**CS423 Lab 5: String Alignment**

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**Lab Exercises:**

***Timing experiment (record answers as you do these, so you have them for your write-up)***

1. Download the code (globalAlignmentSearch.py). This code includes the brute force search implementation of the global alignment algorithm. Read through the code to ensure your understanding of this version of the algorithm. Save the file and run it. It should print out some text, the best global alignment score, and the running time of the program. How long did it take (in sec)? \_\_\_**0.13**\_\_

2. Change the strings s and t in the file to something different, such that the strings have 10 characters each. Re-run the program. How long did it take (in sec)? \_\_\_\_\_**0.50**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. Change the strings s and t in the file such that the strings have 11 characters each. Re-run the program. How long did it take (in sec)? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**1.35**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. Now run the program with strings of length 12. How long did it take (in sec)? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**4.35**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. Now use strings of length 13. How long did it take (in sec)? \_\_\_\_\_**17.15**\_\_\_\_\_\_

*At some point, you may not want to watch the screen, so it is recommended that you use the other person’s computer to work on the next part of the lab while this code is running.*

6. Now use strings of length 14. How long did it take (in sec)? \_\_\_\_**67.87**\_\_\_\_\_

7. Now use strings of length 15. How long did it take (in sec)? \_\_\_\_\_\_**213.21**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Write-up (45 points):**

Create a Word or pdf file for your writeup of this lab and to show that you tested your code. Be sure to include your name(s) and lab number in your file. Unless otherwise specified below, use your implementation of global string alignment (not the search implementation) to answer the questions.

1. (6 pts) Let S = “AGCGTCTA” and T = “TGCATCTCGT”. Run your code on these sequences.
   1. What is the optimal **global** alignment score?

**-1**

* 1. What is the optimal **global** alignment?

**AGC-TCT--A**

**TGCATCTCGT**

* 1. What is the optimal **local** alignment score?

**21**

* 1. What is the optimal **local** alignment?

**GCCTCT**

**GCATCT**

* 1. What is the length of the LCS?

**5**

* 1. What is the LCS?

**GCTCT**

1. (6 pts) Load the FASTA files containing the coding region of PHO12 in yeast (yeastPHO12.txt) and the fly (flyPHO12.txt). You may copy/paste the convertFiletoSequence function from lab 1 to help you convert the FASTA file contents to a string. Answer the following questions based on these two DNA sequences.
   1. What is the optimal **global** alignment score?

**549**

* 1. Include the optimal **global** alignment of these two sequences as a text file in your zipped folder. Name the file PHO12\_global\_alignment.txt.
  2. What is the optimal **local** alignment score?

**660**

* 1. Include the optimal **local** alignment of these two sequences as a text file in your zipped folder. Name the file PHO12\_local\_alignment.txt.
  2. What is the length of the LCS?

**900**

* 1. Include the LCS as a text file in your zipped folder. Name the file PHO12\_LCS.txt.

1. (6 pts) Write a new python script called genRandom.py that defines the function genRandom that takes 4 parameters: length of string to generate, %AT, %CG, and output\_file\_name. It should generate a random DNA sequence of the given length that contains nucleotides produced at the AT and CG rates and writes the DNA sequence to a FASTA-formatted file (> random sequence in first line). Use the function to create two files. The first randomly generated DNA sequence should be the same length as the PHO12 yeast gene DNA sequence, with **38%** GC content. The second randomly generated DNA sequence should be the same length as the PHO12 fly gene, with **42%** GC content. Name the files yeast\_random.txt and fruit\_fly\_random.txt and includes these files in your zip file submission. You may find previous lab exercises useful for this task of generating a randomly composed DNA sequence and writing it to a file.
   1. Do you expect the global alignment score of the random DNA sequences to be less than, greater than, or about equal to the score you get for aligning the yeast and fruit fly genes in exercise 3? Why?

**We expect the global alignment score to be less than the score we get for aligning yeast and fruit fly. We are looking at a randomly generated sequence versus a naturally-selected mutated ortholog.**

* 1. Do you expect the local alignment score of the random DNA sequences to be less than, greater than, or about equal to the score you get for locally aligning the yeast and fruit fly genes in exercise 3? Why?

