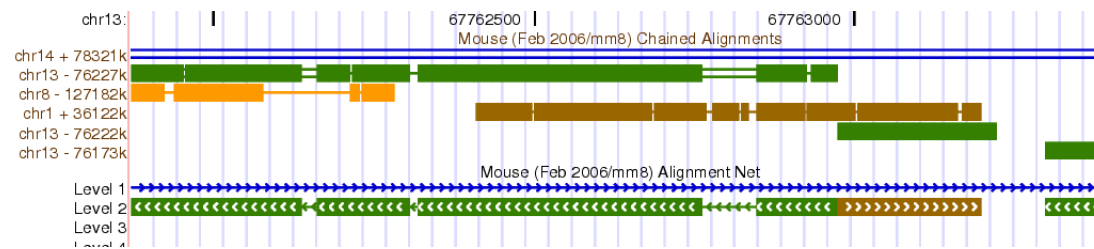


# Sequence Alignment (zarovňavanie sekvencií) 1/2

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[Durbin et al., 1998, chapter 2]

## Problem: Local alignment

ggccttggagttgactgtcctgctgctccttgagg  
ccattctcagagagaggaagtggcctcattttaatc  
cgcttcccacagccttgtcctttccagacccatggg  
agagggaggggctgaggggtgtggctgagcccacca  
agtcacgcgtcactctgcaggtccctctcccccaag  
gccgtggccttgggagcccgtggatcccagtgagtg  
acgcctccacccccgccctactcgggcagtttaac  
ccttgttgttcaacttgcagacatcgtgaacacggcc  
cggcccgcagagaaggccataatgacctatgtgtcc  
agcttctaccatgccttttcaggagcgcagaaggta  
ccgagcagggccaggcaggccctcctcgccgccacc  
gcgcaatgccgctgcctctcgctcccgtgctc  
acctcatttctcttgcagacggcagtggcctctctc  
caactggaagccacccccagctccct...

tgatgccgaggatgtgttcgctcgagcatccggacga  
gaagtccatcacctacgtggtcacctactatcacta  
cttagcaaactcaagcaggagacgggtgcagggcat  
aagcgtatcggtaaggtggctcggcattgccatggag  
aacgacaaaatggtccacgactacgagaacttcaca  
agcgatctgctcaagtggatcgaaacgacctccag  
tcgctgggcgagcgggagttcgaaaactcgctggcc  
ggcgtccaagggcagttggcccagttctccaactac  
cgcacctcgagaagccgcccagtttgtggaaaag  
ggcaacctcgaggtgctccttttcacctgcagtcc  
aagatgcgggccaacaaccagaagccctacacacc  
aaagagggcaagatgatttcggacatcaacaaggcc  
tgggagcgtctggagaaggccgagcacgaacgcgaa  
ttggcctgcgcgaggagctcatccg...

**Input:** two sequences

## Problem: Local alignment

ggcccttggagttgactgtcctgctgctccttgagg  
ccattctcagagagaggaagtggcctcattttaatc  
cgcttcccacagccttgtcctttccagacccatggg  
agagggaggggctgaggggtgtggctgagcccacca  
agtcacgcgtcactctgcaggtccctctcccccaag  
gccgtggccttgggagcccgtggatcccagtgagtg  
acgcctccacccccgcctactcgggcagtttaac  
ccttgttgttcacttgcagacatcgtgaacacggcc  
cggcccgacgagaaggccataatgacctatgtgtcc  
agcttctaccatgccttttcaggagcgcagaaggta  
ccgagcagggccaggcaggccctcctcgccgccacc  
cgcaatgcccgcctgcctctcgcctcccgtgctc  
acctcatttctcttgacagcggcagtggcctctctc  
caactggaagccacccccagctccct...

