On the Average Distance of the Hypercube Tree

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Abstract. Given a graph G on n vertices, the total distance of G is defined as $\sigma(G) = \frac{1}{2}\sum_{u,v\in V(G)} d(u,v)$, where $d(u,v)$ is the number of edges in a shortest path between u and v. We define the d-dimensional hypercube tree T_d and show that it has a minimum total distance $\sigma(T_d) = 2\sigma(H_d) - \binom{n}{2} = \frac{dn^2}{2} - \binom{n}{2}$ over all spanning trees of H_d, where H_d is the d-dimensional binary hypercube. It follows that the average distance of T_d is $\mu(T_d) = 2\mu(H_d) - 1 = d\left(1 + \frac{1}{n-1}\right) - 1$.

Keywords. Average distance, Total distance, Average delay, Wiener index, Hypercube tree.

1 Introduction

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a connected undirected graph with $|V(G)| = n$. The order of G is n. For $u, v \in V(G)$, the distance between u and v, denoted by $d_G(u,v)$, is the length of a shortest path between u and v, where the length of a path is defined as the number of edges along the path. For $v \in V(G)$, the distance of v, is defined as

$$d_G(v) = \sum_{u\in V(G)} d_G(v,u).$$

The total distance of the graph G is defined as

$$\sigma(G) = \frac{1}{2}\sum_{v\in V(G)} d_G(v),$$

that is, the sum of distances between all *unordered* pairs. The average distance is defined as

$$\mu(G) = \frac{1}{\binom{n}{2}}\,\sigma(G).$$

The average distance, also known as transmission delay, is one of the most important measures of the efficiency of an interconnection network modeled by a graph. The diameter of a graph, which is the maximum node-to-node distance, is one of the factors taken into account when investigating a communication network. However, these pairs of nodes realizing the diameter may account for only a small fraction of the total number of pairs. Therefore, the average distance may be a more effective measure of the average performance of a network than its diameter, as it is an indicator for the expected travel time between two randomly chosen points of the network.

The average distance has been investigated by several authors and under different names, such as mean distance [6], total distance [16], transmission [17], total routing cost [23], and Wiener index [3, 22], with the latter being the oldest and most common. Given a network, which is modeled by a graph G, it may be possible to replace G by a subgraph H of G without significantly affecting the quality of communication. In this work, it is shown that in the case of the hypercube network, using the hypercube tree instead (which is defined in Section 3), it is possible to reduce the number of links by a factor of $\log n$ at the expense of increasing the average distance by a factor less than 2.

Algorithmic aspects of the average distance are investigated in [4] and [6]. In general, when the graph is weighted, finding a spanning tree with minimum average distance (or total distance), also called a MAD, is NP-hard [14]. Entringer, Kleitman and Székely [8] showed that there is a spanning tree whose average distance is less than twice the average distance of the original, and that such a tree can be found in polynomial time. The Wiener index, defined as $\sigma(G)$, was originally introduced by Harold Wiener [22] in 1947, and has numerous applications in physical chemistry [15]. It has been extensively studied (see [3] for an excellent survey and results).

The hypercube tree, which will be defined in Sec. 3, is known in the literature as the "spanning binomial tree" (SBT) mostly in the context of communication and broadcasting in the hypercube [1, 10, 12]. The names "completely unbalanced spanning tree" (CUST) [21] and "hypercube tree" also appeared in the contexts of fault-tolerant computing and diagnosis of hypercube multicomputer systems to isolate faulty processors [5].

Broadcasting and personalized communication in a hypercube is done by constructing a spanning binomial tree with a root at the source node and following the links of this tree to broadcast the message to all the nodes [10, 12]. In [1], the same strategy (with some modification) was used for broadcasting in the multilevel hierarchical hypercube network MLH.

