

1. Prove that if all edge weights are distinct in an undirected graph $G = (V, E)$, then it has a unique minimum spanning tree.

This question can be proved by contradiction.

Suppose there are two minimum spanning trees t_1 and t_2 . As a result, there exists at least one edge that belongs to t_1 and does not belong to t_2 .

Let an edge in that set with lowest weight be $edge_1$. Due to the fact that all edge weights are distinct in the undirected graph, $edge_1$ is unique. As a result, if we add $edge_1$ to t_2 , a cycle is formed because t_2 is also a minimum spanning tree.

If there is a cycle in t_2 , there must be an edge in the cycle that is not contained in t_1 due to the fact that t_1 does not contain the cycle. Let us call this edge $edge_2$.

Now we have two edges: $edge_1$ and $edge_2$. $Edge_1$ has the lowest weight which implies $edge_2$ must be greater than $edge_1$. As a result, if we replace $edge_2$ with $edge_1$ in t_2 , we can obtain a smaller cost of spanning tree.

The conclusion contradicts our original assumption that t_2 is a minimum spanning tree.