

MCD4710

Introduction to algorithms and programming

Lecture 10 Invariants



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Overview

- Formulate assertions about program states
- Demonstrate that truth of certain assertions is unchanged (invariant) by program (specifically by a loop)
- Relate invariants to computational problem to demonstrate correctness of algorithm



Programs with simple flow are easy to recognise as correct

```
def number_of_days(month, year):
    if month == 2:
        if is_leap_year(year):
            return 29
        else:
            return 28
    elif month in THIRTY_DAYS_MONTH:
        return 30
    else:
        return 31
```

```
def valid_date(day, month, year):
    if month not in VALID_MONTHS:
        return False
    elif day not in range(1, number_of_days(month, year)):
        return False
    else:
        return True
```



...but is this really computing a spanning tree?

```
def spanning tree(graph):
    """Input : adjacency matrix of graph
       Output: adj. mat. of spanning tree of graph"""
    n = len(qraph)
    tree = empty graph(n)
    conn = \{0\}
    while len(conn) < n:</pre>
        found = False
        for i in conn:
            for j in range(n):
                if j not in conn and graph[i][j]==1:
                     tree[i][j] = 1
                     tree[j][i] = 1
                     conn = conn.add(j)
                     found = True
                     break
            if found:
                break
    return tree
```



Decomposition helps but loops with re-assignments/mutation remain tricky

```
def extension(c, g):
    """I: connec. vertices (c), graph
(q)
       O: extension edge (i, j) """
   n ← len(g)
    for i in vertices:
        for j in range(n):
            if j not in c and g[i][j]:
                return i, j
def spanning tree(graph):
    """input: graph given as adj. matrix
       output: spanning tree of graph"""
    tree = empty graph(len(graph))
    conn = \{0\}
    while len(conp) < p:
        i, j = extension(conn, graph)
        tree[i][j], tree[j][i] = 1, 1
        conn \leq conn.add{j}
return tree
```

values behind names change all the time



Outline

- Assertions and invariants
- Analysing Insertion Sort
- Analysing Min Index Selection
- Analysing Prim's Algorithm



Cutting the Chocolate Block



A chocolate block is divided into squares by horizontal and vertical grooves. The object is to cut the chocolate block into individual pieces.

Assume each cut is made on a **single piece** along a groove. How many cuts are needed?



How many cuts does it take to divide the following block into squares?



- A. 8
- B. 3
- C. 24
- D. 23
- E. None of the above

- 1. Visit https://flux.qa
- Log in using your Authcate details (not required if you're already logged in to Monash)
- 3. Touch the + symbol and enter the code: UF7BD9
- 4. Answer questions when they pop up.



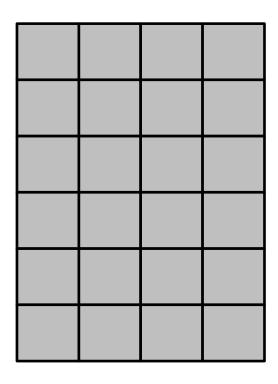
How many cuts does it take to divide a 100 X 50 block of chocolate?

- A. 5000
- B. 4999
- C. 4900
- D. 4950
- E. None of the above

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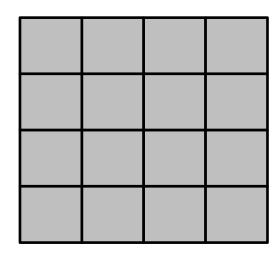


What is the relationship between cuts and number of pieces?





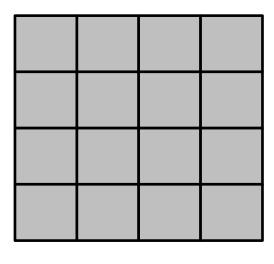
What is the relationship between cuts and number of pieces?



1 cut 2 pieces



What is the relationship between cuts and number of pieces?



2 cuts 3 pieces



Statement

"number of pieces equals number of cuts plus one"

...holds throughout cutting process



Let's bring this concept into the world of programs

```
cut = ... #some arbitrary cutting strategy
pieces = [(m, n)]
num_cuts = 0
while len(pieces) < n * m:
    cut(pieces)
    num_cuts += 1</pre>
```

Example cutting strategy (we know it doesn't matter)

```
def cut_first_possible(pieces):
    for i in range(pieces):
        m, n = pieces[i]
        m, n = max(m,n), min(m,n)
        if m > 1:
            pieces.pop(i)
            pieces.append[(m-1,n), (1,n)]
            break
```

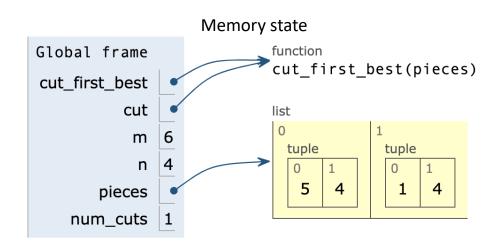


Let's analyse this program by stating assertions

```
cut = ... #some arbitrary cutting strategy
pieces = [(m, n)]
num_cuts = 0
while len(pieces) < n * m:
    cut(pieces)
    num_cuts += 1
    https://goo.gl/Mkvzjm</pre>
```

An assertion is a logical statement on a program (execution) state.

