

## Lecture 6: Approximation Algorithms VI

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## 1 Probabilistic tree embedding

Trees are a special kind of graphs without cycles and some **NP**-hard problems are known to admit exact polynomial time solutions on trees. Motivated by existence of efficient algorithms on trees, one hopes to design the following framework for a general graph  $G = (V, E)$  with distance metric  $d_G(u, v)$  between vertices  $u, v \in V$ :

1. Construct a tree  $T$
2. Solve the problem on  $T$  efficiently
3. Map the solution back to  $G$
4. Argue that transformed solution from  $T$  is a good approximation to  $G$ .

Ideally, we want to build a tree  $T$  such that (i)  $d_G(u, v) \leq d_T(u, v)$  and (ii)  $d_T(u, v) \leq c \cdot d_G(u, v)$ , where  $c$  is the *stretch of tree embedding*. Unfortunately, such a construction is hopeless<sup>1</sup>. Instead, we consider a *probabilistic tree embedding* of  $G$  into a collection of trees  $\mathcal{T} = \{T_1, \dots, T_m\}$  such that

- (Over-estimates cost):  $\forall T \in \mathcal{T}, d_G(u, v) \leq d_T(u, v)$
- (Expected over-estimation is not too much):  $\forall T \in \mathcal{T}, \mathbb{E}_{T \in \mathcal{T}}[d_T(u, v)] \leq c \cdot d_G(u, v)$
- ( $\mathcal{T}$  is a probability space):  $\sum_{i=1}^m \Pr[T_i] = 1$

Bartal [Bar96] gave a construction<sup>2</sup> for probabilistic tree embedding with poly-logarithmic stretch factor  $c$ , and proved<sup>3</sup> that a stretch factor  $c = \Omega(\log n)$  is required for general graphs. A construction that yields  $c = \mathcal{O}(\log n)$ , in expectation, was subsequently found by [FRT03].

## 2 A tight probabilistic tree embedding construction

In this section, we describe a probabilistic tree embedding construction due to [FRT03] with a stretch factor  $c = \mathcal{O}(\log n)$ . For a graph  $G = (V, E)$ , let  $D = \text{diam}(G)$  and distance metric  $d_G(u, v)$  denote the distance between two vertices  $u, v \in V$ . Denote  $B(v, r) := \{u \in V : d_G(u, v) \leq r\}$  as the ball of distance  $r$  around vertex  $v$ , including  $v$ .

### 2.1 Idea: Ball carving

Before we present the actual construction, we argue that the following *ball carving* approach will yield a probabilistic tree embedding.

**Definition 1** (Ball carving). *Given a graph  $G = (V, E)$ , partition  $V$  into  $V_1, \dots, V_l$  such that*

- (A)  $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, l\}, \text{diam}(V_i) \leq \frac{D}{2}$
- (B)  $\forall u, v \in V, \Pr[u \text{ and } v \text{ not in same partition}] \leq \alpha \cdot \frac{d_G(u, v)}{D}$ , for some  $\alpha$

Using ball carving, Algorithm 1 recursively partitions the vertices of a given graph until there is only one vertex remaining. Figure 1 illustrates the process of building a tree  $T$  from a given graph  $G$ .

**Lemma 2.** *For any two vertices  $u, v \in V$ , if  $T$  separates them at level  $i$ , then  $\frac{2D}{2^i} \leq d_T(u, v) \leq \frac{4D}{2^i}$ .*

<sup>1</sup>For a cycle  $G$  with  $n$  vertices, the excluded edge in a constructed tree will cause the stretch factor  $c \geq n - 1$ .

<sup>2</sup>Theorem 8 in [Bar96]

<sup>3</sup>Theorem 9 in [Bar96]