tgatgccgaggatgtgttcgtcgagcatccggacga  
gaagtccatcacctacgtggtcacctactatcacta  
ctttagcaaactcaagcaggagacgggtgcagggcat  
aagcgtatcggtaagggtggcgcattgccatggag  
aacgacaaaatggtccacgactacgagaacttcaca  
agcgatctgctcaagtggatcgaaacgaccatccag  
tcgctgggagcgggagttcgaaaactcgctggcc  
ggcgtccaagggcagttggcccagttctccaactac  
cgcaccatcgagaagccgccaagtgttgtaaag  
ggcaacctcgaggtgctccttttcacctgcagtcc  
aagatgcgggccaacaaccagaagccctacacacc  
aaagagggcaagatgatttcggacatcaacaaggcc  
tgggagcgtctggagaaggccgagcacgaacgcgaa  
ttggccctgcgcgaggagctcatccg...

**Output:** similar regions (in the form of an alignment)

```
CCCGACGAGAAGGCCATAATGACCTATGTGTCCAGCTTCTACCATGCCTTT  
|| ||||| ||| | ||||| ||| || || ||| || |||  
CCGGACGAGAAGTCCAT---CACCTACGTGGTCACCTACTATCACTACTTT
```

Insert dashes (gaps) so that corresponding bases in the same column.

A good alignment has many aligned matching bases, few gaps.

## What are alignments good for?

- **Orientation in large sequence databases.**

Genbank has more 3 TB of whole genome sequences.

E.g.: from which genome (and which part) comes a given sequence?

- **Determine function (e.g. of a protein).**

Similar sequences often have the same or similar function.

- **Evolutionary studies.**

Search for homologs, sequences which have evolved from the same common ancestor.

In the ideal case, gaps correspond to insertions and deletions, aligned bases to conserved bases and substitutions.

- **Finding genes and other functional elements.**

These often change slower than other sequences.

## Sequence alignment as an optimization problem

**Goal of the sequence alignment:** find pairs of homologous bases (coming from a common ancestor)

**Modeling phase:** choose a scoring scheme such that

- real alignments have high score
- false positives have low score

**Optimization phase:**

given two input sequences find the highest scoring alignment

- focus on computational efficiency

## Problem formulation

Set up a **scoring scheme** for alignments

e.g. match +1, mismatch -1, gap -1

```
GAGAAGGCCATAATGACCTATGTGTCCAGCT
|||||  |||  ||||  ||  ||  ||
GAGAAGTCCAT---CACCTACGTGGTCACCT
```

22 matches, 6 mismatches, 3 gaps → score 13.

In practice we often use more complex scoring schemes.

### Problem 1: global alignment

Input: sequences  $X = x_1x_2 \dots x_n$  and  $Y = y_1y_2 \dots y_m$ .

Output: alignment of  $X$  and  $Y$  with the highest score

### Problem 2: local alignment

Input: sequences  $X = x_1x_2 \dots x_n$  and  $Y = y_1y_2 \dots y_m$ .

Output: alignment of substrings  $x_i \dots x_j$  and  $y_k \dots y_\ell$  with highest score

## Dynamic programming for global alignment (Needleman, Wunsch 1970)

**Subproblem**  $A[i, j]$ : highest score of a global alignment of  $x_1x_2 \dots x_i$   
a  $y_1y_2 \dots y_j$

**One of the strings has length 0:** the other string is aligned to gaps  
 $A[0, j] = -j, A[i, 0] = -i$

**General case  $i > 0, j > 0$ :**

if  $x_i = y_j$  are aligned  $A[i, j] = A[i - 1, j - 1] + 1$

if  $x_i \neq y_j$  are aligned  $A[i, j] = A[i - 1, j - 1] - 1$

if  $x_i$  is aligned to a gap  $A[i, j] = A[i - 1, j] - 1$

if  $y_j$  is aligned to a gap  $A[i, j] = A[i, j - 1] - 1$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 x_1 \dots x_{i-1} & x_i & & x_1 \dots x_{i-1} & x_i & & x_1 \dots x_i & - \\
 \underbrace{y_1 \dots y_{j-1}}_{A[i-1, j-1]} & \underbrace{y_j}_{\pm 1} & & \underbrace{y_1 \dots y_j}_{A[i-1, j]} & \underbrace{-}_{-1} & & \underbrace{y_1 \dots y_{j-1}}_{A[i, j-1]} & \underbrace{y_j}_{-1}
 \end{array}$$

