

Comp Sci 212

I. Minimum Spanning Trees

Def. A spanning tree of a graph $G = (V, E)$ is a subgraph $G' = (V, E')$ such that G' is a tree. (G' is connected, acyclic, $|E'| = |V| - 1$)



- Minimal connected subgraph w/ all vertices.

Only connected graphs have spanning trees.

Weighted graph

$$G = (V, E, w) \quad w: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

Transportation networks

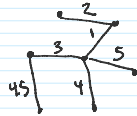
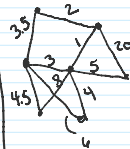
Internet networks

Social networks

weights can represent costs, strength

Problem - How to find a spanning tree

whose sum of edges is as small as possible? (Minimum spanning tree).



Graphs can have multiple MSTs, (all edges w/ same weight)

Kruskal's algorithm

1. Sort the edges, from smallest to largest
2. Consider each edge from smallest to largest
3. Add an edge if it doesn't create a cycle

Thm. Kruskal's algorithm returns a spanning tree (T- output)

Proof. T is acyclic, (because of step 3), so just need to prove it's connected.

Use contradictory assume v_i, v_n are connected in G , but not in T . Let $(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{n-1}, v_n)$ be a path from v_i to v_n in G . Then must exist v_i, v_{i+1} not connected in T .

Kruskal's algorithm does not add edge $\{v_i, v_{i+1}\}$.

This must be adding would create a cycle. This implies v_i, v_{i+1} are already connected in T , contradiction.

Thm. Kruskal outputs a MST $\rightarrow$ assume edge weights are distinct

Proof. T be tree output by Kruskal. Assume T is not a MST, for sake of contradiction. Let e be first edge added to T, but not in some MST.

Let M be that MST. Adding e to M creates a cycle. The cycle must have an edge f , not in T . Let M' be M , after removing f and adding e . M' is a spanning tree (exercise: check connected, $|E'| = |V| - 1$)



We'll show M' has smaller total weight than M .

$$\rightarrow \text{weight of } M' = \text{weight } M - \text{weight}(f) + \text{weight}(e)$$

Have a contradiction if $w(f) > w(e)$.

Show that $w(f) < w(e)$ is not possible, so contradiction occurs.

Assume $w(f) < w(e)$. f is not in T .

Kruskal's algorithm chose not to add f .

Adding f would have created a cycle in T .

But, all the other edges are in M , f is in M , so M has a cycle, contradicting M is a MST.

Note: If $w(f) = w(e)$ is possible, repeat on M' , keep repeating, have contradiction, or obtain T .