Instruction pointer 10 cut = cut_first_best 11 m, n = 6, 4 12 pieces = [(m, n)] 13 num_cuts = 0 → 14 while len(pieces) < n*m: 15 cut(pieces) → 16 num_cuts += 1

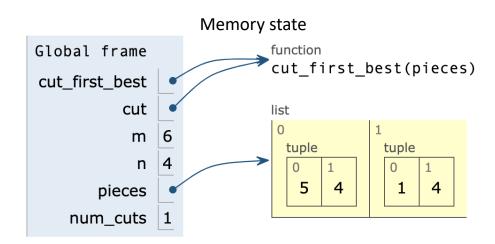




Let's analyse this program by stating assertions

```
cut = ... #some arbitrary cutting strategy
pieces = [(m, n)]
num cuts = 0
#PRC: len(pieces) == num cuts + 1
while len(pieces) < n * m:
    cut(pieces)
    num_cuts += 1</pre>
Example:
loop precondition
```

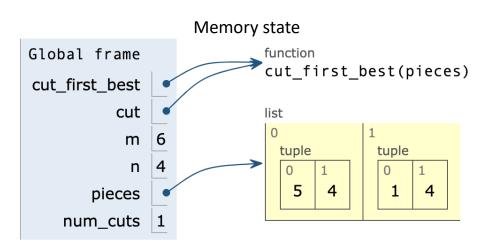
An assertion is a logical statement on a program (execution) state.



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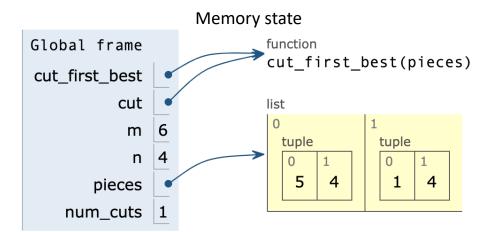
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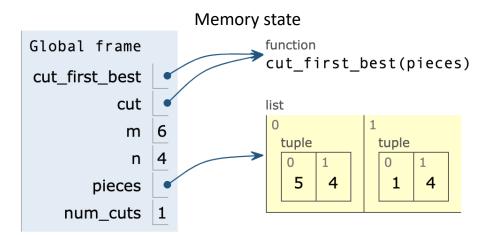
```
cut = ... #some arbitrary cutting strategy
pieces = [(m, n)]
num_cuts = 0
#PRC: len(pieces) == num_cuts + 1
while len(pieces) < n * m:
    #len(pieces) == num_cuts + 1
    cut(pieces)
    num_cuts += 1
    is (temporarily) violated</pre>
```

An assertion is a logical statement on a program (execution) state.





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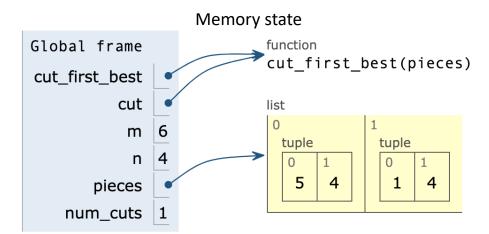




```
cut = ... #some arbitrary cutting strategy
pieces = [(m, n)]
num_cuts = 0
#PRC: len(pieces) == num_cuts + 1
while len(pieces) < n * m:
    #len(pieces) == num_cuts + 1
    cut(pieces)
    num_cuts += 1
    loop body
#len(pieces) == num_cuts + 1</pre>
```

An assertion is a logical statement on a program (execution) state.

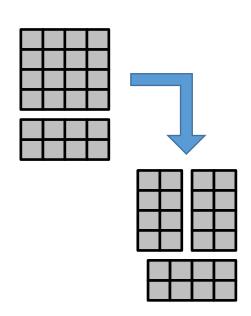
10 cut = cut_first_best 11 m, n = 6, 4 12 pieces = [(m, n)] 13 num_cuts = 0 → 14 while len(pieces) < n*m: 15 cut(pieces) → 16 num_cuts += 1





Loop invariant is an assertion maintained by loop body

```
cut = ... #some arbitrary cutting strategy
pieces = [(m, n)]
num_cuts = 0
#PRC: len(pieces) == num_cuts + 1
while len(pieces) < n * m:
    #INV: len(pieces) == num_cuts + 1
    cut(pieces)
    num_cuts += 1
    #INV: len(pieces) == num_cuts + 1</pre>
```

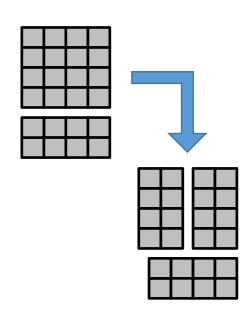


An assertion is a logical statement on a program (execution) state.

A **loop invariant** is an assertion inside a loop that is true every time it is reached by the program execution.



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cut = ... #some arbitrary cutting strategy
pieces = [(m, n)]
num_cuts = 0
#PRC: len(pieces) == num_cuts + 1
while len(pieces) < n * m:
    cut(pieces)
    num_cuts += 1
    #INV: len(pieces) == num_cuts + 1</pre>
```



An assertion is a logical statement on a program (execution) state.

A **loop invariant** is an assertion inside a loop that is true every time it is reached by the program execution.

We want invariants at *end of loop* that together with loop exit condition "turn into" desired post-condition.



