

# Single-Source Shortest-Paths (SSSP)

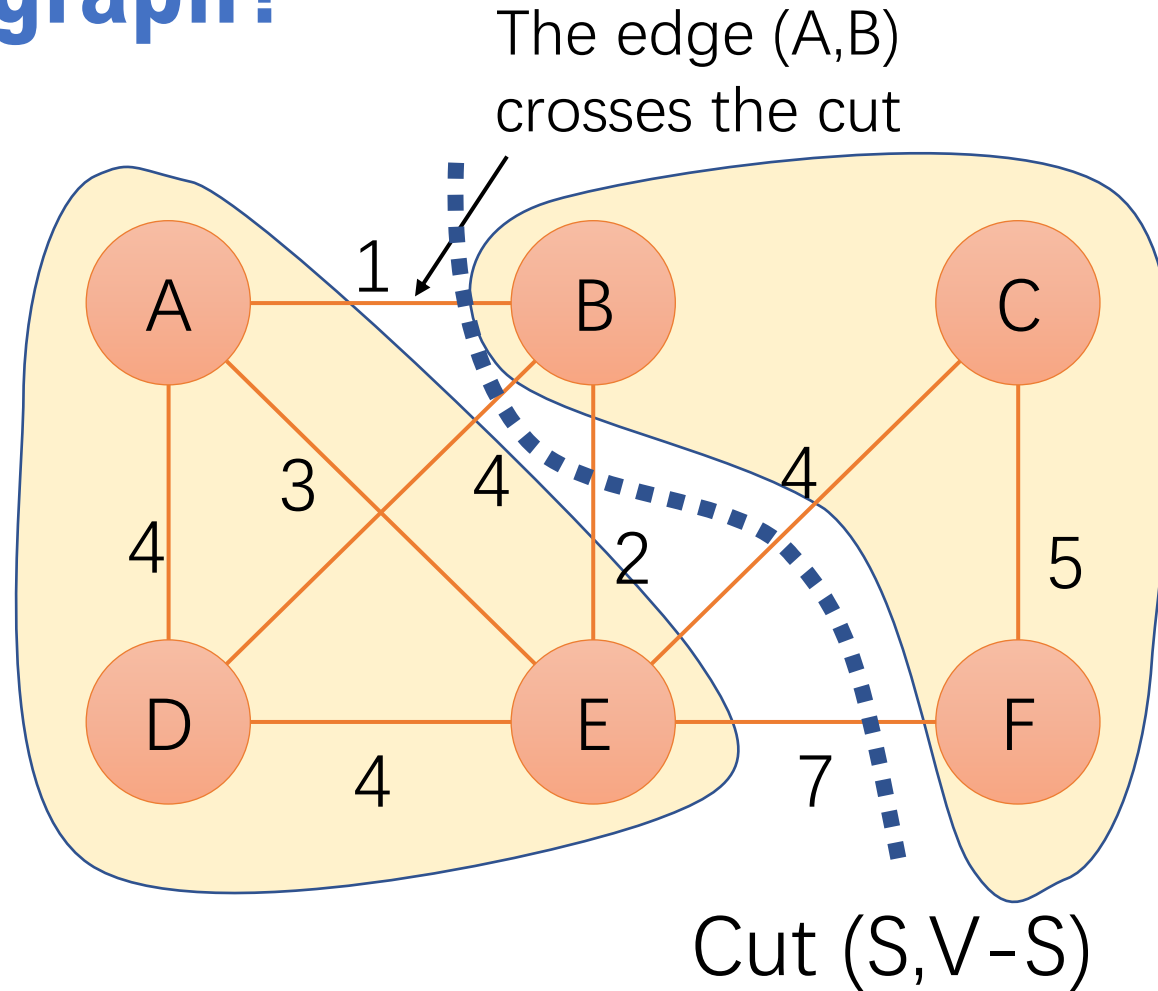
Yihan Sun

**This lecture covers Section 24.1-24.3 of CLRS**

# **Optimality Proof for Greedy MST Algorithms**

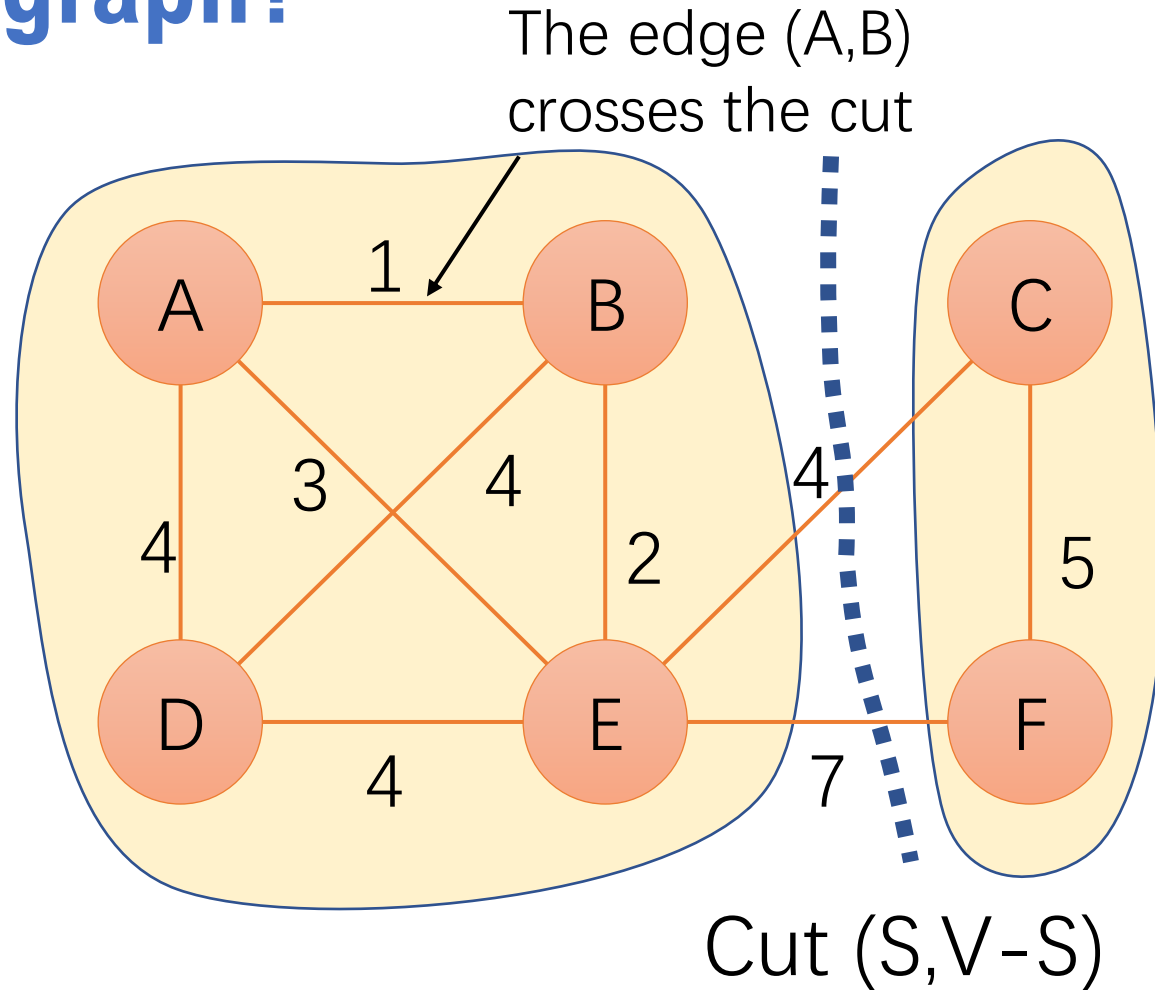
# What is a cut of a graph?

$$S = \{A, D, E\}$$
$$V - S = \{B, C, F\}$$



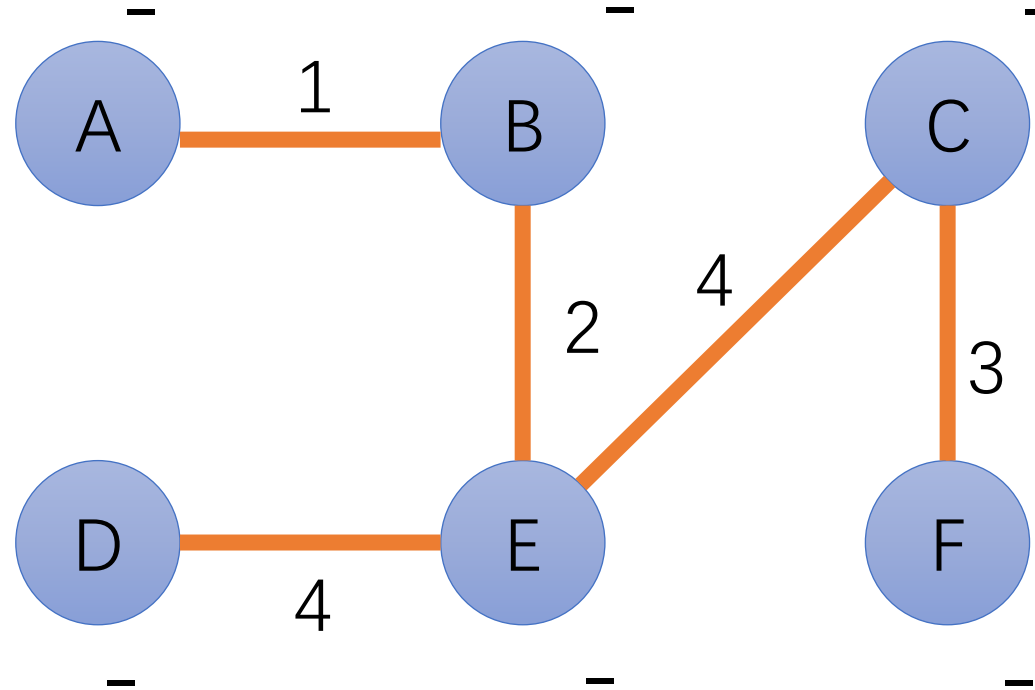
# What is a cut of a graph?

