

# COL351

## Assignment 1

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## 1 Question 1 (MSTs)

Let  $G$  be an edge-weighted graph with  $n$  vertices and  $m$  edges satisfying the condition that all the edge weights in  $G$  are distinct.

### 1.a Unique MST

#### Question 1.a

**Question.** *Prove that  $G$  has a unique MST.*

*Proof.* We will prove this by induction on the size of  $G$  using an idea similar to Kruskal's algorithm discussed in the class.

**Hypothesis:**

$$h(n) : \forall G = (V, E) : |V| = n \implies MST(G) \text{ is unique} \quad (1)$$

**Base case:**  $n = 1$  is true since there is no edge and  $MST(G) = (V, \phi)$  is unique.

**Induction Step:** Assume  $h(n-1)$  is true for  $n \geq 2$ , now for  $h(n)$ :  
*(Note: This proof assumes each edge to be an unordered pair of vertices)*

Consider Kruskal's algorithm,

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**Algorithm 1** Recursive MST Routine — Kruskal's algorithm

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```

1: procedure MST( $G$ )
2:    $e_0 \leftarrow (x, y)$  be edge with least weight
3:    $H \leftarrow G$ 
4:   remove  $x, y$  from  $H$  and add new vertex  $z$ 
5:   for all  $v$  such that  $v$  is neighbour of  $x$  or  $y$  do
6:     add  $(v, z)$  to  $H$ 
7:      $wt(v, z) \leftarrow \min(wt(v, x), wt(v, y))$ 
8:     if  $wt(v, x) < wt(v, y)$  then
9:        $map(v, z) \leftarrow (v, x)$ 
10:    else
11:       $map(v, z) \leftarrow (v, y)$ 
12:    end if
13:  end for
14:   $T_H \leftarrow MST(H)$ 
15:   $T_G \leftarrow (V, \{e_0\})$ 
16:  for all  $e \in T_H$  do
17:    if  $e$  is not incident on  $z$  then
18:      add  $e$  to  $T_G$ 
19:    else
20:      add  $map(e)$  to  $T_G$ 
21:    end if
22:  end for
23:  return  $T_G$ 
24: end procedure

```

---

In the above algorithm, it is clear that  $H$  has  $n-1$  vertices. Thus, by our assumption,  $h(n-1)$  is true and hence  $T_H$  is unique. Also, we know that  $T_G$  is a valid MST, from the correctness of Kruskal's algorithm. Now, assume by contradiction that  $T_G$  is not unique. Then there exists an MST, say  $T' \neq T_G$ .

**Claim 1.1.**  $e_0$  cannot be in  $T'$

*Proof.* This is because, if  $e_0$  were in  $T'$ , then  $T \setminus \{e_0\} \neq T' \setminus \{e_0\}$  and thus, there would be two different MSTs for  $H$  which would be a contradiction to our assumption. Thus,  $e_0 \notin T'$ .  $\square$

Consider the path from  $x$  to  $y$  in  $T'$ . Since  $e_0 = (x, y)$  is not present in  $T'$ , there exists a different path, say  $P = (f_1, f_2 \cdots, f_k)$  where  $f_i \in E(T'), 1 \leq i \leq k$ . We know that

$wt(f_i) > wt(e_0), 1 \leq i \leq k$ .

Swap any of the  $f_i$  with  $e_0$  and let the subgraph formed be  $T''$ , i.e.,  $T'' = T' \setminus \{f_i\} \cup \{e_0\}$ . We know  $T''$  is a spanning tree of  $G$  since  $V(T'') = V(G)$  and there are no cycles formed on performing the swap operation (this can be proven using contradiction as discussed in the lecture).

Now, consider the weight of  $T''$ :

$$\begin{aligned} wt(T'') &= wt(T') - wt(f_i) + wt(e_0) \\ \implies wt(T'') &< wt(T') \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

We have shown that the total weight of  $T''$  is lesser than the weight of  $T'$ . However, this is a contradiction to the fact that  $T'$  is the MST of  $G$ . Thus our assumption that  $T_G$  is not the unique MST of  $G$  was wrong. Therefore,  $h(n)$  is true.

This completes the induction and the proof that *if all edge weights in a graph are distinct, then its MST is unique*.  $\square$

## 1.b Algorithm Sketch

### Question 1.b

**Question.** *If it is given that  $G$  has at most  $n + 8$  edges, then design an algorithm that returns a MST of  $G$  in  $O(n)$  running time.*

*Solution.* The idea is to use the previous result along with the fact that the number of edges to be removed to form a spanning tree is  $m - (n - 1)$  which is atmost  $(n + 8) - (n - 1) = 9$ , assuming that  $G$  was initially connected (else no MST exists). The algorithm is as follows:

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#### Algorithm 2 Compute MST for 1.b

---

