

Formal Proof

a. Let $w(T) = \sum_{i=1}^V w_i$, $(u_i, v_i, w_i) \in T$, (total weight of spanning tree T)

a sub-graph of G , named T^* be the optimal MST.

a sub-graph of G , named T_{Kruskal} be a spanning tree by Kruskal Algorithm.

By our supposition, $w(T^*)$ should be less than or equal to any $w(ST)$.

$$\text{so, } w(T^*) \leq w(T_{\text{Kruskal}}) \text{ — Fact \#1}$$

Prove that $w(T_{\text{Kruskal}}) = w(T^*)$

b. Assume that e_1 is the lightest edge such that

$$e_1 \in T^* \wedge e_1 \notin T_{\text{Kruskal}}$$

Adding e_1 to T_{Kruskal} will create a cycle graph (C). Since T_{Kruskal} is a spanning tree, adding e_1 to it will make a cycle on the graph.

c. In order to construct an MST on a graph with V vertices, the MST must have exactly $V-1$ edges. C was a spanning tree before, but when added e_1 to it, it creates a cycle of V edges. This mean that there must be an edge in C that is not T^* because T^* is a spanning tree. let that edge be f_1 where

$$f_1 \in C \wedge f_1 \notin T^*$$

d. Removing f_1 from C will create a new spanning tree since, e_1 and f_1 are a part of the cycle. Removing one of them will break the cycle, and thus, forming a spanning tree.

e. Let $C - \{f_1\} = T_1$

T_1 is more similar to T^* than T_{Kruskal} now.

- Suppose that $w(T_1) < w(T_{\text{Kruskal}})$

This means that $e_1 < f_1$

But if it really is, Kruskal Algorithm would not have picked f_1 , it would have picked e_1 instead.

Therefore, such case is impossible, the fact must be that

$$e_1 \geq f_1$$

$$w(T_1) \geq w(T_{\text{Kruskal}})$$

f. Repeat the steps b) to e), until T_1 becomes T^* ,

$$T_{k+1} = T_k + \{e_{k+1}\} - \{f_{k+1}\}$$

T_{k+1} will be more and more similar to T^* .

- Suppose that $w(T_{k+1}) < w(T_k)$

This means that $e_{k+1} < f_{k+1}$

But if it really is, Kruskal Algorithm would not have picked f_{k+1} , it would have picked e_{k+1} instead.

Therefore, such case is impossible, the fact must be that

$$e_{k+1} \geq f_{k+1}$$

$$w(T_{k+1}) \geq w(T_k)$$

g. Ultimately, we can conclude that

$$w(T_{\text{Kruskal}}) \leq w(T_1) \leq w(T_2) \leq \dots \leq w(T^*)$$

$$w(T^*) \geq w(T_{\text{Kruskal}}) \text{ --- Fact \#2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{h. Fact \#1} \wedge \text{Fact \#2} &\equiv w(T^*) \leq w(T_{\text{Kruskal}}) \wedge w(T^*) \geq w(T_{\text{Kruskal}}) \\ &\equiv w(T^*) = w(T_{\text{Kruskal}}) \end{aligned}$$

\therefore Combining the finding in g), and the first supposition, the only possible conclusion is that the total weight of T_{Kruskal} is equal to the total weight of T^* , meaning that the total weight of the spanning tree generated by Kruskal Algorithm is the least possible making it a Minimum Spanning Tree. PROVED!

Example

$V = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
u	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	3	4	0	4
v	1	3	2	3	4	5	5	4	5	4	2
w	2	4	4	4	3	1	5	2	5	3	4

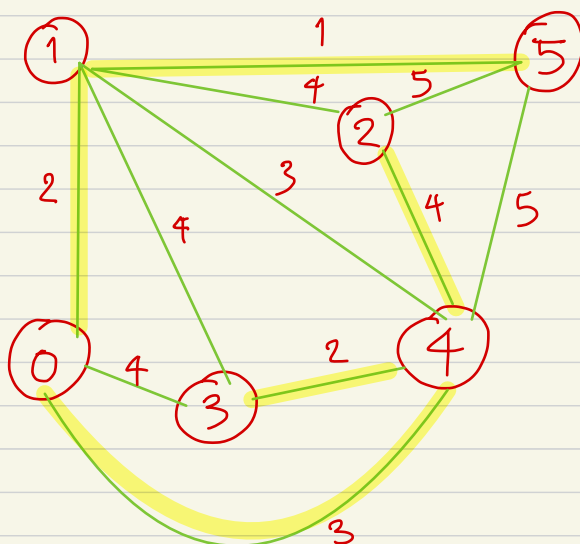
① MST = 12

	6	8	1	10	5	3	2	4	11	7	9
u	1	3	0	0	1	1	0	1	4	2	4
v	5	4	1	4	4	2	3	3	2	5	5
w	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	5

