

## Solving the Shortest Total Path Length Spanning Tree Problem Using the Modified Sollin and Modified Dijkstra Algorithms

Wamiliana<sup>1\*</sup>, Reni Permata Sari<sup>2,3</sup>, Astri Reformasari<sup>1</sup>, Jani Suparman<sup>1</sup>, Akmal Junaidi<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science, Universitas Lampung, Bandar Lampung, 35145, Indonesia

<sup>2</sup>Doctoral Program, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Universitas Lampung, Bandar Lampung, 35145, Indonesia

<sup>3</sup>Faculty of Science and Technology, Universitas Nahdatul Ulama, Lampung, 34192, Indonesia

<sup>4</sup>Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science, Universitas Lampung, Bandar Lampung, 35145, Indonesia

\*Corresponding author: wamiliana.1963@fmipa.unila.ac.id

### Abstract

In a weighted connected graph, the shortest total path length spanning tree problem is a problem when we need to discover the spanning tree with the lowest total cost of all pairwise distances between its vertices. This problem is also known as the minimum routing cost spanning tree (MRCST). In this study, we will discuss the Modified Sollin and Modified Dijkstra Algorithms to solve that problem which implemented on 300 problems are complete graphs of orders 10 to 100 in increments of 10, where every order consists of 30 problems. The results show that the performance of the Modified Dijkstra and the Modified Sollin Algorithms are slightly similar. On orders 10, 20, 30, 60, and 80, the Modified Dijkstra Algorithm performs better than the Modified Sollin, however on orders 40, 50, 70, 90, and 100, the Modified Sollin performs better.

### Keywords

Shortest Total Path Length Spanning Tree Problem, Modified Sollin Algorithm, Modified Dijkstra

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Graph theory is one of the mathematical branches that can be used to represent problems in daily life. Graf  $G(V, E)$ ,  $V \neq \emptyset$ ,  $V$  is the set of vertices and  $E$  denotes the set of edges that connect the vertices. Because of its flexible structure where there is no specific rule in drawing a graph (where it is possible to draw an edge as a curve, a line, etc.), a graph emerges as one of the important tools for representing problems. A wide range of sciences and technology employ graph theory for instance: in computer science graphs are used in database designing, software engineering, and network design (Elumalai, 2020; Singh, 2014). The graph structure plays a crucial role in database architecture since it provides quick implementation using various graph functionalities and features. The vertices indicate transformations and the edges represent the data flows on the data flow diagram during the requirements specification process. A program's control flow during testing uses directed graphs to address the order of executed instructions, whereas, during the design phase, graphical design is utilized to describe relationships between modules. In social science de Nooy (2009) adapted the graph structure to do the social networks analysis, where the social network is viewed as a graph in a graph theoret-

ical approach, which is made up of a collection of vertices that represent social actors and a set of edges that reflect one or more social links among them; while in life science, Nøjgaard (2020) explored graph theoretical concepts, especially on formalizing and addressing the issues raised, including self-assembling protein design, evolutionary biology, chemical compounds, etc. A leaf-labeled tree was used in biology to illustrate a phylogeny (Brandes and Cornelsen, 2009; Huson and Bryant, 2006). A phylogeny or phylogenetic tree is a branching diagram that depicts the paths of diverse species, organisms, or genes descended from a common ancestor. In agriculture, Kannimuthu et al. (2020) used the graph coloring algorithm to help farmers decide what crops to grow while protecting their investment in agricultural cultivation and balancing crop demand. In this algorithm, the land region is represented by the vertices, and crops are represented by the colors, and the first requirement is to color the vertices so that there are no two adjacent vertices that have the same color. Kawakura and Shibasaki (2018) used a spanning tree, one of the useful graph theory concepts, to create methods for both close and far agriculture laborers' observations engaged in cropping tasks.

