

# CSE 332

# Data Structures & Parallelism

Minimum Spanning Trees (MST)

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*Spring 2024*

# Minimum Spanning Trees

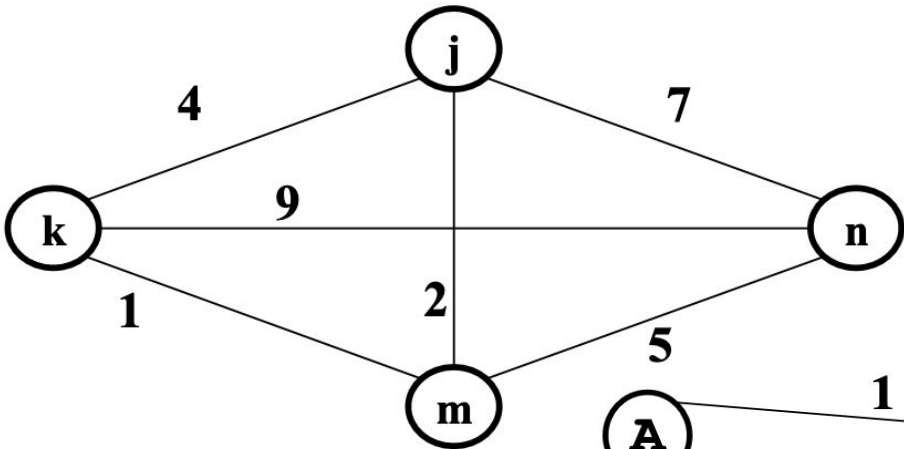
Given an *undirected* graph  $G=(V, E)$ , find a graph  $G'=(V, E')$  such that:

- $E'$  is a subset of  $E$
- $|E'| = |V| - 1$
- $G'$  is connected
- $\sum_{(u,v) \in E'} c_{uv}$  is minimal

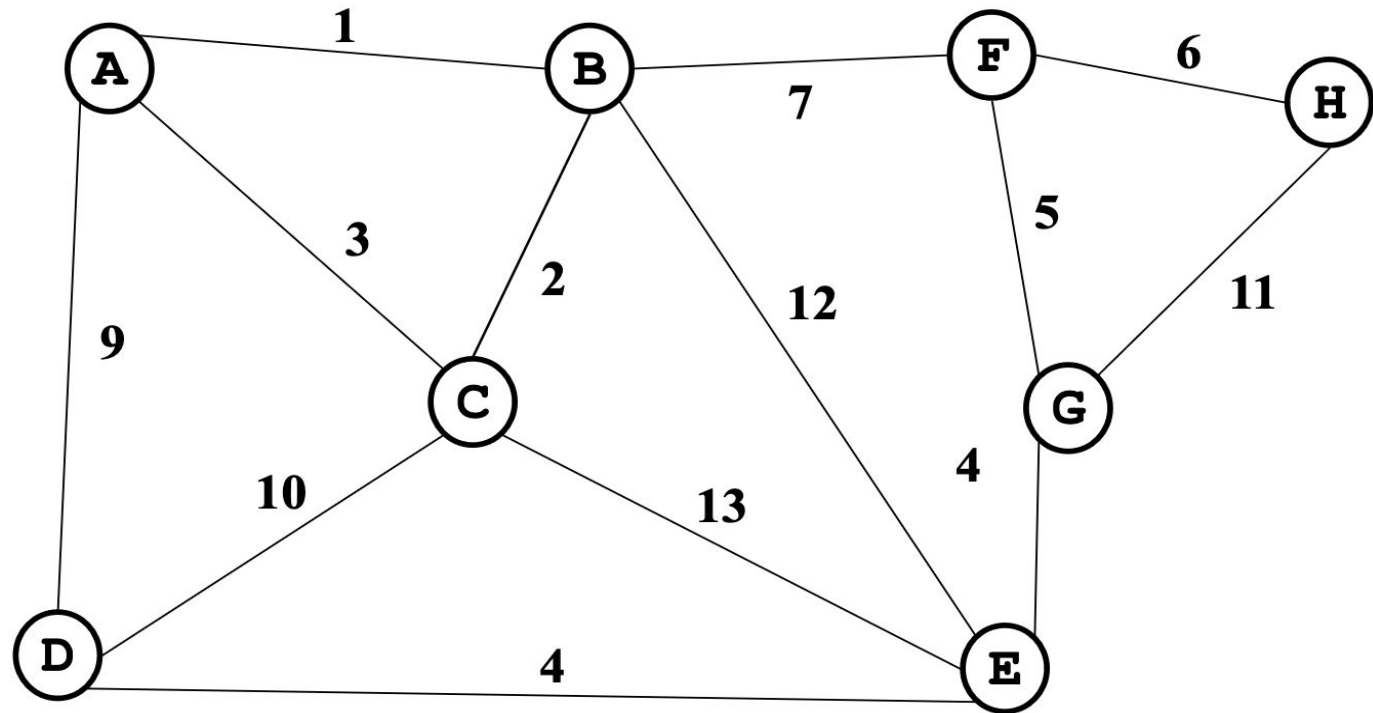
$G'$  is a **minimum spanning tree**.

