

# Tree Isomorphism Algorithms.

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based on

Tree Isomorphism Algorithms:  
Speed vs. Clarity  
Douglas M. Campbell

Observation 1. *Since a tree isomorphism preserves root and edge incidence, the level number of a vertex (the number of edges between the root and the vertex) is a tree isomorphism invariant.*

Conjecture 1. *Two trees are isomorphic if and only if they have the same number of levels and the same number of vertices on each level.*

Observation 2. *Since a tree isomorphism preserves root and edge incidence, the number of paths from the root to the leaves is a tree isomorphism invariant.*

Conjecture 2. *Two trees are isomorphic if and only if they have the same degree spectrum.*

Observation 3. *Since a tree isomorphism preserves longest paths, the number of levels in a tree (the longest path) is a tree isomorphism invariant.*

Conjecture 3. *Two trees are isomorphic if and only if they have the same degree spectrum at each level.*

Observation 4. *The number of leaf descendants of a vertex and the level number of a vertex are both tree tree isomorphism invariants.*

# AHU algorithm

**Input:** trees  $T_1$  and  $T_2$ .

1. Assign to all leaves of  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  the integer 0.
2. Inductively, assume that all vertices of  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  at level  $i - 1$  have been assigned integers. Assume  $L_1$  is a list of the vertices of  $T_1$  at level  $i - 1$  sorted by non-decreasing value of the assigned integers. Assume  $L_2$  is the corresponding list for  $T_2$ .
3. Assign to the non-leaves of  $T_1$  at level  $i$  a tuple of integers by scanning the list  $L_1$  from left to right and performing the following actions: For each vertex on list  $L_1$  take the integer assigned to  $v$  to be the next component of the tuple associated with the father of  $v$ . On completion of this step, each non-leaf  $w$  of  $T_1$  at level  $i$  will have a tuple  $(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k)$  associated with it, where  $i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k$  are integers, in non-decreasing order, associated with the sons of  $w$ . Let  $S_1$  be the sequence of tuples created for the vertices of  $T_1$  on level  $i$ .
4. Repeat step 3 for  $T_2$  and let  $S_2$  be the sequence of tuples created for the vertices of  $T_2$  on level  $i$ .
5. Sort  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  lexicographically. Let  $S'_1$  and  $S'_2$  respectively, be the sorted sequences of tuples.
6. If  $S'_1$  and  $S'_2$  are not identical then halt; the trees are not isomorphic. Otherwise, assign the integer 1 to those vertices of  $T_1$  on level  $i$  represented by the first distinct tuple on  $S'_1$ , assign the integer 2 to the vertices represented by the second distinct tuple, and so on. As these integers are assigned to the vertices of  $T_1$  on level  $i$ , make a list  $L_1$  of the vertices so

assigned. Append to the front of  $L_1$  all leaves of  $T_1$  on level  $i$ . Let  $L_2$  be the corresponding list of vertices of  $T_2$ . These two lists can now be used for the assignment of tuples to vertices of level  $i + 1$  by returning to step 3.

7. If the roots of  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  are assigned the same integer,  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  are isomorphic.

```
Post_Order_Version_One( $v$  : vertex)
Begin

    if  $v$  is childless then

        Give  $v$  the tuple name (0)

    else

        begin

            For each child  $w$  of  $v$  do

                Post_Order_Version_One( $w$ );

            Concatenate the names of all the children
            of  $v$  to temp;

            Give  $v$  the name (temp);

        end

    end

end
```



Post\_Order\_Version\_Two( $v$  : vertex)

Begin

if  $v$  is childless then

Give  $v$  the tuple name 10

else

begin

For each child  $w$  of  $v$  do

Post\_Order\_Version\_Two( $w$ );

Sort the names of the children of  $v$ ;

Set temp to the concatenation of  $v$ 's sorted children's names;

Give  $v$  the tuple name 1temp0;

end

end

Observation 5. *Induction on the level number proves that a vertex's canonical name is a tree isomorphism invariant.*

Observation 6. *Two trees are isomorphic if and only if their roots have identical canonical names.*

Observation 7. *For all levels  $i$ , the canonical name of level  $i$  is a tree isomorphism invariant.*

Observation 8. *Two trees  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  are isomorphic if and only if for all levels  $i$ , the canonical level names of  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  are identical.*

```

Tree_Isomorphism( $T_1, T_2$  : trees)
Begin
  Assign all vertices of  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  to level numbers lists
  and let  $h_i$  be the largest level number in  $T_i$ ;

  If  $h_1 \neq h_2$  then
    write('trees are not isomorphic'); Halt;
  else
    set  $h$  to  $h_1$ ;  $\{h_1 = h_2\}$ 

  { process from bottom to top level }
  for  $i := h$  downto 0
  begin
    { assign vertices their string name }
    For all vertices  $v$  of level  $i$  do
      If  $v$  is a leaf then
        assign  $v$  the string 10
      Else
        assign  $v$  the tuple  $1i_1i_2 \dots i_k0$ , where  $i_1i_2 \dots i_k$ 
        are the strings associated with the children
        of  $v$  in non-decreasing order;
    { assign vertices to temporary sorting lists }
    For all vertices  $v$  of level  $i$  do
      If  $v$  belongs to  $T_j$  then
        add  $v$ 's string to  $T_j(i)$ ;
    Sort  $T_1(i)$  and  $T_2(i)$  lexicographically;
    If  $T_1(i) \neq T_2(i)$  then
      write('trees are not isomorphic t level',  $i$ ); Halt;

    { assign condensed canonical names }
    For all vertices  $v$  of level  $i$  do
      If  $v$  is the  $k$ -th element in  $T_j(i)$  then
        assign  $v$  the binary string for the integer  $k$ 
  end;
  write('the trees are isomorphic');
end

```