# Computational Geometry • Lecture <br> Well-Separated Pair Decompositions 

## INSTITUTE FOR THEORETICAL INFORMATICS • FACULTY OF INFORMATICS

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## Motivation: Spanners

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Idea 1: Euclidean minimum spanning tree
Idea 2: complete graph
Idea 3: sparse $t$-spanner

## Well-Separated Pairs

Def: A pair of disjoint point sets $A$ and $B$ in $\mathbb{R}^{d}$ is called $s$-well separated for some $s>0$, if $A$ and $B$ can each be covered by a ball of radius $r$ whose distance is at least $s r$.


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Obs: ■ $s$-well separated $\Rightarrow s^{\prime}$-well separated for all $s^{\prime} \leq s$

- singletons $\{a\}$ and $\{b\}$ are $s$-well separated for all $s>0$


## Well-Separated Pair Decomposition (WSPD)

For well-separated pair $\{A, B\}$ we know that the distance for all point pairs in $A \otimes B=\{\{a, b\} \mid a \in A, b \in B, a \neq b\}$ is similar.

Goal: $o\left(n^{2}\right)$-sized data structure that approximates the distances of all $\binom{n}{2}$ pairs of points in a set $P=\left\{p_{1}, \ldots, p_{n}\right\}$.

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Def: For a point set $P$ and some $s>0$ an $s$-well separated pair decomposition (s-WSPD) is a set of pairs $\left\{\left\{A_{1}, B_{1}\right\}, \ldots,\left\{A_{m}, B_{m}\right\}\right\}$ with

- $A_{i}, B_{i} \subset P$ for all $i$
- $A_{i} \cap B_{i}=\emptyset$ for all $i$
- $\bigcup_{i=1}^{m} A_{i} \otimes B_{i}=P \otimes P$
- $\left\{A_{i}, B_{i}\right\} s$-well separated for all $i$


## Example



28 point pairs

## Example



28 point pairs

$12 s$-well separated pairs

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$12 s$-well separated pairs WSPD of size $O\left(n^{2}\right)$ is trivial. Can we do it in $O(n)$ ?

## Recall: Quadtrees

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Lemma 1: The height of $\mathcal{T}(P)$ is at most $\log (s / c)+3 / 2$, where $c$ is the smallest distance in $P$ and $s$ is the side length of the root square $Q$.

Thm 1: A quadtree $\mathcal{T}(P)$ on $n$ points with height $h$ has $O(h n)$ nodes and can be constructed in $O(h n)$ time.

## Compressed Quadtrees

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## Properties of Compressed Quadtrees

Obs: - inner nodes split their point set into $\geq 2$ non-empty parts $\Rightarrow$ max. $n-1$ inner nodes

- depth can be $d=n$, so the algorithm to construct quadtrees takes $O\left(n^{2}\right)$ time



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- depth can be $d=n$, so the algorithm to construct quadtrees takes $O\left(n^{2}\right)$ time
Thm 2: A compressed quadtree for $n$ points in $\mathbb{R}^{d}$ with a fixed dimension $d$ can be constructed in $O(n \log n)$ time.
e.g. skip-quadtree [Eppstein et al. 2005] (without proof)



## Packing Lemma

Lemma 2: Let $K$ be a ball with radius $r$ in $\mathbb{R}^{d}$ and let $X$ be a set of pairwise disjoint quadtree cells with side length $\geq x$ that intersect $K$. Then it holds

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|X| \leq(1+\lceil 2 r / x\rceil)^{d} .
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## Representatives and Level

Def: For each node $u$ of a quadtree $\mathcal{T}(P)$ for point set $P$ let $P_{u}=Q_{u} \cap P$ be the set of points in the corresponding square $Q_{u}$. In each leaf $u$ define the representative

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\operatorname{rep}(u)= \begin{cases}p & \text { falls } P_{u}=\{p\}(u \text { is leaf }) \\ \emptyset & \text { otherwise }\end{cases}
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For an inner node $v$ assign $\operatorname{rep}(v)=\operatorname{rep}(u)$ for a non-empty child $u$ of $v$.

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wsPairs $(u, v, \mathcal{T}, s)$
Input: quadtree nodes $u, v$, quadtree $\mathcal{T}, s>0$
Output: WSPD for $P_{u} \otimes P_{v}$
if $\operatorname{rep}(u)=\emptyset$ or $\operatorname{rep}(v)=\emptyset$ or leaf $u=v$ then return $\emptyset$ else if $P_{u}$ and $P_{v} s$-well separated then return $\{\{u, v\}\}$ else
if level $(u)>$ level $(v)$ then swap $u$ and $v$
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- leaf pairs are always $s$-well separated, so algorithm terminates
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Question: How many pairs does the algorithm create?