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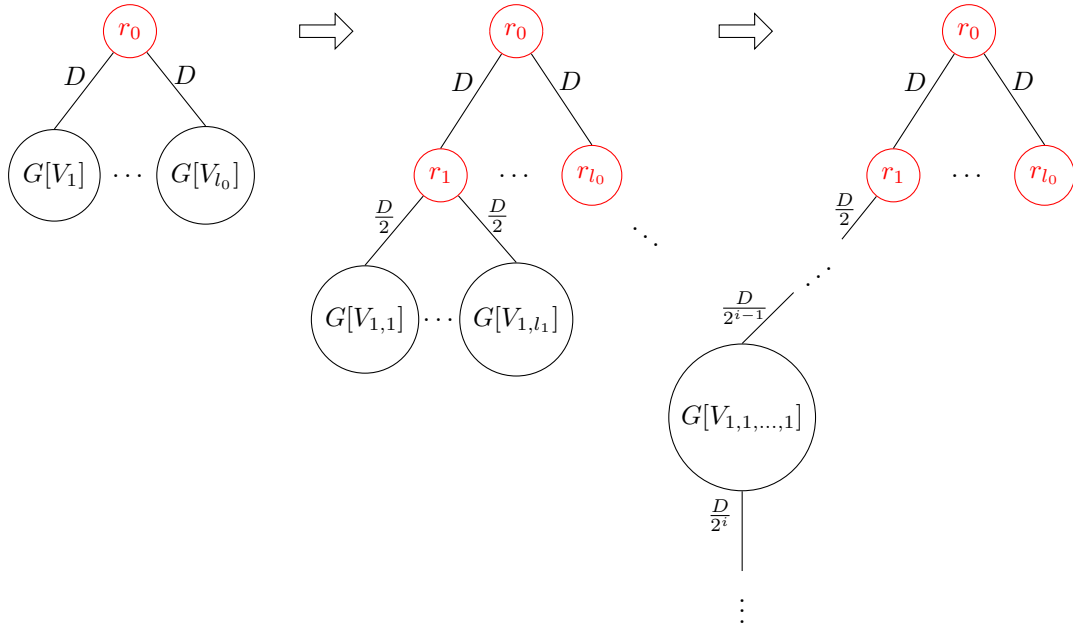
**Algorithm 1** CONSTRUCT( $G = (V, E)$  with diameter  $D$ )
 

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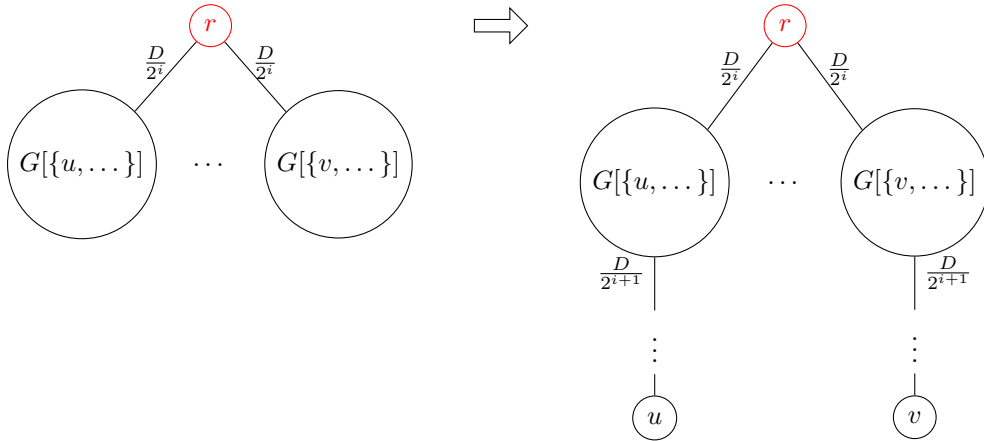
if  $|V| = 1$  then
  return  $V$ 
else
   $V_1, \dots, V_l \leftarrow \text{BALLCARVING}(G)$ 
  Create auxiliary vertex  $r$   $\triangleright r$  is root of current subtree
  for  $i \in \{1, \dots, l\}$  do
     $G[V_i] \leftarrow$  Subgraph induced by vertices  $V_i$   $\triangleright$  By BALLCARVING( $G$ ),  $\text{diam}(G[V_i]) \leq \frac{D}{2}$ 
     $r_i \leftarrow \text{CONSTRUCT}(G[V_i])$   $\triangleright$  Either an auxiliary vertex or an actual vertex  $v \in V(G)$ 
    Add edge  $(r, r_i)$  with weight  $D$ 
  end for
  return Root of subtree  $r$   $\triangleright r$  is the root of the constructed  $T$ 
end if
  
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**Figure 1:** Recursive ball carving with  $\lceil \log_2(D) \rceil$  levels. Red vertices are auxiliary nodes that are not in the original graph  $G$ . Denoting the root as the  $0^{\text{th}}$  level, edges from level  $i$  to level  $i + 1$  have weight  $\frac{D}{2^i}$ .