## Applications:

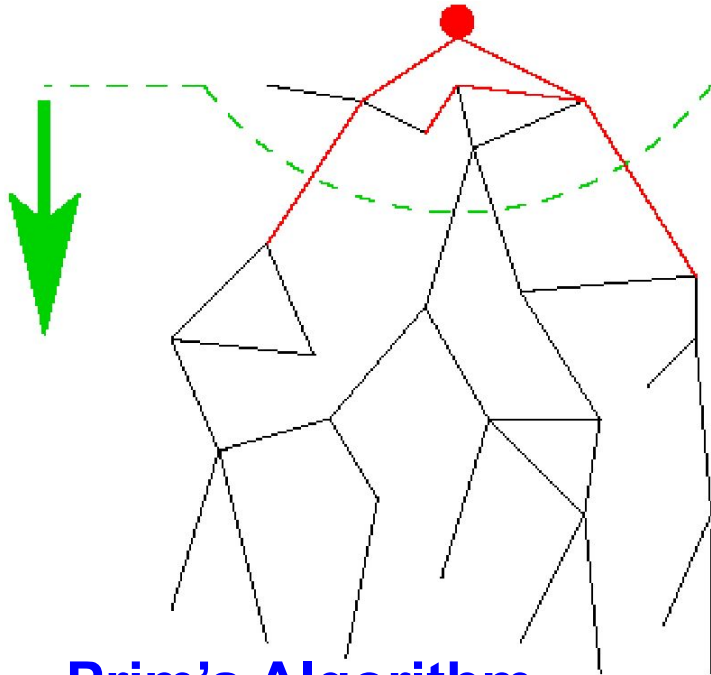
- Example: Electrical wiring for a house or clock wires on a chip
- Example: A road network if you cared about asphalt cost rather than travel time



Find the MST

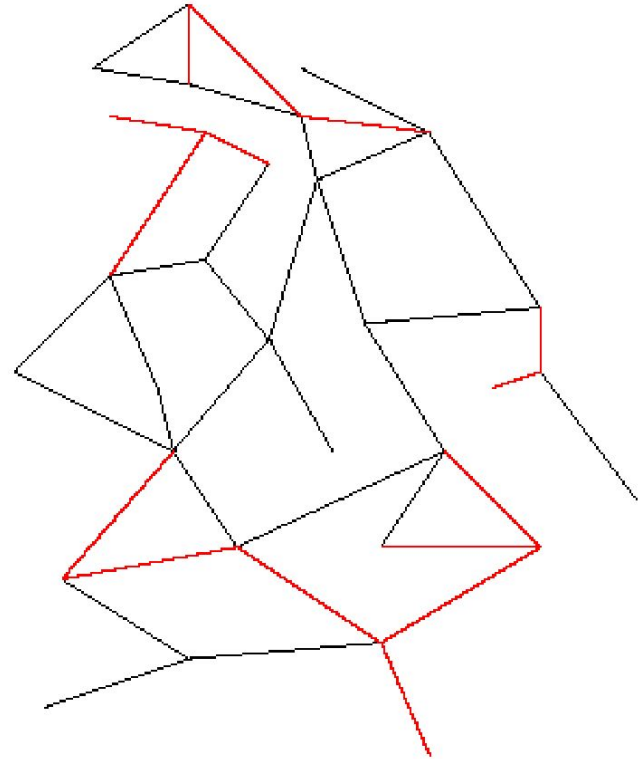


## Two Different Approaches



**Prim's Algorithm**

Almost identical to Dijkstra's



**Kruskal's Algorithm**

Completely different!