## 2. CONSTRAINED SPANNING TREE PROBLEM

A connected graph containing no cycle is a tree, and a spanning tree  $T$  of an undirected graph  $G$  is a subgraph of  $G$ , a tree with all of its vertices present. If graph  $G$  is a weighted graph, the minimum spanning tree (MST) of graph  $G$  is a spanning tree of graph  $G$  whose total weight/cost is minimum. Spanning tree is a concept in graph theory that is used in many real-life applications, and MST is one concept in graph theory that is utilized as a backbone in numerous network design issues (Sari et al., 2022). When Borůvka (1926) resolved the issue of building Moravia’s electricity network in the Czech Republic, he proposed the first algorithm to solve the MST. However, the two popular algorithms for solving MST are Prim’s algorithm by Prim (1957) and Kruskal’s algorithm by Kruskal (1956). The MST problem is frequently encountered in network design applications when various graph criteria like diameter, distance, degree, flow, connectedness, etc. must be fulfilled. For example, the bounded diameter MST is a combinatorial optimization problem that optimizes a tree weight while keeping the hop diameter. This optimization challenge is useful for designing a computer network with the lowest possible cost and the shortest possible network delay to achieve service quality while decreasing the likelihood of communication failure (Segal and Tzfaty, 2022). The Degree Constrained MST occurs when designing a network where the vertex/node has a maximum bound of the number of interconnecting channels. If, besides degree, the period is added as a constraint, the problem becomes a multi-period degree-constrained MST. Kawatra (2002) solved this problem for digraphs, while Wamiliانا et al. (2020; 2015a; 2015b) solved it for an undirected graph. The period is added as a restriction because in real-life problems it is possible that developing or building a network is done stage by stage due to some conditions such as weather, limited funds, and others.

The other problem that uses a spanning tree as the backbone is the shortest total path length spanning tree (STPL) problem. This problem occurs when we must determine the tree with the lowest communication costs i.e., the tree that has the smallest total distance for all pairs of vertices computed across the whole network. A STPL or MRCST problem represents a spanning tree  $T$ , one of all spanning trees of  $G$  so that  $C_r(T)^* = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}, i \neq j$ , where  $c_{ij}$  is the cost of vertex  $(i, j)$ , and  $T^*$  is the spanning tree whose the minimal routing cost is the minimal among all spanning tree in  $G$  (Campos and Ricardo, 2008). For more precise, the STPL problem is defined as follows: given  $G(V, E), V = \{v_1, v_2, v_3, \dots, v_n\}, G$  undirected,  $V \neq \emptyset, E$  is the set of edges that connect the vertices in  $V, G$  is connected, and for every  $e_{ij} \in E$  there is a nonnegative cost  $c_{ij}$  associated with it,  $d(i, j)$  is the distance between the vertices  $i$  and  $j$  in  $G$ , the STPL or MRCST problem is to find a spanning tree  $T^*$  so that  $C_r(T^*) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n d_{ij}, i \neq j$   $T^*$  is the spanning tree in  $G$  that produces the shortest total distance between every two vertices. Figure 1 below illustrates the STPL problem.

Suppose that we have a graph  $G$  and one of its spanning

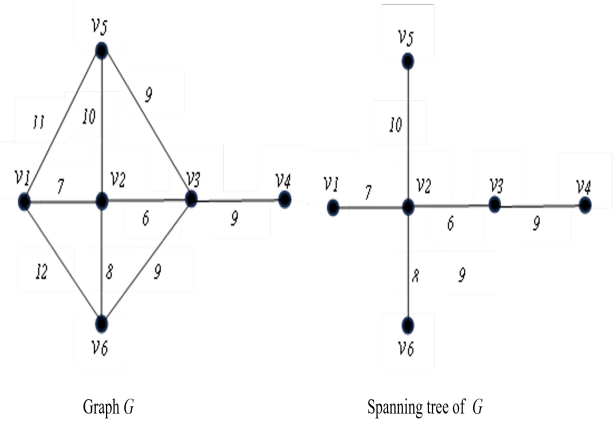


Figure 1. Example of Graph  $G$  and One of its Spanning Trees  $T$

tree  $T$  as shown in Figure 2. The STPL of  $T$  is the total length of the distance of every two vertices. The distances of every pair of vertices are:  $d(v_1, v_2) = 7, d(v_1, v_3) = 13, d(v_1, v_4) = 22, d(v_1, v_5) = 17, d(v_1, v_6) = 15, d(v_2, v_3) = 6, d(v_2, v_4) = 15, d(v_2, v_5) = 10, d(v_2, v_6) = 8, d(v_3, v_4) = 9, d(v_3, v_5) = 16, d(v_3, v_6) = 14, d(v_4, v_5) = 25, d(v_4, v_6) = 23, d(v_5, v_6) = 18$ . Since  $C_r = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n d_{ij}, i \neq j$ , then the value of  $C_r$  is double the sum of the distance of every pair of vertices. Thus, the value of STPL in the example in Figure 1 is  $C_r = 2 \times (7 + 13 + 22 + 17 + 15 + 6 + 15 + 10 + 8 + 9 + 16 + 14 + 25 + 23 + 18) = 2 \times 218 = 436$ .

