Prelude to Sequence Alignment

Content

- General results in Combinatorial Pattern Matching / Stringology
 - Knuth-Morris-Pratt
 - Boyer-Moore
 - Suffix tree, Suffix array
 - Edit distance
 - Dynamic Programming
 - Approximate pattern search, k-mismatches, k-errors
- Solutions specific to Bioinformatics
 - Needleman-Wunsch (global alignment, score matrixes)
 - Smith-Waterman (local alignment)
 - FASTA, BLAST
 - •



Classical results from Stringology

- The world of "text of length n, pattern of length m".
- Knuth-Morris-Pratt: O(n) time exact pattern search.
- Boyer-Moore: O(n/m) time exact pattern search on average.
- Powerful general tools: Suffix tree and suffix array
- Numerous theoretical results on approximate pattern matching
 Pattern CAC

text AGAT.....CAC....CAC...GTAT



Suffix tree

- Suffix tree is a compressed keyword trie of all suffixes of a sequence
- E.g. suffixes of sequence CATACT are CATACT, ATACT, TACT, ACT, CT, T.
 - suffix tree looks like:





Suffix tree



Suffix tree



Exact search on suffix tree



C A T A C T 1 2 3 4 5 6

Backtracking on suffix tree



C A T A C T 1 2 3 4 5 6

582606 Introduction to Bioinformatics, Autumn 2009

Simple analysis task: LCSS

- Let LCSS(A,B) denote the longest common substring of two sequences A and B. E.g.:
 - LCSS(AGA<u>TCTAT</u>CT,CGCC<u>TCTAT</u>G)=TCTAT.
- A good solution is to build suffix tree for the shorter sequence and make a *descending suffix walk* with the other sequence.



Suffix link





Descending suffix walk



Read B left-to-right, always going down in the tree when possible. If the next symbol of B does not match any edge label on current position, take suffix link, and try again. (Suffix link in the root to itself emits a symbol). The node v encountered with largest string depth is the solution.



Another common tool: Generalized suffix tree



582606 Introduction to Bioinformatics, Autumn 2009



Generalized suffix tree application



582606 Introduction to Bioinformatics, Autumn 2009



Properties of suffix tree

- Suffix tree has *n* leaves and at most *n*-1 internal nodes, where *n* is the total length of all sequences indexed.
- Each node requires constant number of integers (pointers to first child, sibling, parent, text range of incoming edge, statistics counters, etc.).
- Can be constructed in linear time (e.g. Ukkonen's online linear time construction).
- In practice: Huge overhead due to pointer structure:
 - Standard implementation of suffix tree for human genome requires over 200 GB memory!

Reducing space: suffix array



Suffix array

- Many algorithms on suffix tree can be simulated using suffix array.
- For example, exact pattern search works using binary search on suffix array.
- Suffix array is the basis a popular bioinformatics tool called *Mummer*.
- Suffix array can be constructed easily from suffix tree, but there are also direct linear time construction algorithms that take less space (e.g. Kärkkäinen & Sanders algorithm).



Approximate string matching

- *k-mismatches problem*: Search all occurrences O of pattern P[1,m] in text T[1,n] such that P differs in at most *k* positions from the occurrence substring:
 - More formally: *j* ∈ O is a k-mismatch occurrence position of P in T if and only if d_H(P,T[*j*,*j*+*m*-1])≤k, where d_H(A,B) is the Hamming distance of A and B.
 - $d_H(A,B) = |\{ i : A[i] \neq B[i]\}|.$
 - Theory: O(kn) time algorithm is easy to achieve (using suffix trees and some advanced data structure techniques) and very sophisticated algorithms exist to solve the problem even faster.
 - Practice: naive algorithm or backtracking on suffix tree (slide 7) work well for small k.



Approximate pattern matching: filtering

- Best practical algorithms for approximate string matching use *filtering*:
 - Sweep the text with a fast algorithm to detect possible candidate occurrence positions.
 - Check all candidates for real occurrences.
 - There are *noisy filters* (that may fail to find some candidates that are real occurrences) and *noiseless filters* (that are guaranteed to find all real occurrences).
- Simple noiseless filter for k-mismatch search:
 - Partition the pattern into k+1 pieces.
 - Take all exact occurrences of the pieces as candidates.
 - Check all candidates with naive algorithm.