*Proof.* If  $T$  splits  $u$  and  $v$  at level  $i$ , then  $d_T(u, v)$  has to include two edges of length  $\frac{D}{2^i}$ , hence  $d_T(u, v) \geq \frac{2D}{2^i}$ . To be precise,  $d_T(u, v) = 2 \cdot (\frac{D}{2^i} + \frac{D}{2^{i+1}} + \dots) \leq \frac{4D}{2^i}$ . See picture.



□

**Remark** If  $u, v \in V$  separate *before* level  $i$ , then  $d_T(u, v)$  must still include the two edges of length  $\frac{D}{2^i}$ , hence  $d_T(u, v) \geq \frac{2D}{2^i}$ .

**Claim 3.**  $\text{CONSTRUCT}(G)$  returns a tree  $T$  such that  $d_G(u, v) \leq d_T(u, v)$ .

*Proof.* Consider  $u, v \in V$ . Say  $\frac{D}{2^i} \leq d_G(u, v) \leq \frac{D}{2^{i-1}}$  for some  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ . By property (A) of ball carving,  $T$  will separate them at, or before, level  $i$ . By Lemma 2,  $d_T(u, v) \geq \frac{2D}{2^i} = \frac{D}{2^{i-1}} \geq d_G(u, v)$ .  $\square$

**Claim 4.**  $\text{CONSTRUCT}(G)$  returns a tree  $T$  such that  $\mathbb{E}[d_T(u, v)] \leq 4\alpha \log(D) \cdot d_G(u, v)$ .

*Proof.* Consider  $u, v \in V$ . Define  $\mathcal{E}_i$  as the event that “vertices  $u$  and  $v$  get separated at the  $i^{\text{th}}$  level”, for  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ . By recursive nature of  $\text{CONSTRUCT}$ , a graph at the  $i^{\text{th}}$  level has diameter  $\leq \frac{D}{2^i}$ . So, property (B) of ball carving tells us that  $\Pr[\mathcal{E}_i] \leq \alpha \cdot \frac{d_G(u, v)}{D/2^i}$ . Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[d_T(u, v)] &= \sum_{i=0}^{\log(D)-1} \Pr[\mathcal{E}_i] \cdot [d_T(u, v), \text{ given } \mathcal{E}_i] && \text{Definition of expectation} \\ &\leq \sum_{i=0}^{\log(D)-1} \Pr[\mathcal{E}_i] \cdot \frac{4D}{2^i} && \text{By Lemma 2} \\ &\leq \sum_{i=0}^{\log(D)-1} (\alpha \cdot \frac{d_G(u, v)}{D/2^i}) \cdot \frac{4D}{2^i} && \text{Property (B) of ball carving} \\ &= 4\alpha \log(D) \cdot d_G(u, v) && \text{Simplifying} \end{aligned}$$

$\square$

## 2.2 Ball carving construction

We now give a concrete construction of ball carving that satisfies properties (A) and (B) as defined.

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**Algorithm 2**  $\text{BALLCARVING}(G = (V, E)$  with diameter  $D$ )

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if  $|V| = 1$  then
  return  $V$ 
else
   $\theta \leftarrow$  Uniform random value from the range  $[\frac{D}{8}, \frac{D}{4}]$ 
  Pick a random permutation  $\pi$  on  $V$ 
  for  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  do
     $V_i \leftarrow B(\pi_i, \theta) \setminus \bigcup_{j=1}^{i-1} B(\pi_j, \theta)$ 
  end for
  return Non-empty sets  $V_1, \dots, V_l$ 
end if

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$\triangleright$  Say there are  $n$  vertices, where  $n > 1$   
 $\triangleright$  Denote  $\pi_i$  as the  $i^{\text{th}}$  vertex in  $\pi$   
 $\triangleright$  This ensures that  $V_1, \dots, V_n$  is a partition of  $V$   
 $\triangleright V_i = \emptyset$  when vertices in  $B(\pi_i, \theta)$  exist in earlier balls  
 $\triangleright$  i.e.  $V_i = \emptyset \iff \forall v \in B(\pi_i, \theta), [\exists j < i, v \in B(\pi_j, \theta)]$

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**Notation** For vertex  $v \in V$ , let us denote  $\pi(v)$  as  $v$ 's position in  $\pi$ . That is,  $v = \pi_{\pi(v)}$ .

