

Minimum Spanning Tree

Given undirected graph

$G = (V, E)$ with edge

weights $w: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

(can[↑] be negative!)

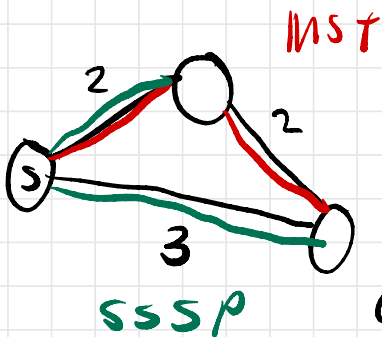
Want a minimum spanning tree.

Tree: acyclic (sub)graph
& connected

spanning: contains all vertices
of G

minimum: $\min w(T) := \sum_{e \in T} w(e)$

over all
spanning trees T



(Assuming G is
connected. Other, no
spanning trees)


We'll assume $w(e) \neq w(e')$
if $e \neq e'$.

Otherwise there could be
multiple min spanning trees.

Let T be the min spanning tree (we want this!)

We'll iteratively add one or more edges we know belong to T .

Say we're midway through:

$F \subseteq T$: the intermediate spanning forest of edges picked  so far

acyclic; may have several components

Initially, F is just $|V|$ isolated vertices.

Stop when F is connected
(it $|V|-1$ edges).

Two kinds of edges e
with respect to F .

1) Useless: $F \cup \{e\}$ has
a cycle.

T has no useless edges!



For any component of F ,
its safe edge is the
lightest edge with exactly
one endpoint in the
component.

e is safe if it is safe
for at least one endpoint's
component

Lemma (Prim '57): Min spanning
tree T contains every safe
edge wrt $F \in T$.
(with respect to)

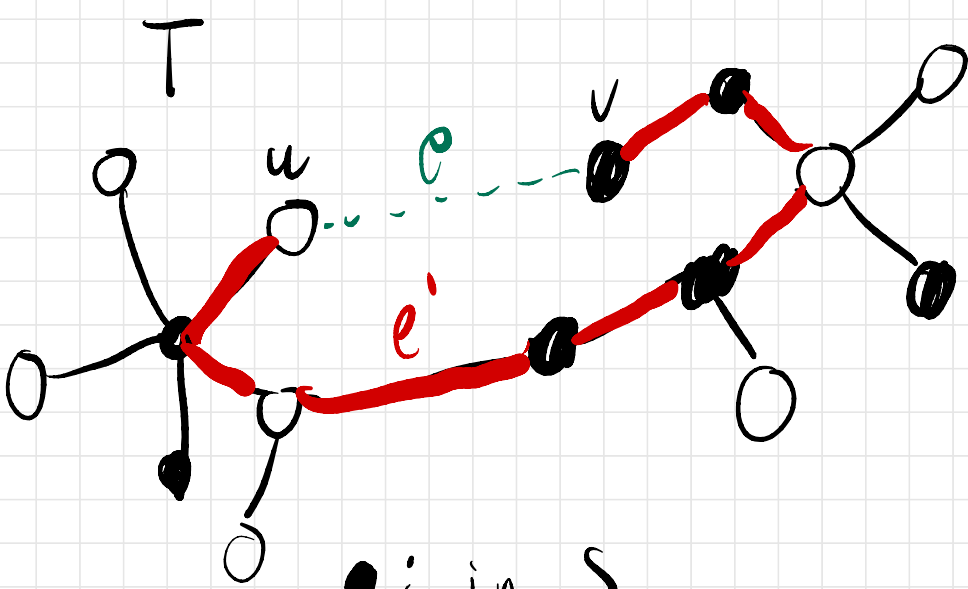
Proof: Will show: For any subset $S \subset V$ of vertices, the lightest edge with exactly one endpoint in S belongs to T .

Let T be a (the) min spanning tree.

Let e be the lightest edge leaving S .

If $e \in T$, we're done.

Suppose otherwise...



● : in S
 ○ : in $V \setminus S$

Let $uv = e$.

There is a path P from u to v .

Some edge e' of P goes from $V \setminus S$ to S .

$T - e'$ has no $u-v$ path, so
 $T' = T - e' + e$ is a spanning tree

e is safe for S , so

$$w(e) < w(e')$$

$$w(T') < w(T)$$

⊥

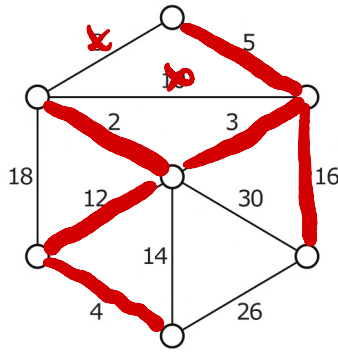
T must contain e after all!

Alg idea: Start with no edges in F .

Repeatedly add one or more safe edges until we have a spanning tree.

Kruskal '56:

Scan edges in increasing weight order. If edge is safe, add it to F .



Use disjoint set.

Make Set(v): creates a set containing only v .

Find(v): Returns the name of a vertex in v 's component.

$\text{Find}(u) = \text{Find}(v)$ iff u & v
are in same component.

$\text{Union}(u, v)$: Tells data
structure where combining
 u & v 's components.

KRUSKAL(V, E):

```
sort  $E$  by increasing weight  
 $F \leftarrow (V, \emptyset)$   
for each vertex  $v \in V$   
  MAKESET( $v$ )  
for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $|E|$   
   $uv \leftarrow$   $i$ th lightest edge in  $E$   
  if  $\text{FIND}(u) \neq \text{FIND}(v)$   
    UNION( $u, v$ )  
    add  $uv$  to  $F$   
return  $F$ 
```

$\leftarrow O(E \log V)$

$\leftarrow E \alpha(V)$

$$O(E \log E) = O(E \log V^2) = O(E \log V)$$

sort

use wming graph

is simple \Rightarrow
 $E = \binom{V}{2} = V^2$


$O(V)$ MakeSet + Union

$O(E)$ Find

Simple answer: $O(\log V)$ time
per operation, so

$O(E \log V)$ total.

Disjoint sets with path
compression structure:

$O(E \alpha(V)) = o(E \log V)$ time
total  very very small

inverse Ackermann function

$\alpha(V) \leq 4$ for any $V = \#$ stars

But we had to sort it

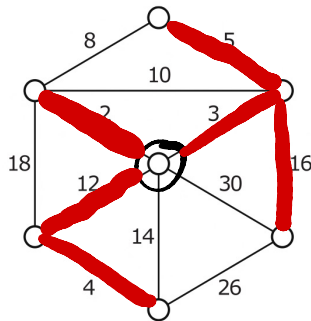
$O(E \log V)$ total

Jarník '29:

Prim '57:

F has one non-trivial
component.

Always add safe edge for
that one component.



One implementation:

Keep a priority queue of edges leaving the component.

Add edges leaving same vertex.

Repeat until queue is empty

Delete uv from queue

If either endpoint unmarked

Mark both endpoints

Add uv to F

Add outgoing edges of newly marked vertex

Return F

Binary Heap gives $O(\log E) = O(\log V)$

time per operation

$O(E \log V)$ total

We'll make this fester next
week.

Borůvka '26:

Add all safe edges +
repeat.

$O(E)$ time to compute components
of F + find their safe
edges.

You'll have at most half
the # components each
iteration.

$\Rightarrow O(\log V)$ iterations

$\Rightarrow \underline{O(E \log V)}$ time total

A variant runs in $O(V)$
time for certain nice
types of graphs (planar).