#### Lecture 7

# String similarity and alignments

## The edit-distance based similarity metric

S	а	С	С	g	С
S1	а	С		t	С

S	а		С	С		g	С
S2	а	С	С	С	t	g	С

The smaller is the edit distance, the larger is the similarity

The edit distance alone is not always sufficient metric to characterize similarity between strings

In these 2 examples, the edit distance between S and S1 is the same as an edit distance between S and S2, but it is intuitively clear that S is more similar to S2 than to S1, since they share more identical characters

We want to evaluate what was preserved rather than what changed to infer the common pattern

## The longest common substring



 The longest substring, common to both strings, the longest sequence of consecutive characters which occur in both strings

The longest sequence of *consecutive matches* 

• The linear-time solution via suffix tree

## The longest common subsequence

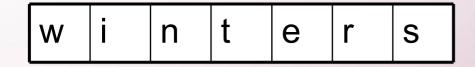
- A subsequence of a string S is a subset of characters of S in their original relative order
  A subsequence does not need to consist of the consecutive characters of S
- Given 2 strings S1 and S2, *a common subsequence* for 2 strings is a subsequence which appears both in S1 and S2

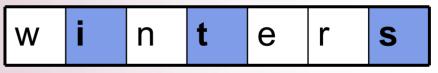
• The longest common subsequence is a longest between all possible subsequences of S1 and S2





#### **Substring vs subsequence**





its – a subsequence of winters

*inter* – both substring and subsequence of *winters* 

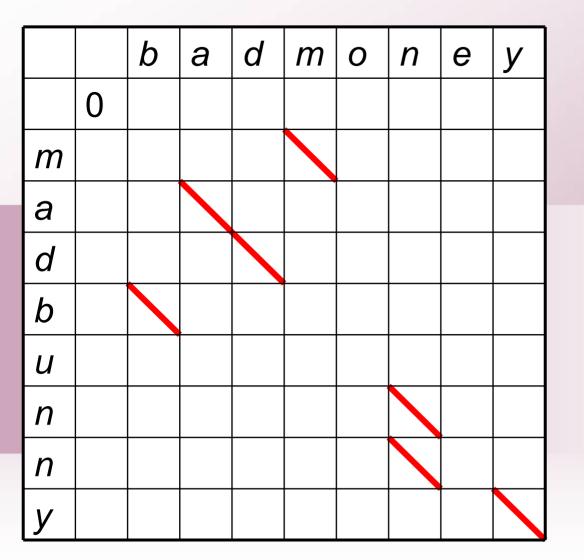
## Longest Common Subsequence (LCS)

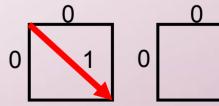
m	а	d	b	u	n	n	У	
b	а	d	m	0	n	е	у	

m	а	d	b	u	n	n	У	
b	а	d	m	0	n	е	у	

How can we be sure that *adny* is the longest common subsequence

## The Dynamic Programming solution for LCS. Edit graph

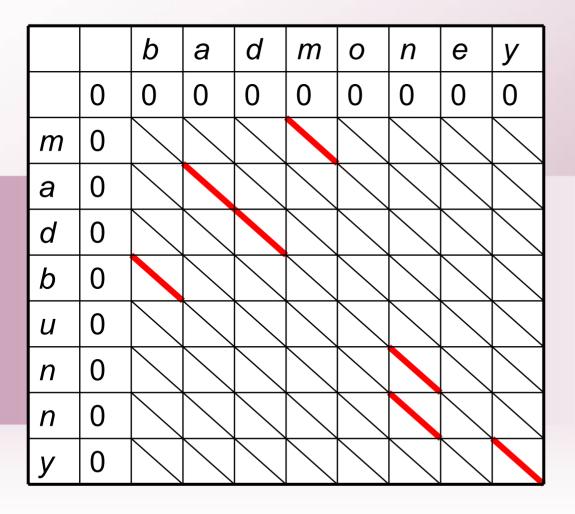




Since we are interested in a longest sequence of matches, we give to the red edges cost 1 and to all the other edges cost 0

Since aligning 2 different characters does not contribute to the total score we do not consider the diagonal edges in case of mismatch

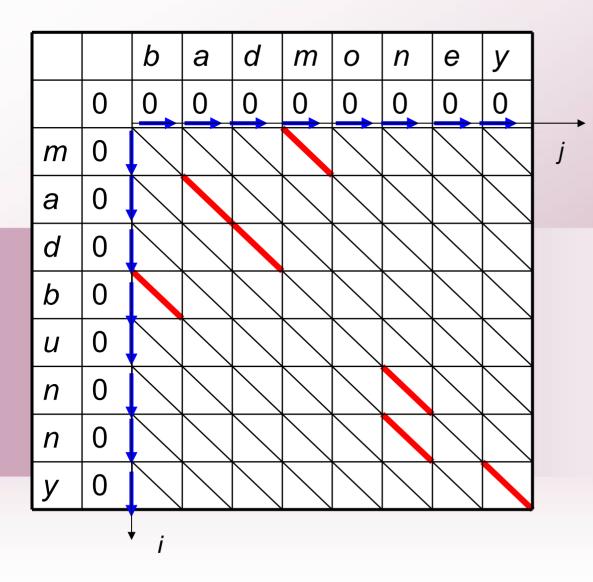
## The Dynamic Programming solution for LCS. The greediest path



> The problem can be reduced to finding the greediest (the longest) path through matches -

the path with the largest cost

#### **Base condition**



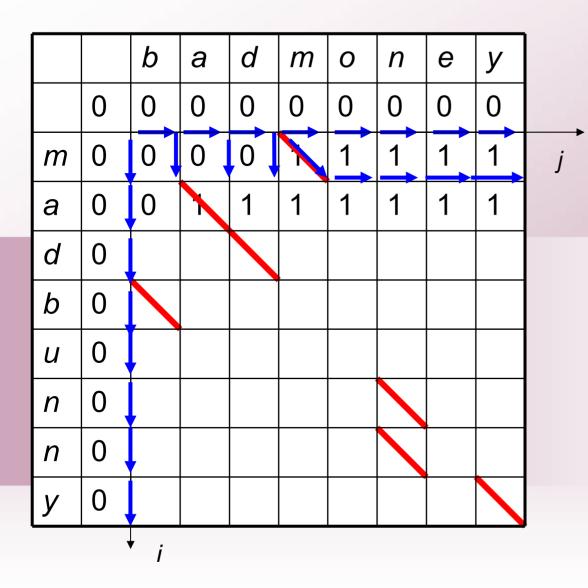
All the black edges are of cost 0, so moving strictly right or down gives paths of a total cost 0