Some researchers already investigated the shortest total distance spanning tree, and since this problem is an NP-hard problem the heuristics are more proposed. The bee colony algorithm was investigated by Singh (2008), Tan (2012b), and Singh and Sundar (2011), while Hieu et al. (2011) investigated the ant colony algorithm. Julstrom (2001; 2005), and Tan (2012a) proposed a genetic algorithm to tackle the problem. Julstrom (2005), also coded the tree in Blob code and demonstrated that in genetic algorithms, the tree represented in Blob code performed better than the tree coded as an edge-set, as proposed by Raidl and Julstrom (2003). Fischetti et al. (2002) showed that in addition to network design, trees with low routing costs are important in biological computation, where they can be used to find acceptable genomic sequence alignments. Masone et al. (2019) offered a broad and thorough understanding of the topic while also laying the groundwork for the next research activities such as the evolution of the proposed heuristic’s evolution inside a framework for metaheuristics.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 The Modified Dijkstra Algorithm

Before starting the Modified Dijkstra Algorithm, we need to do preprocessing. The preprocessing process runs the Dijkstra Algorithm to determine the shortest path for every two vertices so that the number of trees obtained is  $\frac{n(n-1)}{2}$  where the order of the graph is  $n$ . Next, construct a table that gives the list of

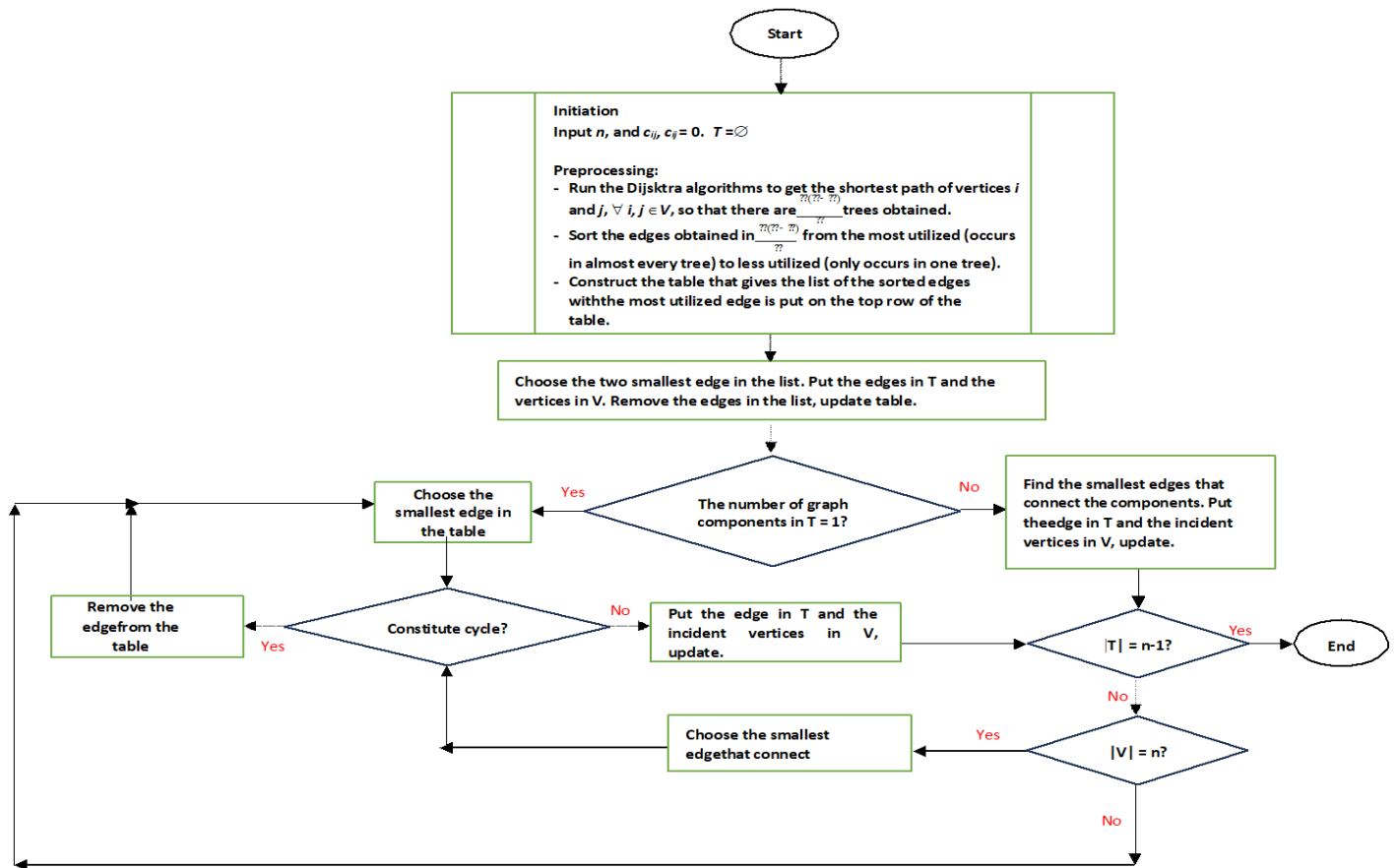


Figure 2. Flowchart Modified Dijkstra Algorithm

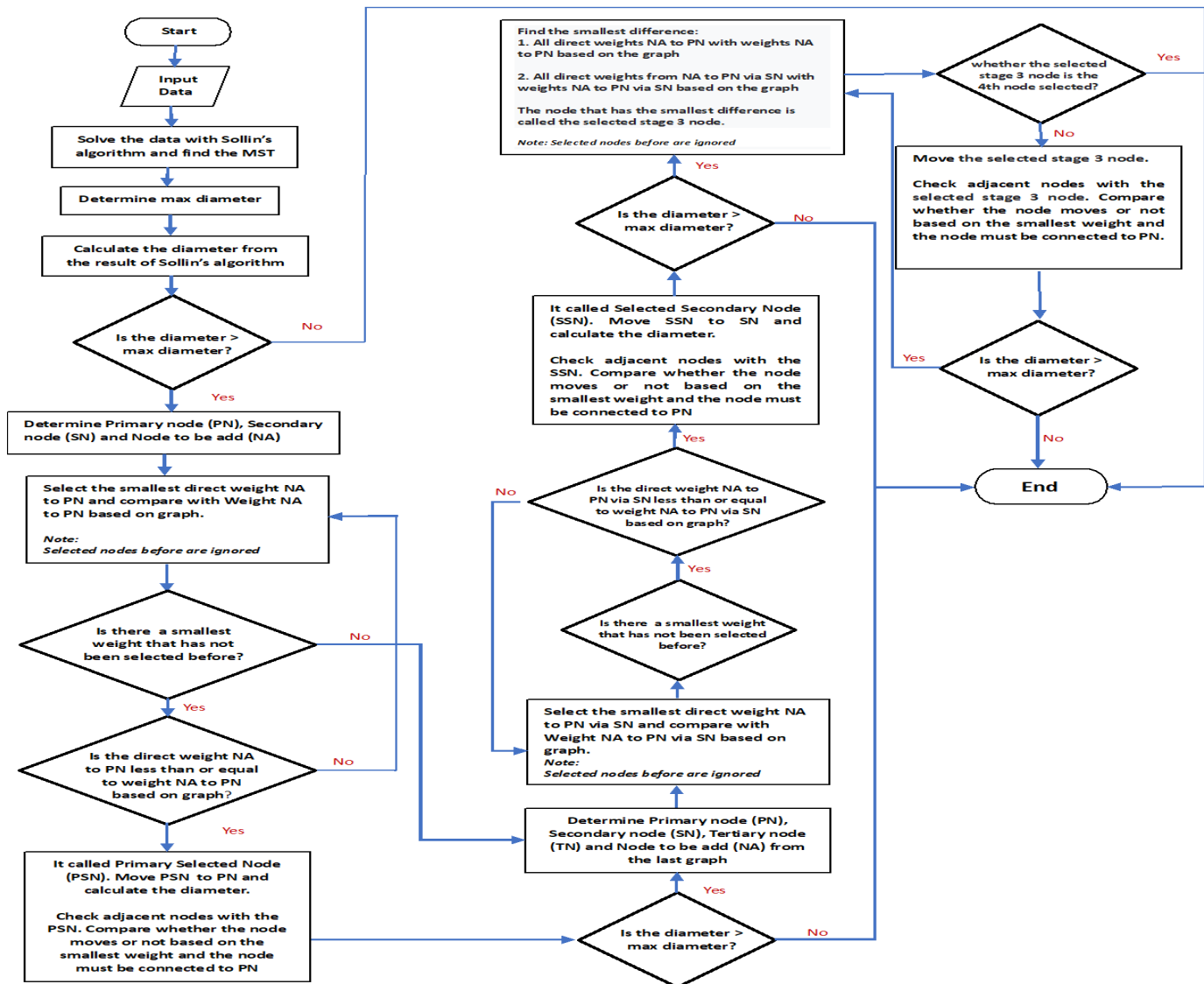
Table 1. The Solutions for STPL for Graphs of Order 10 to 100