Approximate string matching: filtering example

- Text T=CGAGCGATAGCTACCGT
- Pattern P=ACAG, k=1
- Partition P into e.g. P¹=AC, P²=AG
- Search P¹ and P² in T: CGAGCGATAGCTACCGT
- Check the candidates: <u>CGAGCGATAGCTACCG</u>T
- Running time:
 - Build suffix tree of T: O(n) time.
 - Search P¹ and P² in suffix tree of T: O(m+#candidates) time.

22.-24. Sept / 18

- Checking O(#candidates x m) time.
- The challenge: #candidates >> #occurrences
 - Better filters than above exist (with smaller #candidates)

582606 Introduction to Bioinformatics, Autumn 2009

Approximate what?

- Different versions of approximate pattern matching can be defined modifying the distance function d(A,B).
- The most studied distance function is unit cost edit distance or Levenshtein distance.
 - d_L(A,B) is the minimum amount of single symbol insertions, deletions, and substitutions required to convert A into B.
 - For example, on A="stockholm" and B="tukholma" we have d_L(A,B)=4:
 - delete s, substitute o->u, delete c, insert a
 - .. or delete s, delete o, substitute c->u, insert a
 - .. or is there better sequence of edits???

582606 Introduction to Bioinformatics, Autumn 2009

stockholm-

-tu-kholma

Dynamic programming

- Way to compute edit distance optimally.
- General algorithm principle:
 - Can be seen as a variant of *Dijkstra's shortest path algorithm*.
- Abstract idea: Use induction to break the problem into smaller subproblems and suitable evaluation order so that subproblem solutions are available when needed.

 Concrete example, Fibonacci numbers: 0,1,1,2,3,5,8,13,21,<u>34,55,89,</u> <i>C(i) C(i) </i>					89							
					34				55			
 F(I)=F(I-2)+F(I-I) with F(0)=0, F(I)=I The recursion to compute F(i) contains many identical subproblems. 				3 21		21		34				
				8	13	8	13 •	13 •	21			
_		•	•	-	•	•	•	•	•			
582606 Introduction to Bioinformatics, Autumn 2009	2224. Sept /	20	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			

Edit distance

- Let $A = a_1 a_2 \dots a_m$ and $B = b_1 b_2 \dots b_n$ be two strings.
- Consider an optimal listing of edits to convert the prefix a₁a₂...a_i of A into prefix b₁b₂...b_j of B corresponding to d_L(a₁a₂...a_i,b₁b₂...b_j):
 - If $a_i = b_j$ we know that $d_L(a_1a_2...a_i, b_1b_2...b_j) = d_L(a_1a_2...a_{i-1}, b_1b_2...b_{j-1})$
 - Otherwise either a_i is substituted by b_j, or a_i is deleted or b_j is inserted in the optimal list of edits.
 - Hence, we have $d_L(a_1a_2...a_i, b_1b_2...b_j) = min(d_L(a_1a_2...a_{i-1}, b_1b_2...b_{j-1}) + (if a_i = b_j then 0 else 1),$ $d_L(a_1a_2...a_{i-1}, b_1b_2...b_j) + 1,$ $d_L(a_1a_2...a_i, b_1b_2...b_{j-1}) + 1).$

Edit distance matrix D[i,j]

- Let D[i,j] denote $d_L(a_1a_2...a_i,b_1b_2...b_j)$.
- Obviously *D[0,j]=j* and *D[i,0]=i*.
- The induction from previous slide gives D[i,j]=min(D[i-1,j-1]+if (a_i=b_j) then 0 else 1, D[i-1,j]+1,D[i,j-1]+1).
- Matrix D can be computed row-by-row, column-bycolumn (or in many other evaluation orders) so that D[i-1,j-1], D[i-1,j], and D[i,j-1] are available when computing D[i,j].
- Running time to compute D[m,n] is O(mn).



Edit distance example

		S	t	0	С	k	h	0		m
	0-	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
t	1	1	-1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
u	2	2	2	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
k	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	5	6	7
h	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	5	6
0	5	5	5	4	5	5	4	3	4	5
I	6	6	6	5	5	6	5	4	3	4
m	7	7	7	6	6	6	6	5	4	3
а	8	8	8	7	7	7	7	6	5	4

582606 Introduction to Bioinformatics, Autumn 2009

k-errors problem

- *k-errors problem* is the approximate string matching problem with edit distance:
 - More formally: *j* ∈ O is a k-errors occurrence (end)position of P in T if and only if d_L(P,T[j',j])≤k for some j'.
- Can be solved with the "zero the first row trick":
 - D[0,j]=0 for all j.
 - Otherwise the computation is identical to edit distance computation using matrix *D*.
 - Intuition: D[i,j] then equals the minimum number of edits to convert P[1,i] into some suffix of T[1,j].
 - If D[m,j]≤k, then P can be converted to some substring T[j',j] with at most k edit operations.



