

Solution

a)

Algorithm 1 given S and d finds a d -net of S of minimum size

Require: An array of integers S sorted in ascending order and a positive integer d

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1: where  $S = \{s_1 < s_2 < \dots < s_n\}$ 

2: Let  $R$  be an empty set
3:  $r \leftarrow 0$ 
4: for  $s_i \leftarrow s_2$  to  $n$  do
5:   if  $s_i > s_1 + d$  then
6:     add  $s_{i-1}$  to  $R$  {finds the first element of  $R$ }
7:     break
8:   end if
9: end for
10: for  $s_i \leftarrow s_2$  to  $n$  do
11:   if  $\text{abs}(R[r] - s_i) > d$  then
12:     add  $s_i$  to  $R$ 
13:      $r \leftarrow r + 1$ 
14:   end if
15: end for
16: return  $R$ 

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Time Complexity: Find the first element of R : $O(n)$ + build R : $O(n) = O(n)$ Space Complexity: $R = O(n)$

Proof. We claim that this greedy method will find a d -net of S of minimum size. Let $W = \{w_1, w_2, \dots, w_m\}$ be any d -net of S of minimum size where $m \leq n$. Assume that the greedy algorithm produces $R = \{r_1, r_2, \dots, r_k\}$ where $k \leq n$. If $k = m$ then our greedy algorithm found a d -net of S of minimum size. We will show that $k = m$.

We know that the first item in the d -net of S must be within d distance away from s_1 . By finding the largest element in S that falls within this distance, we make sure that r_1 maximizes the distance to s_1 which minimizes $|R|$. It must be the case that $w_1 - s_1$ is also close to zero. Now, assume inductively that for some $j \geq 1$, we have $r_t \geq w_t$, for each $t \leq j$. If $j = m$, we are done. So, suppose $j < m$ and consider w_{j+1} and r_{j+1} . We know that $w_j \leq r_j$, and our greedy algorithm will pick the next integer that is more than d away from r_j , so it must be the case that $r_{j+1} \geq w_{j+1}$. Thus, our greedy algorithm maximizes the distance between elements of R and S . \square

b) The first element a_1 of our d -approximation for S will be $s_1 + d$ and the last element a_k will be $s_n - d$ if s_n is not within d units away from $s_1 + d$. If s_n is within d units away from a_1 then we simply return $A = \{a_1\}$. Otherwise, we walk through S and see if s_i falls within distance of either a_1 or a_k . If it does, we move on to s_{i+1} . If it does not, we add $s_i + d$ to A and set it as the lower bound for comparison. Meaning that we will check if s_{i+1} falls within d units of $s_i + d$ or a_k and so on.

Time Complexity: Determine a_1 and potential a_k : $O(n)$ + Walk through S : $O(n)$ * add to A : $O(n) = O(n)$ Space complexity: $A : O(n)$

Proof. We claim that this greedy method will find a d -approximation of S of minimum size. Let $B = \{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_m\}$ be a minimum size d -approximation of S where $m \leq n$. Assume our greedy algorithm produces $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k\}$ where $k \leq n$. If $k = m$ then our greedy algorithm found a d -approximation of S of minimum size. We will show that $k = m$.

Clearly, $a_1 \geq b_1$ since our algorithm makes sure a_1 is furthest away from s_1 . It is crucial that $a_i \geq b_i$ for some $i \leq k$ as it shows that we are maximizing the distance between a_i and the corresponding element of S , the greater distance will require less elements in A . Assume, inductively, that for some $j \geq 1$, we have $a_j \geq b_j$. If $j = m$, we are done as our greedy solution is of same size as an optimal solution. Now, suppose $j < m$ and consider a_{j+1} and b_{j+1} . We know $a_j \geq b_j$ and our greedy algorithm will pick an a_{j+1} so that it is as far away from the next s_i that does not satisfy $|s_i - a_j| \leq d$. Thus, $a_{j+1} \geq b_{j+1}$ so our greedy solution is optimal. \square

c) Let $r = |R|$ and $a = |A|$.

Claim: $a \leq r \leq 2a$.

Proof. First, we will prove that $a \leq r$. a could be smaller than r , because $A \not\subseteq S$ meaning that there is more freedom when picking elements of A . Restricting R to being a subset of S limits the possible elements of R and some choices are not maximizing distance. Also, a could be equal r as you can just find a d -approximation of S of minimum size by running the algorithm to find a d -net of S of minimum size.

Now, we will show that $r \leq 2a$. If $R \cap A = \{\}$, then no element $r \in R$ is able to maximize distance the same way all elements $a \in A$ do. This means that for all a , R must contain an element $r_i < a$ and an element $r_j > a$ such that $|r_i - s_l| \leq d$, $|r_i - s_{l+1}| > d$, and $|r_j - s_{l+1}| \leq d$ for some integer l . Also if $R \cap A \neq \{\}$, then it follows that an element of S is optimal for maximizing the distance for some elements in S .

Therefore, since $a \leq r$ and $r \leq 2a$, then $a \leq r \leq 2a$. □