

# Maintaining a Constant Competitive Steiner Tree Online

*Xu Shunyi*

# Syllabus

- Steiner Tree Problem(STP)
- Primal Dual of STP
- G GK Algorithm(STOC 2013)

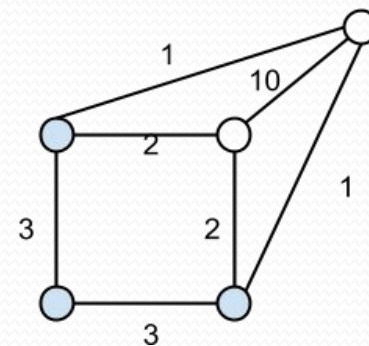
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# Steiner Tree Problem

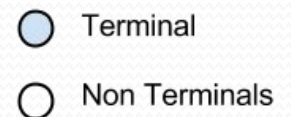
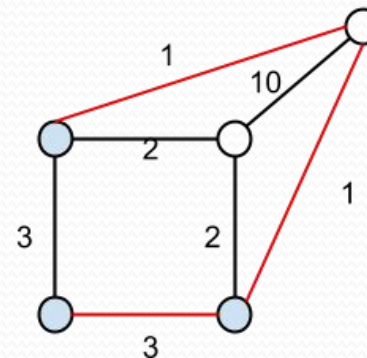
- Input:

- undirected graph  $G = (V, E)$ ;
- non-negative edge costs  $c : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ ;
- terminal-set  $R = \{s_1, \dots, s_k\} \subseteq V$



- Output

- Compute a Spanning Tree on  $R$  that's of minimum total edge cost

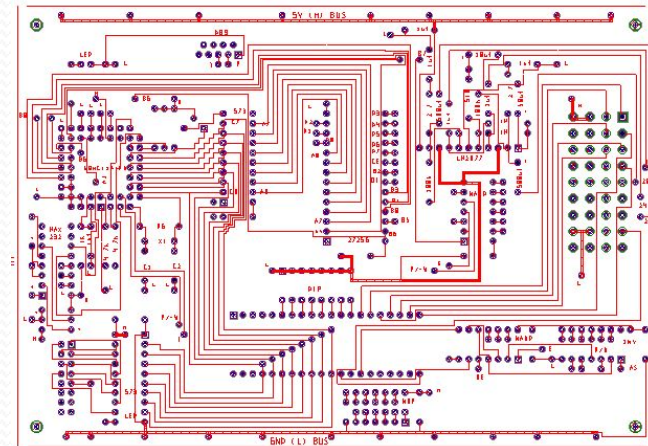
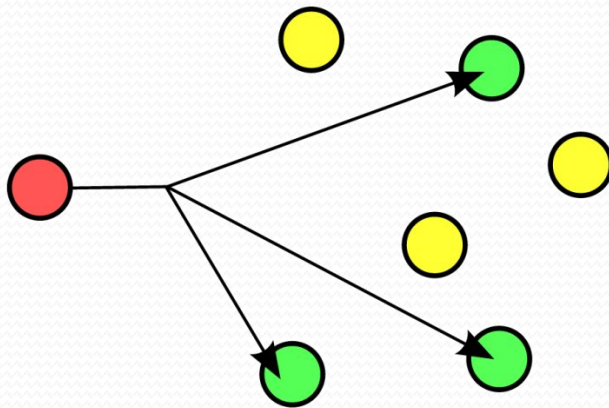


$$C(T) = 5$$

# Steiner Tree Problem

## --Application

- Multicast Network Design
- Circuit Layout Design



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# Primal Dual of STP

- Primal

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \sum_{e \in E} c_e x_e \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{e \in \delta(U)} x_e \geq 1 \quad \forall \text{ Steiner cut } U \\ & x_e \geq 0 \quad \forall e \in E \end{aligned}$$

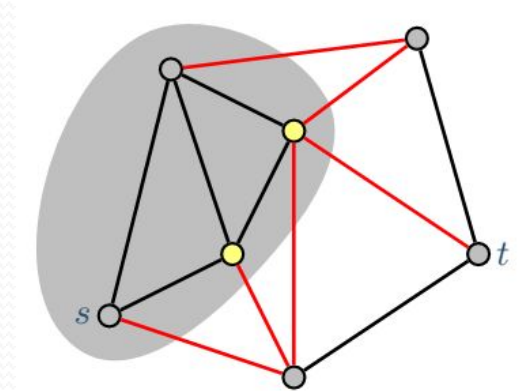
$\delta(U)$ : Edges with exactly one endpoint in  $U$ .


