

# Longest Common Subsequence

# subsequence

- An ordered combination of each member of the sequence
- Sequence = (w,a,l,k,i,n,g)
  - Subsequence Ex1 = (w,a,l,k) >> (w,a,l,k,i,n,g)
  - Subsequence Ex2 = (k,i,n,g) >> (w,a,l,k,i,n,g)
  - Subsequence Ex3 = (w,g) >> (w,a,l,k,i,n,g)
  - Subsequence Ex4 = (w,l,n,g) >> (w,a,l,k,i,n,g)

# The problem

- Given two sequences A,B
  - Find a subsequence s of both A and B such that the length of s is longest
- Example
  - A = (w,a,l,k,i,n,g)
  - B = (a,l,i,e,n)
  - Longest Common Subsequence = (a,l,i,n)
    - (a,l,i,n) is a subsequence of A (w,**a**,**l**,k,**i**,**n**,g)
    - (a,l,i,n) is a subsequence of B (**a**,**l**,**i**,e,**n**)

# Notation

- Let the first index of A and B be 1
  - E.g.,  $A[1] = 'w'$ ,  $A[2] = 'a'$ ,  $A[3] = 'l'$  , ...
- Let  $|A| = n$
- Let  $|B| = m$
- Let  $A_i$  be the substring from position 1 to i of A
  - E.g.  $A_1 = 'w'$
  - E.g.  $A_2 = 'wa'$
  - E.g.  $A_5 = 'walki'$
  - $A_0 = ''$

# The sub-problem

- If we wish to know  $\text{LCS}(A,B)$ 
  - Does  $\text{LCS}$  of  $(A_x, B_y)$  helps us?
  - What sub problem shall we use?

# Think Backward (or forward?)

- If we know  $\text{LCS}(A,B)$
- How does it help?
  - i.e., where  $\text{LCS}(A,B)$  contribute to?
  - Try the very obvious case...
  - Does it help us solve
    - $\text{LCS}(A + 'c', B + 'c')$  ?
  - Sure!
    - $\text{LCS}(A + 'c', B + 'c') = \text{LCS}(A,B) + 'c'$
    - Because they both ends with 'c'
    - E.g.  $A = \text{'walking'}$ ,  $B = \text{'alien'}$
    - What is  $\text{LCS}(\text{'walkingC'}, \text{'alienC'})$ ?
      - alinC

# Think Backward (or forward?)

- Any more case to consider?
- If we know  $\text{LCS}(A,B)$ 
  - Does it help us solve
    - $\text{LCS}(A,B + 'c')$  ?
  - Yes
    - Adding 'c' would have only two outcomes
      - it *does not* change the LCS
        - » So  $\text{LCS}(A,B + 'c') = \text{LCS}(A,B)$
      - It *does* change the LCS
        - » So  $\text{LCS}(A,B + 'c') = \text{something ending with 'c'}$
        - » To be continue...

# Using $\text{LCS}(A, B + 'c')$

- The case that LCS is changed
  - Is that possible?
  - Yes, when there are 'c' in A that comes after  $\text{LCS}(A, B)$ 
    - Assume that that point is at  $A[k]$  (hence,  $A[k] = c$ )
    - $\text{LCS}(A, B + 'c')$  would be  $\text{LCS}(A_{k-1}, B) + 'c'$
  - Check that  $\text{LCS}(A_{k-1}, B) + 'c'$  is actually  $\text{LCS}(A, B + 'c')$ 
    - $\text{LCS}(A_{k-1}, B + 'c')$  will be the same as
      - $\text{LCS}(A_k, B + 'c')$
      - $\text{LCS}(A_{k+1}, B + 'c')$
      - $\text{LCS}(A_{k+2}, B + 'c')$
      - ...
      - $\text{LCS}(A, B + 'c')$

Notice that, in this case, what comes after both B and  $A_{k-1}$  is 'c'

This means that  
 $\text{LCS}(A, B + 'c') = \text{LCS}(A_{n-1}, B + 'c')$ ..  
So,  $\text{LCS}(A, B)$  *does not contribute*  
to  $\text{LCS}(A, B + 'c')$



# Think Backward (or forward?)

- The remaining case
- If we know  $\text{LCS}(A,B)$ 
  - Does it help us solve
    - $\text{LCS}(A + 'c', B)$  ?
  - Yes
    - Similar to the case of  $A, B + 'c'$
- In conclusion, this means that
  - $\text{LCS}(A + 'c', B) = \text{LCS}(A + 'c', B_{n-1})$

# conclusion

- $\text{LCS}(A, B)$  will be  $\text{LCS}(A, B + 'c')$  when 'c' does not constitute the longer common subsequence
  - If 'c' is in the longer common subsequence
  - $\text{LCS}(A, B + 'c')$  will be  $\text{LCS}(A_{n-1}, B + 'c')$  instead!!!!
    - Not our case
- So, backwardly,
  - $\text{LCS}(A, B)$  is either
    - $\text{LCS}(A_{n-1}, B)$ 
      - Or
    - $\text{LCS}(A, B_{m-1})$
  - Just select the longer one!!!!

