Greedy Algorithms: MSTs, Clustering, and Huffman Coding
CMSC 451, Summer 2009

Reminder
- Homework 1 due at the beginning of class on Monday morning. 9:40 is too late.
- See me at office hours if you have questions!
- Email is also fine, but I might not respond as quickly as you’d like...

Where were we…?

- Minimum spanning tree

- Kruskal’s algorithm:
  - Start with $T = \emptyset$. Consider edges in ascending order of cost. Insert edge $e$ in $T$ unless doing so would create a cycle.
  - Need a data structure to manage the connected components

Union-Find Data Structure

- $\text{MakeUnionFind}(S = \{a, b\})$
  - Create singleton trees for all items in the set
  - $\text{Union}(A = \{a\}, B = \{b\})$
  - Merge two connected components by creating a pointer from the root of the smaller tree to the root of the larger tree. Store the size of its tree with each root.
  - $\text{Find}(a)$
    - Traverse up the tree until finding the root. The name of the root is the name of the tree.

Union-Find Data Structure: Analysis

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Kruskal’s Algorithm: Time Analysis

- Sort: $O(m \log n)$ time (since $m = O(n^2)$, $\log m = O(\log n^2) = O(2 \log n)$)
- For all nodes: $O(n)$ total time for $\text{MakeUnionFind}$
- For each edge: $O(\log n)$ time for $\text{Find}$, $O(1)$ time for $\text{Union}$
- Total: $O(n \log n)$ time
Kruskal’s Algorithm

Find the MST and maintain the union-find structure.

Kruskal(G, c)

Sort edge weights so that c₁ ≤ c₂ ≤ ... ≤ cₘ.

T ← φ

foreach (u ∈ V)

make a set containing singleton u

for i = 1 to m

(u, v) = eᵢ

if (u and v are in different sets)

T ← T ∪ {eᵢ}

merge the sets containing u and v

return T

Lexicographic Tiebreaking

To remove the assumption that all edge costs are distinct: perturb all edge costs by tiny amounts to break any ties.

Impact. Kruskal and Prim only interact with costs via pairwise comparisons. If perturbations are sufficiently small, MST with perturbed costs is MST with original costs.

Implementation. Can handle arbitrarily small perturbations implicitly by breaking ties lexicographically, according to index.

boolean less(i, j)

if (cost(eᵢ) < cost(eⱼ)) return true

else if (cost(eᵢ) > cost(eⱼ)) return false

else if (i < j) return true

else return false

Clustering

Clustering. Given a set U of n objects labeled p₁, …, pₙ, classify into coherent groups.

Distance function. Numeric value specifying “closeness” of two objects.

Fundamental problem. Divide into clusters so that points in different clusters are far apart.

Routing in mobile ad hoc networks.

Identify patterns in gene expression.

Document categorization for web search.

Similarity searching in medical image databases

Clustering of Maximum Spacing

k-clustering. Divide objects into k non-empty groups.

Distance function. Assume it satisfies several natural properties.

• d(pᵢ, pⱼ) = 0 if pᵢ = pⱼ (identity of indiscernibles)

• d(pᵢ, pⱼ) = 0 (nonnegativity)

• d(pᵢ, pⱼ) = d(pⱼ, pᵢ) (symmetry)

Spacing. Min distance between any pair of points in different clusters.

Clustering of maximum spacing. Given an integer k, find a k-clustering of maximum spacing.
**Greedy Clustering Algorithm: Analysis**

**Theorem.** Let $C^*$ denote the clustering $C^*_1, \ldots, C^*_k$ formed by deleting the $k-1$ most expensive edges of a MST. $C^*$ is a $k$-clustering of max spacing.

**Proof.** Let $C$ denote some other clustering $C_1, \ldots, C_k$.

1. The spacing of $C^*$ is the length $d^*$ of the $(k-1)$th most expensive edge.
2. Let $p, q$ be in the same cluster in $C^*$, say $C^*_r$, but different clusters in $C$, say $C_s$ and $C_t$.
3. Some edge $(p, q)$ on $p - q$ path in $C^*_r$ spans two different clusters in $C$.
4. All edges on $p - q$ path have length $\leq d^*$ since Kruskal chose them.
5. Spacing of $C$ is $\leq d^*$ since $p$ and $q$ are in different clusters.