Distributed-memory hypercube computers are exposed to faults at the node and edge levels, which result in significant performance degradation. Expensive approaches were proposed to improve the fault tolerance of hypercube networks by using spares or by reconfiguration [19, 21], like the use of spare links and nodes [2], augmenting each node with one extra node [11], the use of multiple virtual nodes on each node for workload redistribution under faults [18], or reconfiguring the run-time system [19] in the case of faults. For a fixed number of nodes, the completely unbalanced spanning tree used in [21] requires much less number of edges than a hypercube. When the number of faulty edges and their distribution still allow a tree to be formed in hypercube, reconfiguring the running application to a tree provides a continuation scheme in the presence of faults. In other words, a running hypercube application may switch to a tree-like reconfiguration in the presence of faulty edges. This leads to a smooth degradation in application throughput as the network performance is only twice that of the original hypercube. So, the tree presents a reconfiguration scheme for improving hypercube resilience to faulty edges.

2 Preliminaries

The eccentricity of a node v, denoted by $ecc(v)$, in a connected graph G is the length of a longest of all shortest paths between v and every other node in G. The maximum eccentricity is the graph diameter. The minimum graph eccentricity is called the graph radius, denoted by $\rho(G)$. The center C of a graph is the set of vertices of graph eccentricity equal to the graph radius (also called the set of central points). A branch B of a tree T at a vertex v is a maximal subtree containing v as a leaf. The weight of a branch B, denoted by $bw(B)$ is the number of edges in B. The branch weight of a vertex v, denoted by $bw(v)$, is the maximum branch weight amongst all branches at v. Equivalently, $bw(v)$ is the maximum number of vertices in a connected component of $T - v$. A centroid of a tree T is the set of vertices of T with minimum branch weight. The following theorem is due to Jordan [13].

Theorem 1. If $\mathcal{C}$ is the centroid of a tree T of order n, then one of the following holds: (i) $\mathcal{C} = \{c\}$ and $bw(c) \leq (n-1)/2$, (ii) $\mathcal{C} = \{c_0, c_1\}$ and $bw(c_0) = bw(c_1) = n/2$. In both cases, if $v \in V(T) - \mathcal{C}$, then $bw(v) \geq n/2$.

Zelinka [24] characterized the set of vertices with minimum distance in a tree.

Theorem 2. The set of vertices with minimum distance in a tree T is the centroid $\mathcal{C}$ of T.

3 The hypercube tree

The (binary) d-dimensional hypercube H_d, $d \geq 0$, is defined as an undirected graph with $n = 2^d$ vertices and $dn/2 = d2^{d-1}$ edges. The vertices are labeled with all elements in $\{b_1 b_2 \dots b_d \mid b_i \in \{0,1\}\}$, and there is an edge between two vertices u and v if and only if u and v differ in exactly one bit. The left subcube or 0-cube $0H_d$ is the induced subgraph of H_d on $\{0b_1 b_2 \dots b_{d-1} \mid b_i \in \{0,1\}\}$. Similarly, the right subcube or 1-cube $1H_d$ is the induced subgraph of H_d on $\{1b_1 b_2 \dots b_{d-1} \mid b_i \in \{0,1\}\}$.

For $d = 1, 2, \dots$, we define the d-dimensional hypercube tree rooted at vertex $00\dots0$(d zeros), which we denote by T_d, as a rooted tree whose set of vertices is $V(H_d)$, and whose set of edges $E(T_d)$ is constructed using one of the following two construction methods (see Fig. 1 for an example).

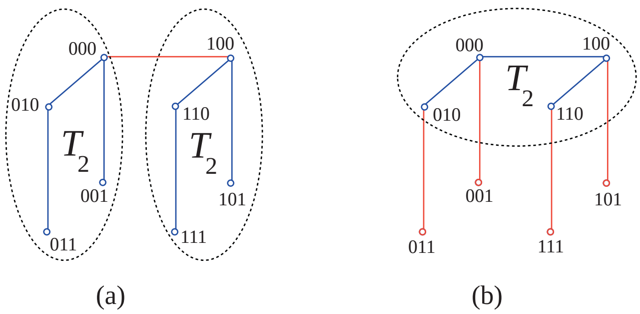

Figure 1: Construction of T_3 from T_2. (a) Recursive. (b) Iterative.