- Dual

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \sum_U y_U \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{U: e \in \delta(U)} y_U \leq c_e \quad \forall e \in E \\ & y_U \geq 0 \quad \forall U \end{aligned}$$

$\delta(U)$ : Edges with exactly one endpoint in  $U$ .

- Steiner Cut: Subset of nodes that separates at least one terminal pair  $(s, t) \in R$





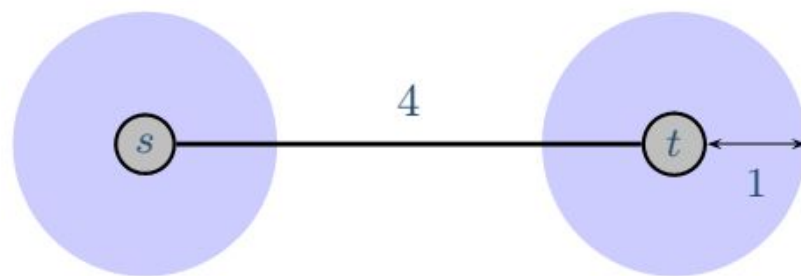
Can visualize  $y_U$  as **disks around  $U$**  with radius  $y_U$ .  
Example: Terminal pair  $(s, t) \in R$ , edge  $(s, t)$  with cost 4



$$y_s = y_t = 0$$

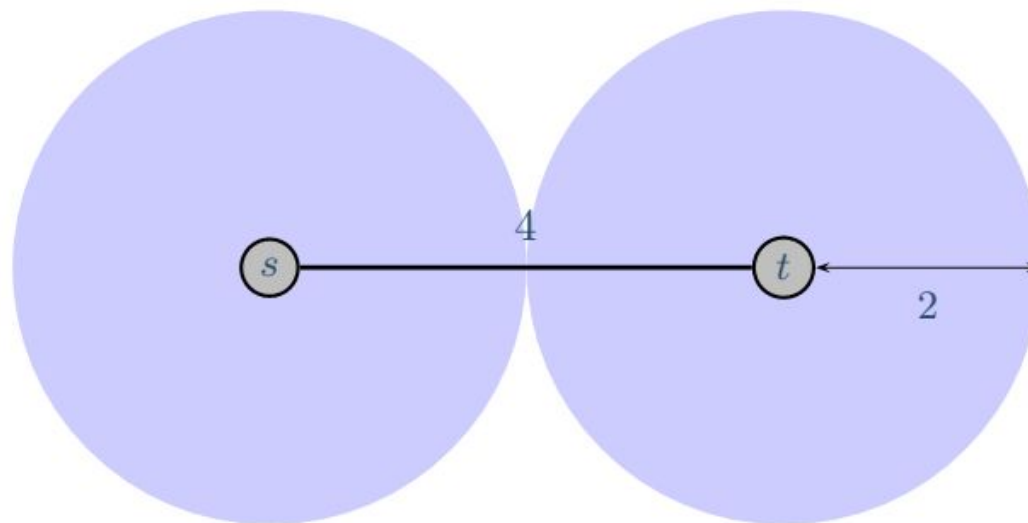


Can visualize  $y_U$  as **disks around  $U$**  with radius  $y_U$ .  
Example: Terminal pair  $(s, t) \in R$ , edge  $(s, t)$  with cost 4



$$y_s = y_t = 1$$

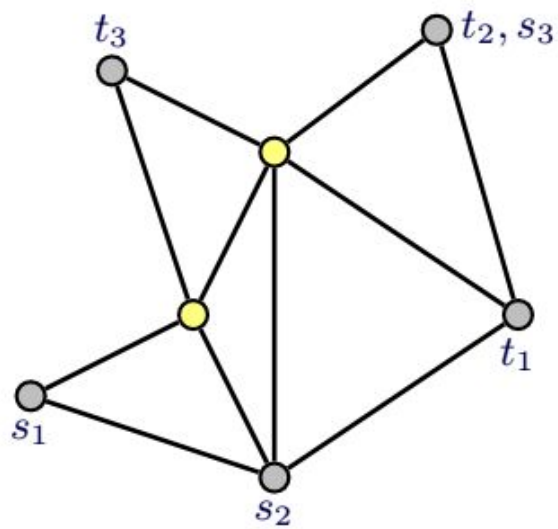
Can visualize  $y_U$  as **disks around  $U$**  with radius  $y_U$ .  
Example: Terminal pair  $(s, t) \in R$ , edge  $(s, t)$  with cost 4



