



- Formulate the answer as a recurrence relation or recursive algorithm
- Show that the number of different parameters in the recursive algorithm is "small"
 - e.g., bounded by a low-degree polynomial
- Specify an order of evaluation for the recurrence so that you already have the partial results ready when you need them.

2

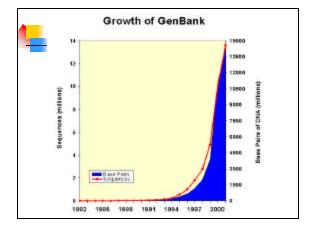
Sequence Comparison: Edit Distance

- Civon
 - Two strings of characters **A=a₁ a₂ ... a_n** and **B=b₁ b₂ ... b_m**
- Find
 - The minimum number of edit steps needed to transform A into B where 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





Recursive Solution

- Sub-problems: Edit distance problems for all prefixes of A and B that don't include all of both A and B
- Let D(i,j) be the number of edits required to transform a₁ a₂ ... a_i into b₁ b₂ ... b_j
- Clearly D(0,0)=0

1

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Computing D(n,m)

Imagine how best sequence handles the last characters \mathbf{a}_n and \mathbf{b}_m

If best sequence of operations

deletes \mathbf{a}_n then \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{n},\mathbf{m}) = \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{n}-\mathbf{1},\mathbf{m}) + \mathbf{1}

inserts \mathbf{b}_m then \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{n},\mathbf{m}) = \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{n},\mathbf{m}-\mathbf{1}) + \mathbf{1}

replaces \mathbf{a}_n by \mathbf{b}_m then \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{n},\mathbf{m}) = \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{n}-\mathbf{1},\mathbf{m}-\mathbf{1}) + \mathbf{1}

matches \mathbf{a}_n and \mathbf{b}_m then \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{n},\mathbf{m}) = \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{n}-\mathbf{1},\mathbf{m}-\mathbf{1})
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 \begin{array}{c} \textbf{Recursive algorithm D(n,m)} \\ \\ \textbf{if n=0 then} \\ \textbf{return (m)} \\ \textbf{elseif m=0 then} \\ \textbf{return(n)} \\ \textbf{else} \\ \textbf{if a_n=b_m then} \\ \textbf{replace-cost} \leftarrow 0 \\ \textbf{else} \\ \textbf{replace-cost} \leftarrow 1 \\ \textbf{endif} \\ \textbf{return(min{\{D(n-1,m)+1, D(n,-1)+1, D(n-1,m-1)+replace-cost\})}} \\ \\ \textbf{s} \end{array}
```

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Dynamic
        Programming
                                                                                        \mathbf{b}_{\mathrm{i}}
                                                                   b_{j-1}
\text{for } j = 0 \text{ to } m; \ D(0,j) \leftarrow j; \text{ endfor }
for i = 1 to n; D(i,0) \leftarrow i; endfor
                                                                D(i-1, j-1)
                                                                                    D(i-1, j)
for i = 1 to n
                                                a<sub>i-1</sub> ...
    for j = 1 to m
       if \mathbf{a}_{i}=\mathbf{b}_{j} then
            replace\text{-}cost \leftarrow 0
                                                                                    D(i, j)
                                                                D(i, j-1)
        else
                                                  a_i \cdots
           replace-cost ← 1
        endif
       D(i,j) - min \{ D(i-1, j) + 1,
                            D(i, j-1) + 1,
D(i-1, j-1) + replace-cost}
    endfor
endfor
```

