

Minimum-Cost Bounded-Degree Spanning Tree

Girvar Patidar | Somya Bansal

Problem Overview

Given

- Graph $G = (V, E)$
- Edge costs c_e
- Degree bounds b_v
- Find a spanning tree minimizing cost while keeping $\text{degree}(v) \leq b_v$.

Research Goals

Remove reliance on time-consuming Linear Programming and adapt combinatorial local search techniques.

Local Search Algorithm - Unweighted Graphs

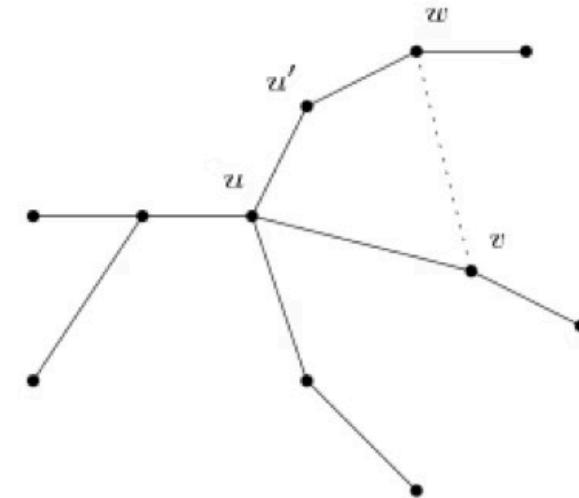
Problem: Find a spanning tree T that minimizes the maximum degree of any vertex v in T .

Local Move Definition

- Let $d_T(u)$ = degree of node u in current tree T .
- Consider all edges (v, w) not in T that create cycle C containing u .
- Select edge where $\max(d_T(v), d_T(w)) \leq d_T(u) - 2$

Move Properties

- Algorithm targets nodes with degree atleast $\max d_T - \lceil \log_2 n \rceil$, and terminates if no local move is possible on any such node.
- finds tree T with maximum degree at most $2\text{OPT} + \lceil \log_2 n \rceil$

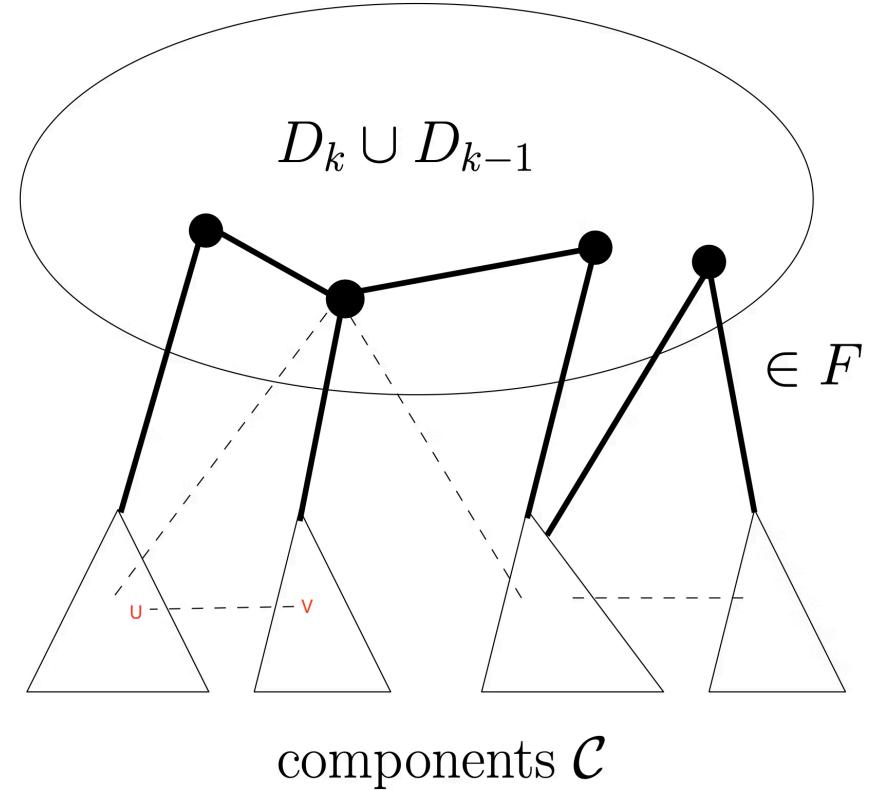


OPT + 1 Local Search Framework

- Let k be the maximum degree in T
- Let D_k = all degree- k vertices in tree T
- Define F as edges incident to $D_k \cup D_{k-1}$
- Let C be components of T formed when F is removed

