Problem 1. Recall that a tree is a connected graph without cycles. Prove:

- Every tree has at least a leaf node, i.e., a node with degree 1 (i.e., a node incident to only one edge).
- Every tree with \( n \) nodes has precisely \( n - 1 \) edges.

Solution. Proof of the first statement: Start from an arbitrary node \( u \). If \( u \) is not a leaf, then walk across one of its edges to reach a neighbor node, and delete the edge that was crossed. Then, set \( u \) to that neighbor node, and repeat the process. In this process, every node will be encountered at most once (if a node is seen twice, there must be a cycle, and hence cause a contradiction). Since the tree has a finite number of nodes, the process must come to an end eventually. The last node reached must be a leaf.

Proof of the second statement: We will prove the claim by induction on \( n \). When \( n = 2 \), the tree has only one edge; and the claim is clearly true. Next, assuming the claim’s correctness for \( n = k \), we will prove that it also holds for any tree \( T \) with \( n = k + 1 \) nodes. From the first statement, we know that there must be a leaf node \( u \) in \( T \). Remove \( u \) from \( T \) and the only edge incident to \( u \). The remaining tree has \( k \) nodes which, by the inductive assumption, must have \( k - 1 \) edges. It thus follows that \( T \) has \( k \) edges.

Problem 2. Let \( S \) be a set of integer pairs of the form \((id, v)\). We will refer to the first field as the \( id \) of the pair, and the second as the \( key \) of the pair. Design a data structure that supports the following operations:

- Insert: add a new pair \((id, v)\) to \( S \) (you can assume that \( S \) does not already have a pair with the same id).
- Delete: given an integer \( t \), delete the pair \((id, v)\) from \( S \) where \( t = id \), if such a pair exists.
- DeleteMin: remove from \( S \) the pair with the smallest key, and return it.

Your structure must consume \( O(n) \) space, and support all operations in \( O(\log n) \) time where \( n = |S| \).

Solution. Maintain \( S \) in two binary search trees \( T_1 \) and \( T_2 \), where the pairs are indexed on ids in \( T_1 \), and on keys in \( T_2 \). We support the three operations as follows:

- Insert: simply insert the new pair \((id, v)\) into both \( T_1 \) and \( T_2 \).
- Delete: first find the pair with id \( t \) in \( T_1 \), from which we know the key \( v \) of the pair. Now, delete the pair \((t, v)\) from both \( T_1 \) and \( T_2 \).
- DeleteMin: find the pair with the smallest key \( v \) from \( T_2 \) (which can be found by continuously descending into left child nodes). Now we have its id \( t \) as well. Remove \((t, v)\) from \( T_1 \) and \( T_2 \).

Problem 3. Prove: in a weighted undirected graph \( G = (V, E) \) where all the edges have distinct weights, the minimum spanning tree (MST) is unique.
Solution. We will prove that the tree $T$ returned by the Prim’s algorithm is the only MST. Set $n = |V|$. Let $e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_n$ be the sequence of edges that the algorithm adds to $T$. Suppose, on the contrary, that there is another MST $T'$. Let $k$ be the smallest $i$ such that $e_i$ is not in $T'$.

- Case 1: $k = 1$. This means that $e_1$, which is the edge with the smallest weight, is not in $T'$. Add $e_1$ to $T'$ to create a cycle, and remove from the cycle the edge with the largest weight. This creates another spanning tree whose cost is strictly smaller than $T'$ (remember: all the edges are distinct), contradicting the fact that $T'$ is an MST.

- Case 2: $k > 1$. Recall that edges $e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_{k-1}$ form a tree. Let $S$ be the set of vertices in this tree. Add $e_k = \{u, v\}$ into $T'$ to create a cycle. Suppose $u \in S$; it follows that $v \notin S$. Let us walk on the cycle from $v$, by going into $S$, traveling within $S$, and stopping as soon as we exit $S$. Let $\{u', v'\}$ be the last edge crossed (namely, one of $u', v'$ is in $S$, while the other one is not). By the way Prim’s algorithm runs and the fact that all edges have distinct weights, we know that $\{u, v\}$ has a smaller weight than $\{u', v'\}$. Thus, removing $\{u', v'\}$ from $T'$ gives a spanning tree with strictly smaller cost, which creates a contradiction.

Problem 4. Describe how to implement the Prim’s algorithm on a graph $G = (V, E)$ in $O((|V| + |E|) \cdot \log |V|)$ time.

Solution. Remember that the algorithm incrementally grows a tree $T$ which at the end becomes the final minimum spanning tree. Let $S$ be the set of vertices that are currently in $T$. At all times, the algorithm maintains, for every vertex $v \in V \setminus S$, its lightest extension edge $\text{best-ext}(v)$, and the weight of this edge.

To implement this, we maintain a set $P$ of triples, one for every vertex $u \in V \setminus S$. Specifically, the triple of $u$ has the form $(u, v, t)$, indicating that $\text{best-ext}(u)$ is the edge $\{u, v\}$ (i.e., $v \in S$), whose weight is $t$. We need the following operations on $P$:

- Insert: add a triple $(u, v, t)$ to $P$.
- DecreaseKey: given a vertex $v \in S$ and an extension edge $\{u, v'\}$ (i.e., $u \notin S$), this operation does the following. First, fetch the triple $(u, v, t)$. Then, compare $t$ to the weight $t'$ of $\{u, v'\}$. If $t' < t$, update the triple $(u, v, t)$ to $(u, v', t')$; otherwise, do nothing.
- DeleteMin: Remove from $P$ the triple $(u, v, t)$ with the smallest $t$.

We can store $P$ in a data structure of Problem 2 which supports all operations in $O(\log |V|)$ time (note: DecreaseKey can be implemented as a Delete followed by an Insert). Besides the above structure, we also store an array $A$ of length $|V|$ so that we can query in constant time, for any vertex $v \in V$, whether $v$ is in $S$ currently.

Now we can implement the algorithm as follows. Let $\{v_1, v_2\}$ be an edge with the smallest weight in $G$. The set $S$ contains only $v_1$ and $v_2$ at this point. For every vertex $u \in V \setminus S$ where $S = \{v_1, v_2\}$, we check whether $u$ has extension edges to $v_1$ and $v_2$. If neither edge exists, insert triple $(u, \text{nil}, \infty)$ to $P$. Otherwise, suppose without loss of generality that $\{u, v_1\}$ is the lighter extension edge of $u$ with weight $t$; insert a triple $(u, v_1, t)$ into $P$.

Repeat the following until $P$ is empty:

- Perform a DeleteMin to obtain a triple $(u, v, t)$.
- Recall that $u$ should be added to $S$, which may need to change the extension edges of some other vertices. To implement this, for every edge $(u, u')$ of $u$ where $u' \notin S$, perform DecreaseKey with $u'$ and $\{u, u'\}$.