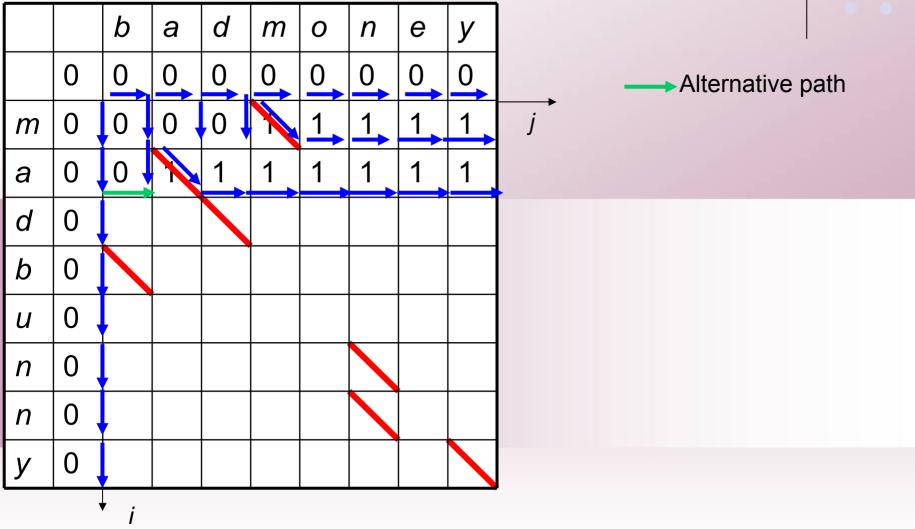


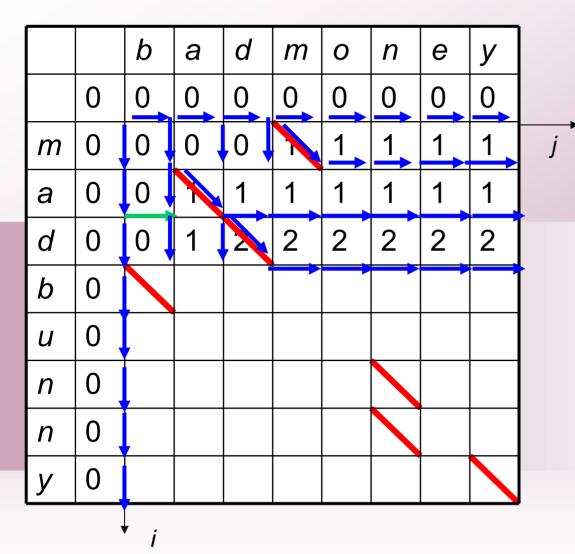
#### **LCS.** Recurrence relation

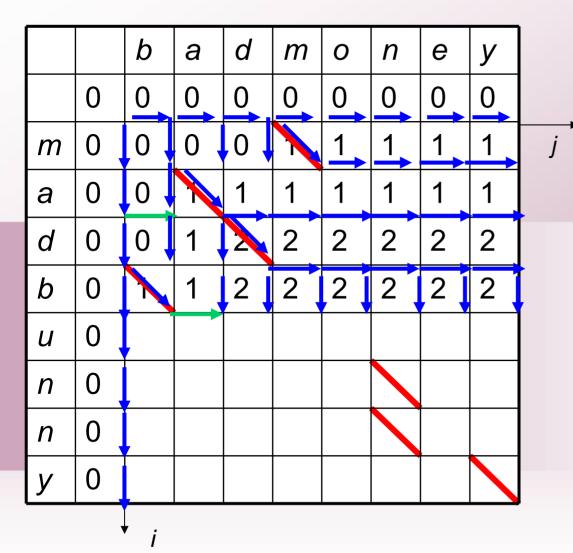
	COST(i-1,j)
COST(i,j)=max <	COST(i,j-1)
	COST(i-1,j-1)+1 if S1[i]=S2[j]

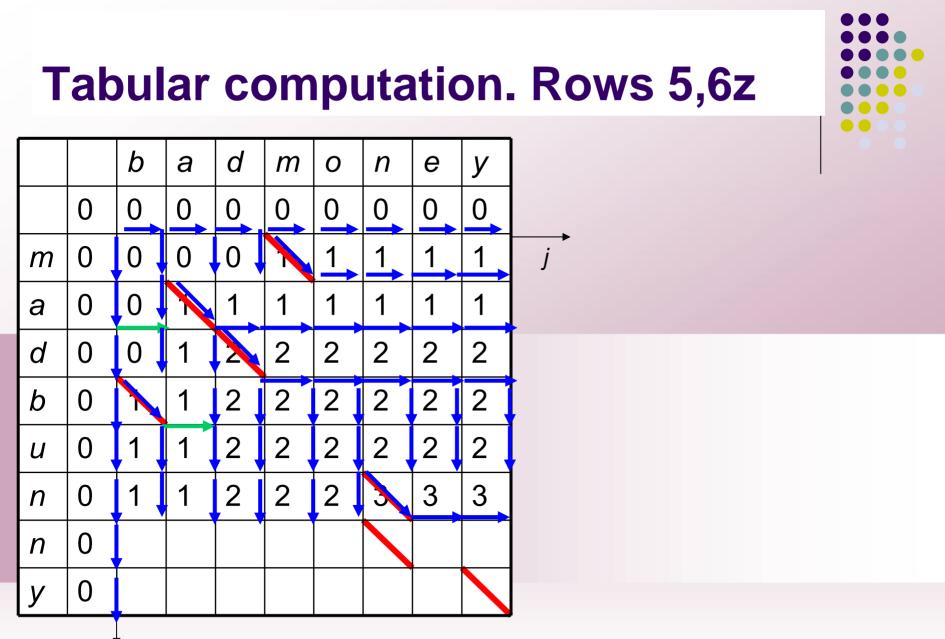




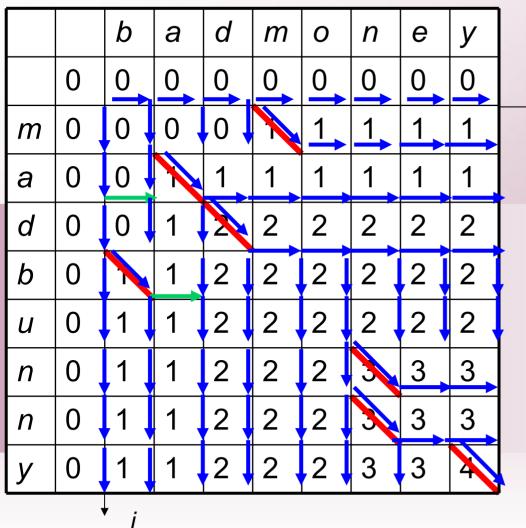






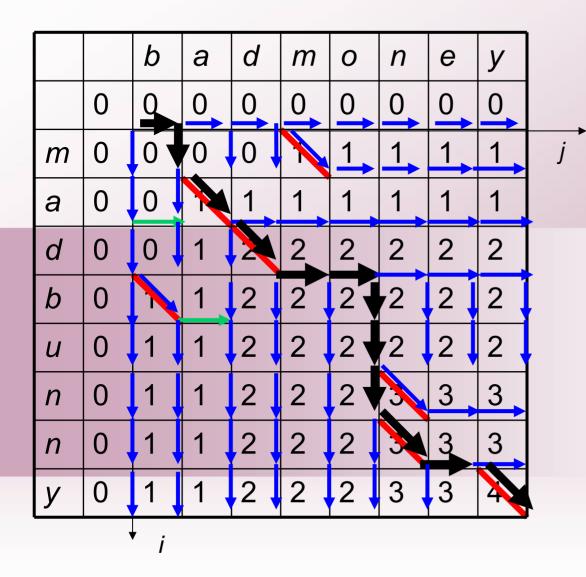


i



Read the length of the longest common subsequence in cell [N][M]

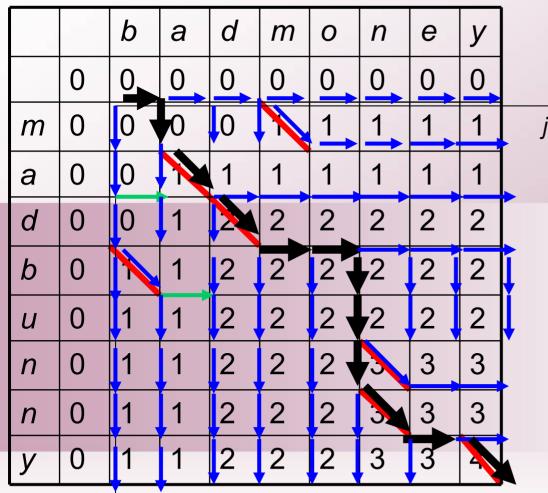
#### LCS. Traceback



subsequence

Find the subsequence itself following the sequence of matches backwards

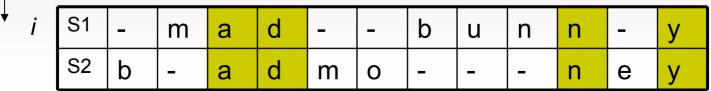
### **LCS. Alignment**





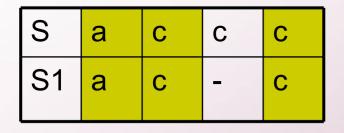
Note, that only the matches are aligned, since this is the problem we are solving – finding the longest sequence of matches