```
1: procedure MST( $G$ )
2:   while  $|E(G)| > |V(G)| - 1$  do
3:      $C \leftarrow findCycle(G)$ 
4:      $e \leftarrow$  edge with largest weight in  $C$ 
5:     remove  $e$  from  $G$ 
6:   end while
7:   return  $G$ 
8: end procedure
```

---

The procedure *findCycle* calls a DFS function on  $G$  which uses graph colouring and returns the first cycle it finds:

---

**Algorithm 3** *findCycle*

---

```
1: procedure FINDCYCLE( $G$ )
2:    $v \leftarrow$  any vertex of  $G$ 
3:   colour  $\leftarrow$  map of vertices initialised to zero
4:   parent  $\leftarrow$  map of vertices initialised to null
5:    $(u, v) \leftarrow \text{DFS}(G, v, \text{colour}, \text{parent}, \text{null})$ 
6:    $\triangleright$  DFS returns the bottommost and topmost vertex of the cycle
7:   if DFS returned null then
8:     return null
9:   end if
10:   $C \leftarrow$  empty array of edges
11:  add  $(u, v)$  to  $C$ 
12:  while  $u \neq v$  do
13:    add  $(u, \text{parent}(u))$  to  $C$ 
14:     $u \leftarrow \text{parent}(u)$ 
15:  end while
16:  return  $C$ 
17: end procedure
```

---

The *DFS* function looks as follows:

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**Algorithm 4** Identify cycle using colouring and DFS

---