$$S = \{A, B, D, E\}$$
$$V - S = \{C, F\}$$



**The lightest edge in a cut must be in the MST**

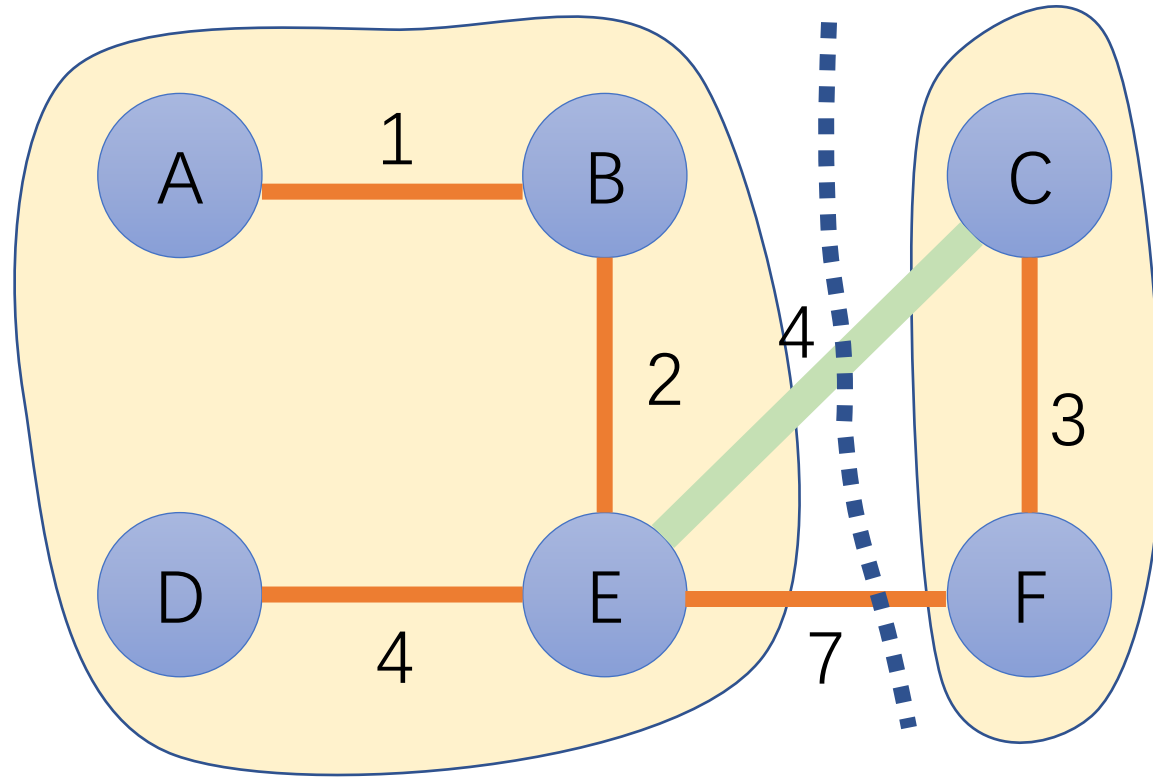
# The MST of this graph



**The lightest edge in a cut must be in the MST**

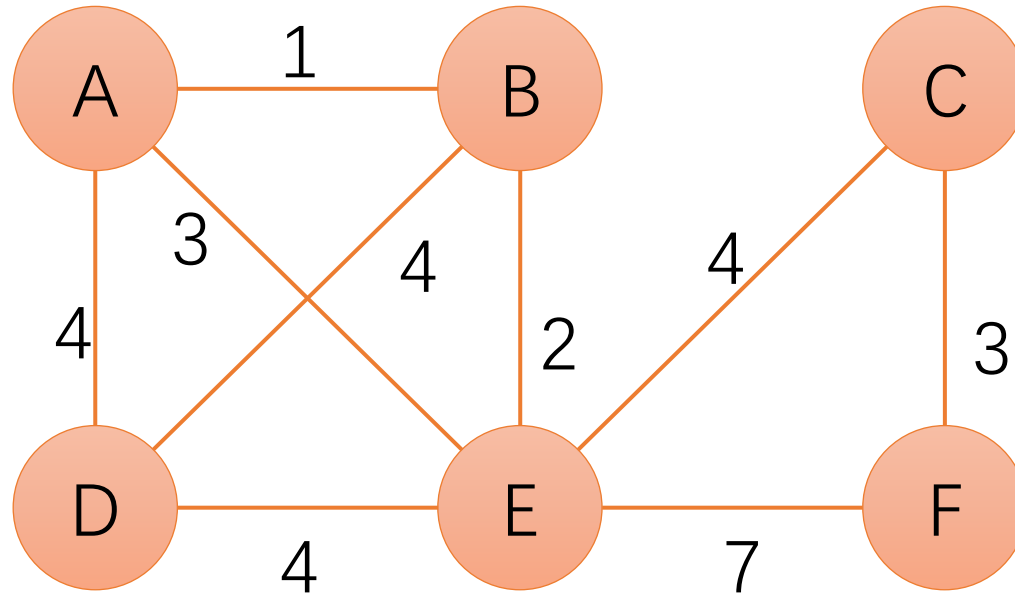
# A simple proof for greedy choice

$$S = \{A, B, D, E\}$$
$$V - S = \{C, F\}$$



**The lightest edge in a cut must be in the MST**

# Kruskal's MST in Action



$(u, v, w) :$



$(A, B, 1)$

$(B, E, 2)$

$(A, E, 3)$

$(C, F, 3)$

$(A, D, 4)$

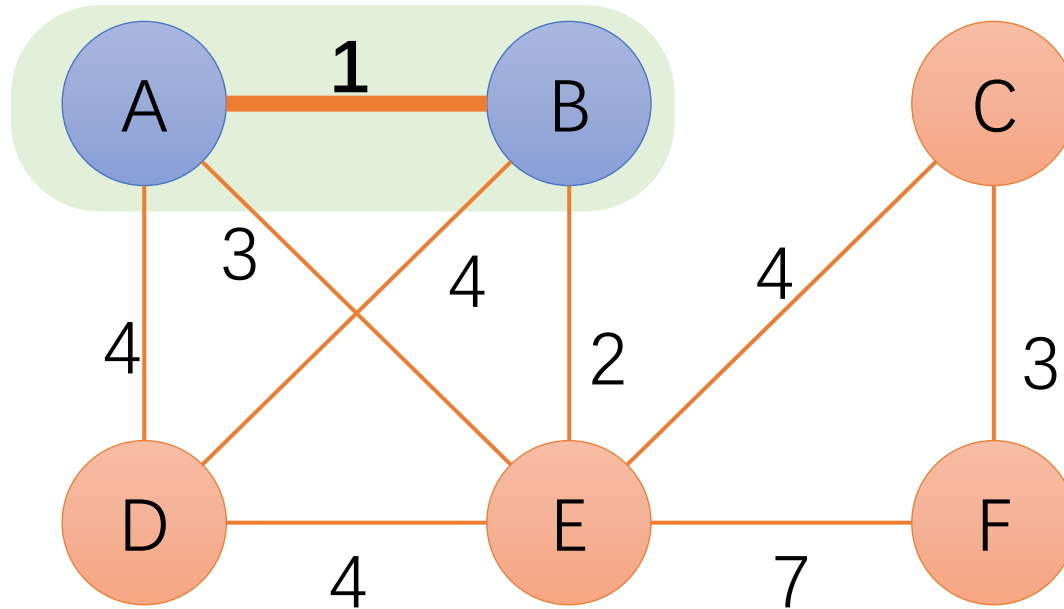
$(B, D, 4)$

$(D, E, 4)$

$(C, E, 4)$

$(E, F, 7)$

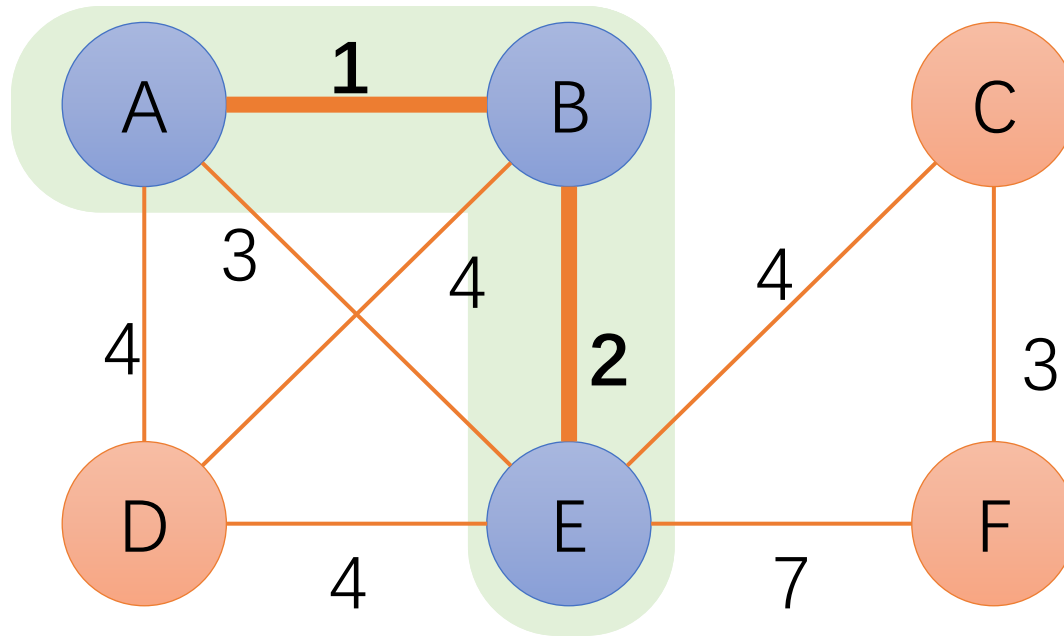
# Kruskal's MST in Action



$(u, v, w) :$   
 $\rightarrow (A, B, 1)$   
 $(B, E, 2)$   
 $(A, E, 3)$   
 $(C, F, 3)$   
 $(A, D, 4)$   
 $(B, D, 4)$   
 $(D, E, 4)$   
 $(C, E, 4)$   
 $(E, F, 7)$

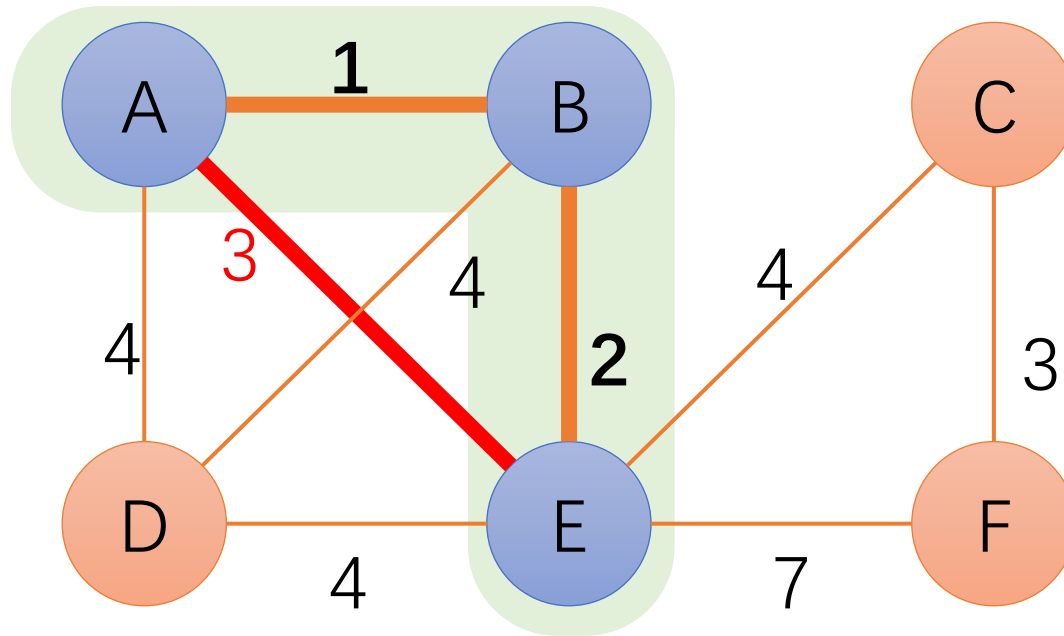


# Kruskal's MST in Action



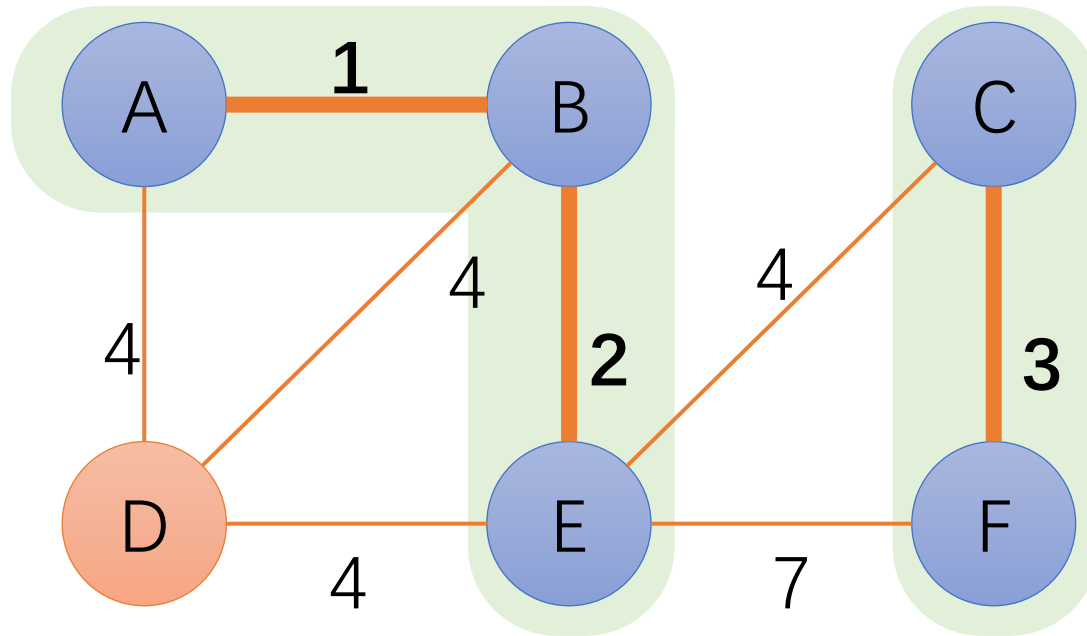
$(u, v, w) :$   
 $(A, B, 1)$   
 $\rightarrow (B, E, 2)$   
 $(A, E, 3)$   
 $(C, F, 3)$   
 $(A, D, 4)$   
 $(B, D, 4)$   
 $(D, E, 4)$   
 $(C, E, 4)$   
 $(E, F, 7)$

# Kruskal's MST in Action



$(u, v, w) :$   
 $(A, B, 1)$   
 $(B, E, 2)$   
 $(A, E, 3)$   
 $(C, F, 3)$   
 $(A, D, 4)$   
 $(B, D, 4)$   
 $(D, E, 4)$   
 $(C, E, 4)$   
 $(E, F, 7)$