```
cut = ... #some arbitrary cutting strategy
pieces = [(m, n)]
num_cuts = 0
#PRC: len(pieces) == num_cuts + 1
while len(pieces) < n * m:
    cut(pieces)
    num_cuts += 1
    #INV: len(pieces) == num_cuts + 1

#EXC: len(pieces) == n * m</pre>
loop exit
condition
```

An assertion is a logical statement on a program (execution) state.

A **loop invariant** is an assertion inside a loop that is true every time it is reached by the program execution.

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cut = ... #some arbitrary cutting strategy
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num_cuts = 0
#PRC: len(pieces) == num_cuts + 1
while len(pieces) < n * m:
    cut(pieces)
    num_cuts += 1
    #INV: len(pieces) == n * m

#EXC: len(pieces) == n * m

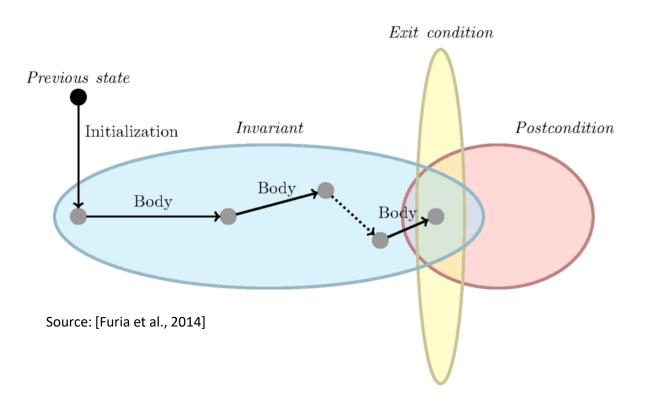
#POC: num cuts == n * m - 1</pre>
```

An assertion is a logical statement on a program (execution) state.

A **loop invariant** is an assertion inside a loop that is true every time it is reached by the program execution.

We want invariants at end of loop that together with loop exit condition "turn into" desired post-condition.





We are interested in loop invariants that together with **loop exit condition** "turn into" desired **post-condition**.

[Furia et al., 2014: Loop invariants: analysis, classification, and examples]



Outline

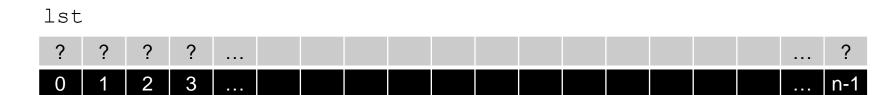
- Assertions and invariants
- Analysing Insertion Sort
- Analysing Min Index Selection
- Analysing Prim's Algorithm



Does Insertion Sort always result in a sorted list?



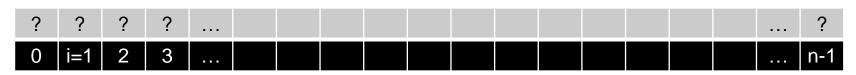
Situation at the start of execution





Loop initialisation

lst





What is true at this point?

3





Insertion procedure extends sorted range by one

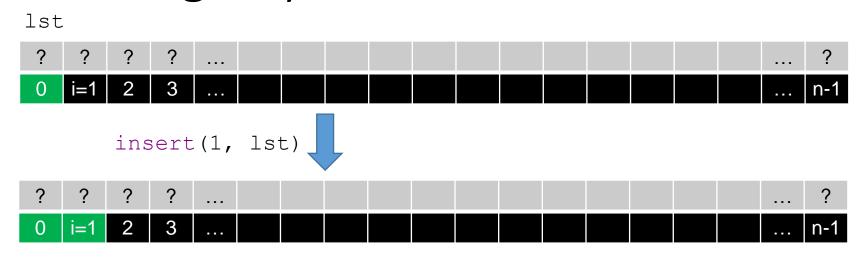
```
? ? ? ? ... ... ... ?
0 i=1 2 3 ... ... n-1
insert(1, lst) ... ?

? ? ? ? ... ... ... ?

0 i=1 2 3 ... ... ... n-1
```



Insertion procedure extends sorted range by one

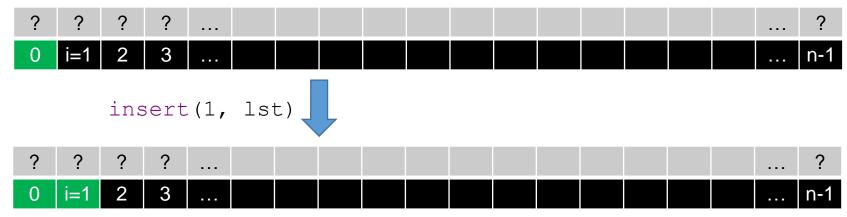


condition ldea: generalise assertions so that they become stronger every iteration!



