

Algorithms in Bioinformatics - Sequences

Project 1 - Global alignment

Frederik L. Hansen (20096365)

Bjarke B. Andersen (20096300) Kris V. Ebbesen (20094539)

September 12, 2014



Contents

1	Introduction	3
2	Working Details	3
2.1	Determining distance between wi-fi samples	3
2.2	Selecting the nearest neighbours, and averaging position	3
2.3	Model-based data	4
3	Conclusion	4

1 Introduction

In this project we will be working with wireless positioning. We will examine different methods for determining user position based on wi-fi access point signal strength measurements, and discuss the choices made in their implementations. Finally, we will be experimenting with the accuracy of different parameters of the positioning system, and compare the performance of model-based data to empirical measurements.

2 Working Details

In implementing the positioning strategies for wi-fi positioning we had to take several factors into account. Mostly, these are related to access point visibility, but several other concerns influenced our decision-making during development, in this chapter we give a brief outline of the choices we made.

2.1 Determining distance between wi-fi samples

Since wi-fi signal strength measurements are highly variable not only in signal strength but also in the amount of access points included, a robust strategy for comparing sets of measurements must be developed.

First of all, we consider only the readings that are available in the online data. The reasoning for this choice being that the offline data set should include as many access points as possible, and any readings that are only available in the offline set are considered to be down for maintenance, or similarly temporarily unavailable.

Furthermore, it is important to consider how to handle readings that are only available in the online set. At first, we simply ignored these values, but this turned out to be a very bad choice, since completely disjoint measurements will now have a distance of 0, while their real world positions are often very far apart. We quickly improved this by assuming a missing offline reading to be 0, and even further, by assuming it to be the lowest recorded value for that particular access point.

Taking missing online readings into account was considered, but online samples were considered too volatile for this to be a feasible strategy.

2.2 Selecting the nearest neighbours, and averaging position

The nearest neighbour(s) are easily selected by selecting the trace entries that have the smallest distance(s) according to the distance functions described above. The ordering itself is done using the Google Guava libraries (Google, 2014).

The k nearest selected elements can be averaged using the `avgPosition` method of the `Statistics` class found in the utility libraries, which creates an unbiased average. A weighted average might be an interesting option to explore in further experiments.

2.3 Model-based data

When generating data for the model, points are laid out on a grid, and assigned a signal strength reading for each known access point as given by the formula in the RADAR article (Bahl and Padmanabhan, 2000). Note that we do not apply the WAF-factor, and that both n , P_{d_0} and grid parameters are adjustable.

These points are then passed on to the same programs that handle empirical positioning.

Note that since we only consider readings that are present in the online set, we do not need to perform any sort of pruning of the visible access points in the model-generated readings.

3 Conclusion

Through our work in this report, we have managed to implement different positioning schemes and distance measurements, and we have shown that it is possible to determine positions quite accurately from a set of signal strength readings. Finally, we have found a method of generating model-based data from theoretical models of wi-fi signal strength, and used this to experimentally compare the model-based solutions to the empirical, showing a noticeable but acceptable degradation of positioning accuracy.

References

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