
ADVANCED ALGORITHMS 2021-2022

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Assignment 2 - Traveling Salesman Problem

Data limite: lunedì, 16 maggio 2022, 23:59

General Description

In this assignment you are asked to solve an intractable problem and to compare the execution time of the algorithms that can be obtained with different approximation algorithms. The problem to be analyzed is defined as follows: given the coordinates x, y of N points in the plane (the vertices), and a weight function w of points (the arcs), find the simple loop of minimum weight that visits all the N points. The weight function w is the Euclidean or Geographic distance between the points u and v (you can find details on how to compute the distance in the description). The weight function is symmetric and respects the triangular inequality.

Algorithms

The algorithms to implement are from two categories: (1) constructive heuristics; and (2) 2-approximation algorithms.

1. **Constructive heuristics:** choose *two* of the following constructive heuristics and implement them: Greedy Insertion, Farthest Insertion, Random Insertion, Cheapest Insertion.
2. **2-approximate algorithm:** Implement the 2-approximate algorithm based on the minimum spanning tree.

Dataset

The dataset contains 13 graphs, some from real test cases and some randomly generated. It is in the file `tsp_dataset.zip`.

The first lines of each file contain some information about the instance, such as the number of points, the type of coordinates: Euclidean (EUC_2D) or Geographic (GEO). As an example the first line

NAME : eil51

COMMENT : 51-city problem (Christofides/Eilon)

TYPE : TSP

DIMENSION : 51

EDGE_WEIGHT_TYPE : EUC_2D

NODE_COORD_SECTION

1 37 52

2 49 49

3 52 64

4 20 26

...

The lines after NODE_COORD_SECTION contain the vertices of the graph: each line includes a vertex id, its x and y coordinates which. The three values are separated by spaces.

The following table summarizes some statistics of the dataset:

File	Description	N	Optimal solution
burma14.tsp	Burma (Myanmar)	14	3323
ulysses16.tsp	Mediterranean Sea	16	6859
ulysses22.tsp	Mediterranean Sea	22	7013
eil51.tsp	Synthetic	51	426
berlin52.tsp	Germany	52	7542
kroD100.tsp	Random	100	21294
kroA100.tsp	Random	100	21282
ch150.tsp	Random	150	6528
gr202.tsp	Europe	202	40160
gr229.tsp	Asia/Australia	229	134602
pcb442.tsp	Drilling	442	50778
d493.tsp	Drilling	493	35002
dsj1000.tsp	Random	1000	18659688

Input handling and distance computation

- **GEO format:** the x coordinate is the latitude, the y coordinate is the longitude
 - convert x, y coordinates to radians using the code specified in the [TSPLIB FAQ \(Q: I get w](#)
 - The formula uses the integer part of x and y (DOES NOT ROUND TO THE NEAREST INTEGER)
 - compute the geographic distance between points i and j using the FAQ code for "dij". The distances (does not round).
- **File in EUC_2D format:** No coordinate conversions are needed in this case. Calculate the E the nearest integer.

Question 1

Run the three algorithms (the two constructive heuristics and 2-approximate) on the 13 graph table like the one below. The rows in the table correspond to the problem instances. The columns of the approximate solution, the execution time and the relative error calculated as $\frac{\text{Approximate} - \text{Optimal}}{\text{Optimal}}$

Instance	Constructive Heuristic 1			Constructive Heuristic 2			Solution
	Solution	Time	Error	Solution	Time	Error	
burma14.tsp							
ulysses22.tsp							
eil51.tsp							
kroD100.tsp							
gr229.tsp							
d493.tsp							
dsj1000.tsp							

Question 2

Comment on the results you have obtained: how do the algorithms behave with respect to the approximation error? Which algorithm always manages to do better than the others with respect to the approximation error? Which algorithm implemented is more efficient?

What to deliver

- A brief report on your project. The report must contain:
 - an introductory section with a description of the algorithms and implementation choices;
 - the table with the results and the answers to the two questions;
 - any originality you introduced in the implementation;
 - a concluding section with your comments and your conclusions on results.
- The source code of the implementation in a single archive file (.zip, .tar.gz, etc.).

How to submit the assignment

- You can do the assignment either on your own or in a group of up to three people.
- You have to create a group even if you do the assignment on your own.
- The second assignment must be delivered by **Monday 16 May, 11:55 pm**. Late submissions are not accepted.

Final remarks

- You can implement the algorithms with any programming language you like. Basic data structures like arrays, lists, dictionaries or maps, provided by the standard libraries of the language, can be used without any problem. There are also libraries that directly provide data structures and algorithms to represent and manipulate graphs, which can be very similar.
- Comment the essential parts of the code so that the reader can grasp the ideas that led you to the solution. This will help to clarify whether a bug is a conceptual error or just a small mistake.

◀ Lab 2 - TSP

Vai a...



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