

# Lecture II - Paths and Trees

<sup>1</sup> Department of Mathematics and Systems Analysis,  
Systems Analysis Laboratory, Aalto University, Finland

January 8, 2024



**Aalto University**

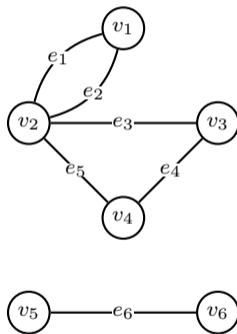
Previously on..

# PREVIOUSLY ON...

- Graphs
- Paths, Walks, Trials,
- BFS and DFS.

# Useful Definitions

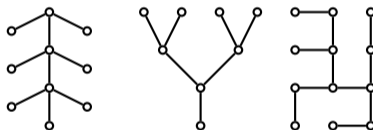
- Path  $P$  in  $G$  from  $u_1$  to  $u_{k+1}$ :
  - Graph  $(\{u_1, \dots, u_{k+1}\}, \{a_1, \dots, a_k\})$  with  $[u_1, a_1, u_2, \dots, u_k, a_k, u_{k+1}]$  walk and  $u_i \neq u_j$ ,  $1 \leq i < j \leq k + 1$
  - e.g.  $[v_1, e_1, v_2, e_3, v_3, e_4, v_4]$
- Cycle  $C$  in  $G$ :
  - graph  $(\{u_1, \dots, u_k\}, \{a_1, \dots, a_k\})$  with  $[u_1, a_1, u_2, \dots, u_k, a_k, u_1]$  (closed) walk,  $k \geq 2$  and  $u_i \neq u_j$ ,  $1 \leq i < j \leq k$
  - e.g.  $[v_2, e_3, v_3, e_4, v_4, e_5, v_2]$



# Trees and forests

## Definition

- A graph  $G$  without a cycle is called *forest*.
- A *connected* graph  $G$  without a cycle is called *tree*.



## Theorem

*Let  $G = (V, E)$  undirected graph with  $|V| = n$ . Then the following are equivalent:*

- a)  $G$  is a tree, i.e., connected and cycle-free.*
- b)  $G$  is cycle-free and has  $n - 1$  edges.*
- c)  $G$  is connected and has  $n - 1$  edges.*
- d)  $G$  is minimally connected (removing an edge  $\Rightarrow$  not connected anymore).*
- e)  $G$  is maximally cycle-free (adding an edge  $\Rightarrow$  cycle).*
- f)  $G$  contains a unique  $u - v$  path for any pair of vertices  $u, v \in V$ .*

# Spanning trees

## Definition

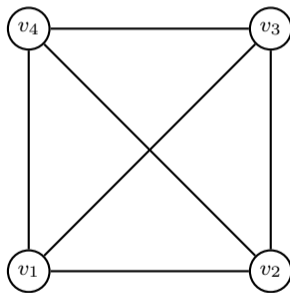
Let  $G = (V, E)$  undirected graph.  $T = (V, E')$  with  $E' \subseteq E$  is a *spanning tree* of  $G$  iff  $T$  is a tree.

## Lemma

$G$  is connected iff it contains a spanning tree.

## Theorem

Let  $K_n = (V, E)$  be the complete graph with  $|V| = n$  vertices, i.e., for any  $u, v \in V$  the edge  $\{u, v\} \in E$  exists. Then the number of spanning trees in  $K_n$  is  $n^{n-2}$ .



Combinatorial Optimization

Previously on..

Useful Definitions

Shortest Path

Spanning Tree



# Shortest Path

# Finding Paths

Finding the **minimum path length** between **two nodes** is trivial.

→ **BFS** can be easily applied;

Finding the **minimum path length** between **a node and all the others** is also trivial.

→ **BFS** apply to each node individually;

**Challenge:** finding the **minimum-cost path** from a node to all the other in a **weighted** graph.

A **weighted graph** is a graph where all the edges has a specific value associated to them. It can also named as a **flow network**.