We don't count the number of edit operations, since their cost in this model is 0





#### The LCS based similarity metric



S	а	-	С	С	-	-	С
S2	а	С	С	-	t	g	С

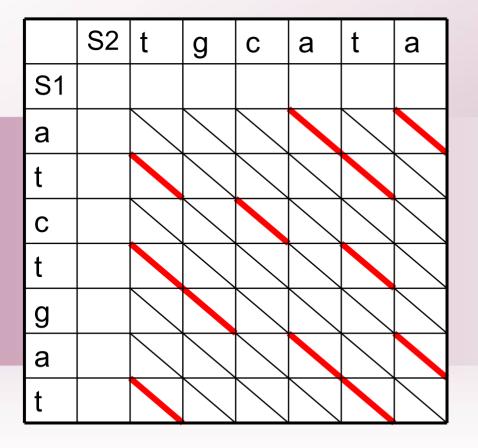
The longer is the LCS, the more similar are the strings

The LCS alone is not sufficient similarity metric

In these 2 examples, the LCS of S and S1 is the same as the LCS of S and S2, but it is intuitively clear that S is more similar to S1 than to S2, since they have more different characters

We want to score both the matches and the differences

## Basic optimal alignment scores



-1 0 -1t us set the simplest weights of the

Let us set the simplest weights of the edges:

For a match: award of 1

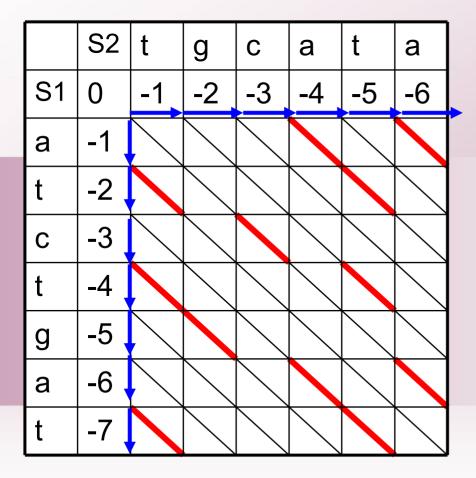
For a mismatch: penalty of -1

For a gap: penalty of -1

Then the maximum cost of the path in the edit graph will give a numerical score of the similarity between S1 and S2: large positive values – two strings are similar, negative or low positive values – the strings are different

#### **Optimal alignment. Base condition**

-1



Since moving from point (0,0) strictly to the right or to the bottom corresponds to a series of gaps, we initialize the 0-column and 0row with consecutive negative integers

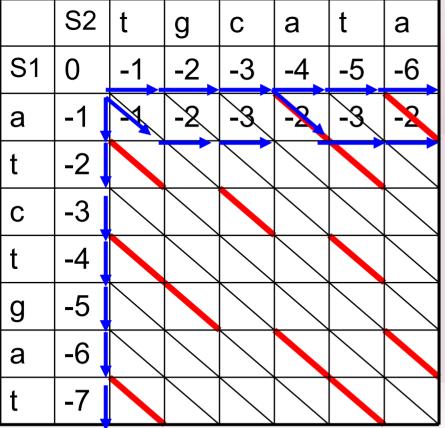
#### Optimal alignment. Recurrence relation

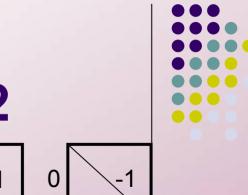


 $COST(i,j)=max \begin{cases} COST(i-1,j) - 1 \\ COST(i,j-1) - 1 \\ COST(i-1,j-1)+diagonal(i,j) \end{cases}$ 

diagonal(i,j)=  $\begin{cases} 1 \text{ if } S1[i]=S2[j] \\ -1 \text{ if } S1[i]\neq S2[j] \end{cases}$ 

