

Algorithms 8

Divij Singh

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Let P be a connected weighted graph.

At every iteration, we must find an edge that connects a vertex in the subgraph to a vertex outside it. Since P is connected, there is always a path to every vertex.

Let Y_1 be a minimum spanning tree of graph P . If $Y_1 = Y$, then Y is a minimum spanning tree, else let E be the first edge added during construction of tree Y that is not in Y_1 , and V be the set of vertices connected by the edge before E .

Then, one end of E is in V , and one is not. Since Y_1 spans the tree of graph P , there is a path in Y_1 joining both points. As you follow the path, there will be an edge F that joins a vertex in V to one outside V .

Since F was not added at the step when edge E was added to Y , we conclude that $w(F) \leq w(E)$.

Let tree Y_2 be the graph we get from removing F from Y_1 , and adding edge E to Y_1 .

Since we can show that tree Y_2 is connected, has the same number of edges as Y_1 , and the weights of its edges is not greater than Y_1 , it is also a minimum spanning tree of graph P , and contains edge E and all other edges added while creating set V .

By repeating these steps, we will eventually get a minimum spanning tree of graph P that is identical to tree Y , showing that Y is a minimum spanning tree. This allows for the first subset of the sub-region to be expanded into subset X , which we assume as the minimum.