## Definition (Flow network)

A tuple  $G = (V, E, f)$  is said to be a *flow network* if  $(V, E)$  where for every edge  $(u, v) \in E$  we have an associated positive integer *flow value*  $f_{uv}$ .

It also satisfying *conservation of flow* for every  $v \in V \setminus \{s, t\}$ , where  $s$  is an unique source and  $t$  is unique sink.

$$\sum_{(u,v) \in E} f_{uv} = \sum_{(v,w) \in E} f_{vw}. \quad (1)$$

# General Idea

**Goal:** from a given node, what are the shortest path to each of the other vertices.  
Unfortunately, BFS will not suffice.

Shortest path may not have the fewest edges.

**Alternative:** Dijkstra's algorithm.

# Dijkstra

Edsger Dijkstra (1930-2002)



Figure: Edsger W. Dijkstra

*"Simplicity is prerequisite for reliability."*

Combinatorial  
Optimization

Previously on..

Useful  
Definitions

Shortest Path

Spanning Tree

# General Idea

- 1 Iteratively increase the "set of nodes with known shortest distances";
- 2 Any node outside this set will have a "best distance so far";
- 3 Update the "best distance so far" until add all nodes to set.

# Dijkstra's Algorithm

---

## Algorithm: DIJKSTRA'S ALGORITHM - Preparation

---

**Input:** undirected, connected graph  $G$ , weights  $c: E(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , nodes  $V$ , source  $s$

- 1  $d_v$  distance to reach node  $v$
  - 2  $p_v$  node predecessor to node  $v$
  - 3  $Q \leftarrow \emptyset$  set of "unknown distance" nodes.
  - 4 **for** each node  $v$  in  $V$  **do**
    - 5      $d_v \leftarrow \infty$
    - 6      $p_v \leftarrow FALSE$
    - 7     add  $v$  in  $Q$
  - 8  $d_s \leftarrow 0$
-

# Dijkstra's Algorithm

---

## Algorithm: DIJKSTRA'S ALGORITHM - Calculation

---

**Output:**  $d_v, p_v$

```
1 while  $Q \neq \emptyset$  do
2    $u \leftarrow$  node in  $Q$  with  $\min d_u$ 
3   remove  $u$  from  $Q$ 
4   for each neighbor  $v$  of  $u$  still in  $Q$  do
5      $d \leftarrow d_u + c_{uv}$ 
6     if  $alt < d_v$  then
7        $d_v \leftarrow alt$ 
8        $p_v \leftarrow u$ 
9 return  $d_v, p_v$ 
```

---

Combinatorial  
Optimization

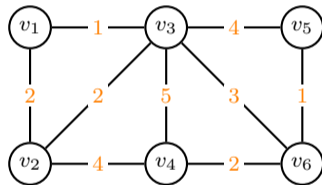
Previously on..

Useful  
Definitions

Shortest Path

Spanning Tree





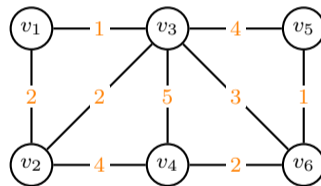
# Spanning Tree

# Minimal spanning trees

## Minimum Spanning Tree Problem

Instance: An undirected, connected graph  $G$ , weights  $c: E(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

Task: Find a spanning tree  $T$  in  $G$  of minimum weight.



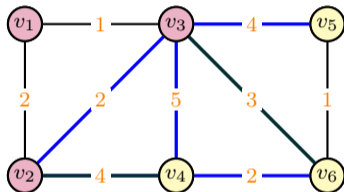
# Optimality conditions

## Theorem

Let  $(G, c)$  be an instance of the MST problem and  $T$  a spanning tree in  $G$ . Then the following are equivalent:

- a)  $T$  is optimal.
- b) For every  $e = \{x, y\} \in E(G) \setminus E(T)$ , no edge on the  $x - y$  path in  $T$  has higher cost than  $e$ .
- c) For every  $e \in E(T)$ ,  $e$  is a minimum cost edge of  $\delta(V(C))$ , where  $C$  is a connected component of  $T - e$ .
- d) We can order  $E(T) = \{e_1, \dots, e_{n-1}\}$  such that for each  $i \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$  there exists a set  $X \subseteq V(G)$  such that  $e_i$  is a minimum cost edge of  $\delta(X)$  and  $e_j \notin \delta(X)$  for all  $j \in \{1, \dots, i-1\}$ .

