

Approximation: Theory and Algorithms

The Tree Edit Distance (I)

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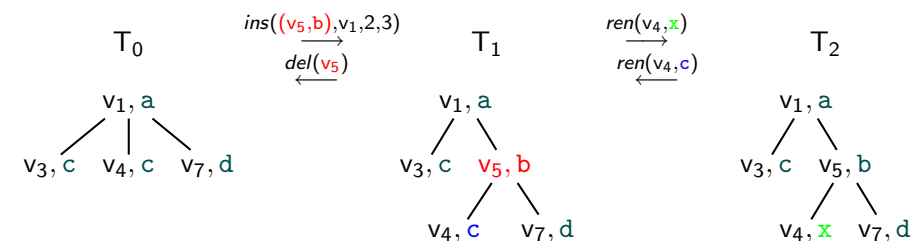
Outline

- 1 Tree Edit Distance
 - Preliminaries and Definition
 - Forests Distance and Recursive Formula
- 2 Conclusion

Edit Operations

- We assume **ordered, labeled trees**
- **Rename node:** $ren(v, l')$
 - change label l of v to $l' \neq l$
- **Delete node:** $del(v)$ (v is not the root node)
 - remove v
 - connect v 's children directly to v 's parent node (preserving order)
- **Insert node:** $ins(v, p, k, m)$
 - insert new node v as a child of p at position k
 - substitute children c_k, c_{k+1}, \dots, c_m of p with v
 - insert c_k, c_{k+1}, \dots, c_m as children of the new node v (preserving order)
- Insert and delete are **inverse** edit operations (i.e., insert undoes delete and vice versa)

Example: Edit Operations

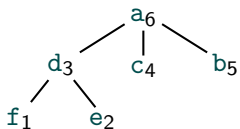


Edit Cost Function

- Represent **edit operation as node pair** $(a, b) \neq (\varepsilon, \varepsilon)$ (written also as $a \rightarrow b$, ε is the null node)
 - $a \rightarrow \varepsilon$: delete a
 - $\varepsilon \rightarrow b$: insert b
 - $a \rightarrow b$: rename a to b
- **Cost function** $\alpha(a \rightarrow b)$:
 - assign to each edit operation a non-negative real
 - cost can be different for different nodes
 - we use constant costs $\omega_{ins}, \omega_{del}, \omega_{ren}$
- We constrain α to be a **distance metric**:
 - triangle inequality: $\alpha(a \rightarrow b) + \alpha(b \rightarrow c) \geq \alpha(a, c)$
 - symmetry: $\alpha(a \rightarrow b) = \alpha(b \rightarrow a)$
 - identity: $\alpha(a \rightarrow b) = 0 \Leftrightarrow \lambda(a) = \lambda(b)$

Postorder Traversal

- **Postorder traversal** of an ordered tree:
 - traverse subtrees rooted in children of current node (from left to right) in postorder
 - visit current node
- **Example**: postorder = (f, e, d, c, b, a)



- **Observations**: The postorder number of a node is **larger than**
 - the postorder numbers of all its **descendants**
 - the postorder numbers of all its **left siblings**

Definition

Definition (Tree Edit Distance)

The tree edit distance between two trees is the minimum cost sequence of node edit operations (node deletion, node insertion, node rename) that transforms on tree into the other.

- Cost of a sequence $S = \{s_1, \dots, s_n\}$ of edit operations:

$$\alpha(S) = \sum_{i=1}^{i=n} \alpha(s_i)$$

- As the cost function is a metric, also the tree edit distance is a metric.

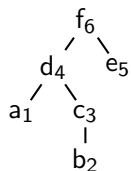
Subtrees and Subforests

- A **subtree** T' of T is a tree that consists of:
 - a subset of the nodes of T : $N(T') \subseteq N(T)$
 - all edges in T that connect these nodes: $E(T') \subseteq E(T)$
- **Ordered Forests**:
 - a forest is a set of trees
 - an *ordered* forest is a sequence of trees
- **Ordered Subforests** of a tree T :
 - formed by subtrees of T with disjoint nodes
 - subtrees ordered by the postorder number in T of their root

Example: Subtrees and Subforests

- Example tree (postorder numbers are node IDs):

$$T = (\{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4, v_5, v_6\}, \{(v_6, v_4), (v_6, v_5), (v_4, v_1), (v_4, v_3), (v_3, v_2)\})$$



- Two **subtrees** of T:

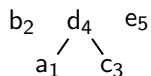
$$T'_1 = (\{v_3\}, \{\}) \quad T'_2 = (\{v_4, v_1, v_3\}, \{(v_4, v_1), (v_4, v_3)\})$$

c₃



- Ordered **subforest** of T:

$$F = ((\{v_2\}, \{\}), (\{v_4, v_1, v_3\}, \{(v_4, v_1), (v_4, v_3)\}), (\{v_5\}, \{\}))$$



Notation II/II

- $T[l(i)..i]$ is the **subtree rooted in $T[i]$** , i.e., the subtree consisting of node i and all its descendants
- A **special subforests** of the form

$$T[l(i)..d_i], \quad (d_i \in desc(T[i]))$$

is a **prefix** of the subtree rooted in $T[i]$.

- **Observations:**

- If a node k is in $T[l(i)..d_i]$, also all its descendants are in $T[l(i)..d_i]$.
- A (sub)tree with n nodes has n prefixes.

