Divide and Conquer Algorithms

- Problem Set #4 is due tonight
- Problem Set #5 will be posted tonight

“Really? — my people always say multiply and conquer.”
Embedded subsequences... a hint

Embedded subsequence:

- "No symbol can match itself"
- In other words, you can't use edges on the main diagonal

```
0, 5, T 1, 3, A
1, 6, A 3, 6, A
2, 8, G 6, 7, A
```
The Essence of Divide and Conquer

- Divide problem into sub-problems
- Conquer by solving sub-problems recursively.
  - If the sub-problems are small enough, solve them in brute force fashion
- Combine the solutions of sub-problems into a solution of the original problem
  - This is the tricky part
Divide and Conquer Applied to Sorting

Problem

- Given an unsorted array of items

\[
\begin{array}{cccccccc}
5 & 2 & 4 & 7 & 1 & 3 & 2 & 6 \\
\end{array}
\]

- Reorder them such that they are in a non-decreasing order

\[
\begin{array}{cccccccc}
1 & 2 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\
\end{array}
\]
Merge Sort

Step 1. The Divide Phase

\[ \log_2(n) \] divisions to split an array of size \( n \) into single elements
Merge Sort

Merging

- 2 arrays of size 1 can be easily merged to form a sorted array of size 2

- Move the smaller first value of the two arrays to the next slot in the merged array. Repeat.

- 2 sorted arrays of size $p$ and $q$ can be merged in $O(p+q)$ time to form a sorted array of size $p+q$
Merge Sort

Step 2. Conquer Phase

$log_2(n)$ iterations, each iteration takes $O(n)$ time, for a total time $O(n \log_2(n))$
Now back to Biology

All algorithms for aligning a pair of sequences thus far have required *quadratic memory*

The tables used by the dynamic programming method

- Space complexity for computing alignment path for sequences of length $n$ and $m$ is $O(nm)$
- We kept a table of all scores and arrival directions in memory to reconstruct the final best path (backtracking)
Computing Alignments with Linear Memory

- If appropriately ordered, the space needed to compute just the score can be reduced to $O(n)$.
- For example, we only need the previous column to calculate the current column, and we can throw away that previous column once we’re done using it.
Recycling Columns

Only two columns of scores are needed at any given time

memory for column 1 is used to calculate column 3

memory for column 2 is used to calculate column 4
An Aside

Suppose that we reverse the source and destination of our Manhattan Tour

- Does the path with the most attractions change?
Now suppose that we made two tours

- One from the source towards the destination
- A second from the destination of towards the source
- And we stop both tours at the middle column

Can we combine these two separate solutions to find the overall best score?
A Divide & Conquer Alignment Approach

- We want to calculate the longest path from (0,0) to (n,m) that passes through (i,m/2) where i ranges from 0 to n and represents the i-th row.
- Define Score(i) as the score of the path from (0,0) to (n,m) that passes through vertex (i, m/2).
Finding the Midline

Define (mid, m/2) as the vertex where the best score crosses the middle column.

- How hard is the problem compared to the original DP approach?
- What does it lack?
We know the Best Score

How do we find the best path?

- We actually know one vertex on our path, \((m/2, \text{mid})\).
- How do we find more?

\[
\begin{array}{cccccc}
0 & m/4 & m/2 & 3m/4 & m \\
\end{array}
\]

- **Hint:** Knowing \(\text{mid}\) actually constrains where the paths can go
We can now solve for the paths from (0,0) to (m/2, mid) and (m/2, mid) to (m,n)
And Mid-Mid's Mids (recursively)

And repeat this process until the path is from \((i,j)\) to \((i,j)\)
Algorithm's Performance

- On the first level, the algorithm fills every entry in the matrix, thus it does $O(nm)$ work.
Work done on a second pass

- On second level, the algorithm fills half the entries in the matrix, thus it does $O(nm)/2$ work.
Work done on an Alternate second pass

- This is true regardless of what $mid$ is
Work done on a third pass

- On the third pass, the algorithm fills a quarter of the entries in the matrix, thus it does $O(nm)/4$ work.
Sum of a Geometric Series

1 + \(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \ldots + (\frac{1}{2})^k \leq 2\)

- Runtime: \(O(nm)\)

Total Space: \(O(n)\) for score computation, \(O(n+m)\) to store the optimal alignment

- Time complexity is still \(O(mn)\). Actually, we expect it to take about twice as long as the approach using \(O(mn)\) space
Next Time

Hidden Markov Models