

# Lab11-Approximation Algorithm

Algorithm and Complexity (CS214), Xiaofeng Gao, Spring 2018.

\* If there is any problem, please contact TA Xinyu Wu.

\* Name: Juncheng Wan    Student ID: 516021910620    Email: 578177149@qq.com

1. Write  $(I, sol, m, goal)$  for **Max  $k$ -Cover** and **Minimum Bin Packing** (refer Q2, Q3 below).

**Solution.** For **Max  $k$ -Cover**:

- (a)  $I$  is a universe  $U = \{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$  of  $n$  elements, a collection of  $m$  subsets  $S = \{S_1, \dots, S_m\}$  of  $U$ , and a positive integer  $k < m$ ;
- (b)  $sol(U, S, k) = \{Z_1, Z_2, \dots, Z_k \mid \forall Z_i, Z_i \subseteq S\}$ ;
- (c)  $m(U, Z) = |U \cap Z_1 \cap Z_2 \cap \dots \cap Z_k|$ ;
- (d)  $goal = \max$ .

For **Minimum Bin Packing**:

- (a)  $I = F = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \mid \forall a_i, a_i \in (0, 1]\}$ ;
- (b)  $sol(F) = P = \{ \text{a partition } \{F_i\}_{i=1}^k \text{ of } F \mid \forall i \neq j, F_i \cap F_j = \emptyset, \cup_{i=1}^k F_i = F \}$ ;
- (c)  $m(F, P) = |P|$ ;
- (d)  $goal = \min$ .

□

2. **Max  $k$ -Cover:** Given a universe  $U = \{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$  of  $n$  elements, a collection of  $m$  subsets  $S = \{S_1, \dots, S_m\}$  of  $U$ , and a positive integer  $k < m$ . Our goal is to pick  $k$  subsets to *maximize* the number of covered elements. One greedy approach is shown in Algorithm 1.

- (a) Denote  $opt$  as the max number of covered elements;  $\gamma_i$  as the number of elements covered by greedy after  $i$  iterations;  $\beta_i = opt - \gamma_i$ . Show that  $\gamma_i - \gamma_{i-1} \geq \frac{\beta_{i-1}}{k}$ ;
- (b) Prove that Algorithm 1 is an  $r$ -approximation where  $r \leq 1 + \frac{1}{e-1}$ , based on Problem 2a.

---

### Algorithm 1: Greedy Max $k$ -Cover

---

**Input:**  $U, \{S_i\}_{i=1}^m, k$ .

**Output:**  $k$  subsets from  $\{S_i\}_{i=1}^m$ .

```

1  $V \leftarrow U; W \leftarrow \emptyset;$ 
2 for  $i = 1$  to  $k$  do
3   Pick  $S_j$  that covers max number in
    $V$ ;
4    $V \leftarrow V \setminus S_j; W \leftarrow W \cup S_j;$ 
5 return  $W$ ;
```

---

**Proof.** For **Problem(2a)**, I prove by contradiction:

Assume that  $\gamma_i - \gamma_{i-1} < \frac{\beta_{i-1}}{k}$ .

Assume that  $S^g = \{S_1^g, S_2^g, \dots, S_k^g\}$  where  $S_i^g$  is the subset the greedy algorithm picks at  $i$ th loop,  $S^* = \{S_1^*, S_2^*, \dots, S_k^*\}$  where  $S_i^*$  is the subset the optimal condition picks at  $i$ th loop.

According to the knowledge of set theory, we have the following relationships:

$$\gamma_i - \gamma_{i-1} = |S_i^g \cap U| \tag{1}$$

$$|S_i^g \cap U| = \max_{1 \leq t \leq k} |S_t \cap (U - \gamma_{i-1})| \quad (2)$$

$$\beta_{i-1} = \text{opt} - \gamma_{i-1} = |\cup_{i=1}^k S_k^* - \gamma_{i-1}| \quad (3)$$

$$\cup_{i=1}^k S_k^* - \gamma_{i-1} = \cup_{i=1}^k (S_k^* \cap (U - \gamma_{i-1})) \quad (4)$$

Therefore, we can get that:

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_i - \gamma_{i-1} < \frac{\beta_{i-1}}{k} &\implies |S_i^g \cap U| < \frac{1}{k} |S_i^g \cap U| \implies \\ k \max_{1 \leq t \leq k} |S_t \cap (U - \gamma_{i-1})| &< |\cup_{i=1}^k (S_k^* \cap (U - \gamma_{i-1}))| \end{aligned}$$

However, it is obviously impossible. Therefore,  $\gamma_i - \gamma_{i-1} \geq \frac{\beta_{i-1}}{k}$ .