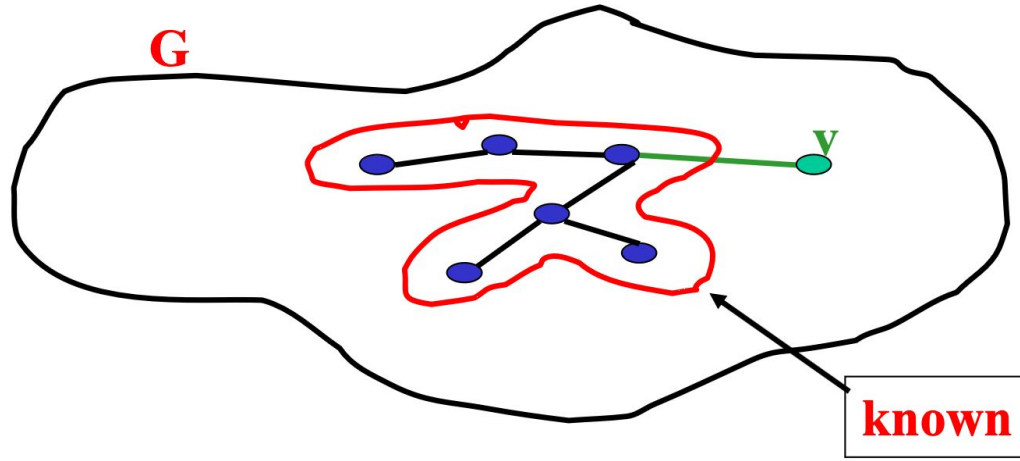
# Prim's algorithm

**Idea:** Grow a tree by picking a vertex from the unknown set that has the smallest cost. Here cost = cost of the edge that connects that vertex to the known set.

*Pick the vertex with the smallest cost that connects “known” to “unknown.”*

**A node-based greedy algorithm**

**Builds MST by greedily adding nodes**



# Prim's Algorithm vs. Dijkstra's

Recall:

**Dijkstra** picked the unknown vertex with smallest cost where  
cost = *distance to the source*.

**Prim's** pick the unknown vertex with smallest cost where  
cost = *distance from this vertex to the known set* (in other words, the cost of the smallest edge connecting this vertex to the known set)

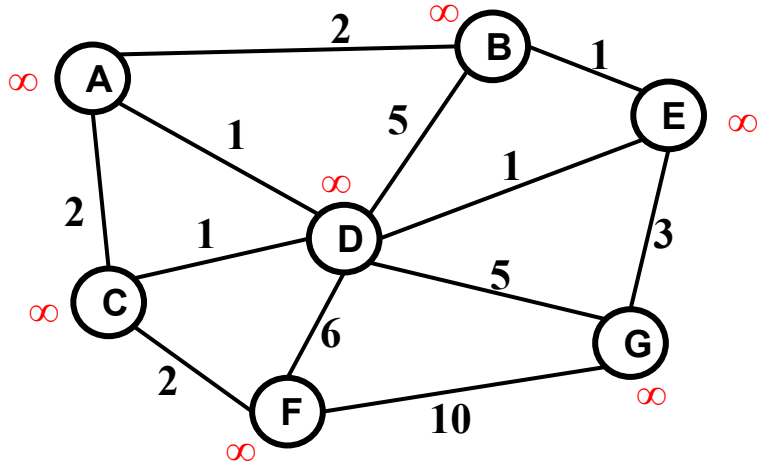
- Otherwise identical
- Compare to slides in Dijkstra lecture!

# Prim's Algorithm for MST

1. For each node  $v$ , set  $v.cost = \infty$  and  $v.known = false$
2. Choose any node  $v$ . (this is like your “start” vertex in Dijkstra)
  - a) Mark  $v$  as known
  - b) For each edge  $(v, u)$  with weight  $w$ :  
set  $u.cost = w$  and  $u.prev = v$
3. While there are unknown nodes in the graph
  - a) Select the unknown node  $v$  with lowest **cost**
  - b) Mark  $v$  as known and add  $(v, v.prev)$  to output (the MST)
  - c) For each edge  $(v, u)$  with weight  $w$ , where  $u$  is unknown:

```
if ( $w < u.cost$ ) {  
     $u.cost = w$ ;  
     $u.prev = v$ ;  
}
```

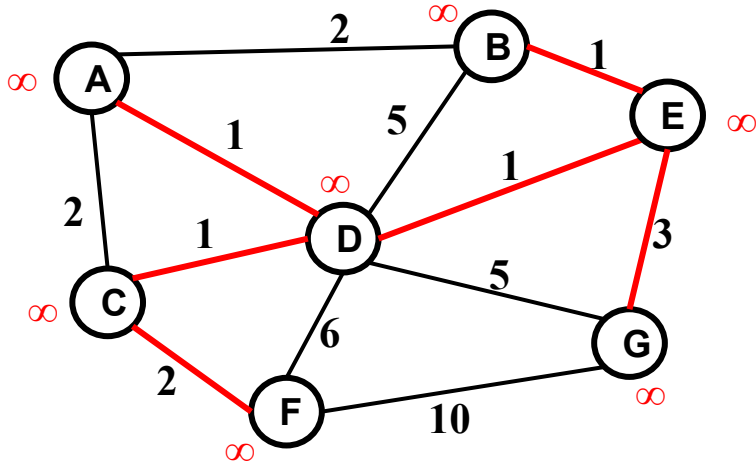
## Example: Find MST using Prim's



Order added to known set:

| vertex | known? | cost | prev |
|--------|--------|------|------|
| A      |        |      |      |
| B      |        |      |      |
| C      |        |      |      |
| D      |        |      |      |
| E      |        |      |      |
| F      |        |      |      |
| G      |        |      |      |