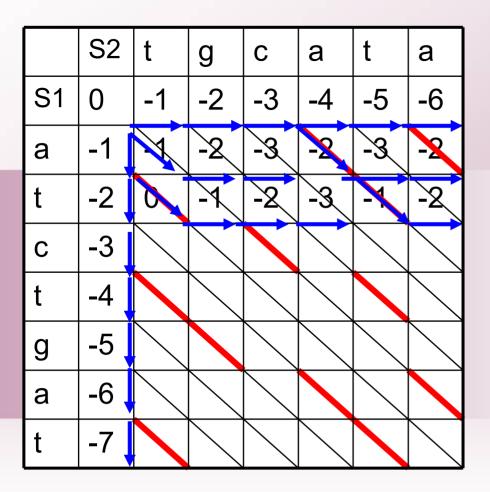






-1

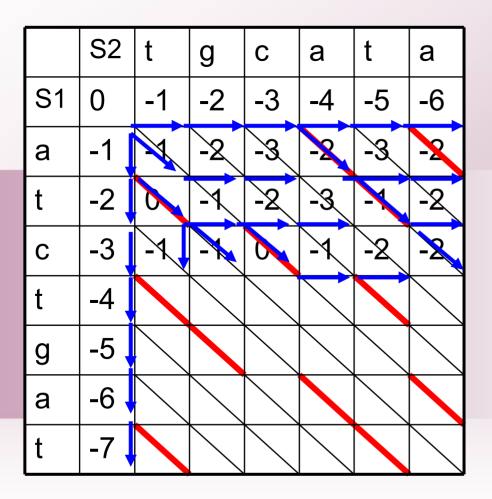
## Optimal alignment. Row 2





## Optimal alignment. Row 3

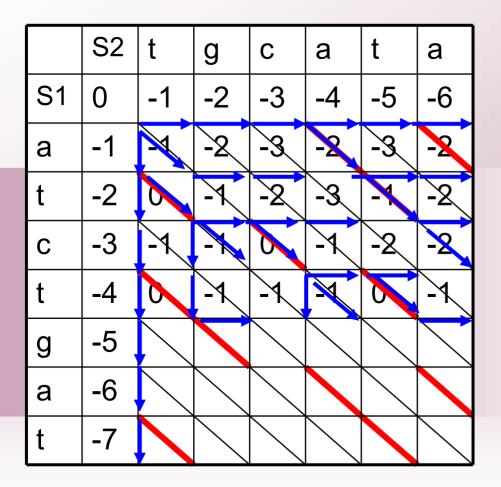
-1



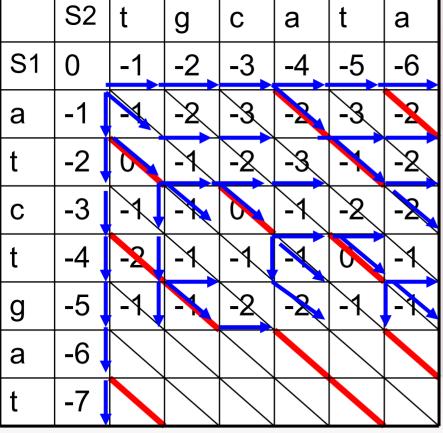


## Optimal alignment. Row 4

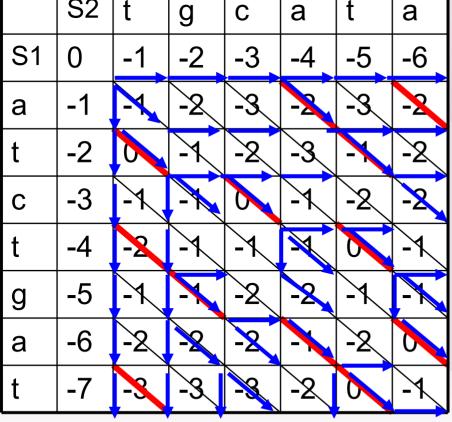
-1





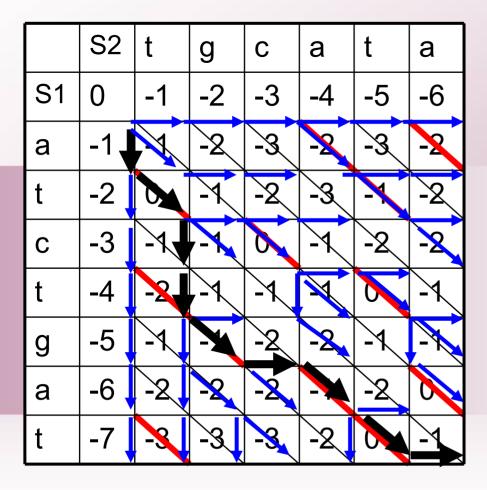


## **Optimal alignment.** Rows 6,7 -1 -1 -1 0 -1S2 t q c a t a

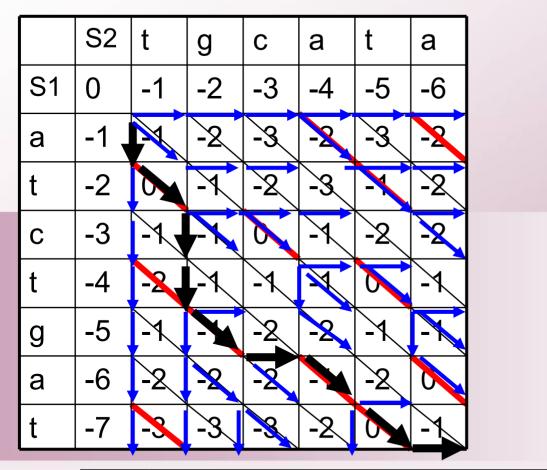




### **Optimal alignment. Traceback**



## **Optimal alignment. Alignment**



S1	а	t	С	t	g	-	а	t	-
S2	-	t	-	-	g	С	а	t	а

#### **General scoring schemes**

	COST(i-1,j) + gapCost
COST(i,j) <b>=max</b> <	COST(i,j-1) + gapCost
	COST(i-1,j-1)+score(S1[i], S2[j])

Here the *gapCost* is the cost of aligning each character with a gap, and it should be negative in order to penalize

score depends on the characters placed opposite to each other. It is always positive for a pair of matching characters

The total score is a summative score of aligning the characters in S1 and S2, maximized over all the combinations of possible alignments

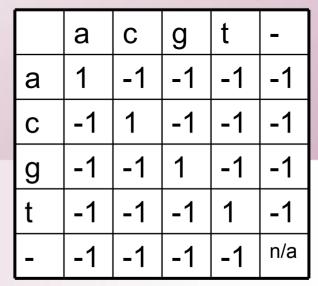
## The scoring matrix

For an alphabet  $\Sigma$  of size  $\sigma$  add one more artificial character '-'.

Then the scoring matrix is a  $(\sigma+1)^*(\sigma+1)$  table, where for each character of  $\Sigma$  plus '-' there is a cost of aligning this character with each other character.

If an optimal alignment has been computed according to a given scoring matrix, the total score of an alignment is the sum of scores of the columns of an alignment table

#### Our scoring matrix



S1	а	t	С	t	g	-	а	t	-
S2	-	t	-	-	g	С	а	t	а
	-1	1	-1	-1	1	-1	1	1	-1

#### The sequence of mutations

S1	а	t	С	t	g	-	а	t	-
S2	-	t	-	-	С	С	а	t	а

This alignment suggests that S1 was transformed into S2 by the following sequence of evolutionary events:

Deletion of nucleotide a

Deletion of nucleotides c and t

Substitution of nucleotide g by c

Insertion of nucleotide c

Deletion of nucleotide a

Since an optimal alignment is not unique, this sequence of mutations is only one of many possible explanations

#### **Mutations**

YOU ARE THE TOP DOG

YOU ARE THE POP DOG

YOO UAR ETH ETO PDO

• Mutagenesis (causes of mutations)

- Wrong base-pairing during replication point
- Damage from the environmental agents point
- Unequal crossing-over macromutations
- Insertions from mobile genes (transposons) macromutations
- Point mutations can be as deleterious as the macromutations, since they can break the reading frame or introduce a stop codon in the middle of the reading frame

#### **Mutations**

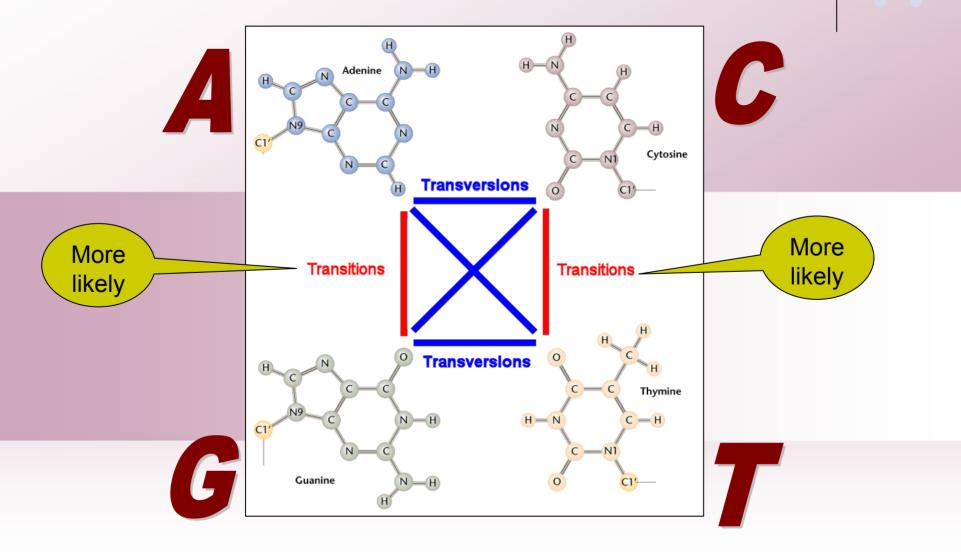


 Regulatory mechanisms of DNA repair try to undo the mutations

 Despite this, all cells possess a spontaneous mutation rate defined as a number of mutations which normally occur in each genome over a particular time

• This allows to infere the evolutionary distance between species diverged from a common ancestor

## Some mutations are more likely than the others



## The first scoring matrix for a real DNA

A, G – 2-ring bases

T, C – 1-ring bases

Mutation which preserves rings number is much more likely than changing the number of rings.

The score of exact matches: +3

	а	С	g	t	-
а	3	0	2	0	-1
С	0	3	0	2	-1
g	2	0	3	0	-1
t	0	2	0	3	-1
-	-1	-1	-1	-1	

The score of transitions A->G, G->A and T->C, C->A: + 2

The score of any other mismatch (transversions) is 0

#### Gaps



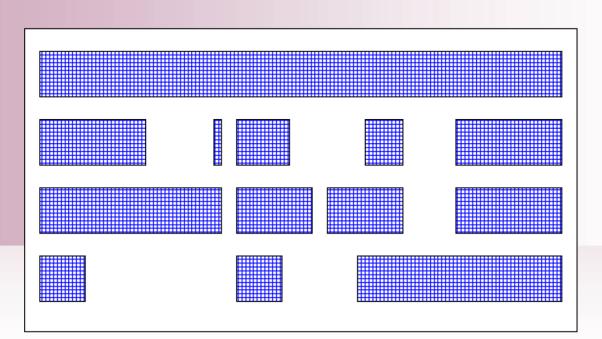
• The deletion or insertion of a single nucleotide is often called *indel* (insertion/deletion)

- In real molecular life, the insertions/ deletions occur in a consecutive block, rather than at the level of single nucleotides
- The deletion/insertion of an entire substring occurs as a single mutational event
- The sequence of consecutive insertions/deletions is called a *gap*

### **Scoring gaps**

Each row represents a part of the genomic sequence of a different strain of HIV virus. 3 bottom rows represent mutated genotypes with an ancestral sequence in the top row.

How many evolutionary events did really occur in each of these 3 cases?





