

Marc Hellmuth



## Greedy Algorithms

Greedy Principles

Kruskal's Algorithm

Huffman Codes

Matroids

# Datenstrukturen und Effiziente Algorithmen

Vorlesung *Datenstrukturen und Effiziente Algorithmen* im WS  
18/19

Marc Hellmuth  
Institut für Mathematik und Informatik  
Universität Greifswald



## Greedy Algorithms

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# Greedy Heuristic

## Greedy heuristic

In a combinatorial optimization problem, try to find a (near) optimal solution, by making a sequence of choices such that **each choice** appears to be **optimal at the time of choice**.

The greedy heuristic is usually **efficient** but does **not always** produce a **correct** or near optimal result.



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# Design Principles of a Greedy Algorithm

## Design Principles

- 1 Choice and subproblem:**  
Formulate the optimization problem as one in which a **choice** is made which **leaves a subproblem** to solve.
- 2 Greedy choice is safe:**  
Prove that there is always an optimal solution to the original problem that makes the greedy choice.
- 3 Demonstrate optimal substructure:**  
After choosing greedily, an optimal solution to the subproblem combined with the greedy choice yields an optimal solution to the original problem.



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# Minimum Spanning Tree

## Definition 1 (Spanning Tree)

Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a weighted, connected, undirected graph and  $w(\{u, v\})$  be the weight of edge  $\{u, v\}$ .

A **spanning tree** of  $G$  is a subset  $T \subset E$  such that  $(V, T)$  is a tree.



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A **minimum spanning tree** (MST) is a spanning tree of **minimum weight**  $w(T)$ , where

$$w(T) := \sum_{e \in T} w(e).$$



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## MST problem

Find a minimum spanning tree for a given weighted, connected, undirected graph.



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# Kruskal's Algorithm

## Kruskal's Algorithm

- 1:  $T \leftarrow \{\}$
- 2: **for** each  $v \in V$  **do**
- 3:     **MAKE-SET**( $v$ )
- 4: sort the edges in  $E$  in nondecreasing order by weight
- 5: **for** each edge  $\{u, v\} \in E$  in above order **do**
- 6:     **if** **FIND-SET**( $u$ )  $\neq$  **FIND-SET**( $v$ ) **then**
- 7:          $T \leftarrow T \cup \{\{u, v\}\}$
- 8:         **UNION**( $u, v$ )



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All **MAKE-SET**, **FIND-SET**, **UNION** operations together:

$$O((|E| + |V|) \cdot \alpha(|V|)) = O(|E| \cdot \alpha(|V|))$$



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$$\text{Total time } O(|E| \log |V|)$$

Here:  $\alpha$  is the slightly superlinear function defined in section about *disjoint sets*.



# Kruskal's Algorithm

## Kruskal's algorithm is greedy

- **Subproblems:**  
For a given  $T$  that is a subset of a MST, find a MST containing  $T$ .



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Choose the lightest edge  $e$  from  $E \setminus T$  such that  $T$  remains acyclic.



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- **Greedy choice is safe:**  
Needs to be proven:  $T \cup \{e\}$  is a subset of a MST
- **Optimal substructure:**  
Trivial: A MST containing  $T \cup \{e\}$  is a MST containing  $T$





## Prefix Codes

### Binary Character Code

Let  $C$  be a finite set of objects.

A **binary code** or short **code** is an injective mapping

$$C \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^+.$$

Each object is represented by a unique binary string, its **codeword**.



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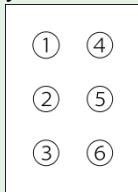
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## Example 2 (Braille)

Braille is a fixed-length binary code.

object	codeword
A	100000
B	110000
C	100100
D	100110
...	...





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# Huffman Codes

## Lossless Data Compression with Prefix Codes

Consider a **sequence**  $s$  of objects and the corresponding sequence  $t$  of codewords.

**Aim:** Choose prefix code such that  $t$  has minimal length.

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### Example 4 (Protein sequences)

A protein sequence  $s$  of length 1000 consists of the following objects ( $C = \{\text{amino acids}\}$ ,  $|C| = 20$ ).