1. (Recursive). If $d = 1$, then $E(T_1) = \{(0, 1)\}$. Otherwise, T_d is constructed recursively by linking the roots of two copies of T_{d-1} by an edge and designating one of its two ends as the root. That is,

$$E(T_d) = \{(0u, 0v) \mid (u, v) \in E(T_{d-1})\} \cup \{(1u, 1v) \mid (u, v) \in E(T_{d-1})\} \cup \{(0^d, 10^{d-1})\}.$$

2. (Iterative). If $d = 1$, then $E(T_1) = \{(0, 1)\}$. Otherwise, T_d is constructed from T_{d-1} by attaching a leaf node to each vertex in T_{d-1}. That is,

$$E(T_d) = \{(u0, v0) \mid (u, v) \in E(T_{d-1})\} \cup \{(v0, v1) \mid v \in V(T_{d-1})\}.$$

It should be noted that T_d can be constructed by applying ordinary breadth-first traversal on H_d starting from vertex 0^d. However, using BFS costs $\Theta(dn) = \Theta(n \log n)$, while direct construction costs only $\Theta(n)$.

Similar to the hypercube, we define the left subtree or 0-tree $0T_d$ as the induced subtree of T_d on $V(0H_d)$, and the right subtree or 1-tree $1T_d$ as the induced subtree of T_d on $V(1H_d)$. In other words, $0T_d$ is T_{d-1} with every label prefixed with 0, and $1T_d$ is T_{d-1} with every label prefixed with 1. For brevity, we will call a vertex even (odd) if its label is the binary representation of an even (odd) integer.

Theorem 3. For $d = 1, 2, \ldots$, let T_d and T'_d be two trees obtained using the iterative and the recursive construction methods, respectively. Then $T_d = T'_d$.

Proof. Fix a vertex $v = x_1x_2 \ldots x_{j-1}\mathbf{1}00 \ldots 0$ (different from the root $00 \ldots 0$), where $|v| = d$, and $x_i \in \{0, 1\}$, $1 \leq i < j \leq d$. We show in both constructions that

$$p(v) = x_1x_2 \ldots x_{j-1}\mathbf{0}00 \ldots 0$$

is the parent of v. By construction of T_d, when v was first created at possibly some earlier stage of the construction, its label was of the form $x_1x_2 \ldots x_{j-1}\mathbf{1}$ and the label of its parent was of the form $x_1x_2 \ldots x_{j-1}\mathbf{0}$. From that point on, a zero would be appended to the labels of both v and $p(v)$. This proves the parental relationship assertion for T_d.

We now prove the assertion for $T_d^{'}$. To this end, rewrite v as

$$v = y_{j-1}y_{j-2}\dots y_1\mathbf{1}00\dots 0.$$

We show, by induction on d, that the parent of v in $T_d^{'}$ is

$$p(v) = y_{j-1}y_{j-2}\dots y_1\mathbf{0}00\dots 0.$$

Let $y_0 = 1$ in the definition of v and $y_0 = 0$ in the definition of $p(v)$. When $d = 1$, $v = 1$ and the parent of vertex 1 is 0. So assume that $d \geq 2$. Let u' and v' be two vertices in T'_{d-1}, where

$$u' = y_{j-2}y_{j-3}\dots y_1\mathbf{0}00\dots 0 \quad \text{and} \quad v' = y_{j-2}y_{j-3}\dots y_1\mathbf{1}00\dots 0;$$

both of length $d-1$. By induction, $u' = p(v')$. To construct $T_d^{'}$ from T'_{d-1}, the edge (u', v') will be doubled: one copy will belong to the 0-tree of $T_d^{'}$, in which case the labels of both u' and v' are prefixed with 0, and the other copy will belong to the 1-tree of $T_d^{'}$, in which case the labels of both u' and v' are prefixed with 1. Hence, in $T_d^{'}$, if $y_{j-1} = 0$, then

$$p(0y_{j-2}y_{j-3}\dots y_1\mathbf{1}00\dots 0) = 0y_{j-2}y_{j-3}\dots y_1\mathbf{0}00\dots 0,$$

and, if $y_{j-1} = 1$, then

$$p(1y_{j-2}y_{j-3}\dots y_1\mathbf{1}00\dots 0) = 1y_{j-2}y_{j-3}\dots y_1\mathbf{0}00\dots 0.$$

We conclude that the parental relationship assertion is true for $T_d^{'}$ too.