| Data    | Vertex order |            |              |            |              |            |              |            |              |            |              |            |              |            |              |            |              |            |              |            |
|---------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|
|         | 10           | 10         | 20           | 20         | 30           | 30         | 40           | 40         | 50           | 50         | 60           | 60         | 70           | 70         | 80           | 80         | 90           | 90         | 100          | 100        |
|         | Mod-Dijkstra | Mod-Sollin | Mod-Dijkstra | Mod-Sollin | Mod-Dijkstra | Mod-Sollin | Mod-Dijkstra | Mod-Sollin | Mod-Dijkstra | Mod-Sollin | Mod-Dijkstra | Mod-Sollin | Mod-Dijkstra | Mod-Sollin | Mod-Dijkstra | Mod-Sollin | Mod-Dijkstra | Mod-Sollin | Mod-Dijkstra | Mod-Sollin |
| 1       | 27022        | 28948      | 77870        | 77870      | 116482       | 116482     | 201060       | 201060     | 285712       | 285712     | 385978       | 385978     | 559070       | 521956     | 636448       | 617738     | 822052       | 661388     | 748488       | 770046     |
| 2       | 23092        | 23092      | 92032        | 92796      | 144080       | 144080     | 259132       | 235020     | 280408       | 280408     | 511416       | 421188     | 623082       | 573232     | 673364       | 709768     | 838642       | 867600     | 902720       | 819444     |
| 3       | 20540        | 20540      | 77204        | 77732      | 166512       | 166512     | 203146       | 203146     | 352090       | 365060     | 477242       | 452894     | 440202       | 450988     | 674122       | 645122     | 723342       | 786342     | 882802       | 888782     |
| 4       | 22600        | 22114      | 91800        | 91800      | 120390       | 120390     | 284214       | 287686     | 283752       | 318320     | 428058       | 419770     | 614922       | 540916     | 545598       | 508732     | 760332       | 693226     | 628752       | 669664     |
| 5       | 35340        | 39510      | 106544       | 122026     | 206064       | 212686     | 216646       | 518696     | 484656       | 459334     | 473506       | 573924     | 577014       | 609294     | 627612       | 814180     | 786448       | 720184     | 777474       | 719346     |
| 6       | 35986        | 35414      | 75642        | 75642      | 158754       | 158754     | 205192       | 205192     | 258174       | 259284     | 455502       | 368744     | 587122       | 584454     | 515190       | 510126     | 800502       | 668144     | 806528       | 719346     |
| 7       | 48704        | 46728      | 101674       | 102282     | 178348       | 178348     | 238180       | 245802     | 313790       | 313790     | 286154       | 286154     | 584566       | 524698     | 823254       | 866218     | 818210       | 644096     | 980394       | 940732     |
| 8       | 12026        | 13162      | 106150       | 106150     | 149858       | 149858     | 207390       | 222230     | 352694       | 352694     | 423884       | 423558     | 497186       | 490728     | 573062       | 605304     | 647842       | 627394     | 851142       | 756896     |
| 9       | 37476        | 37476      | 85436        | 88098      | 143762       | 143762     | 146928       | 146928     | 371072       | 354200     | 464898       | 414108     | 538534       | 544446     | 567586       | 522486     | 879640       | 820846     | 749792       | 714808     |
| 10      | 45764        | 39256      | 73562        | 73562      | 107582       | 107582     | 197738       | 195164     | 345380       | 343848     | 426814       | 449242     | 563248       | 604214     | 699462       | 678724     | 675588       | 687814     | 1037660      | 975554     |
| 11      | 32020        | 28582      | 160460       | 147744     | 245300       | 245300     | 287366       | 317254     | 424632       | 371968     | 355454       | 344324     | 658662       | 653834     | 656826       | 1E+06      | 941972       | 810270     | 799976       | 746296     |
| 12      | 37346        | 36860      | 55784        | 55784      | 157466       | 157466     | 281146       | 267008     | 326126       | 338084     | 432526       | 432526     | 618406       | 531714     | 677138       | 706334     | 653890       | 666754     | 627048       | 631288     |
| 13      | 23874        | 22654      | 56960        | 56960      | 168918       | 168918     | 354416       | 363826     | 212538       | 212538     | 414328       | 549848     | 455524       | 458488     | 718138       | 743334     | 680378       | 745014     | 838848       | 786742     |
| 14      | 32860        | 36172      | 118204       | 118204     | 145506       | 139794     | 282942       | 287998     | 336664       | 371222     | 410520       | 410520     | 343608       | 382022     | 598206       | 689240     | 736914       | 638414     | 943618       | 1144920    |
