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* Minimum Spanning Tree:

It is a connected, undirected graph that has the minimum cost (weight) tree-like subgraph.

* Real-world applications:

I would say it is used to design Network-like structures such as telephone lines network, electrical line, road since it used to get the minimum cost of connecting vertices.

* Does the sample graph hardcoded in your program have a unique Minimum Spanning Tree?

Yes it does have a unique minimum Spanning Tree since the weight are distinct.

* What parameters point towards a unique MST?

The total cost will be remain the same no matter what kind of starting point. All vertices will be connected.