
| 20 | Mainly C, excluding Ts | Mainly Cs, but some Ts present |
| 21 | Only T | Only T |
| 22 | Only A | Only A |
| 23 | Almost all Ts | Few, but some As present. Included with Ts |
| 24 | Mainly Ts, but also As | Mainly Ts, but also As |
| 25 | Mainly Ts, but also As | Mainly Ts, but also As |
| 26 | Mostly A, but a lot of Ts too | Mostly A, but a lot of Ts too |
| 27 | T's only | T's only |
| 28 | As only | As only |
| 29 | Almost all Gs, excluding rest | Mostly Gs but 2 As and 2 gaps present |

See question 10 code for how the above were applied.

Question 9

Below is the position weight matrix generated (see question 10 code) from position 20 to position 29 based on highly conserved region visible (identified by eye) in the logo generated in question 7.

```
A -25.33 -25.33 +1.39 -1.89 -0.50 -0.79 +0.97 -25.33 +1.39

C +1.27 -25.33 -25.33 -25.33 -25.33 -25.33 -25.33 -25.33

G -25.33 -25.33 -25.33 -25.33 -25.33 -25.33 -25.33

T -0.79 +1.39 -25.33 +1.35 +1.22 +1.24 +0.25 +1.39 -25.33
```

Question 10

Search code and results for both regular expression as well as the PWM are show below.

| Method | Number of matches |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Strict regular expression | 2 |
| Flexible regular expression | 10 |
| Position Weight Matrix | 14 |

It is clear that the PWM has matched many more sequences than either of the regular expressions which was expected as it was generated by mathematical means rather than visual inspection.

Unlike regular expressions, PWM also returns partial matches with a match score as the last element of the result list. This feature makes PWM more flexible and perhaps more suitable to degenerate motifs than regular expressions.

Code

```
Created on 15/04/2014

@author: s4361277

from sequence import *

alignment = readClustalFile("myAlign.aln", DNA_Alphabet)
pwm = PWM(alignment, start=19, end=28)
print pwm

# strict regular expression is closer to the consensus sequences
# but does allow for some flexibility
strict_regexp = Regexp("CTAT[AT]{3}TAG")

# flexible regular expression is more flexible than the strict regexp
# and allows for more alternative letter. This regular expression should
# produce more matches.
flexi_regexp = Regexp("[CT]TA[TA]{4}TA[GA\-]")
sequences = readFastaFile("motifSearch.fasta", DNA_Alphabet)
```

Search Results

```
----- extracted07 ------
REGEXP Strict : []
REGEXP Flexi : []
       : [(134, 'GCTATATTTAT', 6.1057151718246043)]
-----extracted08 -----
REGEXP Strict : []
REGEXP Flexi : []
          : [(115, 'GCTATATTTAT', 6.1057151718246043)]
PWM
------extracted09 ------
REGEXP Strict : []
REGEXP Flexi : []
          : []
     ---------- J04111 ------
REGEXP Strict : [(139, 'CTATTTTTAG', 1.0)]
REGEXP Flexi : [(139, 'CTATTTTTAG', 1.0)]
          : [(138, 'GCTATTTTTAG', 12.407647098418472)]
PWM
     ------ L36125 ------
REGEXP Strict : []
REGEXP Flexi : [(33, 'CTAAAAATAG', 1.0)]
         : [(32, 'GCTAAAAATAG', 6.1270004883357654)]
----- M29660 ------
REGEXP Strict : []
REGEXP Flexi : [(63, 'CTAAAAATAG', 1.0)]
          : [(62, 'ACTAAAAATAG', 5.0578020848739484)]
PWM
----- M61126 ------
REGEXP Strict : []
REGEXP Flexi : [(10, 'CTAAAAATAG', 1.0)]
         : [(9, 'GCTAAAAATAG', 6.1270004883357654)]
----- M62404 -----
REGEXP Strict : []
REGEXP Flexi : [(173, 'TTAAAAATAA', 1.0)]
          : [(172, 'ATTAAAAATAA', 0.37061312294387538)]
----- M84685 ------
REGEXP Strict : []
REGEXP Flexi : [(174, 'CTATATATAA', 1.0)]
```

```
PWM
          : [(173, 'ACTATATATAA', 7.7045616348512986)]
------ U18131 -----
REGEXP Strict : []
REGEXP Flexi : [(83, 'CTATATATAA', 1.0)]
         : [(82, 'ACTATATATAA', 7.7045616348512986)]
----- X00371 ------
REGEXP Strict : []
REGEXP Flexi : []
PWM
         : []
----- X04260 ------
REGEXP Strict : []
REGEXP Flexi : [(54, 'CTAAATATAG', 1.0)]
         : [(53, 'ACTAAATATAG', 7.094684012134989)]
-----X12447 ------
REGEXP Strict : []
REGEXP Flexi : [(77, 'CTAAATATAG', 1.0)]
         : [(76, 'CCTAAATATAG', 7.094684012134989)]
REGEXP Strict : [(134, 'CTATTTTTAG', 1.0)]
REGEXP Flexi : [(134, 'CTATTTTTAG', 1.0)]
PWM : [(133, 'GCTATTTTTAG', 12.407647098418472)]
-----X71910 ------
REGEXP Strict : []
REGEXP Flexi : []
         : [(130, 'GCTATATTTAT', 6.1057151718246043)]
-----X85744 ------
REGEXP Strict : []
REGEXP Flexi : []
      : [(132, 'TCTATATTTAT', 6.4961424025682284)]
----- Z20656 -----
REGEXP Strict : []
REGEXP Flexi : []
PWM
```