| 15      | 22012        | 24318      | 101166       | 101166     | 150590       | 150590     | 266264       | 231254     | 259772       | 259772     | 464980       | 534192     | 590984       | 575756     | 753234       | 805328     | 678166       | 682672     | 902922       | 841240     |
| 16      | 26842        | 25436      | 98630        | 98630      | 137014       | 137014     | 192776       | 192776     | 406898       | 364294     | 448976       | 499070     | 378840       | 411246     | 633072       | 507992     | 609758       | 638252     | 744106       | 830120     |
| 17      | 19216        | 19216      | 98420        | 98420      | 193226       | 193226     | 273200       | 252824     | 375632       | 387040     | 422182       | 401356     | 591346       | 673252     | 720814       | 740600     | 785716       | 766008     | 1032946      | 1153440    |
| 18      | 34860        | 33292      | 122780       | 122780     | 106788       | 106788     | 153918       | 153918     | 323112       | 323112     | 542238       | 482618     | 411758       | 408686     | 910110       | 800522     | 761484       | 681182     | 883976       | 886100     |
| 19      | 20764        | 26546      | 62030        | 62030      | 186818       | 186818     | 191516       | 191516     | 330794       | 385694     | 351594       | 351594     | 416220       | 477522     | 690150       | 674272     | 825288       | 834760     | 901362       | 963428     |
| 20      | 39862        | 38574      | 62032        | 62032      | 99420        | 99420      | 208154       | 194534     | 367154       | 354358     | 649786       | 544056     | 386030       | 370450     | 708840       | 702624     | 584904       | 657652     | 847242       | 946388     |
| 21      | 43582        | 50272      | 75110        | 75110      | 126188       | 128708     | 207668       | 207668     | 256280       | 445250     | 488962       | 549366     | 432988       | 697378     | 706884       | 603328     | 678166       | 631594     | 815934       | 776358     |
| 22      | 52806        | 54146      | 87326        | 87326      | 86076        | 86076      | 237792       | 240582     | 438004       | 426520     | 537206       | 627036     | 569088       | 524190     | 667798       | 562070     | 742332       | 708266     | 716202       | 710374     |
| 23      | 25728        | 25728      | 91910        | 91910      | 161204       | 161204     | 236680       | 241608     | 314234       | 276386     | 360716       | 347738     | 562784       | 511320     | 471356       | 530264     | 589922       | 547594     | 973550       | 1142624    |
| 24      | 28666        | 25800      | 101416       | 101416     | 177962       | 178922     | 365618       | 376336     | 327320       | 327320     | 500606       | 496030     | 455776       | 394260     | 659974       | 622510     | 988832       | 851342     | 993688       | 804198     |
| 25      | 38494        | 34446      | 79828        | 79828      | 207992       | 207992     | 248148       | 248148     | 459718       | 478848     | 268640       | 307616     | 612572       | 564190     | 530236       | 511530     | 521726       | 558406     | 692108       | 885458     |
| 26      | 33050        | 33050      | 104714       | 96320      | 139612       | 139612     | 225690       | 225690     | 472778       | 408514     | 245266       | 246828     | 381848       | 376068     | 658658       | 615944     | 673610       | 481314     | 973896       | 936704     |
| 27      | 22476        | 28700      | 92708        | 96164      | 152152       | 152152     | 289596       | 289596     | 392982       | 434880     | 383018       | 376768     | 511146       | 457814     | 561088       | 538818     | 1050126      | 871776     | 886498       | 755906     |
| 28      | 38834        | 39634      | 77006        | 77006      | 128628       | 128628     | 262102       | 262102     | 385208       | 346840     | 435298       | 404244     | 598462       | 484364     | 641380       | 526682     | 740194       | 601562     | 850488       | 570504     |
| 29      | 23696        | 23524      | 62838        | 62838      | 209498       | 252940     | 266966       | 266966     | 209272       | 209272     | 449848       | 526842     | 511894       | 589884     | 524166       | 537120     | 844990       | 787390     | 986820       | 930190     |
| 30      | 25986        | 24520      | 74212        | 74212      | 129936       | 129936     | 204362       | 204362     | 389022       | 379014     | 444572       | 439814     | 544574       | 660288     | 542526       | 530668     | 560962       | 533738     | 815596       | 753386     |
| Average | 31050.8      | 31257      | 89048.3      | 89127.933  | 153404.2     | 154777.87  | 239728.2     | 239159     | 346080       | 342330.93  | 430074       | 430221     | 524358       | 511699     | 644616       | 647550.3   | 747977       | 701897.1   | 842392.87    | 839430.67  |

