DM865 – Spring 2018

Heuristics and Approximation Algorithms

Construction Heuristics for Traveling Salesman Problem

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Outline

1. Combinatorial Optimization
2. Heuristic Methods
3. TSP
4. Code Speed Up

Outline

Aim of the Heuristic Part of the Course

To enable the student to solve discrete optimization problems
that arise in practical applications

Discrete and Combinatorial Optimization

- Discrete optimization emphasizes the difference to continuous optimization, solutions are described by integer numbers or discrete structures
- Combinatorial optimization is a subset of discrete optimization.
- Combinatorial optimization is the study of the ways discrete structures (eg, graphs) can be selected/arranged/combined: Finding an optimal object from a finite set of objects.
- Discrete/Combinatorial Optimization involves finding a way to efficiently allocate resources in mathematically formulated problems.

Discrete Optimization Problems

Discrete Optimization problems

They arise in many areas of
Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence, Operations Research...:

- allocating register memory
- planning, scheduling, timetabling
- Internet data packet routing
- protein structure prediction
- auction winner determination
- portfolio selection
- ...

Discrete Optimization Problems

Simplified models are often used to formalize real life problems

- finding models of propositional formulae (SAT)
- finding variable assignment that satisfy constraints (CSP)
- partitioning graphs or digraphs
- partitioning, packing, covering sets
- finding shortest/cheapest round trips (TSP)
- coloring graphs (GCP)
- finding the order of arcs with minimal backward cost
- ...

Example Problems

- They are chosen because conceptually concise, intended to illustrate the development, analysis and presentation of algorithms
- Although real-world problems tend to have much more complex formulations, these problems capture their essence

Elements of Combinatorial Problems

Combinatorial problems are characterized by an input,
i.e., a general description of conditions (or constraints) and parameters,
and a question (or task, or objective) defining
the properties of a solution.

They involve finding a grouping, ordering, or assignment
of a discrete, finite set of objects that satisfies given conditions.

Candidate solutions are combinations of objects or solution components that need not satisfy all given conditions. They can be partial solutions or complete solutions.

Feasible solutions are candidate solutions that satisfy all given conditions.

Optimal Solutions are feasible solutions that maximize or minimize some criterion or objective function.

Approximate solutions are feasible candidate solutions that are not optimal but good in some sense.

Traveling Salesman Problem

Traveling Salesman Problem

Given: a weighted complete graph
Output: an Hamiltonian cycle of minimum total cost.

- http://www.math.uwaterloo.ca/tsp/
- "platform for the study of general methods that can be applied to a wide range of discrete optimization problems"
- arranging school bus routes to pick up the children in a school district.
- scheduling of service calls at cable firms
- delivery of meals to homebound persons
- scheduling of stacker cranes in warehouses
- scheduling of a machine to drill holes in a circuit board or other object
- routing of trucks for parcel post pickup

General vs Instance

General problem *vs* problem instance:

General problem Π:

- Given *any* set of points X in a square, find a shortest Hamiltonian cycle
- *Solution:* Algorithm that finds shortest Hamiltonian cycle for any X

Problem instantiation $\pi = \Pi(I)$:

- Given a specific set of points I in the square, find a shortest Hamiltonian cycle
- *Solution:* Shortest Hamiltonian cycle for I

Problems can be formalized on sets of problem instances $\mathcal{I}$ (instance classes)

Traveling Salesman Problem

Types of TSP instances:

- Symmetric: For all edges uv of the given graph G, vu is also in G, and $w_{uv} = w_{vu}$. Otherwise: asymmetric.
- Euclidean: Vertices = points in an Euclidean space, weight function = Euclidean distance metric.
- Geographic: Vertices = points on a sphere, weight function = geographic (great circle) distance.

Alternatively, these features can become part of the general problem description and exploited in the development of the solution algorithm

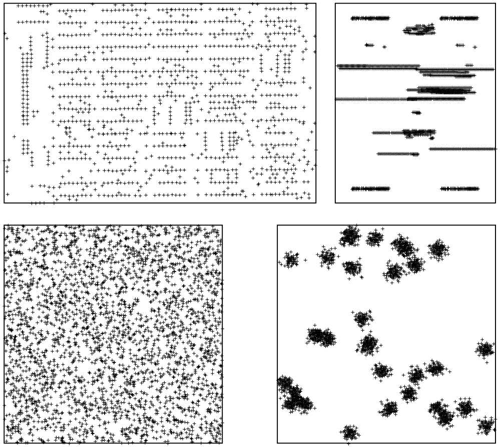
TSP: Benchmark Instances

Instance classes

- Real-life applications (geographic, VLSI)
- Random Euclidean
- Random Clustered Euclidean
- Random Distance