For **Problem(2b)**, I prove as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_i - \gamma_{i-1} \geq \frac{\beta_{i-1}}{k} &\implies k\gamma_i - (k-1)\gamma_{i-1} \geq \text{opt} \implies \frac{\text{opt} - \gamma_i}{\text{opt} - \gamma_{i-1}} \leq \frac{k-1}{k} \implies \\ \frac{\text{opt} - \gamma_k}{\text{opt} - \gamma_0} &\leq \left(\frac{k-1}{k}\right)^k \implies 1 - \frac{1}{r} \leq \left(\frac{k-1}{k}\right)^k \implies r \leq \frac{1}{1 - (1 - \frac{1}{k})^k} \end{aligned}$$

Because  $(1 - \frac{1}{k})^k \leq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} (1 - \frac{1}{k})^k = e^{-1}$ , therefore:

$$r \leq \frac{1}{1 - (1 - \frac{1}{k})^k} \leq \frac{1}{1 - (1 - e^{-1})} = 1 + \frac{1}{e-1}$$

□

3. **Minimum Bin Packing:** Given a finite rational set  $F = \{a_i\}_{i=1}^n$ , where  $a_i \in (0, 1]$ . We need to find a partition  $\{F_i\}_{i=1}^k$  of  $F$  with no intersection and  $\cup_{i=1}^k F_i = F$  with *minimum*  $k$ . The numbers in  $F_i$  are put into a bin, and the sum of numbers in each bin is at most 1. An idea to design a *sequential* algorithm is that for each number  $a_i$ , if  $a_i$  can fit into the last open bin then assign  $a_i$  to this bin, or else we open a new bin and assign  $a_i$  to it. Note that  $\{a_i\}_{i=1}^n$  are NOT sorted in this algorithm.

(a) Show that the approximation ratio of the algorithm by the idea above is at most  $r = 2$ .

**Proof.** Set  $s$  the number of bins the *sequential* algorithm use,  $t$  the optimal number of bins.

Because  $r = \frac{s}{t}$ . I prove  $r \leq 2$  by giving the upper bound of  $s$  and the lower bound of  $t$ .

Set there are  $s$  bins generated by *sequential* algorithm sequentially and the sums of numbers in each bin are  $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_s$ . Set there are  $t$  bins generated by optimal solution sequentially and the sums of members in each bin are  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_t$ . Besides, set  $d_1, d_2, \dots, d_{s-1}$  are the immediate incompatible number after each bin  $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_{s-1}$ .

According to the *sequential* algorithm, we have the following inequations:

$$\begin{aligned}
b_2 &\geq d_1 > 1 - b_1 \\
b_3 &\geq d_2 > 1 - b_2 \\
&\dots \\
b_s &\geq d_{s-1} > 1 - b_{s-1}
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, for any adjacent  $b_i, b_{i+1}$  ( $\forall i \in \{1, 2, \dots, s-1\}$ ),  $b_i + b_{i+1} > 1$ . If we sum two columns of the inequations above directly, we can only have:

$$\begin{aligned}
s &< 2 \sum_{i=1}^s b_i + (1 - b_1 - b_s) \\
&= 2 \sum_{i=1}^n a_i + (1 - b_1 - b_s) \\
&= 2 \sum_{i=1}^t c_i + (1 - b_1 - b_s)
\end{aligned}$$

We are forced to discuss it by two situations ( $1 - b_1 - b_s \geq 0$  and  $1 - b_1 - b_s < 0$ ). However, we have the following relationship:

$$\sum_{i=1}^t c_i = t + \sum_{i=1}^t (c_i - 1)$$

I want to prove  $r \leq 2$  by the equations above. However, I spend a lot of time to proving it and the situation  $1 - b_1 - b_s \geq 0$  is hard to deal (the situation  $1 - b_1 - b_s < 0$  is obvious to prove).

However, I think I misunderstand the question. If what the question means is that number  $a_i$  is not put into the last bin immediately. Instead, if what the question means is that we can try the number  $a_j$  after  $a_i$  to test if  $a_j$  fits the last bin, I think I can prove it.

In fact, it is obvious that for all the selected bins, at most one bin is less than  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Assume that  $b_p < \frac{1}{2}$ ,  $b_p + b_{p+1}$  or  $b_{p-1} + b_p$  is larger than 1 according to the analysis above. And other  $b_i$  is all larger than  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Therefore, we always have  $s < 2 \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \leq 2 \sum_{i=1}^t c_i \leq 2t$  because  $\forall c_i \in (0, 1]$ . And we finish the proof. Note that in the finite rational set  $F$ , we can only have  $<$  instead of  $\leq$ .  $\square$

- (b) **(Optional Subquestion with Bonus)** Give an input instance to show the tightness of  $r = 2$ .

**Solution.** Assume that there are  $4m$  rational numbers:

$$a_i = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} & i \text{ is odd} \\ \frac{1}{2m} & i \text{ is even} \end{cases}$$

In this case, we have  $s = 2m$ ,  $t = m + 1$ . Thus,  $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} r = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2m}{m+1} = 2$ .