## Example: Find MST using Prim's

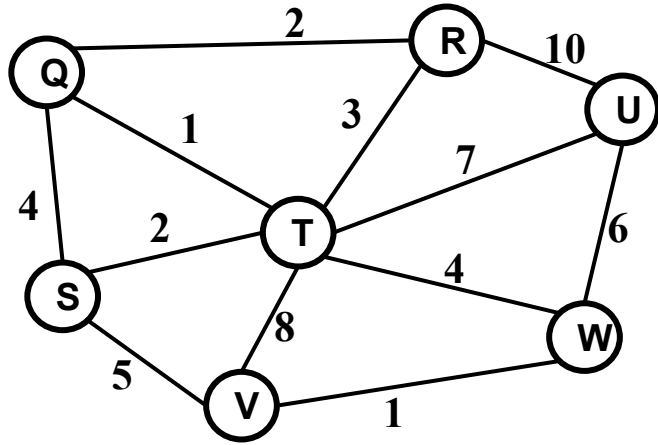


Order added to known set:

A, D, C, E, B, F, G

| vertex | known? | cost | prev |
|--------|--------|------|------|
| A      | Y      | 0    |      |
| B      | Y      | 1    | E    |
| C      | Y      | 1    | D    |
| D      | Y      | 1    | A    |
| E      | Y      | 1    | D    |
| F      | Y      | 2    | C    |
| G      | Y      | 3    | E    |

Your turn: Find MST using Prim's



Order added to known set:

Total cost:

| vertex | known? | cost | prev |
|--------|--------|------|------|
| Q      |        |      |      |
| R      |        |      |      |
| S      |        |      |      |
| T      |        |      |      |
| U      |        |      |      |
| V      |        |      |      |
| W      |        |      |      |

