CSE 421 Algorithms

Richard Anderson Lecture 10 Minimum Spanning Trees

Announcements

- Homework 3 is due now
- Homework 4, due 10/26, available now
- Reading
 - Chapter 5
 - (Sections 4.8, 4.9 will not be covered in class)
- Guest lecturers (10/28 11/4)
 - Anna Karlin
 - Venkat Guruswami



Negative Cost Edge Preview

- Topological Sort can be used for solving the shortest path problem in directed acyclic graphs
- Bellman-Ford algorithm finds shortest paths in a graph with negative cost edges (or reports the existence of a negative cost cycle).



Edge costs are assumed to be non-negative















Why do the greedy algorithms work?

- For simplicity, assume all edge costs are distinct
- Let S be a subset of V, and suppose e = (u, v) be the minimum cost edge of E, with u in S and v in V-S
- e is in every minimum spanning tree

Proof

- Suppose T is a spanning tree that does not contain e
- Add e to T, this creates a cycle
- The cycle must have some edge $e_1 = (u_1, v_1)$ with u_1 in S and v_1 in V-S
- + T₁ = T {e₁} + {e} is a spanning tree with lower cost
- Hence, T is not a minimum spanning tree

Optimality Proofs

- Prim's Algorithm computes a MST
- · Kruskal's Algorithm computes a MST

Reverse-Delete Algorithm

• Lemma: The most expensive edge on a cycle is never in a minimum spanning tree

Dealing with the assumption

- Force the edge weights to be distinct – Add small quantities to the weights
 - Give a tie breaking rule for equal weight edges