These general assertions seem much more useful

lst





But are they preserved by general loop iteration?

lst





Let's assume first assertion is true

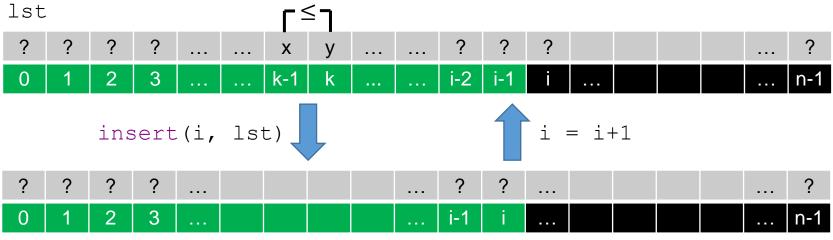
1st
? ? ? ? ? ? ... ?
0 1 2 3



Then loop body ensures second assertion



Which in turn implies first assertion in next iteration!





Thus these assertions are loop invariants!

```
      ? ? ? ? ... ... x y ... ... ? ? ? ... ?

      0 1 2 3 ... ... k-1 k ... ... i-2 i-1 i ... ... n-1

      insert(i, 1st)
      i = i+1

      ? ? ? ? ... ... ... ? ? ... ... ?

      0 1 2 3 ... ... i-1 i ... ... n-1
```



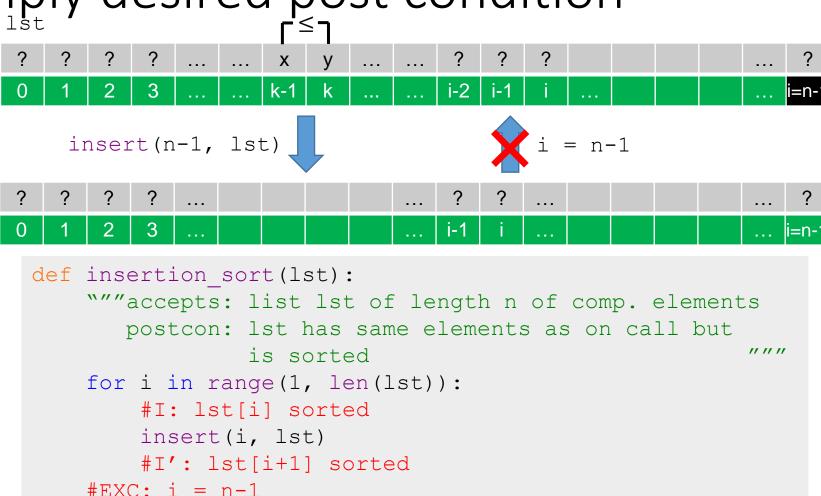
What happens at end of loop?

```
lst
                                   i-2
                     k-1
     insert(n-1, lst) 
  def insertion sort(lst):
      """accepts: list 1st of length n of comp. elements
         postcon: 1st has same elements as on call but
                   is sorted
                                                           11 11 11
      for i in range(1, len(lst)):
          #I: lst[:i] sorted
          insert(i, lst)
          #I': lst[:i+1] sorted
      \#EXC: i = n-1
```



Loop exit condition and invariant imply desired post condition

#POC: lst[:n] sorted





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- Assertions and invariants
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Recap: what is min_index trying to do (formally)?

```
def min_index(lst):
    """accepts: list of length n>0 of comp. elements
    returns: ?
    """
    k = 0
    for i in range(1, len(lst)):
        if lst[i] < lst[k]:
            k = i
    return k</pre>
```

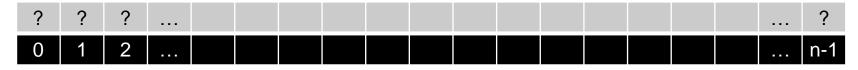
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Recap: what is min_index trying to do (formally)?



Does min_index function always yield index of minimum value?





Situation before reaching loop statement



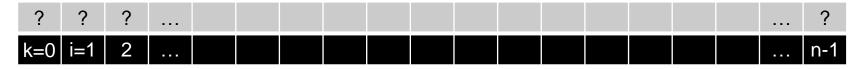


First iteration of loop





What is true at this point?





Effect of conditional statement

 ? ? ? ...
 ... ?

 k=0 i=1 2 ...
 ... n-1

 if lst[1] < lst[k]:</td>
 1st scenario

 ? ? ? ...
 ... ?

 k=0 i=1 2 ...
 ... ?

 ... n-1
 ... n-1



Effect of conditional statement

 ? ? ? ...
 ... ?

 k=0 i=1 2 ...
 ... n-1

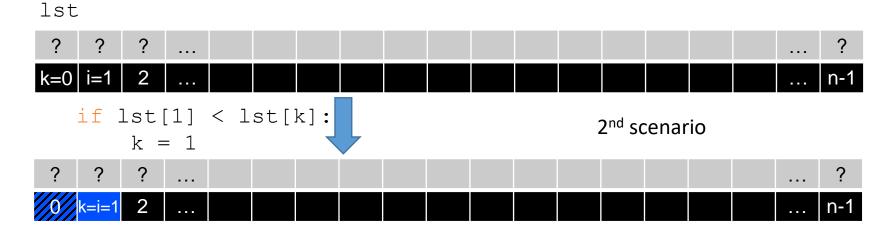
 if lst[1] < lst[k]:</td>
 2nd scenario

 ? ? ? ...
 ... ?