A fixed-length code would require  $\lceil \log_2 20 \rceil = 5$  bits per codeword and therefore 5000 bits for coding the whole sequence.

amino acid	1 letter	freq
Alanine	A	60
Arginine	R	67
Asparagine	N	37
Aspartic acid	D	53
Cysteine	C	17
Glutamic acid	E	60
Glutamine	Q	48
Glycine	G	76
Histidine	H	20
Isoleucine	I	39
Leucine	L	78
Lysine	K	60
Methionine	M	25
Phenylalanine	F	44
Proline	P	61
Serine	S	87
Threonine	T	51
Tryptophan	W	7
Tyrosine	Y	26
Valine	V	84



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# Huffman Codes

## Tree representing a prefix code

- a binary prefix code can be represented by a **binary tree**  $T$  with edge labels in  $\{0, 1\}$
- the edges from an internal node to its sons have different labels
- decoding a sequence of codewords can be done efficiently parsing  $T$  root to leaf for each object

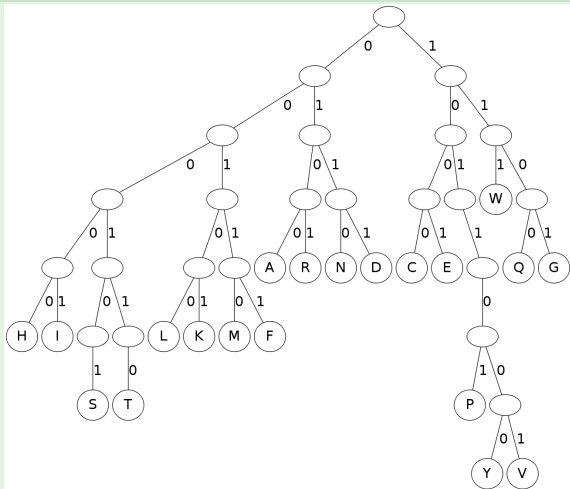


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## Example 5 (A tree representing a prefix code)



A has codeword 0100  
 Y has codeword 1011000  
 etc.



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# Huffman Codes

## Cost of a tree

Let  $T$  be a binary tree representing a prefix code for objects in the set  $C$ . For  $c \in C$

- let  $c.freq > 0$  be the frequency of character  $c$
- let  $d_T(c)$  be the depth of the leaf representing the codeword for  $c$  (= number of bits in the codeword).



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Define

$$B(T) := \sum_{c \in C} c.freq \cdot d_T(c)$$

to be the **cost** of tree  $T$ .

$B(T)$  is the total number of bits required when coding all objects using the code represented by  $T$ .





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## Example 6

For above tree and frequencies we get the costs  
 $B(T) = 60 \cdot 4 + 67 \cdot 4 + \dots + 84 \cdot 7 = 4947$ .



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## Observation

Every optimal tree (with minimal costs) is a full binary tree.  
(Why?)



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Let  $n = |C|$  be the number of objects. The number of internal nodes of a full binary tree  $T$  with  $n$  leaves is  $n - 1$ .



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## Bottom-up strategy

Consider the following **generic** leaf-to-root strategy for constructing a full binary tree  $T$ .

- 1:  $n \leftarrow |C|$
- 2: create a leaf node for every object in  $C$
- 3: **for**  $i = 1..n - 1$  **do**
- 4:     pick two nodes  $x$  and  $y$  from  $C$
- 5:     create a new internal node  $z[i]$  with edges to  $x$  and  $y$  labeled 0 and 1, respectively
- 6:      $z[i].freq \leftarrow x.freq + y.freq$
- 7:     remove  $x$  and  $y$  from  $C$  and add  $z[i]$  to  $C$
- 8: return  $z[n - 1]$  as root of the tree

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## Observations

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Want to minimize  $B(T) = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} z[i].freq.$



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## HUFFMAN(C)

- 1:  $n \leftarrow |C|$
- 2: construct a min-priority queue  $Q$  with elements  $C$  and frequencies as keys
- 3: **for**  $i = 1..n - 1$  **do**
- 4:     create a new internal node  $z[i]$
- 5:      $z[i].left \leftarrow x \leftarrow \text{EXTRACT-MIN}(Q)$
- 6:      $z[i].right \leftarrow y \leftarrow \text{EXTRACT-MIN}(Q)$
- 7:     label edges from  $z[i]$  to  $x$  and  $y$  with 0 and 1, respectively
- 8:      $z[i].freq \leftarrow x.freq + y.freq$
- 9:      $\text{INSERT}(Q, z[i])$
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## Example 7 (Huffman's algorithm)

