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# Algorithms for Computing Maximum Agreement Subtrees

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# Abstract

► in English... ◄



# Resumé

►in Danish...◄



# Acknowledgements



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# Contents

Abstract	iii
Resumé	v
Acknowledgments	vii
1 Introduction	3
2 ►...◄	5
3 ►The NSquared algorithm◄	7
3.1 Implementation . . . . .	7
4 The NLogN algorithm	9
4.1 Centroid decompositions . . . . .	9
5 Conclusion	11
Primary Bibliography	11



# Chapter 1

## Introduction

The Maximum Agreement Subtree problem (MAST) provides a measure of similarity, and is defined as such: Given two rooted trees, T1 and T2, created over the same leaf-set  $\{1,2,3,\dots,n\}$ , determine the largest possible subset of leaves inducing an agreeing subtree of T1 and T2. For a set of leaves to induce an agreeing subtree for T1 and T2, the subtrees restricted to the set of leaves must be isomorphic, which means that they are structurally equivalent.

Let us start by motivating the interest in MAST by giving an example of its application. Suppose that we are interested in inspecting the relationship between DNA obtained from different species. This is typically done by the use of Hierarchical Clustering (REF) or Neighbor Joining (REF) to construct evolutionary trees. However, finding the true evolutionary tree is often hard (find another way of expressing hard), and evidence is required to support any suggested tree topology.

The MAST problem is one of several ways of defining tree distances. -which one is superior?

The MAST problem applies to all trees, but we will choose to focus on the rooted, binary trees given that the motivation for the problem is primarily rooted in biology and linguistics, where these trees are most common.

$\frac{3x + y}{7} = 9$	given
$3x + y = 63$	multiply by 7
$3x = 63 - y$	subtract y
$x = 21 - \frac{y}{3}$	divide by 3

$$f(T_a, T_x) = \text{Max} \begin{cases} f(T_b, T_y) + f(T_c, T_z) & \text{if TypeOf}(T_a) = \text{Type Of}(T_x) = \text{Internal Node} \\ f(T_b, T_z) + f(T_c, T_y) & \text{if TypeOf}(T_a) = \text{Type Of}(T_x) = \text{Internal Node} \\ f(T_a, T_y) & \text{if TypeOf}(T_x) = \text{Internal Node} \\ f(T_a, T_z) & \text{if TypeOf}(T_x) = \text{Internal Node} \\ f(T_b, T_x) & \text{if TypeOf}(T_a) = \text{Internal Node} \\ f(T_c, T_x) & \text{if TypeOf}(T_a) = \text{Internal Node} \\ 1 & \text{if TypeOf}(T_a) = \text{TypeOf}(T_x) = \text{Leaf} \wedge T_a = T_x \\ 0 & \end{cases}$$

►...◄

## Chapter 2



►example of a citation to primary literature: [1], and one to secondary literature: [?]◄



## Chapter 3

### ►The NSquared algorithm◄

Goddard et. al.[1] describes a ► $O(n^2)$ ◄ algorithm for finding the largest agreement subtree for two rooted binary trees. Given two trees  $T$  and  $U$  of size  $m$  and  $n$ , the idea is to iteratively find the largest agreement subtree and its size for every pair of subtrees from  $T$  and  $U$ . This can be done in quadratic time by using Lemma 1: ►...◄

#### 3.1 Implementation

We implemented the algorithm in java (using the forrester [?] library to represent the trees?). We computed the agreement subtrees for each pair of subtrees in the two trees by doing a postorder traversal of the first tree and for each node did a postorder traversal of the second tree. For each pair of nodes  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  we computed the agreement subtree  $A_{a,w}$  for the two subtrees  $T_a$  and  $T_w$  having respectively  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  as roots. For such a pair of nodes there are three cases.

The first case is that  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  are both leaves. If the leaves are equal, i.e. they have the same name, then  $A_{a,w}$  will be the tree consisting of exactly one leaf with that name. Otherwise  $A_{a,w}$  is empty.

The second case is that we have a leaf and an internal node. Let's say  $\mathbf{w}$  is the internal node having  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{y}$  as children. If the leaf corresponding to  $\mathbf{a}$  is contained in  $T_w$ , it will also be contained in either  $T_x$  or  $T_y$  and  $A_{a,w}$  will be the same as either  $A_{a,x}$  or  $A_{a,y}$ . Since we do a postorder traversal of the trees,  $A_{a,x}$  and  $A_{a,y}$  have already been computed and  $A_{a,w}$  can just be set to the largest of the two.

The third case is that both  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  are internal nodes, where  $\mathbf{a}$  have children  $\mathbf{b}$  and  $\mathbf{c}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  have children  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{y}$ . In this case we can use Lemma 1. Again, all the agreement subtrees to consider have already been computed. If the largest subtree is either  $A_{b,x} + A_{c,y}$  or  $A_{b,y} + A_{c,x}$ ,  $A_{a,w}$  will be the tree having the two subtrees as children.

All these agreement subtrees were stored in a matrix together with their sizes. The last cell in the matrix would then at the end contain the agreement subtree for the two input trees.

How did we verify the algorithm? E.g. bruteforce MAST and compare results.

Show trees and MAST outputted by the program.





## Chapter 4

# The NLogN algorithm

### 4.1 Centroid decompositions

The first step of the algorithm is to compute the **Centroid decompositions** for the two trees. A centroid decomposition consists of an amount of disjoint paths through the tree, called **Centroid paths**. Such a path starts at a node in the tree and contains the edge to the child node holding the largest amount of leaves in its subtree. In case of a tie, an arbitrary edge is picked. The path will continue until reaching a leaf.

For the first tree, the centroid decomposition consists of only the centroid path starting at the root. For the second tree, the centroid decomposition consists of all possible disjoint centroid paths.

The implementation of this principle was done by storing the number of leaves in the subtree of a node at each node in the two trees such that this number could be looked up in constant time. Now for the centroid decomposition of the first tree, we simply started at the root node and picked the edge to the node with the highest number stored. For the second tree, the same thing was done, but when picking the edge to a child node, we also started another path at the second child if it wasn't a leaf.



## Chapter 5

# Conclusion





# Bibliography

- [1] Wayne Goddard, Ewa Kubicka, Grzegorz Kubicki, and F. R. McMorris.  
The agreement metric for labeled binary trees. *Mathematical Biosciences*,  
123(2):215–226, October 1994.