### **Scoring gaps**



- An optimal alignment of two biological sequences is intended to reflect the likelihood of mutational events.
- Since a gap of more than 1 space can be created by a single mutational event, the alignment model should reflect the true distribution of indels in gaps, not merely the number of indels in an alignment

### **Scoring gaps**



- Constant gap weights
  - Give score -1 for each gap independently of its length

- Affine gap weights
  - Give score ρ + μ M for a gap of length M
  - ρ is comparatively large (for example, -1)
  - µ is comparatively small (for example -0.01)

 In this way we count each gap as a single mutational event, but we take into account that longer gaps are less likely to occur than the shorter gaps

# The recurrence relation for affine gap weights



COST(i-1,j) -0.01

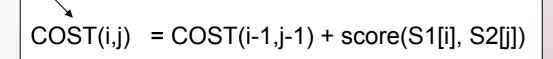
↓ COST(i,j)=max

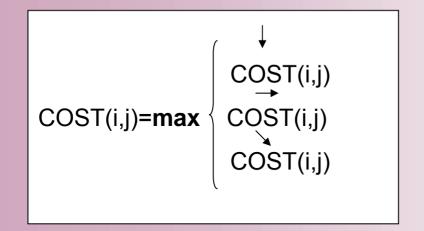
$$\overrightarrow{\text{COST}(i,j)} = \max \begin{cases} \overrightarrow{\text{COST}(i,j-1)} - 0.01 \\ COST(i,j-1) - 1 - 0.01 \end{cases}$$

When we compute the cost of moving from the top, we distinguish 2 cases:

- if the top character was already a part of a gap, we just penalize for the extension of the gap.
- 2. Otherwise, we penalize for the opening of a new gap of length1
- The same when computing the cost of moving from the left to the current cell

## The recurrence relation for affine gap weights

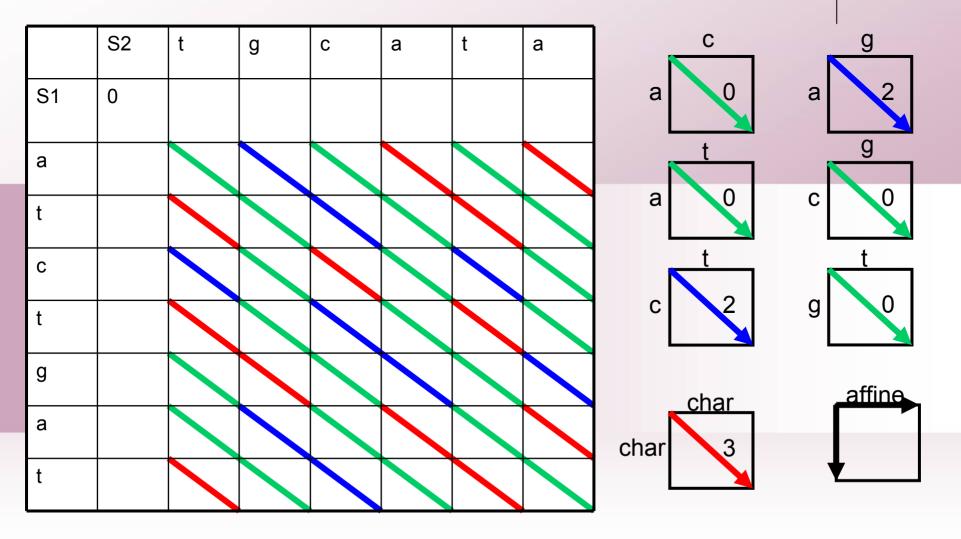


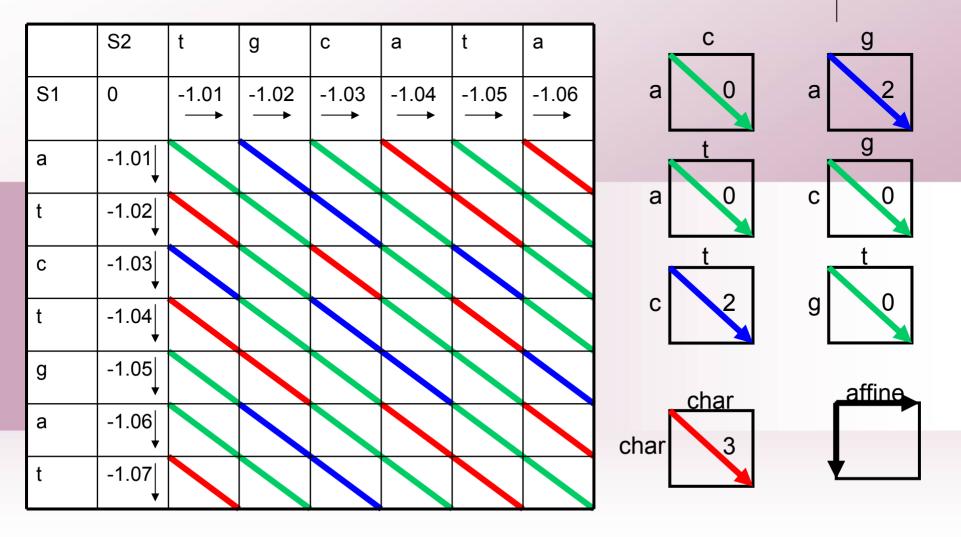


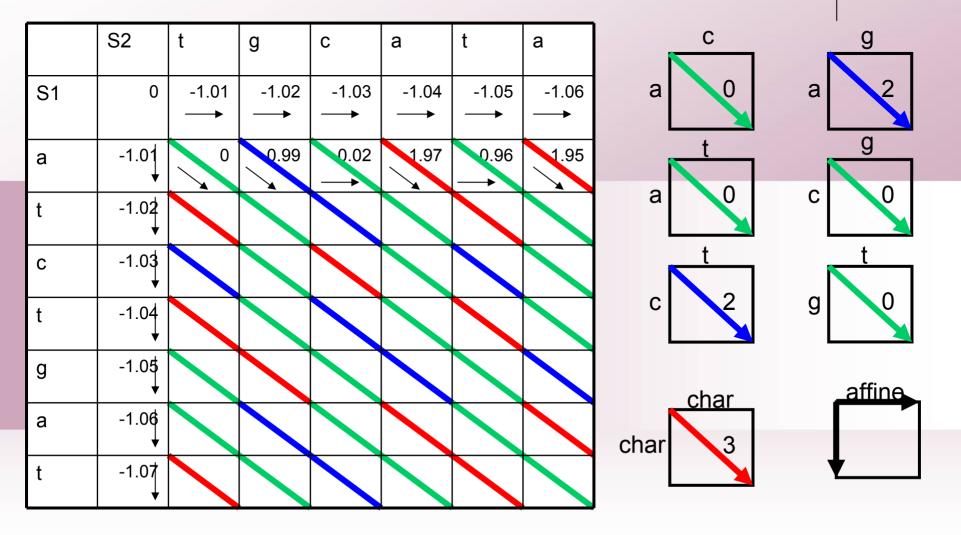
When computing the cost of moving from a diagonal cell,

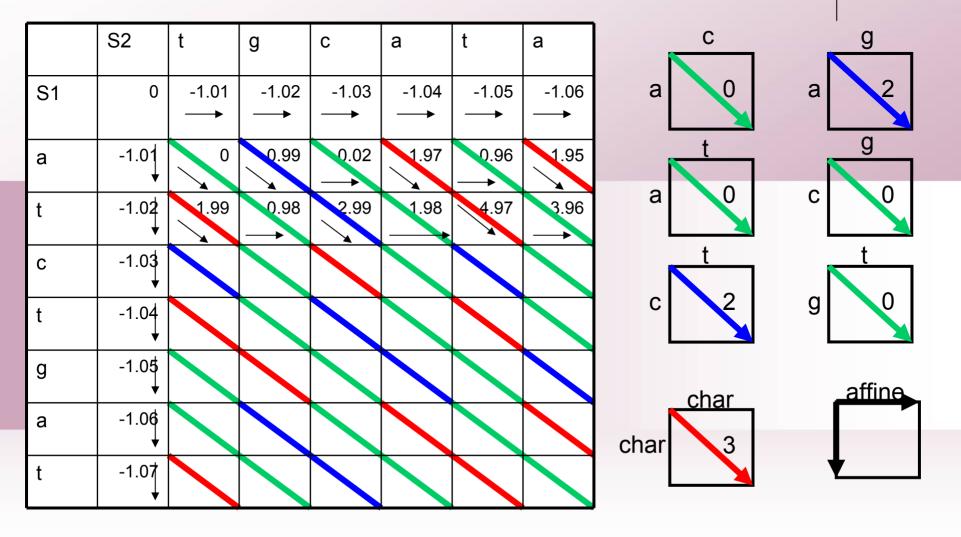
we account only for a score of aligning characters at current positions S1[i] and S2[j], as we did before

