

Treating street harassment, a way to improve Medellin

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ABSTRACT

The problem is based on street harassment that anyone can constantly suffer in several ways; Attitudes such as whistles, sexist insults, and sexual actions are only a few examples of what people live every day. The truth is that women are the most affected ones in Medellin, considering it an unsafe city for them to travel alone based on danger perceptions or facts about violence. This problem is relevant because safety is a right that we all have regardless of our genre, we can consider verbal violence as all the comments that aren't appropriate and cause discomfort.

What is the algorithm you have proposed to solve the problem? What quantitative results have you obtained? What are the conclusions of this work? The abstract should be **at most 200 words**. (*In this semester, you should summarize here the execution times, and the results obtained with the three paths*).

Key words

Shortest route, street sexual harassment, identification of safe routes, crime prevention

1. INTRODUCTION

Our beautiful Medellin is fighting for security and comfort for the citizens, but one of the hardest problems we as a community face is sexual harassment in public spaces like the Metro, Transmilenio, or just a common bus.

So, with this project, we are looking to improve treatment towards others, change our convience, and most importantly, reduce the insecurity in the streets by creating safer routes for people to travel alone. After that, we can realize the degree of importance of talking about the problem.

1.1. The problem

Creating safer routes for people in a city is beneficial in many ways; it can make more tourists interested in visiting the city and investing in their local businesses, and it can make people who live around the area happier. Therefore, creating an algorithm that can help people feel safe on the streets will not only help the community but also improve the country's economy.

1.2 Solution

Explain, briefly, your solution to the problem (*In this semester, the solution is a pedestrian algorithm to reduce both the distance and the risk of harassment. Which algorithms did you choose? Why?*)

1.3 Structure of the article

Next, in Section 2, we present work related to the problem. Then, in Section 3, we present the datasets and methods used in this research. In Section 4, we present the algorithm design. Then, in Section 5, we present the results. Finally, in Section 6, we discuss the results and propose some directions for future work.

2. RELATED WORK

Below, we explain four works related to finding ways to prevent street sexual harassment and crime in general.

1. The path-finding algorithm to prevent sexual harassment

The problem that was solved is based on identifying "safe spots" according to the user's coordinates and directions generating routes to the nearest hospitals within 800 meters by nearby search, also there are some lists that create the coordinates for these locations and show walking directions to these places.

The algorithm that was used to solve the problems that we mentioned before is based on two important ideas. Determining safety-ness routes by the risk score associated with the destination, calculating the average of risk upon grid coverage of the line path from origin to destination, and evaluating each step of the route to get to the destination.

And everything that we mentioned can be finally solved with a Euclidian distance between points a and b.

2. A Data Integration and Analysis System for Safe Route Planning

In the document, the authors want to influence safety by finding a collection of factors that could determine how safe a region is, this process starts by asking women in which conditions they feel unsafe, then, based on that they create a function that takes inputs and effectively combine them,

describing it as an algorithm is used to determine relative safety concerning an ideal location where the chances of a case are minimum. Let's assume that there are five factors and describe them as Ys, then we can simply define the value by $(Y1 + Y2 + Y3 + \dots)$.

After making a graphic of how the function is, they think about two values in which the function is 0 and conclude that the first one is the minimum number of people that should be around a person, while the second is the maximum number of people which can be present without representing danger for the person.

3. Beyond the Shortest Route: A Survey on Quality-Aware Route Navigation for Pedestrians

In this paper, the authors investigate different navigation systems that contribute to identifying the shortest or fastest routes in the user area. Taking as rating attributes what the authors call SWEEP (Safety-Health and Well-being-Effort-Exploration-Pleasure), they also analyze the algorithms and data sources implemented in such systems.

Then, the authors describe the types of data these programs use, all in a summary table to compare different data sources and show a short description, feature types, and modalities. There are two features: **Dynamic** and **Simple** both based on the geographical characteristics of the streets of the selected route.

The authors show evaluation of route navigation systems, which is the main point of this paper, providing categorization, evaluation approaches, and making promises of future research.

4. Problem 4: Safety-aware routing for motorized tourists based on open data and VGI

In this paper, the authors have the objective of creating safer and shorter routes for tourists in the city of Los Angeles, based on VGI information and open crime data sources from the government, additionally, they take information such as; historical crime in the area, crime hot spots, abandoned buildings, and police stations.

