Decision Trees

Lecture 22
To left or to right
Decision Trees
Decision Trees

- A different complexity measure
Decision Trees

- A different complexity measure
  - Number of bits of input read
Decision Trees

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- For simpler problems
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- Interested in lower-bounds
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  - So even allow unbounded computational power
Decision Trees

- A different complexity measure
  - Number of bits of input read
    - For simpler problems
  - Interested in lower-bounds
    - So even allow unbounded computational power
    - Simpler combinatorial structure (need not understand $P$ vs. $NP$ etc.)
Decision Trees
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Configuration graph of a computation, as it reads each bit
Decision Trees

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- Configuration graph of a computation, as it reads each bit.

- For n-bit input, depth at most n.
Decision Trees

- Configuration graph of a computation, as it reads each bit

  - For n-bit input, depth at most $n$

  - Some paths may be shorter
Decision Trees

- Configuration graph of a computation, as it reads each bit
  - For n-bit input, depth at most n
  - Some paths may be shorter

- \( DTree(L) = \min_{\text{alg } A} \max_{\text{input } x} T_{A,x} \)
  where \( T_{A,x} \) is the number of bits of \( x \) read by \( A \)
Examples
Examples

- Simpler problems
Examples

- Simpler problems
  - OR(x)=1 if at least one bit of x is 1
Examples

- Simpler problems
  - $\text{OR}(x) = 1$ if at least one bit of $x$ is 1
  - $\text{PARITY}(x) = 1$ if odd number of bits of $x$ are 1
Examples

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  - $\text{PARITY}(x) = 1$ if odd number of bits of $x$ are 1
  - $\text{SAT}_C(x)$ if $x$ is a satisfying assignment for circuit (or circuit family) $C$
Examples

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  - OR(x) = 1 if at least one bit of x is 1
  - PARITY(x) = 1 if odd number of bits of x are 1
  - SAT_C(x) if x is a satisfying assignment for circuit (or circuit family) C
  - CONNECTED(G) = 1 if G is the adjacency matrix of a connected graph
Examples

- Simpler problems
  - $\text{OR}(x) = 1$ if at least one bit of $x$ is 1
  - $\text{PARITY}(x) = 1$ if odd number of bits of $x$ are 1
  - $\text{SAT}_C(x)$ if $x$ is a satisfying assignment for circuit (or circuit family) $C$
  - $\text{CONNECTED}(G) = 1$ if $G$ is the adjacency matrix of a connected graph

- We are interested in showing DTree lower-bounds for these problems
Adversary Argument
Adversary Argument

Identifying one input which will cause a shallow decision tree to go wrong: Given a decision tree find inputs which lead it to the same leaf but must have different outputs.
Adversary Argument

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e.g.: $\text{DTree(OR)} = n$ (i.e., any correct decision tree will need to read all bits in the worst case)
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Start with all inputs
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- At first node restrict to inputs which answer 0, and consider the tree’s behavior on such inputs
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Start with all inputs

At first node restrict to inputs which answer 0, and consider the tree’s behavior on such inputs

On second node, further restrict to inputs which answer 0

Before $n$ nodes, set of inputs contain $0^n$ and another input, no matter what bits where queried at the nodes
Graph Connectivity
Graph Connectivity

DTree(CONNECTED) = n(n-1)/2  (i.e., all possible edges)
Graph Connectivity

\[ \text{DTree(CONNECTED)} = \frac{n(n-1)}{2} \text{ (i.e., all possible edges)} \]

If possible, answer “No,” but maintain the invariant that edges answered “Yes” plus unqueried edges form a connected graph.
Graph Connectivity

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- Otherwise some Yes edge was unforced: consider the cycle formed by an unqueried edge and the connected Yes graph.

- Until then, graph can be connected or disconnected: by setting all unqueried edges to Yes or all to No.
Elusive Languages
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Languages which require the decision tree to read all the bits in the worst case
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e.g.: OR, PARITY, CONNECTED
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Argued using adversary strategies
Elusive Languages

- Languages which require the decision tree to read all the bits in the worst case
  - e.g.: OR, PARITY, CONNECTED
  - Argued using adversary strategies
  - \( \text{Maj}(x) = 1 \) iff \#1s in \( x \) > \#0s (assume \(|x|\) odd)
Elusive Languages

Languages which require the decision tree to read all the bits in the worst case

e.g.: OR, PARITY, CONNECTED

Argued using adversary strategies

\[ \text{Maj}(x) = 1 \text{ iff } \#1s \text{ in } x > \#0s \text{ (assume } |x| \text{ odd)} \]

Adversary strategy: alternately answer 0 and 1
Monotonic Tree Circuits
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Tree of AND gates and OR gates (monotonic)
Monotonic Tree Circuits

