${\sf Greedoids}$

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Goal:





























Greedoid: $(E,\mathcal{F}),\ \mathcal{F}\subseteq\mathcal{P}(E)$

• for every non-empty $X \in \mathcal{F}$ there is an $x \in X$ such that $X - x \in \mathcal{F}$ (G1)

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$$\begin{split} & \mathcal{E} := \{a, b, c, d, e\} \\ & \mathcal{F} := \{T \subseteq \mathcal{E} : T \text{ is a subtree containing } r\} \end{split}$$

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 $E := \{a, b, c, d, e\}$ $\mathcal{F} := \{T \subseteq E : T \text{ is a subtree containing } r\}$ undirected branching greedoid

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 $\{1,2,3\} \in \mathcal{F}$ $\{1,2\} \notin \mathcal{F}$ Gaussian elimination greedoid

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antimatroids

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antimatroids matroids

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Greedoid Languages - Definition

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(L1)

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 $\begin{aligned} & \mathcal{E} = \{a, b, c, d, e\} \\ & \mathcal{L} = \{x_1 ... x_k \in E_s^* : \widehat{x_1 ... x_i} \text{ subtree containing } r \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq k \} \end{aligned}$

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(L1)

$$\begin{split} E &= \{a, b, c, d, e\} \\ \mathcal{L} &= \{x_1 ... x_k \in E_s^* : \widehat{x_1 ... x_i} \text{ subtree containing } r \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq k\} \\ bcd \in \mathcal{L} \end{split}$$

Greedoid Languages - Definition $E \neq \emptyset$, $\mathcal{L} \subseteq E_s^*$

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 $E = \{a, b, c, d, e\}$ $\mathcal{L} = \{x_1...x_k \in E_s^* : \widehat{x_1...x_i} \text{ subtree containing } r \text{ for } 1 \le i \le k\}$ $bcd \in \mathcal{L}$ $dbc \notin \mathcal{L}$

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$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

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- $\alpha\beta \in \mathcal{L} \Rightarrow \alpha \in \mathcal{L}$ (L1)(L2)
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$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

 $E = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ \mathcal{L} : sequences of pivot elements of Gaussian elimination

(i) (E,\mathcal{L}) greedoid language \Rightarrow ($E,\mathcal{ ilde{L}}$) greedoid

(i) (E, \mathcal{L}) greedoid language $\Rightarrow (E, \tilde{\mathcal{L}})$ greedoid (ii) (E, \mathcal{F}) greedoid then

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{F}) := \{x_1 ... x_k \in E_s^* | \{x_1, ..., x_i\} \in \mathcal{F} \text{ for } 1 \le i \le k\}$$

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 \Rightarrow we can use greedoids and greedoid languages interchangeably

 $\bullet \ \mathcal{L}$ simple hereditary language over a finite E

- $\bullet \ \mathcal{L}$ simple hereditary language over a finite E
- $\omega:\mathcal{L}\to\mathbb{R}$ objective function

- $\bullet \ \mathcal{L}$ simple hereditary language over a finite E
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Goal: find a basic word α that maximizes $\omega(\alpha)$

(1) $\alpha_0 := \emptyset$ and i = 0



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```
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$$\begin{array}{ll} (1) \ \alpha_0 := \emptyset \ \text{and} \ i = 0 \\ (2) \ \text{given} \ \alpha_i \ \text{choose} \ x_{i+1} \ \text{such that} \\ (i) \ \alpha_i x_{i+1} \in \mathcal{L} \\ (ii) \ \omega(\alpha_i x_{i+1}) \geq \omega(\alpha_i y) \ \text{for all} \ y \in E \ \text{such that} \ \alpha_i y \in \mathcal{L} \\ (3) \ \alpha_{i+1} := \alpha_i x_{i+1} \\ (4) \ \text{if} \ \alpha_{i+1} \ \text{is not basic,} \ i := i+1 \ \text{and go to} \ (2) \\ (5) \ \text{return} \ \alpha_{i+1} \end{array}$$



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When does this work?

ω compatible with \mathcal{L} if for $\alpha x \in \mathcal{L}$ such that $\omega(\alpha x) \geq \omega(\alpha y)$ for all $y \in E$

 $\omega \text{ compatible with } \mathcal{L} \text{ if for } \alpha x \in \mathcal{L} \text{ such that } \omega(\alpha x) \ge \omega(\alpha y) \text{ for all } y \in E$ • $\alpha \beta x \gamma, \alpha \beta z \gamma \in \mathcal{L} \Rightarrow \omega(\alpha \beta x \gamma) \ge \omega(\alpha \beta z \gamma)$ (C1)

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If x is an optimal choice after α

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If x is an optimal choice after α

- x is an optimal choice at any later stage
- it is always better to choose x before z

Result

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 \Rightarrow (*E*, *L*) is a greedoid if and only if the greedy algorithm works for every compatible objective function on *L*

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Korte & Lovász (1984). Greedoids, a structural framework for the greedy algorithm

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(L1) (L2)

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undirected branching greedoids

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- ullet lpha this common prefix
- $\gamma = \alpha x \gamma'$ and $\delta = \alpha y_1 ... y_n$

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$$\gamma = \alpha x \gamma'$$
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 $\mathsf{claim} \colon \gamma = \delta = \alpha$

- $\bullet \ \gamma$ a greedy solution
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$$\gamma = \alpha x \gamma'$$
 and $\delta = \alpha y_1 \dots y_n$ claim: $\gamma = \delta = \alpha$ else:

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- obtain $\alpha xy_1...y_{k-1}y_{k+1}...y_n \in \mathcal{L}$

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Contradiction!

greedy works for every ω compatible \Rightarrow (*E*, *L*) is a greedoid:

(L2): $\alpha, \beta \in \mathcal{L}, |\alpha| > |\beta| \Rightarrow$ there is an $x \in \tilde{\alpha}$ such that $\beta x \in \mathcal{L}$

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$$r(A) := \max\{|X| : X \subseteq A, X \in \mathcal{F}\}$$

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Greedy is optimal for every linear objective function if and only if $(E, H(\mathcal{F}))$ is a matroid and every set that is closed in (E, \mathcal{F}) is also closed in $(E, H(\mathcal{F}))$
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 \Rightarrow Prim's algorithm is optimal

Questions?