SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME

Algorithm Design First Homework

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EXERCISE 1

This problem can be viewed as a simplification of the K-center clustering problem. This problem has an approximate solution, a greedy 2-approximation algorithm. We used this simplification and we also proved that this approach is optimal for our problem.
C is the subset of X that contains the centers. The algorithm is the following:

1. Pick an arbitrary point c_1 and insert in into C;

2. Pick the point x with the highest distance from the nearest center c_i;

3. Insert x into C;

4. Continue from 1 until $|C| < k$;

In pseudocode:

```
1   algorithm k_centers(G, k)
2       C := new List()
3       c := random_select(G.nodes)
4       G.nodes.pop(c)
5       C.add(c)
6       distances := new Array(G.nodes.size())
7       distances.fill(+inf)
8       while C.size() < k
9           new_c := none
10          max_dist := −inf
```

```
11          foreach x in G.nodes
12              d := min(distances[x], G.edge(c, x).weigth)
13              if max_dist < d
14                  max_dist = d
15                  new_c = c
16          c = new_c
17          G.nodes.pop(c)
18          C.add(c)
19      return C
```

The `distances` list is an optimization used to avoid to compute the distance between a node $x \in X$ and all centers in all of the iterations. `distances` keeps track of the distance each node from its nearest center. Each iteration only a center c_i is added, so the distance from the nearest center can remain the same or be updated to $d(x, c_i)$.

So this approximation cost is $O(n * k)$ because in each iteration all nodes are processed and there are k iterations.

To compute the permutation requested by the exercise we run the algorithm with $k = n$, where $n = |X|$. This is possible thanks to the fact that in this greedy algorithm the iteration i is not dependent from the presence of an iteration $i + 1$ so computing $k\_center(G, k)$ is equivalent to $slice(k\_center(G, n), 1, k)$ (compute using $k = n$ and after take only the first k elements of the output).

This greedy algorithm is optimal for our problem thanks to the fact that the distances can be only 0, 1 or 3.

For the K-center this algorithm is a 2-approximation, so the approximated minimized maximum of the distances of each point in X to the closest center is at most the twice of the optimal one. We will notate the approximated with r_A and the optimal with r_O. Regards our problem both r_A and r_O can be 0 only if $|C| = |X|$, so in this case they are equal. There are other 4 cases to consider:

- $r_A = 1 \wedge r_O = 3$ is not possible because an approximation cannot perform better than the optimal algorithm [1].

- $r_A = 3 \wedge r_O = 1$ is not possible because $r_A > 2 * r_O$;

- $r_A = 3 \wedge r_O = 3$ is optimal;

- $r_A = 1 \wedge r_O = 1$ is optimal;

Follows that in our problem r_A must be equal to r_O, so our algorithm is optimal and not an approximation.

---

[1] A p-approximation f, as described in [1], perform $OPT \leq f \leq p * OPT$

EXERCISE 2

The problem can be represented with a bipartite graph $G(L \cup R, E)$. The nodes of the class L represents the avenues and the nodes of the class R the streets. The edges in E are the checkpoints. Using a reversed perspective, the adjacency matrix of such graph is the grid of avenues and streets with the edges represented by checkpoints.

A vertex cover of such graph (the set of nodes so that each edge has at least one endpoint in the set) represents a set of streets and avenues that can cover all checkpoints. A minimum vertex cover is the set of streets and avenues that solves our problem.

Generally, a minimum vertex cover is a hard problem but with bipartite graphs, we can solve it in polynomial time thanks to the Kőnig's theorem.

According to [2], the statement is the following:

In any bipartite graph, the number of edges in a maximum matching equals the number of vertices in a minimum vertex cover.

Its proof offers a method to retrieve the minimum vertex cover from the maximum bipartite matching.

Adding a source node s to one side and a sink node t to the other we create a flow network based on the bipartite graph:

$G'(L \cup R \cup \{s, t\}, c, s, t)$

All edges capacities are 0 except the following:

- $c(s, l) = 1 \; \forall l \in L$;

- $c(r, t) = 1 \; \forall r \in R$;

- $c(e) = \infty \; \forall e \in E$;

The amount of flow for each edge can be 0 or 1. For each flow the subset of E with $f(e) = 1$ is a matching of cardinality equal to the value of the flow. So a maxflow value is equal to the cardinality of a maximum matching M. Let (S, T) the mincut associated with the computed maxflow using Ford-Fulkerson.