```
1: procedure DFS( $G, v, \text{colour}, \text{parent}, p$ )
2:   parent( $v$ )  $\leftarrow p$ 
3:   colour( $v$ )  $\leftarrow 1$ 
4:   for all  $u$  such that  $u$  is neighbour of  $v$  in  $G$  do
5:     if colour( $u$ ) is 2 then  $\triangleright$  there is a forward edge from  $v$  to  $u$ 
6:       return  $(u, v)$ 
7:     else if colour( $u$ ) is 0 then  $\triangleright u$  is unvisited
8:       value  $\leftarrow \text{dfs}(G, u, \text{colour}, \text{parent}, v)$ 
9:       if value is not null then  $\triangleright$  cycle found in subtree of  $u$ 
10:        return value
11:      end if
12:    end if
13:  end for
14:  colour( $v$ )  $\leftarrow 2$ 
15:  return null  $\triangleright$  no cycle found in subtree of  $v$ 
16: end procedure
```

---

We will assume without proof that the *DFS* (Algorithm 4) function is correct and it takes  $O(n + m)$  time since the algorithm is a standard one and has been discussed in the lecture.

Now consider the function *findCycle* (Algorithm 3), lines 3, 4 take  $O(n)$  time and line

5 takes  $O(n + m)$  time. The while loop (lines 9–12) traverses up from  $u$  to  $v$  and each iteration takes  $O(1)$  time. Therefore the entire while loop completes in  $O(n)$  time (since the graph has  $n$  vertices and hence the loop cannot run for more than  $n$  iterations). Therefore the total time complexity of *findCycle* is  $O(n + m)$ .

We will now prove termination and compute complexity of Algorithm 2, which contains the code for computing MST:

**Termination:** The while loop terminates when  $|E| = |V| - 1$ , that is, when the graph is a tree (since it assumes that the graph is connected). In each iteration of the while loop, *findCycle* returns a valid cycle since  $|E| > |V| - 1$  and the graph is connected. After having found the cycle, we remove the edge with largest weight from  $G$  and therefore  $|E|$  reduces by 1. Since  $|V|$  remains constant, the while loop terminates after a finite number of steps.

**Time Complexity:** The while loop runs for exactly  $m - (n - 1)$  iterations, which is  $O(m - (n - 1)) = O((n + 8) - (n - 1)) = O(1)$  for the given constraints. Each iteration of the while loop calls *findCycle* which runs in  $O(n + m) = O(n + (n + 8)) = O(n)$ . Finding the edge with least weight is  $O(n)$  since a cycle cannot have more than  $n$  edges. Removing this edge from  $G$  can be implemented in as worse as  $O(n)$  (better implementations in  $O(1)$  and  $O(\log(n))$  time exist but this won't change the complexity of the algorithm as we will show). Thus, each iteration of the while loop takes  $O(n)$  time and the total time complexity of Algorithm 2 is:

$$\begin{aligned} T(MST) &= O(\text{iterations of while loop} \times \text{complexity of each iteration}) \\ &= O(O(1) \times O(n)) = O(n) \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

**Correctness:** We now proceed to prove the correctness of the algorithm, using the following claim,

**Claim 1.2.** *If a cycle has edges of distinct weights, the edge with the largest weight can not be a part of any MST*

*Proof.* Let us assume by contradiction that the claim is false, then there exists an MST, say  $T$  such that the largest edge of cycle  $C$  (with distinct weights) is present in  $T$ . Let that edge be  $e = (x, y)$ . Now consider the paths from  $x$  to  $y$  in  $G$ . There exists atleast another path from  $x$  to  $y$ , which is exactly equal to  $C \setminus \{e\}$ , call it  $P$ . Consider the edge in  $P$  which is not in  $T$ , say  $f = (p, q)$ . We know such an edge exists since  $T$  is acyclic. Now, consider  $T' = T \setminus \{e\} \cup \{f\}$ . We will now prove that  $T'$  is a spanning tree using the following claim:

**Claim 1.3.** *Consider any edge  $m = (a, b)$  in  $G$  which is not in  $T$  (spanning tree of  $G$ ). Let  $n = (u, v)$  be any edge on the unique path from  $a$  to  $b$  in  $T$ . Then on swapping  $m$  with  $n$  in  $T$ , we get another spanning tree of  $G$ .*

*Proof.* If  $path_T(u, a)$  does not exist in  $T$ , then swap  $u, v$  (for ease of notation). Consider the graph  $T \setminus \{n\}$ . Define set

$$S = \{(c, d) \mid path_T(c, d) = \{k_1, k_2, \dots, u, v, \dots, k_l\}\} \quad (4)$$

All pair of vertices in this set are disconnected since all paths in the tree are unique. Now, consider the path

$$P_{T'} = \{c = k_1, k_2, \dots, u\} \cup \text{path}_T(u, a) \cup \text{path}_T(b, v) \cup \{\dots, d = k_l\}, \forall (c, d) \in S \quad (5)$$

Now, consider the graph  $T' = T \setminus \{n\} \cup \{m\}$ . All paths given by  $P_{T'}$  are present in  $T'$  and thus, all pairs of vertices in  $S$  are connected in  $T'$ . Since all other paths are the same in  $T$  and  $T'$ ,  $T'$  is connected. Since  $|E(T')| = |V(T')| - 1$ ,  $T'$  is a tree and also a spanning tree of  $G$ . This completes the proof of the claim.  $\square$

