

DM865 – Spring 2018
Heuristics and Approximation Algorithms

Working Environment

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Outline

Working Environment
Random Numbers

1. Working Environment

2. Random Numbers

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Building a Working Environment

What will you need during the project? How will you organize it? How will you make things work together?

- ▶ `src/` `code` that implements the algorithm (likely, several versions)
- ▶ `bin/` place where to put your executables
- ▶ `data/` `input`: Instances for the solver, parameters to guide the solver
- ▶ `scripts/` `code` that runs batches of experiments or parses files
- ▶ `log/` other log files produced by the run of the algorithm
- ▶ `res/` `output`: The result, the performance measurements
- ▶ `r/` `analysis tools`: statistics, data analysis, visualization
- ▶ `doc/` or `tex/` `journal/report`: A record of your experiments and findings, together with description of the algorithms.
- ▶ `Makefile` compiles the sources in `src` and puts the executables in `bin`.
- ▶ `README` explains how to compile, test and run the program. Eventually, it explains differences among versions.

~> organize everything like if you had to reproduce the same results in a few years from now.

Input controls on command line

```
xyz --main::instance ins1.txt --main::output-file log.txt --main::seed 12 > data.log
```

Output on stdout, self-describing

```
#stat instance.in 30 90
seed: 9897868
Parameter1: 30
Parameter2: A
Read instance. Time: 0.016001
begin try 1
best 0 col 22 time 0.004000 iter 0 par_iter 0
best 3 col 21 time 0.004000 iter 0 par_iter 0
best 1 col 21 time 0.004000 iter 0 par_iter 0
best 0 col 21 time 0.004000 iter 1 par_iter 1
best 6 col 20 time 0.004000 iter 3 par_iter 1
best 4 col 20 time 0.004000 iter 4 par_iter 2
best 2 col 20 time 0.004000 iter 6 par_iter 4
exit iter 7 time 1.000062
end try 1
```

If a single program that implements many heuristics

- ▶ proceed for new versions but take old versions with a journal in archive.
Consider using a version control system (eg, git, svn).
- ▶ use command line parameters to choose among the heuristics
- ▶ Python: getopt,
C: getopt, getopt_long, opag (option parser generator)
Java: package [org.apache.commons.cli](https://commons.apache.org/cli/)
EasyLocal: boost libraries
- ▶ use identifying labels in naming file outputs
Example:
`c0010.i0002.t0001.s02010.log`

- ▶ You will need:
multiple runs, multiple instances, multiple classes and multiple algorithms.
Arrange this outside of your program: ➡ unix scripts (eg, bash one line program)

- ▶ Parse outputfiles:
Example

```
grep #stat * | cut -f 2 -d " "
```

See <http://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/manual/> for shell tools.

- ▶ Data in form of matrix or data frame goes directly into R imported by `read.table()`, untouched by human hands!

```
alg instance      run sol time
RDS 1e450_15a.col 3 21 0.00267
RDS 1e450_15b.col 3 21 0
RDS 1e450_15d.col 3 31 0.00267
RLF 1e450_15a.col 3 17 0.00533
RLF 1e450_15b.col 3 16 0.008
...
```

- ▶ vim (Vi IMproved)
- ▶ emacs, atom, spyder3, visual code, jupyter-lab, eclipse
- ▶ Integrated development environment. Choose your favourite:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Integrated_development_environment

Visualization helps understanding

- ▶ Problem visualization (matplotlib, networkx, graphviz)
- ▶ Algorithm animation
- ▶ Results visualization: recommended R (more on this later)

Manual testing

- ▶ Print at run time
- ▶ Debug in spyder3 or other IDE
- ▶ Plot the development of
 - ▶ best visited solution quality
 - ▶ current solution qualityover time and compare with other features of the algorithm.
- ▶ Take it well: it is like a detective job

Automatic testing

- ▶ Check the correctness of your solutions at output everytime you do [refactoring](#) or new versions.
- ▶ [edge cases](#): test of arguments or inputs that lead to undefined cases
- ▶ useful as silent documentation on the use of the code
- ▶ coverage: did things work before a change or was a certain aspect never tested?

