Sollin's Algorithm for Minimum Spanning Trees

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Definitions

Definition (Spanning Tree)

A spanning tree is a connected, acyclic subgraph that spans all nodes.

Definition (Minimum Spanning Tree)

A minimum spanning tree is a spanning tree with smallest total cost.

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Applications

- Cluster analysis
 - We have a network and want to split into k clusters with total cost of clusters minimized
 - ullet Take minimum spanning tree from algorithm and delete the k-1 arcs with the highest cost

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History of Sollin's Algorithm

- Originally published by Boruvka in 1926
- Designed as a way of constructing an efficient electricity network in Moravia
- He published two papers with this algorithm
 - One was 22 pages and has been viewed as unnecessarily complicated
 - The other was one page
- Independently rediscovered by Choquet in 1938
- Again in 1951 by Florek, Lukasiewicz, Perkal, Steinhaus, and Zubrzycki
- And again in 1962 by Sollin

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Boruvka's Paper

ZVLÁŠTNÍ OTISK Z ČASOPISU "ELEKTROTECHNICKÝ OBZOR" Roč. 15. Čis. 10. Praha III., Cihelná 102.

Dr. OTAKAR BORÛVKA:

Příspěvek k řešení otázky ekonomické stavby elektrovodných sítí.

avláštním případě řešena tato úloha:
V rovině v prostoru) jest dáno n bodů,
jejichž vzáje mně vzdálenosti jsou veaměs různě, Jest je spojiti siti tak, aby:
Tedy na

. Ve své práci "O jistém problému mini-málním") odvodli jsem obsenou větu, jíž jest ve zvláštním přímě řešena tato úloba: "Rešeni doby provedu v případě 66 bodů daných Každý z daných hodů spojím s bodem nejbližším. Tedy na př. bod 1 s hodem 2, bod 2 s bodem 3, hod 3



každé dva hody byly spojeny bud přímo anebo prostřednictvím jiných, 2 celková dělka síšé byla co nej-menší.



Jest zřejmě, že řešení této úlohy může míti v elektrotechnické praksi při návrzích plánů elektrovodných siti jistou důležitost; z toho důvodu je zde stručně na ') Vyjde v nejbližší době v Pracích Moravské při-rodovědecké snolečnosti.



s hodem 4 (bod 4 s hodem 3), bod 5 s bodem 2, bod 6 s hodem 5, bod 7 s bodem 8, bod 8 s bodem 9, (bod 9 s bodem 8) also Obdržim radu polygonálních tahů 1, 2, 13 (obr. 2). Každý z nich spojím nejkratším způsobom s ta hem nejhlitšim. Tedy na př. 1 s tahem 2, (tah 2 s ta



Orazec převrácen.

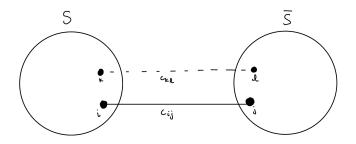
hem 1), tal 3 s tahem 4, (tah 4 s tahem 3) atd, Obdržim l'adu polygonálních tahů 1, 2, ... 4 (obr. 3). Každy s nich spojím nejkratkim způnobem s ta-hem nejblížkím. Tedy tah 1 s tahem 3, tah 2 s tahem 3 (tah 3 s tahem 1), tah 4 s tahem 1. Obdržím konečně jediný polygonální tah (obr. 4), jenž řeší danou tilohu.

Matematický ústav Masaryhovy university v Brně, v lednu 1926.

Optimality Conditions

Theorem (Cut Optimality Conditions)

A spanning tree T^* is a minimum spanning tree if and only if it satisfies the following cut optimality conditions: For every arc $(i,j) \in T^*$, $c_{ij} \leq c_{kl}$ for every arc (k,l) contained in the cut formed by deleting arc (i,j) from T^* .



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Sollin's Algorithm

- Sollin's algorithm is a hybrid of Kruskal's and Prim's algorithms
 - Maintains collections of nodes N_1, N_2, \ldots and adds arcs to the collection, a technique borrowed from Kruskal
 - Adds minimum cost arcs at every iteration, a technique borrowed from Prim
- Requires arc costs to be distinct
 - Boruvka quoted saying "If we measure distances, we can assume that they are all different. Whether distance from Brno to Breclaw is 50 km or 50 km and 1 cm is a matter of conjecture".