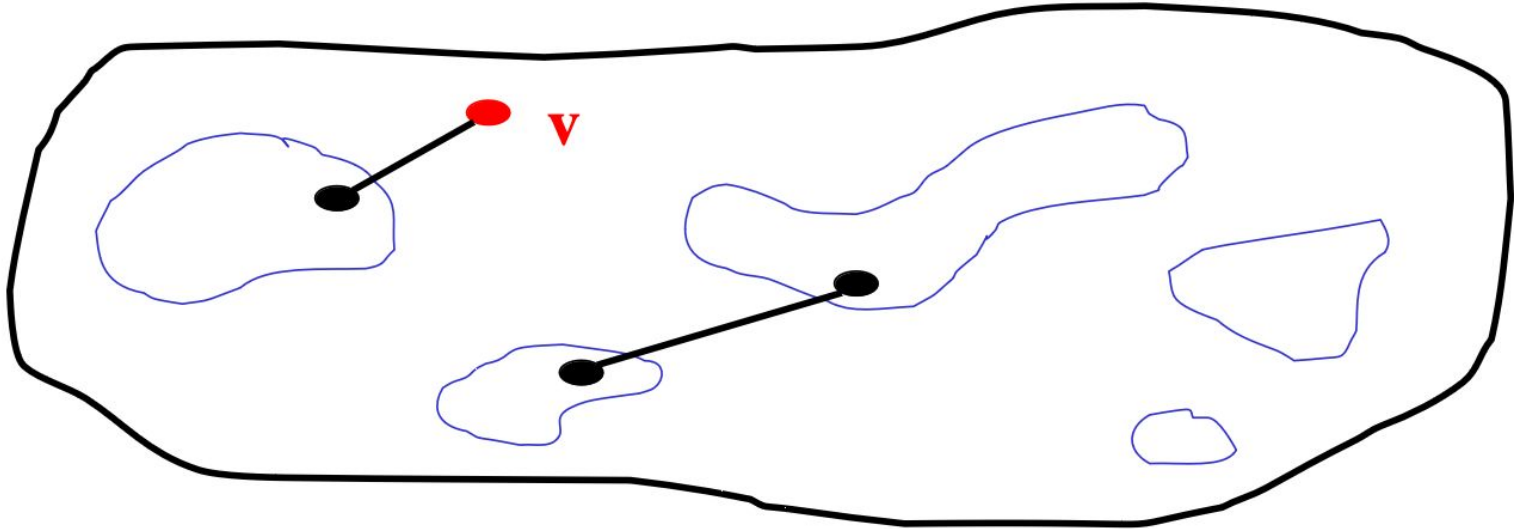
# Prim's Analysis

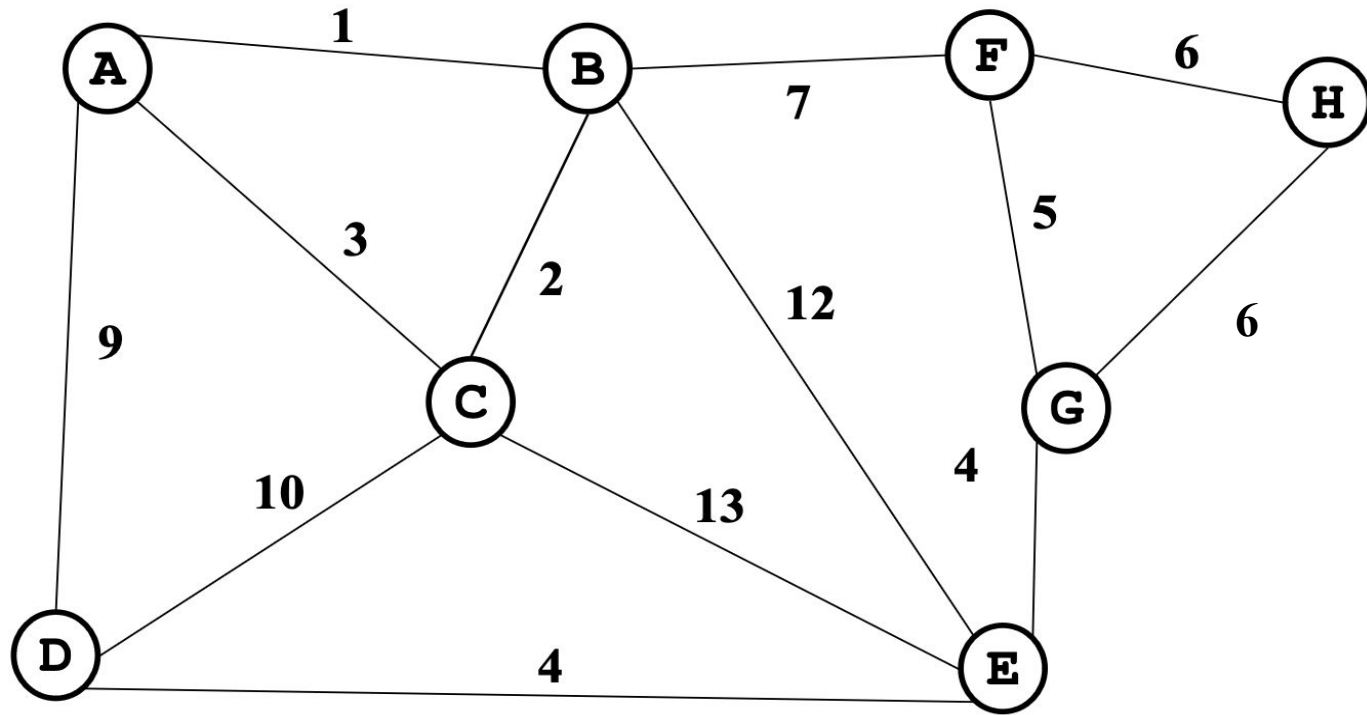
- Correctness ??
  - A bit tricky
  - Intuitively similar to Dijkstra
  - Might return to this time permitting (unlikely)
- Run-time
  - Same as Dijkstra
  - $O(|E|\log |V|)$  using a priority queue

# Kruskal's MST Algorithm

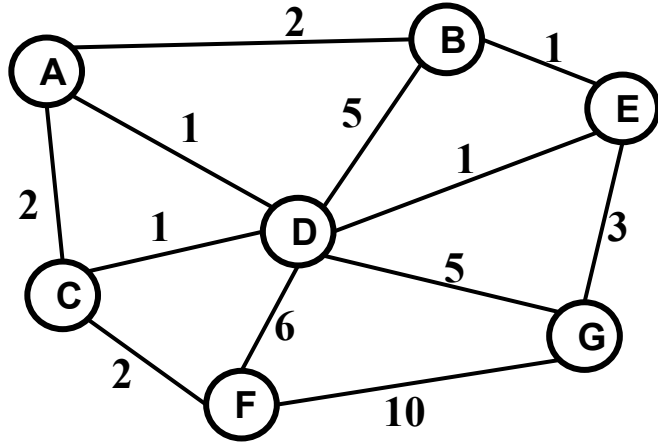
**Idea:** Grow a **forest** out of edges that do not create a cycle. Pick an edge with the smallest weight.

