Week 9 - Spanning Trees

AD 325 - 2021

Contents

Learning Outcomes

- Spanning trees
- Minimum spanning trees (MST)
- Applications of MST

Reading & Videos

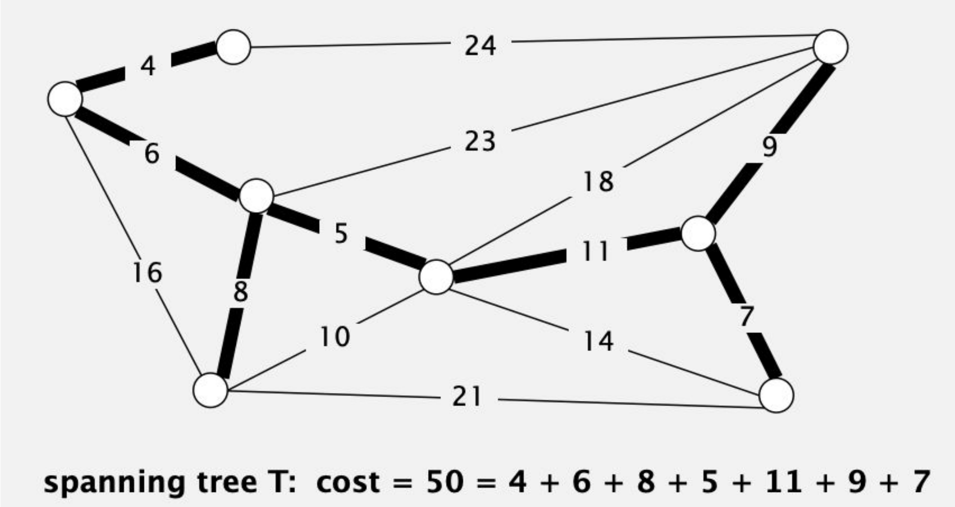
- https://www.coursera.org/learn/algorithms-part2/home/week/2 (MST)

Reference

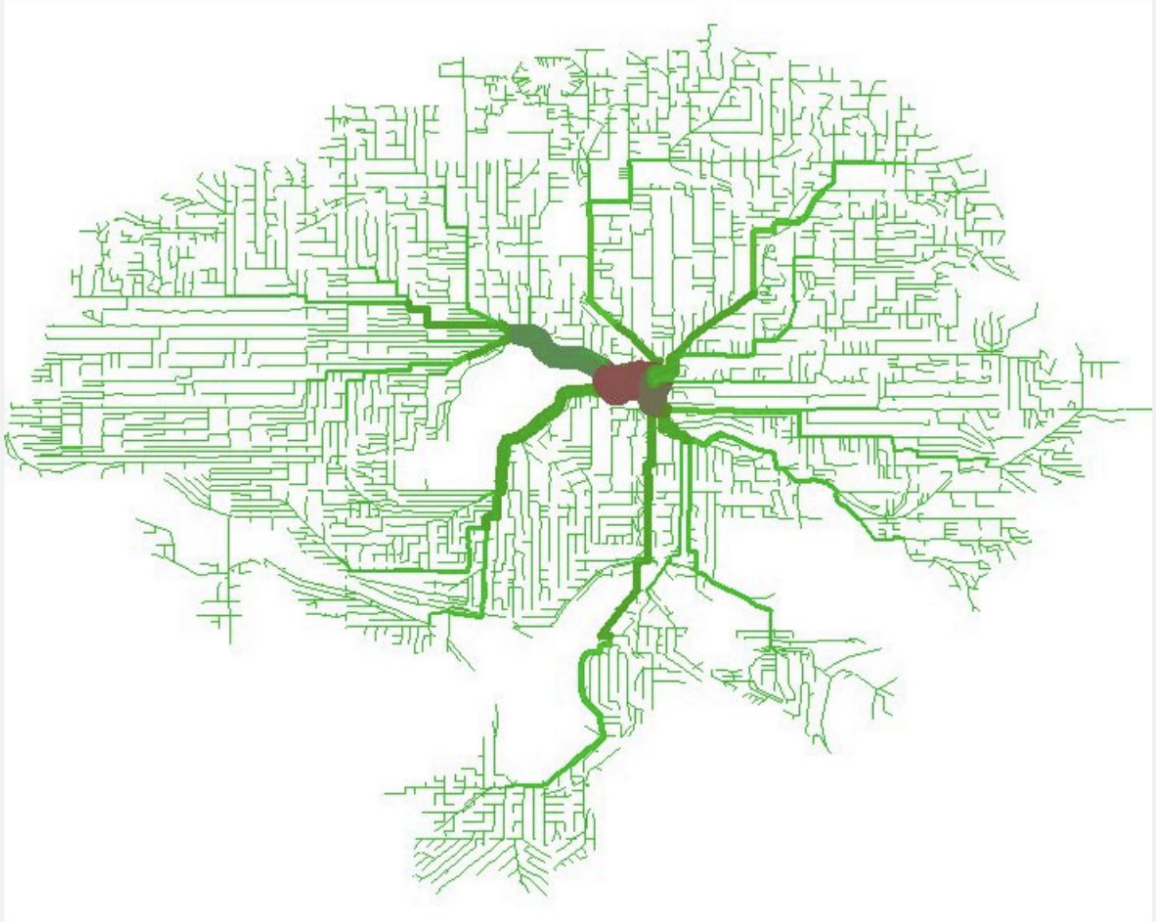
- https://algs4.cs.princeton.edu/43mst/
- https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/graph-data-structure-and-algorithms/#minimumSpanningTree

Overview

A **spanning tree** is a **connected**, **acyclical** subgraph that spans all vertices of a graph. Minimum Spanning Trees (MST) are fundamental to a wide range of applications - e.g. clustering, routing.



MST of bicycle routes in North Seattle



http://www.flickr.com/photos/ewedistrict/21980840

Finding a MST

- **Cut** (partition) the graph vertices into two sets
- Find **crossing edges** that connect any vertex in one set with a vertex in the other set
- Find the **crossing edge** with minimum weight using a **greedy** algorithm
- Connect the target vertex to the origin set
- Repeat until all vertices are connected (e.g. when number of edges is V-1)

Weighted Edge API

MST algorithms require an API to select and compare weighted edges

Kruskal's algorithm

- Arrange graph edges in ascending order of weight using a Min Priority Queue
- Add next edge with lowest weight to the tree unless doing so would create a cycle
- Uses union-find data structure to efficiently combine sets

Prim's algorithm

- Start with vertex 0 and grow tree greedily
- Add the min weight edge with only one endpoint in the tree
- Keep track of visited and disallowed edges
- Repeat until tree has V-1 edges
- Array implementation is optimal for dense graphs
- Binary heap is much faster for sparse graphs