# Kruskal's MST in Action



$(u, v, w) :$

$(A, B, 1)$

$(B, E, 2)$

$(A, E, 3)$

$(C, F, 3)$

$(A, D, 4)$

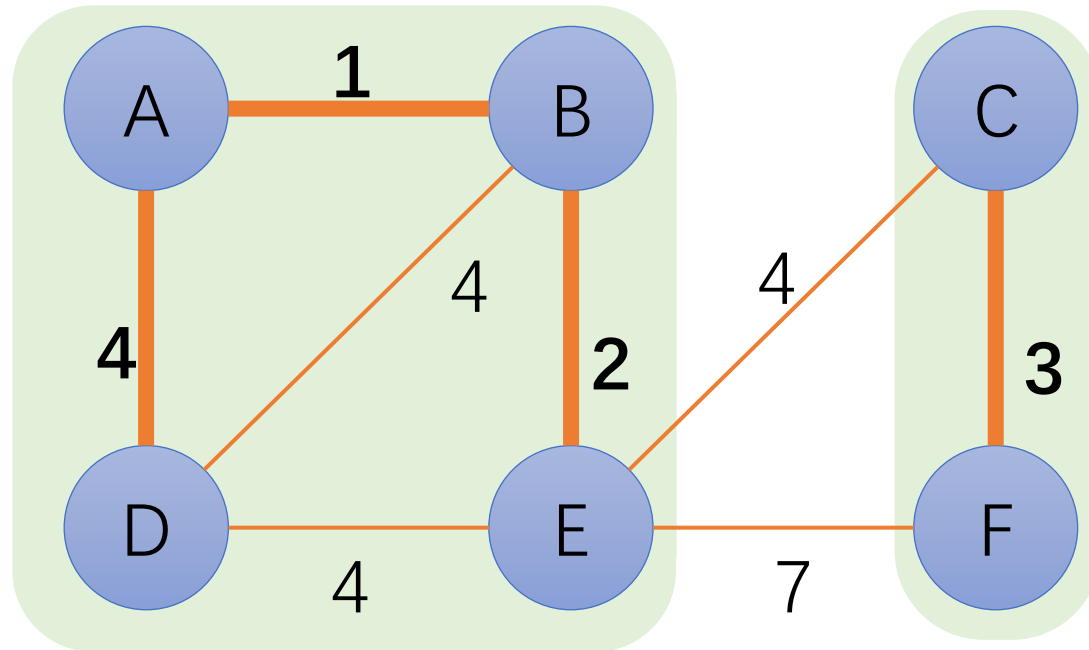
$(B, D, 4)$

$(D, E, 4)$

$(C, E, 4)$

$(E, F, 7)$

# Kruskal's MST in Action



$(u, v, w) :$

$(A, B, 1)$

$(B, E, 2)$

$(A, E, 3)$

$(C, F, 3)$

$\rightarrow (A, D, 4)$

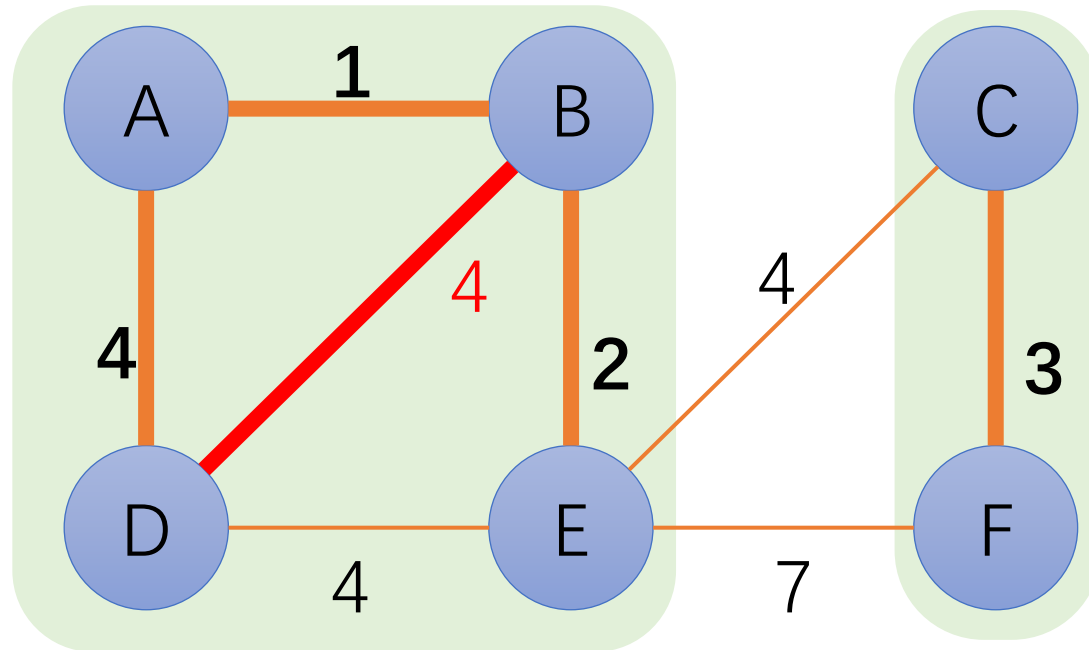
$(B, D, 4)$

$(D, E, 4)$

$(C, E, 4)$

$(E, F, 7)$

# Kruskal's MST in Action



$(u, v, w) :$

$(A, B, 1)$

$(B, E, 2)$

$(A, E, 3)$

$(C, F, 3)$

$(A, D, 4)$

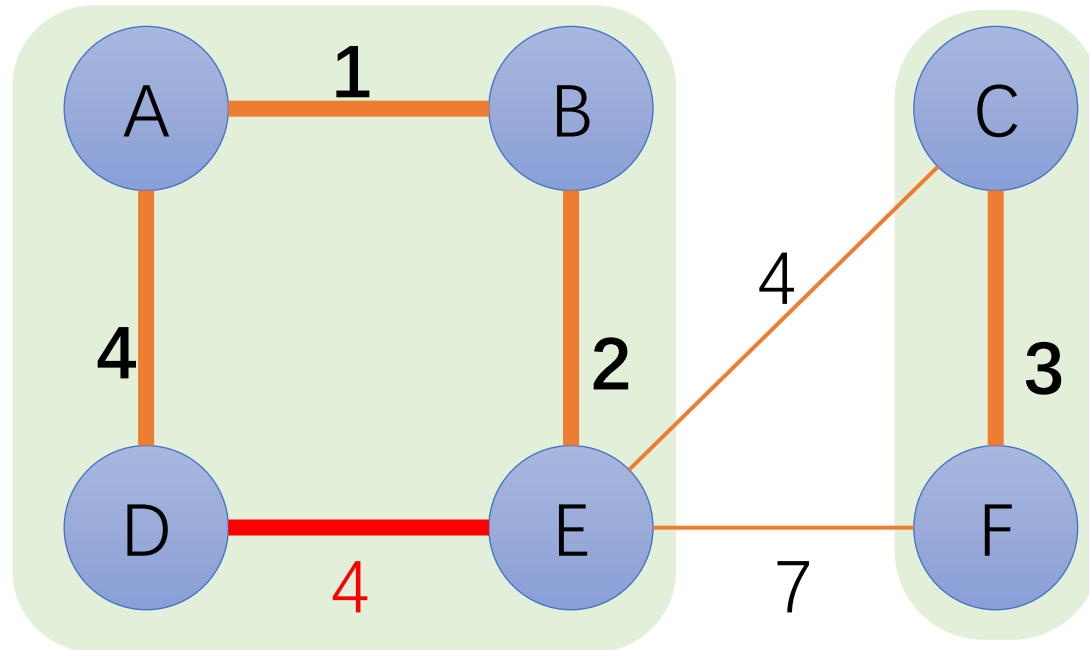
$\rightarrow (B, D, 4)$

$(D, E, 4)$

$(C, E, 4)$

$(E, F, 7)$

# Kruskal's MST in Action



$(u, v, w) :$

$(A, B, 1)$

$(B, E, 2)$

$(A, D, 4)$

$(C, F, 3)$

$(A, D, 4)$

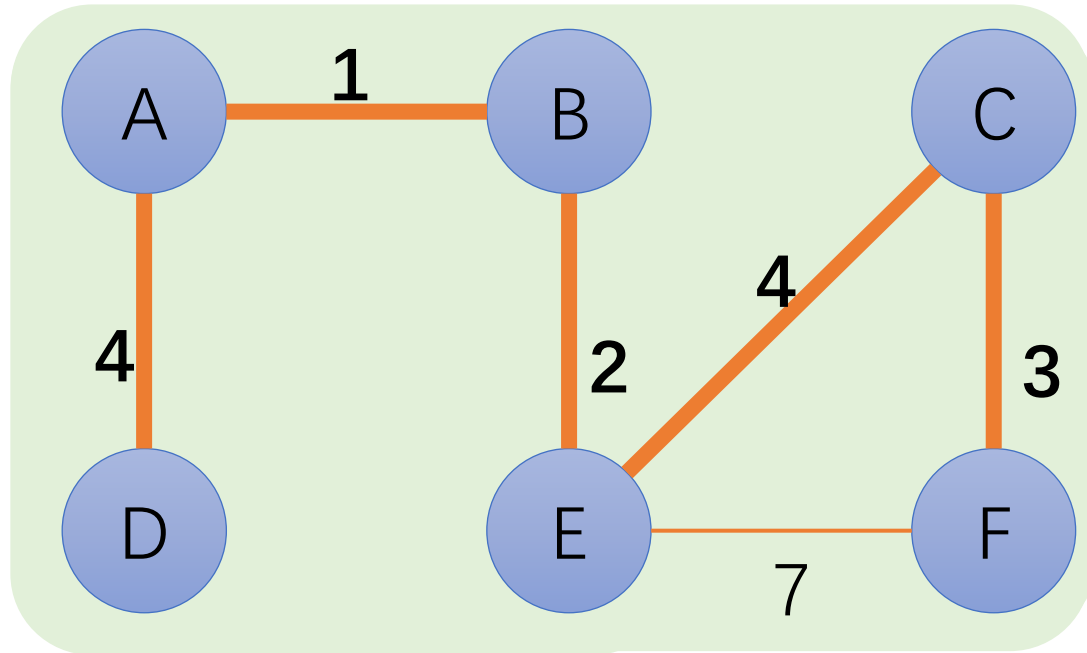
$(B, D, 4)$

→  $(D, E, 4)$

$(C, E, 4)$

$(E, F, 7)$

# Kruskal's MST in Action



$(u, v, w) :$

$(A, B, 1)$

$(B, E, 2)$

$(A, E, 3)$

$(C, F, 3)$

$(A, D, 4)$

$(B, D, 4)$

$(D, E, 4)$

→  $(C, E, 4)$

$(E, F, 7)$

# Correction:

## Kruskal's Algorithm (simple implementation)

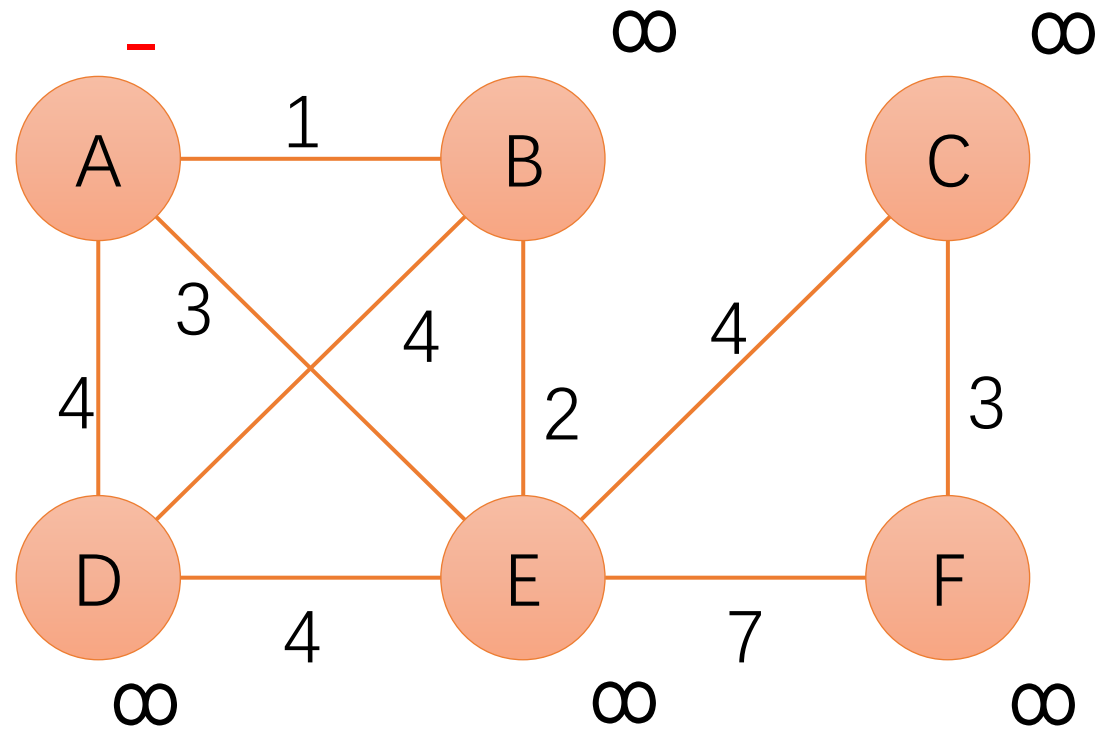
- Use an array to check the connectivity

$$O(n^2 + m \log n)$$

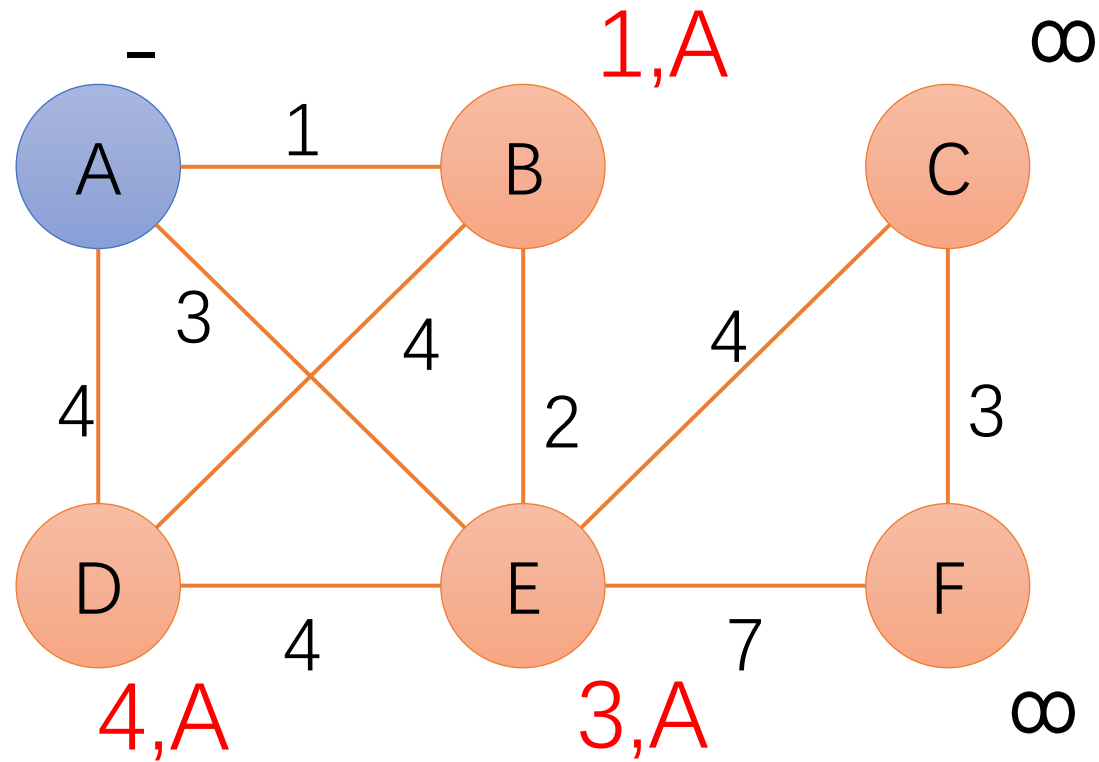
```
    KRUSKAL( $G, w$ )  
     $O(1)$        $A = \emptyset$   
    for each vertex  $v \in G.V$  //  $n$  iterations  
     $O(1)$       MAKE-SET( $v$ )  
 $O(m \log m)$  sort the edges of  $G.E$  into nondecreasing order by weight  $w$   
    for each  $(u, v)$  taken from the sorted list //  $m$  iterations  
     $O(1)$       if FIND-SET( $u$ )  $\neq$  FIND-SET( $v$ ) //  $m$  iterations  
     $O(1)$        $A = A \cup \{(u, v)\}$  //  $n$  iterations  
     $O(n)$       UNION( $u, v$ )  
    return  $A$ 
```



# Prim's MST in Action



# Prim's MST in Action



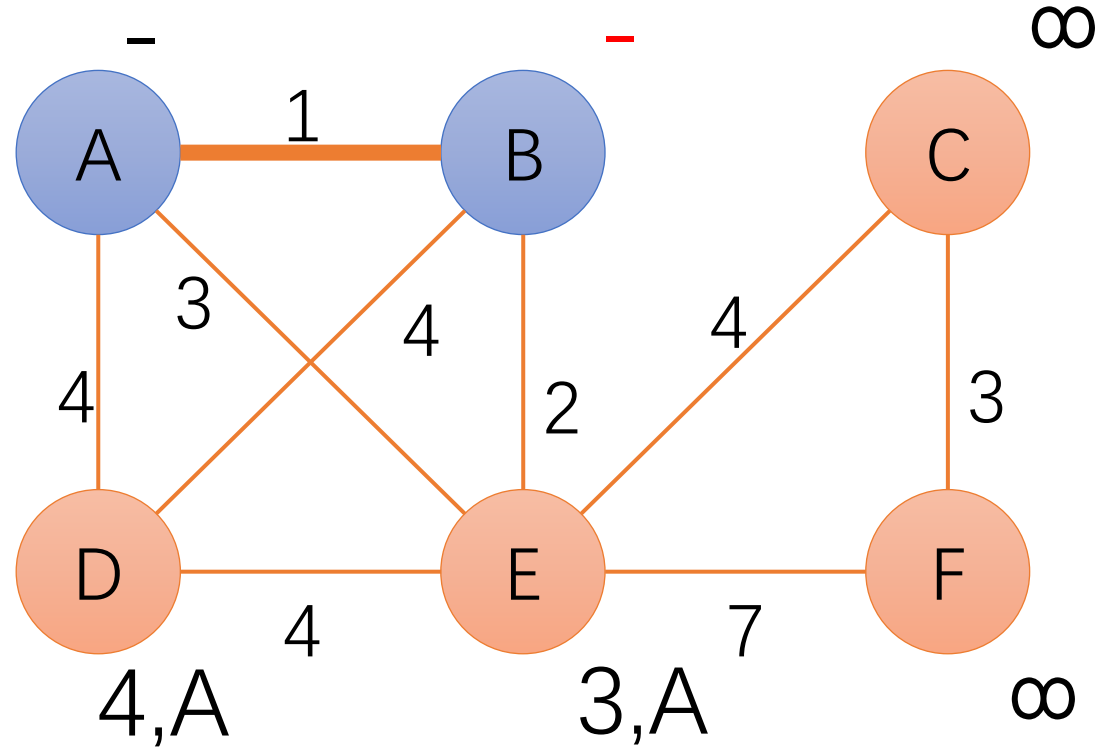
Active Set:

(B, 1)

(E, 3)

(D, 4)

# Prim's MST in Action

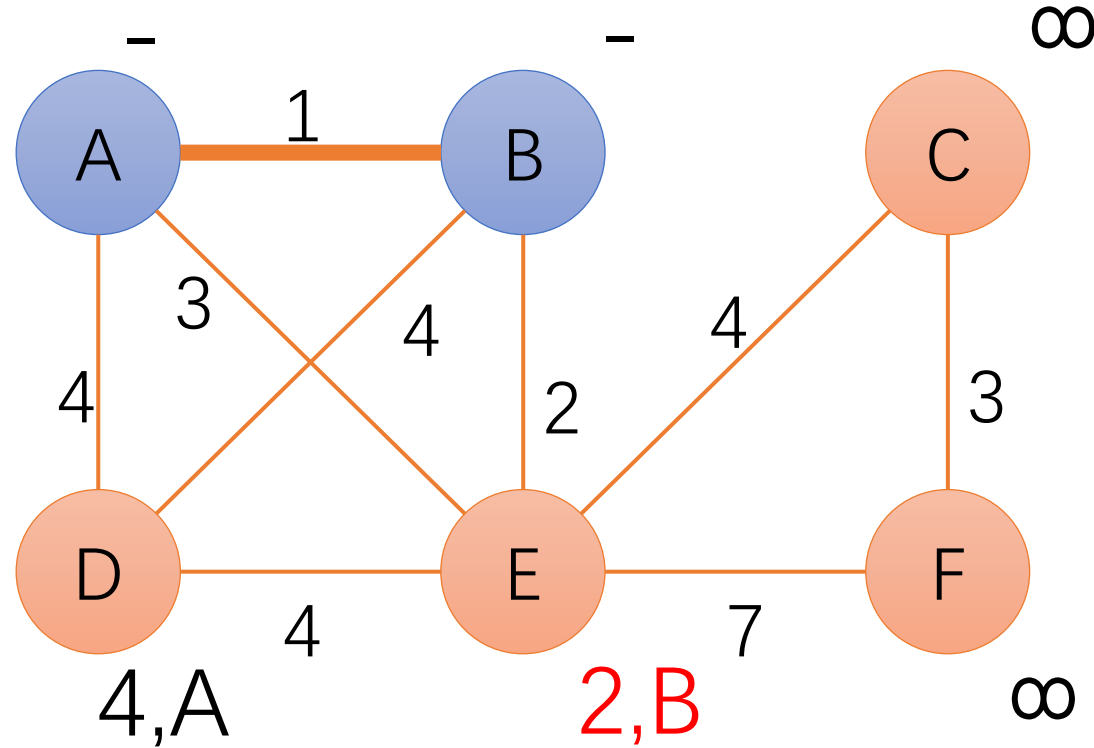


Active Set:

(E, 3)

(D, 4)

# Prim's MST in Action

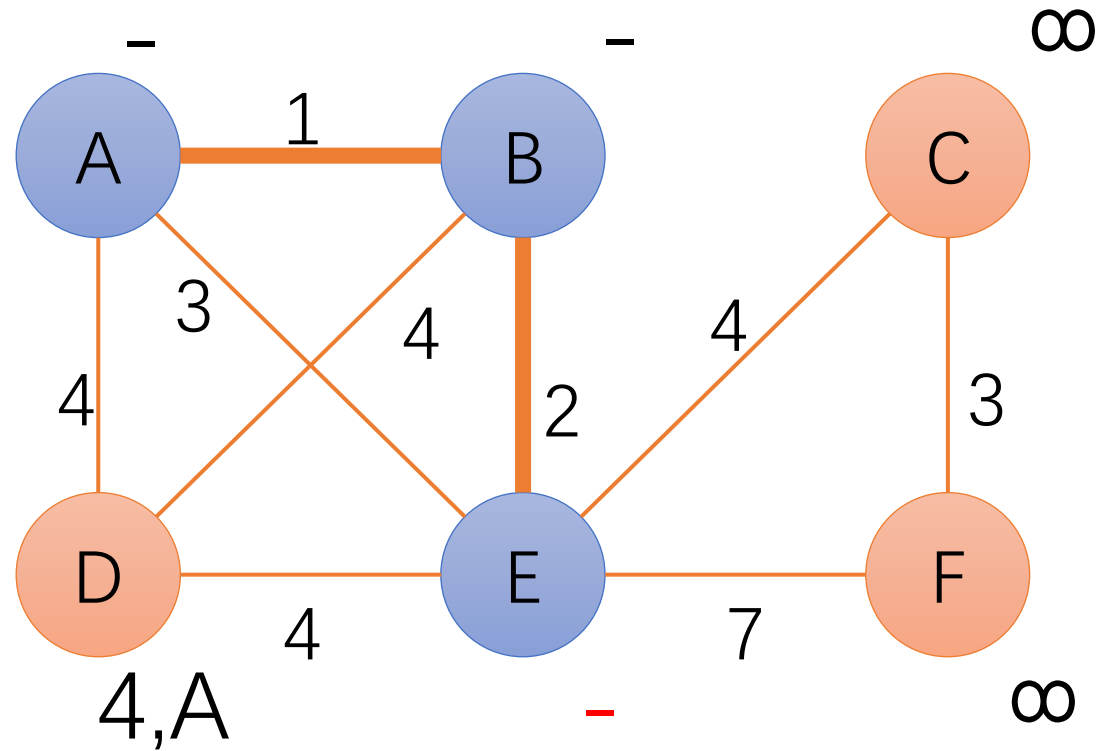


Active Set:

(E, 2)