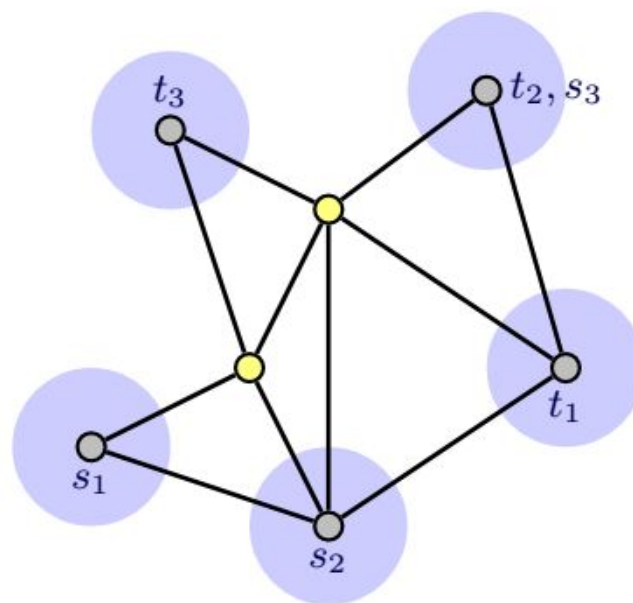
$$y_s = y_t = 2$$

Have:  $y_s + y_t = 4 = c_{st}$ . Edge  $(s, t)$  is **tight**.

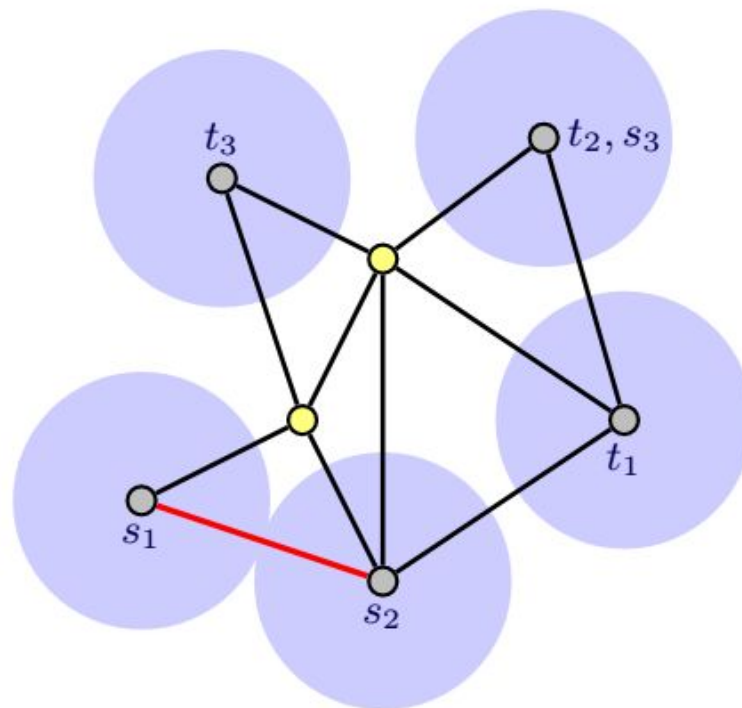
Algorithm grows duals of connected components.



