Common subwords and subsequences

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Programming, Data Structures and Algorithms using Python

Week 9

Longest common subword

- Given two strings, find the (length of the) longest common subword
  - `"secret"`, `"secretary"` — `"secret"`, length 6
  - `"bisect"`, `"trisect"` — `"isect"`, length 5
  - `"bisect"`, `"secret"` — `"sec"`, length 3
  - `"director"`, `"secretary"` — `"ee"`, `"re"`, length 2

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- Formally
  - $u = a_0 a_1 \ldots a_{m-1}$
  - $v = b_0 b_1 \ldots b_{n-1}$

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  - Common subword of length k — for some positions i and j, $a_i a_{i+1} a_{i+k-1} = b_j b_{j+1} b_{j+k-1}$

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  - Find the largest such k — length of the longest common subword

Brute force

- $u = a_0 a_1 \ldots a_{m-1}$
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- Try every pair of starting positions i in u, j in v
  - Match $(a_i, b_j), (a_{i+1}, b_{j+1}), \ldots$ as far as possible
  - Keep track of longest match

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  - Match $(a_i, b_j), (a_{i+1}, b_{j+1}), \ldots$ as far as possible
  - Keep track of longest match
- Assuming $m > n$, this is $O(mn^2)$
  - mn pairs of starting positions
  - From each starting position, scan could be $O(n)$

Inductive structure

- $u = a_0 a_1 \dots a_{m-1}$
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- $LCW(i,j)$ — length of longest common subword in $a_i a_{i+1} \ldots a_{m-1}$, $b_j b_{j+1} \ldots b_{n-1}$
  - If $a_i \neq b_j$, $LCW(i,j) = 0$
  - If $a_i = b_j$, $LCW(i,j) = 1 + LCW(i+1, j+1)$

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  - In general, $LCW(i,n) = 0$ for all $0 \leq i \leq m$
  - In general, $LCW(m,j) = 0$ for all $0 \leq j \leq n$

Subproblem dependency

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		0	1	2	3	4	5	6
		s	e	c	r	e	t	•
0	b							
1	i							
2	s							
3	e							
4	c							
5	t							
6	•							

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- Start at bottom right and fill row by row or column by column

		0	1	2	3	4	5	6
		s	e	c	r	e	t	•
0	b							**0**
1	i							**0**
2	s							**0**
3	e							**0**
4	c							**0**
5	t							**0**
6	•							**0**

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		0	1	2	3	4	5	6
		s	e	c	r	e	t	•
0	b						**0**	**0**
1	i						**0**	**0**
2	s						**0**	**0**
3	e						**0**	**0**
4	c						**0**	**0**
5	t						**1**	**0**
6	•						**0**	**0**

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		s	e	c	r	e	t	•
0	b					**0**	**0**	**0**
1	i					**0**	**0**	**0**
2	s					**0**	**0**	**0**
3	e					**1**	**0**	**0**
4	c					**0**	**0**	**0**
5	t					**0**	**1**	**0**
6	•					**0**	**0**	**0**

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		s	e	c	r	e	t	•
0	b				**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
1	i				**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
2	s				**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
3	e				**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**
4	c				**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
5	t				**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**
6	•				**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

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1	i			**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
2	s			**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
3	e			**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**
4	c			**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
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2	s	**3**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
3	e	**0**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**
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Reading off the solution

- Find entry (i,j) with largest LCW value

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0	b	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	i	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	s	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	e	0	2	0	0	1	0	0
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5	t	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
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Reading off the solution

- Find entry (i,j) with largest LCW value
- Read off the actual subword diagonally