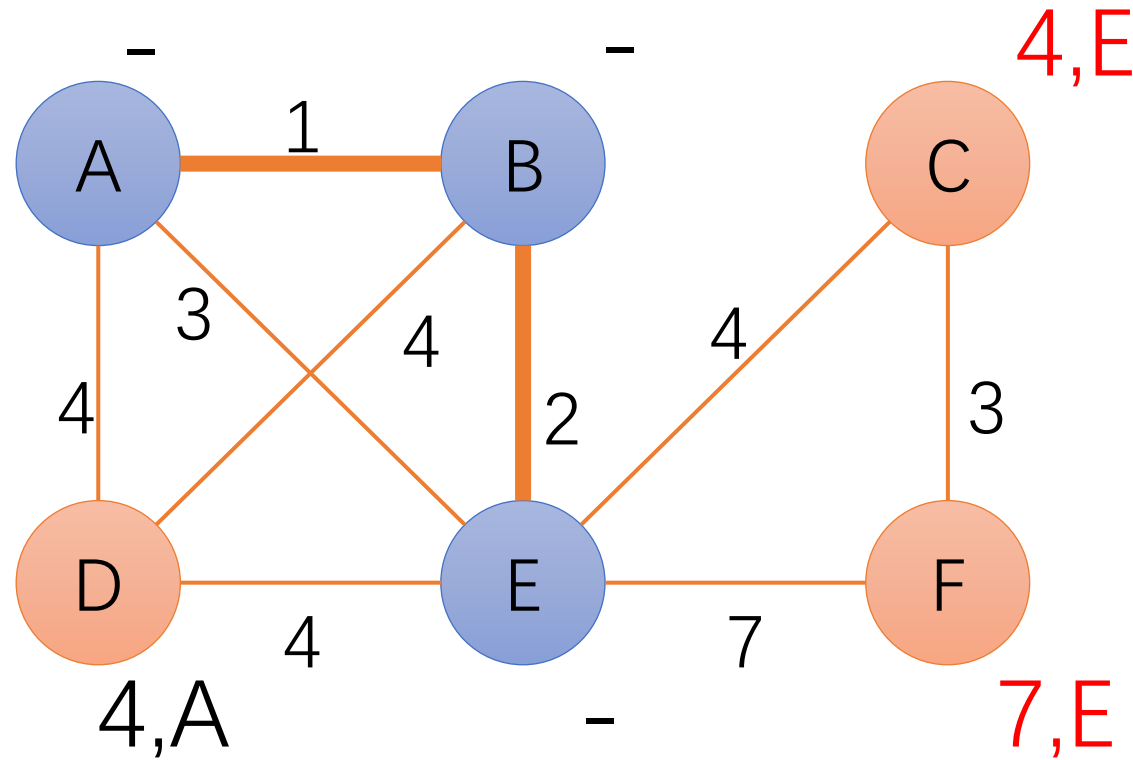
(D, 4)

# Prim's MST in Action



Active Set:  
(D, 4)

# Prim's MST in Action

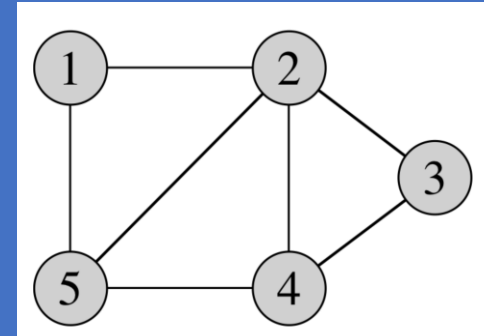


Active Set:

(C, 4)

(D, 4)

(F, 7)

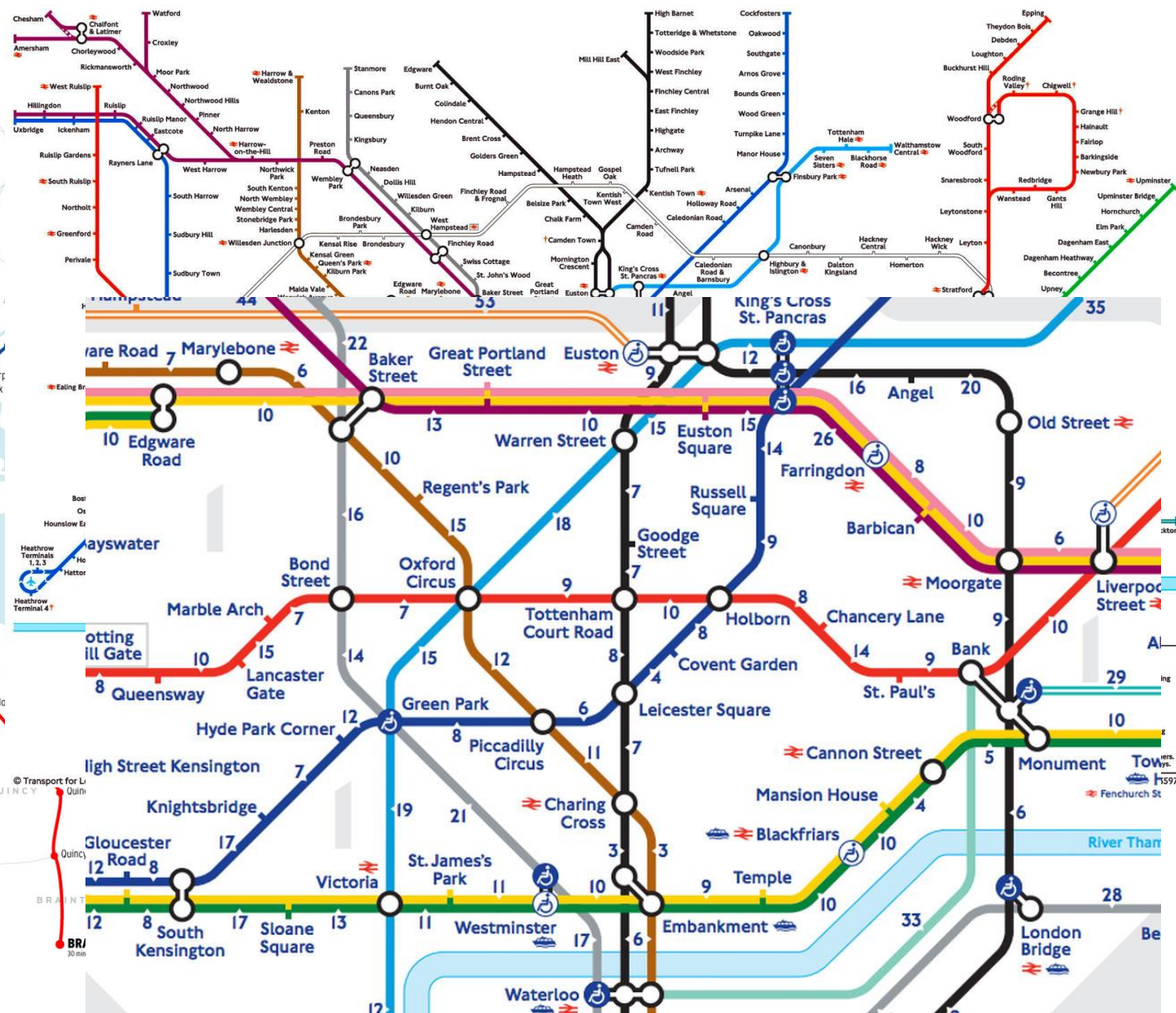
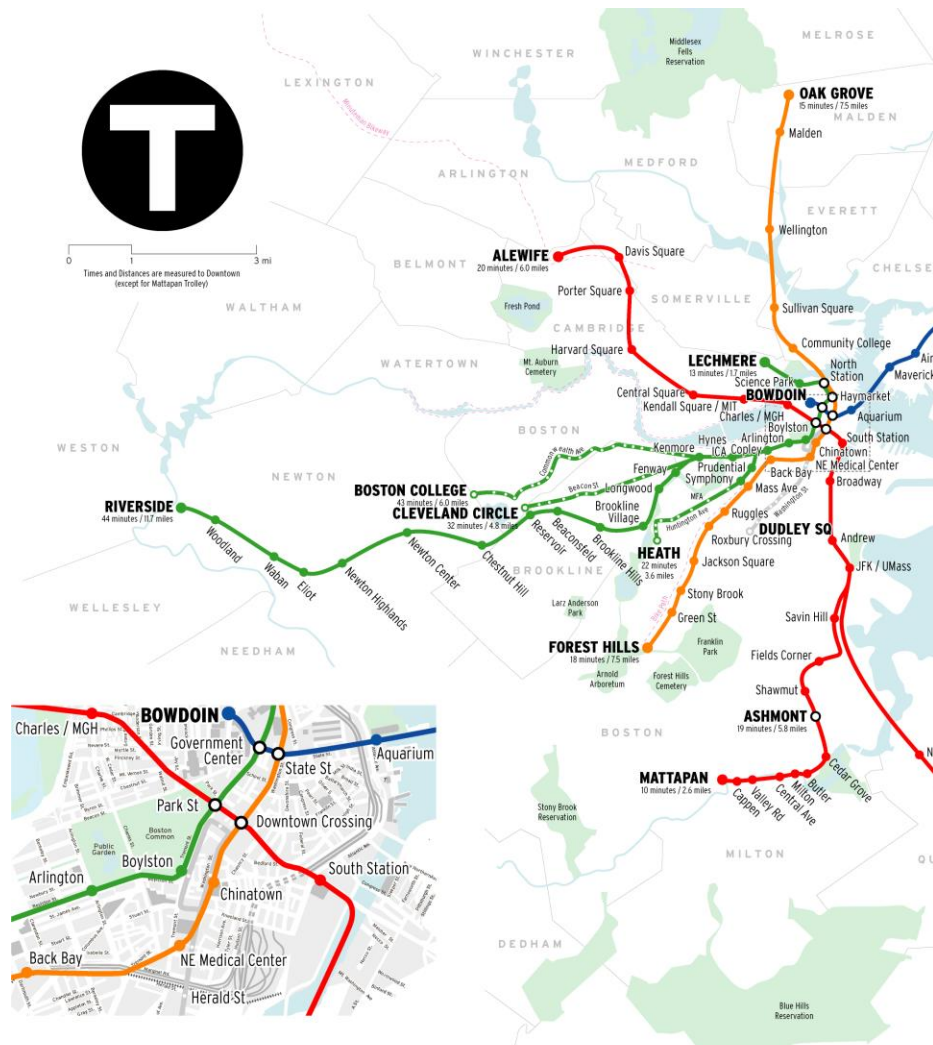


# Single-Source Shortest-Paths (SSSP)

Yihan Sun

**This lecture covers Section 24.1-24.3 of CLRS**

# Taking subways when travelling



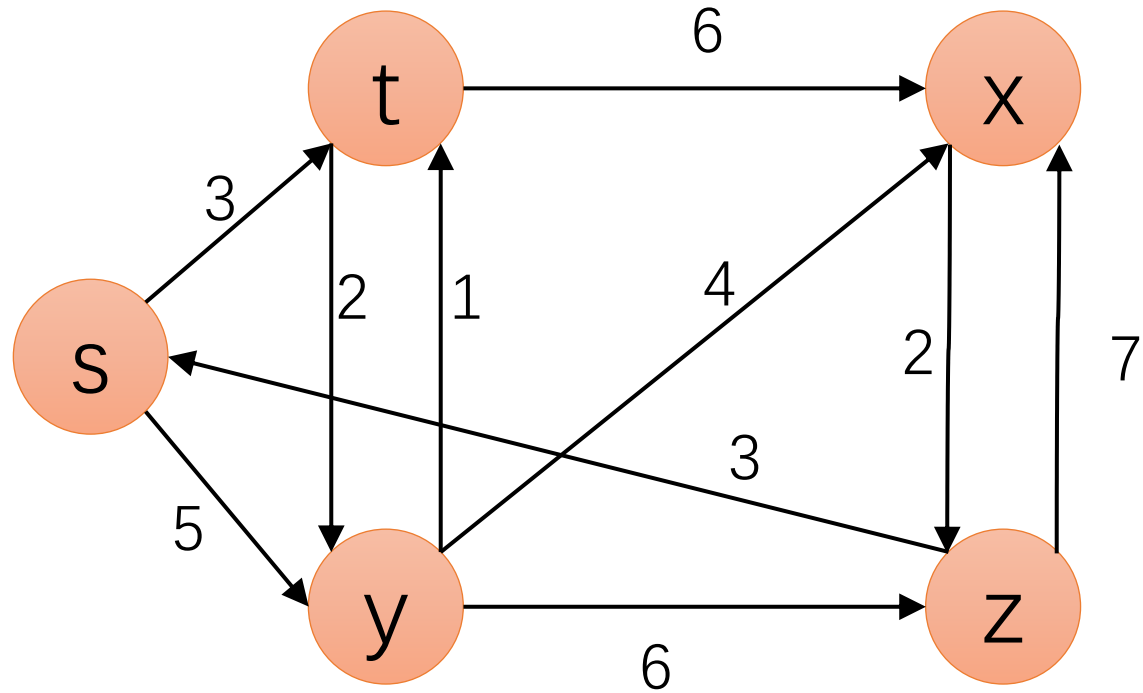


The map displays three travel routes from Los Angeles International Airport to the University of California, Riverside. The routes are color-coded and labeled with their respective travel times and distances:

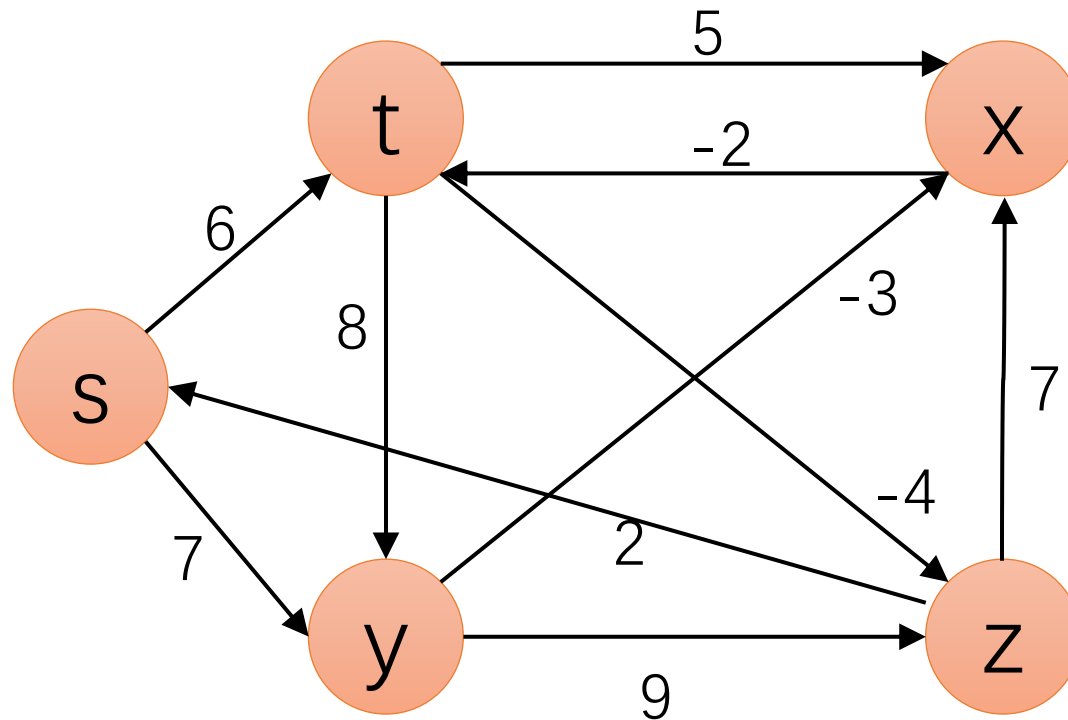
- Blue Route (Fastest):** 1 h 3 min, 70.6 miles. This route follows major highways like I-5, I-10, and I-15.
- Grey Route (Middle):** 1 h 5 min, 70.7 miles. This route follows major highways like I-5, I-10, and I-15.
- Black Route (Slowest):** 1 h 6 min, 72.2 miles. This route follows major highways like I-5, I-10, and I-15.

The map also shows various cities, highways, and geographical features in Southern California, including Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Orange, and Riverside.