Thus, from Claim 1.3, we know that  $T'$  is an MST of  $G$ . Consider the weight of  $T'$ :

$$\begin{aligned} wt(T') &= wt(T) - wt(e) + wt(f) \\ \implies wt(T') &< wt(T), \text{ since } wt(e) > wt(f) \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

This is a contradiction to the fact that  $T$  is an MST of  $G$ . Therefore our assumption that Claim 1.2 is incorrect was wrong. This proves the correctness of Claim 1.2.  $\square$

Now consider Algorithm 2. In each iteration of the algorithm, we remove the largest edge of a cycle from  $G$ . Let the new graph obtained be  $G'$ . Therefore our algorithm transforms the problem from  $G$  to  $G'$ . We need to show that both graphs have the same MST.

From Claim 1.2, we know that  $e$  cannot be in any MST of  $G$  and from Question 1.a, we know that the MST of  $G$  will be unique. Therefore, the MST of  $G$  and  $G' = G \setminus \{e\}$  will be the same. This completes the proof of correctness of Algorithm 2.  $\square$

## 2 Question 2 (Huffman Encoding)

### 2.a Optimal Huffman Encoding

#### Question 1.b

**Question.** *What is the optimal binary Huffman encoding for  $n$  letters whose frequencies are the first  $n$  Fibonacci numbers? What will be the encoding of the two letters with frequency 1, in the optimal binary Huffman encoding?*

*Solution.* We begin by observing the property of Fibonacci numbers:

$$\begin{aligned} f_n &= f_{n-1} + f_{n-2} \quad \forall n \geq 3 \\ \text{and, } f_1 &= f_2 = 1 \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

We are given an alphabet  $A = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$  such that it has a frequency vector  $F = (f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n)$ . Before finding the encoding, consider the sum of first  $k$  Fibonacci

numbers, call it  $s_k$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
s_k &= f_1 + f_2 + \cdots + f_{n-2} + f_{n-1} + f_n \\
\implies s_k &= f_1 + f_2 + \cdots + f_{n-2} + f_{n+1} \\
\implies s_k &= s_{k-2} + f_{n+1} \\
\implies s_k - s_{k-2} &= f_{n+1}
\end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

On performing telescopic summation over Equation 8 (for  $k > 2$ ), we get the following:

$$\begin{aligned}
& s_k - \cancel{s_{k-2}} = f_{k+1} \\
+ & \quad s_{k-1} - \cancel{s_{k-3}} = f_k \\
+ & \quad \cancel{s_{k-2}} - \cancel{s_{k-4}} = f_{k-1} \\
& \quad \vdots \\
+ & \quad \cancel{s_4} - s_2 = f_5 \\
+ & \quad \cancel{s_3} - s_1 = f_4 \\
\implies & \quad s_k + s_{k-1} - s_2 - s_1 = s_{k+1} - f_3 - f_2 - f_1 \\
\implies & \quad (s_k + 1) + (s_{k-1} + 1) = (s_{k+1} + 1)
\end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

This Equation 9 takes a form similar to Equation 7 and thus,  $s_k + 1 = f_m$  for some  $m$ . On substituting value of  $k = 1$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
s_1 + 1 &= f_m \\
\implies f_m &= 2 \\
\implies m &= 3 \\
\implies s_k + 1 &= f_{k+2} \\
\implies s_k &= f_{k+2} - 1
\end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

Now consider the Huffman tree for  $|A| = n$ . Each of the frequency  $f_i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n-2$ ) is less than  $f_n$  and sum of all frequencies  $f_i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n-2$ ), i.e.,  $s_{k-2} = f_n - 1$  is less than  $f_n$ . We also know that  $a_i$  is merged at the same time or before  $a_j$  for any  $i < j$ . From this, we can formulate the merging strategy with the help of the following inductive claim:

**Claim 2.1.** *The optimal Huffman tree for  $A$  with frequency vector  $F$  is constructed in a way such that  $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_i)$  is merged in the first  $i-1$  steps  $\forall i : 1 \leq i \leq n$ .*

*Proof. Base case:*  $i = 1$  is trivially true since  $a_1$  is a leaf node and is merged in 0 merges.

**Induction Step:** Assume the claim is true for  $i-1$ . After  $i-2$  merges,  $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{i-1})$  have been merged into  $tree(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{i-1})$ , and the frequency vector will be as follows,

$$\begin{aligned}
F &= (f_1 + f_2 + \cdots + f_{i-1}, f_i, f_{i+1}, \dots, f_n) \\
F &= (s_{i-1}, f_i, f_{i+1}, \dots, f_n) \\
F &= (f_{i+1} - 1, f_i, f_{i+1}, \dots, f_n), \text{ from Equation 10}
\end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

It is easy to see that the least two frequencies in the frequency vector are  $f_i, f_{i+1} - 1$  which correspond to  $a_i$  and  $tree(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{i-1})$ . Therefore the  $(i - 1)^{\text{th}}$  merge will merge these two into  $tree(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_i)$ .