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Thm 3: Given a point set $P$ in $\mathbb{R}^{d}$ and $s \geq 1$ we can construct an $s$-WSPD with $O\left(s^{d} n\right)$ pairs in time $O\left(n \log n+s^{d} n\right)$.

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- simplifying assumption: no quadtree compression required
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- side length of $u$ is $x$ or $2 x$ and $r_{u} \leq 2 r_{v}$


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- side length of $u$ is $x$ or $2 x$ and $r_{u} \leq 2 r_{v}$
- $u, v$ not ws $\Rightarrow$ ball distance $\leq s \max \left\{r_{u}, r_{v}\right\} \leq 2 s r_{v}=s x \sqrt{d}$


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Thm 3: Given a point set $P$ in $\mathbb{R}^{d}$ and $s \geq 1$ we can construct an $s$-WSPD with $O\left(s^{d} n\right)$ pairs in time $O\left(n \log n+s^{d} n\right)$. Sketch of proof:


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Given ball $K$ with radius $r$ in $\mathbb{R}^{d}$ and set $X$ of pairwise disjoint quadtree cells with side length $\geq x$ that intersect $K$. Then

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|X| \leq(1+\lceil 2 r / x\rceil)^{d} .
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- in total $O\left(s^{d} n\right)$ ws-pairs
- time: $O(n \log n)$ for quadtree and $O\left(s^{d} n\right)$ for the $s$-WSPD


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Obs:
each point pair $\{u, v\}$ is represented by exactly one ws-pair $\left\{A_{i}, B_{i}\right\}$ in this WSPD

## $t$-Spanner

For a set $P$ of $n$ points in $\mathbb{R}^{d}$ the Euclidean graph $\mathcal{E G}(P)=\left(P,\binom{P}{2}\right)$ is the complete weighted graph, whose edge weights correspond to the Euclidean distances of the edges' endpoints.

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Def: A weighted graph $G$ with vertex set $P$ is called $t$-spanner for $P$ and a stretch factor $t \geq 1$, if for all pairs $x, y \in P$ it holds

$$
\|x y\| \leq \delta_{G}(x, y) \leq t \cdot\|x y\|,
$$

where $\delta_{G}(x, y)=$ length of shortest $x$ - $y$-path in $G$.

## WSPD und $t$-Spanner

Def: For $n$ points $P$ in $\mathbb{R}^{d}$ and a WSPD $W$ of $P$ define the graph $G=(P, E)$, where

$$
E=\{\{x, y\} \mid \exists\{u, v\} \in W \text { with } \operatorname{rep}(u)=x, \operatorname{rep}(v)=y\} .
$$

Recall: For each node $u$ of a quadtree $\mathcal{T}(P)$ for point set $P$ let $P_{u}=Q_{u} \cap P$ be the set of points in the corresponding square $Q_{u}$. In each leaf $u$ define the representative

$$
\operatorname{rep}(u)= \begin{cases}p & \text { falls } P_{u}=\{p\} \text { ( } u \text { is leaf) } \\ \emptyset & \text { otherwise. }\end{cases}
$$

For inner node $v$ assign rep $(v)=\operatorname{rep}(u)$ for non-empty child $u$ of $v$.

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## Summary

Thm 4: For a set $P$ of $n$ points in $\mathbb{R}^{d}$ and some $\varepsilon \in(0,1]$ we can compute an $(1+\varepsilon)$-spanner for $P$ with $O\left(n / \varepsilon^{d}\right)$ edges in $O\left(n \log n+n / \varepsilon^{d}\right)$ time.

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O\left(s^{d} n\right)=O\left(\left(4 \cdot \frac{2+\varepsilon}{\varepsilon}\right)^{d} n\right) \subseteq O\left(\left(\frac{12}{\varepsilon}\right)^{d} n\right)=O\left(\frac{n}{\varepsilon^{d}}\right)
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P \\
\downarrow \\
\text { compressed quadtree } & O(n \log n) \\
\downarrow \\
\text { WSPD } \\
\downarrow & O\left(n / \varepsilon^{d}\right) \\
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$$

$(1+\varepsilon)$-spanner