## Example: Positive Weights



## Example: Negative Weights



- Example: Difference constraints (CLRS Section 24.4)

# The shortest-path problem

- Given a weighted graph  $G = (V, E)$ , with weight function  $w: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
- The weight  $w(p)$  of a path  $p = \langle v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k \rangle$  is the sum of the weights of its constituent edges:

$$w(p) = \sum_{i=1}^k w(v_{i-1}, v_i)$$

- Shortest-path weight  $\delta(u, v)$  from  $u$  to  $v$  is:

$$\delta(u, v) = \begin{cases} \min \{w(p) : u \xrightarrow{p} v\} & \text{if there is a path from } u \text{ to } v \\ \infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

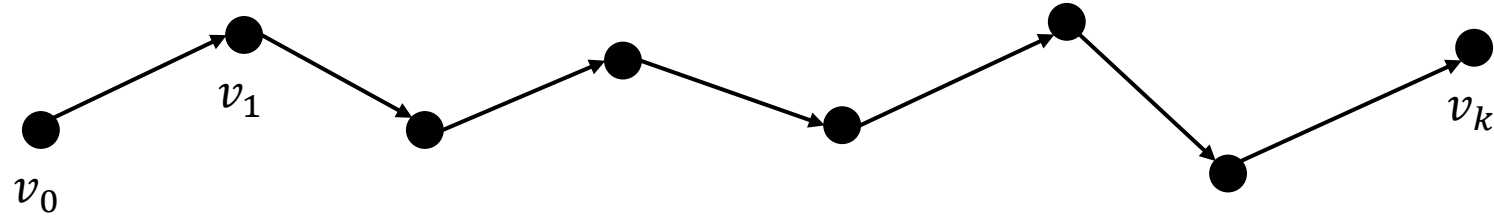
- The shortest path is any path with smallest path weight
- (Directed/undirected, positive/negative, weighted/unweighted)

# Problem Variants

- Single-source single-destination shortest path ( $s$ - $t$  shortest path)
- **Single-source all-destinations shortest paths (SSSP)**
- All-pairs shortest paths (APSP)
- **Number of paths**
  - Social network analysis

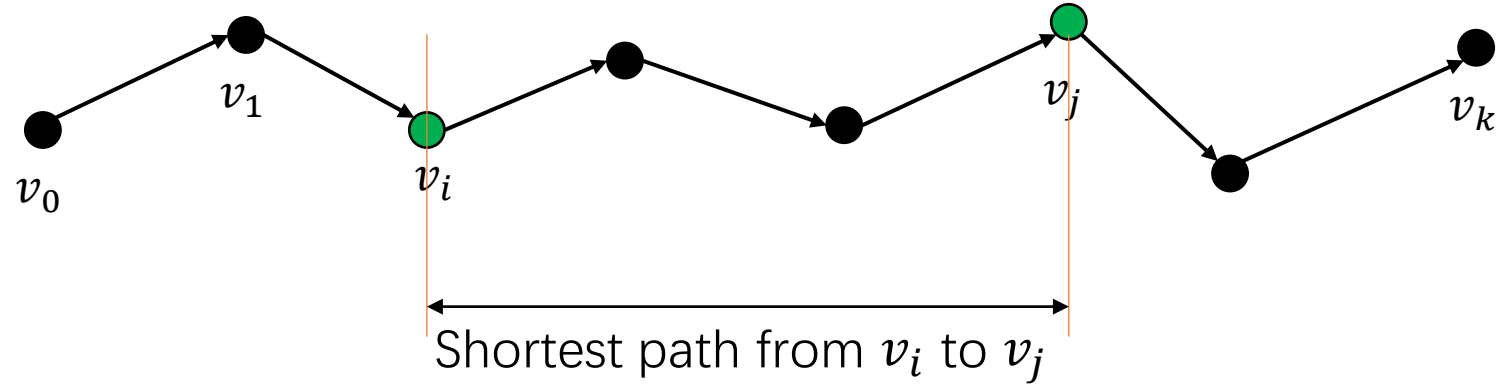
# Optimal Substructure

Shortest path  
from  $v_0$  to  $v_k$



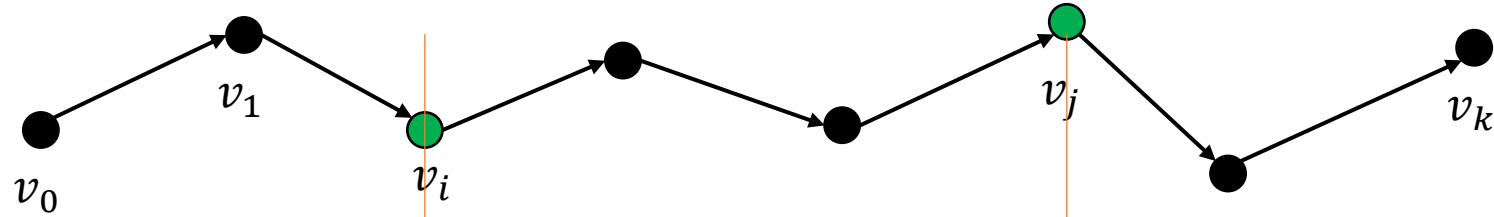
# Optimal Substructure

Shortest path  
from  $v_0$  to  $v_k$

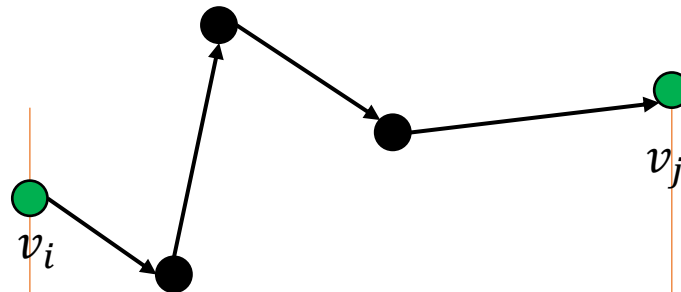


# Optimal Substructure

Shortest path  
from  $v_0$  to  $v_k$



Assume to the contrary  
that this is not the shortest  
path from  $v_i$  to  $v_j$

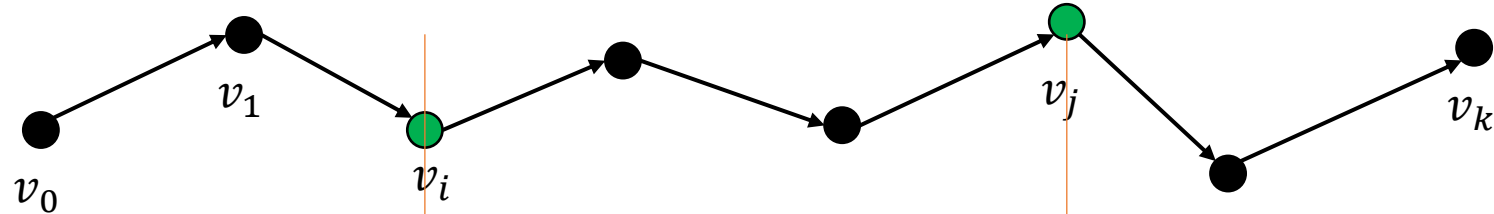


And this is the shortest  
path from  $v_i$  to  $v_j$

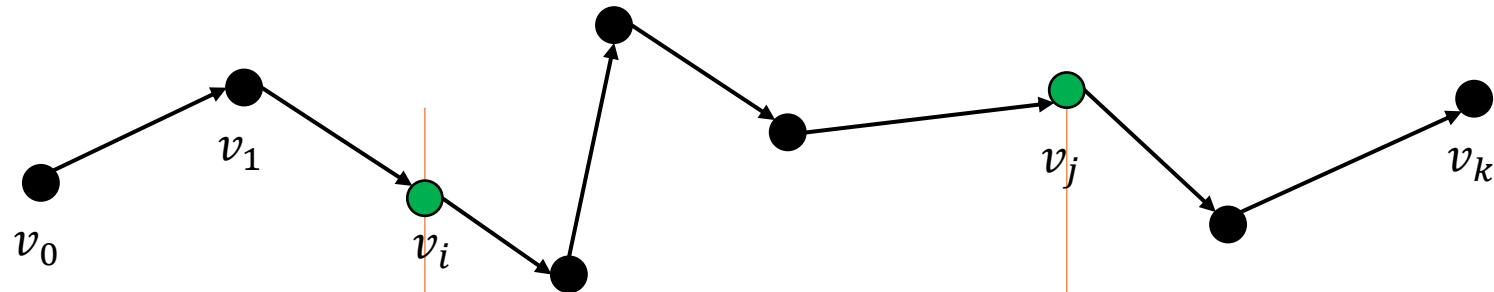


# Optimal Substructure

Shortest path  
from  $v_0$  to  $v_k$



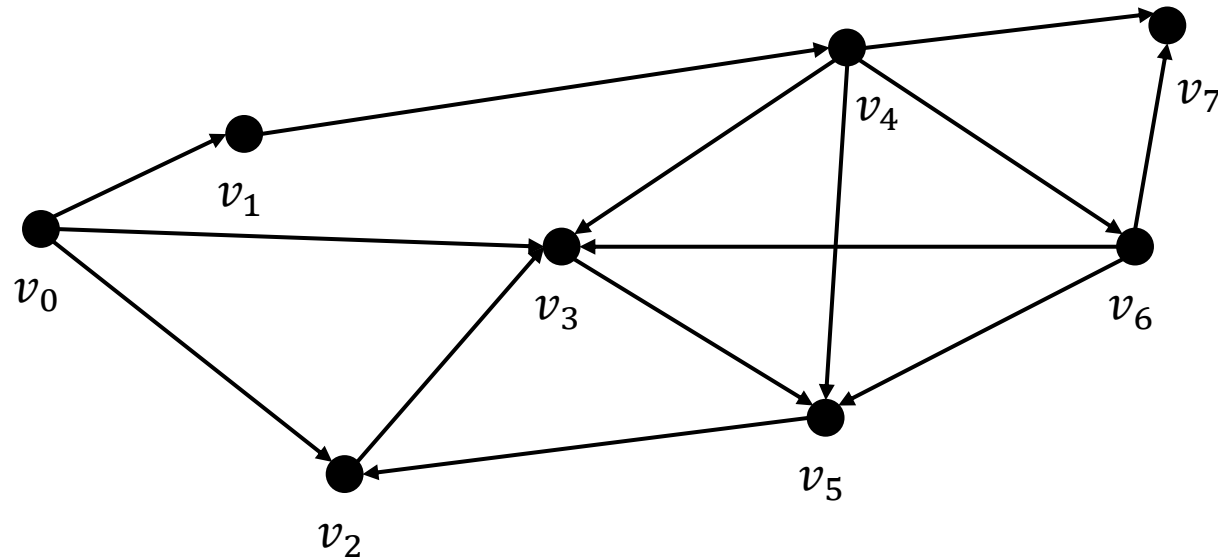
Assume to the contrary  
that this is not the shortest  
path from  $v_i$  to  $v_j$



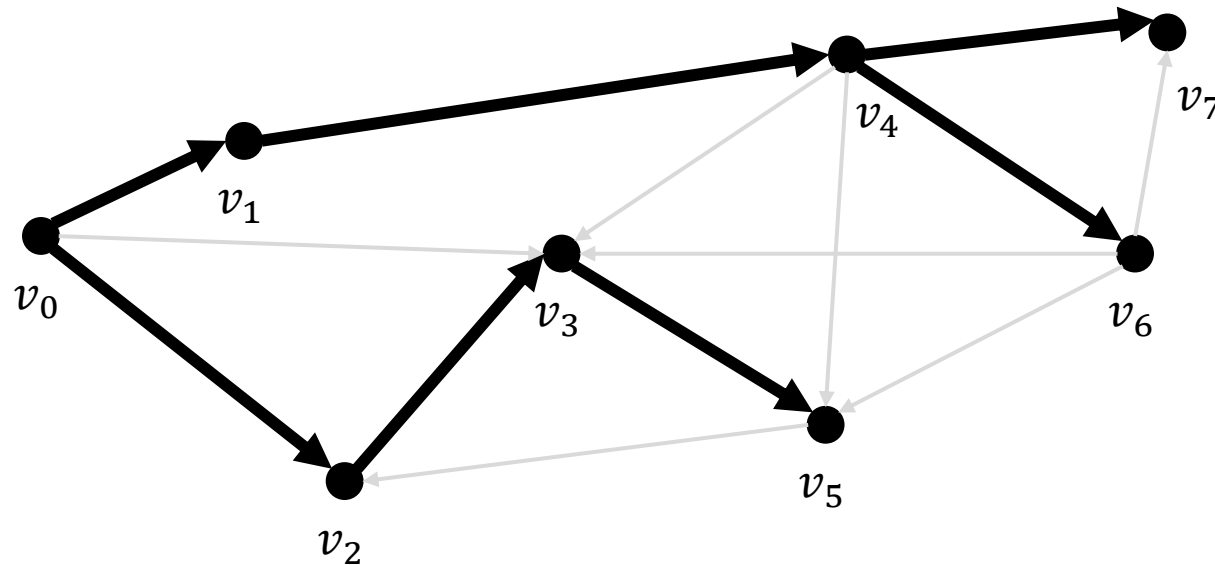
Then this new path is better  
than the optimal answer from  $v_0$   
to  $v_k$  which is a contradiction

And this is the shortest path  
from  $v_i$  to  $v_j$

# The “shortest-path tree” for SSSP



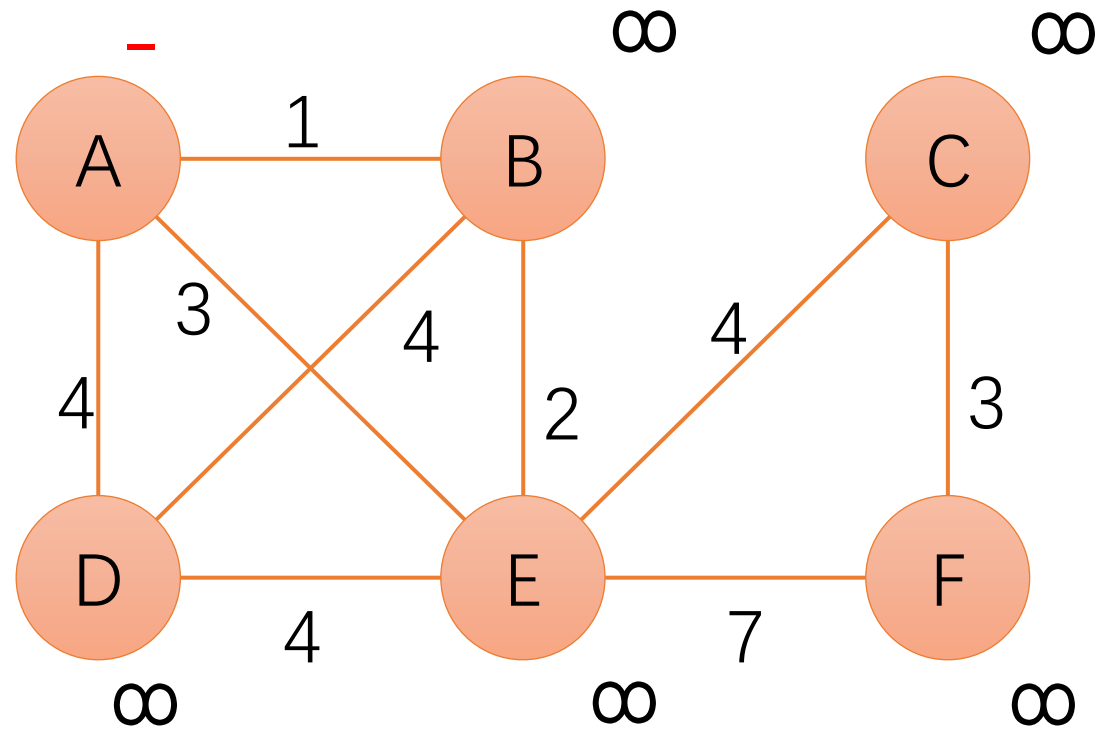
# The “shortest-path tree” for SSSP



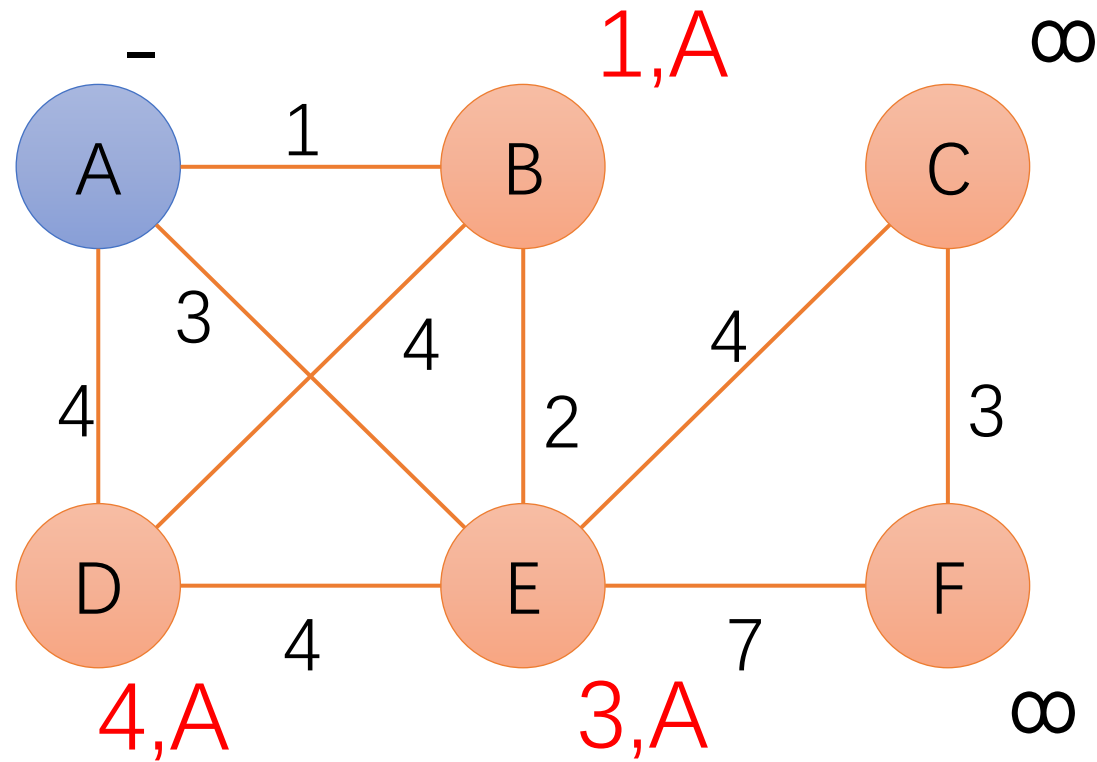
- The shortest-paths form a tree from the source
- Each tree node stores the distance (the SSSP distance to vertex), and optionally the predecessor that can be used to retrieve the path