In Python, `assert` throws `AssertionError`

In Python, module `unittest`: tests as methods of a `Test` class.

automates the calls to the test functions

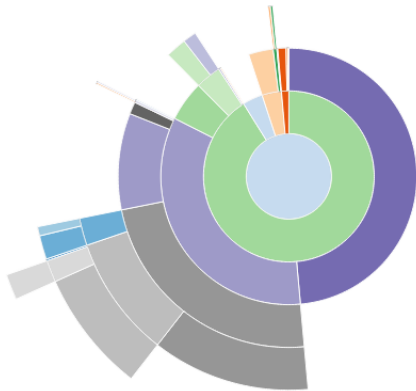
- ▶ Profile time consumption per program components
 - ▶ under Linux and OSX: gprof
 1. add flag `-pg` in compilation
 2. run the program
 3. `gprof gmon.out > a.txt`
 - ▶ under OSX:
 - ▶ Instruments
 - ▶ Java VM profilers (plugin for eclipse)
<http://visualvm.java.net/>

Program Profiling

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cProfile

<https://jiffyclub.github.io/snakeviz/>



Execution time can be extremely short:

- ▶ put the statement to measure in a loop
- ▶ execute several times

Take minimum measured time to make sure other processes running on the computer do not influence the measured result too much.

In Python, module `timeit`

The timer object has a function `repeat` that takes two parameters

`repeat` number of overall repetitions

`number` number of iterations in the loop

Measuring Memory Consumption

- ▶ In Unix (and MacOS) `top`
- ▶ In Python, `python -m memory_profiler myscript`
and `memprow` (for time dependent analysis)
https://pypi.python.org/pypi/memory_profiler

Planning

Release planning creates the schedule • Make frequent small releases • The project is divided into iterations • Publish early, revise often

Designing

Simplicity • No functionality is added early • Refactor: eliminate unused functionality and redundancy

Coding

Code must be written to agreed standards • Code the unit test first • All production code is pair programmed • Leave optimization till last • No overtime • Pair programming

Testing

All code must have unit tests • All code must pass all unit tests before it can be released • When a bug is found tests are created

Development of Heuristics

- ▶ Model
- ▶ implement
- ▶ experiment
- ▶ fail
- ▶ think
- ▶ try again!

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Carachtersitics of a good pseudo-random generator
(from stochastic simulation)

- ▶ long period
- ▶ uniform unbiased distribution
- ▶ uncorrelated (time series analysis)
- ▶ efficient

Suggested: MRG32k3a by L'Ecuyer <http://www.iro.umontreal.ca/~lecuyer/>

Ideal Random Shuffle

Let's consider a sequence of n elements: $\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n\}$.

The **ideal random shuffle** is a permutation chosen uniformly at random from the set of all possible $n!$ permutations.

- ▶ π_1 is uniformly randomly chosen among $\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n\}$.
- ▶ π_2 is uniformly randomly chosen among $\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n\} - \{\pi_1\}$.
- ▶ π_3 is uniformly randomly chosen among $\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n\} - \{\pi_1, \pi_2\}$
- ▶ ...

Joint probability of $(\pi_1, \pi_2 \dots \pi_n)$ is $\frac{1}{n} \cdot \frac{1}{n-1} \cdot \dots \cdot 1 = \frac{1}{n!}$

```
long int* Random::generate_random_array(const int& size) {  
    long int i, j, help;  
    long int *v = new long int[size];  
    for ( i = 0 ; i < size; i++ )  
        v[i] = i;  
    for ( i = 0 ; i < size-1 ; i++) {  
        j = (long int) ( ranU01( ) * (size - i));  
        help = v[i];  
        v[i] = v[i+j];  
        v[i+j] = help;  
    }  
    return v; }
```

How to select an element at random from a sequence of n elements where n is unknown?

- ▶ Keep the first item in memory.
- ▶ When the i -th item arrives (for $i > 1$):
 - ▶ with probability $1/i$, keep the new item (discard the old one)
 - ▶ with probability $1 - 1/i$ keep the old item (ignore the new one)

Extension:

How to select a sample of k elements from a sequence S of unknown length?

- ▶ Keep the first k items in memory.
- ▶ When the i th item arrives (for $i > k$):
 - ▶ with probability k/i , keep the new item (discard an old one, selecting which to replace at random, each with chance $1/k$)
 - ▶ with probability $1 - k/i$, keep the old items (ignore the new one)

```
// S has items to sample, R will contain the result  
ReservoirSample(S[1..n], R[1..k])  
  // fill the reservoir array  
  for i = 1 to k  
    R[i] := S[i]  
  
  // replace elements with gradually decreasing probability  
  for i = k+1 to n  
    j := random(1, i) // important: inclusive range  
    if j <= k  
      R[j] := S[i]
```