Nearest Neighbor Queries

- Given a collection of geometric objects (points, lines, polygons, ...)
- organize them on disk, to answer efficiently
 - point queries
 - range queries
 - k-nn queries
 - spatial joins (`all pairs' queries)



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R-trees - Range search

pseudocode:

check the root for each branch, if its MBR intersects the query rectangle apply range-search (or print out, if this is a leaf)



• Q: How? (find near neighbor; refine...)



• A1: depth-first search; then range query



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R-trees - NN search: Branch and Bound

- A2: [Roussopoulos+, sigmod95]:
 - At each node, priority queue, with promising MBRs, and their best and worst-case distance
- main idea: Every face of any MBR contains at least one point of an actual spatial object!

MBR face property

 MBR is a d-dimensional rectangle, which is the minimal rectangle that fully encloses (bounds) an object (or a set of objects)

 MBR f.p.: Every face of the MBR contains at least one point of some object in the database

Search improvement

- Visit an MBR (node) only when necessary
- How to do pruning? Using MINDIST and MINMAXDIST

MINDIST

- MINDIST(P, R) is the minimum distance between a point P and a rectangle R
- If the point is inside R, then MINDIST=0
- If P is outside of R, MINDIST is the distance of P to the closest point of R (one point of the perimeter)

MINDIST computation

- MINDIST(p,R) is the minimum distance between p and R with corner points I and u
 - the closest point in R is at least this distance away



MINMAXDIST

- MINMAXDIST(P,R): for each dimension, find the closest face, compute the distance to the furthest point on this face and take the minimum of all these (d) distances
- MINMAXDIST(P,R) is the smallest possible upper bound of distances from P to R
- MINMAXDIST guarantees that there is at least one object in R with a distance to P smaller or equal to it.

 $\exists o \in R, \left\| (P, o) \right\| \leq MINMAXDIST(P, R)$

MINMAXDIST computation

- MINMAXDIST(p,R) guarantees there is an object within the MBR at a distance less than or equal to MINMAXDIST
 - the closest point in R is less than this distance away

$$MINMAXDIST(P, R) = \min_{1 \le k \le d} \sqrt{(|p_k - rm_k|^2 + \sum_{i \ne k, 1 \le i \le n} |p_i - rM_i|)}$$

$$R$$

$$P^{\bullet}$$

$$MINDIST = 0$$

$$I = (l_1, l_2, ..., l_d)$$

$$P$$

$$MINDIST = 0$$

$$P$$

$$MINDIS$$

MINDIST and MINMAXDIST

MINDIST(P, R) <= NN(P) <= MINMAXDIST(P,R)</p>



Pruning in NN search

- Downward pruning: An MBR R is discarded if there exists another R' s.t. MINDIST(P,R)>MINMAXDIST(P,R')
- Downward pruning: An object O is discarded if there exists an R s.t. the Actual-Dist(P,O) > MINMAXDIST(P,R)
- Upward pruning: An MBR R is discarded if an object O is found s.t. the MINDIST(P,R) > Actual-Dist(P,O)

Pruning 1 example

 Downward pruning: An MBR R is discarded if there exists another R' s.t. MINDIST(P,R)>MINMAXDIST(P,R')



Pruning 2 example

 Downward pruning: An object O is discarded if there exists an R s.t. the Actual-Dist(P,O) > MINMAXDIST(P,R)



Pruning 3 example

 Upward pruning: An MBR R is discarded if an object O is found s.t. the MINDIST(P,R) > Actual-Dist(P,O)



Ordering Distance

 MINDIST is an optimistic distance where MINMAXDIST is a pessimistic one.



NN-search Algorithm

- **1.** Initialize the nearest distance as infinite distance
- 2. Traverse the tree depth-first starting from the root. At each Index node, sort all MBRs using an ordering metric and put them in an **Active Branch List (ABL).**
- 3. Apply pruning rules 1 and 2 to ABL
- 4. Visit the MBRs from the ABL following the order until it is empty
- 5. If Leaf node, compute actual distances, compare with the best NN so far, update if necessary.
- 6. At the return from the recursion, use pruning rule 3
- 7. When the ABL is empty, the NN search returns.



- Keep the sorted buffer of at most k current nearest neighbors
- Pruning is done using the k-th distance

Another NN search: Best-First

Global order [HS99]

- Maintain distance to all entries in a common Priority Queue
- Use only MINDIST
- Repeat
 - Inspect the next MBR in the list
 - Add the children to the list and reorder
- Until all remaining MBRs can be pruned

Nearest Neighbor Search (NN) with R-Trees Best-first (BF) algorithm:



Action	Неар	Result
Visit Root	$E_1\sqrt{1} E_2\sqrt{2} E_3\sqrt{8}$	{empty}
follow E_l	$E_{2\sqrt{2}}E_{4\sqrt{5}}E_{5\sqrt{5}}E_{3\sqrt{8}}E_{6\sqrt{9}}$	{empty}
follow E_2	$\frac{E_{8\sqrt{2}}}{E_{4\sqrt{5}}}\frac{E_{5\sqrt{5}}}{E_{5\sqrt{5}}}\frac{E_{3\sqrt{8}}}{E_{6\sqrt{9}}}\frac{E_{7\sqrt{13}}}{E_{7\sqrt{13}}}\frac{E_{9\sqrt{17}}}{E_{9\sqrt{17}}}$	{empty}
follow E_8	$E_{4\sqrt{5}}E_{5\sqrt{5}}E_{3\sqrt{8}}E_{6\sqrt{9}}E_{7\sqrt{13}}E_{9\sqrt{17}}$	$\{(h,\sqrt{2})\}$
	$E_{4}\sqrt{5} E_{5}\sqrt{5} E_{3}\sqrt{8} E_{6}\sqrt{9} i\sqrt{10} E_{7}\sqrt{13} 9\sqrt{13}$	

Report h and terminate

HS algorithm

Initialize PQ (priority queue) InesrtQueue(PQ, Root) While not IsEmpty(PQ) R= Dequeue(PQ) If R is an object Report R and exit (done!) If R is a leaf page node For each O in R, compute the Actual-Dists, InsertQueue(PQ, O) If R is an index node For each MBR C, compute MINDIST, insert into PQ

Best-First vs Branch and Bound

- Best-First is the "optimal" algorithm in the sense that it visits all the necessary nodes and nothing more!
- But needs to store a large Priority Queue in main memory. If PQ becomes large, we have thrashing...
- BB uses small Lists for each node. Also uses MINMAXDIST to prune some entries