

# CS6033 Lectures 11-12

## Slides/Notes

### Greedy Algorithms; Minimum Spanning Trees (Notes, Ch 15, Ch 21)

By Prof. Yi-Jen Chiang  
CSE Dept., Tandon School of Engineering  
New York University

1

#### Greedy Algorithms (ch 15)

Typically for optimization problems. Simpler than problems that require D.P.  
Greedy Algorithms can be viewed as an improvement over D.P. when applicable.

Ex: Activity Selection Problem: Given one machine and  $n$  jobs.

job  $i$ : start time  $s_i$  finish time  $f_i$ . jobs  $i, j$  are compatible if  $s_i \leq f_j$  or vice versa.

eg.

$i$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
$s_i$	1	3	0	5	3	5	6	8	8	2	12
$f_i$	4	5	6	7	9	9	10	11	12	14	16

$s_i \leq f_j$  or vice versa.  
 $f_j \leq s_i$

$1, 4, 8, 11$

$O(n)$  time after sorting jobs into increasing finish time.

2

## 2 major properties for Greedy Algorithms.

### 1. Greedy-choice Property

There is an optimal sol. with the (first) greedy choice.

Typically we use a swapping argument in the proof.

### 2. Optimal Substructure (the same as in D.P)

The optimal sol. for the current problem contains an optimal sol. for the subproblem. (For greedy alg. we have 1 subproblem)

Optimal sol. with greedy choice contains an opt. sol. for the subproblem. we use "cut & paste" argument in the proof.

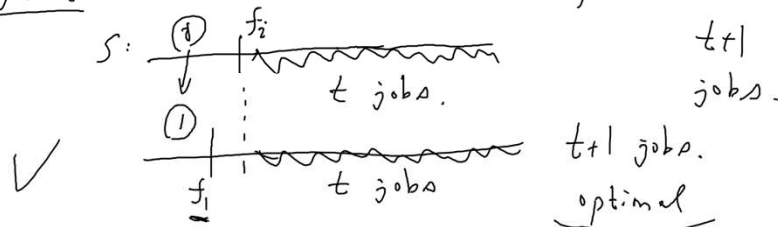
3

pf for the greedy alg. for activity selection:

#### (1) Greedy-choice property

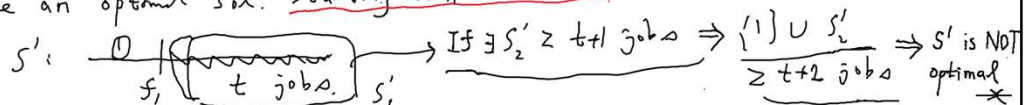
Suppose  $S$  is an optimal sol that starts with

some job  $i$  with finish time  $f_i > f_1$  opt. sol  $S$ :



#### (2) Optimal substructure.

Let  $S'$  be an optimal sol. starting with job 1 (i.e. with greedy choice)



4

## Knapsack Problem (Textbook P430)

A set of items 1, 2, 3, ..., i, ..., n  
weight  $w_i$

Goal: put items to the knapsack  
s.t. total weight  $\leq W$   
and the total benefit is max.

Knapsack: capacity  $W$ .

benefit  $b_i$ .

Eg. item 1 item 2 item 3  
 $w_1 = 10$   $w_2 = 20$   $w_3 = 30$   
\$60, \$100, \$120.

0-1 version:

\$100 20 \$120  
\$60 10  
Total: \$160  
\$180.  
\$220.

Fractional Version

Greedy:  $\frac{\text{benefit}}{\text{weight}}$

Item 1:  $\frac{60}{10} = 6$  ✓

Item 2:  $\frac{100}{20} = 5$  ✓

Item 3:  $\frac{120}{30} = 4$

$$120 \cdot \frac{2}{3} = 80$$

\$80 20  
\$100 20  
\$60 10  
Total: \$240

DP. Greedy-choice property can NOT be satisfied

5

## Huffman Coding: Data Compression.

Encode symbols into binary-bit code words 01001...

Idea: Give symbols appearing more frequently: shorter code words

less : longer

so that total file length is minimized.

