

Primal-Dual Weighted Set Cover

v2: Revised 1/11/07

Given universe U

collection of subsets \mathcal{F} of U ,

each $F \in \mathcal{F}$ having weight $C(F)$

A collection of subsets *covers* U if their union contains U .

The weight of a cover is sum of the weights of set in cover.

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Finding a min-weight cover is NP-Hard. Algorithm below is an f -approximation algorithm, where f is max frequency of element in U (freq(x) is # of sets to which x belongs.)

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Primal-Dual Set-Cover

1. Set $\forall F, x_F = 0, \forall e, y_e = 0$.
2. Until all elements are covered do
 - Pick an uncovered element e , and increase y_e until some set becomes tight.
 - Add all newly tight sets to the cover.
by setting $x_F = 1$ for those sets.
3. Output the cover

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$$F_1 = \{1, 2, 3, 6\} \quad C(F_1) = 4$$

$$F_2 = \{2, 4, 5, 8\} \quad C(F_2) = 6$$

$$F_3 = \{1, 3, 5\} \quad C(F_3) = 1$$

$$F_4 = \{2, 7, 5\} \quad C(F_4) = 3$$

$$F_5 = \{1, 7, 8, 6\} \quad C(F_5) = 9$$

$$F_6 = \{1, 4, 6\} \quad C(F_6) = 2$$

$$F_7 = \{6, 7, 8\} \quad C(F_7) = 10$$

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Cover found is
 F_1, F_2, F_3, F_4, F_6