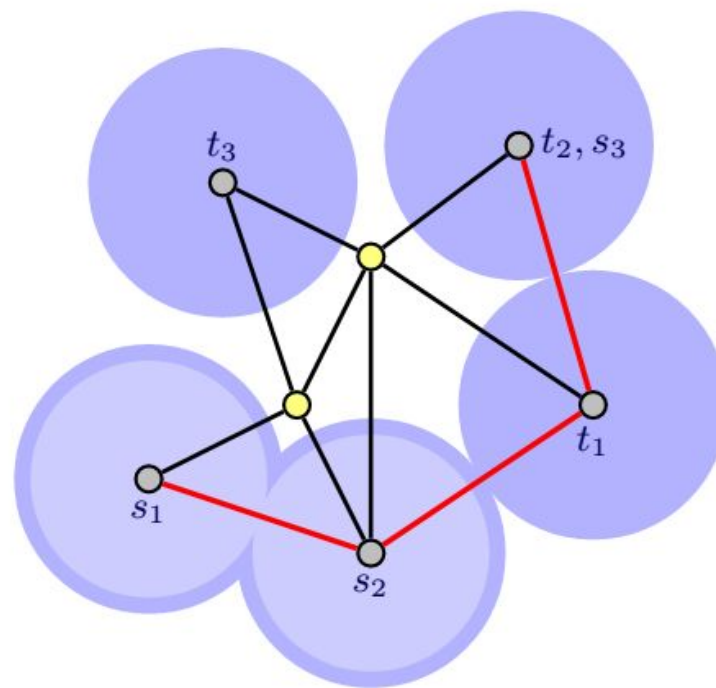
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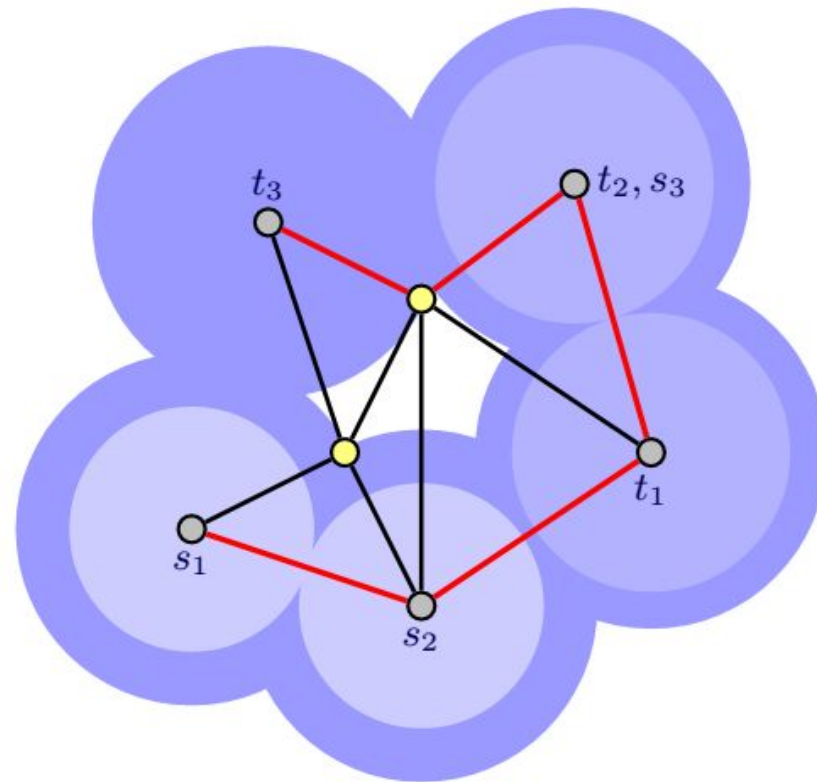
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# GGK Algorithm(STOC 2013)

- Related work:
  - [IW91] --  $O(\log n)$  competitive ratio, no swaps
  - [MSVW12, Ver12] --  $O(1+\epsilon)$  competitive ratio and  $O(1/\epsilon \log 1/\epsilon)$  swaps in amortized sense per vertex arrival.
- GGK claims:
  - constant competitive with ratio  $C = 2 \alpha^5 / (\alpha - 1)^2$  and  $K=2$   $\alpha$  swaps per vertex arrival
  - differs from previous work in 1) establishing a constant competitive ratio and 2) make a constant swaps per vertex arrival instead of in an amortized sense



# Algorithm Overview

For  $i \geq 1$ , when the  $i$ -th vertex arrives, we begin round  $i$ .

Round  $i$  involves three steps:

- (a) running a clustering algorithm on the vertex set  $[i]$  (all the terminals that have arrived by round  $i$ ) which defines the rank function  $\rho_i: [i] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$
- (b) getting a virtual rank function  $v_i$  from the actual rank function  $\rho_i$
- (c) constructing the tree  $T_i$  given the virtual rank function



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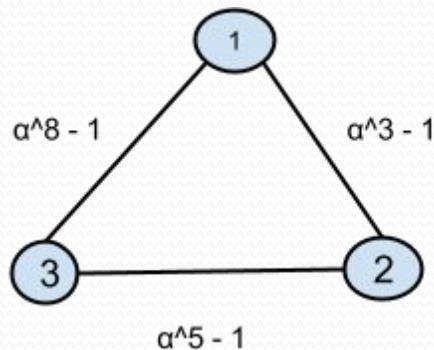
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# rank function $\rho_i: [i] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$