Consider the set $C = (L \cap T) \cup (R \cap S)$. We want to prove that C is a vertex cover and $|C| = |M|$.

Firstly, C is a vertex cover because taking an edge $e \in E$ with endpoint in $L \cap S$ and $R \cap T$ it would have a capacity $c(e) = \infty$ and this is an absurd because it must be 0 or 1, so all edges have endpoint in $(L \cap T) \cup (R \cap S) = C$.

Secondly, we have that:

- thanks to the maxflow mincut theorem the cardinality of M is equal to the capacity of (S, T);

- the capacity of (S, T) is equal to the number of edges in the cutset that is composed only by edges from s to T and from S to t (otherwise they would have an infinite capacity);

- such edges are associted to $(L \cap T)$ and $(R \cap S)$, so $|M| = cap(S, T) = |(L \cap T)| + |(R \cap S)| = |C|$.

So a minimum vertex cover can be computed using the Ford-Fulkerson method and is $(L \cap T) \cup (R \cap S)$.

Our solution makes use of a variant of Ford-Fulkerson that guarantee termination, the Edmonds-Karp algorithm, which has cost $O(VE^2)$.

EXERCISE 3

We represents our problem using a undirected unweigthed graph. Each node of the graph is a friend and an edge (v, u) is presnt if $w(v, u) = 1$. The goal is to find the subset of nodes I that maximize $\frac{1}{|I|}\Sigma_{x,y\in I}w(x, y)$ respecting the constraint $|I \cap M| = |I \cap F|$. In other words, it is the densest subgraph that has an equal number of M and F nodes.

CERTIFIER

In order to verify an input s we create an efficent certifier $CERT(s, t)$:

- if $s \cap M \neq s \cap F$ return no;

- let $d_s = \frac{1}{|s|}\Sigma_{x,y\in s}w(x, y)$;

- let $d_t = \frac{1}{|t|}\Sigma_{x,y\in t}w(x, y)$;

- return yes if $d_s \geq d_t$ else return no;

$CERT$ runs in polynomial time, precisely $O(|s| + |t|)$. This certifer can be used in a brute-force over all possibles set of friends t with $|t| \leq |s|$. If all attempts returs yes, s is the solution.

REDUCTION

Given our problem X and the clique decision problem Y, we will prove that $Y \leq_p X$. The clique decision problem takes as input an undirected unweighted graph $G(V, E)$ and a number k and says yes if the graph contains a clique of k nodes and it is NP-complete. Firstly, we show that the problem Z of finding the subset of nodes I so that $\frac{1}{|I|}\Sigma_{x,y\in I}w(x, y) = q$ and $|I \cap M| = |I \cap F|$, where q is an integer given as input, is equivalent to X. X can be formulated with $log(n)$ calls to Z using a binary search. So if Z is NP-complete then X is NP-complete.
Now we must prove that $Y \leq_p Z$.
To transform an input for Y to an input for Z we create a graph $G'(M, F, E')$ copying the nodes of graph G into M and the edges into E'. Then we create k nodes in F and we connect them in a clique adding edges to E'.
In order to transform an instance of Y to Z we set $q = \frac{K-1}{2}$. $\frac{K-1}{2}$ is the maximum density that G' can have and implies that Z_{ALG} must return two cliques of size k, one composed by M-nodes and the other composed by F-nodes $\Big($note that $\frac{K(K-1)/2+K(K-1)/2}{|2*K|} = \frac{K-1}{2} = q\Big)$.
We prove that Z_{ALG} cannot return a different configuration.
Assume that exists a clique of size k composed by M-nodes and that Z_{ALG} returns an output with less M-nodes than k or with k M-nodes but that is not a clique. This is not possible because the densest graph of k nodes is a clique by definition and a clique of k

nodes is denser than every clique with fewer nodes (the density of a clique $\frac{x(x-1)/2}{x}$ is a monotonous growing succession).

Assume that exists a clique of size k composed by nodes of M and that Z_{ALG} returns an output with more M-nodes than k. This is not possible because we have at most k F-nodes and so it violates $|I \cap M| = |I \cap F|$.