Ex: a b c d e f fixed-length code: 3 bits per symbol.

frequency: 45 13 12 16 9 5.  
(in k) 000 001 010 011 100 101

$$\text{File length} = 3 \cdot 45 + 3 \cdot 13 + 3 \cdot 12 + \dots = 3(45 + 13 + 12 + \dots)$$

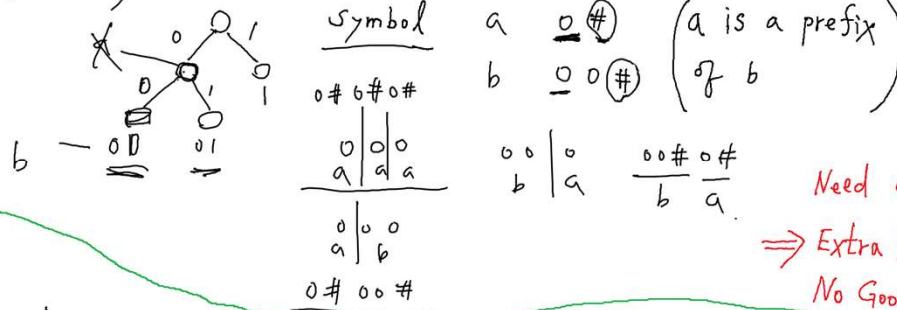
0 101 100 11 1101 1100.

$$\text{Total length} = 1 \cdot 45 + 3 \cdot 13 + 3 \cdot 12 + 3 \cdot 16 + 4 \cdot 9 + 4 \cdot 5.$$

6

\* Prefix code: (prefix-free) code

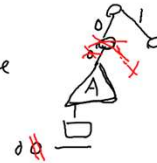
Binary tree: Binary tree to represent the codes



So we want

Prefix code  $\Rightarrow$  Every code is at a leaf.

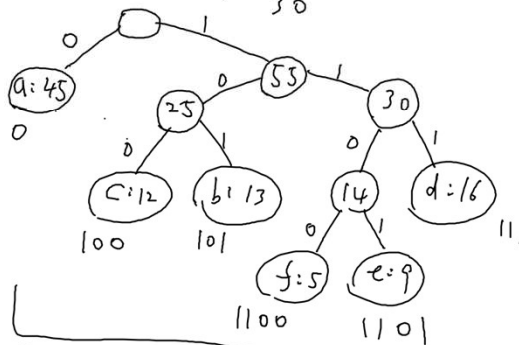
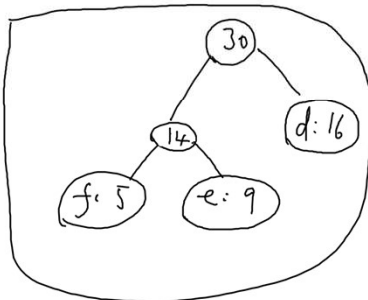
Optimal code: Each internal node of the binary tree has 2 children (full binary tree)



7

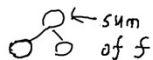


a	b	c	d	e	f
45	13	12	16	9	5
25			14		
			30		



\* Put each symbol to the

\* In each iteration, perform



p. & q. with frequency as the key.  
[Extract. Min() twice.  
Insert the parent with new f]  $O(\log n)$  time

# iterations:  
 $n \rightarrow (n-1)$

Total time  
 $O(n \log n)$

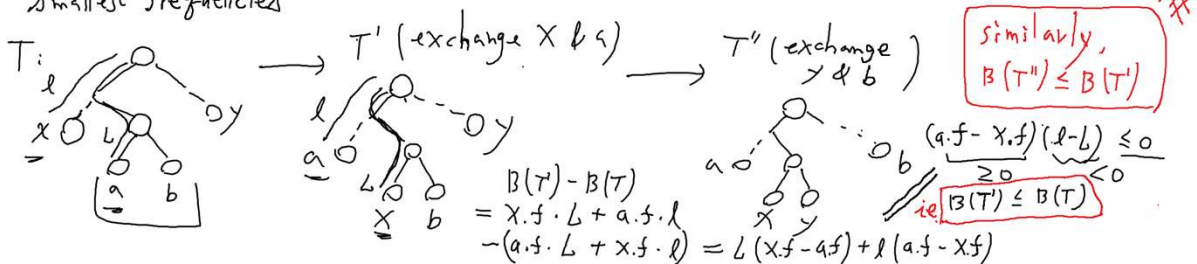
8

## Greedy-choice Property

Lemma: There is an optimal binary prefix code with symbols  $x, y$  having the max code length where  $x, y$  have the smallest frequencies.