We have shown that  $a_i$  is merged in the  $(i - 1)^{\text{th}}$  step and from induction we know that  $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{i-1})$  are merged before  $(i - 1)$  steps and thus,  $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_i)$  are merged in  $i - 1$  steps. This completes the induction and proves the claim.  $\square$

Therefore, from Claim 2.1, we know that  $a_n$  is merged in the last step (which is the  $(n - 1)^{\text{th}}$  step) and hence it is encoded using a single bit. We can now inductively define the encoding for each alphabet (for  $n > 1$ ):

**Claim 2.2.**  $a_i$  is encoded as  $\underbrace{11 \dots 1}_{n-i \text{ times}} 0$  for  $n \geq i > 1$  and  $a_1$  is encoded as  $\underbrace{11 \dots 1}_{n-1 \text{ times}}$

*Proof.* For  $i > 1$ , we will prove the claim using induction.

**Base case:** From Claim 2.1, we know that  $a_n$  will be merged in the last step and thus it is encoded using a single bit, we can choose this bit to be 0 and thus  $enc(a_n) = \underbrace{11 \dots 1}_{n-n \text{ times}} 0 = 0$  and the claim is true for  $n$ .

**Induction Step:** Assume the claim is true for  $i + 1$ , i.e.,  $enc(a_{i+1}) = \underbrace{11 \dots 1}_{n-(i+1) \text{ times}} 0$ .

From the proof of the previous claim, we know that  $a_{i+1}$  and  $tree(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_i)$  are siblings and thus, the encoding of the root of  $tree(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_i)$  will be  $\underbrace{11 \dots 1}_{n-i \text{ times}}$ .

From the base case, we know that  $a_n$  is encoded using a single bit with respect to the root of the tree. Therefore, with respect to  $tree(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_i)$ , we know that  $a_i$  is encoded using a single bit. Let that bit be 0. We then have the complete encoding of  $a_i$  as:

$$\begin{aligned} enc(a_i) &= enc(tree(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_i)).0 \quad (. \text{ denotes concatenation}) \\ &= \underbrace{11 \dots 1}_{n-i \text{ times}} 0 \end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

This completes the induction for  $i > 1$  and we now show the correctness of the claim for  $i = 1$ .

We know that  $a_1$  and  $a_2$  are siblings in the Huffman tree and thus they differ in their representation in exactly the last bit. Therefore,  $enc(a_1) = \underbrace{11 \dots 1}_{n-1 \text{ times}}$ . This completes the proof of the claim.  $\square$

Thus, we have computed the optimal Huffman encoding for the alphabet  $A = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$  which has frequency vector as  $F = (f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n)$  and we restate Claim 2.2:

In the optimal Huffman encoding for  $A$  with frequency  $F$  such that  $|A| = n$ ,  $a_i$  is encoded as  $\underbrace{11 \dots 1}_{n-i \text{ times}} 0$  for  $n \geq i > 1$  and  $a_1$  is encoded as  $\underbrace{11 \dots 1}_{n-1 \text{ times}}$  (and for  $n = 1$ ,  $a_n = a_1 = 0$  trivially).  $\square$



## 2.b Prove no Efficiency

Fixed length encoding means that each symbol (or codeword) is coded with the same number of bits.

Huffman encoding: greedy strategy by making a tree and every left edge is 0 and right edge is 1 and child distribution on the basis of frequency of char

to prove: they'll be both same if freq of max is less than twice of freq of min

Well on merging, the small ones will reach the top, then lower two will be merged again and go higher

hence stuff improves but no. of bits will appear to be const. so yea

both same

## 3 Question 3 (Party Management)

### 3.a Optimal Selection

#### Question 3.a

**Question.** *Present an efficient algorithm which outputs best choice of party invitees as per following specifications:*

- 1. Input: list of  $n$  people and list of pairs who know each other (undirectional)*
- 2. Every person invited should have atleast 5 people they know and 5 people they don't know at the party*

*Solution.* The main idea here is to obtain an adjacency list from the input and parse it. After creating an adjacency list, we keep on iterating over it until no new changes are being made. In every iteration of going over the adjacency list, we go over each vertex and see if the number of neighbours is less than 5 or greater than  $n-5-1$ . If either is the case, we "delete" the vertex and all of its edges else, continue. The algorithm is as follows:

add description of adj, people as well

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**Algorithm 5** Generate list of invitees for 3.a

---