Available at the TSPLIB (more than 100 instances upto 85.900 cities) and at the 8th DIMACS challenge

TSP: Instance Examples



Complete Algorithms and Lower Bounds

Reference Results

- Branch & cut algorithms (Concorde: http://www.math.uwaterloo.ca/tsp/concorde)
  - cutting planes + branching
  - use LP-relaxation for lower bounding schemes
  - effective heuristics for upper bounds

Solution times with Concorde

Instance	No. nodes	CPU time (secs)
att532	7	109.52
rat783	1	37.88
pcb1173	19	468.27
fl1577	7	6705.04
d2105	169	11179253.91
pr2392	1	116.86
rl5934	205	588936.85
usa13509	9539	ca. 4 years
d15112	164569	ca. 22 years
s24978	167263	84.8 CPU years

- Lower bounds: (within less than one percent of optimum for random Euclidean, up to two percent for TSPLIB instances)

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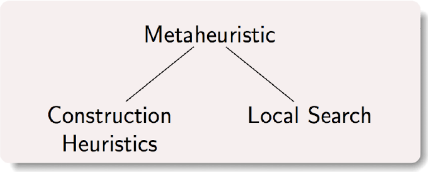
Heuristics

Get inspired by approach to problem solving in human mind
[A. Newell and H.A. Simon. “Computer science as empirical inquiry: symbols and search.” Communications of the ACM, ACM, 1976, 19(3)]

- effective rules without theoretical support
- trial and error



Applications:

- Optimization
- But also in Psychology, Economics, Management [Tversky, A.; Kahneman, D. (1974). "Judgment under uncertainty: Heuristics and biases". Science 185]

Basis on empirical evidence rather than mathematical logic. Getting things done in the given time.

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Construction Heuristics

Construction heuristics specific for TSP

- Heuristics that Grow Fragments
  - Nearest neighborhood heuristics
  - Double-Ended Nearest Neighbor heuristic
  - Multiple Fragment heuristic (aka, greedy heuristic)
- Heuristics that Grow Tours
  - Nearest Addition
  - Farthest Addition
  - Random Addition
  - Nearest Insertion
  - Farthest Insertion
  - Random Insertion
  - Clarke-Wright savings heuristic
- Heuristics based on Trees
  - Minimum spanning tree heuristic
  - Christofides' heuristics
  - Fast recursive partitioning heuristic

Construction Heuristics for TSP

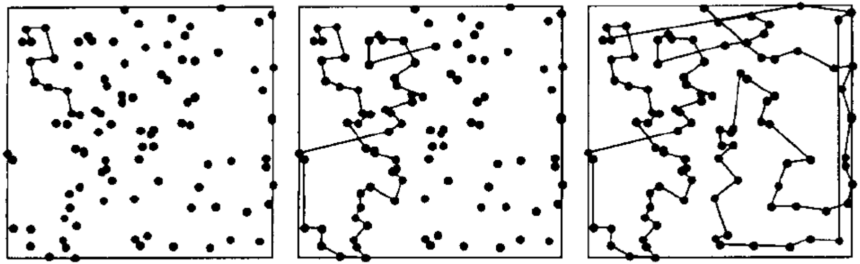


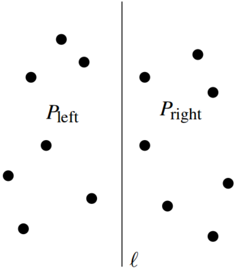
Figure 1. The Nearest Neighbor heuristic.

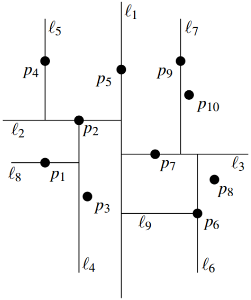
- In geometric instances: $NN < \frac{(\lceil \log N \rceil + 1)}{2} \cdot OPT$
- Double-Ended NN

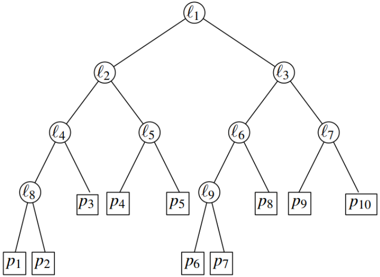
Nearest Neighbor Heuristic

```
Build(PtSet)
Perm[1]:=StartPt
DeletePt(Perm[1])
for i:=2 to N do
    Perm[i]:=NN(Perm[i-1])
    DeletePt(Perm[i])
```

