

Style guide and expectations: We do NOT accept handwritten solutions. Please see the “Homework” part of the “Resources” section on the webpage for guidance on what we look for in homework solutions. We will grade according to these standards. You should cite all sources you used outside of the course material. Please do not distribute this material on any public forum.

Note about tagging your pages on gradescope: Please tag all of your pages to the correct question number on gradescope. We will apply a **5% deduction** to all untagged answers.

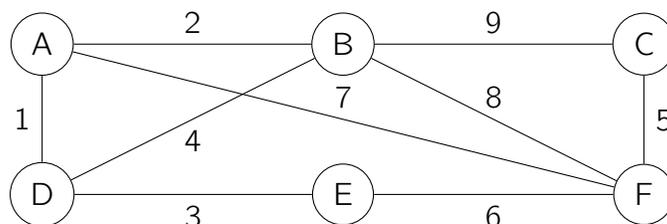
What we expect: Make sure to look at the “**We are expecting**” blocks below each problem to see what we will be grading for in each problem!

Pair submissions: You can submit in pairs for this assignment. If you choose to do this, please submit **one** Gradescope assignment per pair and be sure to tag both partners on your submission. Note that we still encourage exercises to be done solo first.

Exercises. The following questions are exercises. We suggest you do these on your own. As with any homework question, though, you may ask the course staff for help.

1 Spanning Tree Algorithms

Consider the graph G below.



1.1 Prim (1 pt.)

In what order does Prim’s algorithm add edges to an MST when started from vertex D ?

[We are expecting: An ordered list of edges.]

Solution

1.2 Kruskal (1 pt.)

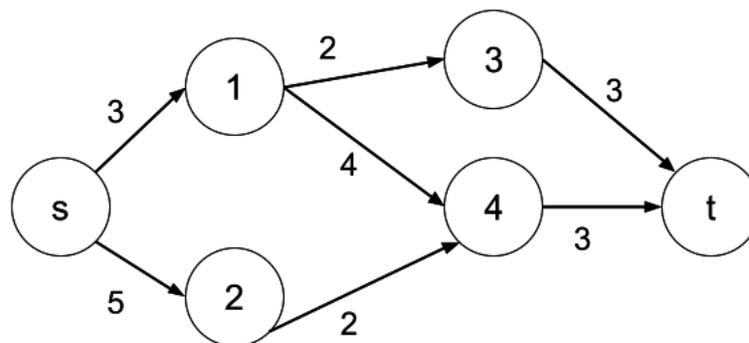
In what order does Kruskal's algorithm add edges to an MST?

[We are expecting: An ordered list of edges.]

Solution

2 Computing Max-Flow

Consider the graph below, with the edges labelled by their capacities. We will compute the max-flow from s to t in the following steps.



- (a) (1 pt.) We start with the 0 flow (which assigns no flow to any edge), so the residual graph is just the graph itself. Find an augmenting path in this graph from s to t with value 3.

[We are expecting: The list of vertices that are on the augmenting path with value 3; no justification required]

Solution

- (b) (2 pt.) Draw the residual graph after sending the flow from part (a).

[We are expecting: A diagram of the residual graph (you are welcomed to make a hand-drawn copy and take a photo).]

Solution

- (c) (2 pt.) Find another augmenting path (in the residual graph from part 2) from s to t and compute its value. Then, draw the residual graph after adding this path to the flow.

[We are expecting: A list of vertices in the augmenting path, the augmenting path's value, and a diagram of the residual graph (you are welcomed to make a hand-drawn copy and take a photo).]

Solution

(d) (1 pt.) Compute the max flow, and find a cut whose capacity is the same as the max flow.

[We are expecting: The max flow value, and a partition of the vertices corresponding to a min-cut.]

Solution

Problems. The following questions are problems. You may talk with your fellow CS 161-ers about the problems. However:

- Try the problems on your own *before* collaborating.
- Write up your answers yourself, in your own words. You should never share your typed-up solutions with your collaborators.
- If you collaborated, list the names of the students you collaborated with at the beginning of each problem.

3 Plucky's Subway Adventure

Plucky is planning to visit her very large family this weekend. She realizes that she needs to visit every single subway station to visit everyone from her family. She obtained a subway map where each station is represented as a vertex, and she sees that there are subway lines connecting all the stations to form an undirected graph $G = (V, E)$.

The subway system in her town has a peculiar pricing system. Each edge in the subway graph has a weight that represents how expensive it is to travel between the two nodes it connects.