# Dijkstra's algorithm

# Prim's MST



# Prim's MST



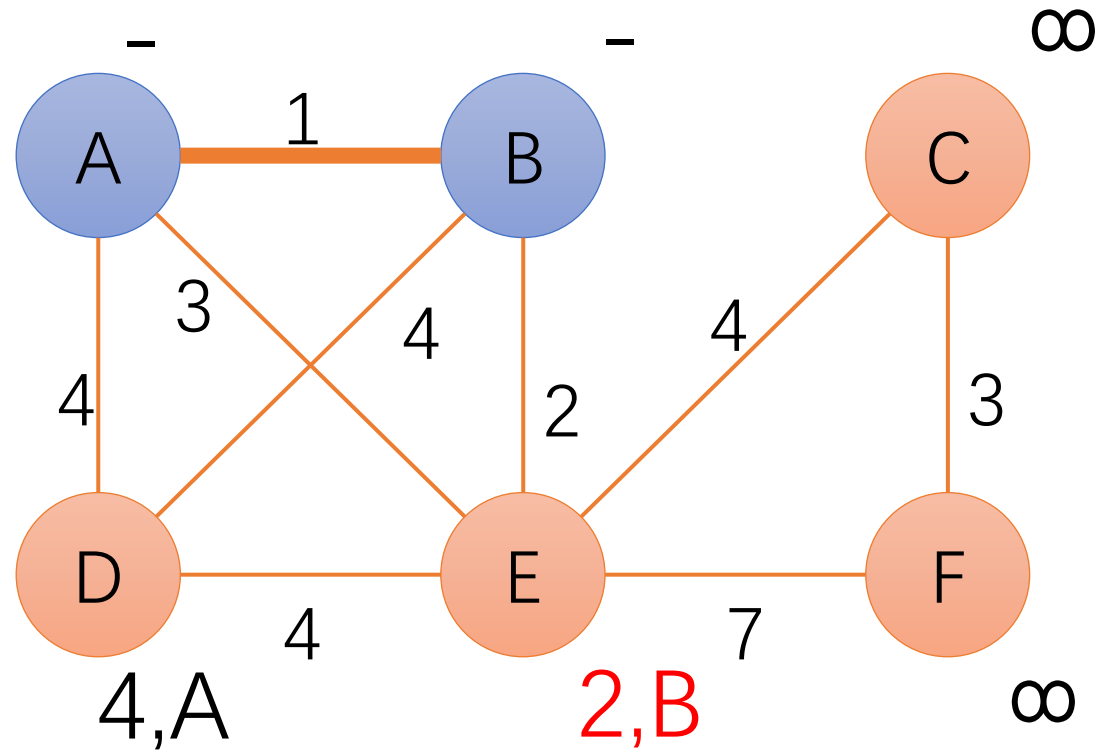
Active Set:

(B, 1)

(E, 3)

(D, 4)

# Prim's MST

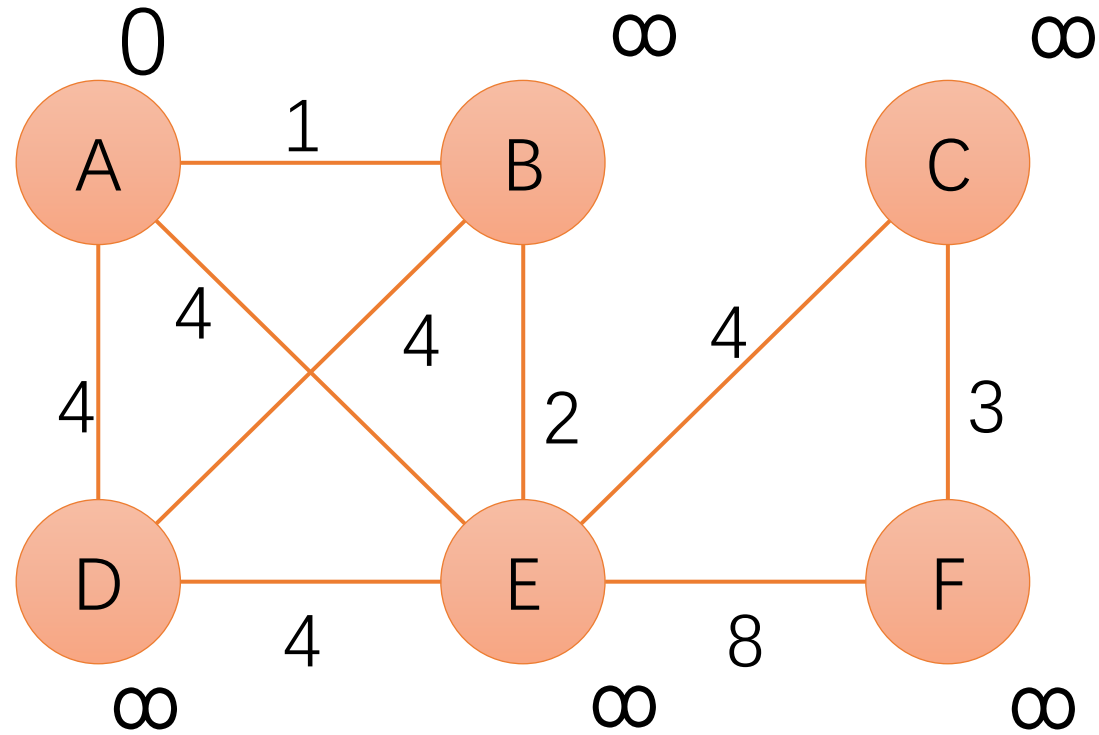


Active Set:

(E, 2)

(D, 4)

# Which one must be the shortest distance?

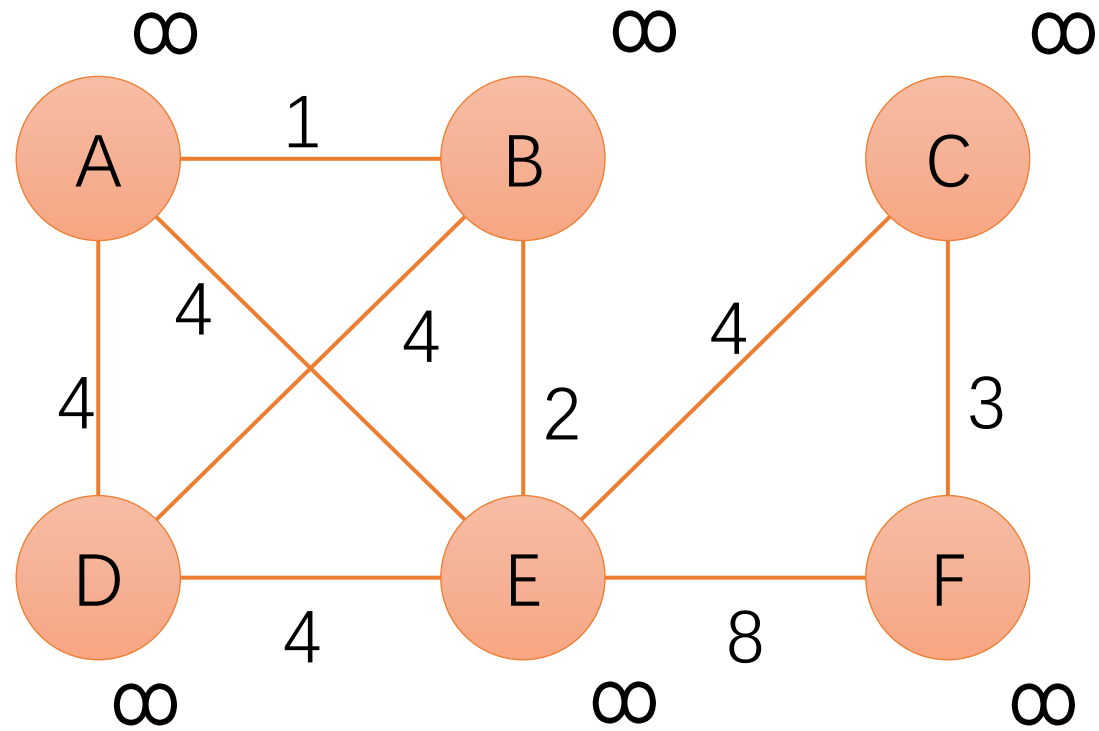




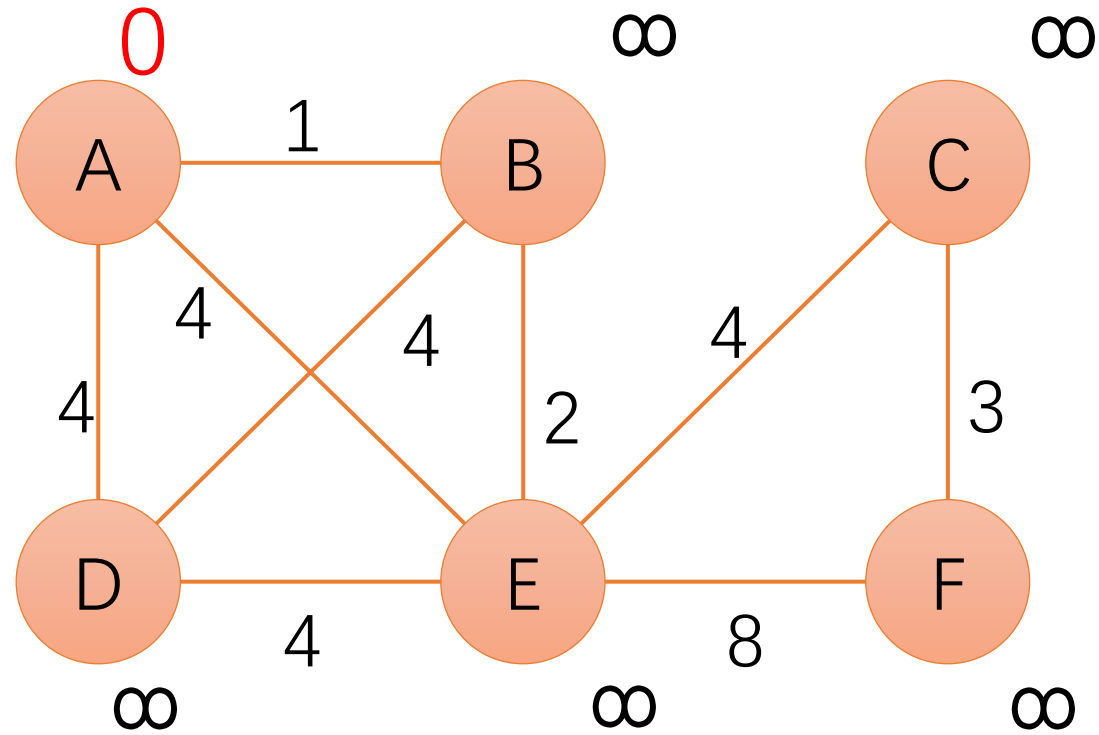
# Dijkstra's Algorithm (greedy, similar to Prim's)

- Start from the source node and mark it as visited, and **relax** the neighbors using  **$\text{cur\_dis} + \text{edge\_dis}$**
- Find the node with the lowest weight, marked it as settled and **relax the neighbors**
- Repeat until all the  $n$  nodes are settled
- (Only work for positive-weight graphs)

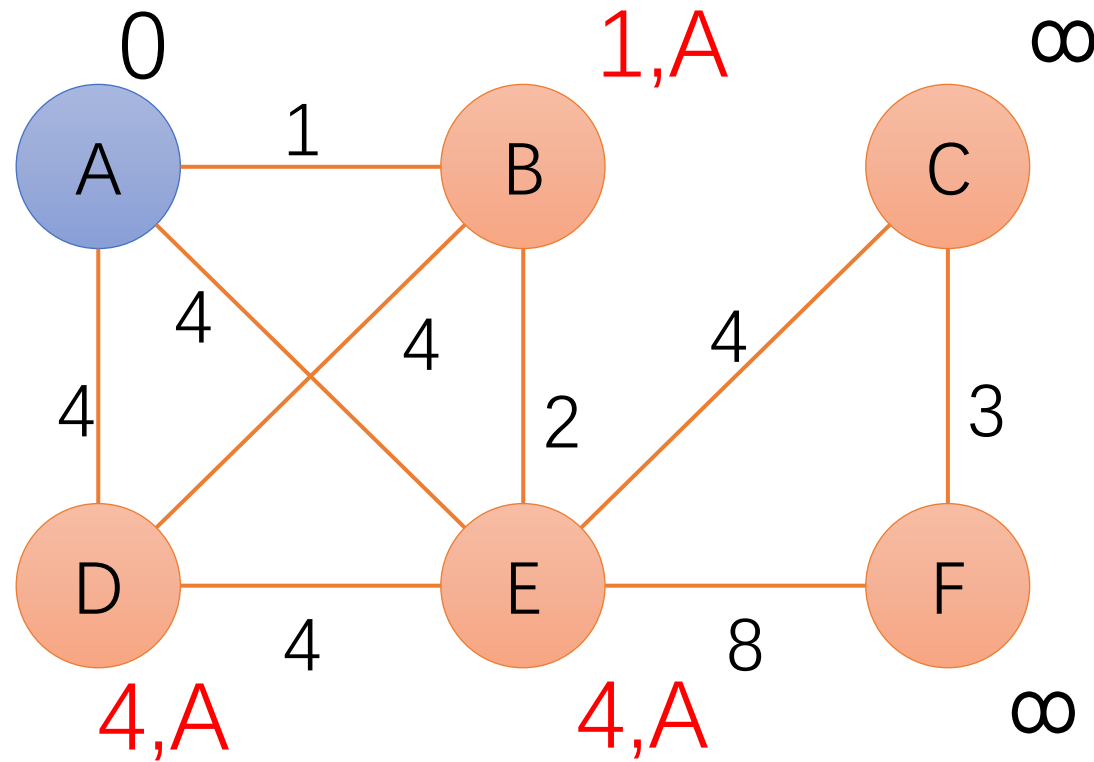
# Dijkstra's algorithm in Action



# Dijkstra's algorithm in Action



# Dijkstra's algorithm in Action



Active Set:

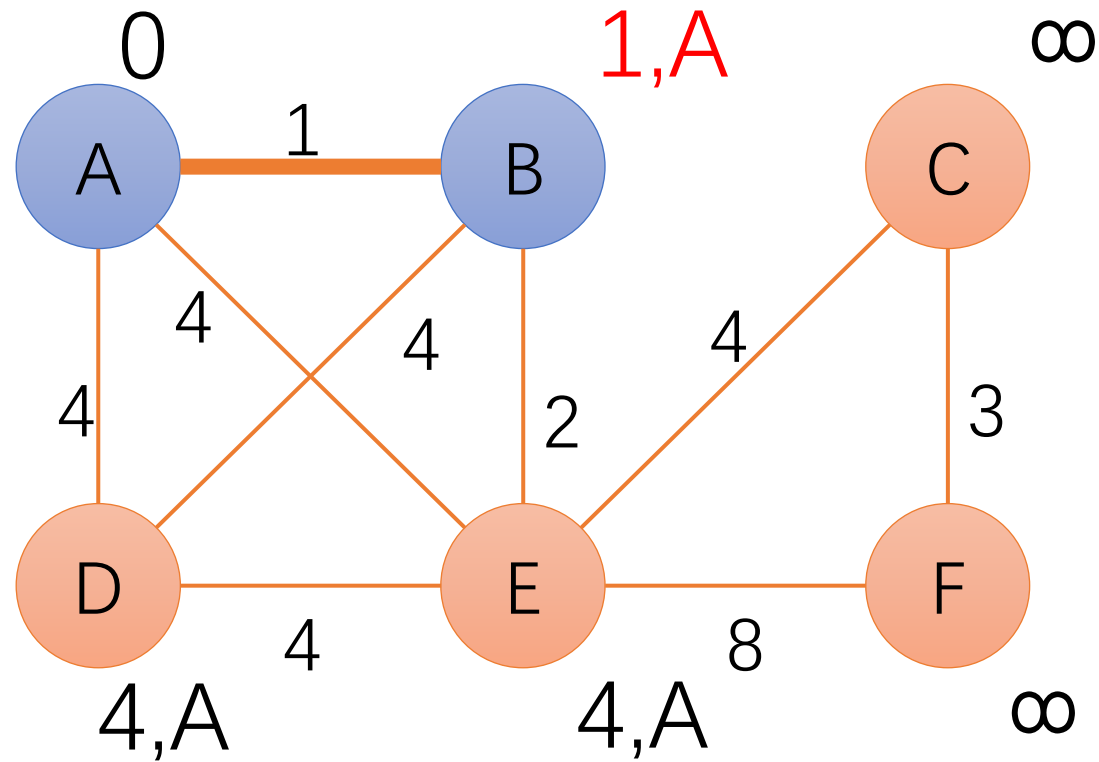
(B, 1)

