

# Lecture 11: Minimum Spanning Trees and Shortest Paths

C++ Code Samples — Sedgwick Algorithms Course — lecture-11-samples.cpp

```
/****************************************************************************
 * Lecture 11: Minimum Spanning Trees and Shortest Paths
 *
 * Topics covered:
 *   1. Weighted edge and weighted graph structures
 *   2. Kruskal's MST with Union-Find
 *   3. Prim's MST (eager, using min-heap)
 *   4. Dijkstra's shortest path algorithm
 *   5. Demo: show MST edges and total weight, shortest distances
 *
 * Compile: g++ -std=c++17 -o lecture-11 lecture-11-samples.cpp
 * Run: ./lecture-11
 **************************************************************************/

#include <iostream>
#include <vector>
#include <queue>
#include <algorithm>
#include <climits>
#include <numeric>

using namespace std;

// === SECTION: Weighted Edge and Graph Structures ===

struct Edge
    int u, v;
    double weight;

    bool operator< const Edge & other const
        return weight < other.weight;
};

class WeightedGraph
public:
    int n;
    vector<vector<pair<int, double>>> adj; // adj[u] = {(v, weight), ...}
    vector<pair<int, double>> edges; // all edges (for Kruskal)

    WeightedGraph(int n) : n(n), adj(n) {}

    void addEdge(int u, int v, double w) {
        adj[u].push_back({v, w});
        adj[v].push_back({u, w});
        edges.push_back({u, v, w});
    }

    void print() {
        cout << "Graph with " << n << " nodes and " << edges.size() << " edges." << endl;
        for (int i = 0; i < n; ++i) {
            cout << "Node " << i << ": ";
            for (auto j : adj[i])
                cout << " (" << j.first << ", " << j.second << ")";
            cout << endl;
        }
    }
};

// === SECTION: Union-Find (Disjoint Set) ===
// Used by Kruskal's algorithm to efficiently detect cycles.
// With path compression and union by rank: nearly O(1) per operation.

class UnionFind
public:
    vector<int> parent, rank;
    int n;

    UnionFind(int n) : n(n), parent(n, 0), rank(n, 0) { // parent[i] = i }

    int find(int i) {
        if (parent[i] == i)
            return i;
        parent[i] = find(parent[i]);
        return parent[i];
    }

    void unionSet(int i, int j) {
        int pi = find(i);
        int pj = find(j);

        if (rank[pi] > rank[pj]) {
            parent[pj] = pi;
        } else if (rank[pi] < rank[pj]) {
            parent[pi] = pj;
        } else {
            parent[pj] = pi;
            rank[pi]++;
        }
    }
};
```

```

int find(int u)
{
    if (parent[u] != u)
        parent[u] = find(parent[u]); // path compression
    return parent[u];
}

bool union(int u, int v)
{
    int pu = find(u), pv = find(v);
    if (pu == pv) return false; // already in same set

    // Union by rank: attach smaller tree under larger tree
    if (rank[pu] < rank[pv])
        parent[pu] = pv;
    else if (rank[pu] == rank[pv])
        rank[pv]++;
    parent[pv] = pu;
    return true;
}

bool connected(int u, int v)
{
    return find(u) == find(v);
}

// === SECTION: Kruskal's MST ===
// Greedy algorithm: sort all edges by weight, then add edges that don't
// create a cycle (checked via Union-Find).
// Time: O(E log E) for sorting.

struct MSTResult
{
    vector<pair<int, int>> edges;
    double weight;
};

MSTResult kruskalMST(const Graph& g)
{
    MSTResult result;
    result.edges = {};
    result.weight = 0;

    // Sort edges by weight
    sort(g.edges.begin(), g.edges.end());
    for (const auto& e : g.edges)
    {
        // If u and v are in different components, adding this edge is safe
        if (find(e.u) != find(e.v))
        {
            result.edges.push_back(e);
            result.weight += e.w;
        }
    }

    // MST has exactly V-1 edges
    if (int(result.edges.size()) == g.V - 1) break;
}

return result;
}

// === SECTION: Prim's MST (Eager, Min-Heap) ===
// Start from vertex 0. Maintain a priority queue of edges crossing the cut
// between the MST and the rest of the graph. Always pick the lightest edge.
// Time: O(E log V) with a binary heap.

MSTResult primMST(const Graph& g)
{