Notation I/II

- We use the following **notation**:

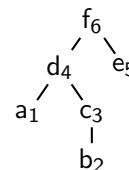
- $T[i]$ is the i -th node of T in **postorder** (we say: $T[i]$ is node i of T)
- $T[i..j]$ is the subforest formed by the nodes $T[i]$ to $T[j]$
- $l(i)$ is the left-most leaf descendant of node $T[i]$
- $desc(T[i])$ is the set of all descendants of $T[i]$ including $T[i]$ itself (elements of $desc(T[i])$ are usually denoted with d_i)

- **Node identifiers:**

- we assume that the node IDs correspond to their postorder number
- we refer to a node simply by its ID, if the context is clear

Example: Subtrees and Subforests

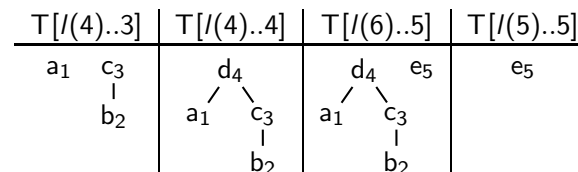
- Example tree:



- **Descendants:** $desc(T[4]) = \{T[1], T[2], T[3], T[4]\}$

- **Left-most leaf descendants:** $l(1) = l(4) = l(6) = T[1]$

- Some ordered subforests of the form $T[l(i)..d_i]$, $d_i \in desc(i)$:



Edit Mapping

Definition (Edit Mapping)

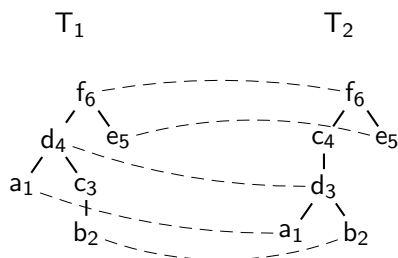
An **edit mapping** M between T_1 and T_2 is a set of node pairs that satisfy the following conditions:

- (1) $(a, b) \in M \Rightarrow a \in N(T_1), b \in N(T_2)$
- (2) for any two pairs (a, b) and (x, y) of M :
 - (i) $a = x \Leftrightarrow b = y$ (one-to-one condition)
 - (ii) a is to the left of $x^1 \Leftrightarrow b$ is to the left of y (order condition)
 - (iii) a is an ancestor of $x \Leftrightarrow b$ is an ancestor of y (ancestor condition)
- (3) Optional: $a = \text{root}(T_1)$ and $b = \text{root}(T_2) \Rightarrow (a, b) \in M$ (forbid deleting the root node)

¹i.e., a precedes x in both preorder and postorder

Example: Mapping

- $M = \{(T_1[6], T_2[6]), (T_1[5], T_2[5]), (T_1[4], T_2[3]), (T_1[1], T_2[1]), (T_1[2], T_2[2])\}$
 - $T_1[3]$ is deleted from T_1
 - $T_2[4]$ is inserted into T_2
 - no proper rename (only rename to the same label with cost 0)



Edit Mapping

- The **cost of the mapping** is

$$\alpha(M) = \sum_{(a,b) \in M} \alpha(a \rightarrow b) + \sum_{a \in D} \alpha(a \rightarrow \varepsilon) + \sum_{b \in I} \alpha(\varepsilon \rightarrow b),$$

where D and I are the nodes of T_1 and T_2 , respectively, not touched by a line in M .

- Alternative definition of the **tree edit distance** $\text{ted}(T_1, T_2)$:

$$\text{ted}(T_1, T_2) = \min\{\alpha(M) \mid M \text{ is a mapping from } T_1 \text{ to } T_2\}$$

Forest Distance

Definition (Forest Distance)

The **forest distance** between two ordered forests is the minimum cost sequence of node edit operations (node deletion, node insertion, node rename) that transforms one forest into the other.

- **Edit mapping and edit operations** in a forest:
 - Each tree in the forest has a root node.
 - We imagine a dummy node that is the parent of all these root nodes.
 - The sibling order in the imaginary tree is the tree order in the forest.
 - The dummy node connects the forest to become a tree.
 - Then all edit operations and edit mappings valid between two imaginary trees are valid also between the respective forests.
- The **tree edit distance** is a **special case** of the forest distance, where the forest has the form $T[l(i)..i]$, i.e. it consists of a single tree.

Recursive Formula: Distance to the Empty Forest

Lemma (Empty Forest [ZS89, AG97])

Given two trees T_1 and T_2 , $i \in N(T_1)$ and $d_i \in \text{desc}(i)$, $j \in N(T_2)$ and $d_j \in \text{desc}(j)$, then:

- (i) $\text{fdist}(\emptyset, \emptyset) = 0$
- (ii) $\text{fdist}(T_1[l(i)..d_i], \emptyset) = \text{fdist}(T_1[l(i)..d_i - 1], \emptyset) + \omega_{del}$
- (iii) $\text{fdist}(\emptyset, T_2[l(j)..d_j]) = \text{fdist}(\emptyset, T_2[l(j)..d_j - 1]) + \omega_{ins}$

Proof.



Case (i) requires no edit operation. In cases (ii), the distance corresponds to the cost of deleting all nodes in $T_1[l(i)..d_i]$. In cases (iii), the distance corresponds to the cost of inserting all nodes in $T_2[l(j)..d_j]$. \square

What's Next?

- Tree Edit Distance (II):
 - recursive formula for non-empty forests
 - dynamic programming algorithm
 - edit distance example

Summary

- Tree Edit Distance
 - definition
 - edit distance mapping
 - recursive formula for empty forests

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Oxford University Press, 1997.
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Simple fast algorithms for the editing distance between trees and related problems.
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