Approach

- Identify degree $(k - 1)$ vertices for local moves
- Mark nodes as reducible
- Remove marked nodes from D_{k-1} and update F and C



Linear Program Algorithm - Weighted Graph

Given $G = (V, E)$, costs $c_e \geq 0$ for all $e \in E$, set $W \subseteq V$, Integer bounds $b_v \geq 1$ for all $v \in W$

LP Formulation Overview -

Objective Function:

$$\text{Minimize } \sum_e c_e x_e$$

Subject to:

$$\sum_e x_e = |V| - 1 \quad (\text{spanning tree constraint})$$

$$\sum_{e \in E(S)} x_e \leq |S| - 1, \forall S \subseteq V, |S| \geq 2 \quad (\text{acyclicity})$$

$$x(\delta(v)) \leq b_v \quad (\text{degree bounds})$$

$$x_e \geq 0 \quad (\text{non-negativity})$$

Flow-Based Constraint Reduction

Motivation

Replace exponential number of cycle constraints with polynomial-sized flow formulation

Idea

- Supply exactly 1 unit of flow from each node (except *root*) to the *root*
- Apply Conservation of flow (from each node(*v*)) at each node (*u*) of the graph
- Flow value (*f*) should not exceed the capacity of the edge (*x_e*)

$$\sum_{w:(v,w) \in A} f_{wv} - \sum_{w:(w,v) \in A} f_{vw} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } v = a \text{ (source)} \\ -1 & \text{if } v = r \text{ (sink/root)} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Deterministic Rounding

- **Solve LP**

Work with support $E(x) = \{e : x_e > 0\}$

If vertex v has exactly one incident edge in $E(x)$: $(u, v) \in E(x)$

- Add to solution $(u, v) \rightarrow F$
- Remove v and decrement b_u if $u \in W$

Else if $v \in W$ has ≤ 3 incident edges in $E(x)$: remove v from W

Guaranteed Outcome:

The algorithm ensures that degree of any vertex ' v ' in the final spanning tree will not exceed its specified bound ' b_v ' by more than two.

$$\deg(v) \leq b_v + 2$$

Improved +1 Algorithm

- Any basic feasible solution (when $W \neq \emptyset$) contains some $v \in W$ with at most $b_v + 1$ edges in $E(x)$.
 1. Repeatedly solve LP relaxation
 2. Remove vertex $v \in W$ guaranteed by lemma (if support $\leq b_v + 1$ edges)
 3. When W becomes empty, compute ordinary minimum-cost spanning tree on remaining support

Guaranteed Outcome: This improved algorithm ensures a tighter bound on vertex degrees.

$$\deg(v) \leq b_v + 1$$

The degree of any vertex ' v ' in the final spanning tree will not exceed its specified bound ' b_v ' by more than one.

Feedback Vertex Set (FVS)

- A set $F \subseteq V$ is an FVS if removing F makes the graph acyclic (every cycle intersects F).
- Goal: find F of minimum total cost $c(F) = \sum_{v \in F} c(v)$.
- Problem is NP-hard, so we use approximation algorithms.

Approach:

- **Compute α :** $\alpha = \min_{v \in V} c(v)/(d(v) - 1)$, where $d(v)$ is the degree of v (assume $d(v) \geq 2$).
- **Reduce costs:** For every vertex set: $c'(v) = c(v) - \alpha(d(v) - 1)$. (By choice of α , at least one v has $c'(v) = 0$.)
- **Select & remove:** Let $F_0 = \{v \in V : c'(v) = 0\}$. Add F_0 to the solution and remove them from the graph: $G' \leftarrow G \setminus F_0$.
- **Recurse:** Run the same procedure on $(G', c'|_{V(G')})$ to get F' .
- **Combine:** The final FVS is $F = F_0 \cup F'$.