- $\xi_i(t)$ : clusters in the  $i$ -th round, after phase  $t$  finishes.
- We start with  $\xi_i(0)$ , which consists of trivial clusters  $\{\{0\}, \{1\}, \{2\}, \dots, \{i\}\}$
- At beginning of any  $t$ , if two clusters from  $\xi_i(t-1)$  satisfy  $d(C, C') < 2\alpha^{t+1}$ , We merge them into a new Cluster
- We maintain the invariant: at end of  $t$  that two distinct cluster  $C, C' \in \xi_i(t)$  satisfy  $d(C, C') \geq 2\alpha^{t+1}$

# rank function $\rho_i: [i] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$

- For each cluster  $C \in \xi_i(t)$ , define  $C$ 's leader as the vertex with least index.
- Define  $\rho_i(x)$  of vertex  $x$  the largest  $t$  of which  $x$  is still the leader of its cluster.



| time | Cluster  |
|------|--|
| 0    | $\{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\},$                         |
| 1    | threshold = $\alpha^2$ , $\{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}$ |
| 2    | threshold = $\alpha^3$ , $\{1, 2\}, \{3\}$     |
| 3    | threshold = $\alpha^4$ , $\{1, 2\}, \{3\},$    |
| 4    | threshold = $\alpha^5$ , $\{1, 2, 3\},$        |

hence  $p(1) = \infty$ ,  $p(2) = 1$ ,  $p(3) = 3$

# Analysis

- Why do we want a rank function?
  - Rank is defined on vertex while cost is defined on edges.
  - If we can convert edge cost to vertex rank, we can analyze the SPT using its dual form.
- Define  $Wt_j(f) = \sum_{L=1\dots j} \alpha^{f(L)}$
- We claim that  $Wt_i(p_i) \leq OPT([i]) / (\alpha - 1)$

# Proof

- Remember the dual of a Steiner Tree Problem

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \sum_S y_S \\ \sum_{S: |S \cap \{j, l\}| = 1} y_S & \leq d(j, l) \quad \forall j, l \in [i] \\ y_S & \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

- if we can find a feasible solution  $y$  such that  $\sum_S y_S \geq Wt_i(p_i)(\alpha-1)$ , by weak duality, this will imply the claim.
- In fact we can find such a feasible set defined as: For each cluster  $C \in \xi_i(t)$  which doesn't contain vertex  $o$  (a Steiner cut by nature), let  $y_C = \alpha^t(\alpha - 1)$  for other steiner cut  $S$ , let  $y_S = 0$ ;

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \sum_S y_S \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{S: |S \cap \{j, l\}| = 1} y_S \leq d(j, l) \quad \forall j, l \in [i] \\ & y_S \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

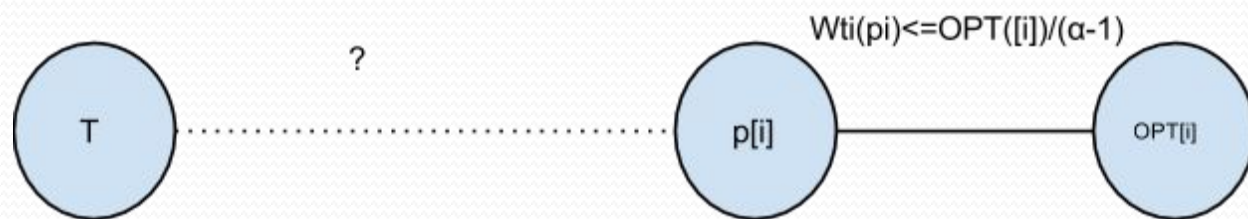
- Check feasibility:
  - For any edge  $(j, l)$ , let  $t$  be the last phase such that  $j$  and  $l$  lie in different clusters in  $\xi_i(t)$
  - For all phases  $t' \leq t$ , we contribute  $2\alpha^{t'}(\alpha - 1)$  to LHS
  - We have  $\text{LHS} = \sum_{t'=0}^t 2\alpha^{t'}(\alpha - 1) = 2(\alpha^{t+1} - 1) \leq d(j, l)$

- objective function:

$$\sum_C y_C \geq \sum_{j=1}^i \alpha^{\rho_i(j)} (\alpha - 1) = \text{Wt}_i(\rho_i) \cdot (\alpha - 1).$$

