

Algorithms & Models of Computation

CS/ECE 374, Fall 2020

14.2.3

Edit distance: The algorithm

Edit distance

Basic observation

Let $X = \alpha x$ and $Y = \beta y$

α, β : strings.

x and y single characters.

Think about optimal edit distance between X and Y as alignment, and consider last column of alignment of the two strings:

α	x
β	y

or

α	x
βy	

or

αx	
β	y

Observation 14.5.

Prefixes must have optimal alignment!

Problem Structure

Observation 14.6.

Let $\mathbf{X} = x_1 x_2 \cdots x_m$ and $\mathbf{Y} = y_1 y_2 \cdots y_n$. If (m, n) are not matched then either the m th position of \mathbf{X} remains unmatched or the n th position of \mathbf{Y} remains unmatched.

- ① Case x_m and y_n are matched.
 - ① Pay mismatch cost $\alpha_{x_m y_n}$ plus cost of aligning strings $x_1 \cdots x_{m-1}$ and $y_1 \cdots y_{n-1}$
- ② Case x_m is unmatched.
 - ① Pay gap penalty plus cost of aligning $x_1 \cdots x_{m-1}$ and $y_1 \cdots y_n$
- ③ Case y_n is unmatched.
 - ① Pay gap penalty plus cost of aligning $x_1 \cdots x_m$ and $y_1 \cdots y_{n-1}$

Subproblems and Recurrence

$x_1 \dots x_{i-1}$	x_i
$y_1 \dots y_{j-1}$	y_j

or

$x_1 \dots x_{i-1}$	x
$y_1 \dots y_{j-1} y_j$	

or

$x_1 \dots x_{i-1} x_i$	
$y_1 \dots y_{j-1}$	y_j

Optimal Costs

Let $\text{Opt}(i, j)$ be optimal cost of aligning $x_1 \dots x_i$ and $y_1 \dots y_j$. Then

$$\text{Opt}(i, j) = \min \begin{cases} \alpha_{x_i y_j} + \text{Opt}(i - 1, j - 1), \\ \delta + \text{Opt}(i - 1, j), \\ \delta + \text{Opt}(i, j - 1) \end{cases}$$

Base Cases: $\text{Opt}(i, 0) = \delta \cdot i$ and $\text{Opt}(0, j) = \delta \cdot j$

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$x_1 \dots x_{i-1} x_i$	
$y_1 \dots y_{j-1}$	y_j

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Recursive Algorithm

Assume X is stored in array $A[1..m]$ and Y is stored in $B[1..n]$

Array $COST$ stores cost of matching two chars. Thus $COST[a, b]$ give the cost of matching character a to character b .

