

Yes,  $\mathcal{H}$  will always be connected. To show this, we prove the following fact.

(1) *Let  $T = (V, F)$  and  $T' = (V, F')$  be two spanning trees of  $G$  so that  $|F - F'| = |F' - F| = k$ . Then there is a path in  $\mathcal{H}$  from  $T$  to  $T'$  of length  $k$ .*

*Proof.* We prove this by induction on  $k$ , the case  $k = 1$  constituting the definition of edges in  $\mathcal{H}$ . Now, if  $|F - F'| = k > 1$ , we choose an edge  $f' \in F' - F$ . The tree  $T \cup \{f'\}$  contains a cycle  $C$ , and this cycle must contain an edge  $f \notin F'$ . The tree  $T \cup \{f'\} - \{f\} = T'' = (V, F'')$  has the property that  $|F'' - F'| = |F' - F''| = k - 1$ . Thus, by induction, there is a path of length  $k - 1$  from  $T''$  to  $T'$ ; since  $T$  and  $T''$  are neighbors, it follows that there is a path of length  $k$  from  $T$  to  $T'$ . ■