pf: Let  $T$  be a binary tree representing an optimal code where  $a, b$  are the 2 symbols with the max code length

$x.f < y.f$   $a.f < b.f$ .  $a, b, x, y$  are distinct.  
smallest frequencies



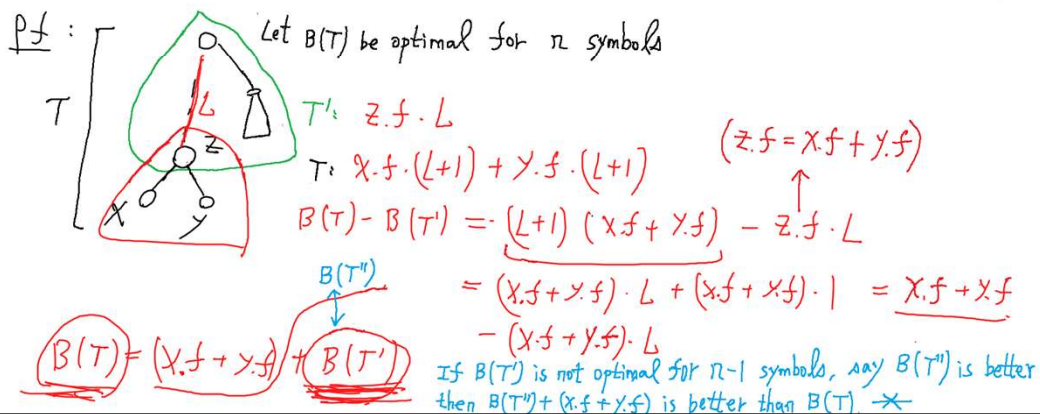
9

## Optimal substructure

Lemma: Let  $x, y$  be 2 symbols of the least frequencies.

Let  $z$  be a symbol with  $z.f = x.f + y.f$ .

Then the optimal code for  $n$  symbols (including  $x, y$ ) contains an optimal code for  $n-1$  symbols (excluding  $x, y$  & including  $z$ )



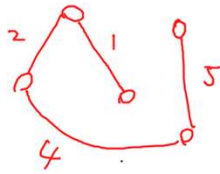
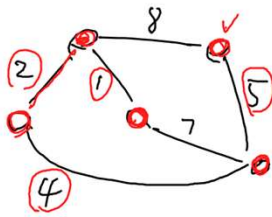
10

## Minimum Spanning Tree (MST) Problem : (2.1)

Given an undirected, weighted, connected graph  $G = (V, E)$ .

Find a spanning tree (tree that connects all vertices of  $V$ )  
s.t. the total edge weight in the spanning tree is minimum possible.

Eg:



11

## Generic Greedy Alg. (Sec. 2.1) $G = (V, E)$

\* Let  $A$  be a subset of edges that belong to some MST

Def: A safe edge  $e$  of  $A$  is an edge s.t.

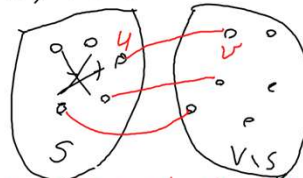
$$\{e\} \cup A \subseteq \text{some MST.}$$

Alg: In each iteration.  
find a safe edge  $e$  for  $A$ .  
 $A \leftarrow A \cup \{e\}$ .

Repeat until  $A$  spans all vertices  
( $A$  is a spanning tree)

\* Light edge of a cut: The cut edge with  
min length among the cut edges

\* A cut  $(S, V \setminus S)$   
is a partition of vertex  
set  $V$  into 2 subsets  
 $S, V \setminus S$ .

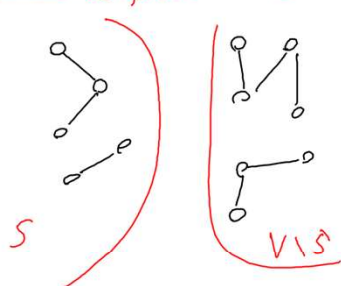


$(u, v)$  is a cut edge if  $u \in S$  &  $v \in V \setminus S$ .