They explain crime mapping; using clustering techniques, Kernel Density Estimation, and nearest neighbor analysis. Although these are only examples, the authors go way deep in explanations, showing maps of the city with all of the different aspects, all of this to conclude different notes on how to approach all the things that a good algorithm of this kind should have.

3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

In this section, we explain how the data were collected and processed, and then different alternative path algorithms that reduce both the distance and the risk of sexual street harassment.

3.1 Data collection and processing

The map of Medellín was obtained from *Open Street Maps* (OSM)¹ and downloaded using the Python API² OSMnx. The map includes (1) the length of each segment, in meters; (2) the indication of whether the segment is one-way or not, and (3) the known binary representations of the geometries obtained from the metadata provided by OSM.

For this project, a linear combination (LC) was calculated that captures the maximum variance between (i) the fraction of households that feel insecure and (ii) the fraction of households with incomes below one minimum wage. These data were obtained from the 2017 Medellín quality of life survey. The CL was normalized, using the maximum and minimum, to obtain values between 0 and 1. The CL was obtained using principal components analysis. The risk of harassment is defined as one minus the normalized CL. Figure 1 presents the calculated risk of bullying. The map is available on GitHub³.

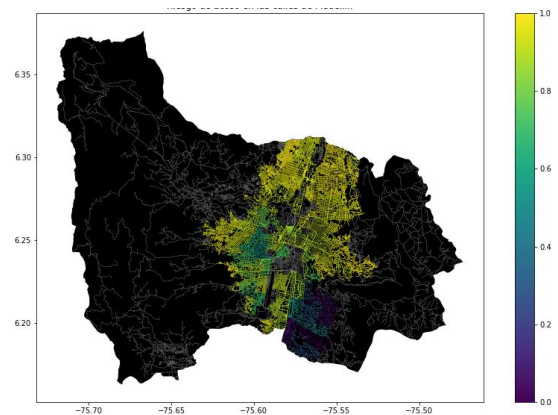


Figure 1. Risk of sexual harassment calculated as a linear combination of the fraction of households that feel unsafe and the fraction of households with income below one minimum wage, obtained from the 2017 Medellín Quality of Life Survey.

¹ <https://www.openstreetmap.org/>

² <https://osmnx.readthedocs.io/>

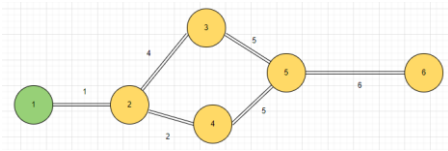
³<https://github.com/bo-sh99/SH-proyect.git>

3.2 Algorithmic alternatives that reduce the risk of sexual street harassment and distance

In the following, we present different algorithms used for a path that reduces both street sexual harassment and distance. (In this semester, examples of such algorithms are *DFS*, *BFS*, *Dijkstra*, *A**, *Bellman*, *Floyd*, among others).

3.2.1 Dijkstra's algorithm

Dijkstra's algorithm is very notable when people are looking to find the shortest route, it works by implementing a graph of nodes, like this:

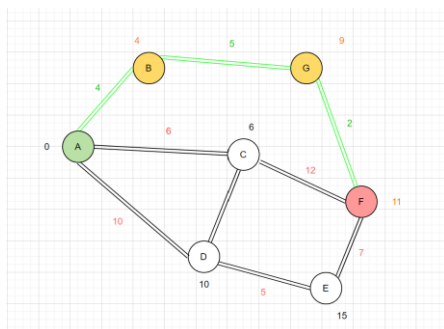


Taking a **source node (Start point)** and comparing the distances between **other nodes**. Each node is connected by a line that has a weight, these values are a crucial part of finding the shortest route, because they represent the distance between each point. The algorithm will start to find the routes to each node that cost less distance, marking the ones that he already visited until he has marked all nodes.

3.2.2 A* Algorithm

A* algorithm is one of the best path-finding methods and graph traversals, what makes it unique is that is considered an intelligent algorithm.