# Optimality conditions



$$\delta(X) = \{\{u, v\} \in E : u \in X, v \notin X\}$$

edges from  $X$  to  $V(G) \setminus X$

# Two algorithms

## Theorem

Let  $G = (V, E)$  undirected graph with  $|V| = n$ . Then the following are equivalent:

- a)  $G$  is a tree, i.e., connected and cycle-free.
- d)  $G$  is minimally connected (removing an edge  $\Rightarrow$  not connected anymore).
- e)  $G$  is maximally cycle-free (adding an edge  $\Rightarrow$  cycle).

## Kruskal

- guaranteed to be cycle-free
- greedily add edges until *maximally cycle-free*

## Prim

- grow one connected component
- greedily add edges until *minimally connected*

# Kruskal's algorithm

---

## Algorithm: KRUSKAL'S ALGORITHM

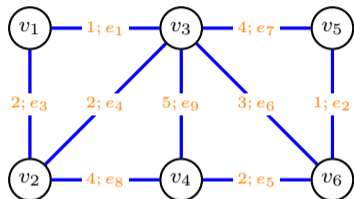
---

**Input:** undirected, connected graph  $G$ , weights  $c: E(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

**Output:** spanning tree  $T$  of minimum weight

- 1 sort edges such that  $c(e_1) \leq c(e_2) \leq \dots \leq c(e_m)$
  - 2 set  $T := (V(G), \emptyset)$
  - 3 **for**  $i := 1$  **to**  $m$  **do**
  - 4     **if**  $T + e_i$  *contains no cycle* **then**
  - 5         set  $T := T + e_i$
  - 6 **return**  $T$
-

# Kruskal's algorithm



Test:

$$E(T) = \emptyset \quad E(T) = \{e_1\}$$

$$E(T) = \{e_1, e_2\} \quad E(T) = \{e_1, e_2, e_3\}$$

$$E(T) = \{e_1, e_2, e_3, e_5\}$$

$$E(T) = \{e_1, e_2, e_3, e_5, e_6\}$$

$$e_1 = \{v_1, v_3\} \checkmark \quad e_2 = \{v_5, v_6\} \checkmark$$

$$e_3 = \{v_1, v_2\} \checkmark \quad e_4 = \{v_2, v_3\} \times \rightsquigarrow \text{cycle}$$

$$e_5 = \{v_4, v_6\} \checkmark \quad e_6 = \{v_3, v_6\} \checkmark$$

$$e_7 = \{v_3, v_5\} \times \rightsquigarrow \text{cycle} \quad e_8 = \{v_2, v_4\}$$

$$\times \rightsquigarrow \text{cycle} \quad e_9 = \{v_3, v_5\} \times \rightsquigarrow \text{cycle}$$



# Kruskal's algorithm – Correctness

---

## Algorithm: KRUSKAL'S ALGORITHM

---

**Input:** undirected, connected graph  $G$ ,  
weights  $c: E(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

**Output:** spanning tree  $T$  of minimum  
weight

- 1 sort edges such that  
 $c(e_1) \leq c(e_2) \leq \dots \leq c(e_m)$
  - 2 set  $T := (V(G), \emptyset)$
  - 3 **for**  $i := 1$  **to**  $m$  **do**
  - 4     **if**  $T + e_i$  contains no cycle **then**
  - 5         set  $T := T + e_i$
  - 6 **return**  $T$
- 

- $T$  is maximally cycle-free  
(no further edge can be added)  
 $\Rightarrow T$  is a tree
- **for**  
 $e_i = \{x, y\} \in E(G) \setminus E(T)$ :
  - $T + e_i$  contains a cycle in line 4
  - there exists a  $x - y$  path in  $T$  at this point
  - all edges in  $T$  have lower weight than  $e_i$  at this point