12



\* A cut respects the edge set  $A$ :



—: edges of  $A$ .

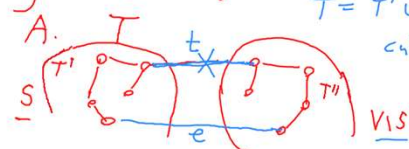
No edge of  $A$  goes across the cut.

**Thm 21.1** in textbook: The light edge of a cut respecting edge set  $A$  is a safe edge for  $A$ .

Pf: Let  $T$  be an MST containing all edges of  $A$ .  $e$  is a light edge of a cut  $(S, V \setminus S)$  respecting  $A$ .

$\bar{T} = T' \cup T'' \cup \{e\}$  is MST

$\bar{T} \leq T$



$T = T' \cup T'' \cup \{t\}$

cut respects  $A \Rightarrow t \notin A$

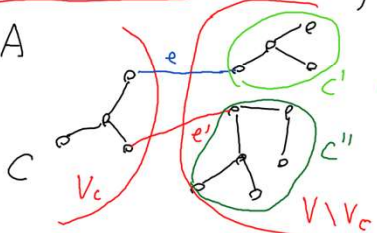
$\ell(e) \leq \ell(t)$

13

Corollary: Let  $G = (V, E)$ . Let  $A$  be an edge set contained in some MST.

Let  $C$  be a connected component of  $A$  ( $C$  is a tree in the forest of  $A$ ). The light edge connecting  $C$  to some other connected component of  $A$  is a safe edge for  $A$ .

Pf:  $A$



$V_C$ : vertices in component  $C$ .

cut:  $(V_C, V \setminus V_C)$  respects  $A$ .

if  $e$  is a cut edge, and  $e \in A$

then  $C$  and  $C'$  would be the same c.c. ~~✗~~

$\Rightarrow$  Any cut edge  $e \notin A \Rightarrow$  the cut respects  $A$ .

Now: Suppose  $e'$  is a light edge of the cut  $(V_C, V \setminus V_C)$ .

Then  $e'$  is a light edge of a cut respecting  $A \Rightarrow e'$  is a safe edge for  $A$ .

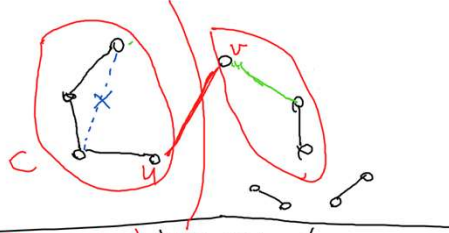
14

Two main algs. for MST

1. Kruskal's Alg.

2. Prim's Alg.

$G=(V,E)$



1. Kruskal's Alg.:

$\rightarrow O(E \log E) = O(E \log V)$  MST  $T \leftarrow \emptyset$

① Sort all edges from shortest to longest.

② Consider edges in the sorted order.

For the current edge  $(u,v)$ :  
 If  $u, v$  are in different connected components

then  $T \leftarrow T \cup \{(u,v)\}$

Union  $(u,v)$ :

else  $u, v$  are in the same c.c.  
 ignore  $(u,v)$

Union-Find data structure

Total time:  
 $O(E \log V)$

$O(E)$  union-find ops.  
 $O(E + V \log V)$  time. (linked lists)  
 $O(E \alpha(V))$  time. (advanced)

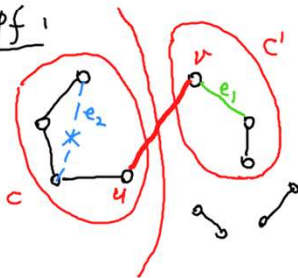
15

Correctness of Kruskal's Alg.:

Let  $A$  be the set of edges of  $T$  so far

Claim: The current edge  $(u,v)$  added to  $T$  is  
 a safe edge for  $A$

Pf:



The only edges shorter than  $(u,v)$  are those  
 considered before  $(u,v)$ .

