

## Sequence Comparison: <br> Edit Distance

- Given:
- Two strings of characters $A=a_{1} a_{2} \ldots a_{n}$ and $B=b_{1} b_{2} \ldots b_{m}$
- Find
- The minimum number of edit steps needed to transform A into Bwhere an edit can be:
- insert a single character
- delete a single character
- substitute one character by another


## Applications

- "diff" utility - where do two files differ
- Version control \& patch distribution save/send only changes
- Molecular biology
- Similar sequences often have similar origin and function
- Similarity often recognizable despite millions or billions of years of evolutionary divergence





## Example run with AGACATTG and GAGTTA

|  | A |  | G | A | C | A | T | T | G |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Q | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| > | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Q | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\rightarrow$ | 4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\rightarrow$ | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $>$ | 6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Example run with AGACATTG and GAGTTA

Q

| $\mathbf{A}$ | $\mathbf{G}$ | $\mathbf{A}$ | $\mathbf{C}$ | $\mathbf{A}$ | $\mathbf{T}$ | $\mathbf{T}$ | $\mathbf{c}$ |  |
| :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| 4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Example run with AGACATTG and GAGTTA

## Example run with AGACATTG and GAGTTA



## Example run with AGACATTG and GAGTTA



## Reading off the operations

- Follow the sequence and use each color of arrow to tell you what operation was performed.

