

1. Suppose there is a penalty for 1 for each gap and a penalty of 2 for matching two different symbols in a column. What is the NW score of the strings AGTACG and ACATAG?

1. 3
2. 4
3. 5
4. 6

$$\begin{array}{c} A - GTCG \\ ACATA - G \end{array}$$

(2) is the correct answer. We have an upperbound of 8 if we compute the NW score of the original strings. The strings are of the same length so they must have an even NW score because inserting a gap in one of the strings will require we insert a gap in the other. We will have at least one mismatch will we give us a lowerbound of 4.

2. Let $X = x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m$ and $Y = y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n$ be two input strings, with each symbol x_i or y_j in $\{A, C, G, T\}$. How many relevant possibilities are there for the contents of the final column of an optimal alignment?

1. 2
2. 3
3. 4
4. $m \cdot n$

(2) is the correct answer. We choose for the x_m character to be a gap or the x_m character. We again can choose for the y_n character to be a gap or the y_n character. Making both x_m and y_n gaps would be redundant and we could have a better solution by having either x_m or y_n as a gap. Thus we have three options. x_m and y_n staying the same. x_m staying the same and matched with a gap. y_n staying the same and matched with a gap.