## Dynamic programming for global alignment

**Subproblem**  $A[i, j]$ : highest score of a global alignment of  $x_1x_2 \dots x_i$   
a  $y_1y_2 \dots y_j$

**General case**  $i > 0, j > 0$ :

if  $x_i = y_j$  are aligned  $A[i, j] = A[i - 1, j - 1] + 1$

if  $x_i \neq y_j$  are aligned  $A[i, j] = A[i - 1, j - 1] - 1$

if  $x_i$  is aligned to a gap  $A[i, j] = A[i - 1, j] - 1$

if  $y_j$  is aligned to a gap  $A[i, j] = A[i, j - 1] - 1$

**Recurrence:**

$$A[i, j] = \max \begin{cases} A[i - 1, j - 1] + s(x_i, y_j), \\ A[i - 1, j] - 1, \\ A[i, j - 1] - 1 \end{cases}$$

where  $s(x, y) = 1$  if  $x = y$  and  $s(x, y) = -1$  if  $x \neq y$



## Global alignment example

CATGTCGTA vs CAGTCCTAGA

		C	A	G	T	C	C	T	A	G	A
	0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8	-9	-10
C	-1	1	0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8
A	-2	0	2	1	0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6
T	-3	-1	1	1	?						
G	-4										
T	-5										
C	-6										
G	-7										
T	-8										
A	-9										

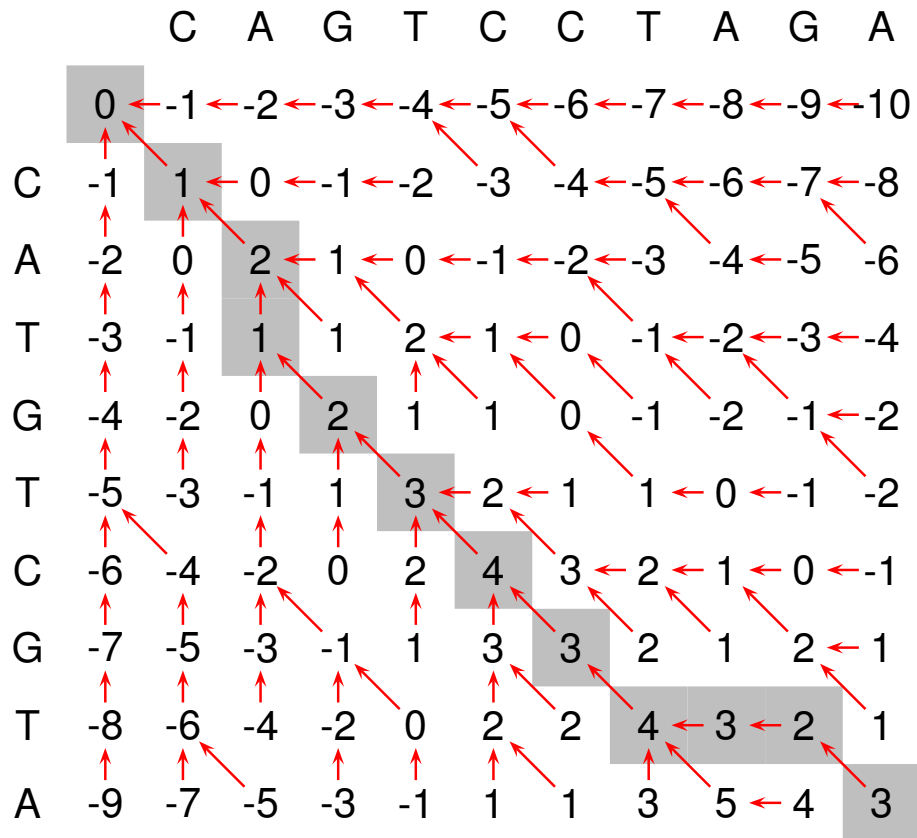
$$A[i, j] = \max \begin{cases} A[i - 1, j - 1] + s(x_i, y_j), \\ A[i - 1, j] - 1, \\ A[i, j - 1] - 1 \end{cases}$$

