

Solution for Home Assignment 2 (Theoretical part)  
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**3. Connected lines least squares.**

Given  $n$  points on a 2D plane  $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \dots, (x_n, y_n)$  with  $x_1 < x_2 < \dots < x_n$  that lie roughly on a sequence of several line segments. The idea is to approximate this data set not with a single line, but with several connected lines. So, our goal is to find the minimum cost (defined below) for given  $n$  points in the plane using dynamic programming.

Let  $\text{MIN}(j)$  = minimum cost for points  $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \dots, (x_j, y_j)$ ,  
 $e(i, j)$  = minimum sum of squared errors for points  $(x_i, y_i), (x_{i+1}, y_{i+1}), \dots, (x_j, y_j)$ ,  
Sum of squared errors  $SSE = \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - (ax_i + b))^2$ , that is minimized when

$$a = \frac{n \sum_i (x_i y_i) - (\sum_i x_i)(\sum_i y_i)}{n \sum_i x_i^2 - (\sum_i x_i)^2} \text{ and } b = \frac{\sum_i y_i - a \sum_i x_i}{n}$$

Now, we can define trade-off (cost) function for a particular solution of connected lines least squares problem: Trade-off = (the sum of  $SSE$  in each segment) + (the number of lines in our approximation).

**1. Define what are the subproblems.**

The minimal cost of the particular point  $(x_j, y_j)$  can be either  $e(i, j)$  for the solution that keep the line started in  $(x_i, y_i)$  to approximate point  $(x_j, y_j)$  where  $1 \leq i < j \leq n$ , or  $e(i, j-1) + 1$  for solution that requires introduction of a new line. We notice that for some problem  $\text{MIN}(j)$  the segment (with the right endpoint  $(x_j, y_j)$  and the optimal partition) starts at the some earlier point  $(x_i, y_i)$ . Therefore, we can solve the problem  $\text{MIN}(j)$  if we know the solution for the subproblem  $\text{MIN}(i-1)$  for  $1 \leq i \leq j \leq n$ .

**2. Recognize and solve the base cases.**

Since the calculation of  $\text{MIN}(j)$  requires the value of  $\text{MIN}(i-1)$  and  $i \geq 1$  (number of points), our base case will be  $\text{MIN}(0)$ . Let's consider such a case: if we have no points, then we do not introduce any lines, and minimal cost of the solution will be equal to 0. Therefore,  $\text{MIN}(0) = 0$ .

**3. Write down the recurrence that relates subproblems.**

There are two possible scenarios for a particular point  $(x_j, y_j)$ , where  $1 \leq j \leq n$ :

First scenario is to keep the line started in some point  $(x_i, y_i)$  where  $1 \leq i < j$ , and use this line to approximate current point  $(x_j, y_j)$ . The cost of such a solution will be the  $e(i, j)$ .

Second scenario is to introduce new line started in  $(x_j, y_j)$  and the cost of such a solution will be the  $e(i, j - 1) + 1$ .

So, for a particular  $\text{MIN}(j)$  we try to find the balance of  $\text{MIN}(i - 1)$  and the  $e(i, j)$ , where  $1 \leq i \leq j \leq n$ . It means, that we consider the partition defined in the previous iteration and decide is it optimal to introduce new line, or just keep the line continuous from some point  $(x_i, y_i)$  to approximate the current point  $(x_j, y_j)$ .

Hence, the recurrence relation for the connected lines least squares problem can be defined as:

$\text{MIN}(j) = \min(e(i, j) + \text{MIN}(i - 1) + 1)$ , for  $1 \leq i \leq j$  and  $j \neq 0$

$\text{MIN}(j) = 0$ , for  $j = 0$ .

#### **4. Write the pseudocode (always using DP) that returns $\text{MIN}(n)$ .**

The pseudocode shown in the table Algorithm 1 (page 3).

Firstly, we declare two arrays to store computations of the minimum cost and minimum  $SSE$  for corresponding points. The bottom-up approach allows us to avoid the overlapping of subproblems, i.e. it optimizes the process of  $e(i, j)$  and  $\text{MIN}(i)$  computation. Also, we define base case for connected lines least squares problem that is  $\text{MIN}(0) = 0$ . Then, we calculate and store minimum  $SSE$  for all combinations of points  $(x_i, y_i), (x_{i+1}, y_{i+1}), \dots, (x_j, y_j)$  with  $1 \leq i \leq j \leq n$ . Next step is the computing and storing the minimum cost for all sequences of points  $(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_t, y_t)$  with  $t \in [1..n]$ . To do that we use the derived in previous task recurrent formula  $\text{MIN}(j) = \min(e(i, j) + \text{MIN}(i - 1) + 1)$ , for  $1 \leq i \leq j \leq n$  and  $j \neq 0$ . Finally, the result will be stored in  $\text{MIN}[n]$ , and we can return this value.

#### **5. State and justify the complexity of your pseudocode.**

To treat all pairs  $(i, j)$  with  $1 \leq i \leq j \leq n$  we need the quadratic time. Every computation of  $e(i, j)$  takes linear time, because we process all points  $(x_i, y_i), \dots, (x_j, y_j)$  to compute their squared errors. Therefore, the computation of all  $e(i, j)$  for  $1 \leq i \leq j \leq n$  takes  $O(n^3)$  time.

Then, we process given  $n$  points, and on each iteration  $j$  we try to find such an  $i$  that  $1 \leq i \leq j$  holds and  $[e(i, j) + \text{MIN}(i - 1) + 1]$  minimized. It can be performed in  $O(n^2)$  time. Hence, the time complexity of proposed algorithm is  $O(n^3) + O(n^2) = O(n^3 + n^2) = O(n^3)$ .

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**Algorithm 1** Connected lines least squares.

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1: // declare arrays
2: new array Min[ $n + 1$ ] // to store computations of the minimum cost for
   corresponding points
3: new array E[ $n + 1$ ][ $n + 1$ ] // to store computations of the minimum SSE
   for corresponding points

4: // set the base case
5: Min[0]  $\leftarrow$  0

6: for j = 1 to n do
7:   for i = 1 to j do
8:     // compute and store the minimum SSE for points
9:     //  $(x_i, y_i), (x_{i+1}, y_{i+1}), \dots, (x_j, y_j)$ 
10:    E[i][j]  $\leftarrow$  e( $i, j$ )

11: for j = 1 to n do
12:   // introduce new variable that will store the MIN( $j$ )
13:   min  $\leftarrow$  MAX_VALUE
14:   for i = 1 to j do
15:     // compute the cost for corresponding points
16:     temp  $\leftarrow$  Min[i - 1] + E[i][j] + 1
17:     // check whether the obtained value is the minimum
18:     // among all previously calculated values
19:     if temp < min then
20:       // set the preliminary minimum cost
21:       min  $\leftarrow$  temp
22:   // store the result of MIN( $j$ )
23:   Min[j]  $\leftarrow$  min
24: return Min[n]
```

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