

## 6.3: Minimum Spanning Tree

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- Given: undirected, connected graph $G=(V, E, w)$ with non-negative edge weights



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- Given: undirected, connected graph $G=(V, E, w)$ with non-negative edge weights
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Must be necessarily a tree!


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- Goal: Find a subgraph $\subseteq E$ of minimum total weight that links all vertices


Applications

- Street Networks, Wiring Electronic Components, Laying Pipes
- Weights may represent distances, costs, travel times, capacities, resistance etc.


## Generic Algorithm

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1: $\quad A=$ empty set of edges
2: while $A$ does not span all vertices yet:
3: add a safe edge to A

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## How to find a safe edge?

Finding safe edges

## Definitions

- a cut is a partition of $V$ into at least two disjoint sets

Finding safe edges


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## Definitions

- a cut is a partition of $V$ into at least two disjoint sets
- a cut respects $A \subseteq E$ if no edge of $A$ goes across the cut


Let $A \subseteq E$ be a subset of a MST of $G$. Then for any cut that respects $A$, the lightest edge of $G$ that goes across the cut is safe.

## Proof of Theorem

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- This cycle crosses the cut through $e_{\ell}$ and another edge $e_{x}$



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- If $w\left(e_{\ell}\right)<w\left(e_{X}\right)$, then this spanning tree has
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- If $w\left(e_{\ell}\right)=w\left(e_{x}\right)$, then $T \cup e_{\ell} \backslash e_{x}$ is a MST.


## Glimpse at Kruskal's Algorithm


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## Details of Kruskal's Algorithm

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1: Apply Kruskal's algorithm to graph G
2: Return set of edges that form a MST
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4: A = Set() # Set of edges of MST; initially empty.
5: D = DisjointSet()
6: for v in G.vertices():
7: D.makeSet (v)
8: E = G.edges()
9: E.sort(key=weight, direction=ascending)
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11: for edge in E:
12: startSet = D.findSet (edge.start)
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If edges are already sorted, runtime becomes $O(E \cdot \alpha(n))$ !

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    Correctness
    - Consider the cut of all connected components (disjoint sets)
- L. 14 ensures that we extend $A$ by an edge that goes across the cut
- This edge is also the lightest edge crossing the cut (otherwise, we would have included a lighter edge before)


## Prim's Algorithm

## - Basic Strategy

- Start growing a tree from a designated root vertex



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Implementation will be based on vertices!


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Assign every vertex not in $A$ a key which is at all stages equal to the smallest weight of an edge connecting to $A$


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## Prim's Algorithm

Implementation

- Every vertex in $Q$ has key and pointer of least-weight edge to $V \backslash Q$
- At each step:

1. extract vertex from $Q$ with smallest key $\Leftrightarrow$ safe edge of $\operatorname{cut}(V \backslash Q, Q)$
2. update keys and pointers of its neighbors in $Q$


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- Every vertex in $Q$ has key and pointer of least-weight edge to $V \backslash Q$
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Final MST is given (implicitly) by the pointers!

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def prim(G,r)
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Q = MinPriorityQueue()
for v in G.vertices():
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- Binary/Binomial Heaps:

Init (I. 6-13): $\mathcal{O}(V)$, ExtractMin (15): $\mathcal{O}(V \cdot \log V)$, DecreaseKey (16-20): $\mathcal{O}(E \cdot \log V)$ $\Rightarrow$ Overall: $\mathcal{O}(V \log V+E \log V)$

## Summary (Kruskal and Prim)

Generic Idea

- Add safe edge to the current MST as long as possible
- Theorem: An edge is safe if it is the lightest of a cut respecting $A$


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Kruskal's Algorithm

- Gradually transforms a forest into a MST by merging trees
- invokes disjoint set data structure
- Runtime $\mathcal{O}(E \log V)$


## Prim's Algorithm

- Gradually extends a tree into a MST by adding incident edges
- invokes Fibonacci heaps (priority queue)
- Runtime $\mathcal{O}(V \log V+E)$


## Outlook: Reverse-Delete Algorithm

## Basic Idea

- Let $A$ be initially the set of all edges
- Consider all edges in decreasing order of their weight
- Remove edge from $A$ as long as all vertices are connected by $A$



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Pettie, Ramachandran, JACM'2002

- deterministic MST algorithm with asymptotically optimal runtime
- however, the runtime itself is not known...