$\Rightarrow T$  is MST

# Kruskal's algorithm – Running time

---

## Algorithm: KRUSKAL'S ALGORITHM

---

**Input:** undirected, connected graph  $G$ ,  
weights  $c: E(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

**Output:** spanning tree  $T$  of minimum  
weight

```

1 sort edges such that
    $c(e_1) \leq c(e_2) \leq \dots \leq c(e_m)$ 
2 set  $T := (V(G), \emptyset)$ 
3 for  $i := 1$  to  $m$  do
4   if  $T + e_i$  contains no cycle then
5     set  $T := T + e_i$ 
6 return  $T$ 

```

---

- sorting edges:  
 $O(m \log m)$
  - loop lines 3-5: checking  
 $m$  times for cycles
  - checking for cycle  
containing  $e = \{u, v\}$ 
    - DFS starting from  $u$   
with at most  $n$   
edges, check if  $v$  is  
reachable:  $O(n)$
- $\rightsquigarrow$  total running time:  
 $O(mn)$

# Prim's algorithm

---

## Algorithm: PRIM'S ALGORITHM

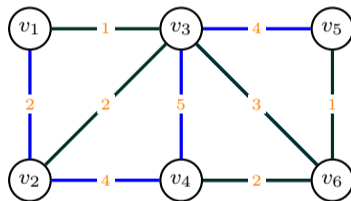
---

**Input:** undirected, connected graph  $G$ , weights  $c: E(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

**Output:** spanning tree  $T$  of minimum weight

- 1 choose  $v \in V(G)$
  - 2 set  $T := (\{v\}, \emptyset)$
  - 3 **while**  $V(T) \neq V(G)$  **do**
  - 4     choose an edge  $e \in \delta_G(V(T))$  of minimum weight
  - 5     set  $T := T + e$
  - 6 **return**  $T$
-

# Prim's algorithm



# Prim's algorithm

$$V(T) = \{v_1\}$$

$$E(T) = \emptyset \quad V(T) = \{v_1, v_3\}$$

$$E(T) = \{\{v_1, v_3\}\} \quad V(T) = \{v_1, v_3, v_2\}$$

$$E(T) = \{\{v_1, v_3\}, \{v_2, v_3\}\} \quad V(T) = \{v_1, v_3, v_2, v_6\}$$

$$E(T) = \{\{v_1, v_3\}, \{v_2, v_3\}, \{v_3, v_6\}\} \quad V(T) = \{v_1, v_3, v_2, v_6, v_5\}$$

$$E(T) = \{\{v_1, v_3\}, \{v_2, v_3\}, \{v_3, v_6\}, \{v_5, v_6\}\} \quad V(T) = \{v_1, v_3, v_2, v_6, v_5, v_4\}$$

$$E(T) = \{\{v_1, v_3\}, \{v_2, v_3\}, \{v_3, v_6\}, \{v_5, v_6\}, \{v_4, v_6\}\}$$

$$\delta_G(V(T)) =$$

$$\{\{v_1, v_2\}, \{v_1, v_3\}\} \quad \{\{v_1, v_2\}, \{v_2, v_3\}, \{v_3, v_4\}, \{v_3, v_5\}, \{v_3, v_6\}\}$$

$$\{\{v_2, v_4\}, \{v_3, v_4\}, \{v_3, v_5\}, \{v_3, v_6\}\}$$

$$\{\{v_2, v_4\}, \{v_3, v_4\}, \{v_3, v_5\}, \{v_4, v_6\}, \{v_5, v_6\}\} \quad \{\{v_2, v_4\}, \{v_3, v_4\}, \{v_4, v_6\}\}$$

# Summary running times MST

## Kruskal

naive implementation

$$O(mn)$$

most optimal

$$O(m \log n)$$

## Prim

naive implementation

$$O(m + n^2)$$

most optimal

$$O(m \log n)$$