The Two Basic Operations

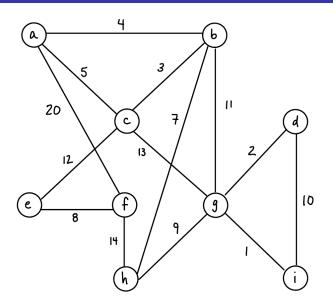
Sollin's algorithm uses two basic operations

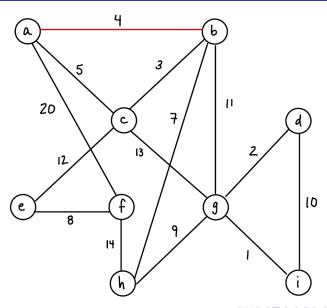
- nearest-neighbor (N_k, i_k, j_k) : Given a tree spanning the nodes N_k , this operation determines an arc (i_k, j_k) that is a minimum cost arc emanating from N_k .
- $merge(i_k, j_k)$: Given two nodes i_k and j_k , if the two nodes belong to two different trees, we merge the two trees into a single tree

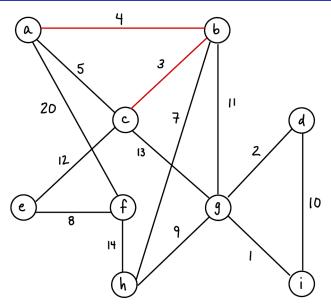
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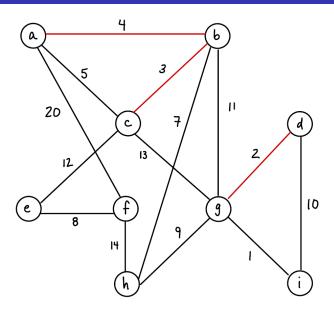
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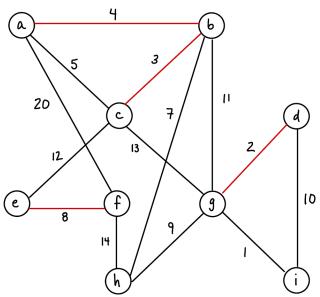
```
algorithm Sollin;
begin
   for each i \in N do N_i := \{i\};
   T^* := \emptyset:
   while |T^*| < (n-1) do
   begin
        for each tree N_k do nearest-neighbor (N_k, i_k, j_k);
        for each N_k do
             if nodes i_k and j_k belong to different trees then
                  merge (i_k, j_k) and update T^* := T^* \cup \{(i_k, j_k)\};
   end:
end;
```

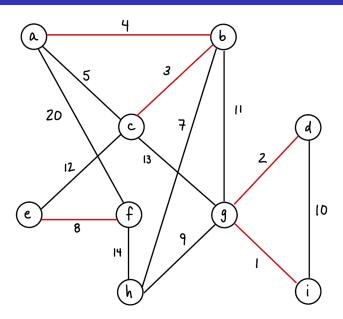


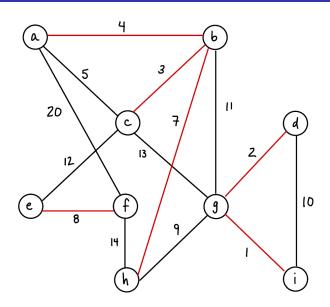


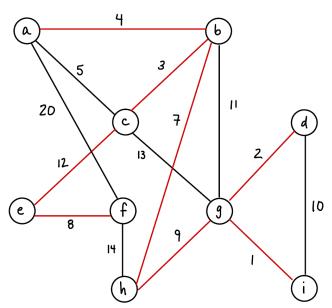


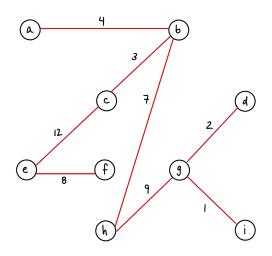












Minimum spanning tree with cost 46.

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Complexity of the Algorithm

We look at the running time of each of the two major operations in Sollins algorithm.

- Nearest-neighbor
 - Scans over arcs emanating from each tree
 - $O(\sum_{i \in N} |A(i)|) = O(m)$
- Merge
 - Scans over nodes to see if in the same tree
 - O(n)
- Every iteration lowers the number of trees by at least a factor of 2, so we run the while loop $O(\log n)$ times
- This implies total running time of $O(m \log n)$.

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Correctness of Algorithm

Cut optimality conditions can be restated as the following: for any cut, the minimum cost edge in the cut must be in the minimum spanning tree. At each iteration of the algorithm, we pick the minimum cost edge emanating from each tree, which correspond to the minimum cost arc for every cut.

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