the edges used in preprocessing (edges that formed the trees on preprocessing). Sort the edges from the most utilized (occurs

in almost every tree) to less utilized (only occurs in one tree). The Modified Dijkstra Algorithm starts by selecting the two

**Sollin's Modification algorithm**



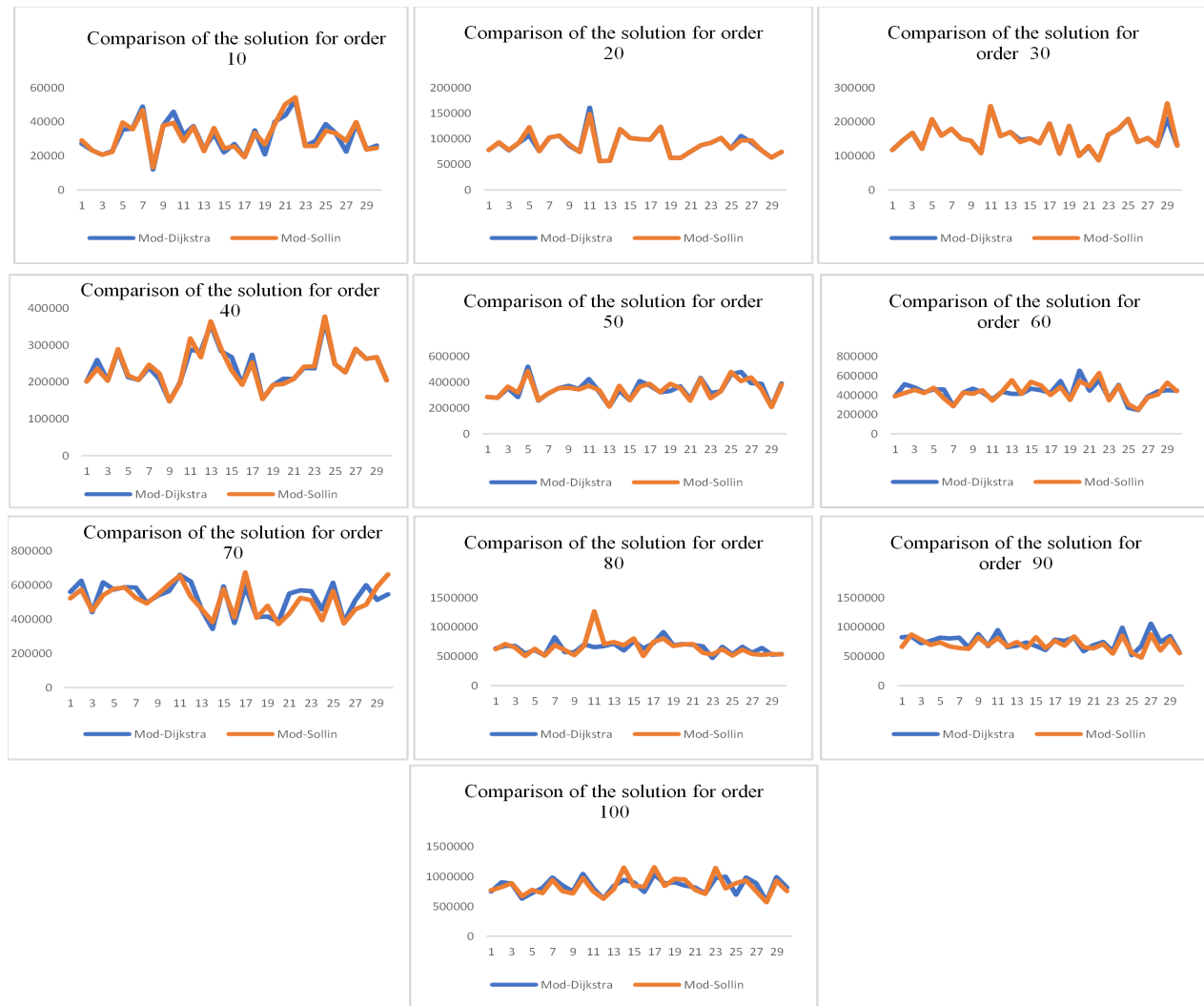
**Figure 3.** Flowchart Modified Sollin Algorithm