$EDIST(A[1..m], B[1..n])$

If ($m = 0$) return $n\delta$

If ($n = 0$) return $m\delta$

$m_1 = \delta + EDIST(A[1..(m - 1)], B[1..n])$

$m_2 = \delta + EDIST(A[1..m], B[1..(n - 1)])$

$m_3 = COST[A[m], B[n]] + EDIST(A[1..(m - 1)], B[1..(n - 1)])$

return $\min(m_1, m_2, m_3)$

Example: DEED and DREAD

	ϵ	D	R	E	A	D
ϵ						
D						
E						
E						
D						

Example: DEED and DREAD

	ε	D	R	E	A	D
ε	0	1	2	3	4	5
D	1					
E	2					
E	3					
D	3					

Example: DEED and DREAD

	ε	D	R	E	A	D
ε	0	1	2	3	4	5
D	1	0	1	2	3	4
E	2					
E	3					
D	3					

Example: DEED and DREAD

	ε	D	R	E	A	D
ε	0	1	2	3	4	5
D	1	0	1	2	3	4
E	2	1	1	1	2	3
E	3					
D	3					

Example: DEED and DREAD

	ε	D	R	E	A	D
ε	0	1	2	3	4	5
D	1	0	1	2	3	4
E	2	1	1	1	2	3
E	3	2	2	1	2	3
D	3					

Example: DEED and DREAD

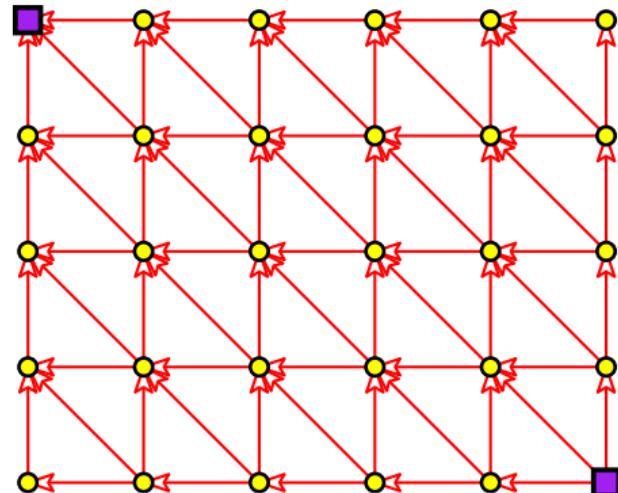
	ε	D	R	E	A	D
ε	0	1	2	3	4	5
D	1	0	1	2	3	4
E	2	1	1	1	2	3
E	3	2	2	1	2	3
D	3	3	3	2	2	2

D	R	E	A	D
D	E	E		D

Example: DEED and DREAD

	ε	D	R	E	A	D
ε	0	1	2	3	4	5
D	1	0	1	2	3	4
E	2	1	1	1	2	3
E	3	2	2	1	2	3
D	3	3	3	2	2	2

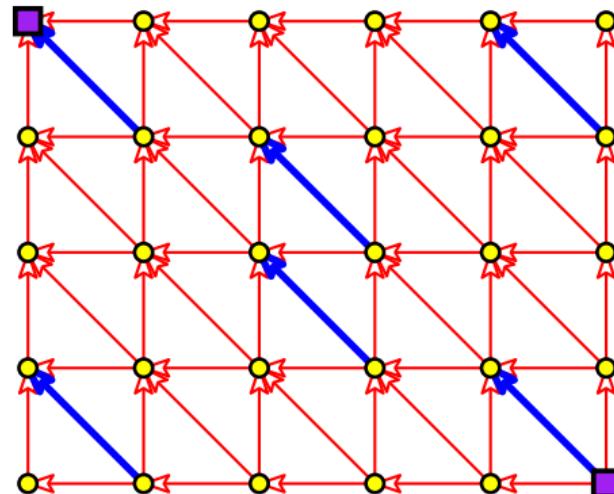
D	R	E	A	D
D	E	E		D



Example: DEED and DREAD

	ε	D	R	E	A	D
ε	0	1	2	3	4	5
D	1	0	1	2	3	4
E	2	1	1	1	2	3
E	3	2	2	1	2	3
D	3	3	3	2	2	2

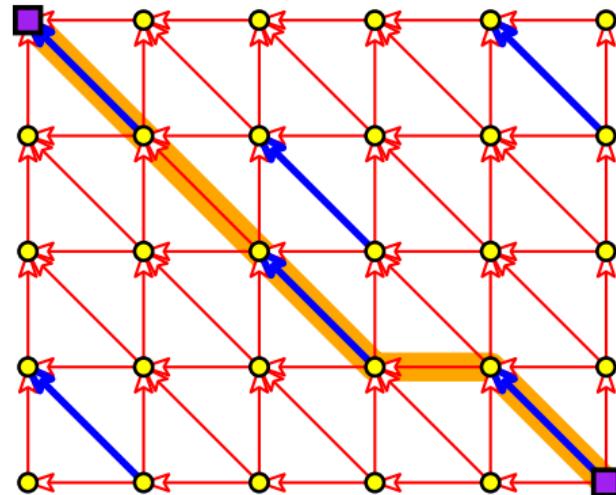
D	R	E	A	D
D	E	E		D



Example: DEED and DREAD

	ε	D	R	E	A	D
ε	0	1	2	3	4	5
D	1	0	1	2	3	4
E	2	1	1	1	2	3
E	3	2	2	1	2	3
D	3	3	3	2	2	2

D	R	E	A	D
D	E	E		D



THE END

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(for now)