Now, since v is arbitrary, it follows that the parent of any vertex other than the root is the same in both trees T_d and $T_d^{'}$. This, in turn, implies the natural isomorphism $\phi : V(T) \rightarrow V(T')$ defined by $\phi(v) = v$ for all v in $\{0,1\}^d$, from which we conclude that $T_d = T_d{}'$. □

4 Computing the total distance

First, we compute the distance of the root of T_d $d_{T_d}(0^d) = \sum_{w \in V(T_d)} d_{T_d}(0^d, w)$, and establish some relationships between distances in the hypercube tree T_d and its corresponding hypercube graph H_d.

Lemma 1. Let T_d be a d-dimensional hypercube tree. Then,

(i) $\forall v \in V(T_d)$ $d_{T_d}(0^d, v) = d_{H_d}(0^d, v)$.

(ii) $d_{T_d}(0^d) = d_{H_d}(0^d) = dn/2$.

Proof. (i) The proof is by induction on $d \geq 1$. For $d = 1$, it is true, so suppose that $d \geq 2$. Observe that, by construction, for any vertex $0u$ in the 0-tree $0T_d$,

$$\begin{aligned} d_{T_d}(0^d, 0u) &= d_{0T_d}(0^d, 0u) \\ &= d_{T_{d-1}}(0^{d-1}, u) \qquad (1) \\ &= d_{H_{d-1}}(0^{d-1}, u) \quad \text{(by induction)} \\ &= d_{H_d}(0^d, 0u), \qquad (2) \end{aligned}$$

and for any vertex $1v$ in the 1-tree $1T_d$,

$$\begin{aligned} d_{T_d}(0^d, 1v) &= 1 + d_{1T_d}(10^{d-1}, 1v) \\ &= 1 + d_{T_{d-1}}(0^{d-1}, v) \qquad (3) \\ &= 1 + d_{H_{d-1}}(0^{d-1}, v) \quad \text{(by induction)} \\ &= d_{H_d}(0^d, 1v). \qquad (4) \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we conclude that

$$\forall v \in V(T_d)\ d_{T_d}(0^d, v) = d_{H_d}(0^d, v).$$

(ii) Since there are $n/2$ distances from 0^d to vertices in the 0-tree and $n/2$ distances from 0^d to vertices in the 1-tree, which additionally contribute $n/2$ to the total distance, and by (1) and (3), $d_{T_d}(0^d)$ can be expressed by the recurrence

$$d_{T_d}(0^d) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } d = 1 \\ 2d_{T_{d-1}}(0^{d-1}) + (n/2) & \text{if } d > 1, \end{cases}$$

whose solution is $d_{T_d}(0^d) = dn/2$. By part (i), $d_{T_d}(0^d) = d_{H_d}(0^d) = dn/2$. □

Theorem 4. The total distance of the hypercube tree T_d is

$$\sigma(T_d) = 2\sigma(H_d) - \binom{n}{2} = \frac{dn^2}{2} - \binom{n}{2},$$

which is minimal over all spanning trees of H_d.

Proof. First, note that by Lemma 1 and the symmetry of the hypercube graph,

$$\sigma(H_d) = \frac{n}{2}\ d_{H_d}(0^d) = \frac{dn^2}{4}. \qquad (5)$$

Next, we find the total distance between all vertices in the 0-tree and all vertices in the 1-tree. Let $u \in 0T_d$ and $v \in 1T_d$. Then, we have (see Fig. 2)

$$d_{T_d}(u, v) = d_{0T_d}(u, 0^d) + (1 + d_{1T_d}(10^{d-1}, v)).$$

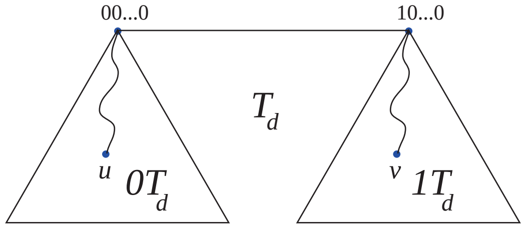

Figure 2: Proof of Theorem 4.

