

# Edit Distance

## CS 491 CAP

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# Objectives

- ▶ Use DP to determine the edit distance between two strings.

# The Problem

- ▶ Given two strings  $s$  and  $t$ , how many “edits” does it take to transform one to another?
  - ▶ Edit = insert, delete, or change.
  - ▶ Usually each of these “costs” one unit.
- ▶ Usually called the Levenshtein Distance
- ▶ Examples:
  - ▶ changing DATA to BETA needs 2 steps.
  - ▶ changing ETA to BETA needs 1 step.
  - ▶ changing GRETA to BETA needs 2 steps.

# The Naïve Algorithm

## Base Cases

```
1  // Thanks, Wikipedia!
2  int LD(string s, int len_s, string t, int len_t) {
3      int cost;
4
5      /* base case: empty strings */
6      if (len_s == 0) return len_t;
7      if (len_t == 0) return len_s;
8
9      /* test if last characters of the strings match */
10     if (s[len_s-1] == t[len_t-1])
11         cost = 0;
12     else
13         cost = 1;
```

# The Näive Algorithm, ctd

## Recursive Case

```
15  /* return minimum of delete char from s,  
16      delete char from t,  
17      and delete char from both */  
18  return minimum(LD(s, len_s - 1, t, len_t    ) + 1,  
19                LD(s, len_s    , t, len_t - 1) + 1,  
20                LD(s, len_s - 1, t, len_t - 1) + cost);  
21  }
```

# Dynamic Programming using Memoization

## Base Cases

```
1  int LD(const char *s, int len_s, const char *t, int len_t)
2  {
3      vvi dp = vvi(len_s + 1, vi(len_t + 1));
4      int cost;
5
6      for(int i=0; i<=len_s; ++i)
7          dp[i][0] = i;
8
9      for(int i=0; i<=len_t; ++i)
10         dp[0][i] = i;
```

# Dynamic Programming using Memoization, ctd

## Memoized Part

```
11  for(int i=1; i<=len_s; ++i)
12      for(j=1; j<=len_t; ++j) {
13          cost = s[i] == t[j] ? 0 : 1;
14
15          dp[i,j] = minimum(dp[i-1][j] + 1,
16                          dp[i][j-1] + 1,
17                          dp[i-1][j-1] + cost);
18      }
19  return dp[len_s][len_t];
20 }
```