So Z_{ALG}, our black box solver, can solve an instance of Y if the M-nodes in the output forms a clique of size k.

We proved that Z is NP-complete, and so also X, our problem, is NP-complete.

Exercise 4

The related code is in the Appendix.

Part 1

Assumptions:

- at the beginning we do not have a hired worker;

- at the end if we have and hired worker we do not have to outsource him;

We never use a freelance when we have a hired worker because we must pay a hired worker also when not working, so if we have a hired worker is always convenient to use him.

We denote as $OPT(x, h)$ the minimum cost of execution of the task j_t with $t \in \{x, ..., T\}$ and with $h = true$ when we have a hired worker at disposition. So the solution that we are looking for is $OPT(0, false)$.

The cost of a single job can be explained using two cases:

When $h = true$ we must take one of this two subcases, the one with the minimum cost:

- We use the hired worker that we have to pay him s for the job j_t;

- We outsource him paying S and then we use a freelance paying the cost c_t for the job j_t;

On the contrary, with $h = false$, we must consider the subcase of the minimum cost from the following two:

- We assume an hired work paying C and then we pay s for the job j_t;

- We use again a freelance paying the cost c_t for the job j_t;

We have to not consider the case in which there is not a job at the time instance t and instead we can simply set the cost c_t of a freelance to 0 in that case. To prove this claim assume that we do not have a job j_t at the instant t and we have a hired worker. In this case, we must choose one of the following possibilities:

- Outsource the hired worker and wait until the next job;

- Pay him to do nothing;

Otherwise, when we do not have a hired worker we do nothing.

Now if we consider a freelance with cost 0 we can express the cost of the "not job" as follows:

When $h = true$ we must take one of this two subcases, the one with the minimum cost:

- We use the hired worker that we have to pay him s for the "not job" j_t;

- We outsource him paying S and then we use a freelance paying 0 for the job j_t;

On the contrary, with $h = false$, we must consider the subcase of the minimum cost from the following two:

- We assume a hired work paying C and then we pay s for the job j_t (of course this can never be the minimum);

- We use again a freelance paying the cost 0 for the job j_t (this is the always chosen option);

So considering a "not job" is equivalent of the previously described situation and we do not have to distinguish the cases in our algorithm, we just set $c_t = 0$ when there is not a job j_t.

Returning to $OPT(x, h)$, to the single cost of j_t we must add the cost of the successive jobs until the time instant T, so we explore all the possible following cases:

$$OPT(x, h) = \begin{cases} min(s + OPT(x + 1, true), S + c_t + OPT(x + 1, false)) & \text{if } h = true \\ min(C + s + OPT(x + 1, true), c_t + OPT(x + 1, false)) & \text{if } h = false \end{cases}$$

This can be traduced into an algorithm that explores all the possible configurations and so a brute-force. In order to gain a polynomial cost, we used the memorization of the results of $OPT(x, h)$. We can store the solutions in a matrix $M_{T+1,2}$ storing in the first column the values of $OPT(x, false)$ and in the second $OPT(x, true)$. Obviously the rows are related to the x, so encoding $false = 0$ and $true = 1$ we can get the return value of $OPT(x, h)$ with $\big((M)_x\big)_h$. Note that the last row of M is present in order to avoid to check if we are in the case $t = T - 1$.

The algorithm, `min_cost`, is the following:

```
1  algorithm min_cost_aux(t, T, s, C, S, c, h, M)
2      if t = T
3          return 0
4      if M[t+1][1] = empty
5          M[t+1][1] = min_cost_aux(t+1, T, s, C, S, c, 1, M)
6      if M[t+1][0] = empty
7          M[t+1][0] = min_cost_aux(t+1, T, s, C, S, c, 0, M)
8      if h = 1
9          return min(s + M[t+1][1], S + c[t] + M[t+1][0])
10     else if h = 0
11         return min(C + s + M[t+1][1], c[t] + M[t+1][0])
```

```
1  algorithm min_cost(j, T, s, C, S, c)
2      M := new Matrix(T+1, 2)
3      for t = 0 to T
4          if j[t] = false
5              c[t] = 0
6      return min_cost_aux(0, T, s, C, S, c, 0, M)
```

In general the execution of the body of `min_cost_aux` takes $O(1)$ excluding the recursive calls that it generates. We can count the number of recursion counting the entries of M that are not empty.