**Claim 5.**  $\text{BALLCARVING}(G)$  returns partition  $V_1, \dots, V_l$  such that  $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, l\}$ ,  $\text{diam}(V_i) \leq \frac{D}{2}$

*Proof.* Since  $\theta \in [\frac{D}{8}, \frac{D}{4}]$ , all constructed balls have diameter smaller than  $\frac{D}{2}$ .  $\square$

**Definition 6** (Ball cut). A ball  $B(u, r)$  is cut if  $\text{BALLCARVING}$  puts the vertices in  $B(u, r)$  in different partitions of  $V_1, \dots, V_l$ . We say  $V_i$  cuts  $B(u, r)$  if  $i = \text{argmin}_{i \in [l]} [V_i \cap B(u, r) \neq \emptyset \text{ and } B(u, r) \not\subseteq V_i]$ .

**Lemma 7.** For any vertex  $u \in V$  and radius  $r \in \mathbb{R}^+$ ,  $\Pr[B(u, r)$  is cut in  $\text{BALLCARVING}] \leq \mathcal{O}(\log n) \cdot \frac{r}{D}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\theta$  be the randomly chosen in  $\text{BALLCARVING}$ . Consider an ordering of vertices in increasing distance from  $u$ :  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n$ , such that  $d_G(u, v_1) \leq d_G(u, v_2) \leq \dots \leq d_G(u, v_n)$ . For  $j < i$ , since  $d_G(u, v_j) \leq d_G(u, v_i)$ , if  $B(v_i, \theta) \cap B(u, r) \neq \emptyset$ , then  $B(v_j, \theta) \cap B(u, r) \neq \emptyset$ . So,

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[B(u, r) \text{ is cut}] &= \Pr[\bigcup_{i=1}^n \text{Event that } B(v_i, \theta) \text{ cuts } B(u, r)] \\ &\leq \sum_{i=1}^n \Pr[B(v_i, \theta) \text{ cuts } B(u, r)] && \text{Union bound} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \Pr[\pi(v_i) < \min_{j \in [i-1]} \{\pi(v_j)\}] \Pr[V_i \text{ cuts } B(u, r)] && \text{Require } v_i \text{ to appear first} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n (1/i) \cdot \Pr[V_i \text{ cuts } B(u, r)] && \text{By random permutation } \pi \\ &\leq \sum_{i=1}^n (1/i) \cdot \frac{2r}{D/8} && \text{diam}(B(u, r)) \leq 2r, \theta \in [\frac{D}{8}, \frac{D}{4}] \\ &= 16 \frac{r}{D} H_n && H_n = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i} \\ &\in \mathcal{O}(\log(n)) \cdot \frac{r}{D} \end{aligned}$$

In the last inequality: For  $V_i$  to cut  $B(u, r)$ , we need  $\theta \in (d_G(u, v_i) - r, d_G(u, v_i) + r)$ , hence the numerator of  $\leq 2r$ ; The denominator  $\frac{D}{8}$  is because the range of values that  $\theta$  is sampled from is  $\frac{D}{4} - \frac{D}{8} = \frac{D}{8}$ .  $\square$

**Claim 8.** BALLCARVING( $G$ ) returns partition  $V_1, \dots, V_l$  such that

$$\forall u, v \in V, \Pr[u \text{ and } v \text{ not in same partition}] \leq \alpha \cdot \frac{d_G(u, v)}{D}$$

*Proof.* Let  $r = d_G(u, v)$ , then  $v$  is on the boundary of  $B(u, r)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[u \text{ and } v \text{ not in same partition}] &\leq \Pr[B(u, r) \text{ is cut in BALLCARVING}] && \text{By Lemma 7} \\ &\leq \mathcal{O}(\log n) \cdot \frac{r}{D} && \text{Since } r = d_G(u, v) \\ &= \mathcal{O}(\log n) \cdot \frac{d_G(u, v)}{D} \end{aligned}$$

