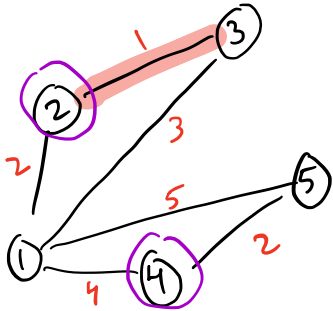


## Stamp Rally

• Problem Summary: You are given an undirected graph with edge values  $1-m$ . Answer  $Q$  queries. For each query you are given  $x, y, z$  where  $x \neq y$  are two nodes. You explore some nodes starting from  $x \neq y$  until you visit  $z$  unique nodes and take the maximum edge number, you minimize this number.

Example



For Query  $2, 4$

if you move from  $2 \rightarrow 3$  you visit 3 nodes  $\{2, 3, 4\}$  and the value is 1

Bad solution: For each Query  $x, y, z$  you can do this

1. Iterate from 1 to  $m$  [call this  $e$ ]

1.1 DFS starting from  $x \neq y$  and only take edges of number  $\leq e$

1.2 If we visit at least  $z$  nodes then  $e$  is the answer

• This works but is  $O(Q) \cdot O(m) \cdot O(n+m)$  which in short is bad!! But it's a good start.  
• First optimization: we are doing a lot of unnecessary work. Let's say we find an  $e$  value that works then we know all values  $\geq e$  work as well. This property means we can use binary search. Now we reduce to  $O(Q) \cdot O(\log m) \cdot O(n+m)$  still TLE

• Observation 2: This naive approach has a lot of redundancy. Instead of individually answering each Query let's try to solve all at once to save some work

• To do this let's start with a graph of  $N$  nodes but 0 edges. And now add the edges in sorted order.

• Let's say we have added  $i$  edges and we want to know if Query  $i$  has been achieved then we have 2 cases:

Case 1:  $x$  and  $y$  are in the same component at time  $i$  then we just check if that component size is  $\geq z$

Case 2:  $x$  and  $y$  are in different components. In this case we add the sizes and compare to  $z$

• This still is too slow taking  $O(n) \cdot O(Q)$ . But we can improve this with binary search

• For all Queries  $Q$  store two numbers  $L_i, R_i$  which is the current range of that Query's binary search. Then perform  $\lceil \log(m) \rceil$  iterations of adding all edges in order. At the start of each iteration compute  $M_i = (L_i + R_i) / 2$  and at that time  $i$  check if the Query is valid and update  $L_i, R_i$  accordingly

• To actually check component sizes use a disjoint union set to add edges in  $O(1)$

• In total we have  $O(\log(m)) [O(Q) + O(m)]$  complexity