Every time the procedure invokes the recurrence it fills two entries of the matrix. An entry cannot be filled more than one time. The entries in M are $2 * T + 2$ and so the algorithm perform at most $2 * T + 2$ recursions and so the cost is linear, $O(T)$.

The proof of correctness is the following:

In the base case $t = T - 1$, we consider two options in order to choose the best worker:

- $h = true$: the minimum cost is $min(s, S + c_t)$;

- $h = false$: the minimum cost is $min(C + s, c_t)$;

Now assume that `min_cost` returns the minimum for $t + 1$ when using a hired worker, X, and the minimum cost for $t + 1$ when using a freelance, Y.

For the case t we consider two options:

- $h = true$: the minimum cost is $min(s + X, S + c_t + Y)$;

- $h = false$: the minimum cost is $min(C + s + X, c_t + Y)$;

PART 2

We can covert the works j_t with $W_t \subset W$ to $W_t = W$ using the same consideration for the "no job" of the previous part. So we set $c^j{}_t = 0$ when $j \notin W_t$.

With this consideration, we can formulate the problem as derived from 4.1. In fact, for each type of worker $w \in W$, we can just run the 4.1 algorithm and sum all the minimum cost.

```
1   algorithm min_cost_multi_types(W, Wt, T, s, C, S, c)
2       res := 0
3       for t = 0 to T
4           foreach w in W
5               if w not in Wt[t]
6                   c[w][t] = 0
7       foreach w in W
8           M := new Matrix(T+1, 2)
9           res = res + min_cost_aux(0, T, s, C, S, c[w], 0, M)
10      return res
```

The cost of the foreach loop inside the for is k, the cardinality of $|W|$. The outer for has T iterations, so the total cost is $O(T * k)$. The cost of `min_cost_aux` os $O(T)$ and it is inside a foreach loop of k iterations, so the cost of this second loop is $O(k * T)$. This implies that the total cost of `min_cost_multi_types` is $O(T * k) = O(|Wt| * |W|)$, so it is polynomial in function of the size of the two arrays in the input. Considering the number $L = 2^k$ we can express the cost as $O(log_2(L) * T)$.

To prove that the algorithm is correct we proceed by induction.

Base case is $k = 1$: In that case `min_cost_multi_types` is exactly `min_cost`, so it is correct. Assume now that it is correct for the case $k = i$. In the case with $k = i + 1$ we can see that we are adding a new type of worker to W. The types of workers are independent of each other, and adding the result of `min_cost` using the type of worker $i + 1$ to the total cost computed in the case $k = i$ we get the minimum cost.

EXERCISE 5

The related code is in the Appendix.

PART 1

Given a weighted graph $G(V, E)$, to decide if exists an MST containing an edge $e \in E$ we can exploit two properties.
The cycle property [3]:

For any cycle C in the graph, if the weight of an edge e of C is larger than the individual weights of all other edges of C, then this edge cannot belong to an MST.

The cut property [4]:

For any cut C of the graph, if the weight of an edge e in the cut-set of C is strictly smaller than the weights of all other edges of the cut-set of C, then this edge belongs to all MSTs of the graph.

Without loss of generality, we can also assume that all weights in the graph are distinct because we can always differentiate two equal weighted edges adding a small constant c to one of the weights without changing the result of the Kruskal algorithm.
The idea is to determinate if starting from one endpoint of e (v) we can reach the other (u) considering only the edges with weights lower than the weight of e (w). We call the graph with only these edges $G'(V', E')$. If that happens, we have a connected component that contains both v and u and so adding e to such subgraph we obtain a cycle in which e is the edge with the maximum weight. This violates the cycle property, so e does not belong to any MST. In the other case, when v and u are not connected with edges with weight less than w, if exists a set S for which $v \in S \wedge u \in V' \setminus S$ the cut property implies that e is in all MSTs. We choose S as all nodes that can be reached by v in G' so that cannot exists an edge with weight less than w and one endpoint in S and the other in $V' \setminus S$. If such edge exists, the endpoint in $V' \setminus S$ is reachable from v so it is a contradiction. This implies that e is the edge with minimum cost with an endpoint in S and the other in $V' \setminus S$, so e belongs to all MSTs.
We designed an algorithm, `edge_is_in_mst`, based on DFS in order to verify if exists a path formed by edges with weight less than w that connects v to u:

```
1  algorithm edge_is_in_mst_aux(G, e, v)
2      a := true
3      v.visited = true
4      foreach i in G.neighbors(v)
5          if G.edge(v, i).weight >= e.weight
6              skip
7          if i = e.u
8              return false
```

```
9          if not i.visited
10              a = a and edge_is_in_mst_aux(G, e, i)
11      return a
```

```
1   algorithm edge_is_in_mst(G, e)
2       return edge_is_in_mst_aux(G, e, e.v)
```