$z[1].left = W$	$z[1].right = C$	$z[1].freq = 24$
$z[2].left = H$	$z[2].right = z[1]$	$z[2].freq = 44$
$z[3].left = M$	$z[3].right = Y$	$z[3].freq = 51$
$z[4].left = N$	$z[4].right = I$	$z[4].freq = 76$
$z[5].left = z[2]$	$z[5].right = F$	$z[5].freq = 88$
$z[6].left = Q$	$z[6].right = z[3]$	$z[6].freq = 99$
$z[7].left = T$	$z[7].right = D$	$z[7].freq = 104$
$z[8].left = A$	$z[8].right = E$	$z[8].freq = 120$
$z[9].left = K$	$z[9].right = P$	$z[9].freq = 121$
$z[10].left = R$	$z[10].right = z[4]$	$z[10].freq = 143$
$z[11].left = G$	$z[11].right = L$	$z[11].freq = 154$
$z[12].left = V$	$z[12].right = S$	$z[12].freq = 171$
$z[13].left = z[5]$	$z[13].right = z[6]$	$z[13].freq = 187$
$z[14].left = z[7]$	$z[14].right = z[8]$	$z[14].freq = 224$
$z[15].left = z[9]$	$z[15].right = z[10]$	$z[15].freq = 264$
$z[16].left = z[11]$	$z[16].right = z[12]$	$z[16].freq = 325$
$z[17].left = z[13]$	$z[17].right = z[14]$	$z[17].freq = 411$
$z[18].left = z[15]$	$z[18].right = z[16]$	$z[18].freq = 589$
$z[19].left = z[17]$	$z[19].right = z[18]$	$z[19].freq = 1000$





Greedy Algorithms

Greedy Principles

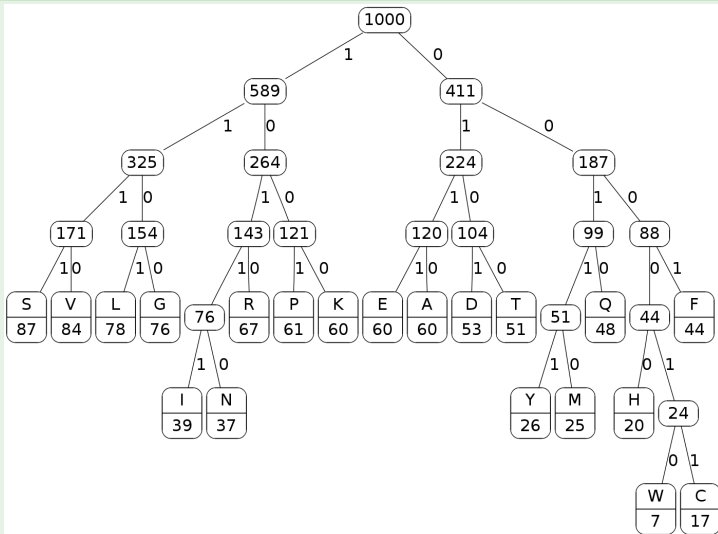
Kruskal's Algorithm

Huffman Codes

Matroids

# Huffman Codes

## Example 8 (The tree from Huffman's algorithm)



$$B(T) = z[1].freq + \dots + z[19].freq = 4195$$

# Huffman's Algorithm

## Running Time

If the min-priority queue is implemented with a **heap**, then line 2 takes time  $O(n)$  and each of the  $n - 1$  iterations of lines 4-9 take time  $O(\log n)$  totaling to a running time of  $O(n \log n)$ .

# Huffman's Algorithm

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We will now prove the correctness of HUFFMAN using three lemmas.

## Lemma 9

Let  $T$  be any tree and  $x$  and  $y$  be two different objects, such that

$$x.\text{freq} \leq y.\text{freq} \quad \text{and} \quad d_T(x) \leq d_T(y).$$

Let  $T'$  be the tree obtained from  $T$  by exchanging leaves  $x$  and  $y$ . Then  $B(T') \leq B(T)$ .

## Proof.

(chalk board)



# Huffman's Algorithm

## Running Time

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## Proof.

(chalk board)



## Lemma 10

Let  $x$  and  $y$  be two objects with lowest frequencies. Then there exists an optimal prefix code in which the codewords for  $x$  and  $y$  have the same length and differ only in the last bit.

## Proof.

(chalk board)





Greedy Algorithms

- Greedy Principles
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# Huffman Codes

## Lemma 11

*Let  $C$  be a set of objects and  $x$  and  $y$  be two characters with lowest frequencies.*

*Let  $C' = C \setminus \{x, y\} \cup \{z\}$  for a new object  $z$  with  $z.freq = x.freq + y.freq$ .*

*Let  $T'$  be an optimal tree for  $C'$ .*

*Then the tree  $T$  obtained from  $T'$  by replacing the leaf node for  $z$  with an internal node having  $x$  and  $y$  as children, is optimal for  $C$ .*

## Proof.

*(chalk board)*





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## Huffman Codes

### Lemma 11

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Let  $C' = C \setminus \{x, y\} \cup \{z\}$  for a new object  $z$  with  $z.freq = x.freq + y.freq$ .

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Then the tree  $T$  obtained from  $T'$  by replacing the leaf node for  $z$  with an internal node having  $x$  and  $y$  as children, is optimal for  $C$ .