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- Each variable (leaf) used only once
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- Is elusive
  - Answer so that each gate kept undetermined until all its leaf-descendants are queried
Monotonic Tree Circuits

- Tree of AND gates and OR gates (monotonic)
- Each variable (leaf) used only once
- Is elusive
  - Answer so that each gate kept undetermined until all its leaf-descendants are queried
- Exercise
Certificate Complexity
Certificate Complexity

1-certificate
Certificate Complexity

1-certificate

For $x$ s.t. $L(x)=1$, a subset of the bits of $x$ which proves that $L(x)=1$ : $c$ s.t. $x|c \Rightarrow x \in L$ (i.e., no $x'$ s.t. $L(x')=0$ and has the same values at those positions)
Certificate Complexity

- **1-certificate**
  - For \( x \) s.t. \( L(x) = 1 \), a subset of the bits of \( x \) which proves that \( L(x) = 1 \) : \( c \) s.t. \( x|c \Rightarrow x \in L \) (i.e., no \( x' \) s.t. \( L(x') = 0 \) and has the same values at those positions)

- **0-certificate**: similarly for \( x \notin L \), \( c \) s.t. \( x|c \Rightarrow x \notin L \)
Certificate Complexity

1-certificate

For \( x \) s.t. \( L(x)=1 \), a subset of the bits of \( x \) which proves that \( L(x)=1 \) : \( c \) s.t. \( x|c\Rightarrow x\in L \) (i.e., no \( x' \) s.t. \( L(x')=0 \) and has the same values at those positions)

0-certificate: similarly for \( x\notin L \), \( c \) s.t. \( x|c\Rightarrow x\notin L \)

Can be much lower than \( DTree(L) \) because for different \( x \)'s different sets of bits can be used
Certificate Complexity

1-certificate

For x s.t. L(x)=1, a subset of the bits of x which proves that L(x)=1 : c s.t. x|c⇒x∈L (i.e., no x’ s.t. L(x’)=0 and has the same values at those positions)

0-certificate: similarly for x∉L, c s.t. x|c⇒x∉L

Can be much lower than DTree(L) because for different x’s different sets of bits can be used

Produced by someone who has seen all bits of x
Certificate Complexity

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For $x$ s.t. $L(x)=1$, a subset of the bits of $x$ which proves that $L(x)=1$ : $c$ s.t. $x|c \Rightarrow x \in L$ (i.e., no $x'$ s.t. $L(x')=0$ and has the same values at those positions)

0-certificate: similarly for $x \in L$, $c$ s.t. $x|c \Rightarrow x \notin L$

Can be much lower than $DT_{\text{Tree}}(L)$ because for different $x$'s different sets of bits can be used

Produced by someone who has seen all bits of $x$

$1-\text{Cert}(L)$: $\max_{x \in L} \min_{c : x|c \Rightarrow x \in L} |c|$ (e.g. $1-\text{Cert}(\text{OR}) = 1$)
Certificate Complexity

1-certificate

For \( x \) s.t. \( L(x) = 1 \), a subset of the bits of \( x \) which proves that \( L(x) = 1 \): \( c \) s.t. \( x|c \Rightarrow x \in L \) (i.e., no \( x' \) s.t. \( L(x') = 0 \) and has the same values at those positions)

0-certificate: similarly for \( x \notin L \)

Can be much lower than \( DTree(L) \) because for different \( x \)'s different sets of bits can be used

Produced by someone who has seen all bits of \( x \)

1-Cert(\( L \)): \( \max_{x \in L} \min_{c: x|c \Rightarrow x \in L} |c| \) (e.g. 1-Cert(OR) = 1)

0-Cert(\( L \)): \( \max_{x \notin L} \min_{c: x|c \Rightarrow x \notin L} |c| \) (e.g. 0-Cert(OR) = \( n \))
\[ \text{DTree}(L) \leq \text{OCert}(L) \times \text{1Cert}(L) \]
DTree(L) ≤ 0Cert(L) \times 1Cert(L)

A Decision tree algorithm
DTree(L) ≤ 0Cert(L) x 1Cert(L)

- A Decision tree algorithm

- Start with a pool of all 0-certificates and all 1-certificates (for various x)
DTree(L) ≤ OCert(L) × 1Cert(L)

A Decision tree algorithm

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While both pools non-empty
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- Pick a 0-certificate, and query all (remaining) bits in it
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- While both pools non-empty
  - Pick a 0-certificate, and query all (remaining) bits in it
  - If a good 0-certificate, terminate with 0. Else, remove all 0 and 1 certificates inconsistent with the bits revealed
DTree(L) ≤ 0Cert(L) x 1Cert(L)

