# Approximate Voronoi Diagrams 

Presentation by Maks Ovsjanikov


## Outline

- Preliminaries
- Problem Statement
- ANN using PLEB
- Bounds and Improvements
- Near Linear Space
- Linear Space
- ANN in $\mathbb{R}^{d}$ using compressed quad-trees


## Preliminaries



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\begin{aligned}
& d(q, u)=\alpha d(u, v) \\
& d(q, v) \leq d(q, u)+d(u, v)=\left(1+\frac{1}{\alpha}\right) d(q, u) \\
& \Longrightarrow \frac{d(q, v)}{d(q, u)} \leq\left(1+\frac{1}{\alpha}\right) \leq(1+\epsilon) \text { if } \alpha \geq \frac{1}{\epsilon}
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## Moral:

Any of the far away points is a $(1+\epsilon)$ closest neighbor


## Problem Statement:

For a given $\epsilon$, find $\mathrm{a}(1+\epsilon)$ Aproximate Voronoi Diagram:

Partition of space into regions with one representative $r_{i}$ per region, such that for any point $q$ in region $i, r_{i}$ is a $(1+\epsilon)$ nearest neighbor of $q$

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Constraints:

- bounded construction time and space (complexity)
- Cover all space
- sub-linear ( $1+\epsilon$ ) NN queries


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Reduce $(1+\epsilon)$-ANN queries to target ball queries

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For any query point $q$, return the center $p$ of the smallest ball that contains it:
$d(q, n)>(1+\epsilon)^{i-1}$, and $d(q, p) \leq(1+\epsilon)^{i}<(1+\epsilon) \cdot d(q, n)$
$\Longrightarrow$ always get a $(1+\epsilon)$-Nearest Neighbor

## ANN using PLEB

Reduce $(1+\epsilon)$-ANN queries to target ball queries

Problems:


- Unbounded Number of Balls
- Not clear how to preform target ball queries efficiently
- Partition the space into regions of influence


## Bounding the number of balls

Intuition:

* $\quad$ For a given pair $u$ and $v$, we only care if $\min d(q,\{u, v\}) \in\left[\frac{d(u, v)}{\epsilon+2}, \frac{d(u, v)}{\epsilon}\right]$


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- if $\min d(q,\{u, v\})<\frac{d(u, v)}{\epsilon+2} \Longrightarrow q$ has a unique $(1+\epsilon) \mathrm{NN}$

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Method 1:
for every pair of points $\{u, v\}$, construct enough balls to cover $\left[\frac{d(u, v)}{4}, \frac{2 d(u, v)}{\epsilon}\right]$ on $u, v$

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Method 1:
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Overall: $O\left(n^{2} \log _{\epsilon+1}\left(\frac{2 C}{\epsilon}-\frac{C}{4}\right)\right)=O\left(n^{2} \frac{\log \left(\frac{7 C}{\epsilon}\right)}{\log (\epsilon+1)}\right)=O\left(n^{2} \frac{1}{\epsilon} \log \left(\frac{1}{\epsilon}\right)\right)$ balls
Note: $\log (1+\epsilon)=\epsilon-\epsilon^{2} / 2+\epsilon^{3} / 3-\ldots .=O(\epsilon)$ in most cases

## Bounding the number of balls

Interval Near-Neighbor data structure
given a range of distances $[a, b]$, and a set of points $P$, answers:

1. $d_{P}(q)>b$
2. $d_{P}(q)<a$ with a witness
3. otherwise, finds a point $p \in P$, s.t. $d_{P}(q) \leq d(p, q) \leq(1+\epsilon) d_{P}(q)$

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Can be realized by a set of balls of radius $a(1+\epsilon)^{i}$ for $i=0 \ldots M-1$, where $M=\left\lceil\log _{1+\epsilon}(b / a)\right\rceil$ and a ball of radius $b$ around every point in $P$


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Contains $O\left(n \frac{1}{\epsilon} \log (b / a)\right)$ balls. Takes at most 2 target ball queries if 1 or 2 hold, and

* $\quad O(\log (M))=O\left(\log \frac{\log (b / a)}{\epsilon}\right)$ otherwise


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Build a tree, with an Interval Near Neighbor structure associated with each node

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Recursively find $\min r$ such that there are $\lceil n / 2\rceil$ connected components


(Sariel Har-Peled: A Replacement for Voronoi Diagrams of Near Linear Size. FOCS 2001: 94-103)

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For each component find a representative and recursively build the outer tree

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A data structure to answer $(1+\epsilon)$-ANN queries on general points
Given a query point $q$ :

1) $q$ is outside $R$ descend into the outer tree

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Given a query point $q$ :
2) if $q$ is inside $r$ descend into the cluster

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Given a query point $q$ :


Because of rounding up, after each step, continue on set containing $\leq n / 2+1$ points
$\Longrightarrow$ number of steps $\leq \log _{3 / 2} n$

## Bounding the number of balls

1) $q$ is outside $R$ descend into the outer tree
2) if $q$ is inside $r$ descend into the cluster
3) otherwise $I$ will return a
$\left(1+\frac{\epsilon}{4}\right)$-NN

Note that:

- last step is always 3)
- no error is incurred in 2)
- diameter of a cluster $\leq 2 n r \Longrightarrow$ error in 1 ) is at most $\left(1+\frac{\epsilon}{\bar{c} \mu}\right)$

Thus, overall error is bounded by:

