Algorithms for GIS csci3225

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WYOMING

Flow on digital terrain models

• FD in sinks via sink filling



Computing FD on flat areas



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Downslope FD not possible



Water comes into the sink from the surrounding area and cannot go "out" following downslope paths

- Downslope FD not possible
- Leave FD "undefined" ?

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FA with FD "undefined" on sinks: note how streams are interrupted

- Downslope FD not possible
- Leave FD "undefined" leads to unrealistic, interrupted rivers
- Flooding the sinks
 - Model flooding the terrain with a large enough amount of water (rain) that falls uniformly across the terrain. Assume the terrain borders the "ocean".
 - At steady state: all points in the terrain have found a path towards the ocean, and more rain does not raise the water level.











steady state

- A flooded terrain has no sinks: All its flat areas are plateaus.
- => We can compute FD at every point



Once we compute the flooded terrain, we can use it to compute FD



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Computing FD: The overall process

- 1. Compute FD
- 2. Plateaus: Identify plateaus and compute FD on plateaus
- 3. Sinks: Identify the sinks and their basins
- 4. **Flood**: simulate flooding the sinks, and, for each sink, record the lowest height at which it merges with the ocean.
- 5. **Raise**: For each sink, traverse its basin and raise each point that's below the flooded level to the flooded level
- 6. Compute FD on flooded terrain





After flooding we'll get: sinks: a, b raise(a) = 2 raise(b) = 2



Flooding the sinks

1.Find the sinks in the terrain, including the ocean.		
2.For each sink, compute its basin.	+[Since every flow path leads to a sink or the ocean, this partitions the terrain into sink-basins.
3.Find the boundaries between sink-basins.		
4.Mark each edge between two sink-basins with the elevation of the lowest point along their boundary.	+[This represents the height at which s and t will merge
5.Label the ocean as DONE.		
6.Sort the edges in increasing order of height		
7.For next edge (s,t) at height h		
 If none of s and t are DONE, raise them to height h 		
 If one of them is DONE, then the other becomes DONE and it is raised to h 		
 merge s,t and update graph 		







sinks: a, b, sea

compute watershed(a), watershed(b), watershed(c)







Find boundaries between sink-watersheds





Find boundaries between sink-watersheds

Each boundary: find lowest point along boundary





















Flooding the sinks

- Find the sinks in the terrain, including the ocean.
- For each sink, compute its basin.
- Find the boundaries between sink-basins.
- Mark each edge between two sink-basins with the elevation of the lowest point along their boundary.
- Label the ocean as DONE.
- Sort the edges in increasing order of height=
- For next edge (s,t) at height h
 - if s,t in the same set, ignore
 - If none of s and t are DONE, raise them to height h
 - If one of them is DONE, then the other becomes DONE and it is raised to h
 - union s and t
- Create the flooded terrain

Goal: Compute flooded terrain





It's worth it!

Flooding creates more realistic, connected river networks.
 FA: no FD on sinks
 FA with flooding