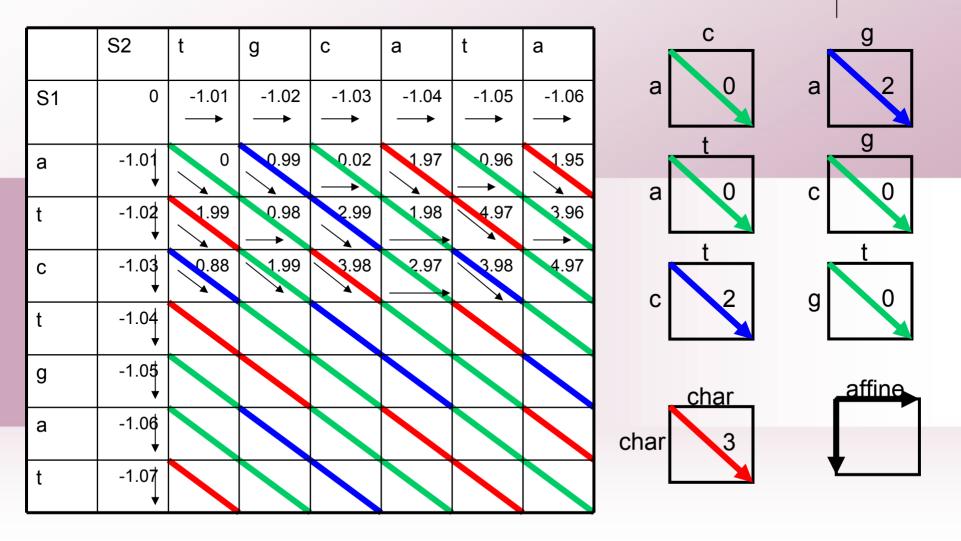
Then we take the max of these 3 values

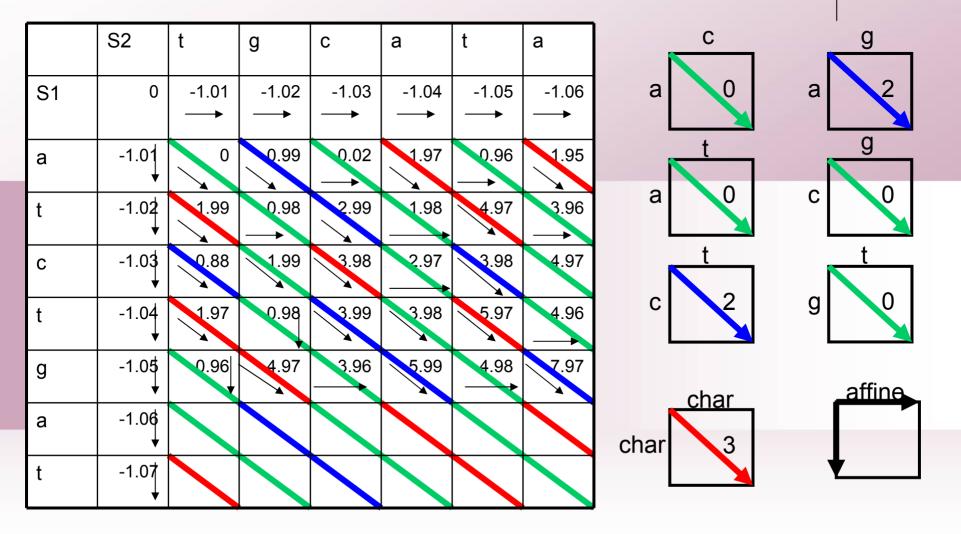




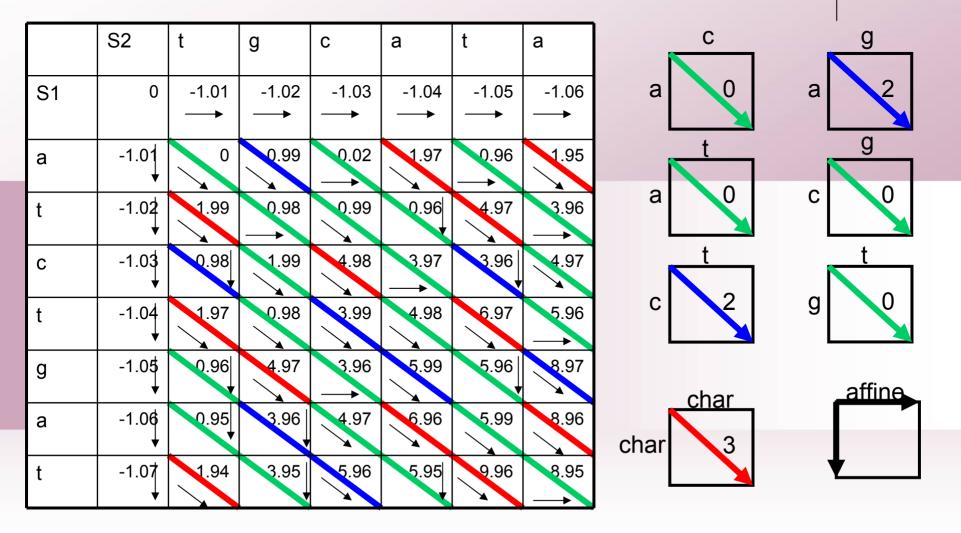








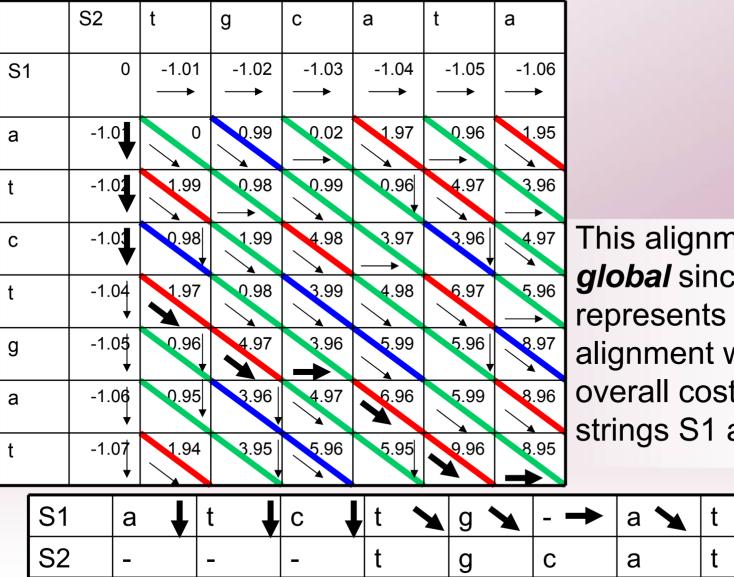
	S2	t	g	с	а	t	а	С	g
S1	0	-1.01	-1.02	-1.03	-1.04	-1.05	-1.06	a 0	a 2
а	-1.01	0	0.99	0.02	1.97	€	1.95		g
t	-1.02	1.99	0.98	2.99	1.98	4.97	3.96	a 0	c 0
с	-1.03	0.88	1.99	3.98	2.97	3.98	4.97		
t	-1.04	1.97	0.98	3.99	3.98	5.97	4.96	c 2	g O
g	-1.05	0.96	4.97	3.96	5.99	4.98	7.97		
а	-1.06	0.14	3.96	4.97	6.96	5.99	7.98	char	affine
t	-1.07	1.94	2.95	5.96	5.95	9.96	8.95	char 3	<b>↓</b>