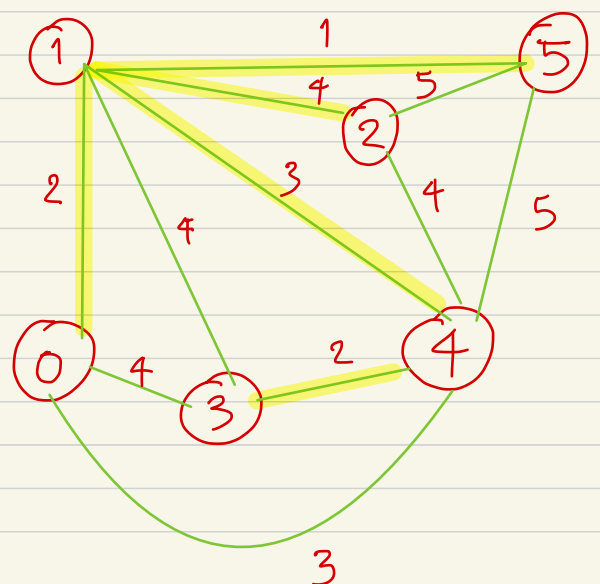
① MST = 12

	6	8	1	10	5	3	2	4	11	7	9
u	1	3	0	0	1	1	0	1	4	2	4
v	5	4	1	4	4	2	3	3	2	5	5
w	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	5

① T^*



② T



Let the optimal Minimum spanning tree be

$$\textcircled{1} \quad T^* = \{(1, 5, 1), (1, 0, 2), (4, 3, 2), \underline{(0, 4, 3)}, (4, 2, 4)\}$$

Let Kruskal's Algorithm generated MST be

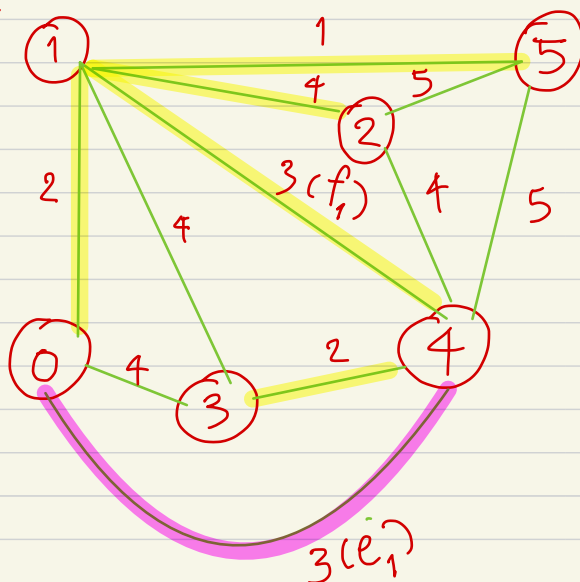
$$\textcircled{2} \quad T = \{(1, 5, 1), (1, 0, 2), (4, 3, 2), \underline{(1, 4, 3)}, (1, 2, 4)\}$$

Let $e_1 = (0, 4, 3)$ — lightest edge such that $e_i \in T^* \wedge e_i \notin T$.

a.) Adding edge e_1 to T will create a cycle graph (C) .

$$C = \{(1, 5, 1), (1, 0, 2), (4, 3, 2), (1, 4, 3), (1, 2, 4), \underline{(0, 4, 3)}\}$$

$\textcircled{3} \quad C$



b.) Since $|C| = 6$ and $|T^*| = 5$, there must be at least an edge f_i that is in C but not in T^* . (Pigeon Hole Principle)

In this case, let's say f_i should be $(1, 4, 3)$

f_i can be $(1, 2, 4)$, but if so, then e_i must be $(4, 2, 4)$.

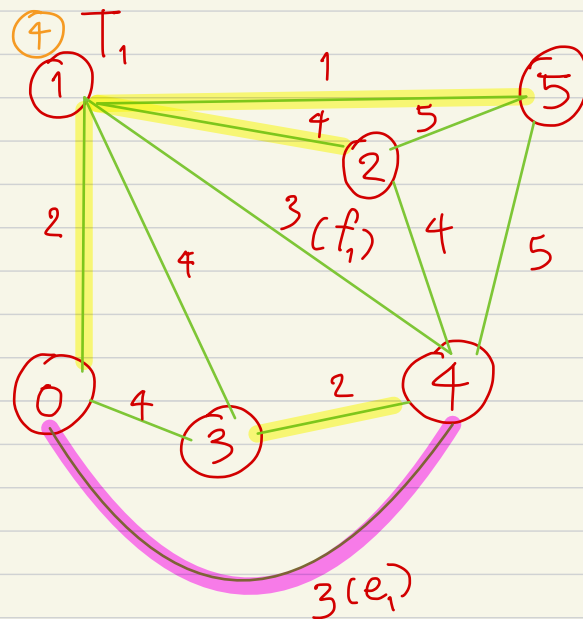
the order of replacement ($e_i \xrightarrow{\text{replace}} f_i$) does not matter, as long as