```
1: procedure INVITE( $G$ )
2:   initialise  $adj$   $\triangleright$  empty hashmap of balanced BSTs created for adjacency list
3:   initialise  $people$   $\triangleright$  empty balanced BST of degree,vertex pairs
4:   for all edge  $e \{u, v\}$  in  $E(G)$  do  $\triangleright$  sets  $adj$ 
5:     add  $v$  to  $adj[u]$ 
6:     add  $u$  to  $adj[v]$ 
7:   end for
8:   for all vertex  $v$  in  $V(G)$  do  $\triangleright$  sets  $people$ 
9:     add ( $\text{degree}(v), v$ ) to  $people$ 
10:  end for
11:   $done \leftarrow false$   $\triangleright$  denotes if  $people$  is changing
12:  while not  $done$  do
13:     $done \leftarrow true$ 
14:    if  $people$  is empty then
15:      break
16:    end if
17:     $i \leftarrow \text{start}(people)$ 
18:    if  $\text{degree}(i) < k$  then
19:       $done \leftarrow false$ 
20:       $\text{deletePerson}(\text{vertex}(i))$ 
21:    end if
22:     $i \leftarrow \text{end}(people)$ 
23:    if  $\text{size}(people) - \text{degree}(i) - 1 < k$  then
24:       $done \leftarrow false$ 
25:       $\text{deletePerson}(\text{vertex}(i))$ 
26:    end if
27:  end while
28:   $invitees \leftarrow []$ 
29:  for all person in  $people$  do
30:     $invitees.append(\text{person.second})$ 
31:  end for
32:  return  $invitees$ 
33: end procedure
```

---

The procedure *deletePerson* takes the vertex  $u$  into consideration for removal as a parameter and updates the adjacency list  $adj$  and  $people$ . Idea behind the algorithm is to look at all the neighbours of  $v$  and remove the edge  $\{u, v\}$  from  $adj$  and update degree of  $v$  in  $people$ . If degree of  $v$  becomes zero, don't add it again.

Since  $people$  is a balanced BST, time complexity of removal and insertion is  $O(\log|V|)$  because  $\text{size}(people) = |V|$ . Also, adjacency list can be implemented as a hashmap of balanced BSTs, so locating a vertex  $v$  takes  $O(1)$  time and removing a vertex  $u$  from the hashmap[ $v$ ] takes  $O(\log \text{degree})$

Total time complexity of the procedure *deletePerson* hence becomes

$$O(\text{degree}(u)) \times O(\log |V| + \log(\text{degree}(v))) + O(\log |V|) = O(\text{degree}(u) \times \log |V|) \quad (13)$$

---

**Algorithm 6** sub-algorithm for *deletePerson*

---