	S2	t	g	С	а	t	а
S1	0	-1.01	-1.02	-1.03	-1.04	-1.05	-1.06
а	-1.0	0	0.99	0.02	1.97	0.96 →	1.95
t	-1.02	1.99	0.98 →	0.99	0.96	4.97	3.96 →
С	-1.0	0.98	1.99	4.98	3.97 →	3.96	4.97
t	-1.04	1.97	0.98	3.99	4.98	6.97	5.96 →
g	-1.05 ▼	0.96	4.97	3.96	5.99	5.96	8.97
а	-1.06 •	0.95	3.96	4.97	6.96	5.99	8.96
t	-1.07	1.94	3.95	5.96	5.95	9.96	8.95



#### The global alignment





This alignment is called *global* since it represents an alignment with the best overall cost for entire strings S1 and S2

а

#### The local alignment



- The similarity of biological strings rarely extends through the entire length of these strings
- Example: homeodomain of the homeobox genes is a very conserved substring in overall very different sequences

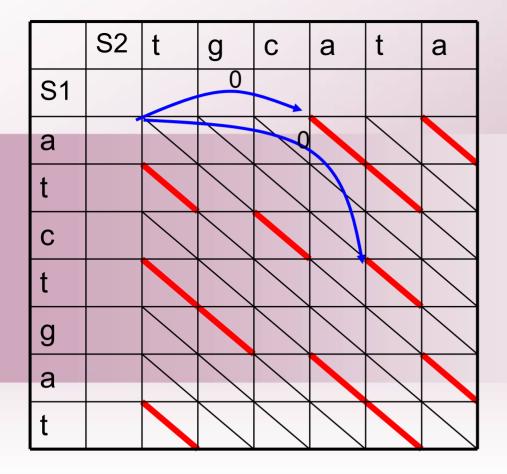
How to detect the regions of local similarity?

#### The local alignment problem

• Find a pair (S1[i1...i2], S2[j1...j2]) of substrings of S1 and S2 such that the global alignment score between these substrings is maximal among all possible pairs of substrings of S1 and S2

 In terms of paths, find the path with the best cost between any pair of vertices

## The solution to the local alignment problem. Simple scoring example

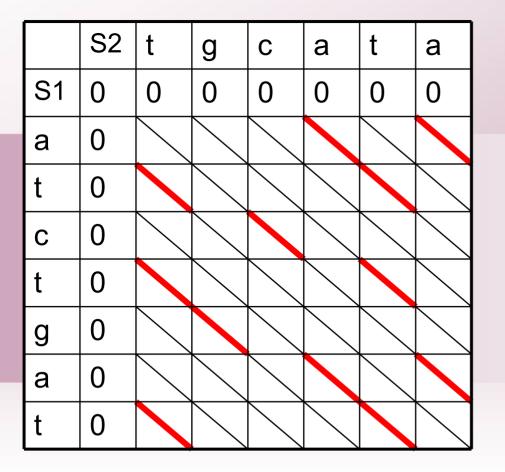


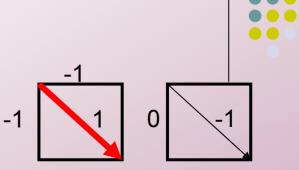
When choosing the best move through the next cell, take into account an additional possibility to start from vertex (0,0) with an overall 0-cost

0

This means that if the cost of some path drops below 0, we abandon this path and restart the cost to find a better local path starting from the current position.

# The local alignment. Base condition



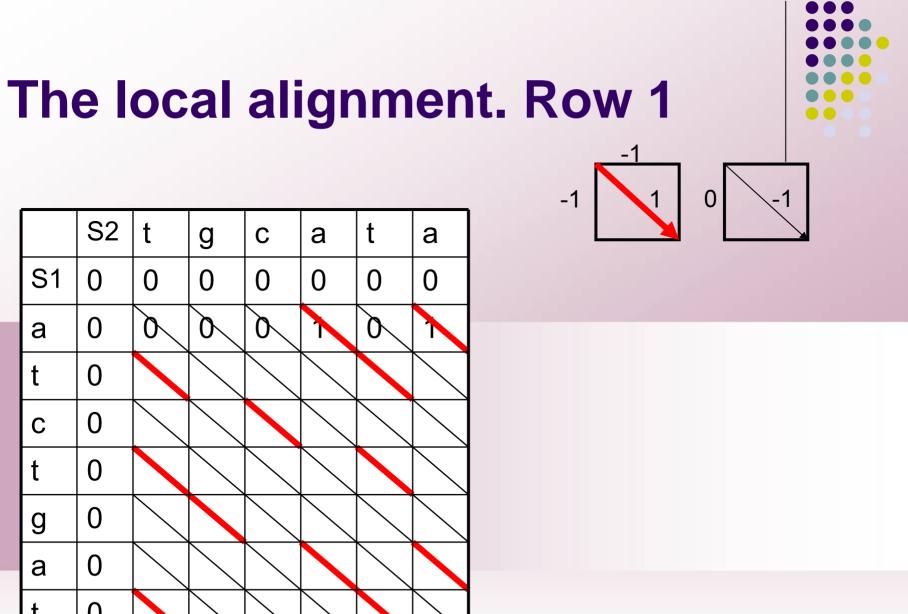


### The local alignment. Recurrence relation

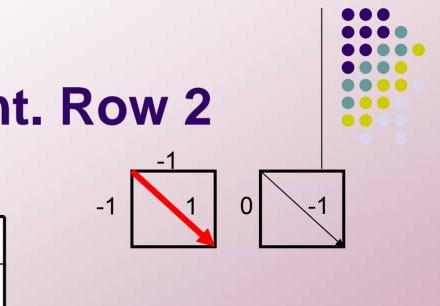


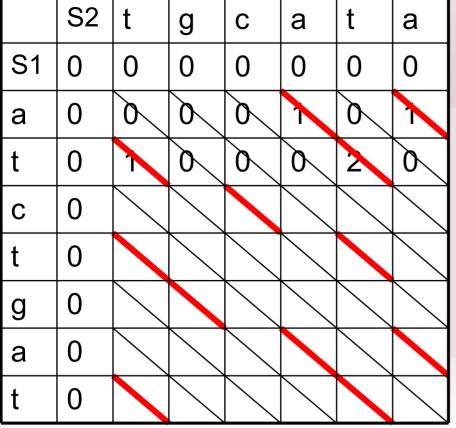
	( 0
	COST(i-1,j) + gapCost
COST(i,j)=max	COST(i,j-1) + gapCost
	COST(i-1,j-1)+score(S1[i], S2[j])

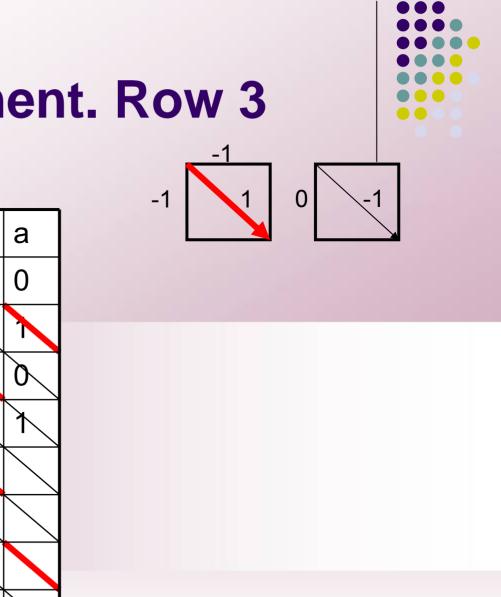
The cost never drops below 0. if it is negative, we start a new path from the same point with a cost 0

