

1. Explain the strategy of the approximation.

I used 2 different heuristics in combination, one after the other. Nearest Neighbor being used first to establish the initial path, then using Two-opt on that path we just created using Nearest Neighbor, to then create a more optimal path with Two-opt. We avoid slicing as much as possible compared to the exact solution also but slicing is $O(k)$ which can be very bad runtime with big inputs.

2. Discuss the analytical runtime analysis of the approximation.

$O(n)$ (build adjacency dictionary)
+ $O(n^2)$ (Nearest Neighbor)
+ $O(n^2)$ (Two-Opt pair checks)
+ $O(n^3)$ (Two-opt worst case switch)
+ $O(n)$ (Calculate tour length)
= $O(n^3)$ worst case runtime

3. Results of approximation running "reasonably well" on tests in gradescope.

tourcost1=277029.5438 tourcost2=2178