Note:  $\alpha = \mathcal{O}(\log n)$ . □

If we apply Claim 8 with Claim 4, we get  $\mathbb{E}[d_T(u, v)] \leq \mathcal{O}(\log(n) \log(D)) \cdot d_G(u, v)$ . To remove the  $\log(D)$  factor, so that stretch factor  $c = \mathcal{O}(\log n)$ , a tighter analysis is needed by only considering vertices that may cut  $B(u, d_G(u, v))$  instead of all  $n$  vertices. For details, see Theorem 16 in the appendix.

### 2.3 Contraction of $T$

Notice in Figure 1 that we introduce auxiliary vertices in our tree construction and wonder if we can build a  $T$  without additional vertices (i.e.  $V(T) = V(G)$ ). In this section, we look at CONTRACT which performs *tree contractions* to remove the auxiliary vertices. It remains to show that the produced tree that still preserves desirable properties of a tree embedding.

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#### Algorithm 3 CONTRACT( $T$ )

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while  $T$  has an edge  $(u, w)$  such that  $u \in V$  and  $w$  is an auxiliary node do
    Contract edge  $(u, w)$  by merging subtree rooted at  $u$  into  $w$ , and identifying the new node as  $u$ 
end while
Multiply weight of every edge by 4
return Modified  $T'$ 

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**Claim 9.** CONTRACT returns a tree  $T$  such that  $d_T(u, v) \leq d_{T'}(u, v) \leq 4 \cdot d_T(u, v)$ .

*Proof.* Suppose auxiliary node  $w$ , at level  $i$ , is the closest common ancestor for two arbitrary vertices  $u, v \in V$  in the original tree  $T$ . Then,  $d_T(u, v) = d_T(u, w) + d_T(w, v) = 2 \cdot (\sum_{j=i}^{\log D} \frac{D}{2^j}) \leq 4 \cdot \frac{D}{2^i}$ . Since we do not contract actual vertices, at least one of the  $(u, w)$  or  $(v, w)$  edges of weight  $\frac{D}{2^i}$  will remain. Multiplying the weights of all remaining edges by 4, we get  $d_T(u, v) \leq 4 \cdot \frac{D}{2^i} = d_{T'}(u, v)$ .

Suppose we only multiply the weights of  $d_T(u, v)$  by 4, then  $d_{T'}(u, v) = 4d_T(u, v)$ . Since we contract edges,  $d_{T'}(u, v)$  can only decrease, so  $d_{T'}(u, v) \leq 4d_T(u, v)$ . □

**Remark** Claim 9 tells us that one can construct a tree  $T'$  without auxiliary variables by incurring an additional constant factor overhead.

## 3 Application: Buy-at-bulk network design

**Definition 10** (Buy-at-bulk network design problem). Consider a graph  $G = (V, E)$  with edge lengths  $l_e$  for  $e \in E$ . Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  be a sub-additive cost function. That is,  $f(x + y) \leq f(x) + f(y)$ . Given  $k$  commodity triplets  $(s_i, t_i, d_i)$ , where  $s_i \in V$  is the source,  $t_i \in V$  is the target, and  $d_i \geq 0$  is the demand for the  $i^{\text{th}}$  commodity, find a capacity assignment on edges  $c_e (\forall e \in E)$  such that

- $\sum_{e \in E} f(c_e) \cdot l_e$  is minimized
- $\forall e \in E, c_e \geq$  Total flow passing through it
- Flow conservation is satisfied and every commodity's demand is met

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**Algorithm 4** NETWORKDESIGN( $G = (V, E)$ )

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$c_e = 0, \forall e \in E$  ▷ Initialize capacities  
 $T \leftarrow \text{CONSTRUCT}(G)$  ▷ Build probabilistic tree embedding  $T$  of  $G$   
 $T \leftarrow \text{CONTRACT}(T)$  ▷  $V(T) = V(G)$  after contraction  
**for**  $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$  **do** ▷ Solve problem on  $T$   
     $P_{s_i, t_i}^T \leftarrow$  Find shortest  $s_i - t_i$  path in  $T$  ▷ It is unique in a tree  
    **for** Edge  $(u, v)$  of  $P_{s_i, t_i}^T$  in  $T$  **do**  
         $P_{u, v}^G \leftarrow$  Find shortest  $u - v$  path in  $G$   
         $c_e \leftarrow c_e + d_i$ , for each edge in  $e \in P_{u, v}^G$   
    **end for**  
**end for**  
**return**  $\{e \in E : c_e\}$