smallest costs in the table list and putting them in set  $T$  ( $T$  can be a tree or forest), and the vertices adjacent to those edges in the set  $V$ . If the number of components in  $T$  is more than one, then choose the next utilized edge in the table, and put in  $T$ , and corresponding adjacent vertices in  $V$ . Check if  $|T| = n - 1$ . If yes, stop, otherwise continue the step. The next step is giving labels to components in  $T$  (there are two labels, one is 0 and the other is 1), then searching for the smallest edge. Check if both adjacent vertices in the smallest edge are in  $V$ . If yes, connect component 0 and component 1 by adding the smallest edge  $(i, j)$  so that the components 0 and 1 are connected. Relabeled the component as 0. If only one vertex is adjacent to  $(i, j)$  in  $V$  (suppose  $i$  is already in  $V$ ), then put  $j$  in  $V$ , edge  $(i, j)$  in

$T$ , and label edge  $(i, j)$  with the same label as its connected component. Do those steps until  $|T| = n - 1$  and the component has only one label. Figure 2 illustrates the procedure of the Modified Dijkstra Algorithm.

**3.2 The Modified Sollin Algorithm**

Before starting the Modified Sollin Algorithm, we run the Sollin Algorithm to determine the MST as preprocessing. Thus, the preprocessing in the Modified Sollin is to find the MST. Using the MST gained in the preprocessing, the algorithm starts by checking the path length for every pair of vertices. Note that the path length in this case is the number of edges connecting every two vertices, not the total cost of the path. The value of



**Figure 4.** The Comparison of the Solution of Modified Dijkstra and Modified Sollin Algorithms for Vertex Order 10 to 100

$d_{max}$  for graphs of orders 10, 20, and 30 is  $\frac{n}{2}$ , while for orders 40 to 100 is 15. If the path length is  $>d_{max}$ , then the path revision must be done to reduce the path length. The idea of reducing path length is due to the longer the path the higher the cost. If the path length is  $>d_{max}$ , then the algorithm will check the highest degree vertices, denote it as the primary vertex, and put in set  $V$ . If not, then there are no modifications made. To do the path revision, remove the highest cost edge that is farthest from the primary vertex, and add the new edge that connects the adjacent leaf on that farthest edge to the smallest edge connecting to the secondary vertex. If there is more than one primary vertex, then denote also as primary and put it in  $V$ . Next, check the secondary vertices which are the vertices that are adjacent to the primary vertex/vertices, and choose the smallest edges connecting every primary or secondary vertex, and put the edges that connect them in  $T$ . If all vertices already in primary or secondary, then check if  $T = |n-1|$ . If yes, then stop, otherwise determine the unconnected vertices. Calculate

the smallest cost  $d(u, v)$  from the primary vertex  $u$  to every unconnected vertices  $v$ ,  $d(u, v) = \min\{c_{uv}^{P_{uv}}\}$ , where  $c_{uv}$  is the cost of edge  $(u, v)$ , and  $w(P_{uv})$  is the cost of the shortest path that connects primary vertex  $u$  to vertex  $v$ . Choose the smallest edge in the calculation and connect. Do that step until every unconnected vertex is connected and  $T = |n-1|$ . Figure 3 shows the flowchart of the Modified Sollin algorithm.

We implement both algorithms on complete graphs of orders 10 to 100. There are thirty problems for each vertex order.

Table 1 shows the result of implementing 300 problems. It shows that the average solutions gained from the Modified Dijkstra Algorithm perform better than the Modified Sollin on orders 10, 20, 30, 60, and 80, while the Modified Sollin performs better than the Modified Dijkstra on orders 40, 50, 70, 90, and 100. Figure 4 shows the comparative solutions of both algorithms for vertex order 10 to 100. From the comparative solutions for orders 20 and 30, it can be seen that the perfor-

mance of those two algorithms is quite similar where the line showing solutions gained by the Modified Dijkstra Algorithm (blue line), and solutions gained by the Modified Sollin (orange line) almost collide in every problem.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion above, we conclude that implemented on the data problems, the performance of the Modified Dijkstra and the Modified Sollin Algorithms are slightly similar. On orders 10, 20, 30, 60, and 80, the Modified Dijkstra Algorithm performs better than the Modified Sollin, however on orders 40, 50, 70, 90, and 100, the Modified Sollin performs better.

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