$$G=(V,E)$$





## Example: Find MST using Kruskal's



Edges in sorted order:

1: (A,D), (C,D), (B,E), (D,E)

2: (A,B), (C,F), (A,C)

3: (E,G)

5: (D,G), (B,D)

6: (D,F)

10: (F,G)

Order added to known set:

Note: At each step, the union/find sets are the trees in the forest

# Kruskal's Algorithm for MST

An edge-based greedy algorithm

Builds MST by greedily adding edges

1. Initialize with
  - empty MST
  - all vertices marked unconnected
  - all edges unmarked
2. While all vertices are not connected
  - a) Pick the lowest cost edge  $(u, v)$  and mark it
  - b) If  $u$  and  $v$  are not already connected, add  $(u, v)$  to the MST and mark  $u$  and  $v$  as connected to each other

## Aside: Union-Find aka Disjoint Set ADT

- **Union(x,y)** – take the union of two sets named x and y
  - Given sets: {3,5,7} , {4,2,8}, {9}, {1,6}
  - **Union(5,1)**  
Result: {3,5,7,1,6}, {4,2,8}, {9}

Red underline is  
“name” of the set

To perform the union operation, we replace sets x and y by  $(x \cup y)$

- **Find(x)** – return the name of the set containing x.
  - Given sets: {3,5,7,1,6}, {4,2,8}, {9}
  - **Find(1)** returns 5
  - **Find(4)** returns 8
- We can do Union in constant time.
- We can get Find to be ***amortized*** constant time  $O(1)$   
(worst case  $O(\log n)$  for an individual Find operation).

# Kruskal's pseudo code

```
void Graph::kruskal(){
```

```
    int edgesAccepted = 0;
```

```
    DisjSet s(NUM_VERTICES);
```

```
    Build heap of edges
```

```
    while (edgesAccepted < NUM_VERTICES - 1){
```

```
        e = smallest weight edge not deleted yet;
```

```
        // edge e = (u, v)
```

```
        uset = s.find(u);
```

```
        vset = s.find(v);
```

```
        if (uset != vset){
```

```
            edgesAccepted++;
```

```
            s.unionSets(uset, vset);
```

```
        }
```

```
    }
```

```
}
```

$|V|$  create  
disjoint sets

$|E|$  using  
Floyd's BH

$|E|$  heap  
operations

$2|E|$  finds

$|V|$  unions

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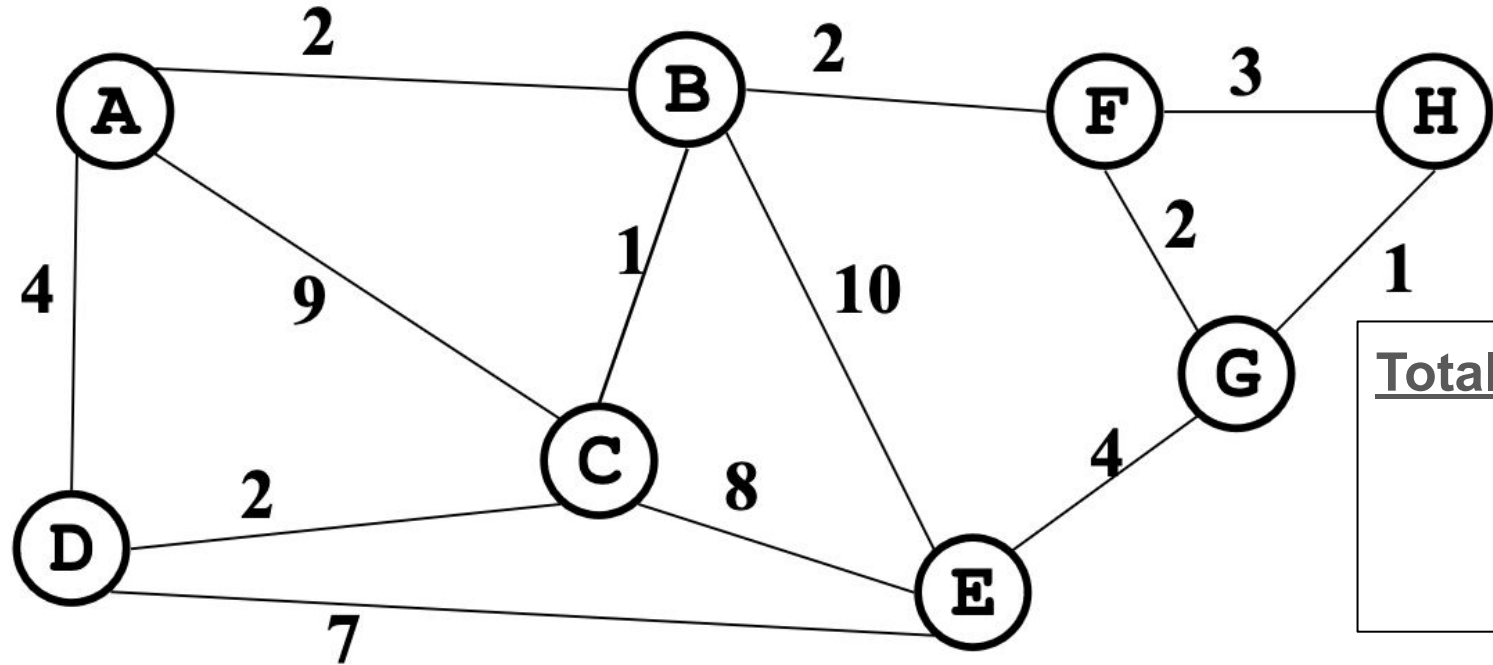
$2|E|$  finds