Current applications

- Short-read sequencing (454, Solexa, SOLiD) has raised again the issue of doing fast k-mismatches and k-errors matching.
- Some popular software packages exploit the suffix tree backtracking idea (bowtie, bwa, SOAP2):
 - Instead of suffix tree, a compressed suffix array based on socalled Burrows-Wheeler transform is used as backbone of the search.
 - The index size for e.g. human genome can be kept in ~3 GB.

22.-24. Sept / 25

Compression does not affect the running time significantly.

More on general string processing techniques...

- Gusfield's book: Algorithms on Strings, Trees and Sequences: Computer Science and Computational Biology
- 58093-3 Merkkijonomenetelmät (String Processing Algorithms)
 - Lectured previously Autumn 2008.
 - Next time Autumn 2010 in English?
- ISMB 2009 tutorial on compressed index structures applied to short-read mapping (http://www.cs.helsinki.fi/u/vmakinen/ismb09tutorial_vm. pdf)



Sequence alignment

- The biological problem
- Global alignment
- Local alignment
- Multiple alignment



Background: comparative genomics

- Basic question in biology: what properties are shared among organisms?
- Genome sequencing allows comparison of organisms at DNA and protein levels
- Comparisons can be used to
 - Find evolutionary relationships between organisms
 - Identify functionally conserved sequences
 - Identify corresponding genes in human and model organisms: develop models for human diseases

Homologs

- Two genes (sequences in general) g_B and g_C evolved from the same ancestor gene g_A are called *homologs*
- Homologs usually exhibit conserved functions

 Close evolutionary relationship => expect a high number of homologs $g_A = agtgtccgttaagtgcgttc$

 $g_B = agtgccgttaaagttgtacgtc$

 $g_C = ctgactgtttgtggttc$

582606 Introduction to Bioinformatics, Autumn 2009



Sequence similarity

- We expect homologs to be "similar" to each other
- Intuitively, similarity of two sequences refers to the degree of match between corresponding positions in sequence

agtgccgttaaagttgtacgtc |||||||||| ctgactgtttgtggttc

What about sequences that differ in length?



Similarity vs homology

Sequence similarity is not sequence homology

 If the two sequences g_B and g_C have accumulated enough mutations, the similarity between them is likely to be low

#mutations

- 0 agtgtccgttaagtgcgttc
- 1 agtgtccgttatagtgcgttc
- 2 agtgtccgcttatagtgcgttc
- 4 agtgtccgcttaagggcgttc
- 8 agtgtccgcttcaaggggcgt
- 16 gggccgttcatgggggt
- 32 gcagggcgtcactgagggct

#mutations

- 64 acagtccgttcgggctattg
- 128 cagagcactaccgc
- 256 cacgagtaagatatagct
- 512 taatcgtgata
- 1024 acccttatctacttcctggagtt
- 2048 agcgacctgcccaa

22.-24. Sept / 31

4096 caaac

Homology is more difficult to detect over greater evolutionary distances.

582606 Introduction to Bioinformatics, Autumn 2009

Similarity vs homology (2)

- Sequence similarity can occur by chance
 - Similarity does not imply homology
- Consider comparing two short sequences against each other

Orthologs and paralogs

- We distinguish between two types of homology
 - Orthologs: homologs from two different species, separated by a speciation event
 - Paralogs: homologs within a species, separated by a gene duplication event



Orthologs and paralogs (2)

- Orthologs typically retain the original function
- In paralogs, one copy is free to mutate and acquire new function (no selective pressure)
 Organism A





Paralogy example: hemoglobin

- Hemoglobin is a protein complex which transports oxygen
- In humans, hemoglobin consists of four protein subunits and four non-protein heme groups



Sickle cell diseases are caused by mutations in hemoglobin genes

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Sicklecells.jpg

582606 Introduction to Bioinformatics, Autumn 2009





Paralogy example: hemoglobin

- In adults, three types are normally present
 - Hemoglobin A: 2 alpha and 2 beta subunits
 - Hemoglobin A2: 2 alpha and 2 delta subunits
 - Hemoglobin F: 2 alpha and 2 gamma subunits
- Each type of subunit (alpha, beta, gamma, delta) is encoded by a separate gene





