Algorithms SV worksheet 5

Bálint Molnár

October 16, 2025

I understand that the order in which the topics are taught has changed slightly from previous years. Before attempting the questions, make sure you know the following concepts/definitions: DAG, Minimum Spanning Tree/Kruskal's Algorithm, Max-flow problem/Ford-Fulkerson algorithm, Topological sort, Strongly Connected Components, Bipartite Graph Matching. You may want to use the notes from 2024.

- 1. If we take a DAG and reverse all the edges, do we get a DAG? Briefly justify your answer.
- 2. Let G be a weighted graph with positive weights. Show that if you replace all the weights with their squares, the resulting graph has the same Minimum Spanning Tree.
- 3. You are given an $N \times N$ grid represented by a matrix A consisting of 0s and 1s. You want to choose N cells in such a way that
 - You choose exactly one cell from every row.
 - You choose exactly one cell from every column.
 - You can only choose cells where the corresponding entry is 1.

How would you find such a set of cells?

- 4. You are given a DAG G = (V, E), and a list of special nodes, $[a_1, ..., a_k]$. It is guaranteed that, for all $1 \le 1 < k$, there is a path from a_i to a_{i+1} .
 - Design an algorithm that finds a topological sort of G which minimises the ranks for all a_i in the resulting list.
- 5. Explain how to solve this coding problem efficiently. Please include the full code in your preferred programming language, along with an explanation of your approach.
- 6. You have an island represented by an $N \times M$ grid, with two harbours located on the boundary (either in the first or last row or first or last column). You want to build a border checkpoint line, a set of cells such that any path between the two harbours must pass through at least one checkpoint cell. A path is a sequence of moves between neighbouring cells (left, right, up or down, no diagonal moves). Checkpoints cannot be built on harbour cells. Each cell (i,j) has an associated cost A[i,j] to build a checkpoint.

Find a set of checkpoints that satisfies the requirements at a minimal cost.

Example