## Global alignment example

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		C	A	G	T	C	C	T	A	G	A
	0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8	-9	-10
C	-1	1	0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8
A	-2	0	2	1	0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6
T	-3	-1	1	1	2	1	0	-1	-2	-3	-4
G	-4	-2	0	2	1	1	0	-1	-2	-1	-2
T	-5	-3	-1	1	3	2	1	1	0	-1	-2
C	-6	-4	-2	0	2	4	3	2	1	0	-1
G	-7	-5	-3	-1	1	3	3	2	1	2	1
T	-8	-6	-4	-2	0	2	2	4	3	2	1
A	-9	-7	-5	-3	-1	1	1	3	5	4	3

## How to get the alignment?



CA-GTCCTAGA

CATGTCGT--A

## Dynamic programming for local alignment (Smith, Waterman 1981)

**Subproblem**  $A[i, j]$ : highest score of a local alignment of  $x_1x_2 \dots x_i$  a  $y_1y_2 \dots y_j$  that contains both  $x_i$  and  $y_j$  or is empty

**One of the strings has length 0:**  $A[0, j] = A[i, 0] = 0$  (empty aln.)

**General case**  $i > 0, j > 0$ :

if  $x_i$  and  $y_j$  are aligned  $A[i, j] = A[i - 1, j - 1] + s(x_i, y_j)$

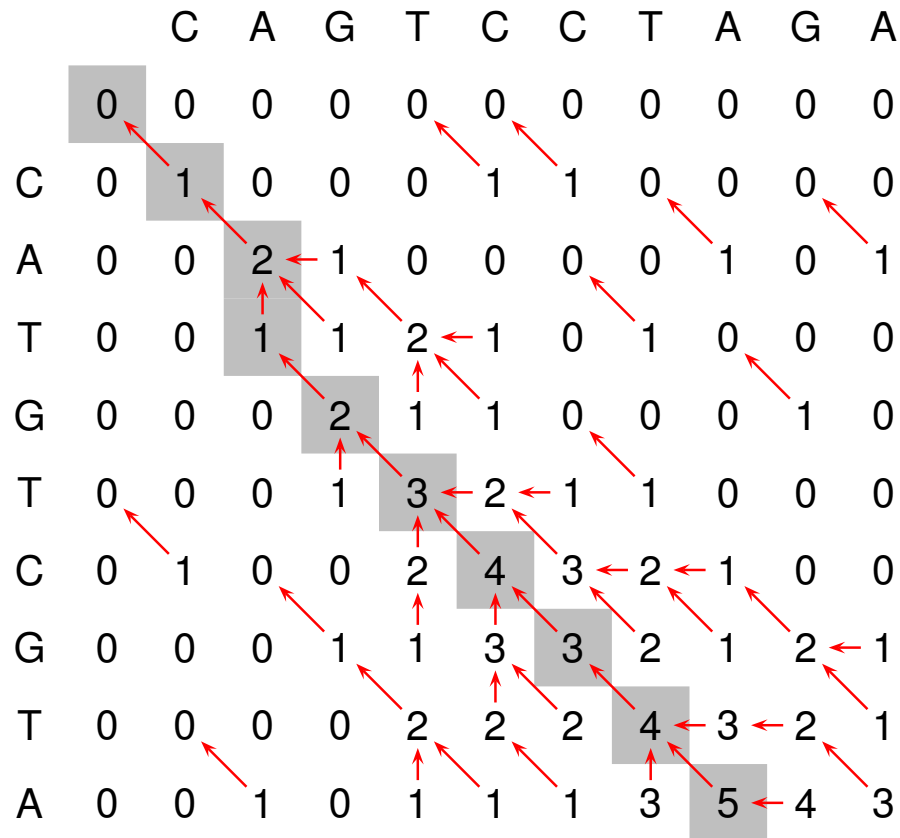
if  $x_i$  is aligned to a gap  $A[i, j] = A[i - 1, j] - 1$

