NHP2 TASK 1: WGUPS ROUTING PROGRAM DATA STRUCTURES AND ALGORITHMS II – C950

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A: ALGORITHM SELECTION

The self-adjusting algorithm I used is similar to the nearest neighbor algorithm. I pass the full array of remaining packages to a function that determines which package is the closest to the current location. The truck then goes to that location, and the package is deleted from the array of remaining packages. The function then accepts the smaller array and repeats the calculations. The function accepts an array, removes an element, and adjusts itself to run on the new, shortened array. After all packages have been delivered, the truck returns to the hub.

B1: LOGIC COMMENTS

- Call truck_route function with truck_packages array, leave_time_hour, and leave_time_minute
 - Set current truck location to 0
 - Set distance traveled to 0
 - For i in truck_packages array length
 - Set package_on_way to truck_package[i]
 - Set package on way.status to "On the way"
 - Insert package back into hash table
 - For i in truck_packages array length
 - Call find_shortest_distance with current_location and the truck_packages array
 - Set shortest distance to 50
 - Set current_position_distance_array to the distance_array for the current_location
 - For i in truck_packages_array_length
 - Set location to the package's address
 - Call assign location code to set the location code
 - If the distance is less than shortest_distance, set shortest_distance, next_package_index, and closest location code
 - Set next_location with next_package_index, closest location code, and shortest distance
 - Return next location
 - Add the shortest distance value to distance traveled
 - Calculate time_spent_minutes by dividing distance_traveled by 18
 - Calculate total_minutes by adding time_spent_minutes to leave time minute
 - If total minutes is 60 or greater, adjust hours
 - Set current time with hour and minute values
 - Set package to delete
 - Call remove_complete_packages to remove the delivered package from the array
 - Set current truck location
 - Call return_to_hub to set distance_traveled
 - Return distance traveled

B2: DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT

• IDE: PyCharm 2022.2.3 (Community Edition)

• Operating System: Windows 10 Home

Processor: Intel(R) Core(TM) i5-4690K CPU @ 3.50GHz 3.50 GHz

RAM: 32.0 GB

B3: SPACE-TIME AND BIG-O

The total Big-O runtime for the program is $O(N^3)$. Code comments contain the Big-O runtime for each method. The largest contributor to Big-O runtime is in the find_shortest_distance method. This method has a Big-O runtime of $O(N^2)$. This runtime comes from the way the method interacts with the hash table (O(N)) inside a loop $O(N^2)$. The truck_route method then calls the find_shortest_distance method inside a loop. The looped find_shortest_distance method is what gives the program a Big-O complexity of $O(N^3)$.

B4: ADAPTABILITY

One scalable element of this project is the self-adjusting algorithm. The algorithm could scale to any array length without a change to code.

A second scalable element of this project is the self-adjusting data structure used for the package table. The hash table could scale to any number of packages without a change to code.

One element of this project that is not scalable is the method of assigning packages to trucks. The package assignment is done manually, so a code change would be required to make that part of the program scalable.

B5: SOFTWARE EFFICIENCY AND MAINTAINABILITY

The total program Big-O time complexity is O(N^3). This means the program runs in polynomial time. The way the program is compartmentalized gives it strong maintainability. Future developers would easily be able to figure out which function is doing which action for the program based on the comments and function names.

B6: SELF-ADJUSTING DATA STRUCTURES

I used a chaining hash table as a self-adjusting data structure. One strength of hash tables is speed when creating and deleting data. A second strength of hash tables is that they will never run out of space. One weakness of hash tables is inefficiency dealing with collisions. Because a hash table will almost always have collisions, this can become a more significant weakness.

D: DATA STRUCTURE

The data structure I used is a chaining hash table.