 0 k=i=1 2 ...
 ... n-1



In both cases: k is min index among the small index set {0, 1}





This suggests general pattern



This suggests general pattern



Let's consider general loop iteration





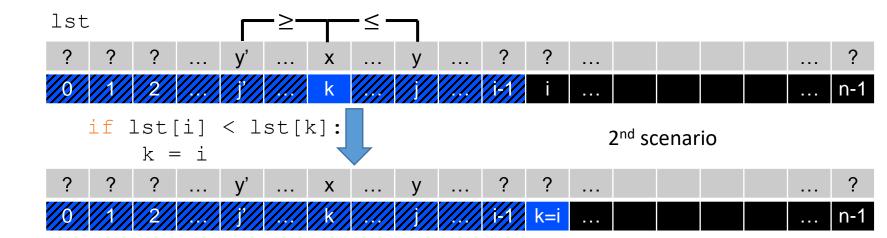
Assume first assertion is true



Effect of conditional statement



Conditional statement ensures second assertion





Which in turn assures first assertion in next iteration

```
| 1st | \geq | \leq | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | < | <
```



What happens at the end of the loop?



Again loop exit condition and invariants imply desired post cond.

```
def min index(lst):
    """accepts: list of length n>0 of comp. elements
       returns: index k in range(n) such that
                 for all j in range(n), lst[k] <= lst[j]"""
    k = 0
    for i in range(1, len(lst)):
        #I: for all j in range(i): lst[k]<=lst[j]</pre>
        if lst[i] < lst[k]: k = i
        #I': for all j in range(i+1): lst[k]<=lst[j]</pre>
    \#EXC: i = n-1,
    #POC: for j in range(n): lst[k]<=lst[j]</pre>
    return k
    lst[i] < lst[k]:
                    Χ
```



Selection Sort — The invariants...



Loop invariants

• Provide a useful invariant in terms of k.

 at the kth iteration, the first k elements of the list have been replaced with a 1 i.e. my_list[:k] will be replaced with a 1



Loop invariants

Provide a useful invariant in terms of k.

```
ct = [0] * len(aList)
for k in range(len(aList)):
    for j in range(k):
        if aList[k] == aList[j]:
        ct[k]+= 1
```

 After the kth iteration, ct[k] holds the count of the number of times aList[k] occurred in aList[0:k]



Loop invariants

Provide a useful invariant in terms of k.

```
ct = [0] * len(aList)
for k in range(len(aList)):
#ct[k] holds the value of 0
    for j in range(k):
        if aList[k] == aList[j]:
            ct[k]+= 1
#ct[k] holds the count of the number of times aList[k] occurred in aList[0:k]
```

 After the kth iteration, ct[k] holds the count of the number of times aList[k] occurred in aList[0:k]



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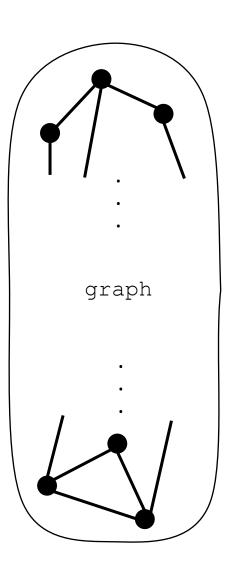
Prim's algorithm: does it always produce a spanning tree?

```
def extension(con, g):
    """input: vertices con connected in
g
       output: edge (i,j) of g with i in
               con and j not in con"""
    for i in con:
        for j in range(len(g)):
            if j not in con and g[i][j]:
                return i, j
def spanning tree(graph):
    """input: graph given as adj. matrix
       output: spanning tree of graph"""
    tree = empty graph(len(graph))
    con = \{0\}
    while len(con) < len(graph):</pre>
        i, j = extension(con, graph)
        tree[i][j], tree[j][i] = 1, 1
        con.add{j}
return tree
```



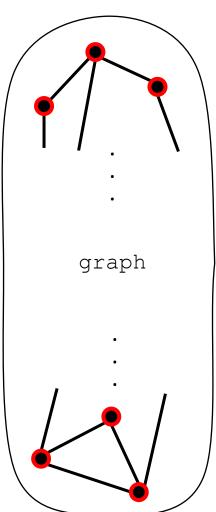
Let us visualise generic input

```
def extension(con, g):
    """input: vertices con connected in
g
       output: edge (i,j) of g with i in
               con and j not in con"""
def spanning tree(graph):
    """input: graph given as adj. matrix
       output: spanning tree of graph"""
    tree = empty graph(len(graph))
    con = \{0\}
    while len(con) < len(graph):</pre>
        i, j = extension(con, graph)
        tree[i][j], tree[j][i] = 1, 1
        con.add{ ;}
return tree
```