Note that this set is infinite rational set and what the question is interested in is finite set. However, this instance shows that the  $r$  of finite set can be infinitely close to 2, which proves the tightness of  $r = 2$ .  $\square$

4. Consider the *Revised Greedy Knapsack* Algorithm (refer *GreedyKnapsack* in *Slide17*).

---

**Algorithm 2:** Revised Greedy Knapsack

---

**Input:**  $X$  with  $n$  items;  $b$ ;  $\{p_i\}_{i=1}^n$ ;  $\{a_i\}_{i=1}^n$ ;  $\epsilon > 0$ .  
**Output:**  $val(Y)$  : The total value of  $Y$  where  $Y \subseteq X$  such that  $\sum_{x_i \in Y} a_i \leq b$ .

- 1  $Y_0 \leftarrow GreedyKnapsack(X, b, \{p_i\}_{i=1}^n, \{a_i\}_{i=1}^n)$ ;  $h \leftarrow \epsilon \cdot val(Y_0)$ ;
- 2 Set  $I_h \leftarrow \{i \mid 1 \leq i \leq n, p_i \leq h\}$ , and reorder them as  $I_h = \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$  ( $m \leq n$ ),  
 where  $\{\frac{p_i}{a_i}\}_{i=1}^m$  is nonincreasing;  $temp \leftarrow 0$ ;  $currenttemp \leftarrow val(Y_0)$ ;
- 3 **foreach**  $I \subseteq \{m+1, m+2, \dots, n\}$  such that  $|I| \leq \frac{2}{\epsilon}$  **do**
- 4     **if**  $\sum_{i \in I} a_i > b$  **then**  $temp \leftarrow 0$ ;
- 5     ;
- 6     **else if**  $\sum_{i=1}^m a_i \leq b - \sum_{i \in I} a_i$  **then**  $temp \leftarrow \sum_{i=1}^m p_i + \sum_{i \in I} p_i$ ;
- 7     ;
- 8     **else** Find max  $k$  s.t.  $\sum_{i=1}^k a_i \leq b - \sum_{i \in I} a_i < \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} a_i$  and  
        $temp \leftarrow \sum_{i=1}^k p_i + \sum_{i \in I} p_i$ ;
- 9     ;
- 10    **if**  $currenttemp < temp$  **then**  $currenttemp \leftarrow temp$  and update  $Y$ ;
- 11    ;
- 12 **return**  $val(Y) \leftarrow currenttemp$ ;

---

- (a) Time complexity:  $O(f(n, \epsilon)) = O(n^{2+\lceil \frac{2}{\epsilon} \rceil})$ . (Sort:  $O(n \log n)$ ).

**Proof.** I prove it line by line.

Line1: the time complexity of Greedy Knapsack is  $O(n \log n)$ .

Line2: the time complexity of reorder by using sort is  $O(n \log n)$  as the hint is.

Line3-11: if  $\lceil \frac{2}{\epsilon} \rceil \leq (n - m)$ , the iterations of the *for* loop is  $\binom{n-m}{1} + \binom{n-m}{2} + \dots + \binom{n-m}{\lceil \frac{2}{\epsilon} \rceil} = O(n^{\lceil \frac{2}{\epsilon} \rceil})$ ; if  $\lceil \frac{2}{\epsilon} \rceil > (n - m)$ , the iterations of the *for* loop is  $\binom{n-m}{1} + \binom{n-m}{2} + \dots + \binom{n-m}{n-m} = O(2^n)$ .

In the *for* loop: line4 costs  $O(1)$ ; line6 costs  $O(n)$  to calculate  $\sum_{i=1}^m ma_i$ ; line8 costs  $O(n^2)$  to try  $n$  times and each time to calculate the sum costs  $O(n)$ ; line10 costs  $O(1)$ .

Line12 to get the  $val(Y)$  costs  $O(n)$ .

Therefore, if  $\lceil \frac{2}{\epsilon} \rceil \leq (n - m)$ , we have the total time complexity as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & O(n \log n + n \log n + (\binom{n-m}{1} + \binom{n-m}{2} + \dots + \binom{n-m}{\lceil \frac{2}{\epsilon} \rceil})(1 + n + n^2 + 1) + n) \\
 &= O(n \log n + n^2(\binom{n-m}{1} + \binom{n-m}{2} + \dots + \binom{n-m}{\lceil \frac{2}{\epsilon} \rceil})) \\
 &= O(n^{2+\lceil \frac{2}{\epsilon} \rceil})
 \end{aligned}$$

If  $\lceil \frac{2}{\epsilon} \rceil > (n - m)$ , the total time complexity is  $O(n^2 2^n)$ .

Note that I think what the question is interested in is when  $\lceil \frac{2}{\epsilon} \rceil \leq (n - m)$ . □

- (b) The approximation ratio is  $1 + \epsilon$  when  $\epsilon < 1$ , then is it a log-APX? an APX? a PTAS? an FPTAS?

**Solution.** PTAS. Because the approximation ratio is  $1 + \epsilon$  when  $\epsilon < 1$  and the time complexity is not proportional to  $\epsilon$  ( $\epsilon$  appears on the exponent). □