

# Package ‘NameNeedle’

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**Title** Using Needleman-Wunsch to Match Sample Names

**Description** The Needleman-Wunsch global alignment algorithm can be used to find approximate matches between sample names in different data sets. See Wang et al. (2010) <[doi:10.4137/CIN.S5613](https://doi.org/10.4137/CIN.S5613)>.

**Depends** R (>= 3.0)

**Imports** stats

**Suggests** Biostrings

**License** Apache License (== 2.0)

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**NeedsCompilation** no

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cellLineNames-data      *Cell Line Names*

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### Description

This dataset contains vectors of cell line names that are used to demonstrate how to use the **NameNeedle** package.

### Usage

```
data(cellLineNames)
```

### Format

This dataset contains four objects: three character vectors (`sf2Names`, `rppaNames`, and `illuNames`) and one factor (`illuType`).

### Details

The three character vectors, `sf2Names`, `rppaNames`, and `illuNames` contain the names of cell lines used in three different but related experiments. The factor, `illuType`, indicates whether the cell lines named in the `illuNames` vector were derived from lung cancer (with the value "Lung") or from head and neck cancer ("HNSCC").

### Examples

```
data(cellLineNames)
head(rppaNames)
head(sf2Names)
head(illuNames)
summary(illuType)
```

---

needles      *Needleman-Wunsch simple global alignment algorithm*

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### Description

The Needleman-Wunsch simple gap algorithm was one of the first methods introduced for global alignment of biological sequences. The same algorithm can be used to match cell line names or sample names from two related data sets; we provide examples in the documentation, using data that accompanies this package.

While the **NameNeedle** package can be used for biological sequence alignment, the **Biostrings** package from Bioconductor contains much more sophisticated tools for that problem.

**Usage**

```
needles(pattern, subject, params=defaultNeedleParams)
needleScores(pattern, subjects, params=defaultNeedleParams)
defaultNeedleParams
```

**Arguments**

pattern	character string to be matched
subject	character string to be matched against
subjects	character vector where matches are sought
params	list containing four required components. The default values are specified by the object <code>defaultNeedleParams</code> , which contains the following values:  \$ MATCH : num 1 \$ MISMATCH: num -1 \$ GAP : num -1 \$ GAPCHAR : chr "*"

**Details**

The Needleman-Wunsch global alignment algorithm was one of the first algorithms used to align DNA, RNA, or protein sequences. The basic algorithm uses dynamic programming to find an optimal alignment between two sequences, with parameters that specify penalties for mismatches and gaps and a reward for exact matches. More elaborate algorithms (not implemented here) make use of matrices with different penalties depending on different kinds of mismatches. The version implemented here is based on the Perl implementation in the first section of Chapter 3 of the book *BLAST*.

**Value**

The `needles` function returns a list with five components:

score	The raw alignment score.
align1	The final (optimal) alignment for the pattern.
align2	The final (optimal) alignment for the subject.
sm	The score matrix.
dm	The backtrace matrix.

The `needleScores` function returns a numeric vector the same length as the `subjects` argument, with each entry equal to the corresponding raw alignment score.

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## References

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*Blasted cell line names.*  
 Cancer Inform. 2010; 9:251–5.

## See Also

The **Biostrings** package from Bioconductor used to contain a function called `needwunQS` that provided a simple gap implementation of Needleman-Wunsch, similar to the one presented here. That function has been deprecated in favor of a more elaborate interface called `pairwiseAlignment` that incorporates a variety of other alignment methods in addition. While `pairwiseAlignment` is much more useful for applications to biological sequences, it is serious overkill for the application we have in mind for matching cell line or other sample names. And, because BioConductor apparently doesn't believe in backwards compatibility in any form, they have recently moved the `pairwiseAlignment` function out of the `Biostrings` package into a new package called `pwalign`. As a result, I haven't provided a link here, since there is no apparent way to make that work in both older and newer versions of R.

## Examples

```
data(cellLineNames)
myParam <- defaultNeedleParams
myParam$MATCH <- 2
myParam$MISMATCH <- -2
needles(sf2Names[2], illuNames[1], myParam)
scores <- needleScores(sf2Names[6], illuNames, myParam)
w <- which(scores == max(scores))
w
sf2Names[6]

needles(sf2Names[6], illuNames[w], myParam)
```

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