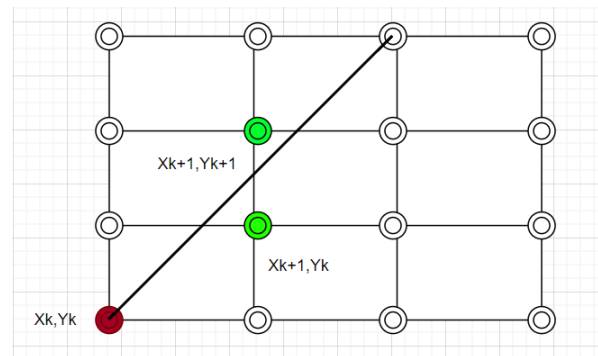
It works considering a graph with different nodes, having to reach a specific node as quickly as possible. The algorithm takes as a main parameter the value 'f' which represents the sum of two other values 'g' and 'h', then it picks the lowest f to decide which path it should take to reach the objective effectively.



3.2.3 Bresenham's line algorithm

Drawing a line from an initial point that determines some points of an n-dimensional raster is what we use this algorithm for, something important about it is that is not a very difficult algorithm to implement because it works with pixels in relation with graphical operations.

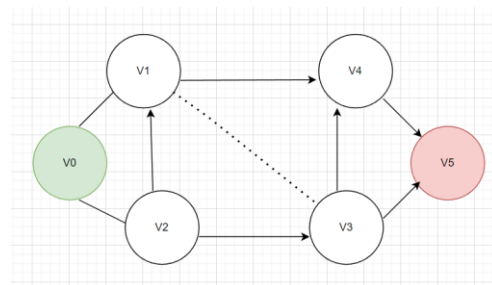
It works with an endpoint of a line segment, so the next points it traverses to get to another endpoint is determined by evaluating where the segment crosses in relation with the midpoint of the two possible grid choices



3.2.4 The pulse algorithm

The idea behind this algorithm is simple, propagating pulses from a start to an end node, as every pulse traverses the network it builds a partial path including the nodes that already visit the initial one, something important to emphasize is that each pulse that reaches the final node contains all the information for a path P from Vs to Ve.

Finally, the algorithm completely enumerates all the possible paths from Vs to Ve ensuring that the optimal P* is always found



4. ALGORITHM DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

In the following, we explain the data structures and algorithms used in this work. The implementations of the data structures and algorithms are available on Github⁴.

4.1 Data Structures

Explain the data structure that was used to represent the map of the city of Medellín. Make a figure that explains it. Do not use figures from the Internet. (In this semester, examples of data structures are adjacency matrix, adjacency list, adjacency list using a dictionary). The data structure is presented in Figure 2.

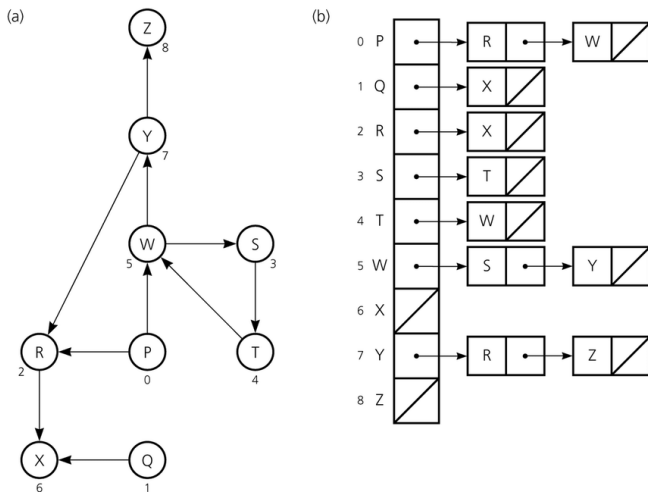


Figure 2: An example street map is presented in (a) and its representation as an adjacency list in (b). (Please feel free to change this graph if you use a different data structure).

4.2 Algorithms

In this paper, we propose an algorithm for a path that minimizes both the distance and the risk of street sexual harassment.

4.2.1 Algorithm for a pedestrian path that reduces both distance and risk of sexual street harassment

Explain the design of the algorithm for calculating a path that reduces both distance and risk of harassment and make your own graph. Do not use graphs from the Internet, make your own. (In this semester, the algorithm could be DFS, BFS, Dijkstra, A*, Bellman, Floyd among others). The algorithm is exemplified in Figure 3.