```

```

// Min-heap: (weight, vertex)
minDist[v].first = 0
minDist[v].second = -1
minDist[v].third = false

// Min-heap: (weight, vertex)
minDist[u].first < minDist[v].first < minDist[w].first
minDist[u].second < minDist[v].second < minDist[w].second
minDist[u].third < minDist[v].third < minDist[w].third

minDist[0] = 0
parent[0] = 0

while !minDist.empty() {
    auto [dist, u] = minDist.top();
    minDist.pop();

    if (parent[u] == -1) continue;
    parent[u] = -1;
    dist += dist;

    if (parent[u] != -1)
        result.push_back({parent[u], u, dist});

    // Relax edges from u
    for (auto v : adj[u]) {
        if (!minDist[v].third && minDist[v].first > dist) {
            minDist[v].first = dist;
            minDist[v].second = u;
            minDist[v].third = true;
            minDist.push(v);
        }
    }
}

return result;
}

// === SECTION: Dijkstra's Shortest Path ===
// Find shortest paths from a single source to all other vertices in a
// non-negative weighted graph.
// Greedy: always process the vertex with the smallest known distance.
// Time: O(E log V) with a binary heap.

struct DijkstraResult {
    double dist;
    int parent;
};

DijkstraResult dijkstra(const vector<vector<pair<double, int>>> &adj, int start) {
    DijkstraResult result;
    result.dist = 1e18;
    result.parent = -1;

    // Min-heap: (distance, vertex)
    minDist[u].first < minDist[v].first < minDist[w].first
    minDist[u].second < minDist[v].second < minDist[w].second
    minDist[u].third < minDist[v].third < minDist[w].third

    minDist[0] = 0;
    parent[0] = 0;

    while !minDist.empty() {
        auto [dist, u] = minDist.top();
        minDist.pop();
    }
}

```

```

// Skip if we already found a shorter path to u
if (v > maxDistance) continue;

// Relax each neighbor
for (auto u : adj[u])
    double weight = distance[u] + w;
    if (weight < distance[v])
        distance[v] = weight;
        pq.push({distance[v], v});
}

}

return maxDistance;
}

// Reconstruct shortest path from source to target
int shortestPath(const vector<vector<int>> &adj, int target)
{
    if (target >= 1e18) return -1;
    for (int i = 0; i != n; ++i)
        distance[i] = INT_MAX;
    distance[0] = 0;
    pq.push({0, 0});

    reconstructPath(target);
    return distance[target];
}

// === MAIN: Demos ===

int main()
{
    cout << "===== \n";
    cout << " Lecture 11: MST and Shortest Paths \n";
    cout << "===== \n\n";

    // Sample weighted graph:
    //      1
    //      0 ----- 1
    //      |   \   |   \
    //      4|   2\  |3   6\
    //      |   \   |   \
    //      3 ----- 2 ----- 4
    //          5       7
    //
    // Edges: (0,1,1) (0,2,2) (0,3,4) (1,2,3) (1,4,6) (2,3,5) (2,4,7)

    vector<vector<int>> g(8);
    g[0] = {1, 1};
    g[0] = {2, 2};
    g[0] = {3, 4};
    g[1] = {2, 3};
    g[1] = {4, 6};
    g[2] = {3, 5};
    g[2] = {4, 7};

    // --- Kruskal's MST ---
    cout << " --- Kruskal's MST --- \n";
    vector<int> mst;
    cout << " MST edges: \n";
    for (const auto &e : adj)
        cout << " " << e[0] << " - " << e[1] << " (" << e[2] << " ) \n";
}

```

```

    << " Total MST weight: " << mstTotalWeight << "\n\n"

// --- Prim's MST ---
<< "--- Prim's MST ---\n"
for const & e : EdgeList {
    << "   " << e << " --> "
    << " (weight " << e.weight << ")\n"
}
<< " Total MST weight: " << mstTotalWeight << "\n\n"

// --- Dijkstra's Shortest Path ---
<< "--- Dijkstra's Shortest Path (source=0) ---\n"
for int i = 0 < V; ++i {
    << "   0 -> " << i << " : "
    << <int> dist[i] = minDistances[i];
    << "   path: "
    for int j = 0 < int pathLength; ++j {
        if > 0 << " -> "
        <<
    }
    << "\n"
}
<< "\n"

// --- Comparison ---
<< " --- Key Differences ---\n"
<< " Kruskal: sorts all edges globally, uses Union-Find\n"
<< "       Best for sparse graphs (E close to V)\n"
<< " Prim:      grows MST from a starting vertex, uses min-heap\n"
<< "       Best for dense graphs (E close to V^2)\n"
<< " Both produce a MST with the same total weight: "
<< mstTotalWeight << "\n"

return 0

```