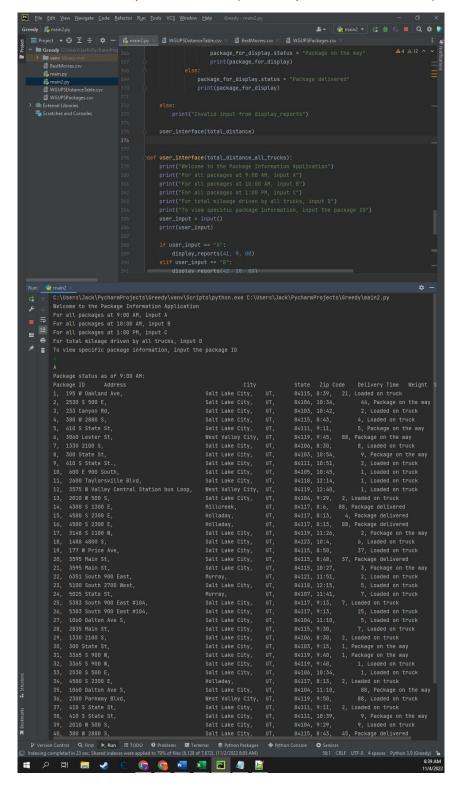
D1: EXPLANATION OF DATA STRUCTURE

The hash table stores information using the insert_package function. It creates a bucket by performing the hash and modulo functions on the insert_key variable. It then adds the bucket to the bucket list. It then appends the key and the item to the bucket list. The has table retrieves information using the search_package function. It creates a bucket by performing the hash and modulo functions on the search_key variable. If the search_key_value variable is in the bucket list, it compares the first index of the search_key_value to the search_key variable. If the two values are equal, it returns the second index of the search_key_value variable.

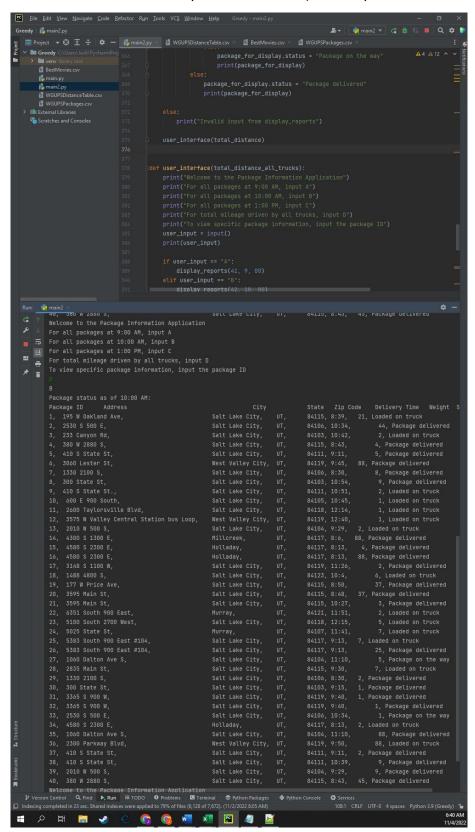
G: INTERFACE

I have also included the screenshots in the submission zip

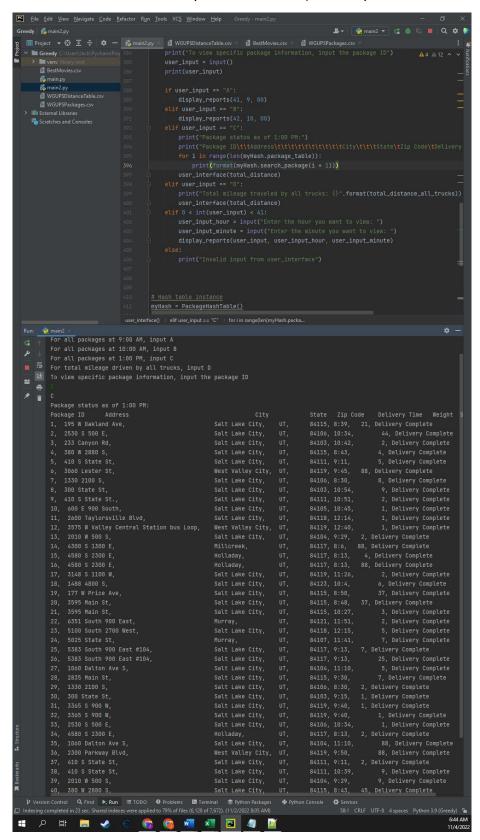
• G1 – Screenshot of the report at 9:00AM (0900 Report Screenshot.JPG)