- Therefore we proved  $\sum_S y_S \geq \text{Wt}_i(\rho_i)(\alpha - 1)$







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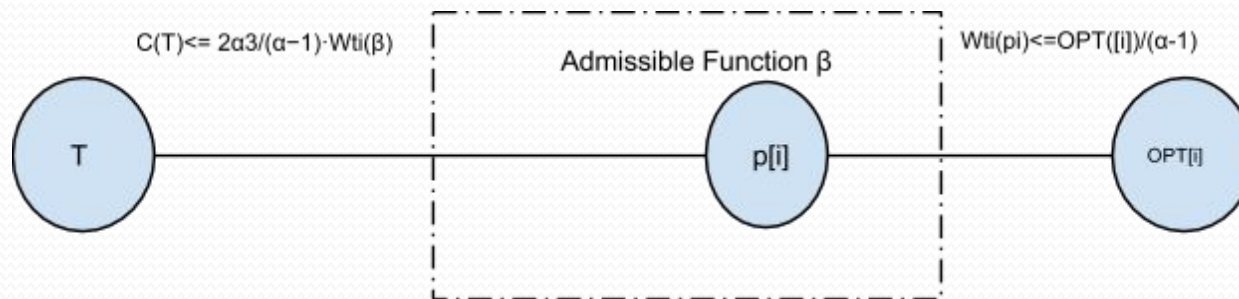
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# Admissible function $\beta$

- Define  $\text{Init}(j) = p_j(j)$ , (i.e., the rank of  $j$  at round  $j$ )
- $\beta: [i] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  is admissible if  $\beta(j) \in [p_i(j) \dots \text{Init}(j)]$  for all  $j \in [i]$
- Let's also define a tree valid with respect to  $\beta$  if we can partition the edge set  $E_T$  into sets  $E_T^1, E_T^2, \dots, E_T^s$ , such that the following hold
  - Let  $E_T^{\leq L}$  denote  $E_T^1 \cup \dots \cup E_T^L$ . For any connected component of  $E_T^{\leq L}$ , let  $j$  be the head of this component. Then we require  $\beta(j) \geq L$  (head means the vertex has biggest  $\beta$ )
  - Each edge in  $E_T^L$  has length at most  $2\alpha^{L+1}$

# Why need a generalized admissible function?

- Because we can show that the total cost of any tree  $T$  valid respect to  $\beta$  is at most  $2 \frac{\alpha^3}{\alpha-1} Wt_i(\beta)$  based on the definition of admissible and valid tree  $T$ .
- Proof:
  - The cost of each  $E_T^{l(i-1)}$  can be charged to the heads of components of
  - Any vertex  $j$ !  $E_T^l$  is charged  $\frac{1}{2\alpha^{l+1}}$  me  $E_T^l$  only if  $l \leq \beta(j) + 1$ ,
  - Each edge in  $E_T^l$  is at most
  - Total cha  $\sum_{l=1}^{\beta(j)+1} 2\alpha^{l+1} \leq 2 \frac{\alpha^3}{\alpha-1} \cdot \alpha^{\beta(j)}.$



$$C(T) \leq 2\alpha^3/(\alpha-1)^2 OPT([i])$$

# Steps to build the tree

- Lemma in constructing valid tree in respect to  $\beta$  and  $\beta'$ 
  - If  $T = ([i], E_T)$  is valid to  $\beta$  already, and  $\beta'$  differs from  $\beta$  only at vertex  $j^*$ , then there's a tree  $T' = ([i], E_{T'})$  that valid with respects to  $\beta'$  and  $|E_{T'} \triangle E_T| = 2$  ( $\triangle$  means symmetric difference)
- Proof:
  - Let  $L^* = \beta'(j^*) + 1$ . hence  $\beta'(j^*) < L^*$
  - Let edges sets union  $E_{T'}^{<=L^*-1} = E_T^{<=L^*-1}$ . Nothing changes.
  - For edge set  $E_T^{L^*}$ , if  $j^*$  is the head of some connected component  $C$  in  $E_T^{<=L^*}$ , we may find  $\beta'(j^*) < L^*$ , a contradiction to the tree property  $\beta(j) \geq L$  for all  $L$   
 Then we can find a vertex  $j$  in  $C'$  such that  $d(j, C) \leq 2\alpha^{(L^*+1)}$  let  $E_{T'}^{L^*} = E_T^{L^*} \cup (j, c)$  where  $c$  is the vertex in  $C$  closest to  $j$ . Hence  $C$  and  $C'$  is connected, and the head of  $C'$  is the head of the new component which satisfy  $\beta'(j) = \beta(j) \geq L$
  - For edges  $E_T^L$  where  $L > L^*$ . Build  $E_{T'}^L$  to be same as  $E_T^L$  except for edges that connect two vertices in the same component, hence we will drop only the edge that connect  $C$  and  $C'$  in  $E_T$  edge
  - This is an edge swap because we replace the old edge connecting  $C$  and  $C'$  with a new edge  $(j, c)$