Using (2) and (4), we obtain

$$d_{T_d}(u,v) = d_{H_d}(0^d,u) + d_{H_d}(0^d,v). \tag{6}$$

Summing over all vertices $u \in 0T_d$ and $v \in 1T_d$ yields

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{u\in 0T_d}\sum_{v\in 1T_d} d_{T_d}(u,v) &= \sum_{u\in 0H_d}\sum_{v\in 1H_d}\big(d_{H_d}(0^d,u) + d_{H_d}(0^d,v)\big) \\
&= \frac{n}{2}\sum_{u\in 0H_d} d_{H_d}(0^d,u) + \frac{n}{2}\sum_{v\in 1H_d} d_{H_d}(0^d,v) \\
&= \frac{n}{2}\sum_{w\in H_d} d_{H_d}(0^d,w) \\
&= \frac{n}{2}\, d_{H_d}(0^d) \\
&= \sigma(H_d),
\end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

where the last equality follows from Eqn. 5. Since $\sigma(T_d)$ is the sum of total distances in the 0-tree, 1-tree and the total distance between all vertices in the 0-tree and all vertices in the 1-tree, $\sigma(T_d)$ can be expressed by the recurrence

$$\sigma(T_d) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } d = 1 \\ 2\sigma(T_{d-1}) + \sigma(H_d) & \text{if } d > 1. \end{cases}$$

whose solution is

$$\sigma(T_d) = 2\sigma(H_d) - \binom{2^d}{2},$$

and, by Eqn. 5,

$$\sigma(T_d) = \frac{d2^{2d}}{2} - \binom{2^d}{2}.$$

Finally, note that, by Eqn. 7, the total distance between vertices in $0T_d$ and $1T_d$, whose paths must pass through the centroid, is minimum. Hence, if we assume that $\sigma(T_{d-1})$ is minimum, then it follows by induction that $\sigma(T_d)$ is also of minimum value. □

Theorem 4 gives rise to the following sequence for $\sigma(T_d), d = 1, 2, \ldots$

$$1, 10, 68, 392, 2064, 10272, \ldots.$$

Let $T = (V, E)$ be a tree and $e = (u, v)$ be an edge of T. Let $n_u(e)$ denote the number of vertices of T lying closer to u than v, and let $n_v(e)$ denote the number of vertices of T lying closer to v than u. The following theorem was discovered by Wiener in 1947 [3, 22].

Theorem 5. Let $T = (V, E)$ be a tree. Then, $\sigma(T) = \sum_{e \in E(T)} n_u(e) n_v(e)$.

Define the weight of an edge e as $w(e) = n_u(e) n_v(e)$. For $1 \leq j \leq d$, let $E_j(T_d)$ denote the set of edges in $E(T_d)$ with weight $\frac{n}{2^j}\left(n - \frac{n}{2^j}\right)$.

Proposition 1. Let T_d be a d-dimensional hypercube tree. Then,

(i) $E(T_d) = E_1(T_d) \cup E_2(T_d) \cup \ldots \cup E_d(T_d)$, and $|E_j(T_d)| = 2^{j-1}, 1 \leq j \leq d$.

(ii) $\sigma(T_d) = \sum_{j=1}^{d} 2^{j-1} \, \frac{n}{2^j}\left(n - \frac{n}{2^j}\right)$.