Checking the weight of adjacent edges does not add cost to the DFS since is a $O(1)$ operation. Also stopping the algorithm when `e.u` is encountered does not add any cost, so the final cost of `edge_is_in_mst` is the cost of a DFS, $O(|V| + |E|)$.

PART 2

Given a weighted graph $G(V, E)$, to compute an MST that contains a determinate edge e we designed an algorithm based on Kruskal with a sorted list as a source of edges. This Kruskal version has a cost of $O(|E|log|E|)$ because it uses a sorting algorithm based on comparison [2]. The action of removing the edges with the minimum weight is done in constant time.

Our algorithm is the following:

1. check if e can be in a MST using `edge_is_in_mst`, if not exit with an error;

2. sort the edges using the weights and store them in a list l;

3. extract the edge e from l;

4. add e to the MST;

5. continue with the itarations of Kruskal using l as source of edges;

In pseudocode:

```
1   algorithm mst_from_edge(G, e)
2       if not edge_is_in_mst(G, e)
3           error()
4       mst := new List()
5       foreach v in G.nodes
6           make_set(v)
7       ordered := sort_by_increasing_weigth(G.edges)
8       ordered.pop(e)
9       mst.add(e)
10      foreach o in ordered
11          if find_set(o.v) != find_set(o.u)
12              mst.add(o)
13              union(o.v, o.u)
14      return mst
```

---

[2]In the implementation we used the standard python sort function that is based on Timsort [5]

The action 1 costs $O(|V| + |E|)$ as described before. The action 2, the sorting, costs $O(|E|log|E|)$. Action 3 and 4 are in constant time. So the exact cost of `mst_from_edge` is $O(|V| + |E| + |E|log|E|)$. With the assumption of $|E| > |V|$ (true if G is connected) our algorithm cost is $O(|E|log|E|)$.

To prove the corretness of `mst_from_edge` we assume that the cut property is verified for e (`edge_is_in_mst` check for this).

The output Y is a spanning tree because:

- cannot have a cycle thanks to the check in the algorithm;

- all nodes of G belongs to Y;

- cannot be disconnected, since the first encountered edge that joins two components of Y would have been added;

For the minimality we proceed by induction proving the proposition P:

If F is the set of edges chosen at any stage of the algorithm, then there is some minimum spanning tree that contains F.

- At the beginning, when $F = \{e\}$, P is correct thanks to the cut property.

- Assume p is true for some set F and T be the MST that contains F:
  - after choosing the next edge g, if g is in T then P is verified for $F \cup \{g\}$;
  - else if g is not in T then $T \cup \{g\}$ has a cycle C and there is an edge f that belongs to C and T but not to F. Then $T \setminus \{f\} \cup \{g\}$ is a tree with weigth $\leq$ of the weigth of T because the weigth of f cannot be $<$ of the weigth of g (or the algorithm would have chosen f and not g). P is verified for $T \setminus \{f\} \cup \{g\}$ that is a MST that contains $F \cup \{g\}$;

- by induction P holds also when F is a spanning tree (when Y is F) and so it is a MST.

We proved that Y is a spanning tree, that is minimum and that contains e.