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**Remark** If  $f$  is linear (e.g.  $f(x + y) = f(x) + f(y)$ ), one can obtain an optimum solution by finding the shortest path  $s_i \rightarrow t_i$  for each commodity  $i$ , then summing up the required capacities for each edge.

Let us denote  $I = (G, f, \{s_i, t_i, d_i\}_{i=1}^k)$  as the given instance. Let  $OPT_G(I)$  be the optimal solution on  $G$  and  $A_T(I)$  be the solution produced by NETWORKDESIGN. Denote the costs as  $|OPT_G(I)|$  and  $|A_T(I)|$  respectively. We now compare the solutions  $OPT_G(I)$  and  $A_T(I)$  by comparing edge costs  $(u, v) \in E$  in  $G$  and tree embedding  $T$ .

**Claim 11.**  $|A_T(I)|$  using edges in  $G \leq |A_T(I)|$  using edges in  $T$ .

*Proof.* (Sketch) For any pair of vertices  $u, v \in V$ ,  $d_G(u, v) \leq d_T(u, v)$ . □

**Claim 12.**  $|A_T(I)|$  using edges in  $T \leq |OPT_G(I)|$  using edges in  $T$ .

*Proof.* (Sketch) Since shortest path in a tree is unique,  $A_T(I)$  is optimum for  $T$ . So, any other flow assignment has to incur higher edge capacities. □

**Claim 13.**  $\mathbb{E}[|OPT_G(I)|$  using edges in  $T] \leq \mathcal{O}(\log n) \cdot |OPT_G(I)|$

*Proof.* (Sketch)  $T$  stretches edges by at most a factor of  $\mathcal{O}(\log n)$ . □

By the three claims above, NETWORKDESIGN gives a  $\mathcal{O}(\log n)$ -approximation to the buy-at-bulk network design problem, in expectation. For details, refer to Section 8.6 in [WS11].

## References

- [Bar96] Yair Bartal. Probabilistic approximation of metric spaces and its algorithmic applications. In *Foundations of Computer Science, 1996. Proceedings., 37th Annual Symposium on*, pages 184–193. IEEE, 1996.
- [FRT03] Jittat Fakcharoenphol, Satish Rao, and Kunal Talwar. A tight bound on approximating arbitrary metrics by tree metrics. In *Proceedings of the thirty-fifth annual ACM symposium on Theory of computing*, pages 448–455. ACM, 2003.
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## A Ball carving with $\mathcal{O}(\log n)$ stretch factor

If we apply Claim 8 with Claim 4, we get  $\mathbb{E}[d_T(u, v)] \leq \mathcal{O}(\log(n) \log(D)) \cdot d_G(u, v)$ . To remove the  $\log(D)$  factor, so that stretch factor  $c = \mathcal{O}(\log n)$ , a tighter analysis is needed by only considering vertices that may cut  $B(u, d_G(u, v))$  instead of all  $n$  vertices.

## A.1 Tighter analysis of ball carving

Fix arbitrary vertices  $u$  and  $v$ . Let  $r = d_G(u, v)$ . Recall that  $\theta$  is chosen uniformly at random from the range  $[\frac{D}{8}, \frac{D}{4}]$ . A ball  $B(v_i, \theta)$  can cut  $B(u, r)$  only when  $d_G(u, v_i) - r \leq \theta \leq d_G(u, v_i) + r$ . In other words, one only needs to consider vertices  $v_i$  such that  $\frac{D}{8} - r \leq \theta - r \leq d_G(u, v_i) \leq \theta + r \leq \frac{D}{4} + r$ .