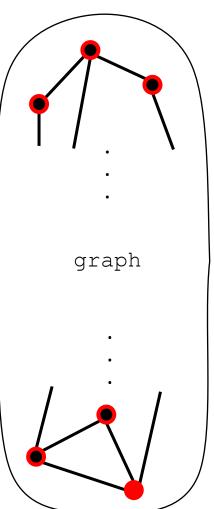


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def extension(con, g):
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        con.add{ ;}
return tree
```



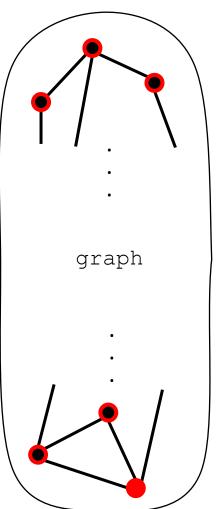


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        tree[i][j], tree[j][i] = 1, 1
        con.add{ ;}
return tree
```



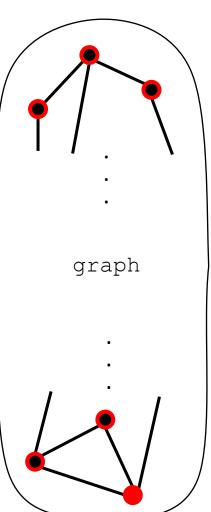


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    con = \{0\}
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        i, j = extension(con, graph)
        tree[i][j], tree[j][i] = 1, 1
        con.add{ ;}
return tree
```



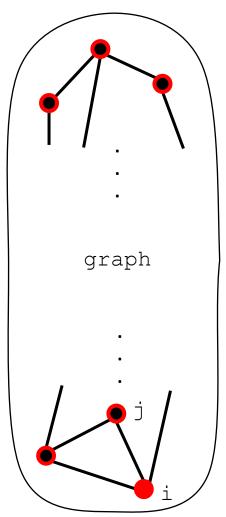


```
def extension(con, g):
    """input: vertices con connected in g
       output: edge (i,j) of g with i in
               con and j not in con"""
def spanning tree(graph):
    """input: graph given as adj. matrix
       output: spanning tree of graph"""
    tree = empty graph(len(graph))
    con = \{0\}
    while len(con) < len(graph):</pre>
        # vertices in con are connected in tree
        i, j = extension(con, graph)
        tree[i][j], tree[j][i] = 1, 1
        con.add{j}
return tree
```



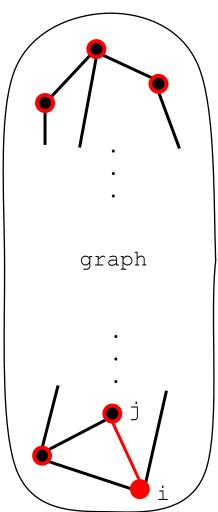


```
def extension(con, g):
    """input: vertices con connected in g
       output: edge (i, j) of g with i in
               con and j not in con"""
def spanning tree(graph):
    """input: graph given as adj. matrix
       output: spanning tree of graph"""
    tree = empty graph(len(graph))
    con = \{0\}
    while len(con) < len(graph):</pre>
        # vertices in con are connected in tree
        i, j = extension(con, graph)
        tree[i][j], tree[j][i] = 1, 1
        con.add{j}
return tree
```





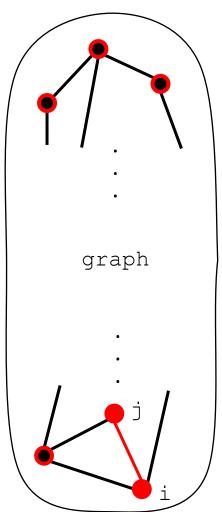
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return tree
```





...and analyse what happens during computation

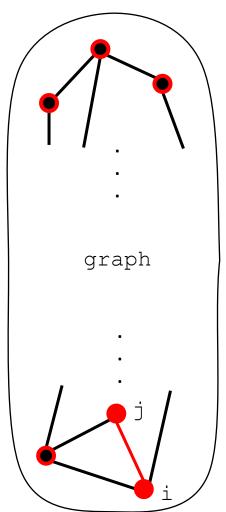
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```





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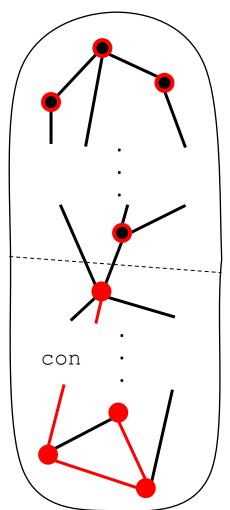
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        con.add{j}
        # vertices in con are connected in tree
return tree
```





Assume con is connected at start of arbitrary loop iteration

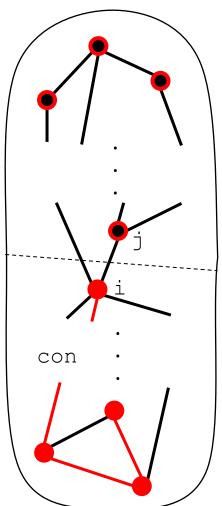
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        # vertices in con are connected in tree
return tree
```





