

*Bang Ye Wu and Kun-Mao Chao*

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# *Spanning Trees and Optimization Problems*

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## *Preface*

The research on spanning trees has been one of the most important areas in algorithm design. People who are interested in algorithms will find this book informative and inspiring. The new results are still accumulating, and we try to make clear the whole picture of the current status and future developments.

This book is written for graduate or advanced undergraduate students in computer science, electrical engineering, industrial engineering, and mathematics. It is also a good reference for professionals.

Our motivations for writing this book:

1. To the best of our knowledge, there is no book totally dedicated to the topics of spanning trees.
2. Our recent progress in spanning trees reveals a new line of investigation.
3. Designing approximation algorithms for spanning tree problems has become an exciting and important field in theoretical computer science.
4. Besides numerous network design applications, spanning trees have also been playing important roles in newly established research areas, such as biological sequence alignments, and evolutionary tree construction.

This book is a general and rigorous text on algorithms for spanning trees. It covers the full spectrum of spanning tree algorithms from classical computer science to modern applications. The selected topics in this book make it an excellent handbook on algorithms for spanning trees. At the end of every chapter, we report related work and recent progress.

We first explain general properties of spanning trees. We then focus on three categories of spanning trees, namely, minimum spanning trees, shortest-paths trees, and optimum routing cost spanning trees. We also show how to balance the tree costs. Besides the theoretical description of the methods, many examples are used to illustrate the ideas behind them. Moreover, we demonstrate some applications of these spanning trees. We explore in details some other interesting spanning trees, including maximum leaf spanning trees and minimum diameter spanning trees. In addition, Steiner trees and evolutionary trees are also discussed. We close this book by summarizing other important problems related to spanning trees.

Writing a book is not as easy as we thought at the very beginning of this project. We have tried our best to make it consistent and correct. However, it's a mission impossible for imperfect authors to produce a perfect book.

Should you find any mathematical, historical, or typographical errors, please let us know.

We are extremely grateful to Richard Chia-Tung Lee, Webb Miller, and Chuan Yi Tang, who always make the subject of algorithms exciting and beautiful in their superb lectures. Their guidance and suggestions throughout this study were indispensable.

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It has been a pleasure working with CRC Press in the development of this book. We are very proud to have this book included in the CRC series on Discrete Mathematics and Its Applications, edited by Kenneth H. Rosen. Ken also provided critical reviews and invaluable information for which we are grateful. We thank Sunil Nair for his final approval of our proposal. Richard O'Hanley was the first to approach us about the possibility of publishing a book at CRC Press. Robert B. Stern then handled the proposal review and contract arrangements efficiently. Bob also proposed many constructive suggestions throughout the project. Jamie B. Sigal helped us with both production and permissions issues, and his gentle reminders kept us moving at a good pace. William R. Palmer III resolved the questions arising in prepress. Nishith Arora revised the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X style files in a timely manner. Julie Spadaro set the production schedule in a perfect way, and kindly copyedited our manuscript for us to review and correct.

Finally, we thank our families for their love, patience, and encouragement. We thank our wives, Mei-Ling Cheng and Pei-Ju Tsai, and our sons, Ming-Hsuan Wu and Leo Liang Chao, for tolerating our absentmindedness during the writing of this book. We promise to work less than 168 hours a week by not taking on a new grand project immediately.

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