Data Structures







- Construction in $O(n \log n)$ time and $O(n)$ space
- Range search: reports the leaves from a split node.
- `Delete(PointNum)` amortized constant time
- `NearestNeighbor(PointNum)` bottom-up search
  visit nodes + compute distances
  $A + BN^C$, $A > 0, B < 0, -1 < C < 0$ (expected constant time) if no deletions happened and data uniform
- `FixedRadiusNearestNeighbor(PointNum, Radius, function)`
- `BallSearch(PointNum, function)` ball centered at point
- `SetRadius(PointNum, float Radius)`
- `SphereOfInfluence(PointNum, float Radius)` ball centered at point with given radius

Construction Heuristics for TSP

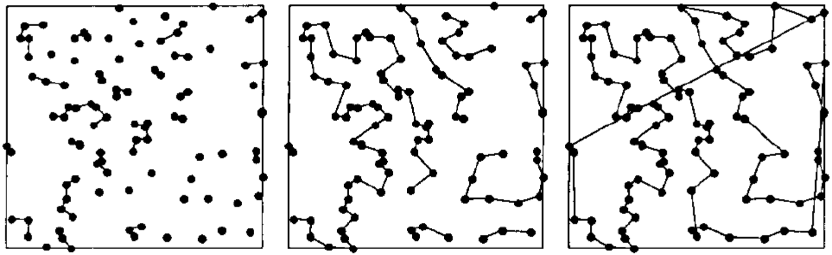


Figure 5. The Multiple Fragment heuristic.

- $O(\sqrt{N})$ approximation

- Array `Degree` num. of tour edges
- K-d tree for nearest neighbor searching (only eligible nodes)
- Array `NNLink` containing index to nearest neighbor of i not in the fragment of i
- Priority queue (heap) with nearest neighbor links
- Array `Tail` link to the other tail of current fragments.

Important Elements

- Exploit the locality inherent in the problem to solve it (NN search, Fixed-radius search, ball search)
- Search time modelled by a function $A + BN^C$
- Number of searches
- Priority queue of links to nearest neighbors

Addition Heuristics

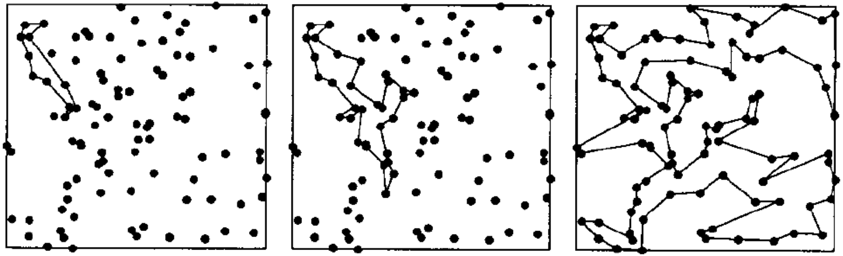


Figure 8. The Nearest Addition heuristic.

Tour maintained as a doubly-linked list

Addition Heuristics

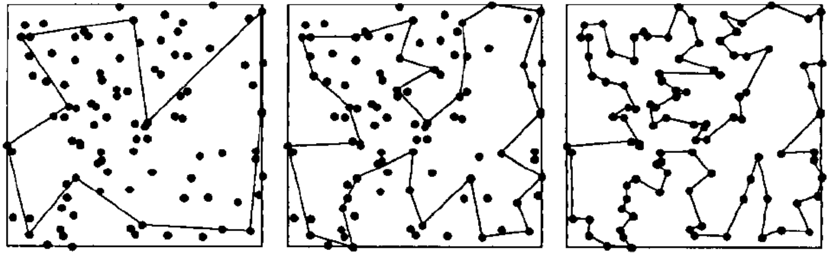


Figure 11. The Farthest Addition heuristic.

Addition Heuristics

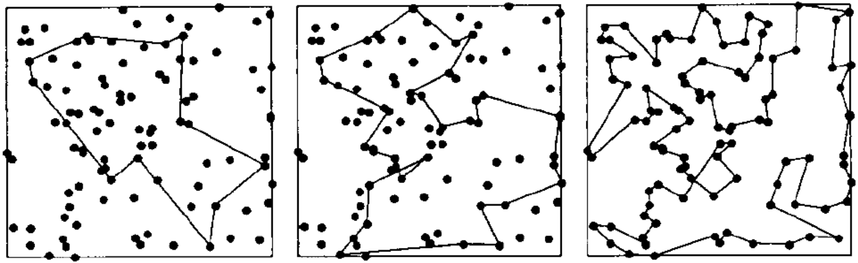
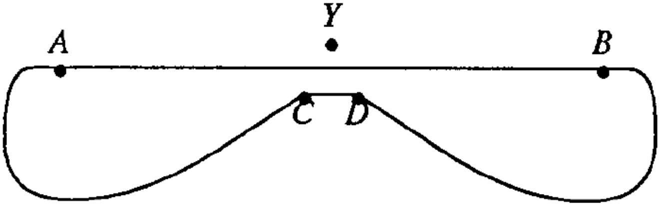


Figure 14. The Random Addition heuristic.

