

Nov 2

Perturbation trick

Idea: Add to i^{th} edge a cost $\frac{i}{2n^2 m}$

How much can this change the total cost of an MST?

In the worst case add the ~~the~~ largest $n-1$ perturbations

$$\text{total perturbation} \leq \frac{m}{2n^2 m} + \frac{m-1}{2n^2 m} + \dots + \frac{m-n+1}{2n^2 m}$$

$$\leq \frac{m \cdot n}{2n^2 m} = \frac{1}{2}$$