

**Problem 4.** (20 points) Suppose you are given two strings  $x$  and  $y$ , of lengths  $m$  and  $n$ , respectively, a character match / mismatch cost function  $m(a, b)$ , and a gap cost  $\text{cost}_g$ . Here, an optimal alignment is an alignment of *minimum cost* between  $x$  and  $y$ .

- i. Give a dynamic program that computes the *number of optimal* global alignments between  $x$  and  $y$  for arbitrary  $m(\cdot, \cdot)$  and  $\text{cost}_g$ . Your algorithm should run in  $O(mn)$  time and space. Explain (no formal proof is necessary) why your algorithm is correct.

- ii. Give a dynamic program that will compute the (distinct) **cost and path** of a *lowest cost sub-optimal* solution. That is, it should return a cost  $c'$  *strictly greater than* then optimal cost  $c^*$ , but there should not exist any  $c''$  with  $c^* < c'' < c'$ . This represents the best solution that is strictly worse than optimal (i.e. the second-best solution). If there are no sub-optimal solutions (i.e. if every solution is optimal), then your algorithm should report this. Your algorithm should run in  $O(mn)$  time and space.