


Minimum Height Trees

Got it!  Let's explain this step by step in very simple terms.

This problem is about finding the Minimum Height Tree Roots of a graph (basically finding the *centers* of the tree).

Problem Setup

We have a tree with `n` nodes (0 to n-1) and edges.
We want to find which nodes can be the root of a Minimum Height Tree.
For this example:

lua

CopyEdit

```
n = 4
edges = [[1,0], [1,2], [1,3]]
```

This means:

markdown

CopyEdit

```
0
 \
  1
 / \
2   3
```

So node 1 connects to 0,2,3.

Step 1: Build Adjacency List

We build a list of neighbors for each node:

bash

CopyEdit

```
graph[0] = {1}      # 0 connects to 1
graph[1] = {0,2,3}  # 1 connects to 0,2,3
graph[2] = {1}      # 2 connects to 1
graph[3] = {1}      # 3 connects to 1
```

So:

markdown

CopyEdit

0 ↔ 1 ↔ 2
 ↘ 3

✓ Step 2: Find Initial Leaves

A leaf is a node with only 1 connection.

Here:

- Node 0 has only 1 neighbor → it's a leaf
- Node 2 has only 1 neighbor → it's a leaf
- Node 3 has only 1 neighbor → it's a leaf
- Node 1 has 3 neighbors → NOT a leaf

So initial leaves = [0, 2, 3]

✓ Step 3: Remove Leaves Layer by Layer

Think of it like peeling an onion → remove outer leaves layer by layer until only the center remains.

- 👉 Remove leaf 0 → Node 1 loses a neighbor
- 👉 Remove leaf 2 → Node 1 loses another neighbor
- 👉 Remove leaf 3 → Node 1 loses another neighbor

Now Node 1 has no neighbors left → it's the center of the tree.

✓ Final Result

Only node 1 remains after peeling → so the Minimum Height Tree root is [1].

✓ Why does this work?

- A Minimum Height Tree root must be at the center of the tree.
- If you peel off all leaves layer by layer, you'll always end up with 1 or 2 center nodes.

In this example, after peeling the outer layer, only 1 remains → that's the center.

Would you like me to:

- ☒ Show another example with 2 final centers?
- ☒ Or visualize it step by step with a layer peeling diagram?