**Huffman Codes**

These lecture slides are supplied by Mathijs de Weerd

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**Data Compression**

Q. Given a text that uses 32 symbols (26 different letters, space, and some punctuation characters), how can we encode this text in bits?

Q. Some symbols (e, t, a, o, i, n) are used far more often than others. How can we use this to reduce our encoding?

Q. How do we know when the next symbol begins?

Ex. $c(a) = 01$  
$c(b) = 010$  
$c(e) = 1$  
What is 0101?

**Prefix Codes**

**Definition.** A *prefix code* for a set $S$ is a function $c$ that maps each $x \in S$ to 1s and 0s in such a way that for $x, y \in S$, $x y$ is not a prefix of $c(y)$.

Ex. $c(a) = 11$  
$c(a) = 01$  
$c(b) = 001$  
$c(l) = 10$  
$c(u) = 000$  
What is the meaning of 1001000001?

Suppose frequencies are known in a text with 16 of letters:

$f_A=0.4, f_B=0.2, f_C=0.1, f_D=0.1$  
Q. What is the size of the encoded text?  

**Prefix Codes**

**Definition.** A prefix code for a set $S$ is a function $c$ that maps each $x \in S$ to 1s and 0s in such a way that for $x, y \in S$, $x y$ is not a prefix of $c(y)$.

Ex. $c(a) = 11$  
$c(a) = 01$  
$c(k) = 001$  
$c(l) = 10$  
$c(u) = 000$  
Q. What is the meaning of 1001000001?  
A. "keak"

Suppose frequencies are known in a text with 16 of letters:

$f_A=0.4, f_B=0.2, f_C=0.1, f_D=0.1$  
Q. What is the size of the encoded text?  
A. $2^3f_A + 2^2f_B + 3^2f_C + 3^3f_D = 2.3G$
Optimal Prefix Codes

**Definition.** The average bits per letter of a prefix code $c$ is the sum over all symbols of its frequency times the number of bits of its encoding:

$$ABL(c) = \sum_x f_x \cdot \text{depth}_x(c)$$

We would like to find a prefix code that has the lowest possible average bits per letter.

Suppose we model a code in a binary tree...

Ex. $c(a) = 11$
$c(e) = 01$
$c(k) = 001$
$c(l) = 10$
$c(u) = 000$

Q. What is distinctive about the tree of a prefix code?
A. Only the leaves have a label.

Pf. An encoding of $x$ is a prefix of an encoding of $y$ if and only if the path of $x$ is a prefix of the path of $y$. 

Q. What is the meaning of $111010001111101000$?
A. "simple"

Q. How can this prefix code be made more efficient?
A. Change encoding of $p$ and $s$ to a shorter one.
This tree is now full.

Q. What is the meaning of $111010001111101000$?
A. "simple"
Definition. A tree is full if every node that is not a leaf has two children.

Claim. The binary tree corresponding to the optimal prefix code is full.

Pf. (by contradiction)

1. Suppose T is a binary tree of optimal prefix code and is not full.
2. This means there is a node u with only one child v.
3. Case 1: u is the root; delete u and use v as the root.
4. Case 2: u is not the root.
   - Let w be the parent of u.
   - Delete u and make v be a child of w in place of u.
5. In both cases the number of bits needed to encode any leaf in the subtree of v is decreased. The rest of the tree is not affected.
6. Clearly this new tree T' has a smaller ABL than T. Contradiction.

Optimal Prefix Codes: Huffman Encoding

Observation. Lowest frequency items should be at the lowest level in tree of optimal prefix code.

Observation. For n > 1, the lowest level always contains at least two leaves.

Observation. The order in which items appear in a level does not matter.

Claim. There is an optimal prefix code with tree $T^*$ where the two lowest-frequency letters are assigned to leaves that are siblings in $T^*$.