(E, 4)

(D, 4)

Relax: if  $u$  is settled and  $v$  is  $u$ 's neighbor, then  $\delta(v) = \min\{\delta(v), \delta(u) + w(u, v)\}$

# Dijkstra's algorithm in Action

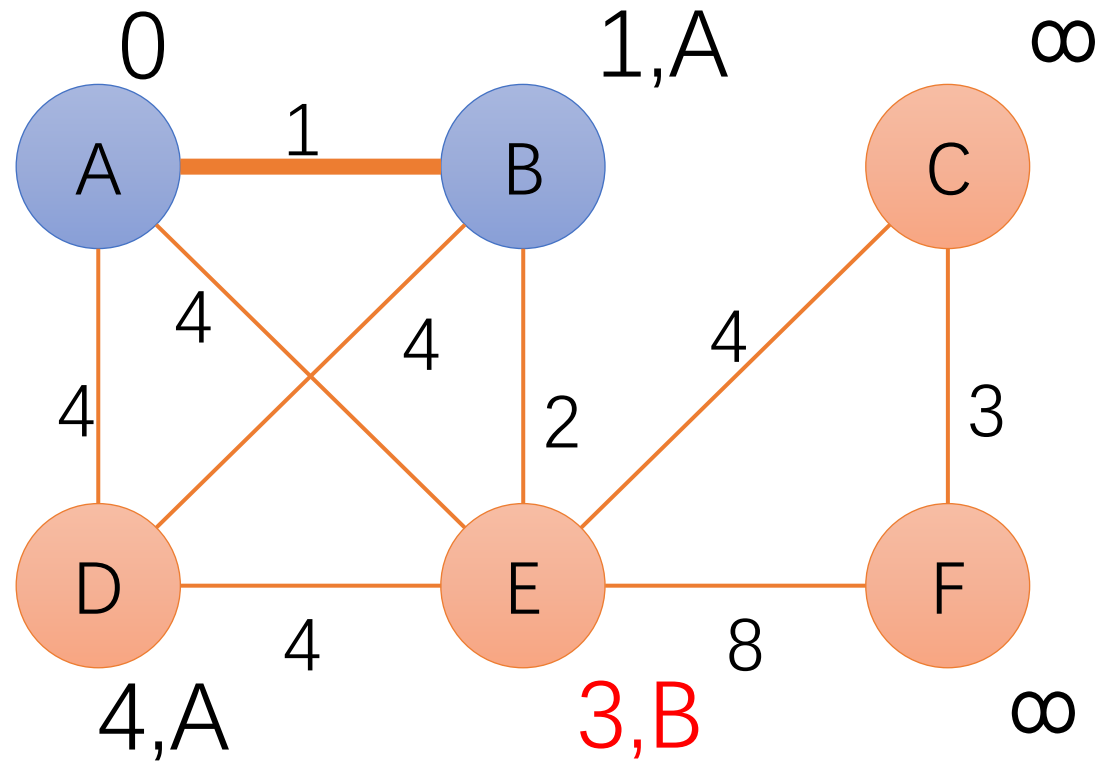


Active Set:

(E, 4)

(D, 4)

# Dijkstra's algorithm in Action

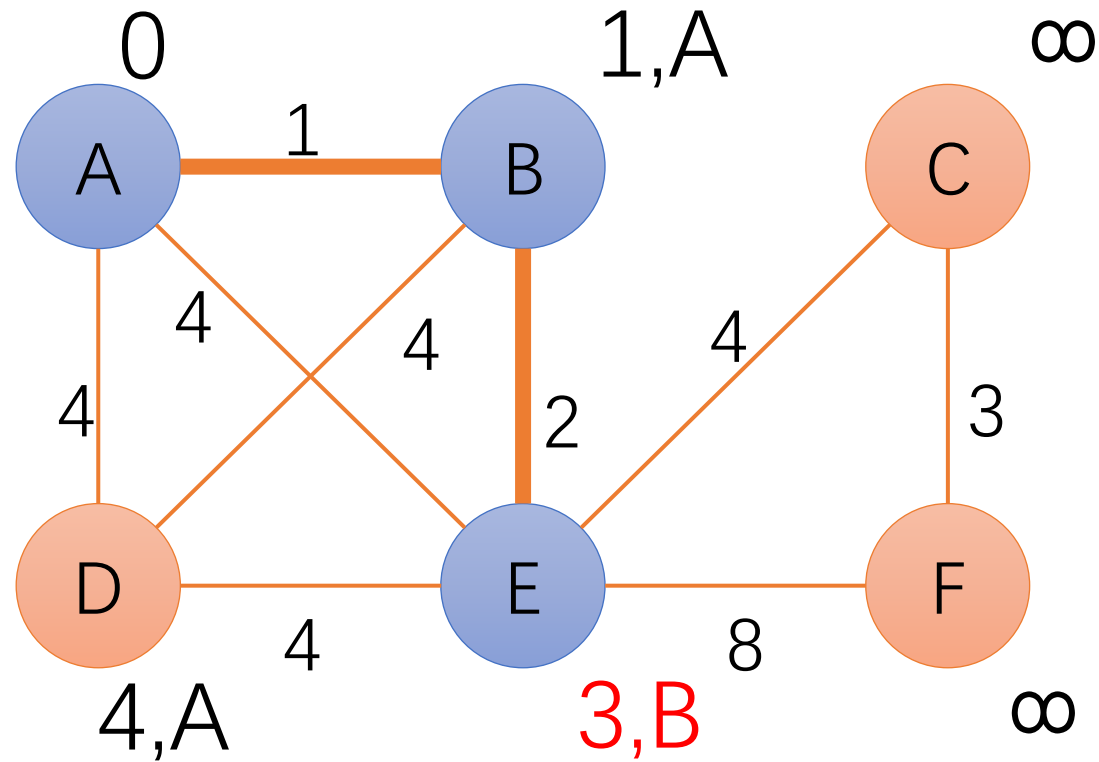


Active Set:

(E, 3)

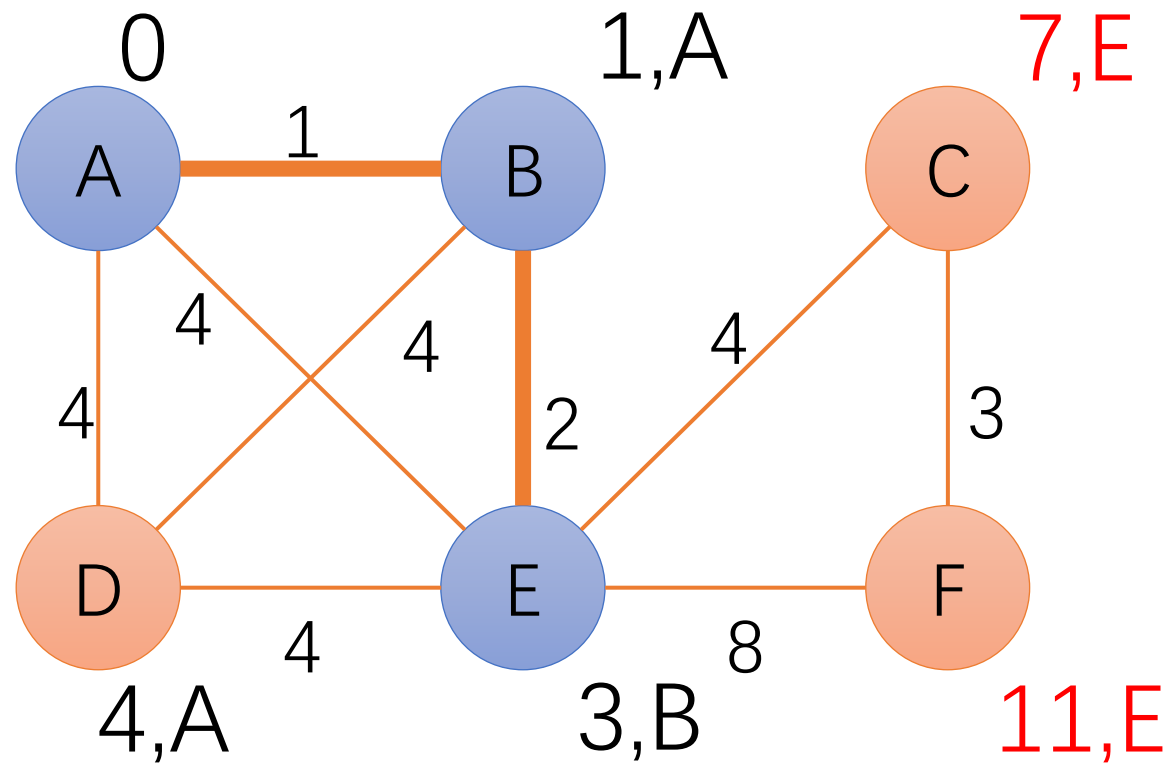
(D, 4)

# Dijkstra's algorithm in Action



Active Set:  
(D, 4)

# Dijkstra's algorithm in Action



Active Set:

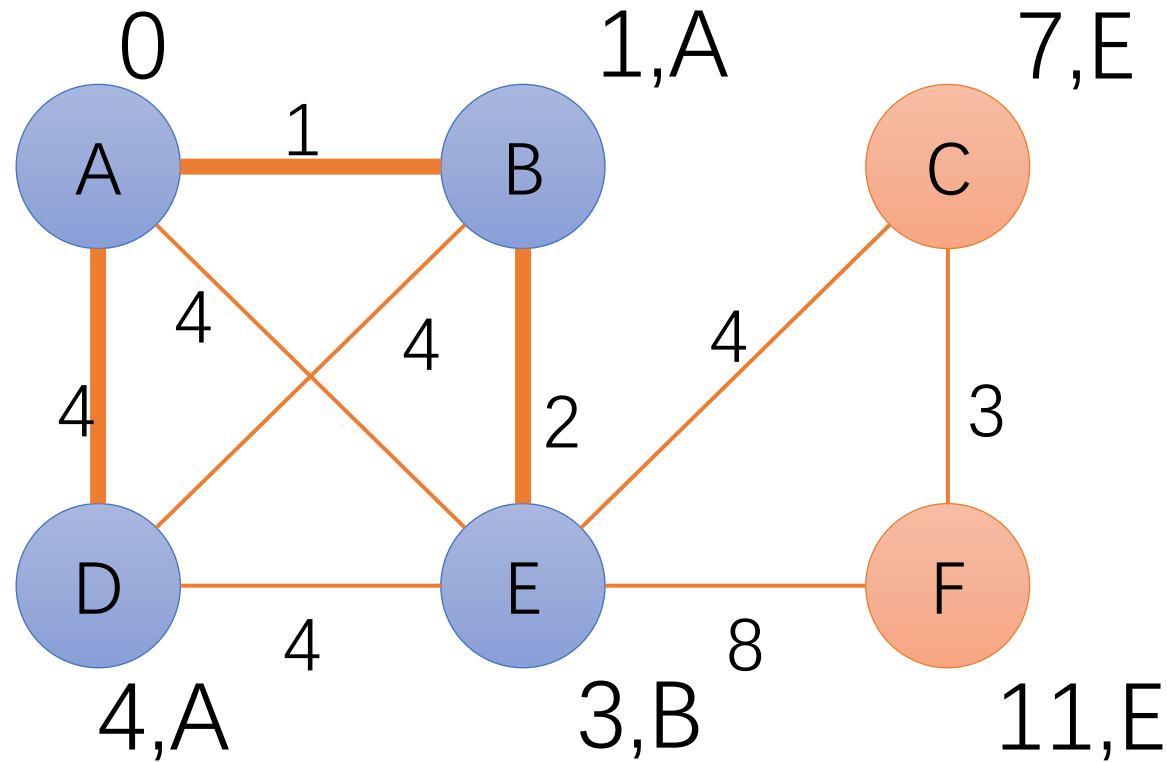
(D, 4)

(C, 7)

(F, 11)

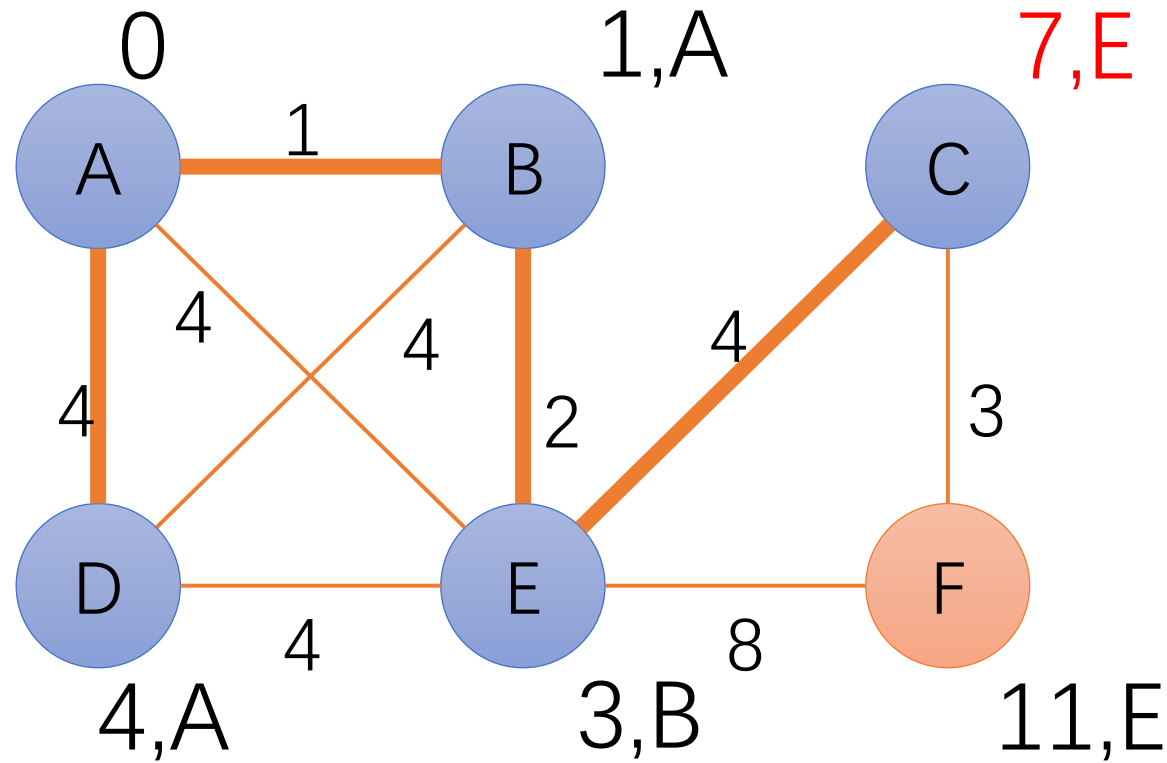


# Dijkstra's algorithm in Action



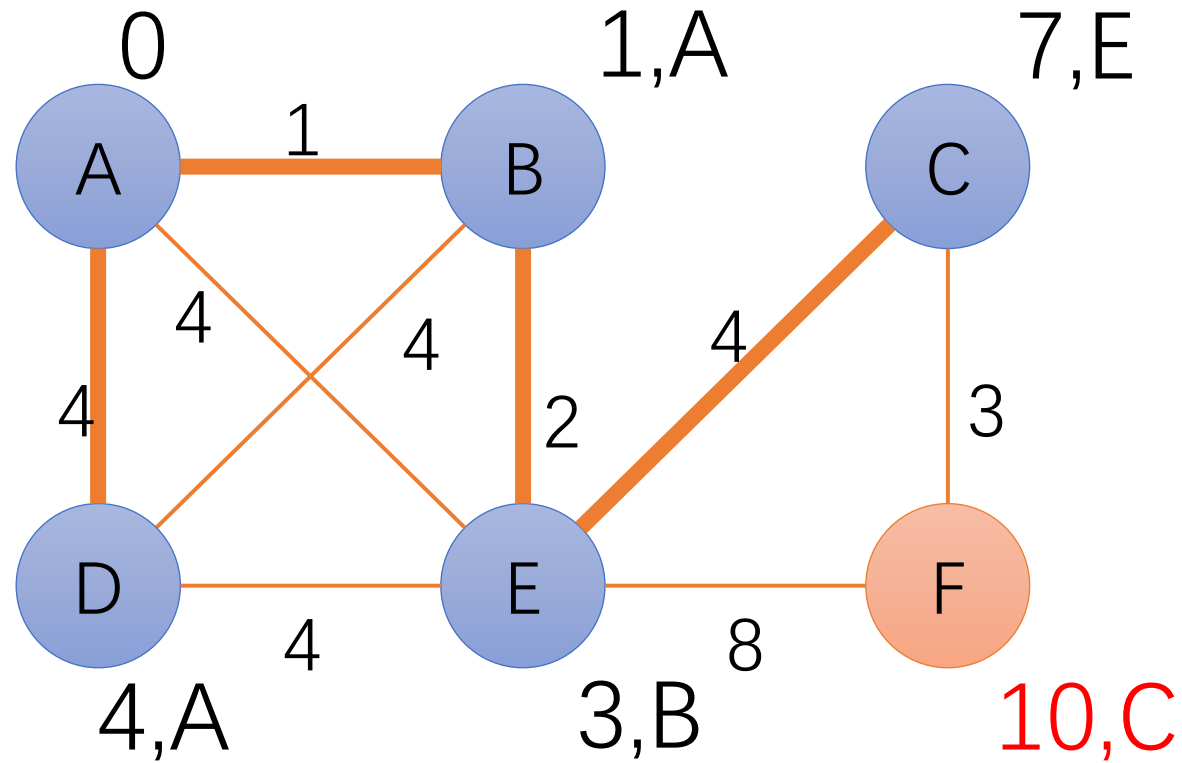
Active Set:  
(C, 7)  
(F, 11)