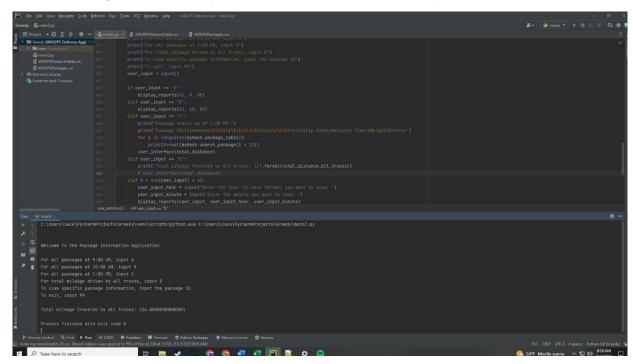
o G2 – Screenshot of the report at 10:00 AM (1000 Report Screenshot.JPG)



o G3 – Screenshot of the report for 1:00 PM (1300 Report Screenshot.JPG)



H: Total Mileage Screenshot (Total Distance Screenshot.JPG)



I1: STRENGTHS OF THE CHOSEN ALGORITHM

One strength of the chosen algorithm is simplicity. It is very easy to understand, and that makes it easy to use. A second strength of this algorithm is flexibility. The algorithm can accept an input array of any size and still function.

I3: OTHER POSSIBLE ALGORITHMS

Two other algorithms that could have solved this problem are the Brute Force Approach and Dynamic Programming.

I3A: ALGORITHM DIFFERENCES

The Brute Force Approach calculates all possible routes a truck could take. It then compares all possible routes to find the shortest one. The Brute Force Approach has a time complexity of O(N!) (Solonen, 2018), so it is much more time intensive than my method. Dynamic Programming is a method that guarantees finding the optimal route. The time complexity of Dynamic Programming is O(N^2 X 2^N), so it is also much more time intensive than my method. (Ataee, 2020)

J: DIFFERENT APPROACH

If I reattempted the project, I would have used a datetime style variable to control the required delivery time and the actual delivery time. I had to convert the delivery time variables to datetime date types throughout the project.

K1: VERIFICATION OF DATA STRUCTURE

The total combined miles traveled by all trucks was 124. All packages were delivered on time. All packages were delivered according to their delivery specifications. An efficient hash table

with a lookup function is present. The reporting can be verified through the user interface and all information is accurate.

K1A: EFFICIENCY

The lookup function for the hash table runs at O(N). This means that the time is affected linearly by an increase in number of packages.

K1B: OVERHEAD

As the number of packages increases, the number of items in the linked list will increase at the same rate.

K1C: IMPLICATIONS

As trucks increase, the hash table is not affected. The hash table does not store information that has to do with trucks. As the number of cities increases, the hash table is not affected. The hash table only stores the city name, so adding different names would not affect lookup time or space usage.

K2: OTHER DATA STRUCTURES

One data structure that could meet the requirements in the scenario is a dictionary. A second data structure that could meet the requirements in the scenario is a stack.

K2A: DATA STRUCTURES DIFFERENCES

- A dictionary stores information as key/value pairs, whereas a hash table stores information as objects. A dictionary allows the use of prebuilt methods, whereas I had to write code to access the hash table.
- A stack can only be accessed from one end of the stack, whereas a hash table can be accessed throughout the table. A stack allows the use of prebuilt methods, whereas I had to write code to access the hash table.

L: SOURCES

- Solonen, A. (2018). 4.4.2. NP-hard problems¶. 4.4.2. NP-hard problems Learn Programming 1.0. Retrieved November 4, 2022, from https://progbook.org/tsp.html#:~:text=The%20brute%20force%20search%20to,is%2012 0%20*%206%20%3D%20720.
- Ataee, P. (2020, June 14). How to solve traveling salesman problem a comparative analysis. Towards Data Science. Retrieved November 4, 2022, from https://towardsdatascience.com/how-to-solve-the-traveling-salesman-problem-acomparative-analysis-39056a916c9f