$|V|$  unions

$O(V + E + E^{\text{times}}(\log E + 2\log V) + V^{\text{times}}(\text{constant}))$

$\Rightarrow O(E \log E)$

Find MST using Kruskal's



Total cost:

- Now find the MST using Prim's method.
- Under what conditions will these methods give the same result?

# Correctness

Kruskal's algorithm is clever, simple, and efficient

- But does it generate a minimum spanning tree?
- How can we prove it?

First: it generates a spanning tree

- Intuition: Graph started connected and we added every edge that did not create a cycle
- Proof by contradiction: Suppose  $u$  and  $v$  are disconnected in Kruskal's result. Then there's a path from  $u$  to  $v$  in the initial graph with an edge we could add without creating a cycle. But Kruskal would have added that edge. Contradiction.

Second: There is no spanning tree with lower total cost...

# The inductive proof set-up

Let  $\mathbf{F}$  (stands for “forest”) be the set of edges Kruskal has added at some point during its execution.

Claim:  $\mathbf{F}$  is a subset of one or more MSTs for the graph  
(Therefore, once  $|\mathbf{F}|=|\mathbf{V}|-1$ , we have an MST.)

Proof: By induction on  $|\mathbf{F}|$

Base case:  $|\mathbf{F}|=0$ : The empty set is a subset of all MSTs

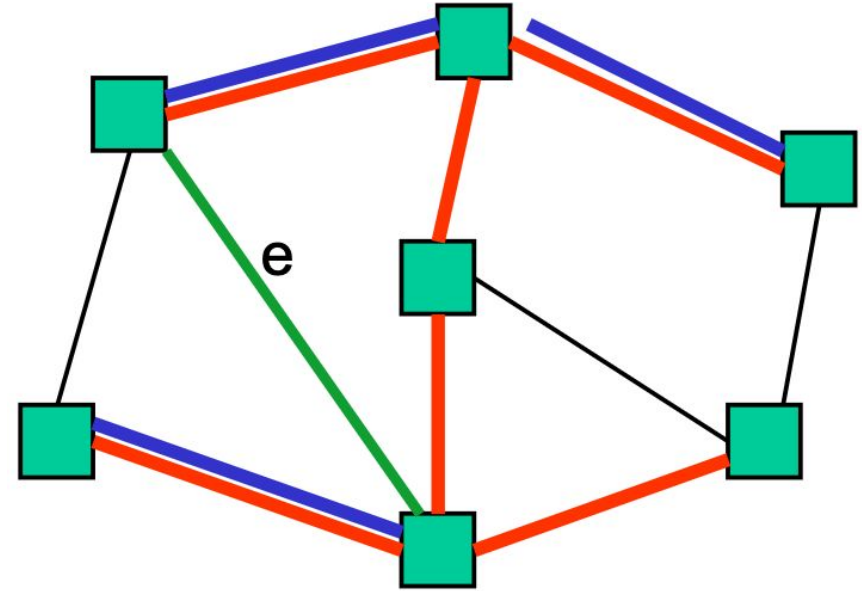
Inductive case:  $|\mathbf{F}|=k+1$ : By induction, before adding the  $(k+1)^{\text{th}}$  edge (call it  $\mathbf{e}$ ), there was some MST  $\mathbf{T}$  such that  $\mathbf{F}-\{\mathbf{e}\} \subseteq \mathbf{T} \dots$



# Staying a subset of **some** MST

Claim: **F** is a subset of *one or more* MSTs for the graph

So far: **F** - {**e**}  $\subseteq$  **T** and  
**e** forms a cycle with **p**  $\subseteq$  **T**