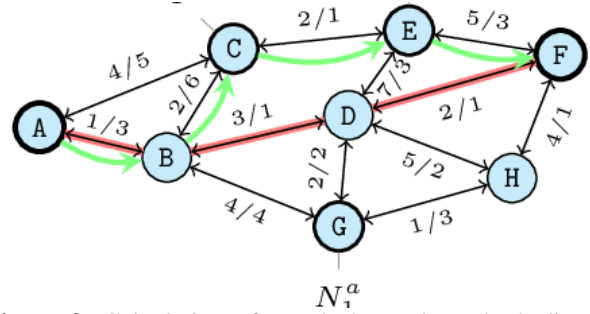


Figure 3: Calculation of a path that reduces both distance and risk of harassment (please feel free to change this figure if you use a different algorithm).

4.2.2 Calculation of two other paths to reduce both the distance and the risk of sexual street harassment

Explain the other two paths that reduce both distance and risk of street sexual harassment and make your own graph. Do not use graphs from the Internet, make your own. (In this semester, the algorithm could be DFS, BFS, Dijkstra, A*, among others). The algorithm is exemplified in Figure 4.



Figure 4: Map of the city of Medellín showing three pedestrian paths that reduce both the risk of sexual harassment and the distance in meters between the EAFIT University and the National University.

4.3 Algorithm complexity analysis

Explain, in your own words, the analysis, for the worst case, using the notation O. How did you calculate these complexities? Explain briefly.

Algorithm	Time complexity
Algorithm name	$O(V^2 * E^2)$
Name of the second algorithm (in case you have tried two)	$O(E^3 * V * 2^V)$

Table 1: Time complexity of the name of your algorithm, where V is.... E is... (Please explain what V and E mean in this problem). No, do not use 'n'.

Data Structure	Complexity of memory
Name of the data structure	$O(V * E * 2^E)$
Name of the second data structure (in case you have tried two)	$O(2^E * 2^V)$

Table 2: Memory complexity of the data structure name used by your algorithm, where V is.... E is... (Please explain what V and E mean in this problem). No, don't use 'n'. That is, don't use 'n'. Not 'n'.

4.4 Algorithm design criteria

Explain why the algorithm was designed that way. Use objective criteria. Objective criteria are based on efficiency, which is measured in terms of time and memory. Examples of NON-objective criteria are: "I was sick", "it was the first data structure I found on the Internet", "I did it the last day before the deadline", "it's easier", etc. Remember: This is 40% of the project grade.

5. RESULTS

In this section, we present some quantitative results on the three pathways that reduce both the distance and the risk of sexual street harassment.

5.1 Results of the paths that reduces both distance and risk of sexual street harassment

Next, we present the results obtained from *three paths that reduce both distance and harassment*, in Table 3.

Origin	Destination	Distance	Risk
Eafit	Unal	??	??
Eafit	Unal	???	??
Eafit	Unal	??	??

Distance in meters and risk of sexual street harassment (between 0 and 1) to walk from EAFIT University to the National University.

5.2 Algorithm execution times

In Table 4, we explain the ratio of the average execution times of the queries presented in Table 3.

Calculate the execution time for the queries presented in Table 3.

Calculation of v	Average run times (s)
v = ??	100000.2 s

v = ??	800000.1 s
v = ??	8450000 s

Table 4: Algorithm name execution times (Please write the name of the algorithm, e.g. DFS, BFS, A*) for each of the three calculator paths between EAFIT and Universidad Nacional.

6. CONCLUSIONS

Explain the results obtained. Are the paths significantly different? How useful is this for the city? Are the runtimes reasonable to use this implementation in a real situation? Which path would you recommend for a mobile or web application?

6.1 Future work

Answer, what would you like to improve in the future? How would you like to improve your algorithm and its application? Will you continue this project working on optimization? Statistics? Web development? Machine learning? Virtual reality? How?

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Identify the type of thank you you wish to write: to a person or to an institution. Keep the following guidelines in mind: 1. The professor's name is not mentioned because he or she is an author. 2. You should not mention the authors of articles that you have not contacted. 3. You should mention students, teachers of other courses who have helped you.

By way of example: This research has been supported/partially supported by [Name of Foundation, Donor].

We are grateful for help with [particular technique, methodology] to [First name Last name, position, name of institution] for comments that greatly improved this manuscript.

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