```

1: procedure DELETEPERSON(u)
2:   for all vertex v in neighbours of u do
3:     remove {degree(v), v} from people
4:     remove u from adj(v)
5:     if degree(v)  $\neq$  0 then
6:       insert {degree(v), v} into people
7:     end if
8:   end for
9:   remove {degree(u), u} from people
10:  return
11: end procedure

```

---

**Initialisation**

**Maintenance**

**Termination**

**Validate best solution**

□

### 3.b Optimal Seating

Question 3.b

**Question.** Suppose finally Alice invited  $n_0$  out of her  $n$  friends to the party. Her next task is to set a minimum number of dinner tables for her friends under the constraint that each table has a capacity of ten people and the age difference between members of each dining group should be at most ten years. Present a greedy algorithm to solve this problem in  $O(n_0)$  time assuming the age of each person is an integer in the range  $[10, 99]$ .

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*Solution.* We have to implement an  $O(n_0)$  greedy approach for the fore-mentioned question. Idea behind our algorithm is to create a frequency array which stores how many people of a certain age are there in the invited group from age 10 to 100. We then

start grouping 10 people together from the smallest to largest age. If the difference between youngest and oldest person exceeds 10, we stop the group and create a new table. Following is the algorithm for the same:

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**Algorithm 7** Find number of tables needed

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1: procedure SEAT(people)           ▷ Finds the minimum number of tables needed
2:   arr[100]  $\leftarrow$  initialised as zero array           ▷ index 0 to 9 aren't used
3:   for person in people do           ▷ get the frequency array
4:     arr[age(person)]  $\leftarrow$  arr[age(person)] + 1
5:   end for
6:   set index, smallest, tcount  $\leftarrow$  0           ▷ helpful intermediate variables
7:   set toAdd  $\leftarrow$  10
8:   while index < 100 do
9:     if smallest = 0 then           ▷ smallest=0 signifies no person on a table yet
10:      smallest  $\leftarrow$  index
11:    end if
12:    if arr[index] = 0 then           ▷ no person of that age
13:      index  $\leftarrow$  index + 1
14:    else if index > smallest + 10 then           ▷ large age gap
15:      tcount  $\leftarrow$  tcount + 1
16:      smallest  $\leftarrow$  0
17:      toAdd  $\leftarrow$  10
18:    else if arr[index] > toAdd then   ▷ table occupancy can reach atmost 10
19:      arr[index]  $\leftarrow$  arr[index] - toAdd
20:      tcount  $\leftarrow$  tcount + 1
21:      toAdd  $\leftarrow$  10
22:      smallest  $\leftarrow$  0
23:    else
24:      toAdd  $\leftarrow$  toAdd - arr[index]
25:      arr[index]  $\leftarrow$  0
26:      index  $\leftarrow$  index + 1
27:    end if
28:  end while
29:  if toAdd  $\neq$  10 then           ▷ take last non filled table into account
30:    tcount  $\leftarrow$  tcount + 1
31:  end if
32:  return tcount           ▷ total number of tables required is returned
33: end procedure

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Now we shall prove the correctness of the algorithm:

## Initialisation

We generate a frequency array by declaring a zero array of size 100 and incrementing the value stored at an index by 1. The update at an index is done based on what age value the for loop comes across. Updated index is same as age.

*index* variable is used to refer the current index in the while loop. *toAdd* variable shows how many more people are to be added at the recent table. *smallest* denotes the smallest value of age of people sitting at a table. *smallest* = 0 means that the table is empty. *tcount* denotes the table number. All of the forementioned variables are initialised to zero except *toAdd* which is initialised at 10.

A while loop is run. The termination condition depends on the *index* variable. The loop keeps incrementing index until it finds the index at which *arr[index]* is not 0.

## Maintenance

For maintenance, we look at the iterations of the while loop.

**smallest = 0:**

*smallest* = 0 implies that the table is new and there are no people seated on it.

The following cases arise in the if-else block:

**Case 1:** *arr[index]* is 0

Here, we move to the next index since there are no people of this age invited to the party.