$\left(1+\frac{\epsilon}{4}\right)_{i=1}^{\log _{3 / 2} n}\left(1+\frac{\epsilon}{\bar{c} \mu}\right) \leq \exp \left(\frac{\epsilon}{4}\right) \prod_{i=1}^{\log _{3 / 2} n} \exp \left(\frac{\epsilon}{\bar{c} \mu}\right) \leq \exp \left(\frac{\epsilon}{4}+\sum_{i=1}^{\log _{3 / 2} n} \frac{\epsilon}{\bar{c} \mu}\right) \leq \exp (\epsilon / 2) \leq(1+\epsilon)$
if $\mu=\left\lceil\log _{3 / 2} n\right\rceil, \bar{c}=4$ and $\epsilon<1$

## Bounding the number of balls

## Overall Number of Balls:

## Since

- the depth of the tree is at most $\log _{3 / 2} n$
- each node $\nu$ has $I\left(P_{\nu}, r, 2 \bar{c} \mu n r / \epsilon, \epsilon / 4\right)$ with $M=n \log n$ balls we get an immediate bound of $O(M \log M)=O(n \log (n) \log (n \log n))=O\left(n \log ^{2} n\right)$



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However, can achieve $O(n \log n)$ by considering the connection with the Cluster Tree

S. Sen, N. Sharma, Y. Sabharwal: Nearest Neighbors Search using Point Location in Balls with applications to approximate Voronoi Decompositions Journal of Computer and System Sciences, Volume 72(6) , September 2006, Pages 955-977.

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$r_{\text {loss }}(p)=$ radius of the ball around $p$, when $p$ ceases to be a root

## Bounding the number of balls

Apart from the outer trees, going down the $(1+\epsilon)$ ANN tree is equivalent to disconnecting edges of the MST tree

The subtrees of a node are disjoint in edges $\Longrightarrow$ can charge at least 1 edge to each child. Namely: if $n_{\nu}$ is the number of children of $\nu$

$$
\left|P_{\nu}\right|=O\left(n_{\nu}\right) \text { and } \sum_{\nu \in D} n_{\nu}=O(n)
$$

Thus, total number of balls:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\sum_{\nu \in D} O\left(\frac{n_{\nu}}{\epsilon} \log \frac{\mu n_{\nu}}{\epsilon}\right) & =O\left(\frac{n}{\epsilon} \log \frac{n \log n}{\epsilon}\right) \\
& =O\left(\frac{n}{\epsilon} \log \frac{n}{\epsilon}\right)
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Can be constructed directly from the cluster tree but this takes time $O\left(n^{2}\right)$ time

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To compensate for the approximation factor, grow more balls: Instead of $I(P, r, 2 \bar{c} \mu n r / \epsilon, \epsilon / 4)$ construct $I(P, r /(2 n), 2 \bar{c} \mu n r / \epsilon, \epsilon / 4)$


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Instead of $O\left(\frac{n}{\epsilon} \log \frac{b}{a}\right)=O\left(\frac{n}{\epsilon} \log n\right)$ will have:
$O\left(\frac{n}{\epsilon} \log \frac{n r}{\frac{r}{n}}\right)=O\left(\frac{n}{\epsilon} \log n^{2}\right)=O\left(\frac{n}{\epsilon} \log n\right)$ balls at every node


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Same asymptotic space and time complexity

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$\mathbf{b} \subseteq \mathbf{b}_{\approx \subseteq \subseteq} \subseteq(p, r(1+\epsilon)$

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Consider Interval Near Neighbor structure on approximate balls:
If $I_{\approx}(P, r, R, \epsilon / 16)$ is a $(1+\epsilon / 16)$ approximation to $I(P, r, R, \epsilon / 16)$
If for point $q, I_{\approx}(P, r, R, \epsilon / 16)$ returns a ball $(p, \alpha), \alpha \in[r, R] \Longrightarrow p$ is $(1+\epsilon / 4)$-ANN to $q$ :

$$
r(1+\epsilon / 16)^{i} \leq d_{P}(q) \leq d(p, q) \leq r(1+\epsilon / 16)^{i+1}(1+\epsilon / 16) \leq(1+\epsilon / 4) r
$$

## Fast ANN in $\mathbb{R}^{d}$

The distance between 2 points in a $d$-dimensional cell of size $\alpha$ is at most $\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{d} \alpha^{2}}=\sqrt{d} \alpha$
For a given ball, $\mathbf{b}(p, r)$, construct a grid centered at $p$, with cell-size $2^{i}$, s.t. $\sqrt{d} 2^{i} \leq \frac{(\epsilon r)}{16}$ Call, $\mathbf{b}_{\approx}$ the set of cells that intersect $\mathbf{b}(p, r)$

$\mathbf{b}_{\approx}$ is a $(1+\epsilon / 16)$ approximate ball, and contains $O\left(\frac{r^{d}}{(\epsilon r)^{d}}\right)=O\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon}^{d}\right)$ cells

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## Fast ANN in $\mathbb{R}^{d}$

- Fix the origin, and construct grid-cells from there
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Encode all the cells of $C$ into a compressed quad-tree, such that each cell appears as a node

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- Finding the appropriate node in $C$ takes $O(\log |C|)$ time
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Recall that we had a data structure with $O\left(\frac{n}{\epsilon} \log \frac{n}{\epsilon}\right)$ balls. Each ball is approximated by $O\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon^{d}}\right)$ cells $\Rightarrow$ The overall complexity of the quad-tree is $O(N)$, where $N=O\left(\frac{n}{\epsilon+1} \log \frac{n}{\epsilon}\right)$.
By noticing that there are many balls of similar sizes, we reduce the complexity to:

- Construction: $O\left(n \epsilon^{-d} \log ^{2}(n / \epsilon)\right.$ time
- Storage: $O\left(n \epsilon^{-d} \log (n / \epsilon)\right.$ space
- Point location query: $O(\log (n / \epsilon))$