Extension edge bridges connected to not yet connected

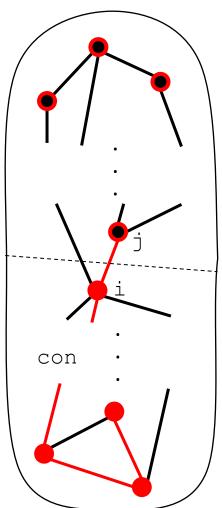
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return tree
```





Extension edge bridges connected to not yet connected

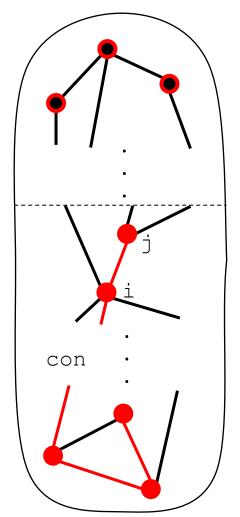
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        i, j = extension(con, graph)
        tree[i][j], tree[j][i] = 1, 1
        con.add{j}
        # vertices in con are connected in tree
return tree
```





After adding extension edge to tree j is also connected

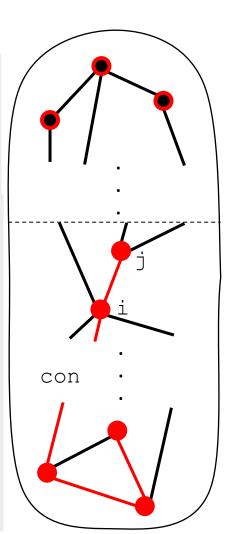
```
def extension(con, q):
    """input: vertices con connected in g
       output: edge (i,j) of g with i in
               con and j not in con"""
def spanning tree(graph):
    """input: graph given as adj. matrix
       output: spanning tree of graph"""
    tree = empty graph(len(graph))
    con = \{0\}
    while len(con) < len(graph):</pre>
        # vertices in con are connected in tree
        i, j = extension(con, graph)
        tree[i][j], tree[j][i] = 1, 1
        con.add{j}
        # vertices in con are connected in tree
return tree
```





Invariant: con is connected

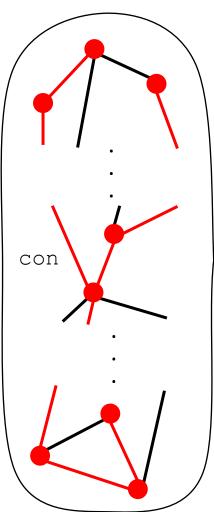
```
def extension(con, q):
    """input: vertices con connected in q
       output: edge (i,j) of g with i in
               con and j not in con"""
def spanning tree(graph):
    """input: graph given as adj. matrix
       output: spanning tree of graph"""
    tree = empty graph(len(graph))
    con = \{0\}
    while len(con) < len(graph):</pre>
        #I: vertices in con are connected in tree
        i, j = extension(con, graph)
        tree[i][j], tree[j][i] = 1, 1
        con.add{j}
        #I: vertices in con are connected in tree
return tree
```





Is this enough to conclude desired post condition?

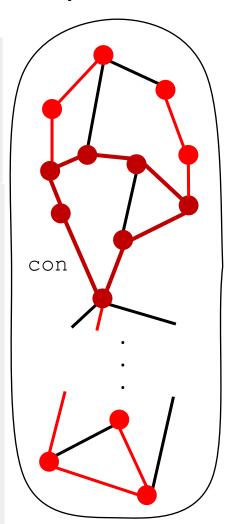
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def spanning tree(graph):
    """input: graph given as adj. matrix
       output: spanning tree of graph"""
    tree = empty graph(len(graph))
    con = \{0\}
    while len(con) < len(graph):</pre>
        i, j = extension(con, graph)
        tree[i][j], tree[j][i] = 1, 1
        con.add{j}
        #I: vertices in con are connected in tree
    #EXC: len(con) == len(graph)
return tree
```





No. Can conclude that the tree is connected, but could contain a cycle

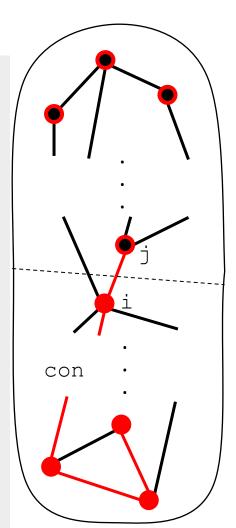
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    """input: vertices con connected in g
       output: edge (i,j) of g with i in
               con and j not in con"""
def spanning tree(graph):
    """input: graph given as adj. matrix
       output: spanning tree of graph"""
    tree = empty graph(len(graph))
    con = \{0\}
    while len(con) < len(graph):</pre>
        i, j = extension(con, graph)
        tree[i][j], tree[j][i] = 1, 1
        con.add{ ;}
        #I: vertices in con are connected in tree
    #EXC: len(con) == len(graph)
    #POC: all vertices are connected to the tree
return tree
```





What should the second invariant be?

