# 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 $\mathrm{G}=(\mathrm{V}, \mathrm{E})$, such that for every edge $e=(v, w)$ of $E$, there is an associated positive cost $c_{e}$.
- Goal: Find a subset T of $E$ so that the graph $G^{\prime}=(V, T)$ is connected and the total cost $\sum_{e \in T} c_{e}$ is minimised.


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- Let e be an edge on that cycle.


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- Suppose that it contained a cycle.
- Let e be an edge on that cycle.
- Take (V, T-\{e\}).


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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!


## Minimum Spanning Tree

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## Minimum Spanning Tree

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

- Consider a connected graph $\mathrm{G}=(\mathrm{V}, \mathrm{E})$, such that for every edge $e=(v, w)$ of $E$, there is an associated positive cost $C_{e}$.
- Goal: Find a subset T of $E$ so that the graph $G^{\prime}=(V, T)$ is connected and the total cost $\sum_{e \in T} c_{e}$ is minimised.


## Greedy Approach \#1

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- We continue like this.


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- We continue like this.
- Do we always add the new edge e to T?


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- Start with an empty set of edges T.
- Add one edge to T.
- Which one?
- The one with the minimum cost Ce .
- We continue like this.
- Do we always add the new edge e to T?
- Only if we don't introduce any cycles.


## Example



## Example



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## Kruskal's Algorithm

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- We only consider edges to neighbours that are not in the spanning tree.


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## Prim's Algorithm

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- In the example, they both produced the same spanning tree.
- This was actually the minimum spanning tree.
- Do they always output the minimum spanning tree?


## The cut property

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- Let $S$ be any subset of $V$,
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- Let $e=(w, v)$ be the minimum cost edge between S and V -S.


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- Then e is contained in every minimum spanning tree.


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- Then e is contained in every minimum spanning tree.
- Assume that some spanning tree $T$ does not contain e.



## The cut property

- Then e is contained in every minimum spanning tree.
- Assume that some spanning tree T does not contain e.
- Since it is a spanning tree, it must contain some other edge $f$ that crosses from $S$ to $V-S$.



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- But $\mathrm{c}_{\mathrm{e}} \leq \mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{f}}$, so $\mathrm{T}-\{f\} \cup\{\mathrm{e}\}$ is a spanning
 tree of smaller cost.


## The cut property

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

- Then e is contained in every minimum spanning tree.
- Assume that some spanning tree T does not contain e.
- Since it is a spanning tree, it must contain some other edge $f$ that crosses from $S$ to $V-S$.
- But $\mathrm{C}_{e} \leq \mathrm{Cf}_{\mathrm{f}}$, so $\mathrm{T}-\{f\} \cup\{\mathrm{e}\}$ is a spanning tree of smaller cost.



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- Since T is a spanning tree, there is path from $v$ to $w$.
- Let w' be the first node encountered in V -T and let $\mathrm{v}^{\prime}$ be the one before it. Let $e^{\prime}=\left(v^{\prime}, w^{\prime}\right)$.



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- Let w' be the first node encountered in V -T and let $\mathrm{v}^{\prime}$ be the one before it. Let $e^{\prime}=\left(v^{\prime}, w^{\prime}\right)$.
- Consider T' = T -\{e’\} $\cup\{e\}$.



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- The algorithm has not found any edge crossing S and V-S to the output. (Why?)


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- The edge e must be the cheapest edge crossing $S$ and $V$-S.


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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.


## Is it feasible?



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- Output T is a forest.



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- Is it connected?



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- $G$ is connected.
- Suppose by contradiction that T was not connected.



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- The algorithm would have added an edge crossing the two components.


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- This edge has one endpoint in $S$ and one in $V-S$ and has minimum cost.


## Prim's algorithm is optimal

- 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 $\mathrm{Ce}_{\mathrm{e}}$.
- 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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## The cycle property

- Assume that all edge costs are distinct.
- Let C be any cycle of G .
- Let $\mathrm{e}=(\mathrm{w}, \mathrm{v})$ be the maximum cost edge of C .
- Then e is not contained in any minimum spanning tree of $G$.


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- Assume that all edge costs are distinct.
- Let C be any cycle of G .
- Let $\mathrm{e}=(\mathrm{w}, \mathrm{v})$ be the maximum cost edge of C .
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- Let $T$ be a spanning tree that contains e.



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- We will show that it does not have minimum cost.



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- Let $T$ be a spanning tree that contains e.
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- We will substitute e with another edge e', resulting in a cheaper spanning tree.



## The cycle property

- Let $T$ be a spanning tree that contains e.
- We will show that it does not have minimum cost.
- We will substitute e with another edge e', resulting in a cheaper spanning tree.
- How to find this edge e'?



## The cycle property



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## The cycle property

- We delete e from T.
- This partitions the nodes into



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- S (containing u).



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- We follow the other path the cycle from u to w.



## The cycle property

- We delete e from T.
- This partitions the nodes into
- S (containing u).
- V - S (containing w).
- We follow the other path the cycle from u to W.
- At some point we cross from S to V - S, following edge $e^{\prime}$.



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- We delete e from T.
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- S (containing u).
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- We follow the other path the cycle from u to W.
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- The resulting graph is a tree with smaller cost.


## Reverse-Delete is optimal

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- Just before deleting, it lies on some cycle C.


## Reverse-Delete is optimal

- Consider any edge e=(v, w) which is removed by ReverseDelete.
- 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.


## Is it feasible?



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- i.e., does it always produce a spanning tree?
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- Is it connected?
- The algorithm will never disconnect the graph.
- Is it a tree?
- Suppose that it's not.



## Is it feasible?

- 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.



## Is it feasible?

- 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.



## Is it feasible?

- 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.


## Are we done?

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- What if they are not?


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Non-distinct costs

## Non-distinct costs

- Take the original instance with non-distinct costs.
- Make the costs distinct by adding small numbers $\varepsilon$ 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 $\mathrm{T}^{*}$ 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 $\varepsilon$ small enough to make sure the ones we selected are still cheaper.


## Perturbing the costs



# Perturbing the costs 

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

$1,2,2+\varepsilon, 4,4+\varepsilon, 6,7,7+\varepsilon, 8,8+\varepsilon, 9,10,11,14$

## Running time?

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## Running time?

- Kruskal's Algorithm
- We will not cover it, Kleinberg and Tardos Chapter 4.6.
- Prim's Algorithm
- Next lecture.