Plucky plans to buy a special student ticket marked for x dollars that allows her to travel for **unlimited times** between any two stations that takes no more than x dollars to travel. In other words, she can travel through any path P in the subway system, as long as $\max\{w_e \mid e \in P\} \leq x$. Moreover, Plucky can start from any station.

Plucky wants to get the cheapest ticket such that she can visit all the stations without paying extra money to traverse any edge. Plucky realizes that she will be able to do so by finding a spanning tree T of G that minimizes the quantity

$$x = \max_{e \in T} w_e.$$

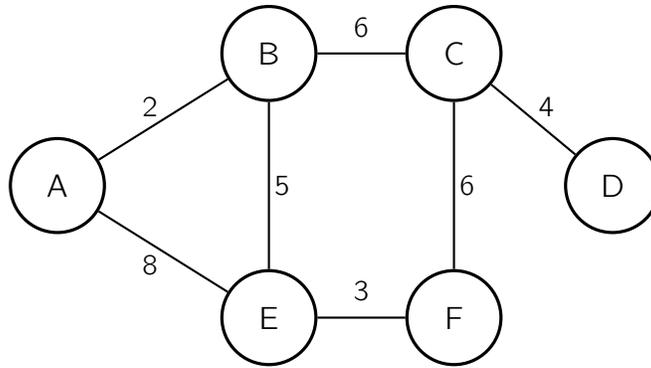


Figure 1: In a graph like this, Plucky needs to buy a \$6 ticket to travel to all the stations; she will be able to travel freely through any edges except for $\{A, E\}$ with her ticket.

Let us call this spanning tree a minimum-maximum tree since it minimizes the largest edge weight in the tree.

3.1 MST (6 pt.)

Prove that a minimum spanning tree in G is always a minimum-maximum tree.

Hint: Suppose toward a contradiction that T is an MST but not a minimum-maximum tree, and let T' be a minimum-maximum tree. Try to come up with a cheaper MST than T (and hence a contradiction).

[We are expecting: A rigorous proof.]

Solution

3.2 The other way around (2 pt.)

Show that the converse to the previous part is not true. That is, a minimum-maximum tree is not necessarily a minimum spanning tree.

[We are expecting: A counter-example, with an explanation of why it is a counter-example.]

Solution

4 Max-Flow

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a directed flow network with source $s \in V$, sink $t \in V$, and edge capacities for each edge $e \in E$. All edge capacities are positive *integers*. We can represent a flow by a

1-indexed array F , where $F[i]$ is the flow through edge $E[i]$ for $1 \leq i \leq |E|$.

4.1 Flow verification (5 pt.)

Given G and F , design an $O(|V|+|E|)$ -time algorithm to determine if the flow F is a maximum flow in G .

[We are expecting: An English description of your algorithm, an informal explanation of why it works, and a runtime analysis.]

[Hint: remember to check that F is a valid flow.]

Solution

English description.

Explanation.

Runtime analysis.

4.2 Flow update I (5 pt.)

Suppose that the capacity of a single edge $e = (u, v) \in E$ is **increased** by 1. Given G , its maximum flow F before the update, and e , design an $O(|V| + |E|)$ -time algorithm to update F so that it is still the maximum flow of G after the update to e .

[We are expecting: An English description of your algorithm, an informal explanation of why it works, and a runtime analysis.]

Solution

English description.

Explanation.

Runtime analysis.

4.3 Flow update II (5 pt.)

Suppose that the capacity of a single edge $e = (u, v) \in E$ is **decreased** by 1. Given G , its maximum flow F before the update, and e , design an $O(|V| + |E|)$ -time algorithm to update F so that it is still the maximum flow of G after the update to e .

[We are expecting: An English description of your algorithm, an informal explanation of why it works, and a runtime analysis.]

Solution

English description.

Explanation.

Runtime analysis.

4.4 Incommensurability (2 pt.)

Plucky the Pedantic Penguin has started his new job at a fiber optic company. Plucky's company uses a max flow algorithm to determine how to distribute high-speed internet through their fiber optic network. First, Plucky's supervisor asks his team to find a way to combine bandwidth and the projected customers in order to determine the edge capacities. Plucky's coworker suggests to use the sum of bandwidth (in gigabits per second) and the projected revenue of the served community as the edge weight. Identify two negative downstream consequences that might result from Plucky's colleagues proposed edge-weighting system.

[We are expecting: 2-3 sentences identifying two negative downstream consequences that might result from Plucky's colleagues proposed edge-weighting system.]