**We expect the global alignment score to be less than the score we get for aligning yeast and fruit fly. We are looking at a randomly generated sequence versus a naturally-selected mutated ortholog. Since it is an ortholog, they are fairly similar with a few insertions, deletions, or substitutions, whereas random has no similar heritage.**

* 1. Run your global alignment code on these two randomly generated DNA sequences. What is the optimal **global** alignment score of these random DNA sequences? Did this confirm your predication in (a)?

**Global—667; no**

* 1. Run your local alignment code on these randomly generated DNA sequences. What is the optimal **local** alignment score of these random DNA sequences? Did this confirm your prediction in (b)?

**Local—714, no**

1. (3 pts) Relationship between global alignment and local alignment
   1. Assume you are aligning two strings A and B and assume the same scoring model is used for global alignment and local alignment. Is the global score always smaller than or equal to the local score? Why or why not?

**Yes. Since the local alignment can skip bases at the beginning and/or end of the strings, it can skip a bunch of mismatches or insertions/deletions that the global alignment would have to account for, decreasing the global alignment score permanently. Also, the local alignment does not use negative values, simply replacing any negatives with 0 (a fresh start). In contrast, the global alignment saves negatives which can lower the score significantly compared to a 0.**

* 1. When are the two scores (local and global) equal?

**The two alignment values are equal when the strings align perfectly (all ordered bases in string one are identical to string two).**

1. (2 pts) Suppose you are aligning two short DNA sequences and, separately, aligning two long DNA sequences. Do you expect the optimal **local** alignment score to be larger for the short sequences or the long sequences? Why?

**Larger for the long sequences because you have more chances to get higher scoring alignments.**

1. (2 pts) Suppose you are aligning two short DNA sequences and, separately, aligning two long DNA sequences. Do you expect the optimal **global** alignment score to be bigger for the short sequences or the long sequences? Why?

**Bigger for the short sequences because the long ones have a higher chance of getting lots of mismatches and gaps, lowering the score substantially.**

1. (6 pts) Answer questions 4, 5, and 6 before doing this experiment. Previous lab exercises may provide guidance on this part. Download experiment.py and write the code to conduct the experiment described in the comments. Use the standard scoring system in local and global alignment (g = -6, match = 5, mismatch = -4). Run the experiment with strings of length 5 through 100, stepping by 5. Using the output file, create an excel line graph using the first column as the x data series and the second and third columns as the y data series. Paste the figure here.
2. (2 pts) Did the experiment confirm your predictions in questions 4, 5, and 6? If not, do you understand the trends in scores for local and global alignment?
3. (6 pts) Now, write a new python program called timingExperiment.py to run the following experiment:
   1. For N = 9 to 15 stepping by 1, generate 2 random DNA sequences (25% each for nucleotides), each of length N
      1. Time how long it takes your implementation of globalAlignment to calculate the optimal score (see globalAlignmentSearch.py to see how to use the time module) for strings of length N. Comment out the call to align in globalAlignmentScore, so the timing just includes how long it takes to get the score (and not the reconstructed alignment).
      2. Print the time results to a file with each line containing N, followed by tab, followed by the time.
   2. Open the resulting file in excel.
   3. Take the values you got for the search implementation version from the first part of this lab and insert those numbers into the excel file. Create a graph. Values for N are the x-axis with two line graphs (one for the dynamic programming) and one for the brute force search. Insert the graph here.
   4. Did the results of the graph match your expectations? Why or why not?
   5. If you have time, you can increase N past 15 and run the timings for the dynamic programming and brute search versions and re-draw the graph.
4. (6 pts) Using the code you wrote in 10, run the timing experiment for the dynamic programming algorithm implementation for global alignment for N from 50 to 5000, stepping by 50. Include the line graph with x-axis as N and y-axis as time in the report here.
   1. What is the big O running time of the dynamic programming algorithm for global alignment?
   2. How does the big O function match the experimental results?
   3. To align two DNA sequences, each of length N, how much memory is required using the dynamic programming approach? (in other words, how large is the scoring table?)
   4. To align two DNA sequences, each of length N, how much memory is required using the brute force search (in other words, how much data is stored while the algorithm runs)?

**Appendix A: Authorship (please include statement in your write-up)**

The code and write-up submitted for this lab were authored by the named person(s) on this lab report. All external sources to BIO/CS423 are cited properly.

**Appendix B: Code (40 points, based on correctness and style)**

Copy and paste the code (all files – three dynamic programming files, genRandom.py, timingExperiment.py) you wrote for lab 5 here (use Courier 8pt font). Also, upload the code files to Moodle as part of you zip folder.