# Recurrence

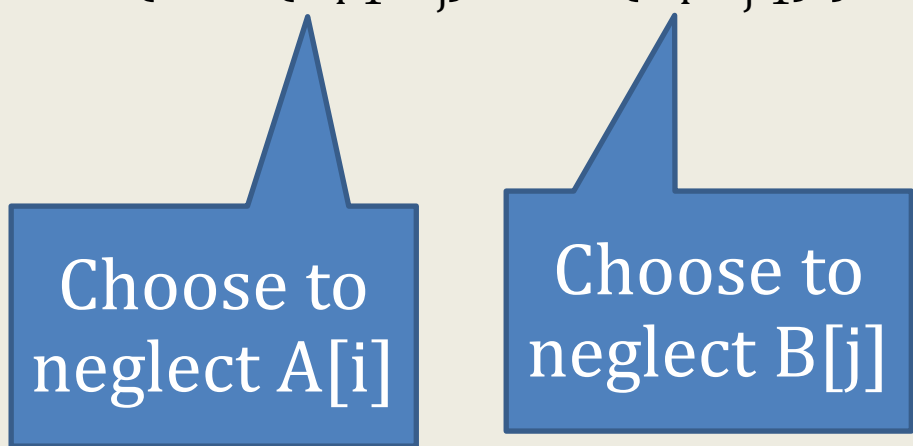
- $LCS(A_i, B_j) =$

$$LCS(A_{i-1}, B_{j-1}) + A[i]$$

$$\max( LCS(A_{i-1}, B_j), LCS(A_i, B_{j-1}) )$$

$$A[i] = B[j]$$

$$A[i] \neq B[j]$$



Choose to  
neglect  $A[i]$

Choose to  
neglect  $B[j]$

# Solution to the LCS

- Simplify problem
  - To find the length of LCS
- Let  $c(i,j)$  be the length of  $\text{LCS}(A_i, B_j)$

$$c(i,j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i=0 \text{ or } j=0 \\ c(i-1,j-1) + 1 & \text{if } i>0, j>0 \text{ and } A[i] = B[j] \\ \max( c(i-1,j) , c(i,j-1) ) & \text{if } i>0, j>0 \text{ and } A[i] \neq B[j] \end{cases}$$

# Example

$C[0,0]$

		W	A	L	K	I	N	G
A								
L								
I								
E								
N								

$C[7,5]$

$$c(i,j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i=0 \text{ or } j=0 \\ c(i-1,j-1) + 1 & \text{if } i>0, j>0 \text{ and } A[i] = B[j] \\ \max( c(i-1,j) , c(i,j-1) ) & \text{if } i>0, j>0 \text{ and } A[i] \neq B[j] \end{cases}$$

# Example

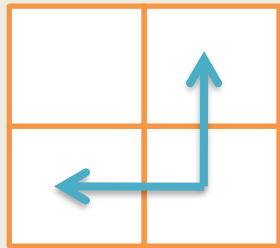
Fill the trivial case

		W	A	L	K	I	N	G
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0							
L	0							
I	0							
E	0							
N	0							

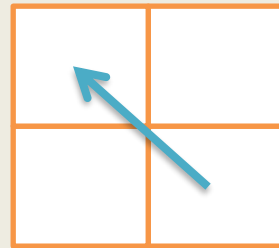
$$c(i,j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i=0 \text{ or } j=0 \\ c(i-1,j-1) + 1 & \text{if } i>0, j>0 \text{ and } A[i] = B[j] \\ \max( c(i-1,j) , c(i,j-1) ) & \text{if } i>0, j>0 \text{ and } A[i] \neq B[j] \end{cases}$$

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$$c(i,j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i > 0, j > 0 \\ c(i-1,j-1) + 1 & \text{if } i > 0, j > 0 \text{ and } A[i] = B[j] \\ \max(c(i-1,j), c(i,j-1)) & \text{if } i > 0, j > 0 \text{ and } A[i] \neq B[j] \end{cases}$$



$A[i] \neq b[j]$



$A[i] = b[j]$

# Example


		W	A	L	K	I	N	G
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	0						
L	0							
I	0							
E	0							
N	0							

$$c(i,j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i=0 \text{ or } j=0 \\ c(i-1,j-1) + 1 & \text{if } i>0, j>0 \text{ and } A[i] = B[j] \\ \max( c(i-1,j) , c(i,j-1) ) & \text{if } i>0, j>0 \text{ and } A[i] \neq B[j] \end{cases}$$