Paralogy example: hemoglobin

- The subunit genes are paralogs of each other, i.e., they have a common ancestor gene
- Exercise: hemoglobin human paralogs in NCBI sequence databases

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez?db= Nucleotide

- Find human hemoglobin alpha, beta, gamma and delta
- Compare sequences



Hemoglobin A, www.rcsb.org/pdb/explore.do?structureId=1GZX



Orthology example: insulin

- The genes coding for insulin in human (Homo sapiens) and mouse (Mus musculus) are orthologs:
 - They have a common ancestor gene in the ancestor species of human and mouse
 - Exercise: find insulin orthologs from human and mouse in NCBI sequence databases

Sequence alignment

 Alignment specifies which positions in two sequences match

acgtctag	acgtctag	acgtctag
actctag-	-actctag	ac-tctag

2 matches55 mismatches21 not aligned1

5 matches 2 mismatches 1 not aligned

7 matches0 mismatches1 not aligned

Sequence alignment

Maximum alignment length is the total length of the two sequences

acgtctag----- ---acgtctag

----actctag actctag-----

0 matches 0 mismatches 15 not aligned 0 matches 0 mismatches 15 not aligned



Mutations: Insertions, deletions and substitutions

Indel: insertion or deletion of a base with respect to the ancestor sequence



Mismatch: substitution (point mutation) of a single base

- Insertions and/or deletions are called indels
 - We can't tell whether the ancestor sequence had a base or not at indel position!

Problems

- What sorts of alignments should be considered?
- How to score alignments?
- How to find optimal or good scoring alignments?
- How to evaluate the statistical significance of scores?

In this course, we discuss each of these problems briefly.

Sequence Alignment (chapter 6)

- The biological problem
- Global alignment
- Local alignment
- Multiple alignment



Global alignment

- Problem: find optimal scoring alignment between two sequences (Needleman & Wunsch 1970)
- Every position in both sequences is included in the alignment

-δ

- We give score for each position in alignment
 - Identity (match) +1
 - Substitution (mismatch) -µ
 - Indel
- Total score: sum of position scores

Scoring: Toy example

 Consider two sequences with characters drawn from the English language alphabet: WHAT, WHY



WHAT

-WHY

 $S(WHAT/-WHY) = -\delta - \mu - \mu - \mu$

582606 Introduction to Bioinformatics, Autumn 2009

Representing alignments and scores

Alignments can be represented in the following tabular form.

Each alignment corresponds to a path through the table.





Representing alignments and scores



Representing alignments and scores



582606 Introduction to Bioinformatics, Autumn 2009

Filling the alignment matrix



Consider the alignment process at shaded square.

Case 1. Align H against H (match)

Case 2. Align H in WHY against – (indel) in WHAT

Case 3. Align H in WHAT against – (indel) in WHY



Filling the alignment matrix (2)



Scoring the alternatives. Case 1. $S_{2,2} = S_{1,1} + s(2, 2)$ Case 2. $S_{2,2} = S_{1,2} - \delta$ Case 3. $S_{2,2} = S_{2,1} - \delta$ s(i, j) = 1 for matching positions, $s(i, j) = -\mu$ for substitutions. Choose the case (path) that yields the maximum score.

Keep track of path choices.

Global alignment: formal development

 $A = a_1 a_2 a_3 \dots a_m,$ $B = b_1 b_2 b_3 \dots b_n$ $b_1 \quad b_2 \quad b_3 \quad b_4 \quad - \quad a_1 \quad - \quad a_2 \quad a_3$

 Any alignment can be written as a unique path through the matrix

 Score for aligning A and B up to positions i and j:

$$S_{i,j} = S(a_1a_2a_3...a_i, b_1b_2b_3...b_j)$$



Scoring partial alignments

- Alignment of A = a₁a₂a₃...a_i with B = b₁b₂b₃...b_j can be end in three possible ways
 - Case 1: (a₁a₂...a_{i-1}) a_i
 (b₁b₂...b_{i-1}) b_i
 - Case 2: (a₁a₂...a_{i-1}) a_i
 (b₁b₂...b_j) -
 - Case 3: (a₁a₂...a_i) (b₁b₂...b_{i-1}) b_i