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- One pool must be non-empty. Output the corresponding answer
A Decision tree algorithm

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Clearly correct. Number of bits read?
DTree(L) ≤ OCert(L) x 1Cert(L)
DTree(L) ≤ 0Cert(L) x 1Cert(L)

An undetermined 0-certificate has at least one unrevealed conflicting bit with each undetermined 1-certificate.
\[ \text{DTree}(L) \leq 0\text{Cert}(L) \times 1\text{Cert}(L) \]

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- Otherwise it is possible to have an x consistent with both those certificates!
DTree(L) ≤ 0Cert(L) x 1Cert(L)

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- Otherwise it is possible to have an x consistent with both those certificates!
- Picking such a 0-certificate and querying reduces number of unrevealed bits of each remaining 1-certificate by at least 1
\[ \text{DTree}(L) \leq \text{0Cert}(L) \times \text{1Cert}(L) \]

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Otherwise it is possible to have an \( x \) consistent with both those certificates!

Picking such a 0-certificate and querying reduces number of unrevealed bits of each remaining 1-certificate by at least 1

Initially at most \( \text{1Cert}(L) \) bits in each 1-certificate
DTree(L) ≤ OCert(L) x 1Cert(L)

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- Otherwise it is possible to have an x consistent with both those certificates!

- Picking such a 0-certificate and querying reduces number of unrevealed bits of each remaining 1-certificate by at least 1
- Initially at most 1Cert(L) bits in each 1-certificate
- So at most 1Cert(L) iterations
\[ \text{DTree}(L) \leq 0\text{Cert}(L) \times 1\text{Cert}(L) \]

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- Picking such a 0-certificate and querying reduces number of unrevealed bits of each remaining 1-certificate by at least 1.

- Initially at most 1\text{Cert}(L) bits in each 1-certificate.

- So at most 1\text{Cert}(L) iterations.

- In each iteration at most 0\text{Cert}(L) bits queried.
\[ \text{DTree}(L) \leq \text{0Cert}(L) \times \text{1Cert}(L) \]
\[ \text{DTree}(L) \leq \text{OCert}(L) \times \text{1Cert}(L) \]

- Example: AND-OR trees
\[ \text{DTree}(L) \leq 0\text{Cert}(L) \times 1\text{Cert}(L) \]

- **Example:** AND-OR trees

  - 0-certificate: enough variables so that can evaluate just one input wire for AND gates, and all input wires for OR gates
\[ \text{DTree}(L) \leq \text{OCert}(L) \times \text{1Cert}(L) \]

- Example: AND-OR trees
  - 0-certificate: enough variables so that can evaluate just one input wire for AND gates, and all input wires for OR gates
  - 1-certificate: enough variables so that can evaluate just one input wire for OR gates, and all input wires for AND gates
DTree(L) ≤ 0Cert(L) x 1Cert(L)

Example: AND-OR trees

0-certificate: enough variables so that can evaluate just one input wire for AND gates, and all input wires for OR gates

1-certificate: enough variables so that can evaluate just one input wire for OR gates, and all input wires for AND gates

If regular AND-OR tree, 0Cert(L) x 1Cert(L) = number of leaves = DTree(L)
Studying DTREE(L)
Studying DTTree(L)

- Various techniques
Studying DTREE(L)

- Various techniques
  - **Arithmetization**: write the boolean function for L as a multi-linear polynomial of n boolean variables. Then degree is a lower-bound on DTREE(L)
Studying DTree(L)

- Various techniques
  - **Arithmetization**: write the boolean function for \( L \) as a multi-linear polynomial of \( n \) boolean variables. Then degree is a lower-bound on DTree(\( L \)).
  
- **Topological criterion for monotone functions**: construct a simplicial complex corresponding to the monotone boolean function. If the simplicial complex “not collapsible” then DTree(\( L \))=\( n \).
Studying DTree(L)

Various techniques

- **Arithmetization**: write the boolean function for L as a multi-linear polynomial of n boolean variables. Then degree is a lower-bound on DTree(L)

- **Topological criterion for monotone functions**: construct a simplicial complex corresponding to the monotone boolean function. If the simplicial complex “not collapsible” then DTree(L)=n

- **“Sensitivity”** is a lower-bound on DTree(L)
Studying DTree(L)

- Various techniques

  - **Arithmetization**: write the boolean function for \( L \) as a multi-linear polynomial of \( n \) boolean variables. Then degree is a lower-bound on DTree(L)

  - **Topological criterion for monotone functions**: construct a simplicial complex corresponding to the monotone boolean function. If the simplicial complex “not collapsible” then DTree(L)=n

  - **“Sensitivity”** is a lower-bound on DTree(L)

- Will explore some in exercises
Randomized Decision Trees
Randomized Decision Trees