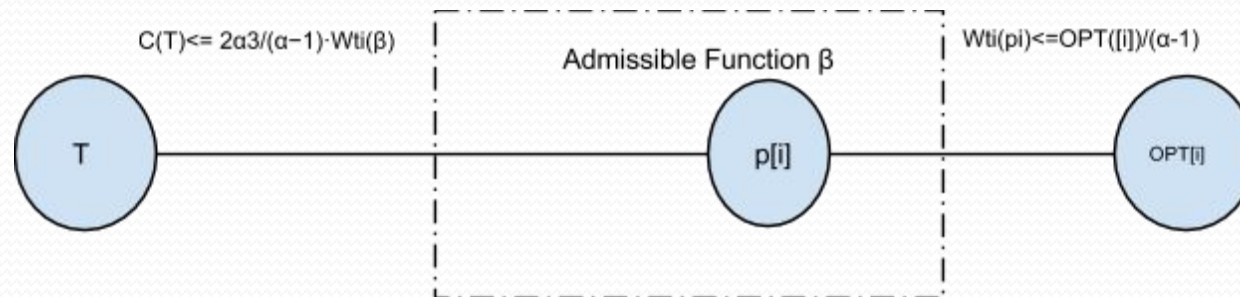


# Lemma →

- Since rank function  $\{p_i\}_i$  is inherently admissible, if use  $p_i$  as the algorithm function. We can do the following to make sure the built tree is valid.
  - At new arrival of vertex  $i$ , we first add a single edge from  $i$  to  $[i-1]$  (a shortest path to closest vertex in  $[i-1]$ )
  - then there are at most  $\|p_i - p_{i-1}\|_H$  different value in the rank between round  $i$  and round  $i-1$ . Using last lemma, we can aggregate at most  $\|p_i - p_{i-1}\|_H$  edge swaps, each for one pair of difference.

# Analysis

- Using  $p_i$  directly as the admissible function, achieves constant competitive ratio.



$$C(T) \leq 2\alpha^3/(\alpha-1)^2 OPT([i])$$

# Analysis

- but... it incurs non-constant swaps per vertex arrival.
- Reason being that at each round  $i$ , there's  $||p_i - p_{i-1}||$  swaps. Therefore, we need to restrict the number of swaps tolerable to a constant.



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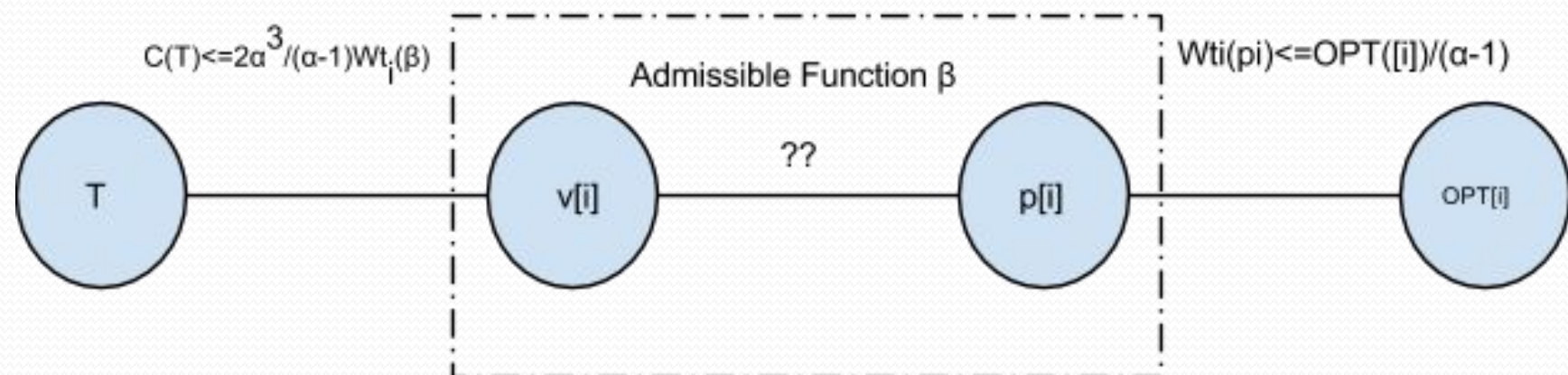
# Virtual Rank Function

