

# Minimum Spanning Tree

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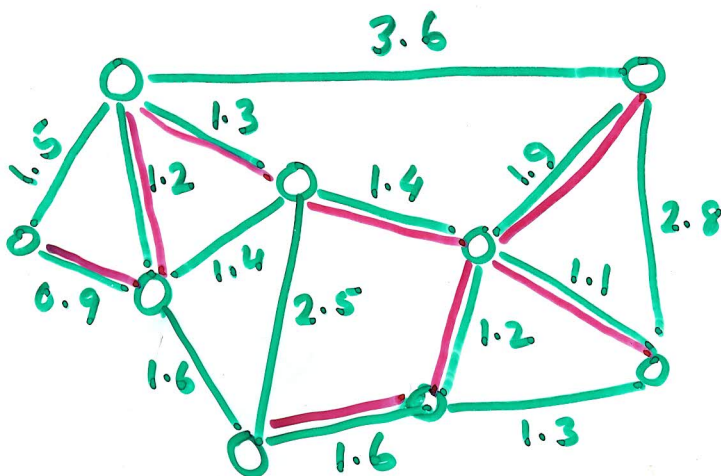
$(V, E)$  is a connected, undirected, weighted graph. A spanning tree is a subgraph  $(V, T)$ ,  $T \subseteq E$  that is connected and has no cycle.

- Recall that a tree with  $n$  vertices has  $n-1$  edges.

- A minimum spanning tree (MST) is a spanning tree  $(V, T)$  that minimizes

$$W(T) = \sum_{\{u,v\} \in T} w(\{u,v\}).$$

Ex.



MST is denoted with red-green edges

We will study two algorithms Prim's and Kruskal's algorithms for computing MST. Both of these algorithms can be viewed as a special case of a generic process which we study first. (2)

## Growing an MST

Invariant  $A \subseteq E$  is always a subset of some MST of  $(V, E)$ .

An edge  $uv \in E$  is safe for  $A$  if  $uv \notin A$  and  $A \cup \{uv\}$  also satisfies the invariant.

## Generic Method

$A := \emptyset$

while  $A$  is not a spanning tree of  $V$  yet do

find a safe edge  $uv$ ;

$A := A \cup \{uv\}$

endwhile

So far the method is trivial. The main part is how to choose safe edges.

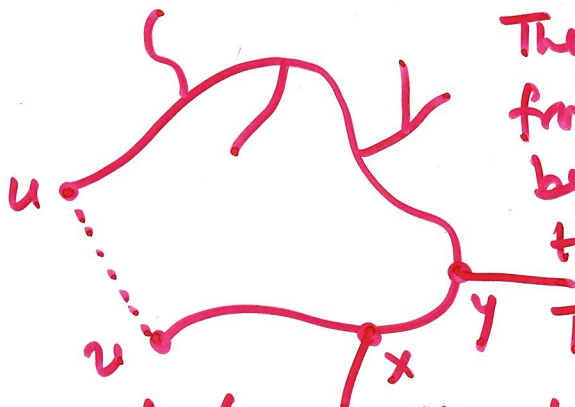
A cut is a partition  $V = W \cup (V - W)$ ;  
 it respects  $A \subseteq E$  if  $A \subseteq \binom{W}{2} \cup \binom{V - W}{2}$ ,  
 i.e. all edges of  $A$  are either connecting  
 two vertices in  $W$  or in  $(V - W)$ .

An edge  $uv$  crosses the cut if one  
 vertex belongs to  $W$  and the other in  $V - W$ .

Claim. Let  $A$  be a subset of some MST  
 of  $(V, E)$ . Let  $(W, V - W)$  be a cut that  
 respects  $A$ . Let  $uv$  be a crossing edge  
 that minimizes  $w(uv)$ . Then  $uv$  is safe  
 for  $A$ .

Proof. Consider an MST  $(V, T)$  with  $A \subseteq T$ .  
 If  $uv \in T$  we are done.

So, assume  $uv \notin T$  and  $T' = T \cup \{uv\}$ .



There is a unique path  
 from  $u$  to  $v$  in  $T$ . Let  $xy$   
 be an edge on this path  
 that crosses  $(W, V - W)$ .

Thus,  $w(uv) \leq w(xy)$ .

Now define  $T'' = T' - \{xy\}$ .  $T''$  is again  
 a spanning tree of  $V$  and  $w(T'') \leq w(T)$ . So,  
 $(V, T'')$  is an MST.

## Prim's Algorithm

(4)

For each vertex  $i$  we assume a field  $p$  ( $V[i].p$ ) that can be used to store a real number which is the priority of  $i$ .

We first add all vertices to a priority queue  $PQ$ , and the tree growing process starts. Here, the vertices which are extracted from  $PQ$  forms the cut with the rest of the vertices in  $PQ$ . Then we update the priorities of vertices with respect to new cross edges each time we include a vertex from  $PQ$  to our current set.

### Initialization

```
PQ := ∅;  
for i := 1 to n do  
  if  $i \neq k$  then  $V[i].p := \infty$   
  else  $V[i].p := 0$ ;  
        $V[i].\pi := \text{nil}$ ;  
endif  
  add  $i$  to  $PQ$  with  
  priority  $V[i].p$   
endfor
```

## Main algorithm.

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While  $PQ \neq \emptyset$  do

$i := \text{Extract-min}(PQ); t := v[i].\text{adj};$

while  $t \neq \text{nil}$  do  $j := t.v;$

if  $j \in PQ$  and  $w(i,j) < v[j].p$  then

$v[j].p := w(i,j); v[j].\pi := i$

endif

$t := t.\text{next}$

endwhile

endwhile

After running the algorithm MST can be recovered from the  $\pi$  field. The vertices in  $PQ$  needs to be marked and they are unmarked once they removed from  $PQ$ .

We have  $n$  insertions to  $PQ$  :  $n \log n$

$n$  minimum deletions :  $n \log n$

At most  $m$  decrease-key :  $O(m)$  if we

use Fibonacci heap.

Total:  $O(n \log n + m)$  if we use Fibonacci heap.



## Kruskal's algorithm

⑦

This algorithm considers the globally shortest yet edge not considered. If this edge crosses a cut then it is safe and is added.

Algorithm uses two data structures:  
a priority queue PQ for the edges,  
a set-system C for the vertices

### Initialization:

PQ :=  $\emptyset$ ;  
for each edge  $uv \in E$ , insert  $uv$  with  
its weight as priority in PQ;  
 $C = \{ \{u\} \mid u \in V \}$  \* initialize a set \*

### Main.

$A = \emptyset$ ;  
while  $|A| < n-1$  do  
     $uv := \text{Extract min}(PQ)$ ;  
    find  $U, V \in C$  s.t.  $u \in U$  and  $v \in V$ ;  
    \* find oprn \*  
    if  $U \neq V$  then  
         $A := A \cup \{uv\}$   
         $U := U \cup V$  \* set union \*  
    endif  
endwhile

Complexity:  $O(n \log n + m \log n)$ : ordinary Union-find