Insertion Heuristics

Motivation:

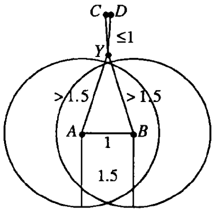


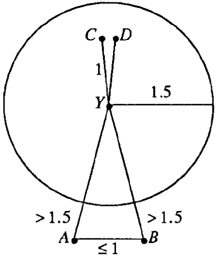
Theorem

Y not yet in tour
C nearest neighbor of Y
D neighbor of C in tour that minimize $C(Y, CD)$
The tour edges with minimal expansion is:

- *the nearest neigbhor edge CD*
- *the edge AB such that A is in $\mathtt{NNBall}(Y, 1.5 \cdot e_{\min})$, $e_{\min}$ shortest edge from Y*
- *the edge AB such that Y is in $\mathtt{SphereOfInfluence}(A, 1.5 \cdot e_{\max})$, $e_{\max}$ longest edge from A scale 1.5*

Proof: $C(Y, CD) \leq 2D(Y, C)$





Construction Heuristics for TSP

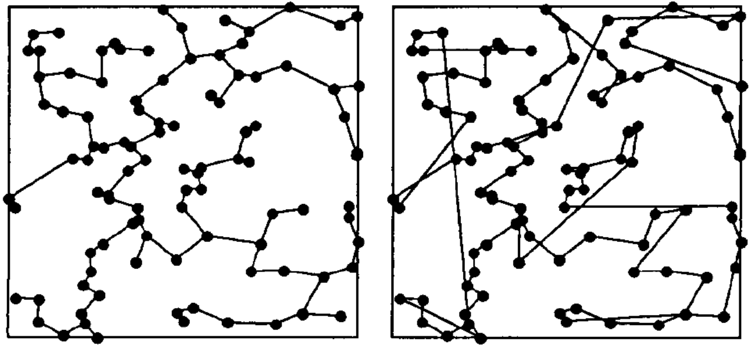


Figure 18. The Minimum Spanning Tree heuristic.

$$MST \leq 2 \cdot OPT$$

Construction Heuristics for TSP

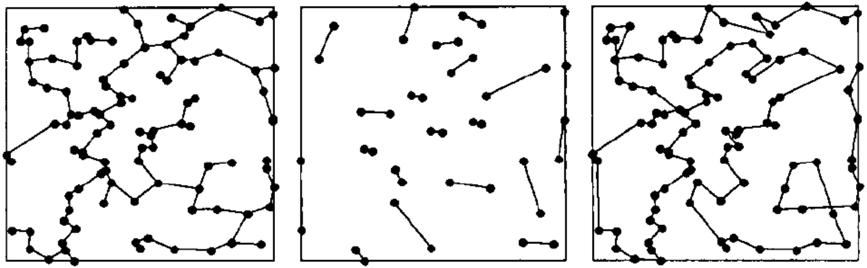


Figure 19. Christofides' heuristic.

$CH \leq \frac{3}{2} \cdot OPT$ tight and best known

Outline

Where do speedups come from?

Where can maximum speedup be achieved?
How much speedup should you expect?

Code Tuning

- Caution: proceed carefully! Let the optimizing compiler do its work!
  - optimizing flags
  - just-in-time-compilation: it converts code at runtime prior to executing it natively, for example bytecode into native machine code. (module `numba` https://www.ibm.com/developerworks/community/blogs/jfp/entry/Fast_Computation_of_AUC_ROC_score?lang=en)
- Caching, memoization (`@functools.lru_cache(None)`)
- Profiling (module `cProfile`)

- Expression Rules: Recode for smaller instruction counts.
- Loop and procedure rules: Recode to avoid loop or procedure call overhead.
- Hidden costs of high-level languages
- String comparisons: proportional to length of the string, not constant
- Object construction / de-allocation: very expensive
- Matrix access: row-major order $\neq$ column-major order
- Exploit algebraic identities
- Avoid unnecessary computations inside the loops

Where Speedups Come From?

McGeoch reports conventional wisdom, based on studies in the literature.

- Concurrency is tricky: bad -7x to good 500x
- Classic algorithms: to 1trillion and beyond
- Data-aware: up to 100x
- Memory-aware: up to 20x
- Algorithm tricks: up to 200x
- Code tuning: up to 10x
- Change platforms: up to 10x