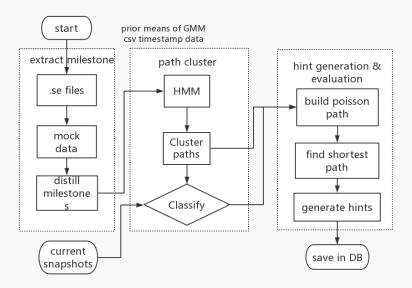
Intelligent Hinting 1.1 in SAGE

Weimeng Luo Junyu Zhang Yi Ding

Programming Systems Lab Columbia University

May 1, 2018

Introduction



Yi Ding

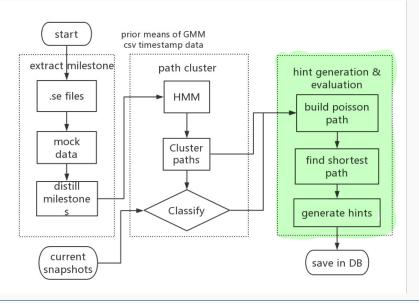
Introduction

Provide Intelligent Hint for Students:https://youtu.be/YXFs1b0Jnz0 API: /: build graph, /get hints, /save 'student snapshots' → 'hints'

DEMO

- Cluster Students' Study Path: 'cluster.txt'
- Build Graph: 'graphi.dat'
- Generate Hints: 'hints' save in MongoDB

Hint Generation



luction Hint Generation HMM & Clustering Experiment Conclusion

Build Graph

The node radius and line weight shows how many students come up with this path.

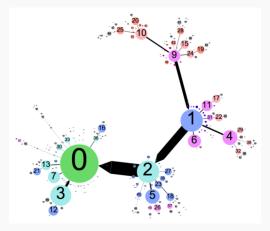


Figure: Transform snapshots of a cluster into graph.[2]

Poisson Path

How to build the learning graph for a type of students?

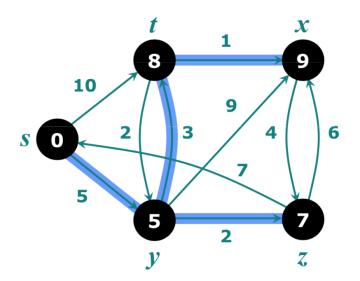
Path Algorithm

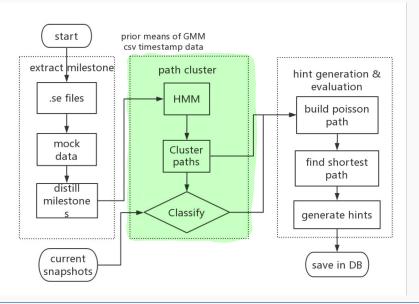
- A partial solution is a Poisson process.
- \blacktriangleright time required to generate a solution \propto # solution from the student's population.

$$\gamma(s) = \underset{p \in Z(s)}{\operatorname{argmin}} \sum_{x \in p} \frac{1}{\lambda}$$

Z(s) are all the paths-to-solution from s and λ_x is the number of times partial solution x is seen in successful student data.

Dijkstra's Algorithm to Find Shortest Path





A probabilistic model-based approach to cluster sequences(student path).

Modeling student path as a first-order Markov chain $p(state_{t+1}|state_t)$.

```
Student Progress: <MouseX> <readVariable> <doIf> <-doIf>
  Hidden State: <Start> <Explore> <Explore> <Success>
```

Figure: Example: HMM

- Interpretable student's high-level state
- Find student's learning pattern and cluster them for better hint generation quality

duction Hint Generation HMM & Clustering Experiment Conclusion

Hidden Markov Model

Students may get trapped in a group of similar snapshots, so we use one "milestone" snapshot to represent those many snapshots and modeling transition process between milestone snapshots.

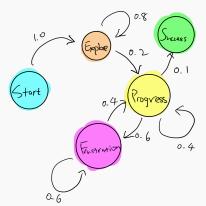


Figure: Example: Hidden state inference of student path

The number of hidden states K is a hyperparameter, can be determined by cross-validation.