**Lemma 14.** For  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ , if  $r > \frac{D}{16}$ , then  $\Pr[B(u, r) \text{ is cut}] \leq \frac{16r}{D}$

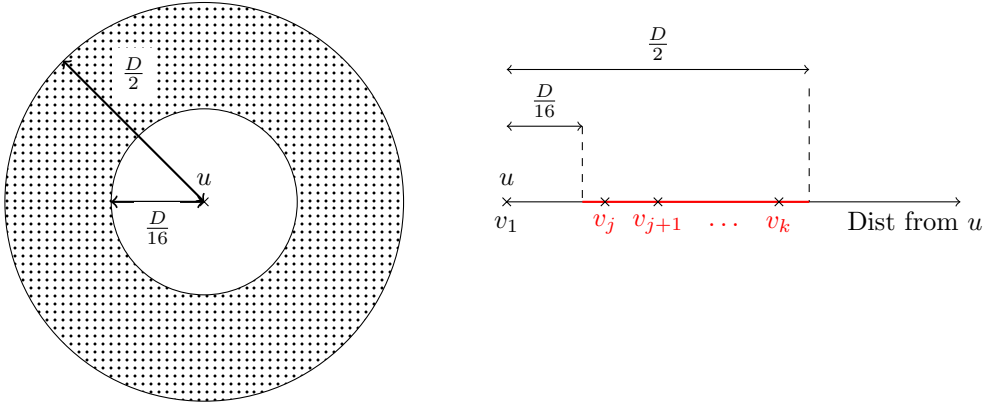
*Proof.* If  $r > \frac{D}{16}$ , then  $\frac{16r}{D} > 1$ . As  $\Pr[B(u, r) \text{ is cut at level } i]$  is a probability  $\leq 1$ , the claim holds.  $\square$

**Remark** Although lemma 14 is not a very useful inequality per se (since any probability  $\leq 1$ ), we use it to partition the value range of  $r$  so that we can say something stronger in the next lemma.

**Lemma 15.** For  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ , if  $r \leq \frac{D}{16}$ , then

$$\Pr[B(u, r) \text{ is cut}] \leq \frac{r}{D} \mathcal{O}(\log(\frac{|B(u, D/2)|}{|B(u, D/16)|}))$$

*Proof.* Since  $B(v_i, \theta)$  cuts  $B(u, r)$  only if  $\frac{D}{8} - r \leq d_G(u, v_i) \leq \frac{D}{4} + r$ , we have  $d_G(u, v_i) \in [\frac{D}{16}, \frac{5D}{16}] \subseteq [\frac{D}{16}, \frac{D}{2}]$ .



Suppose we arrange the vertices in ascending order of distance from  $u$ :  $u = v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n$ . Denote:

- $j - 1 = |B(u, \frac{D}{16})|$  as the number of nodes that have distance  $\leq \frac{D}{16}$  from  $u$
- $k = |B(u, \frac{D}{2})|$  as the number of nodes that have distance  $\leq \frac{D}{2}$  from  $u$

We see that only vertices  $v_j, v_{j+1}, \dots, v_k$  have distances from  $u$  in the range  $[\frac{D}{16}, \frac{D}{2}]$ . Pictorially, only vertices in the shaded region could possibly cut  $B(u, r)$ . As before, let  $\pi(v)$  be the ordering in which vertex  $v$  appears in random permutation  $\pi$ . Then,

$$\begin{aligned} & \Pr[B(u, r) \text{ is cut}] \\ &= \Pr[\bigcup_{i=j}^k \text{Event that } B(v_i, \theta) \text{ cuts } B(u, r)] && \text{Only } v_j, v_{j+1}, \dots, v_k \text{ can cut} \\ &\leq \sum_{i=j}^k \Pr[\pi(v_i) < \min_{z < [i-1]} \{\pi(v_z)\}] \cdot \Pr[v_i \text{ cuts } B(u, r)] && \text{Union bound} \\ &= \sum_{i=j}^k \frac{1}{i} \cdot \Pr[B(v_i, \theta) \text{ cuts } B(u, r)] && \text{By random permutation } \pi \\ &\leq \sum_{i=j}^k \frac{1}{i} \cdot \frac{2r}{D/8} && \text{diam}(B(u, r)) \leq 2r, \theta \in [\frac{D}{8}, \frac{D}{4}] \\ &= \frac{r}{D} (H_k - H_j) && \text{where } H_k = \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{i} \\ &\in \frac{r}{D} \mathcal{O}(\log(\frac{|B(u, D/2)|}{|B(u, D/16)|})) && \text{since } H_k \in \Theta(\log(k)) \end{aligned}$$