Proof. (i) If $d = 1$, then there is exactly one edge with weight 1, so suppose $d \geq 2$. Assume inductively that

$$E(T_{d-1}) = \bigcup_{j=1}^{d-1} E_j(T_{d-1}), \quad \text{and} \quad |E_j(T_{d-1})| = 2^{j-1}, 1 \leq j \leq d-1.$$

Let $e = (u, v)$ be an edge in $E_j(T_{d-1})$ for some j, $1 \leq j \leq d-1$. By construction, T_d is obtained from T_{d-1} by attaching a leaf node to each vertex of T_{d-1}. Hence, both $n_u(e)$ and $n_v(e)$ are doubled, which means that $E(T_d)$ contains exactly 2^{j-1} edges with weight

$$2 \times 2 \times \frac{n/2}{2^j}\left(\frac{n}{2} - \frac{n/2}{2^j}\right) = \frac{n}{2^j}\left(n - \frac{n}{2^j}\right).$$

Since $e = (u, v)$ is arbitrary, we conclude that $|E_j(T_d)| = 2^{j-1}$ for $1 \leq j \leq d-1$. Moreover, there will be $n/2$ additional edges in T_d with weight $n-1$, that is, $|E_d(T_d)| = 2^{d-1}$. It follows that $E(T_d) = \bigcup_{j=1}^{d} E_j(T_d)$, and for $1 \leq j \leq d$, $|E_j(T_d)| = 2^{j-1}$.

(ii) Follows from (i) and Theorem 5. □

As illustrated in Fig. 3, there is an edge (the central edge) with weight $(n/2)^2$, two edges with weight $(n/4)(3n/4)$, and in general 2^{j-1} edges with weight $\frac{n}{2^j}\left(n - \frac{n}{2^j}\right)$. In this figure, the horizontal edge in the middle is the central edge of T_8.

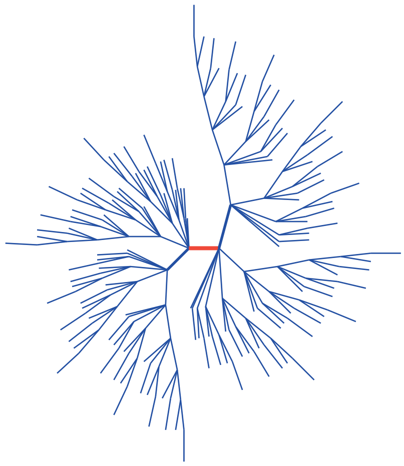

Figure 3: T_8. The horizontal edge in the middle is the central edge.

5 Mean distance

The average distance of the hypercube of dimension $d \geq 1$ is computed as

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(H_d) &= \frac{1}{\binom{n}{2}}\sigma(H_d) \\ &= \frac{dn^2}{4\binom{n}{2}} \\ &= \frac{dn}{2(n-1)} \\ &= \frac{d}{2}\left(1+\frac{1}{n-1}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, the average distance of the hypercube tree of dimension $d \geq 1$ is computed as

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(T_d) &= \frac{1}{\binom{n}{2}}\sigma(T_d) \\ &= \frac{1}{\binom{n}{2}}\left(2\sigma(H_d) - \binom{n}{2}\right) \\ &= 2\mu(H_d) - 1 \qquad (8) \\ &= d\left(1+\frac{1}{n-1}\right) - 1. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we have

Theorem 6. The average distance of the hypercube tree is $\mu(T_d) = d\left(1+\frac{1}{n-1}\right) - 1$.

6 Conclusion

Given a graph G, let $s(G) = \min\{\sigma(T)/\sigma(G) \mid T \text{ is a spanning tree of } G\}$. In [8], Entringer *et al.* have shown that for a connected graph G of order n, $s(G) \leq 2(1 - 1/n)$, and equality is achieved if and only if $G = K_n$ and $T = K_{1,n-1}$. In [3], Banerjee *et al.* stated that the dependence of s on the density of G is not clear, and conjectured that if T is of minimum total distance over all possible spanning trees of H_d, then

$$s(H_d) = 2\left(1 - \frac{1}{d}\right) + \frac{1}{d2^{d-1}} \sim 2. \tag{9}$$

In Theorem 4, we proved that $\sigma(T_d)$ is of minimum total distance among all spanning trees of H_d. Consequently, by (8),

$$s(H_d) = 2 - 1/\mu(H_d) = 2 - \frac{2(n-1)}{dn} = 2\left(1 - \frac{1}{d}\right) + \frac{1}{d2^{d-1}},$$

and $s(H_d)$ has 2 as its limiting value.

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