2 types: ① those added to  $A$ , eg.  $e_1$

② those ignored, eg.  $e_2$

$\Rightarrow$  They never connect 2 connected components of  $A$

$\Rightarrow (u,v)$  is the shortest edge that connects 2 c.c.s of  $A$

By Corollary,  $(u,v)$  is a safe edge for  $A$

Another way,

(a) They never go across the cut  
 (b)  $(u,v)$  is the shortest edge across the cut  
 i.e. light edge of the cut

16



## Disjoint-Set Union-Find Data Structure

$n$  items. Initially each item is in a single set.

2 ops:

1. Find-set( $x$ ): Find the set containing item  $x$ .

2. Union( $x, y$ ):  $A \leftarrow \text{Find-set}(x)$  If  $A \neq B$ .

$B \leftarrow \text{Find-set}(y)$ . Union the sets  $A$  and  $B$ .

Initially,  $n$  sets. Each union reduces # sets by 1.  
At the end: at least 1 set.  $\Rightarrow$  At most  $n-1$  Union ops.

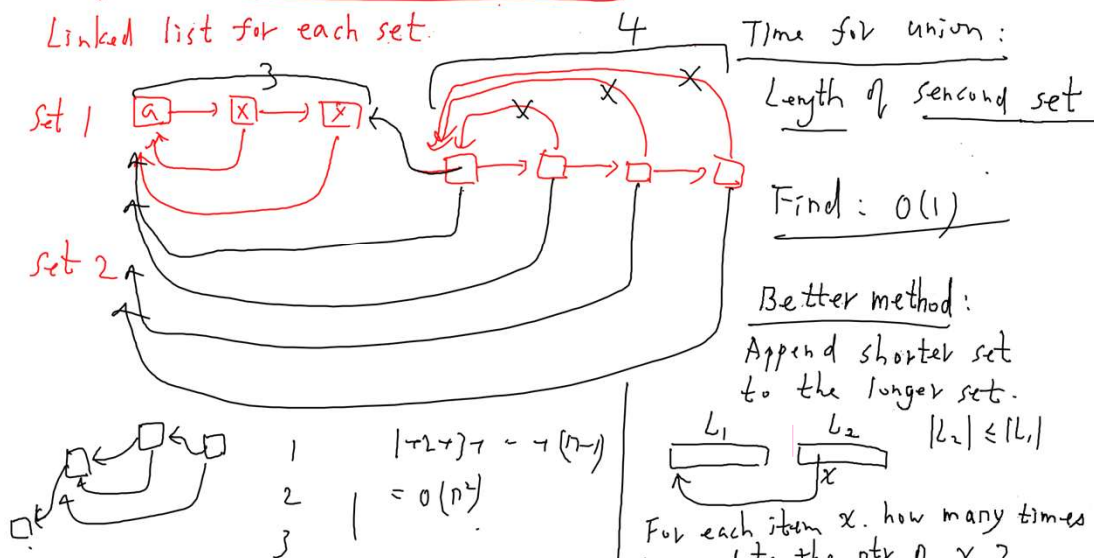
A sequence of  $m$  intermixed Find-set & Union ops.

$\Rightarrow$   $O(m \alpha(n))$  time  $\alpha(n)$ : inverse Ackermann's function  
 $\alpha(n) \leq 4$  for  $n \leq 10^{80}$  estimated # particles in the universe.

17

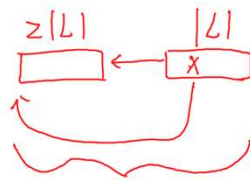
## Simpler method for union-find

Linked list for each set.



18

Key pt: Each time we update the ptr of an item  $x$ ,  
 $x$  is in a set whose size is at least doubled



size of the set containing  $x$ :

1  
2  
4  
⋮  
 $2^k \leq n$

$$\geq 2|x| \Rightarrow k \leq \log_2 n$$

⇒ Total update time for all union ops:  $O(n \log n)$

Find:  $O(1)$  time.  $m$  ops

Total time for union-find sequence:  $\frac{O(m + n \log n)}{v.s.} \checkmark$   
 $O(m \alpha(n))$

19

2 Prim's Alg. Always grow the same connected component.

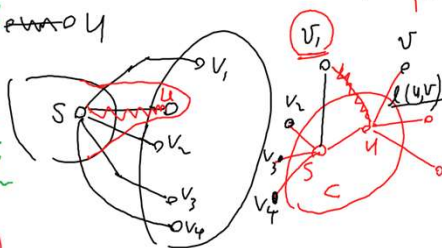
① Pick an arbitrary vertex  $s$  as the component to grow.