Solution

4.5 Infrastructure (2 pt.)

Because Plucky's fiber optic company wants to maximize profit, their goal is to maximize the total flow of high-speed internet data throughout their network. To do this, their max flow algorithm idealizes all communities as having equal infrastructure costs. Describe a group that might be negatively impacted by this abstraction, and provide one example of a possible injustice that might occur as a result.

[We are expecting: 2-3 sentences describing a group that might be negatively impacted by this abstraction, and explaining one example of a possible injustice that would occur as a result.]

Solution

4.6 Digital Divide (2 pt.)

Solving the digital divide is often described as a wicked problem. Give one reason why it lacks a stopping rule.

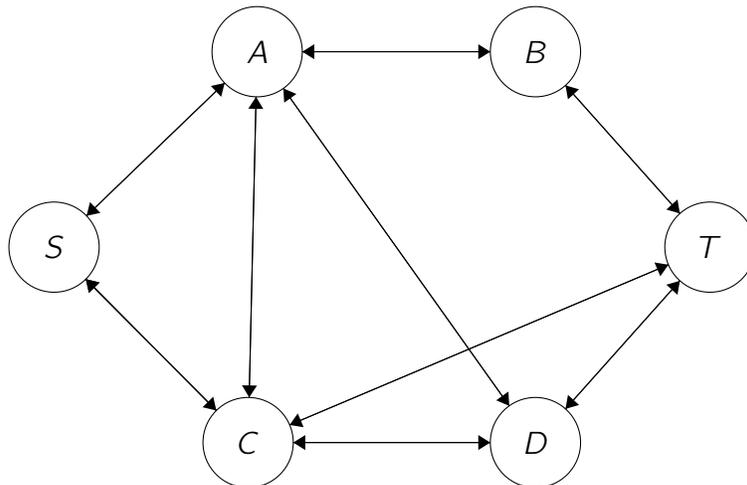
[We are expecting: 1-2 sentences describing one reason why solving the digital divide lacks a stopping rule.]

Solution

5 Truculent Terrapins

Toby the Terrapin has two children who need to get to tap dancing class, but they often quarrel, and so have trouble traveling together. The possible routes that these two terrapins can take to class are represented via an undirected, unweighted graph G . Both of Toby's children start at node S , and they need to finish at node T without having used any of the same edges on their path.

An example graph:



The paths $[S, A, B, T]$ and $[S, C, D, T]$ are valid for both 5.1 and 5.2.

The paths $[S, A, C, T]$ and $[S, C, D, T]$ are valid for 5.1 but not 5.2.

The paths $[S, A, D, T]$ and $[S, C, D, T]$ are valid for neither 5.1 nor 5.2.

5.1 Find Two Paths, No Overlapping Edges (5 pt.)

Help Toby design an algorithm to find a path for each of his two children. Your algorithm should modify the graph and call Ford-Fulkerson as a subroutine. Your algorithm should either return the list of vertices visited by the two separate paths, or -1 if no two paths which meet the requirements exist.

[We are expecting: How you will modify the graph, how you will use Ford-Fulkerson, and a justification as to why your algorithm always finds a path for each of Toby's two children if one exists.]

Solution

Modification on the graph.

Algorithm description.

Justification.

5.2 No Overlapping Nodes

5.2.1 Finding Two Paths (5 pt.)

Toby finds that his children are still quarreling, because even if they don't use the same edges, if they ever end up at the same node, they will still get into an argument.

Help Toby design a new algorithm that finds two paths from S to T for his children that do not share any nodes (except for S and T). Your algorithm should first modify the graph so that each node can only be passed through once, and then call Ford-Fulkerson as a subroutine. Your algorithm should either return the list of vertices visited by the two separate paths, or -1 if no two paths which meet the requirements exist.

[We are expecting: How you will modify the graph, how you will use Ford-Fulkerson, and a justification as to why your algorithm always finds a path for each of Toby's two children if one exists. Your answer for this question can build upon your answer for part 5.1.]

Solution

Modification on the graph.

Algorithm description.

Justification.

5.2.2 Finding More Paths (2 pt.)

Lucky the Lemur has 17 children, and he wants to put his children on separate paths to tap dancing as well. (He wants to use Toby's more strict requirement that none of his children ever visit the same node). Extend the algorithm you wrote in part 5.2 to find n separate paths from S to T such that no two of them visit the same node (except for S and T). (Again, the algorithm should return -1 if it is impossible to create n such paths).

[We are expecting: How you will modify your previous approach (you can directly refer to your previous approach). No justification is needed.]

Solution