		0	1	2	3	4	5	6
		s	e	c	r	e	t	•
0	b	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	i	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	s	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	e	0	2	0	0	1	0	0
4	c	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
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4	c	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
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6	•	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Implementation

```
def LCW(u,v):
  import numpy as np
  (m,n) = (len(u),len(v))
  lcw = np.zeros((m+1,n+1))

  maxlcw = 0

  for c in range(n-1,-1,-1):
    for r in range(m-1,-1,-1):
      if u[r] == v[c]:
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  return(maxlcw)
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- Inductive solution is $O(mn)$, using dynamic programming or memoization

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Complexity

- Recall that brute force was $O(mn^2)$
- Inductive solution is $O(mn)$, using dynamic programming or memoization
  - Fill a table of size $O(mn)$
  - Each table entry takes constant time to compute

Longest common subsequence

- Subsequence — can drop some letters in between
- Given two strings, find the (length of the) longest common subwsequence
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- LCS is the longest path connecting non-zero LCW entries, moving right/down

		0	1	2	3	4	5	6
		s	e	c	r	e	t	•
0	b	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	i	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	s	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	e	0	2	0	0	1	0	0
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5	t	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
6	•	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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		s	e	c	r	e	t	•
0	b	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
1	i	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
2	s	**3**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
3	e	**0**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**
4	c	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
5	t	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**
6	•	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Applications

- Analyzing genes
  - DNA is a long string over `A`, `T`, `G`, `C`
  - Two species are similar if their DNA has long common subsequences

		0	1	2	3	4	5	6
		s	e	c	r	e	t	•
0	b	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	i	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	s	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	e	0	2	0	0	1	0	0
4	c	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
5	t	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
6	•	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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- Analyzing genes
  - DNA is a long string over `A`, `T`, `G`, `C`
  - Two species are similar if their DNA has long common subsequences
- `diff` command in Unix/Linux
  - Compares text files
  - Find the longest matching subsequence of lines
  - Each line of text is a "character"

		0	1	2	3	4	5	6
		s	e	c	r	e	t	•
0	b	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	i	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	s	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	e	0	2	0	0	1	0	0
4	c	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
5	t	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
6	•	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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  - Solve $LCS(i, j{+}1)$ and $LCS(i{+}1, j)$ and take the maximum
- Base cases as with LCW
  - $LCS(i,n) = 0$ for all $0 \leq i \leq m$
  - $LCS(m,j) = 0$ for all $0 \leq j \leq n$

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		0	1	2	3	4	5	6
		s	e	c	r	e	t	•
0	b							
1	i							
2	s							
3	e							
4	c							
5	t							
6	•							

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		0	1	2	3	4	5	6
		s	e	c	r	e	t	•
0	b							**0**
1	i							**0**
2	s							**0**
3	e							**0**
4	c							**0**
5	t							**0**
6	•							**0**

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		0	1	2	3	4	5	6
		s	e	c	r	e	t	•
0	b						**1**	**0**
1	i						**1**	**0**
2	s						**1**	**0**
3	e						**1**	**0**
4	c						**1**	**0**
5	t						**1**	**0**
6	•						**0**	**0**

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		0	1	2	3	4	5	6
		s	e	c	r	e	t	•
0	b					**2**	**1**	**0**
1	i					**2**	**1**	**0**
2	s					**2**	**1**	**0**
3	e					**2**	**1**	**0**
4	c					**1**	**1**	**0**
5	t					**1**	**1**	**0**
6	•					**0**	**0**	**0**

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		0	1	2	3	4	5	6
		s	e	c	r	e	t	•
0	b				2	2	1	0
1	i				2	2	1	0
2	s				2	2	1	0
3	e				2	2	1	0
4	c				1	1	1	0
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		s	e	c	r	e	t	•
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2	s			2	2	2	1	0
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4	c			2	1	1	1	0
5	t			1	1	1	1	0
6	•			0	0	0	0	0

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5	t		1	1	1	1	1	0
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2	s	4	3	2	2	2	1	0
3	e	3	3	2	2	2	1	0
4	c	2	2	2	1	1	1	0
5	t	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
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Reading off the solution

- Trace back the path by which each entry was filled

		0	1	2	3	4	5	6
		s	e	c	r	e	t	•
0	b	4	3	2	2	2	1	0
1	i	4	3	2	2	2	1	0
2	s	4	3	2	2	2	1	0
3	e	3	3	2	2	2	1	0
4	c	2	2	2	1	1	1	0
5	t	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
6	•	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Reading off the solution

- Trace back the path by which each entry was filled
- Each diagonal step is an element of LCS

		0	1	2	3	4	5	6
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0	b	4	3	2	2	2	1	0
1	i	4	3	2	2	2	1	0
2	s	4	3	2	2	2	1	0
3	e	3	3	2	2	2	1	0
4	c	2	2	2	1	1	1	0
5	t	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
6	•	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Implementation

```
def LCS(u,v):
  import numpy as np
  (m,n) = (len(u),len(v))
  lcs = np.zeros((m+1,n+1))

  for c in range(n-1,-1,-1):
    for r in range(m-1,-1,-1):
      if u[r] == v[c]:
        lcs[r,c] = 1 + lcs[r+1,c+1]
      else:
        lcs[r,c] = max(lcs[r+1,c],
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- Again $O(mn)$, using dynamic programming or memoization

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```

Complexity

- Again $O(mn)$, using dynamic programming or memoization
  - Fill a table of size $O(mn)$
  - Each table entry takes constant time to compute