② Put all other vertices into a p. Q  $Q$  with initial key value

$\infty$  except for neighbors of  $s$ :  
 Each neighbor  $u$  of  $s$  has  $key(u) \leftarrow l(s, u)$   
 $key-edge(u) \leftarrow s$

③ In each iteration.

$u \leftarrow \text{Extract\_Min}(Q)$   
 Let  $x$  be the  $key-edge(u)$   
 $T \leftarrow T \cup \{u, x\}$  mark  $u$  to indicate  $u \in T$   
 for each neighbor  $v$  of  $u$  st.  $v \notin T$   
 $key(v) \leftarrow \min\{key(v), l(u, v)\}$   
~~Decreasekey~~  $(v, l(u, v))$  #:  $O(E)$



Implicit Binary Heap:  
 $O(\log V)$  time per  
 Extract\_Min  
 Decrease\_key  
 ⇒  $O((V+E) \log V)$  time

Fibonacci Heap:  
 ⇒  $O(E + V \log V)$  time

$key(v_i) = l(s, v_i)$   
 $key(v_i) \leftarrow \min\{key(v_i), l(u, v_i)\}$

20

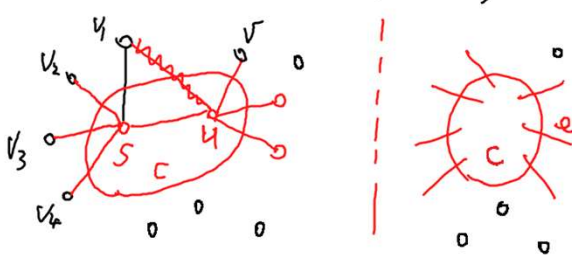
## Correctness of Prim's Alg:

Let  $A$  be the set of edges of  $T$  so far

Claim: The next edge added to  $T$  is a safe edge for  $A$

Pf: Let  $C$  be the set of vertices spanned by  $T$  so far

Look at the cut  $(C, V \setminus C)$



The next edge  $e$  added to  $T$  is the shortest edge among the edges that connect from inside  $C$  to outside  $C$   
 i.e.  $e$  is the shortest among the cut edges  
 $\Rightarrow e$  is a light edge of the cut  
 thus a safe edge for  $A$

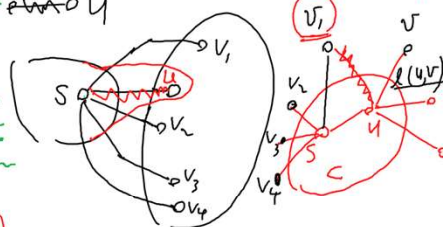
21

## More Details: Decrease\_key( $v, k, Q$ ) in Priority Queue $Q$

③ In each iteration.  $\rightarrow \# : V$

$u \leftarrow \text{Extract\_Min}(Q)$   
 Let  $x$  be the key-edge( $u$ )  
 $T \leftarrow T \cup \{(u, x)\}$  mark  $u$  to indicate  $u \in T$   
 for each neighbor  $v$  of  $u$  st.  $v \notin T$   
 $\text{key}(v) \leftarrow \min\{\text{key}(v), l(u, v)\}$   
 $\text{Decrease\_key}(v, l(u, v))$  # :  $O(E)$

$x \leftarrow u$



$\text{key}(v) = \infty$   
 $\text{key}(v_1) = l(s, v_1)$   
 $\text{key}(v_i) \leftarrow \min\{\text{key}(v_i), l(u, v_i)\}$

\* How do we access  $v$  in  $Q$  efficiently?

Sol: Adjacency List



P.Q.  $Q$



such ptr supports access to  $v$  in  $O(1)$  time

in general, this is needed for  
 $\text{Decrease\_key}(v, k, Q)$  &  $\text{Delete}(v, Q)$  for  $Q$ .

+ Each vertex  $v$  has a ptr to its representative item in  $Q$ .

+ In Adjacency List, we can also mark  $u$  for " $u \in T$ ".

22