- Recall two views of randomized computation
Randomized Decision Trees

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  - Randomly decide (based on fresh coin flips, and queries and answers so far) what variable to query
Randomized Decision Trees

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  - Flip all coins up front and then run a deterministic computation
Randomized Decision Trees

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  - Randomly decide (based on fresh coin flips, and queries and answers so far) what variable to query

  - Flip all coins up front and then run a deterministic computation

  - i.e., randomly choose a (deterministic) decision tree
Randomized Decision Trees
Randomized Decision Trees

- Complexity measure
Randomized Decision Trees

- Complexity measure
  - Expected number of bits read, max over all inputs
Randomized Decision Trees

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  - Note: No error allowed (Las Vegas)
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- Random decision tree chosen independent of the (adversarial) input. i.e., input chosen “before” the random choice
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- Gets more power over the “adversary”
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- Adversary can’t find a single pair of inputs that force many reads for all random choices
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- Question: How to prove lower-bounds against randomization?
Yao’s Min–Max
Yao’s Min-Max

Interested in expected cost (running time)
Yao's Min-Max

Interested in expected cost (running time)
Yao’s Min-Max

Interested in expected cost (running time)

(Deterministic) Algorithms

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Yao’s Min-Max

interested in expected cost (running time)

standard setting: Pick your randomized algorithm $R$; input $x$ given adversarially
Yao’s Min-Max

- Interested in expected cost (running time)
- Standard setting: Pick your randomized algorithm $R$; input $x$ given adversarially
  
  (Or may allow random input: not useful to the adversary)

![Table and Diagram]
Yao’s Min-Max

- Interested in expected cost (running time)

- Standard setting: Pick your randomized algorithm $R$; input $x$ given adversarially
  - (Or may allow random input: not useful to the adversary)

- Another setting: Given adversarial input distribution $X$; pick your deterministic algorithm $A$
Yao’s Min-Max

Interested in expected cost (running time)

Standard setting: Pick your *randomized* algorithm $R$; input $x$ given adversarially

(Or may allow random input: not useful to the adversary)

Another setting: Given adversarial *input distribution* $X$; pick your *deterministic* algorithm $A$

(Allowing randomized algorithm no better)
Yao’s Min–Max

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- Another setting: Given adversarial input distribution $X$; pick your deterministic algorithm $A$
  - (Allowing randomized algorithm no better)

- Both have the same expected cost!! (not obvious: follows from LP duality)
Yao’s Min–Max
Yao’s Min–Max

\[ \min_{\text{rand-alg } R} \max_{\text{input } x} E_{A \leftarrow R}[T_{A,x}] = \max_{\text{inp-distr } X} \min_{\text{alg } A} E_{x \leftarrow X}[T_{A,x}] \]
Yao's Min-Max

\[ \min_{\text{rand-alg } R} \max_{\text{input } x} \mathbb{E}_{A \leftarrow R}[T_{A,x}] = \max_{\text{inp-distr } X} \min_{\text{alg } A} \mathbb{E}_{x \leftarrow X}[T_{A,x}] \]

Simpler, but useful direction: for any randomized alg R and any input-distribution X, \[ \max_{\text{input } x} \mathbb{E}_{A \leftarrow R}[T_{A,x}] \geq \min_{\text{alg } A} \mathbb{E}_{x \leftarrow X}[T_{A,x}] \]
Yao’s Min–Max

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\min_{\text{rand-} \text{alg } R} \max_{\text{input } x} \ E_{A \leftarrow R}[T_{A,x}] = \max_{\text{inp-distr } X} \min_{\text{alg } A} \ E_{x \leftarrow X}[T_{A,x}]
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Simpler, but useful direction: for any randomized alg R and any input-distribution X, \( \max_{\text{input } x} \ E_{A \leftarrow R}[T_{A,x}] \geq \min_{\text{alg } A} \ E_{x \leftarrow X}[T_{A,x}] \)

If every algorithm A performs badly on an input-distribution X, then a randomized combination of those algorithms also perform badly on X. If R does badly on X, on some x in its support it does at least as badly (x depends on R)
Yao’s Min–Max

\[ \min_{\text{rand-}\text{alg } R} \max_{\text{input } x} \mathbb{E}_{A \leftarrow R}[T_{A,x}] = \max_{\text{inp-distr } X} \min_{\text{alg } A} \mathbb{E}_{X \leftarrow X}[T_{A,x}] \]

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If every algorithm A performs badly on an input–distribution X, then a randomized combination of those algorithms also perform badly on X. If R does badly on X, on some x in its support it does at least as badly (x depends on R)

Useful: Can show lower-bound for randomized algorithms via lower-bound on distributional complexity for deterministic algorithms