if  $y_j$  is aligned to a gap  $A[i, j] = A[i, j - 1] - 1$

if  $x_i$  and  $y_j$  are not part of alignment with a positive score  $A[i, j] = 0$

**Recurrence:**  $A[i, j] = \max \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 0, \\ A[i - 1, j - 1] + s(x_i, y_j), \\ A[i - 1, j] - 1, \\ A[i, j - 1] - 1 \end{array} \right.$

## Example of local alignment



CA-GTCCTA

CATGTCGTA

## More complex scoring schemes

### Problems of the +1, -1 scoring scheme:

- Is really one mismatch or gap that bad compared to a single match?
- How to score protein alignments?  
(20 element alphabet  $\approx$  200 parameters)

### Goal of the scoring scheme:

- We want to distinguish better alignments from worse:
  - Which arrangements of gaps are more meaningful?
- We want to know if an alignment has a biological meaning:
  - Are the two sequences homologs or unrelated?

## Probabilistic scoring scheme (the first attempt)

Assume  $X$  and  $Y$  are **correctly aligned homologs**

$a$  = probability that two bases form a **match**

$b$  = probability that two bases form a **mismatch**

$c$  = probability that a base is aligned to a **gap**

$$a + b + c = 1$$

### Probability of alignment $A$ :

```
GAGAAGGCCATAATGACCTATGTGTCCAGCT
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
GAGAAGTCCAT---CACCTACGTGGTCACCT
```

$$\Pr(A) = a^{22}b^6c^3$$

### Which alignment is more likely?

```
CACA
| |
CCAA
```

$$\Pr(A) = a^2b^2$$

```
CACA-
| ||
C-CAA
```

$$\Pr(A) = a^3c^2$$

## Probabilistic scoring scheme (the first attempt)

Take logarithm to change multiplication into addition  
we can use S.-W. or N.-W. dynamic programming algorithms

$$\Pr(A) = a^{22}b^6c^3$$

$$\log \Pr(A) = 22 \log a + 6 \log b + 3 \log c$$

**Score:** Match:  $\log a$     Mismatch:  $\log b$     Gap:  $\log c$

### Disadvantage of this scheme:

- Score always negative  $\Rightarrow$  how to do local alignment?
- Hard to compare different pairs of sequences



## Scoring scheme based on two probabilistic models

Compare models **H** and **R**: “log likelihood ratio”

$$\log \frac{\Pr(X, Y | H)}{\Pr(X, Y | R)}$$

- Two sequences are **homologs**
  - ⇒ likelihood ratio much higher than 1
  - ⇒ **positive score**
- Two **unrelated** sequences
  - ⇒ likelihood ratio much lower than 1
  - ⇒ **negative score**

## Scoring scheme based on two probabilistic models

(Ignore gaps for now)

**Model H:** Sequences  $X$  and  $Y$  are **correctly aligned homologs**

$$\Pr(X, Y | H) = \prod_{i=1}^n p(x_i, y_i)$$

$p(x_i, y_i)$  : probability that alignment contains aligned bases  $x_i$  and  $y_i$

**Model R:** Sequences  $X$  and  $Y$  are unrelated

$$\Pr(X, Y | R) = \left(\prod_{i=1}^n p(x_i)\right) \left(\prod_{i=1}^n p(y_i)\right)$$

