CS062 DATA STRUCTURES AND ADVANCED PROGRAMMING

24: Minimum Spanning Trees



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Last lecture for the semester and we are ready to finish our unit on graphs!



Today, we will talk about minimum spanning trees and will see two famous algorithms to calculate them.



Given an edge weighted graph (not a digraph), a spanning tree will be a subgraph that is a tree (that is connected and acyclic), and spanning (that is it includes all the vertices of the original graph). For example, on the graph above, you can see three possible spanning trees. They all are subgraphs that contain all three vertices, and form a connected and acyclic graph.

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Properties

- A connected graph G can have more than one spanning tree.
- All possible spanning trees of *G* have the same number of vertices and edges.
- A spanning tree has |V| 1 edges.
- A spanning tree by definition cannot have any cycle.
- Adding one edge to the spanning tree would create a cycle (i.e. spanning trees are maximally acyclic).
- Removing one edge from the spanning tree would make the graph disconnected (i.e. spanning trees are minimally connected).

https://www.tutorialspoint.com/data_structures_algorithms/spanning_tree.htm

Let's talk about some graph properties in relation to spanning trees. As we already saw, a graph can have more than one spanning tree and all spanning trees of a graph have the same number of vertices and edges. A spanning tree has n-1 edges, where n is the number of nodes (vertices). By definition, it cannot have a cycle. And adding an edge to it would create a cycle (that is known as maximally acyclic). Also, removing one edge from the spanning tree would disconnect it (that is known as minimally connected).



The minimum spanning tree problem states that given a connected edge-weighted undirected graph, we have to find a spanning tree of minimum weight, e.g., as in the example above.



There are a lot of scenarios that finding a minimum spanning tree is useful and I have a couple of links here but in general it makes sense when you want fully connected system at the lowest possible cost.



Let's see how to calculate MSTs with our first such algorithm, Kruskal's.

KRUSKAL'S ALGORITHM	8
Kruskal's algorithm	
Sort edges in ascending order of weight.	
Starting from the one with the smallest weight, add it to the MST unless doing so would create a cycle.	
Running time of $ E \log V $ in worst case.	
Uses union-find, a data structure we haven't covered.	

It's a very simple algorithm. You sort edges in ascending order of weight. you star from then one with the smallest weight, add it to the MST unless doing so would create a cycle. That can be done in ElogV time in worst case. Kruskal's algorithm uses union-find, a data structure we haven't covered.



Let's assume we have this edge-weighted graph and the weights on the right that are in ascending order of weight.



We start at 0-7 and add the edge to the MST.



next comes 2-3 which does not create a cycle so it gets added to the MST.



Same for 1-7



and 0-2



and 5-7



But not 1-3 since it would create a cycle.



Nor 1-5



Nor 2-7



But 4-5 would be OK



But not 1-2



nor 4-7



Nor 0-4



We can add 6-2



The rest all would create cycles







Tada! we have a minimum spanning tree!



Try to run Kruskal's algorithm on this graph.



This is the MST you should have gotten.



Let's see how Prim's algorithm calculates the MST.



We will start with a random vertex say 0, and greetingly grow the MST by adding the min weight edge with exactly one endpoint in the MST and repeat it n-1 times. There are two versions, a lazy and eager and we will see the lazy approach here. The algorithm uses a min-priority queue and its running time is also E log V.



- Start with vertex 0 and greedily grow tree T.
- Add to *T* the min weight edge with exactly one endpoint in *T*.
- Repeat until V 1 edges.



Let's see the algorithm on the graph above.

- Start with vertex 0 and greedily grow tree T.
- Add to *T* the min weight edge with exactly one endpoint in *T*.
- Repeat until *V* 1 edges.



We'll start with vertex 0



and consider all the edges that have an endpoint to our MST which right now only contains 0. That would be edges 0-2, 0-4, 6-0, and 0-7. The one with minimum weight is edge 0-7 so we will add it to the MST which now includes edge 0-7.



The edges with one endpoint in T would be 1-7, 0-2, 5-7, 2-7, 4-7, 0-4, and 6-0. The minimum is 1-7

- Start with vertex 0 and greedily grow tree T.
- Add to *T* the min weight edge with exactly one endpoint in *T*.
- Repeat until V 1 edges.



Now MST contains the edges 0-7 and 1-7



We proceed similarly with the rest which adds the 0-2 edge.

- Start with vertex 0 and greedily grow tree T.
- Add to *T* the min weight edge with exactly one endpoint in *T*.
- Repeat until V 1 edges.



so now the MST contains edges 0-7, 1-7, and 0-2.



- Start with vertex 0 and greedily grow tree T.
- Add to *T* the min weight edge with exactly one endpoint in *T*.
- Repeat until *V* 1 edges.



Net one would be 2-3

- Start with vertex 0 and greedily grow tree T.
- Add to *T* the min weight edge with exactly one endpoint in *T*.
- Repeat until *V* 1 edges.





followed by 5-7

- Start with vertex 0 and greedily grow tree T.
- Add to *T* the min weight edge with exactly one endpoint in *T*.
- Repeat until V 1 edges.





- Start with vertex 0 and greedily grow tree T.
- Add to *T* the min weight edge with exactly one endpoint in *T*.
- Repeat until V 1 edges.



- Start with vertex 0 and greedily grow tree T.
- Add to *T* the min weight edge with exactly one endpoint in *T*.
- Repeat until V 1 edges.



and 6-2



We have repeated this process V-1 times and this is the MST we ended up with



Let's apply Prim's algorithm starting at index 0.



and here's the answer!

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Lecture 24: Minimum Spanning Trees	
Introduction	
Kruskal's Algorithm	
Prim's Algorithm	

ASSIGNED READINGS AND PRACTICE PROBLEMS	49
Readings:	
Recommended Textbook: Chapter 4.3 (Pages 604-629)	
Website:	
https://algs4.cs.princeton.edu/43mst/	
Visualization:	
https://visualgo.net/en/mst	

Problem

Run Kruskal's and Prim's algorithm (starting at index 0) on the following graph:



Problem

- Run Kruskal's and Prim's algorithm (starting at index 0) on the following graph.
- Both will provide the same MST:

