## MINIMUM SPANNING TREES

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## Admin

## Assignment 8

Lab tomorrow:
$\square$ Course feedback
$\square$ Summary/Review
$\square$ Interview programming questions (optional)

A few last shortest paths things

## Minimum spanning trees (MST)

The lowest weight set of edges that connects all vertices of an undirected graph with positive weights


## MSTs

Can an MST have a cycle?


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## Applications?

## Connectivity

- Networks (e.g. communications)
- Circuit design/wiring
hub/spoke models (e.g. flights, transportation)


## Cuts

A cut is a partitioning of the vertices into two sets $S$ and V-S

An edge "crosses" the cut if it connects a vertex $u \in V$ and $v \in V-S$


## Minimum cut property

Given a partition $S$, let edge e be the minimum cost edge that crosses the partition. Every minimum spanning tree contains edge e.


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Given a partition S , let edge e be the minimum cost edge that crosses the partition. Every minimum spanning tree contains edge e.


Consider an MST with edge e' that is not the minimum edge

## Minimum cut property

Given a partition S , let edge e be the minimum cost edge that crosses the partition. Every minimum spanning tree contains edge e.


Using e instead of e', still connects the graph, but produces a tree with smaller weights

## Minimum cut property

If the minimum cost edge that crosses the partition is not unique, then some minimum spanning tree contains edge e.


## Kruskal's algorithm

Given a partition S, let edge e be the minimum cost edge that crosses the partition. Every minimum spanning tree contains edge e.

Kruskals:

- Sort edges by increasing weight
- for each edge (by increasing weight):
- check if adding edge to MST creates a cycle
- if not, add edge to MST

Kruskal's algorithm

Add smallest edge that doesn't create a cycle


MST

(E)


Kruskal's algorithm

Add smallest edge that doesn't create a cycle


MST

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Add smallest edge that doesn't create a cycle


## Practice



## Solution



Sum $=8+8+9+9+11+11+12+14=82$

## Why does Kruskal's work?

Never adds an edge that creates a cycle

Therefore, always adds lowest cost edge to connect two connected components. By min cut property, that edge must be part of the MST

Kruskals:

- Sort edges by increasing weight
- for each edge (by increasing weight):
- check if adding edge to MST creates a cycle
- if not, add edge to MST


## Kruskal's details

Uses a data structure called "disjoint set" to efficiently check whether adding an edge creates a cycle

Run-time: $\mathrm{O}(\mathrm{E} \log \mathrm{E})$ (bounded by the sort)

## Prim's algorithm

Greedily grow the MST starting at a vertex:

Start with a random vertex and count that vertex as connected by the MST

Add the edge with the smallest weight that connects a vertex not onnected by the MST

Repeat until we've added $V$ - 1 edges

## Prim's

Add the edge with the smallest weight that connects a vertex not connected by the MST


MST

(E)


## Prim's

Add the edge with the smallest weight that connects a vertex not connected by the MST


MST

(E)


## Prim's

Add the edge with the smallest weight that connects a vertex not connected by the MST


MST


## Prim's

Add the edge with the smallest weight that connects a vertex not connected by the MST


MST
5


## Prim's

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## MST



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Add the edge with the smallest weight that connects a vertex not connected by the MST


## MST



## Practice: start at vertex 0



## Solution



$$
\text { Sum }=8+8+9+9+11+11+12+14=82
$$

## Why does Prim's work?

Given a partition S, let edge e be the minimum cost edge that crosses the partition. Every minimum spanning tree contains edge e.

Let $S$ be the set of vertices visited so far

The only time we add a new edge is if it's the lowest weight edge from $S$ to $V$-S

Add the edge with the smallest

## Prim's

 weight that connects a vertex not connected by the MSTHow do we find the smallest weight edge? Or, how could we keep track of it?

## MST

1




Add the edge with the smallest

## Prim's

 weight that connects a vertex not connected by the MSTVery similar implementation to Dijksra's!

Use a priority queue

## MST



## Running time of Prim's

Varies depending on the priority queue implementation

Practical version: O(E log V)