$p(x_i)$  : probability of occurrence of  $x_i$  in a sequence

**Compare models H and R:** “log likelihood ratio”

$$\log \frac{\Pr(X, Y | H)}{\Pr(X, Y | R)}$$

## Scoring scheme based on two probabilistic models

$$\Pr(X, Y | H) = \prod_{i=1}^n p(x_i, y_i)$$

$$\Pr(X, Y | R) = \left(\prod_{i=1}^n p(x_i)\right) \left(\prod_{i=1}^n p(y_i)\right)$$

$$\log \frac{\Pr(X, Y | H)}{\Pr(X, Y | R)} = \log \frac{\prod_{i=1}^n p(x_i, y_i)}{\left(\prod_{i=1}^n p(x_i)\right) \left(\prod_{i=1}^n p(y_i)\right)} = \sum_{i=1}^n \log \frac{p(x_i, y_i)}{p(x_i)p(y_i)}$$

score for aligning bases  $x$  and  $y$ :

$$s(x, y) = \log \frac{p(x, y)}{p(x)p(y)}$$

## BLOSUM62 protein scoring matrix

BLOcks of aminoacid SUbstitution Matrix; Henikoff, Henikoff 1992

	A	R	N	D	C	Q	E	G	H	I	L	...
A	4	-1	-2	-2	0	-1	-1	0	-2	-1	-1	
R	-1	5	0	-2	-3	1	0	-2	0	-3	-2	
N	-2	0	6	1	-3	0	0	0	1	-3	-3	
D	-2	-2	1	6	-3	0	2	-1	-1	-3	-4	
C	0	-3	-3	-3	9	-3	-4	-3	-3	-1	-1	
Q	-1	1	0	0	-3	5	2	-2	0	-3	-2	
E	-1	0	0	2	-4	2	5	-2	0	-3	-3	
G	0	-2	0	-1	-3	-2	-2	6	-2	-4	-4	
H	-2	0	1	-1	-3	0	0	-2	8	-3	-3	
I	-1	-3	-3	-3	-1	-3	-3	-4	-3	4	2	
L	-1	-2	-3	-4	-1	-2	-3	-4	-3	2	4	
...												

- Choose **biologically relevant protein alignments** (BLOCKS)
- Only pairs with identity at most 62%
- $p(x, y)$ : how often we see amino acids  $x$  and  $y$  aligned
- $p(x)$ : how often we see amino acid  $x$

- **Score for a pair of amino acids  $x$  and  $y$** :  $\log \frac{p(x, y)}{p(x)p(y)}$
- multiply by a constant and round to integers:
  - to avoid too big rounding error
  - integers allow faster computation

## More complex scoring: Affine gap scores

```
CCCGACGAGAAGGCCATAATGACCTATGTGTCCAGCTTCTACCATGCCTTT
|| ||||| ||| ||||| ||| || ||| || |||
CCGGACGAGAAGTCCAT---CACCTACGTGGTCACCTACTATCACTACTTT
```

Several consecutive gaps likely originated in a single mutation rather than each independently.

Penalty for starting a gap (gap opening cost)  $o$ ,

Penalty for each next gap symbol (gap extension cost)  $e$ .

Gap of length  $g$  has penalty  $o + e(g - 1)$ .

We choose  $o < e$  (i.e.  $|o| > |e|$ ).

Default settings of blastn: match +2, mismatch -3,  $o = -5$ ,  $e = -2$ .

Example above: 22 matches, 6 mismatches, 1 gap of length 3

→ score  $2 \cdot 22 - 3 \cdot 6 - 5 - 2 \cdot 2 = 16$ .

## Summary

- Global and local alignments
- Needleman-Wunsch and Smith-Waterman algorithms
- Scoring schemes for alignments based on comparing likelihoods
- Protein BLOSUM scoring matrix
- Affine gap penalties

## Problems to think about:

1. **Running time of Smith-Waterman:**  $O(nm)$

$n$  - length of the first sequence

$m$  - length of the second sequence

**Local alignments between human and mouse?**

2. We found an alignment with score 14

**Is this a good score or is it a score that would appear just by chance?**