Advanced Algorithmic Techniques (COMP523)

Greedy Algorithms

Recap and plan

Last lecture:

- The Greedy approach
- Interval Scheduling
- This lecture:
 - Minimum Spanning Tree
 - Kruskal's Algorithm
 - Prim's Algorithm

Application

- We have a set of locations.
- We want to build a communication network, joining all of them.
- We want to do it as cheaply as possible.
 - Every direct connection between two locations has a cost.
 - We want to have everything connected a the minimum cost.

Minimum Spanning Tree

- Consider a connected graph G=(V, E), such that for every edge e=(v,w) of E, there is an associated positive cost ce.
- Goal: Find a subset T of E so that the graph G'=(V, T) is connected and the total cost $\sum_{e \in T} c_e$ is minimised.

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- Suppose that it contained a cycle.
- Let e be an edge on that cycle.
- Take (V, T-{e}).
- This is still connected.
 - All paths that used e can be rerouted through the other direction.
- (V, T-{e}) is a valid solution, and it is cheaper. Contradiction!

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Minimum Spanning Tree

T is a spanning tree and the problem is called the Minimum Spanning Tree problem.

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Kruskal's Algorithm

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Prim's Algorithm

- Start with an empty set of edges T.
- Start with a node s.
 - Add an edge e=(s,w) to T.
 - Which one?
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- Since it is a spanning tree, it must contain some other edge f that crosses from S to V-S.
- But c_e ≤ c_f, so T- {f} ∪ {e} is a spanning tree of smaller cost.



No, $T = \{f\} \cup \{e\}$ might not be a spanning tree!

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- Since T is a spanning tree, there is path from v to w.
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- Consider T' = T -{e'} U {e}.



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 - Because otherwise adding e would create a cycle.
- The algorithm has not found any edge crossing S and V-S to the output. (Why?)
 - Such an edge would have been added to the output by the algorithm.
- The edge e must be the cheapest edge crossing S and V-S.
- By the cut property, it belongs to every minimum spanning tree.



• i.e., does it always produce a spanning tree?



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 - Output T is a forest.



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 - Suppose by contradiction that T was not connected.



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 - Output T is a forest.
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 - G is connected.
 - Suppose by contradiction that T was not connected.
 - The algorithm would have added an edge crossing the two components.


Is it feasible?

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 - Output T is a forest.
- Is it a tree?
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- In each iteration of the algorithm, there is a set S of nodes which are the nodes of a partial spanning tree.
- An edge is added to "expand" the partial spanning tree, which has the minimum cost.
- This edge has one endpoint in S and one in V-S and has minimum cost.
- So it must be part of every minimum spanning tree.

Greedy Approach #2

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- Start with the full graph G=(V, E).
- Delete an edge from G.
 - Which one?
 - The one with the maximum cost c_e.
- We continue like this.
 - Do we always remove the considered edge e from G?
 - As long as we don't disconnect the graph.

Reverse-Delete Algorithm

- Start with the full graph G=(V, E).
- Delete an edge from G.
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- Let T be a spanning tree that contains e.
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- How to find this edge e'?





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 - V S (containing w).
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- At some point we cross from S to V S, following edge e'.
- The resulting graph is a tree with smaller cost.



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- Just before deleting, it lies on some cycle C.
- It has the maximum cost among edges, so it cannot be part of any minimum spanning tree.



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- Is it a tree?
 - Suppose that it's not.



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- i.e., does it always produce a spanning tree?
- Is it connected?
 - The algorithm will never disconnect the graph.
- Is it a tree?
 - Suppose that it's not.
 - Then it contains some cycle C.
 - Consider the most expensive edge e on that cycle.
 - The algorithm would have removed that edge.



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Non-distinct costs

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- Take the original instance with non-distinct costs.
- Make the costs distinct by adding small numbers ε to the costs to break ties.
- Obtain a perturbed instance.
- Run the algorithm on the perturbed instance.
- Output the minimum spanning tree T.
- T is a minimum spanning tree on the original instance.

T in the original instance

- Suppose that there was a cheaper spanning tree T* on the original instance.
- If T* contains different edges with the same costs, it is not cheaper than T on the original instance.
- If T contains different edges with different costs, we can make ε small enough to make sure the ones we selected are still cheaper.

Perturbing the costs



Perturbing the costs

1, 2, 2, 4, 4, 6, 7, 7, 8, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14

1, 2, 2+ε, 4, 4+ε, 6, 7, 7+ε, 8, 8+ε, 9, 10, 11, 14

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 - Next lecture.