EXERCISE 4 CODE

```c
1  #include <stdio.h>
2  #include <stdlib.h>
3  #include <string.h>
4
5  #define AT(mat, x, y) (mat)[(x)*2 + (y)]
6  #define MIN(a, b) ((a) <= (b) ? (a) : (b))
7
8  #define HIRED 1
9  #define FREELANCE 0
10
11 int min_cost_aux(int last_worker_type, int jt, int T, int s,
     ↪ int C, int S, int* freelances, char* works, int* matrix
     ↪ )
12 {
13   if(jt == T)
14     return 0;
15
16   int ct = works[jt] ? freelances[jt] : 0;
17
18   if(AT(matrix, jt+1, HIRED) == -1)
19     AT(matrix, jt+1, HIRED) = min_cost_aux(HIRED, jt+1, T, s,
          ↪ C, S, freelances, works, matrix, sol);
20   if(AT(matrix, jt+1, FREELANCE) == -1)
21     AT(matrix, jt+1, FREELANCE) = min_cost_aux(FREELANCE, jt
          ↪ +1, T, s, C, S, freelances, works, matrix, sol);
22
23   int x,y;
24   if(last_worker_type == HIRED) {
25     x = s + AT(matrix, jt+1, HIRED);
26     y = S + ct + AT(matrix, jt+1, FREELANCE);
27   }
28   else {
29     x = C + s + AT(matrix, jt+1, HIRED);
30     y = ct + AT(matrix, jt+1, FREELANCE);
31   }
32
33   return MIN(x, y);
34 }
35
36 int min_cost(int T, int s, int C, int S, int* freelances,
```

```c
         ↪ char* works)
37 {
38    int* matrix = calloc(sizeof(int), (2*T +2));
39    memset(matrix, -1, sizeof(int)*2*T);
40
41    int r = min_cost_aux(FREELANCE, 0, T, s, C, S, freelances,
         ↪ works, matrix, sol);
42
43    free(matrix);
44    return r;
45 }
46
47 int main()
48 {
49    int freelances[16] =
         ↪ {1,4,3,2,8,11,7,6,9,11,3,13,5,1,9,100}; //costs ct
50    char works[16] = {1,1,0,1,1,1,1,0,1,1,1,1,0,1,1,1}; //0 if
         ↪ there is not a task at instant t
51
52    int cost = min_cost(16, 4, 6, 3, freelances, works);
53
54    return 0;
55 }
```

```python
1  import networkx as nx
2
3  def is_in_mst(G, e):
4      visited = [False]*(len(G.nodes()))
5      e_w = G.edges[e]["weight"]
6
7      def aux(v):
8          visited[v] = True
9          r = True
10
11         for i in G.neighbors(v):
12             if G.edges()[v,i]["weight"] >= e_w:
13                 continue
14             if i == e[1]:
15                 return False
16             if visited[i] == False:
17                 r = r and aux(i)
18
19         return r
20
21     return aux(e[0])
22
23
24  def kruskal(G, e=None):
25      # e!=None forces to include edge e in the MST
26      # otherwise standard kruskal is performed
27
28      def find(parent, i):
29          if parent[i] == i:
30              return i
31          return find(parent, parent[i])
32
33      def union(parent, order, x, y):
34          rx = find(parent, x)
35          ry = find(parent, y)
36          if order[rx] < order[ry]:
37              parent[rx] = ry
38          elif order[rx] > order[ry]:
39              parent[ry] = rx
40          else :
41              parent[ry] = rx
42              order[rx] += 1
```

```
43
44      mst = []
45
46      i = 0
47      j = 0
48
49      s_edges = sorted(G.edges(), key=lambda x: G.edges[x]['
           ↪ weight'])
50      if e is not None:
51          s_edges.remove(e)
52          s_edges = [e] + s_edges
53
54      parent = []
55      rank = []
56
57      for n in G.nodes():
58          parent.append(n)
59          rank.append(0)
60
61      while j < len(G.nodes())-1:
62          if i == len(s_edges): break
63
64          u,v = s_edges[i]
65          w = G.edges[u,v]['weight']
66
67          i += 1
68          x = find(parent, u)
69          y = find(parent, v)
70
71          if x != y:
72              j += 1
73              mst.append((u,v,w))
74              union(parent, rank, x, y)
75
76      return mst
77
78  def mst_from_edge(G, e):
79      if not is_in_mst(G, e):
80          raise Exception("edge %s cannot be in a MST" % str(e)
               ↪ )
81      return kruskal(G, e)
```

References

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