$$\text{weight of } e_i = \text{weight of } f_i$$

so that

$$e_i \xrightarrow{\text{safely replace}} f_i$$

c.) Removing f from T will create a new spanning tree



e_i is a part of optimal solution (T^*).

f_i is a part of solution generated by Kruskal (T).

Since adding e_1 to C causes a cycle in the graph, and f_1 is one of the path in the cycle, removing f will break the cycle and form the MST.

T_1 is more similar to T^* now than T .

d.) - Suppose that weight of T_1 is less than weight of T .

- That would mean that at least $e_1 < f_1$

- Such case is impossible. If it really is, Kruskal would not have picked f_1 , it would have picked e_1 instead.

- Therefore, our supposition is incorrect, meaning that

$$e_1 \geq f_1$$

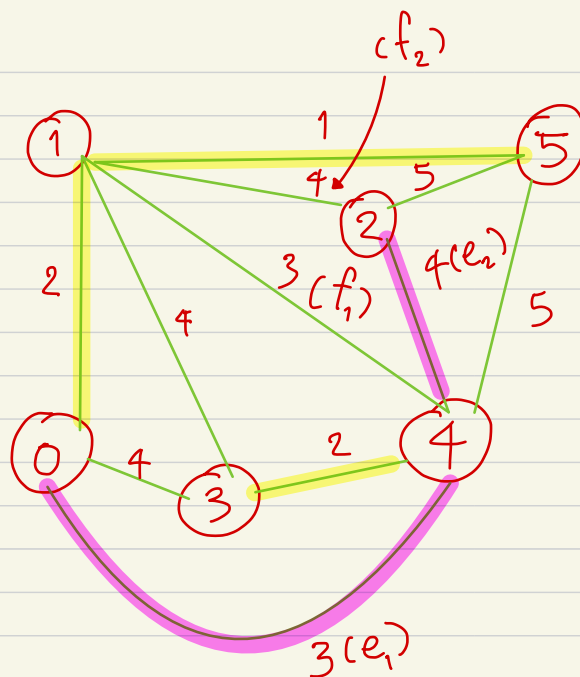
Kruskal picked f_1 , meaning that e_1 is more than or equal than f_1 .

since Kruskal will pick the least weight first.

$$\therefore \text{Therefore, } T_1 \geq T$$

e.)

⑤ T_2



continue to transform T_1 to T_2 by letting

$$e_2 = (4, 2, 4) \quad f_2 = (1, 2, 4)$$

using the same logic in c.) and d.) we know that
MST is formed by adding e_2 and removing f_2 , and

$$e_2 \geq f_2$$

$$\text{weight of } T_2 \geq T_1 \geq T \longrightarrow$$

$$T_2 \geq T$$

$$e_k \geq f_k, \quad 1 \leq k \leq V-1$$

$$T_k = T^*$$

$$T^* > T$$

Let $E = \{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k\}$, and $F = \{f_1, f_2, \dots, f_k\}$

$$\textcircled{1} \quad e_1 \geq f_1 \quad \textcircled{2} \quad e_2 \geq f_2 \quad \dots \quad \textcircled{k} \quad e_k \geq f_k$$

$$\textcircled{1} + \textcircled{2} + \dots + \textcircled{k}; \quad e_1 + e_2 + \dots + e_k \geq f_1 + f_2 + \dots + f_k$$

It is impossible that $T^* < T$, since every f_i and e_i , it is impossible that $e_i < f_i$ because if it is true, Kruskal would not have picked f_i , it would have picked e_i instead. Therefore, the only possible conclusion is that T_k or T^* must be greater than or equal to T .

f.) from e.) we know that

$$T^* \geq T \text{ ————— } (1)$$

But by our supposition, T^* is the optimal solution. Meaning that T^* is less than or equal to any T generated by any algorithm.

$$T^* \leq T \text{ ————— } (2)$$

By combining these 2 facts, there is only one possible conclusion.

$$T^* = T \text{ ————— } (1) \wedge (2)$$

\therefore The MST generated by Kruskal Algorithm has the total weight equal to the optimal MST. Hence, Kruskal Algorithm yields the least total weight to form a spanning tree. PROVED!