### Proof.

(chalk board)



### Theorem 12

Procedure HUFFMAN produces an optimal prefix code.



## Greedy Algorithms

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# Huffman Codes

## Lemma 11

Let  $C$  be a set of objects and  $x$  and  $y$  be two characters with lowest frequencies.

Let  $C' = C \setminus \{x, y\} \cup \{z\}$  for a new object  $z$  with  $z.\text{freq} = x.\text{freq} + y.\text{freq}$ .

Let  $T'$  be an optimal tree for  $C'$ .

Then the tree  $T$  obtained from  $T'$  by replacing the leaf node for  $z$  with an internal node having  $x$  and  $y$  as children, is optimal for  $C$ .

## Proof.

(chalk board) □

## Theorem 12

Procedure HUFFMAN produces an optimal prefix code.

## Proof.

Induction on iteration  $i$  of HUFFMAN using lemma 11. □



Greedy Algorithms

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Matroids

A **matroid** is a tuple  $(R, \mathbb{F})$  such that

**M1**  $\mathbb{F} \neq \emptyset$  is a collection of subsets of the set  $R$ , i.e.,  $\mathbb{F} \subseteq \mathbb{P}(R)$ .  
(Elements in  $\mathbb{F}$  are called independent)

**M2** Closed w.r.t. Inclusion:  $Y \in \mathbb{F}, X \subseteq Y \Rightarrow X \in \mathbb{F}$

**M3** Exchange Property: For all  $X, Y \in \mathbb{F}$  and  $|Y| > |X| \Rightarrow$   
exists  $y \in Y \setminus X$  such that  $X \cup \{y\} \in \mathbb{F}$ .

If  $(R, \mathbb{F})$  satisfies (M1) and (M2) but not necessarily (M3), then  
 $(R, \mathbb{F})$  is called **independent system**.

Many optimization problems can be formulated as independent system, where  $R$  is ground set of elements that can be chosen (eg. edges in the MST-problem) and  $\mathbb{F}$  is a set of subsets of feasible solutions (eg. all spanning forests in a graph).





Greedy Algorithms

- Greedy Principles
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- M3** Exchange Property: For all  $X, Y \in \mathbb{F}$  and  $|Y| > |X| \Rightarrow$  exists  $y \in Y \setminus X$  such that  $X \cup \{y\} \in \mathbb{F}$ .

**Lemma 13**

If  $(R, \mathbb{F})$  is an **independent system**, then the following conditions are equivalent:

- M3** For all  $X, Y \in \mathbb{F}$  and  $|Y| > |X| \Rightarrow$  exists  $y \in Y \setminus X$  such that  $X \cup \{y\} \in \mathbb{F}$ .
- M3'** For all  $X, Y \in \mathbb{F}$  and  $|Y| = |X| + 1 \Rightarrow$  exists  $y \in Y \setminus X$  such that  $X \cup \{y\} \in \mathbb{F}$ .
- M3''** All maximal independent subsets of  $E$  have the same cardinality.

**Proof.**

chalkboard.





Bases of an independent system  $(R, \mathbb{F})$  are all **maximal** elements of  $\mathbb{F}$ .

### Lemma 14

*The basis elements of a matroid have always the same size.*

### Proof.

Let  $X, Y$  be bases of  $\mathbb{F}$  such that  $|Y| > |X|$

$\stackrel{(M3)}{\Rightarrow} \exists y \in Y \setminus X$  such that  $X \cup \{y\} \in \mathbb{F}$

$\Rightarrow X$  is not maximal and thus no basis; a contradiction  $\square$



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**MAX-GREEDY** $((R, \mathbb{F}), w : R \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+)$

- 1: sort elements in  $R$  such that  $w(e_1) \geq w(e_2) \geq \dots \geq w(e_m)$
- 2:  $F \leftarrow \emptyset$
- 3: **for**  $i = 1..m$  **do**
- 4:     **if**  $F \cup \{e_i\} \in \mathbb{F}$  **then**
- 5:          $F \leftarrow F \cup \{e_i\}$
- 6: **return**  $F$

Runtime: If  $f(m)$  denotes the runtime to check if  $F \cup \{e_i\} \in \mathbb{F}$ , we have total-runtime  $O(m \log(m) + mf(m))$ .

**Theorem 15**

*Let  $(R, \mathbb{F})$  be an independent system. Then,  $(R, \mathbb{F})$  is a matroid if and only if MAX-GREEDY returns a maximum-weighted element in  $\mathbb{F}$  for all weighting functions  $w : R \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ .*

**Proof.**

chalkboard.