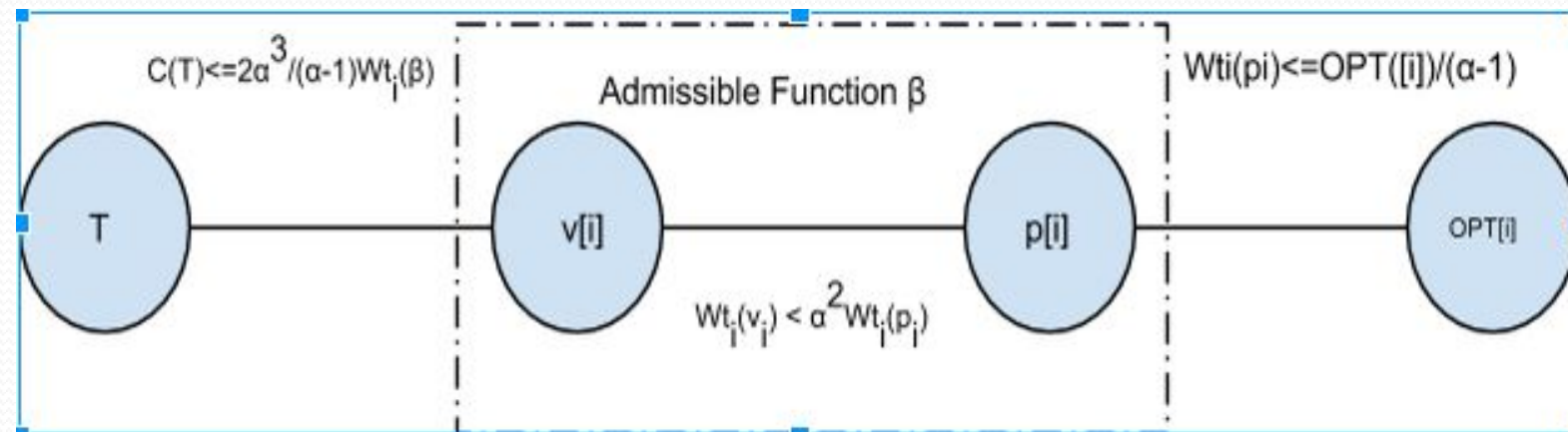
$K$  is used as a bottleneck to limit swaps in a round. Besides, we know that the Cost of  $T_i \approx \sum_{j>0} \alpha^{v_i(j)}$ . We wanted to keep this as small as possible. A natural way to get  $v_i$  from  $v_{i-1}$  is to decrement those  $K$  vertices with highest  $v_{i-1}(j)$

## Virtual Ranks :

1. Initially, we just have the root vertex 0. Define  $\nu_0(0) = \infty$ .
2. For  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ 
  - (i) Run the clustering algorithm  $\mathcal{R}_i$  to define the rank function  $\rho_i$ .
  - (ii) Set  $\nu_i(i)$  as  $\text{Init}(i)$ .
  - (iii) Define  $Q(i) = \{(j, k) \mid j \in [i-1], k \in [\rho_i(j) \dots (\nu_{i-1}(j) - 1)]\}$ .
  - (iv) Let  $Q_K$  be the set of the  $K$  highest pairs (w.r.t.  $\prec$ ) from  $Q(i)$ .
  - (v) Define the first  $i-1$  coordinates of  $\nu_i$  as follows:

$$\nu_i(j) := \begin{cases} \nu_{i-1}(j) & \text{if } (j, \star) \notin Q_K \\ \min\{k \mid (j, k) \in Q_K\} & \text{if } (j, \star) \in Q_K \end{cases}$$





We can prove that  $Wt_i(v_i) < \alpha^2 Wt_i(p_i)$ .

And this completes our proof:

for any  $n$ :

1.  $\text{Cost}(T_n) \leq 2\alpha^3 / (\alpha - 1) Wt_n(v_n) \leq 2\alpha^5 / (\alpha - 1) Wt_n(p_n) \leq 2\alpha^5 / (\alpha - 1)^2 \text{opt}([n])$

2. This is a **constant swap algorithm** for each arrival round  $i$ , since only  $K$  swaps are allowed ( $k$  coordinates of  $v_i$  and  $v_{i-1}$  differ by the definition of virtual rank function)

