

(a) This is false. Let  $G$  have vertices  $\{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4\}$ , with edges between each pair of vertices, and with the weight on the edge from  $v_i$  to  $v_j$  equal to  $i + j$ . Then every tree has a bottleneck edge of weight at least 5, so the tree consisting of a path through vertices  $v_3, v_2, v_1, v_4$  is a minimum bottleneck tree. It is not a minimum spanning tree, however, since its total weight is greater than that of the tree with edges from  $v_1$  to every other vertex.

(b) This is true. Suppose that  $T$  is a minimum spanning tree of  $G$ , and  $T'$  is a spanning tree with a lighter bottleneck edge. Thus,  $T$  contains an edge  $e$  that is heavier than every edge in  $T'$ . So if we add  $e$  to  $T'$ , it forms a cycle  $C$  on which it is the heaviest edge (since all other edges in  $C$  belong to  $T'$ ). By the Cut Property, then,  $e$  does not belong to any minimum spanning tree, contradicting the fact that it is in  $T$  and  $T$  is a minimum spanning tree.

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<sup>1</sup>ex582.808.674