Scoring alignments

- Scores for each case:
 - Case 1: (a₁a₂...a_{i-1}) a_i
 (b₁b₂...b_{j-1}) b_j
 - Case 2: (a₁a₂...a_{i-1}) a_i
 (b₁b₂...b_j) -
 - Case 3: (a₁a₂...a_i) (b₁b₂...b_{j-1}) b_j

$$s(a_i, b_j) = \begin{cases} +1 \text{ if } a_i = b_j \\ -\mu \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$s(a_i, -) = s(-, b_j) = -\delta$$

Scoring alignments (2)

 First row and first column correspond to initial alignment against indels:

> S(i, 0) = -i δ S(0, j) = -j δ

 Optimal global alignment score S(A, B) = S_{m,n}





Algorithm for global alignment

```
Input sequences A, B, m = |A|, n = |B|
Set S<sub>i,0</sub> := -\deltai for all i
Set S<sub>0,j</sub> := -\deltaj for all j
for i := 1 to m
for j := 1 to n
S<sub>i,j</sub> := max{S<sub>i-1,j</sub> - \delta, S<sub>i-1,j-1</sub> + s(a<sub>i</sub>,b<sub>j</sub>), S<sub>i,j-1</sub> - \delta}
end
end
```

Algorithm takes O(mn) time



Global alignment: example

 $\mu = 1$ $\delta = 2$

	-	Т	G	G	Т	G
-	0	-2	-4	-6	-8	-10
A	-2					
Т	-4					
С	-6					
G	-8					
Т	-10					?



Global alignment: example

 $\mu = 1$ $\delta = 2$





Global alignment: example (2)

G G G Т Т $\mu = 1$ -2 -6 -8 -10 -4 $\delta = 2$ -3 → -5 → -7 -2 → -9 Α -2 -6 Т -4 -4 ATCGT--2 С -3 -5 -5 -6 G -3 -8 -4 Т -10 -7 -3 -2 -4 0 -TGGTG



Sequence Alignment (chapter 6)

- The biological problem
- Global alignment
- Local alignment
- Multiple alignment



Local alignment: rationale

Otherwise dissimilar proteins may have local regions of similarity
 -> Proteins may share a function

Human bone morphogenic protein receptor type II precursor (left) has a 300 aa region that resembles 291 aa region in TGF-β receptor (right).

The shared function here is protein kinase.





Local alignment: rationale



- Global alignment would be inadequate
- Problem: find the highest scoring *local* alignment between two sequences
- Previous algorithm with minor modifications solves this problem (Smith & Waterman 1981)



From global to local alignment

- Modifications to the global alignment algorithm
 - Look for the highest-scoring path in the alignment matrix (not necessarily through the matrix), or in other words:
 - Allow preceding and trailing indels without penalty



Scoring local alignments

 $A = a_1 a_2 a_3 \dots a_m, B = b_1 b_2 b_3 \dots b_n$

Let I and J be intervals (substrings) of A and B, respectively:

$$I \subset A \quad J \subset B$$

Best local alignment score:

$$M(A,B) = \max\{S(I,J) : I \subset A, J \subset B\}$$

where S(I, J) is the alignment score for substrings I and J.

Allowing preceding and trailing indels

 First row and column initialised to zero:

 $\mathsf{M}_{i,0}=\mathsf{M}_{0,j}=0$



1

0

2 3

4

582606 Introduction to Bioinformatics, Autumn 2009

b1 b2 b3

a1

Recursion for local alignment

$$M_{i,j} = \max \{ M_{i-1,j-1} + s(a_i, b_i), M_{i-1,j} - \delta, M_{i,j-1} - \delta, 0 \}$$

$$M_{i,j-1} - \delta, 0$$

$$M_{i,j-1}$$



582606 Introduction to Bioinformatics, Autumn 2009

Finding best local alignment

 Optimal score is the highest value in the matrix - T G G T G

$$M(A,B) = \max\{S(I,J) : I \subset A, J \subset B\}$$

 $= \max_{i,j} M_{i,j}$

- Best local alignment can be found by backtracking from the highest value in M
- What is the best local alignment in this example?



582606 Introduction to Bioinformatics, Autumn 2009

Local alignment: example

Local alignment: example

Local alignment: example

Optimal local alignment:

C T - A A C T C A A

Scoring (for example) Match: +2 Mismatch: -1 Indel: -2



Multiple optimal alignments Non-optimal, good-scoring alignments

How can you find

- Optimal alignments if more than one exist?
- 2. Non-optimal, good-scoring alignments?