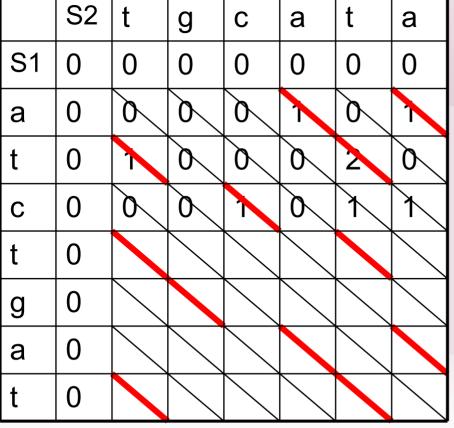


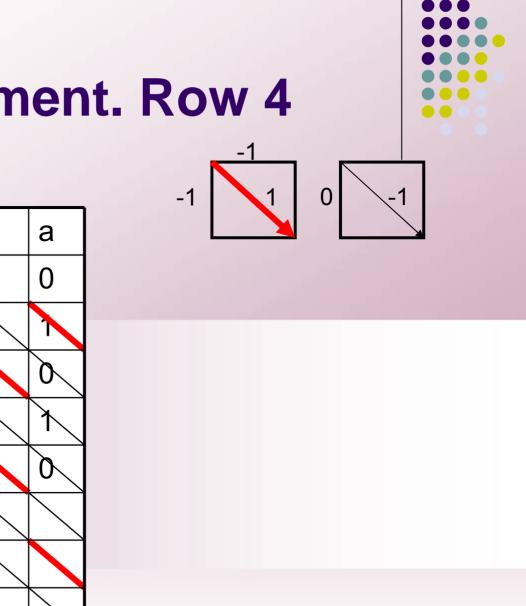




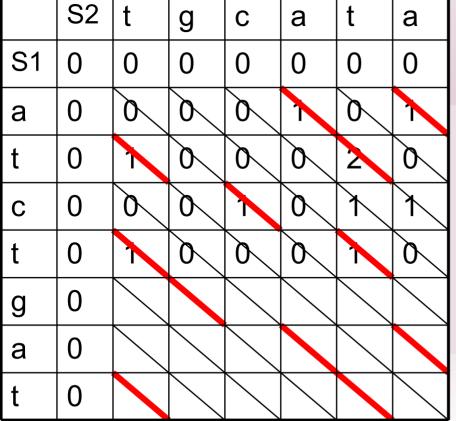


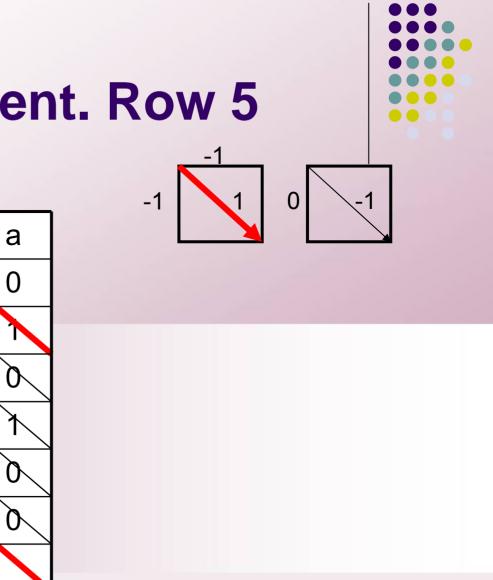


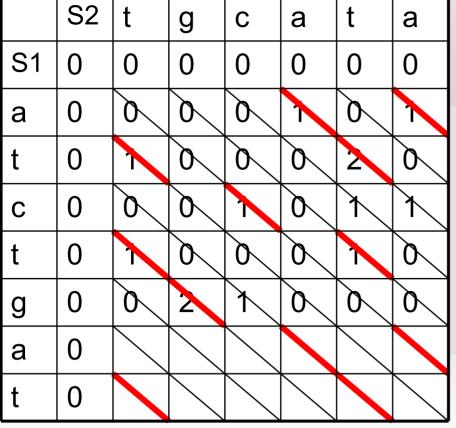


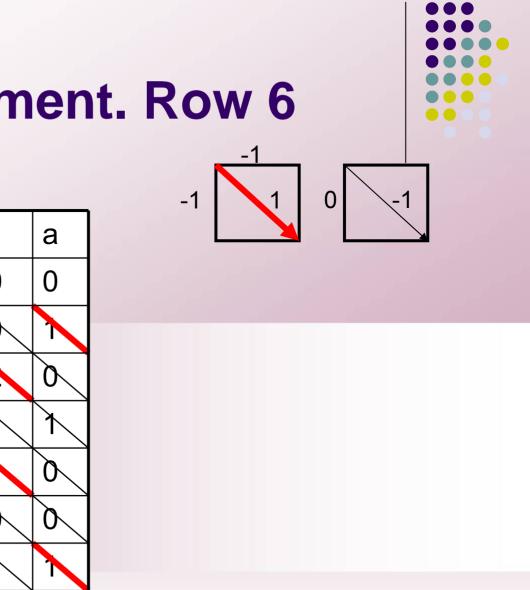


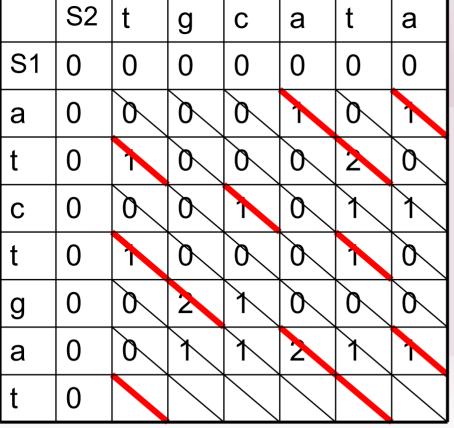


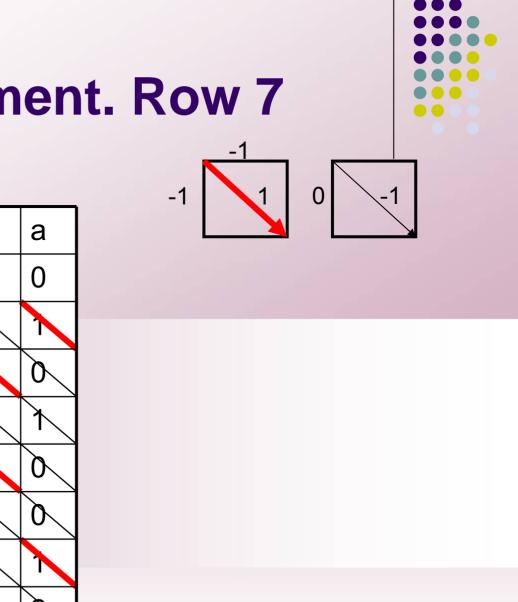


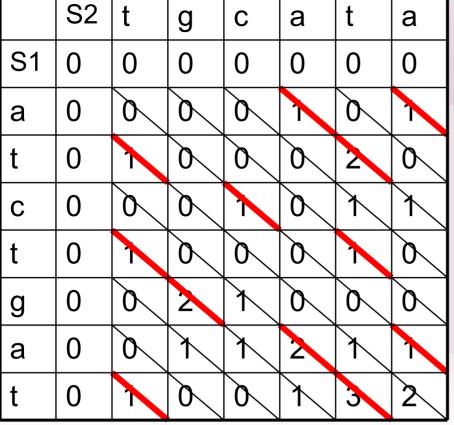






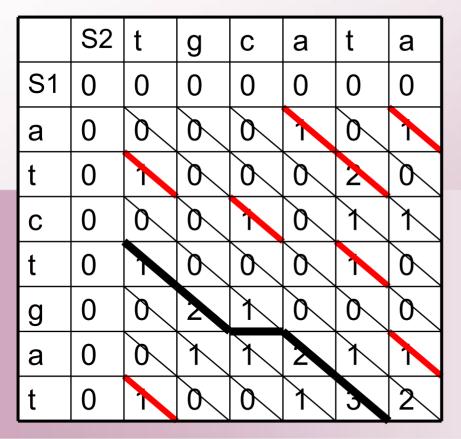








#### The local alignment. Alignment



S1	а	t	С	t	g	-	а	t	-
S2	-	-	-	t	g	С	а	t	а

# The local alignment. Running time



- O(NM)
- If we want to find the regions of high similarity between a new sequence of size M and all G genes of size N each in the database, we need to perform O(MNG) operations