Approximation Algorithms

In case of minimization problem:

Algorithm A is k-approximation if for each input x

$$A(x) \leq k \cdot \mathsf{OPT}(x).$$

e.g. 2-approximation algorithm for the travelling salesman problem

In case of maximization problem:

Algorithm A is $1/k$-approximation if for each input x

$$A(x) \geq 1/k \cdot \mathsf{OPT}(x).$$

e.g. 1/2-approximation algorithm for MAXSAT problem

(Sometimes in literature, k-approximation is used instead of $1/k$-approximation.)

Greedy algorithm for vertex cover

while $E \neq \emptyset$

  choose any edge $e = \{u, v\}$

  print u, v

  remove from E all edges neighboring u

  remove from E all edges neighboring v

Greedy algorithm for SET-COVER

$C := \emptyset$

while $C \neq \{1, \ldots, n\}$

  $s := \arg\max_{s_i} \{|s_i| - |s_i \cap C|\}$

  /* set covering the largest number of "new" vertices */

  print s

  $C := C \cup s$

Theoretical Computer Science Cheat Sheet

Definitions

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$f(n) = O(g(n))$	iff $\exists$ positive c, n_0 such that $0 \le f(n) \le cg(n)$ $\forall n \ge n_0$.
$f(n) = \Omega(g(n))$	iff $\exists$ positive c, n_0 such that $f(n) \ge cg(n) \ge 0$ $\forall n \ge n_0$.
$f(n) = \Theta(g(n))$	iff $f(n) = O(g(n))$ and $f(n) = \Omega(g(n))$.
$f(n) = o(g(n))$	iff $\lim_{n\to\infty} f(n)/g(n) = 0$.
$\lim\limits_{n\to\infty} a_n = a$	iff $\forall \epsilon > 0$, $\exists n_0$ such that $\lvert a_n - a \rvert < \epsilon$, $\forall n \ge n_0$.
$\sup S$	least $b \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $b \ge s$, $\forall s \in S$.
$\inf S$	greatest $b \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $b \le s$, $\forall s \in S$.
$\liminf\limits_{n\to\infty} a_n$	$\lim\limits_{n\to\infty} \inf\{a_i \mid i \ge n, i \in \mathbb{N}\}$.
$\limsup\limits_{n\to\infty} a_n$	$\lim\limits_{n\to\infty} \sup\{a_i \mid i \ge n, i \in \mathbb{N}\}$.
$\binom{n}{k}$	Combinations: Size k subsets of a size n set.

Series

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} i = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}, \quad \sum_{i=1}^{n} i^2 = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}, \quad \sum_{i=1}^{n} i^3 = \frac{n^2(n+1)^2}{4}.$$

In general:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} i^m = \frac{1}{m+1}\left[(n+1)^{m+1} - 1 - \sum_{i=1}^{n}\left((i+1)^{m+1} - i^{m+1} - (m+1)i^m\right)\right]$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} i^m = \frac{1}{m+1}\sum_{k=0}^{m}\binom{m+1}{k} B_k n^{m+1-k}.$$

Geometric series:

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n} c^i = \frac{c^{n+1}-1}{c-1}, \quad c \ne 1, \quad \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} c^i = \frac{1}{1-c}, \quad \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} c^i = \frac{c}{1-c}, \quad |c| < 1,$$

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n} ic^i = \frac{nc^{n+2} - (n+1)c^{n+1} + c}{(c-1)^2}, \quad c \ne 1, \quad \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} ic^i = \frac{c}{(1-c)^2}, \quad |c| < 1.$$

Harmonic series:

$$H_n = \sum_{i=1}^{n}\frac{1}{i}, \qquad \sum_{i=1}^{n} iH_i = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}H_n - \frac{n(n-1)}{4}.$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} H_i = (n+1)H_n - n, \quad \sum_{i=1}^{n}\binom{i}{m}H_i = \binom{n+1}{m+1}\left(H_{n+1} - \frac{1}{m+1}\right).$$