# Example


		W	A	L	K	I	N	G
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	0						
L	0							
I	0							
E	0							
N	0							



$$c(i,j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i=0 \text{ or } j=0 \\ c(i-1,j-1) + 1 & \text{if } i>0, j>0 \text{ and } A[i] = B[j] \\ \max( c(i-1,j) , c(i,j-1) ) & \text{if } i>0, j>0 \text{ and } A[i] \neq B[j] \end{cases}$$

# Example


		W	A	L	K	I	N	G
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	0	0+1					
L	0							
I	0							
E	0							
N	0							



$$c(i,j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i=0 \text{ or } j=0 \\ c(i-1,j-1) + 1 & \text{if } i>0, j>0 \text{ and } A[i] = B[j] \\ \max( c(i-1,j) , c(i,j-1) ) & \text{if } i>0, j>0 \text{ and } A[i] \neq B[j] \end{cases}$$

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		W	A	L	K	I	N	G
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	0	0+1	1				
L	0							
I	0							
E	0							
N	0							



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# Example

		W	A	L	K	I	N	G
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	0	0+1	1	1	1		
L	0							
I	0							
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# Example


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A	0	0	0+1	1	1	1	1	
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# Example

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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	0	0+1	1	1	1	1	1
L	0							
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E	0							
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		W	A	L	K	I	N	G
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A	0	0	0+1	1	1	1	1	1
L	0							
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# Example

		W	A	L	K	I	N	G
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	0	0+1	1	1	1	1	1
L	0	0						
I	0							
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# Example

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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	0	0+1	1	1	1	1	1
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I	0							
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# Example

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L	0	0	1	1+1				
I	0							
E	0							
N	0							



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# Example

		W	A	L	K	I	N	G
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	0	0+1	1	1	1	1	1
L	0	0	1	1+1	2			
I	0							
E	0							
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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	0	0+1	1	1	1	1	1
L	0	0	1	1+1	2	2		
I	0							
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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	0	0+1	1	1	1	1	1
L	0	0	1	1+1	2	2	2	2
I	0							
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# Example

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L	0	0	1	1+1	2	2	2	2
I	0	0	1	2	2	2+1	3	3
E	0	0	1	2	2	3	3	3
N	0	0	1	2	2	3	3+1	4

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# Recovering the Actual Solution

- We know particularly which case  $c(i, j)$  is from

$$c(i, j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i > 0, j > 0 \\ c(i-1, j-1) + 1 & \text{if } i > 0, j > 0 \text{ and } A[i] = B[j] \\ \max(c(i-1, j), c(i, j-1)) & \text{if } i > 0, j > 0 \text{ and } A[i] \neq B[j] \end{cases}$$

- If it is the second case, it simply means that  $A[i]$  is the last member in LCS

# What is the LCS?

Trace from the back

		W	A	L	K	I	N	G
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	0	0+1	1	1	1	1	1
L	0	0	1	1+1	2	2	2	2
I	0	0	1	2	2	2+1	3	3
E	0	0	1	2	2	3	3	3
N	0	0	1	2	2	3	3+1	4

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L	0	0	1	1+1	2	2	2	2
I	0	0	1	2	2	2+1	3	3
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N	0	0	1	2	2	3	3+1	4

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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	0	0+1	1	1	1	1	1
L	0	0	1	1+1	2	2	2	2
I	0	0	1	2	2	2+1	3	3
E	0	0	1	2	2	3	3	3
N	0	0	1	2	2	3	3+1	4

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Trace from the back

		W	A	L	K	I	N	G
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	0	0+1	1	1	1	1	1
L	0	0	1	1+1	2	2	2	2
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# What is the LCS?

Trace from the back

		W	A	L	K	I	N	G
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	0	0+1	1	1	1	1	1
L	0	0	1	1+1	2	2	2	2
I	0	0	1	2	2	2+1	3	3
E	0	0	1	2	2	3	3	3
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Trace from the back

		W	A	L	K	I	N	G
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	0	0+1	1	1	1	1	1
L	0	0	1	1+1	2	2	2	2
I	0	0	1	2	2	2+1	3	3
E	0	0	1	2	2	3	3	3
N	0	0	1	2	2	3	3+1	4

$$c(i,j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i=0 \text{ or } j=0 \\ c(i-1,j-1) + 1 & \text{if } i>0, j>0 \text{ and } A[i] = B[j] \\ \max( c(i-1,j) , c(i,j-1) ) & \text{if } i>0, j>0 \text{ and } A[i] \neq B[j] \end{cases}$$

# What is the LCS?

Trace from the back

		W	A	L	K	I	N	G
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A	0	0	0+1	1	1	1	1	1
L	0	0	1	1+1	2	2	2	2
I	0	0	1	2	2	2+1	3	3
E	0	0	1	2	2	3	3	3
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