$\square$

## A.2 Plugging into ConstructT

Recall that CONSTRUCTT is a recursive algorithm which handles graphs of diameter  $\leq \frac{D}{2^i}$  at each level. For a given pair of vertices  $u$  and  $v$ , there exists  $i^* \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\frac{D}{2^{i^*}} \leq r = d_G(u, v) \leq \frac{D}{2^{i^*-1}}$ . In other words,  $\frac{D}{2^{i^*-4}} \frac{1}{16} \leq r \leq \frac{D}{2^{i^*-5}} \frac{1}{16}$ . So, lemma 15 applies for levels  $i \in [0, i^* - 5]$  and lemma 14 applies for levels  $i \in [i^* - 4, \log(D) - 1]$ .

**Theorem 16.**  $\mathbb{E}[d_T(u, v)] \in \mathcal{O}(\log n) \cdot d_G(u, v)$

*Proof.* As before, let  $\mathcal{E}_i$  be the event that “vertices  $u$  and  $v$  get separated at the  $i^{\text{th}}$  level”. For  $\mathcal{E}_i$  to happen, the ball  $B(u, r) = B(u, d_G(u, v))$  must be cut at level  $i$ , so  $\Pr[\mathcal{E}_i] \leq \Pr[B(u, r)$  is cut at level  $i]$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
& \mathbb{E}[d_T(u, v)] \\
= & \sum_{i=0}^{\log(D)-1} \Pr[\mathcal{E}_i] \cdot [d_T(u, v), \text{ given } \mathcal{E}_i] && \text{Definition of expectation} \\
\leq & \sum_{i=0}^{\log(D)-1} \Pr[\mathcal{E}_i] \cdot \frac{4D}{2^i} && \text{By Lemma 2} \\
= & \sum_{i=0}^{i^*-5} \Pr[\mathcal{E}_i] \cdot \frac{4D}{2^i} + \sum_{i=i^*-4}^{\log(D)-1} \Pr[\mathcal{E}_i] \cdot \frac{4D}{2^i} && \text{Split into cases: } \frac{D}{2^{i^*-4}} \frac{1}{16} \leq r \leq \frac{D}{2^{i^*-5}} \frac{1}{16} \\
\leq & \sum_{i=0}^{i^*-5} \frac{r}{D/2^i} \mathcal{O}(\log(\frac{|B(u, D/2^{i+1})|}{|B(u, D/2^{i+4})|})) \cdot \frac{4D}{2^i} + \sum_{i=i^*-4}^{\log(D)-1} \Pr[\mathcal{E}_i] \cdot \frac{4D}{2^i} && \text{By Lemma 15} \\
\leq & \sum_{i=0}^{i^*-5} \frac{r}{D/2^i} \mathcal{O}(\log(\frac{|B(u, D/2^{i+1})|}{|B(u, D/2^{i+4})|})) \cdot \frac{4D}{2^i} + \sum_{i=i^*-4}^{\log(D)-1} \frac{16r}{D/2^{i^*-4}} \cdot \frac{4D}{2^i} && \text{By Lemma 14 with respect to } D/2^{i^*-4} \\
= & 4r \sum_{i=0}^{i^*-5} \mathcal{O}(\log(\frac{|B(u, D/2^{i+1})|}{|B(u, D/2^{i+4})|})) + \sum_{i=i^*-4}^{\log(D)-1} 4 \cdot 2^{i^*-i} \cdot r && \text{Simplifying} \\
\leq & 4r \sum_{i=0}^{i^*-5} \mathcal{O}(\log(\frac{|B(u, D/2^{i+1})|}{|B(u, D/2^{i+4})|})) + 2^7 r && \text{Since } \sum_{i=i^*-4}^{\log(D)-1} 2^{i^*-i} \leq 2^5 \\
= & 4r \mathcal{O}(\log(n)) + 2^7 r && \log(\frac{x}{y}) = \log(x) - \log(y) \text{ and } |B(u, \infty)| \leq n \\
\in & \mathcal{O}(\log n)r && 
\end{aligned}$$

□