Greedy template. [Huffman, 1952] Create tree bottom-up.
Make two leaves for the two lowest-frequency letters y and z.
Recursively build tree for the rest using a meta-letter for yz.

Huffman(S) {
  if (|S|=2) {
    return tree with root and 2 leaves
  } else {
    let y and z be lowest-frequency letters in S
    S' = S remove y and z from S
    insert new letter ω in S' with $f_ω = f_y + f_z$
    $T' = \text{Huffman}(S')$
    $T = \text{add two children y and z to leaf } \omega \text{ from } T'$
    return $T$
  }
}

Build a tree for:

Alphabet: (u,k,l,a)
Frequencies: $f_u=0.32, f_k=0.25, f_l=0.20, f_a=0.18, f_u=0.05$
Huffman Coding Analysis

We didn’t get to the following slides. You are not responsible for their specific content, however, since you should generally know how to analyze algorithms, it might be useful to review them.

Optimal Prefix Codes: Huffman Encoding

**Question:** What is the time complexity?

**Answer:**

**Huffman(S) {**

  * if |S| = 2 { return tree with root and 2 leaves }
  * else { let y and z be lowest-frequency letters in S 
    S’ = S remove y and z from S 
    insert new letter \( \omega \) in S’ with \( f_{\omega} = f_y + f_z \) 
    T’ = Huffman(S’) 
    T = add two children y and z to leaf \( \omega \) from T’ 
    return T }

**Question:** How to implement finding lowest-frequency letters efficiently?

**Answer:**

Use priority queue for S: 

T(n) = T(n-1) + O(log n) so O(n log n)

Huffman Encoding: Greedy Analysis

**Claim:** Huffman code for S achieves the minimum ABL of any prefix code.

**Proof:** by induction over n=|S| (see next page)

**Claim:** ABL(T) = ABL(T’)+f_\( \omega \)

**Proof:**

\[
ABL(T) = \sum_{x \in S} f_x \cdot \text{depth}_T(x) \\
= \sum_{x \in S} f_x \cdot \text{depth}_{T'}(x) + f_\( \omega \) \cdot \text{depth}_T(\( \omega \)) \\
= (\sum_{x \in S} f_x \cdot \text{depth}_{T'}(x)) + f_\( \omega \) \cdot (\text{depth}_T(\( \omega \)) + \text{depth}_{T'}(s)) \\
= f_\( \omega \) \cdot \sum_{x \in S} \left( \text{depth}_{T'}(x) + 1 \right) \\
= f_\( \omega \) \cdot ABL(T') + f_\( \omega \) 
\]
Claim. Huffman code for $S$ achieves the minimum ABL of any prefix code.

**Pf.** (by induction over $n = |S|$)

**Base:** For $n = 2$ there is no shorter code than root and two leaves.

**Hypothesis:** Suppose Huffman tree $T'$ for $S'$ of size $n-1$ with $\omega$ instead of $y$ and $z$ is optimal.

**Step:** (by contradiction)

**Idea of proof:**
- Suppose other tree $Z$ of size $n$ is better.
- Delete lowest frequency items $y$ and $z$ from $Z$ creating $Z'$.
- $Z'$ cannot be better than $T'$ by IH.

- Suppose Huffman tree $T$ for $S$ is not optimal.
- So there is some tree $Z$ such that $\text{ABL}(Z) = \text{ABL}(T)$.
- Then there is also a tree $Z'$ for which leaves $y$ and $z$ exist that are siblings and have the lowest frequency (see observation).
- Let $Z'$ be $Z$ with $y$ and $z$ deleted, and their former parent labeled $\omega$.
- Similar $T'$ is derived from $S'$ in our algorithm.
- We know that $\text{ABL}(Z') = \text{ABL}(Z) - f_\omega$ as well as $\text{ABL}(T') = \text{ABL}(T) - f_\omega$.
- But also $\text{ABL}(Z) = \text{ABL}(T)$, so $\text{ABL}(Z') < \text{ABL}(T')$.
- Contradiction with IH.