

The problem can be viewed as a special kind of cases for Metric-TSP with "terminals" when all vertexes in a graph are "terminals." The result should accord with greedy Steiner algorithm that gives $O(\log n)$.

Let $i_1, i_2, \dots, i_{|V|}$ be the order in which the solution produced by approximation visits all vertexes in G . Let p_i be the i th edge chosen that connects to a nearest vertex and $c(i)$ the cost of p_i . Then it must be the case that, for all $1 \leq j \leq |V|$,

$$c(i_j) \leq \frac{2 * OPT}{j}$$

where OPT denotes the minimal possible cost. We prove this by contradiction as shown below.

Suppose $c(i_j) > \frac{2 * OPT}{j}$ for some j . Let $i'_1, i'_2, \dots, i'_{|V|}$ be same vertexes in the new order. We pick any two vertexes i'_a and i'_b such that each is either $i_{|V|}$ or in S' . Assume $1 \leq a < b \leq |V|$ and then $c(i'_b) \leq \frac{2 * OPT}{j}$ according to ???, which leads to contradiction.

Adding up costs of individual vertexes, we have a total cost

$$\sum_{j=1}^{|V|} \frac{2 * OPT}{j} = 2 * OPT * \sum_{j=1}^{|V|} \frac{1}{j}.$$

In this case we view $2 * OPT$ as constant and notice that $\sum_{j=1}^{|V|} \frac{1}{j}$ is bounded by $O(\log |V|)$. Therefore, this algorithm gives a $O(\log n)$ -approximation for the Metric-TSP problem where $n = |V|$.