We can calculate transition matrix and emission probability(Gaussian) by dynamic programming.

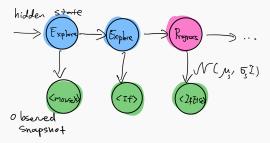


Figure: Example: Hidden state inference of student learning path

Snapshots are huge, we want a "median" snapshot to represent a group of similar snapshots.

Distill: We use K-Medoids clustering to find "median" snapshots among the whole project, as the prior mean of our hidden Markov model.

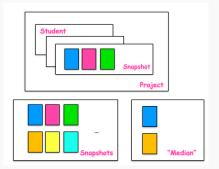


Figure: Example: Milestone calculation. We use Euclidean distance among snapshots.

Clustering

Now we have generated per-student model, then we can calculate (symmetric) pairwise distance between two student's study path.

Model distance

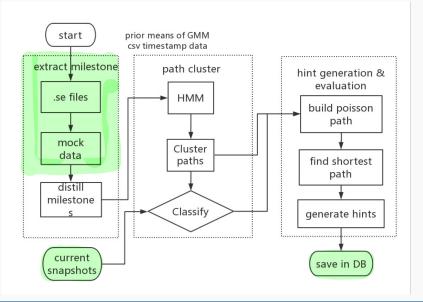
Log-likelihood score for model i and sequence j is $\log L_i(j)$.

$$score_i(j) = \log L_i(j)$$

$$dist(i,j) = \frac{score_i(j) + score_j(i)}{2}$$

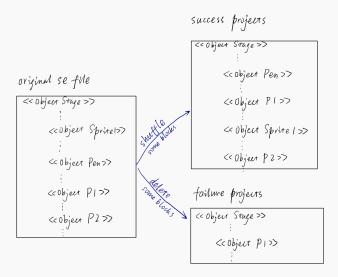
Finally, we use spectral clustering method to cluster all students into K groups.

Experiment & Integration



Mock data generation

Generate fake projects: success, failure



Mock data generation

Four kinds of learners

- Extreme movers(1)Move too fast, retry unworkable approach
- Movers(2)Consistently try new idea, never stop long
- Stoppers(3)
 Stop long to appear stuck
- Tinkers(Write some codes, make small changes

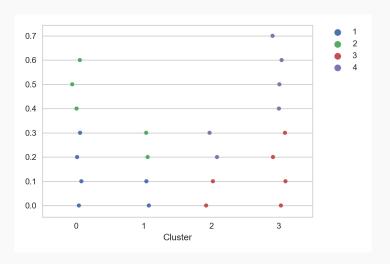


Figure: Cluster result

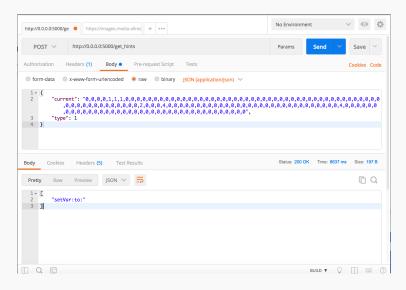
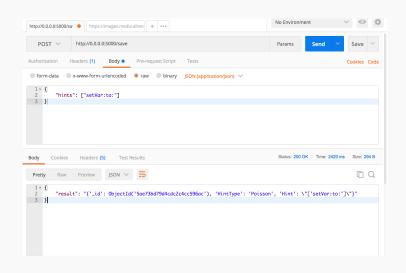


Figure: Generating hints

Yi Ding



Future work

- Use a series of snapshots instead of one.
- Cold-start problem for new incoming students.
- Deep integration into SAGE system.

Yi Ding

Reference



D. N. Perkins, Chris Hancock, Renee Hobbs, Fay Martin, and Rebecca Simmons.

Conditions of learning in novice programmers. *Journal of Educational Computing Research*, 2(1):37–55, 1986.



Chris Piech, Mehran Sahami, Daphne Koller, Steve Cooper, and Paulo Blikstein.

Modeling how students learn to program.

In Proceedings of the 43rd ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education, SIGCSE '12, pages 153–160, New York, NY, USA, 2012. ACM.