**Case 2:** age gap between youngest person at table and index is  $> 10$

Here, we cannot add the people at this index to the table since it violates our condition of the maximum age gap at table to be 10. We increase *tcount* by 1 and reset values of *smallest* and *toAdd* to 0 and 10 respectively.

**Case 3:** number of people with age same as index are more than *toAdd*

In this case, the current table can be filled completely. We subtract the number of people to be added from *arr[index]* and increment *tcount* by 1. *toAdd* and *smallest* are reinitialised.

**Case 4:** number of people with age same as index are  $\leq$  *toAdd*

Number of people of age same as index is not enough to fill the current table. We still allot them the table and move to next index. *toAdd* is decremented by *arr[index]*. *arr[index]* is set to 0.

Since last group of statements is an else and no other conditions remain, our maintenance step is complete.

## Termination and Time Complexity

In each iteration of the while loop, the value of *index* increases by 1 or the total sum of *arr* decreases by some non-zero number or *tcount* increments by 1. Thus, the

maximum number of iterations of the loop is bounded by:

$$\begin{aligned} 100 + \text{sum}(\text{arr}) + \max(\text{tables}) &= 100 + O(n_0) + O(n_0) \\ &= O(n_0) \end{aligned} \tag{14}$$

Therefore, the while loop runs for  $O(n_0)$  iterations and each iteration takes  $O(1)$  time since it involved making finite checks and updates all of which take  $O(1)$  time.

The loop from lines 3–5 takes  $O(n_0)$  time since it involves iterating over the entire array of size  $n_0$  once.

Therefore, the total time complexity of the algorithm is  $O(n_0)$ .

## Proof of Correctness

To prove the correctness of the algorithm, we first prove the following claim:

**Claim 3.1.** *If there exists an optimal seating where  $p_i, p_k$  are on one table and  $p_j$  is on another table such that  $\text{age}(p_i) < \text{age}(p_j) < \text{age}(p_k)$ , there exists another optimal seating where  $p_i, p_j$  are on one table and  $p_k$  is on another table.*

*Proof.* Since  $p_i$  and  $p_k$  are on the same table, we know that  $\text{age}(p_k) \leq \text{age}(p_{l1}) + 10$ , where  $p_{l1}$  is the person with least age on the table. Consider the person with smallest age on the table containing  $p_j$ , say  $p_{l2}$ . We know that  $\text{age}(p_j) \leq \text{age}(p_{l2}) + 10$ . Therefore, we have that:

$$\text{age}(p_k) \leq \text{age}(p_{l2}) + 10, \text{ and } \text{age}(p_j) \leq \text{age}(p_{l1}) + 10 \tag{15}$$

Therefore, it is possible to swap the positions of  $p_k$  and  $p_j$ . Thus, we have obtained an arrangement where  $p_i, p_j$  are on the same table and  $p_k$  is on a different table. This completes the proof of the claim.  $\square$

Consider the person with the smallest age, say  $p_0$ . Let the set of people be  $P$  and the set of people arranged on the same table as  $p_0$  using our algorithm be  $A_0$ . Let the optimal number of tables needed for a set of people be denoted by  $\text{opt}(\cdot)$ . Now, we will show that,

**Claim 3.2.**  $\text{opt}(P) = \text{opt}(P \setminus A_0) + 1$

*Proof.* We first note that from Claim 3.1, it is possible to generate a seating where no more swaps are possible. The set  $A_0$  which is generated by our algorithm is one such arrangement for a single table. Thus, there exists an optimal arrangement with  $A_0$  as one table. We will now prove the claim in two parts:

1.  $\text{opt}(P) \leq \text{opt}(P \setminus A_0) + 1$

An arrangement such that one table consists of people in  $A_0$  and the remaining are arranged optimally will have the number of tables equal  $\text{opt}(P \setminus A_0) + 1$ . This is by definition  $\geq$  the most optimal seating for the set  $P$  and thus this equality trivially holds.

$$2. \text{ } opt(P \setminus A_0) \leq opt(P) - 1$$

We know that there exists an optimal arrangement which contains  $A_0$  as one table. Therefore, the optimal arrangement for the remaining set of people, i.e.,  $P \setminus A_0$  can be done using atleast  $opt(P) - 1$  tables. Thus, we get that  $opt(P \setminus A_0) \leq opt(P) - 1$  which proves the second part of the claim.

From 1 and 2, we get that  $opt(P) = opt(P \setminus A_0) + 1$ , and this completes the proof of the claim.  $\square$

Therefore, from Claim 3.2, we have shown that our algorithm *greedily* selects the most optimal seating. This completes the proof of correctness of our algorithm.  $\square$