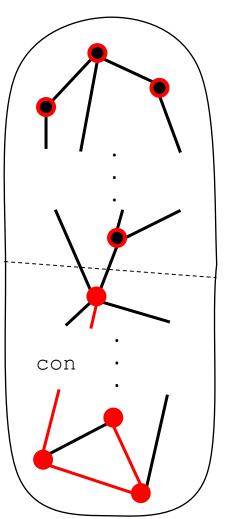
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def spanning tree(graph):
    """input: graph given as adj. matrix
       output: spanning tree of graph"""
    tree = empty graph(len(graph))
    con = \{0\}
    while len(con) < len(graph):</pre>
        i, j = extension(con, graph)
        tree[i][j], tree[j][i] = 1, 1
        con.add{j}
        #I1: vertices in con are connected in tree
        #I2: ?
return tree
```





Need to guarantee that we never add a cycle to tree

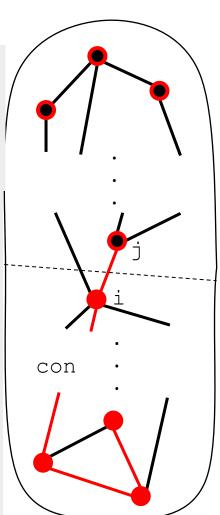
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def extension(con, g):
    """input: vertices con connected in g
       output: edge (i, j) of g with i in
               con and j not in con"""
def spanning tree(graph):
    """input: graph given as adj. matrix
       output: spanning tree of graph"""
    tree = empty graph(len(graph))
    con = \{0\}
    while len(con) < len(graph):</pre>
        i, j = extension(con, graph)
        tree[i][j], tree[j][i] = 1, 1
        con.add{ ;}
        #I: vertices in con are connected in tree
        # tree does not contain cycle
return tree
```





Observation: extension edge never creates a cycle with edges in the tree

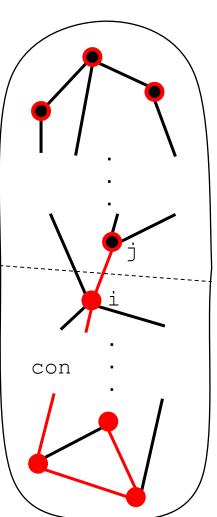
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def extension(con, g):
    """input: vertices con connected in g
       output: edge (i,j) of g with i in
               con and j not in con"""
def spanning tree(graph):
    """input: graph given as adj. matrix
       output: spanning tree of graph"""
    tree = empty graph(len(graph))
    con = \{0\}
    while len(con) < len(graph):</pre>
        # tree does not contain a cycle
        i, j = extension(con, graph)
        tree[i][j], tree[j][i] = 1, 1
        con.add{j}
        #I1: vertices in con are connected in tree
        # tree does not contain a cycle
return tree
```





Invariant 2: tree does not contain a cycle

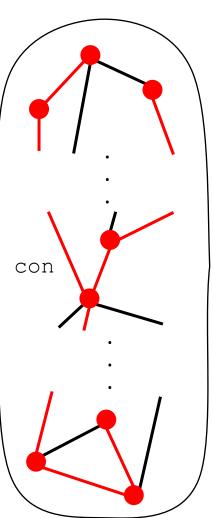
```
def extension(con, g):
    """input: vertices con connected in g
       output: edge (i,j) of g with i in
               con and j not in con"""
def spanning tree(graph):
    """input: graph given as adj. matrix
       output: spanning tree of graph"""
    tree = empty graph(len(graph))
    con = \{0\}
    while len(con) < len(graph):</pre>
        i, j = extension(con, graph)
        tree[i][j], tree[j][i] = 1, 1
        con.add{j}
        #I1: vertices in con are connected in tree
        #I2: tree does not contain cycle
return tree
```





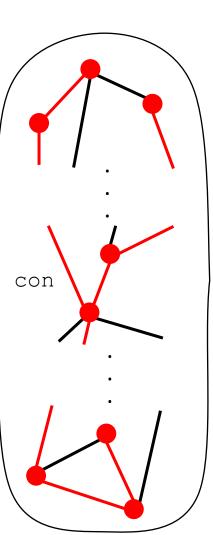
Now we know the tree is connected and without a cycle at loop exit

```
def extension(con, g):
    """input: vertices con connected in g
       output: edge (i,j) of g with i in
               con and j not in con"""
def spanning tree(graph):
    """input: graph given as adj. matrix
       output: spanning tree of graph"""
    tree = empty graph(len(graph))
    con = \{0\}
    while len(con) < len(graph):</pre>
        i, j = extension(con, graph)
        tree[i][j], tree[j][i] = 1, 1
        con.add{ ;}
        #I1: vertices in con are connected in tree
        #I2: tree does not contain cycle
    #EXC: len(con) == len(graph)
return tree
```



...in other words: the tree must be a spanning tree!!

```
def extension(con, g):
    """input: vertices con connected in q
       output: edge (i,j) of g with i in
               con and j not in con"""
def spanning tree(graph):
    """input: graph given as adj. matrix
       output: spanning tree of graph"""
    tree = empty graph(len(graph))
    con = \{0\}
    while len(con) < len(graph):</pre>
        i, j = extension(con, graph)
        tree[i][j], tree[j][i] = 1, 1
        con.add{ ;}
        #I1: vertices in con are connected in tree
        #I2: tree does not contain cycle
    #EXC: len(con) == len(graph)
    #POC: tree is spanning tree of graph
return tree
```





What have we learnt?

- Use assertions about execution state to reason about programs
- Loop invariants can be used to analyse behaviour of loopy control flows
- Look for invariants that turn into desired postcondition when loop exit condition is true