For the edit distance we have c(a,b) = 0 when a=b, c(a,b) = 1 when a != b and h = 1.

Using equations 3.16 and 3.17 from the book, one can compute a scoring system from a cost measure:

$$p(a, b) = M - c(a, b), \tag{3.16}$$

$$g = -h + \frac{M}{2}. \tag{3.17}$$

Specifying an M not big enough (such as 2), one would get:

p(a,b) = 2 when a = b, p(a,b) = 1 when a != b and g = 0.

The reason M should not be too big is that, in the case it is, g would also be big. However, for calculating similarities, we usually want to penalize inclusion of spaces, so intuitively one expects g to be either negative or close to 0.