Our Contribution:

Local Search - Bounded Spanning Tree

Problem :

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a connected undirected graph, and for each vertex $v \in V$ let $b_v \geq 1$ be an integer upper bound on its degree

We define exceedance by :

$$e_T(v) = \deg_T(v) - b_v$$

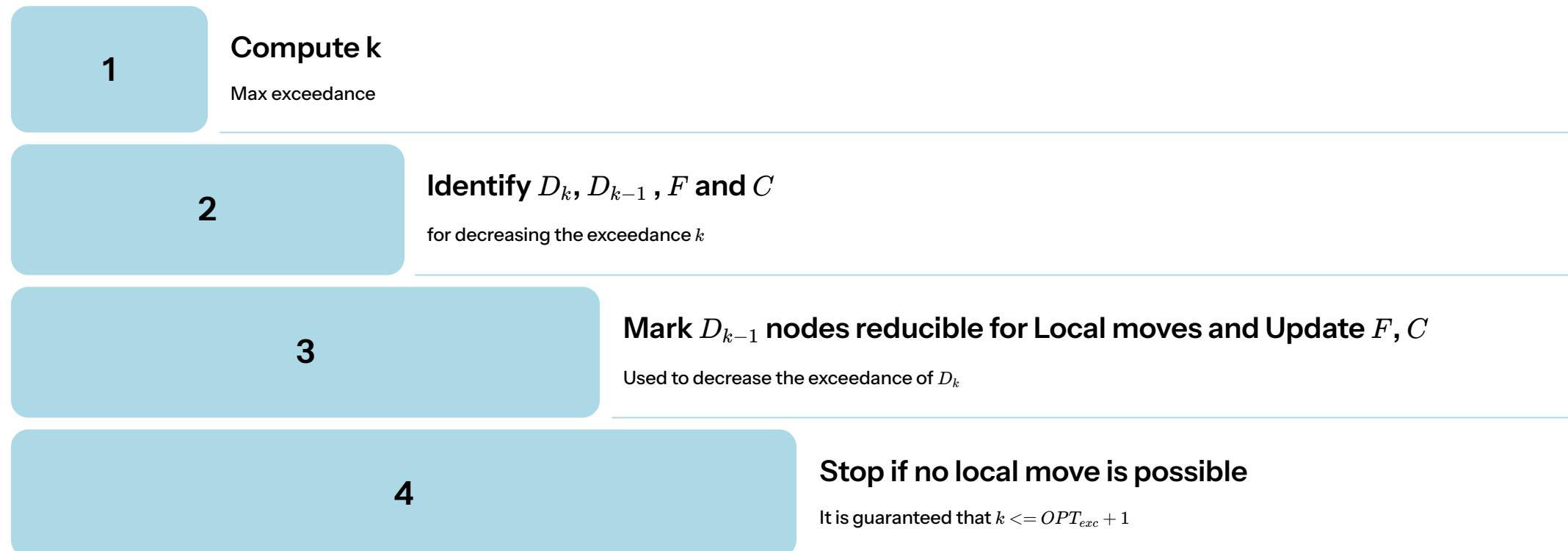
Algorithm goal:

$$\text{Minimize } \max_v (e_T(v))$$

Algorithmic Framework: Local Search

→ Idea is similar to the algorithm for minimising the maximum degree of spanning Tree T

Iterative Process Flow:



Proof Sketch - $OPT \geq k - 1$

$$S = D_k \cup D_{k-1}$$

$$\sum_{v \in S} d_T(v) \geq |F|$$

$$\sum_{v \in S} e_T(v) \geq |F| - \sum_{v \in S} b_v$$

$$|F| \geq \sum_{v \in S} b_v + k|D_k| + (k-1)|D_{k-1}| - (|S| - 1)$$

$$OPT_{exc} \geq k - 1$$

- any spanning tree must add $\geq |F|$ edges touching S
- Subtract degree bounds
- Nodes in S contribute degrees $b_v + k$ or $b_v + k - 1$, which counts edges inside S twice and edges leaving S once.
- Since edges inside S form a forest ($\leq |S| - 1$), the remaining counted edges give a **lower bound on $|F|$** .

Thank you