## Well-Separated Pair Decomposition

Application: geometric spanners
Construction and size

## Motivation

Problem: Connect a set of cities by a new street network.

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The budget for roads only pays for $O(n)$ roads.
3. Idea: sparse $t$-spanner
$O(n)$ edges detour $\leq t \cdot$ shortest path

## Applications of distance approximation

## fast, approximate distance computation



- geometric approximation algorithms for diameter, minimum spanning tree etc.
- exact algorithms: closest pair, nearest neighbor graph, Voronoi diagrams etc.
communication and connectivity in networks
- topology control in wireless networks
- routing in networks
- network analysis


## $t$-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 with Euclidean distances as edge weights.

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Definition: 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 $x, y \in P$ :

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

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

## Quiz

What is the smallest $t$ for which the following graph is a $t$-spanner?


A: $\sqrt{2}$
B: 2
C: $\sqrt{2}+1$

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How can we compute a $t$-spanner?
C: $\sqrt{2}+1$

## Spanner construction paradigms

## greedy

- sort point pairs by distance, start with no edges
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- connect to "closest" point in each cone



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## distance approximation



- well-separated pair decomposition (next!)


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# Well-Separated Pair Decomposition 

Definition

Reminder: Compressed Quadtrees

## Well-Separated Pairs

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


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


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## Well-Separated Pair Decomposition

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

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

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Definition: For a set of points $P$ and $s>0$ 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 $i$
- $A_{i} \cap B_{i}=\varnothing$ 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 pairs of points

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$12 s$-well separated pairs

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WSPD of size $O\left(n^{2}\right)$ is trivial.
What is the 'size'? Can we get size $O(n)$ ?

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What size does a 2-WSPD on the following point set have at least?

A: 3
B: 4
C: 5
D: 6

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## Reminder: quadtrees

Definition: A quadtree is a rooted tree, in which every interior node has 4 children. Every node corresponds to a square, and the squares of children are the quadrants of the parent's square.


## Reminder: Compressed quadtrees

Definition: A compressed quadtree is a quadtree in which paths of non-separating inner nodes are compressed to an edge.


Theorem 2: A compressed quadtree for $n$ points in $\mathbb{R}^{d}$ for fixed $d$ has size $O(n)$ and can be computed in $O(n \log n)$ time.

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Notes: (a) levels in book < 0, (b) book works with $\Delta(u)=$ radius of circle around square (or 0 for leaves) instead.

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next: using quadtree to compute WSPD

## Well-Separated Pair Decomposition

Construction

## Construction of a WSPD

wsPairs $(u, v, \mathcal{T}, s)$
Input: quadtree nodes $u, v$, quadtree $\mathcal{T}, s>0$
Output: WSPD for $P_{u} \otimes P_{v}$
1: if $\operatorname{rep}(u)=\varnothing$ or rep $(v)=\varnothing$ or leaves $u=v$ then return $\varnothing$
2: else if $P_{u}$ and $P_{v} s$-well separated then return $\{\{u, v\}\}$
3: else
4: $\quad$ if level $(u)>\operatorname{level}(v)$ then exchange $u$ and $v$
5: $\quad\left(u_{1}, \ldots, u_{m}\right) \leftarrow$ children of $u$ in $\mathcal{T}$
6: return $\bigcup_{i=1}^{m} \operatorname{wSPAIRS}\left(u_{i}, v, \mathcal{T}, s\right)$


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- initial call wsPairs $\left(u_{0}, u_{0}, \mathcal{T}, s\right)$
- avoid duplicate wsPairs $\left(u_{i}, u_{j}, \mathcal{T}, s\right)$ and $\operatorname{wsPairs}\left(u_{j}, u_{i}, \mathcal{T}, s\right)$
- pairs of leaves are $s$-well separated $\rightarrow$ algorithm terminates
- output are pairs of quadtree nodes


## Quiz

Is the size of the $s$-WSPD constructed minimal?

A: Yes, because the $s$-WSPD is unique.
B: Yes, because all $s$-WSPDs have the same size.
C: No, not necessarily.

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Question: How many pairs are generated by the algorithm?

## Well-Separated Pair Decomposition

## Complexity

## Analysis of WSPD-Construction

Theorem: For 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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Count the non-terminal calls.
Charging argument: charge non-term. call to the non-split square. claim: $O\left(s^{d}\right)$ charges to each square

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Count the non-terminal calls.
Charging argument: charge non-term. call to the non-split square. claim: $O\left(s^{d}\right)$ charges to each square
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Consider call $(u, v)$ with $v$ smaller of side length $x$.
$u, v$ are not separated,
$u$ is at most factor 2 larger than $v$
$\Rightarrow$ distance between the balls

$$
\leq s \max \left(r_{u}, r_{v}\right) \leq 2 s r_{v}=s x \sqrt{d}
$$

$\Rightarrow$ distance between their centers

$$
\leq(1 / 2+1+s) x \sqrt{d} \leq 3 s x \sqrt{d}=: R_{v}
$$

packing lemma: only $O\left(s^{d}\right)$ such squares.

## Packing Lemma

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

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|X| \leq(1+\lceil 2 r / x\rceil)^{d} .
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Proof:


in every dimension at most $1+\lceil 2 r / x\rceil$ squares can intersect the ball

## Well-Separated Pair Decomposition

Application: $t$-spanner

## $t$-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 with Euclidean distances as edge weights.

Since $\mathcal{E G}(P)$ has $\Theta\left(n^{2}\right)$ edges, we want a sparse graph with $O(n)$ edges such that the shortest paths in the graph approximate the edge weights of $\mathcal{E G}(P)$.


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Definition: 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 $x, y \in P$ :

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

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

## WSPD and $t$-Spanner

Definition: For $n$ points $P$ in $\mathbb{R}^{d}$ and a WSPD $W$ of $P$ define the graph $G=(P, E)$ with $E=\{\{x, y\} \mid\{u, v\} \in W$ and $\operatorname{rep}(u)=x, \operatorname{rep}(v)=y\}$.

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Reminder: every pair $\{u, v\} \in W$ corresponds to two quadtree nodes $u$ and $v$. From each quadtree node a representative is selected in the following way. For leaf $u$ define as representative

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

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

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Question: How large does $s$ need to be if $t=1+\varepsilon$
A: 4
B: $O(1 / \varepsilon)$
C: $O\left(1 / \varepsilon^{d}\right)$

## Summary

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

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$O\left(s^{d} n\right)=O\left(\left(4 \cdot \frac{2+\varepsilon}{\varepsilon}\right)^{d} n\right) \subseteq O\left(\left(\frac{12}{\varepsilon}\right)^{d} n\right)=$

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## Discussion

## Applications of the WSPD?

WSPD is always useful, when we don't need the $\Theta\left(n^{2}\right)$ exact distances, but approximate distances are enough

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## Can't we compute exact solutions in the same time?

Often in $\mathbb{R}^{2}$ yes, but not in $\mathbb{R}^{d}$ for $d>2$ (EMST, diameter).
EMST, Voronoi diagrams, . . . can be computed in $O(n)$ time from quadtress/WSPDs

## Additional highlights in book

- very simple from WSPD: closest pair and approximate diameter
- with basic geometry from WSPD: nearest neighbor graph
- semi-separated pair decomposition