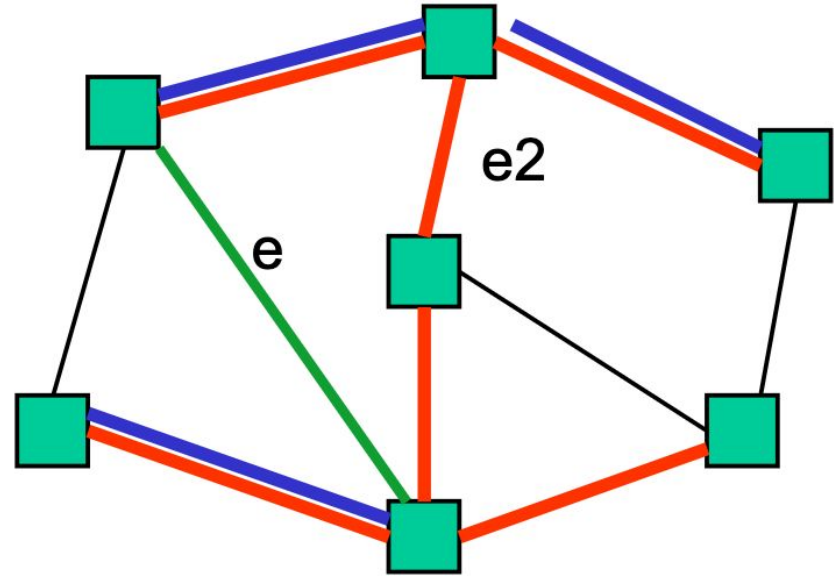
- There must be an edge **e2** on **p** such that **e2** is not in **F**
  - Else Kruskal would not have added **e**
- Claim: **e2.weight** == **e.weight**

# Staying a subset of **some** MST

Claim: **F** is a subset of *one or more* MSTs for the graph

So far: **F** - {**e**}  $\subseteq$  **T** and  
**e** forms a cycle with **p**  $\subseteq$  **T**  
**e2** on **p** is not in **F**

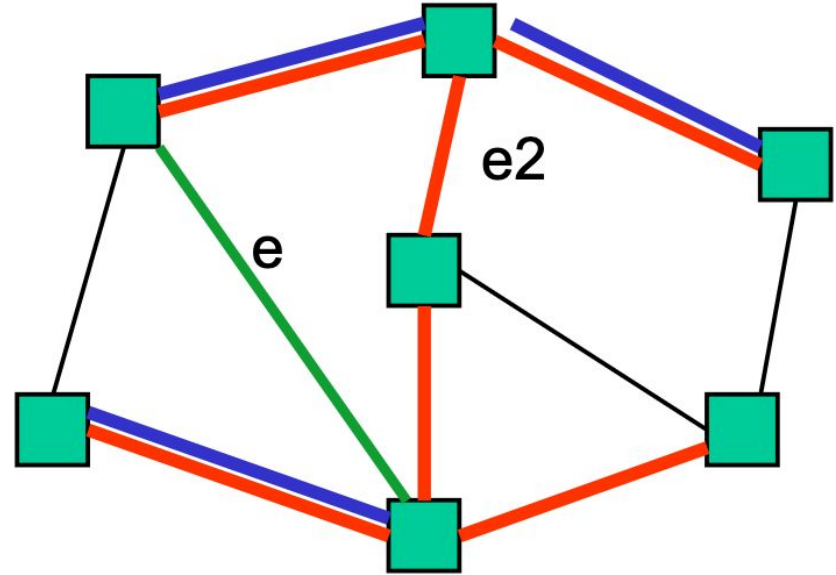
- Claim: **e2.weight** == **e.weight**
  - If **e2.weight** > **e.weight**, then **T** is not an MST because **T** - {**e2**} + {**e**} is a spanning tree with lower cost: contradiction
  - If **e2.weight** < **e.weight**, then Kruskal would have already considered **e2**. It would have added it since **T** has no cycles and **F** - {**e**}  $\subseteq$  **T**. But **e2** is not in **F**: contradiction



# Staying a subset of **some** MST

Claim: **F** is a subset of *one or more* MSTs for the graph

So far: **F** - {**e**}  $\subseteq$  **T** and  
**e** forms a cycle with **p**  $\subseteq$  **T**  
**e2** on **p** is not in **F**  
**e2.weight** == **e.weight**



- Claim: **T** - {**e2**} + {**e**} is a MST
  - It's a spanning tree because **p** - {**e2**} + {**e**} connects the same nodes as **p**
  - It's minimal because its cost equals cost of **T**, an MST
- Since **F**  $\subseteq$  **T** - {**e2**} + {**e**}, **F** is a subset of one or more MSTs. **Done.**