# Dijkstra's algorithm in Action



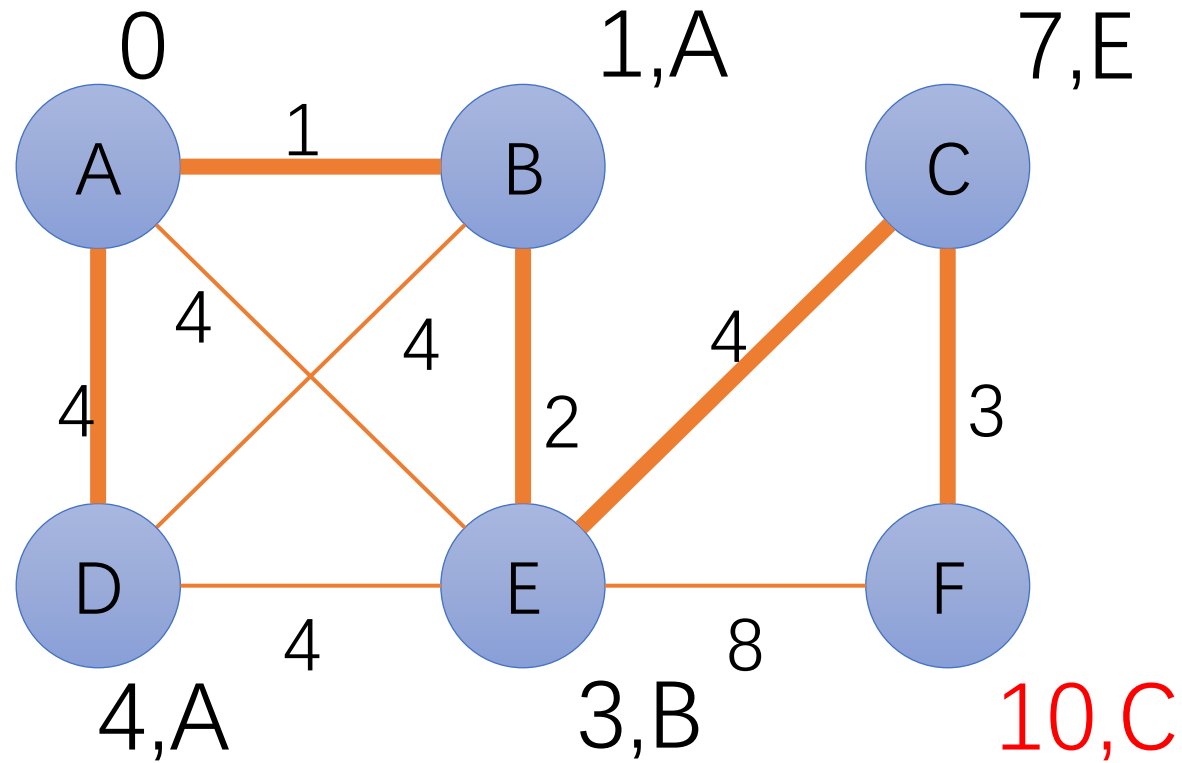
Active Set:  
(F, 11)

# Dijkstra's algorithm in Action



Active Set:  
(F, 10)

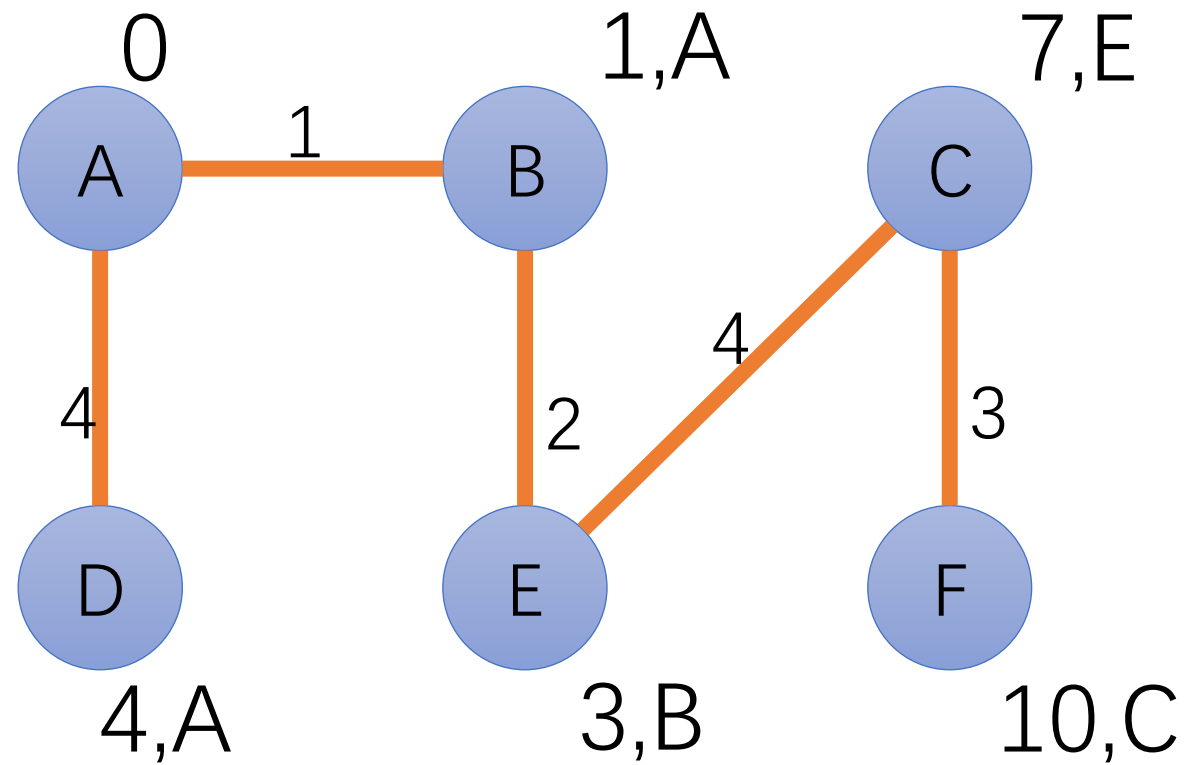
# Dijkstra's algorithm in Action



## Active Set:

103

# The final shortest-path tree from A



# Dijkstra( $G, w, s$ )

- $\delta(u) = \infty$  for all  $u \in V$ , 0 for  $\delta(s)$
  - $S = \emptyset$
  - $Q = \{s\}$
  - **while**  $Q \neq \emptyset$ 
    - $u = \text{Extract-Min}(Q)$
    - $S = S \cup \{u\}$
    - **for each**  $v \in N(u)$ 
      - $\delta(v) = \min \{\delta(v), \delta(u) + w(s, v)\}$
      - (update in  $Q$ )
- $\delta(u)$ : tentative distance
  - $S$ : settled set
  - $Q$ : priority queue
  - $w(u, v)$ : weight of edge from  $u$  to  $v$
  - $N(u)$ : neighbor set of  $u$

# Dijkstra( $G, w, s$ ): using a flat array

- $\delta(u) = \infty$  for all  $u \in V$ , 0 for  $\delta(s)$
  - $S = \emptyset$
  - $Q = \{s\}$
  - **while**  $Q \neq \emptyset$ 
    - $u = \text{Extract-Min}(Q)$
    - $S = S \cup \{u\}$
    - **for each**  $v \in N(u)$ 
      - $\delta(v) = \min \{\delta(v), \delta(u) + w(s, v)\}$
      - (update in  $Q$ )
- $O(n)$  per operation
- $O(1)$  per operation
- $\delta(u)$ : tentative distance
- $S$ : settled set
- $Q$ : priority queue
- $w(u, v)$ : weight of edge from  $u$  to  $v$
- $N(u)$ : neighbor set of  $u$

$$O(m + n^2) = O(n^2) \text{ cost in total}$$

# Dijkstra( $G, w, s$ ): using binary heap

- $\delta(u) = \infty$  for all  $u \in V$ , 0 for  $\delta(s)$
  - $S = \emptyset$
  - $Q = \{s\}$
  - **while**  $Q \neq \emptyset$ 
    - $u = \text{Extract-Min}(Q)$
    - $S = S \cup \{u\}$
    - **for each**  $v \in N(u)$ 
      - $\delta(v) = \min\{\delta(v), \delta(u) + w(s, v)\}$
      - (update in  $Q$ )
- $\delta(u)$ : tentative distance
  - $S$ : settled set
  - $Q$ : priority queue
  - $w(u, v)$ : weight of edge from  $u$  to  $v$
  - $N(u)$ : neighbor set of  $u$

$O(\log n)$  per operation



Use binary heap to implement the priority queue (Chapter 6 in CLRS, taught in CS 14)

$O((m + n) \log n)$  cost in total

$O(\log n)$  per operation





# Dijkstra( $G, w, s$ ): using Fibonacci heap

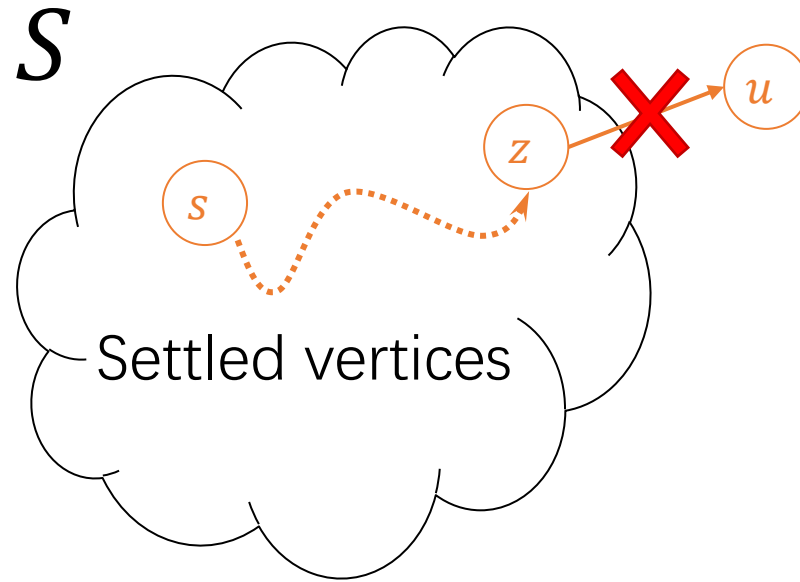
- $\delta(u) = \infty$  for all  $u \in V$ , 0 for  $\delta(s)$
  - $S = \emptyset$
  - $Q = \{s\}$
  - **while**  $Q \neq \emptyset$ 
    - $u = \text{Extract-Min}(Q)$
    - $S = S \cup \{u\}$
    - **for each**  $v \in N(u)$ 
      - $\delta(v) = \min\{\delta(v), \delta(u) + w(s, v)\}$
      - (update in  $Q$ )
- $O(\log n)$  per operation
- $O(1)$  per operation
- $\delta(u)$ : tentative distance
  - $S$ : settled set
  - $Q$ : priority queue
  - $w(u, v)$ : weight of edge from  $u$  to  $v$
  - $N(u)$ : neighbor set of  $u$

Use Fibonacci heap to implement the priority queue (Chapter 19 in CLRS)

$O(m + n \log n)$  cost in total

# Why is Dijkstra correct?

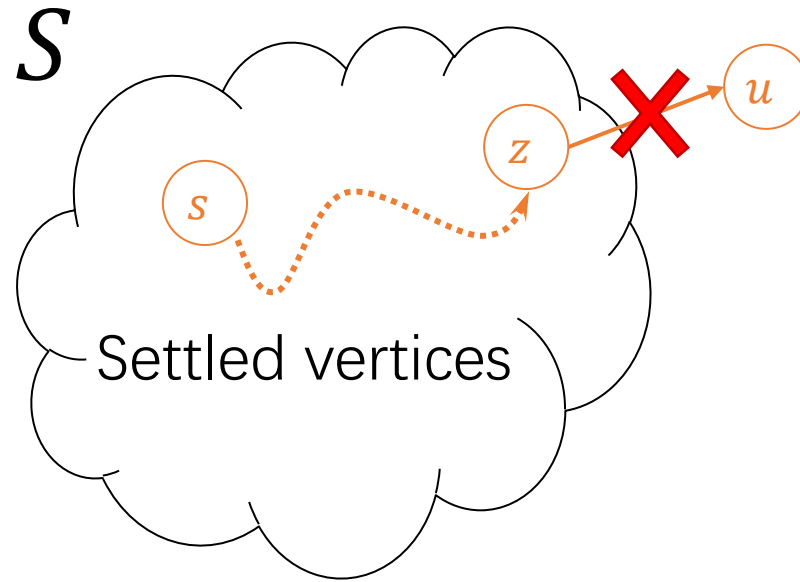
- Invariant: the closest vertex find in each round is finalized (settled)
- The current tentative distance is already correct! – no need to wait



What Dijkstra's find

# Consider the second last vertex on the shortest path to $u$

- If it is a settled vertex  $z$  (via an optimal path  $s, \dots, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{u}$ )



Based on optimal substructure,

$$\delta(z) = \text{SP}(z)$$

$\Downarrow$

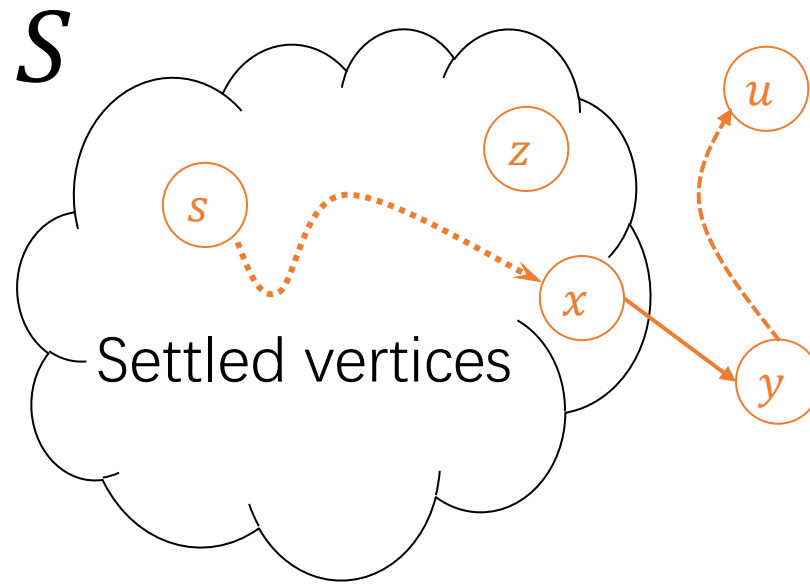
$$\delta(u) = \delta(z) + w(z, u)$$

$$= \text{SP}(z) + w(z, u) = \text{SP}(u)$$

What Dijkstra's find

# The second last vertex to $u$ is not settled

- Optimal shortest path is via  $s \dots x, y, \dots, u$  that  $y$  is the first vertex not in  $S$



Real shortest path

$x$  was settled and relaxed  $y$



$$\delta(y) = \text{SP}(y)$$

$y$  is closer than  $u$



$$\delta(y) = \text{SP}(y) < \delta(u)$$

Dijkstra should extract  $y$  instead of  $u$ , which leads to a contradiction

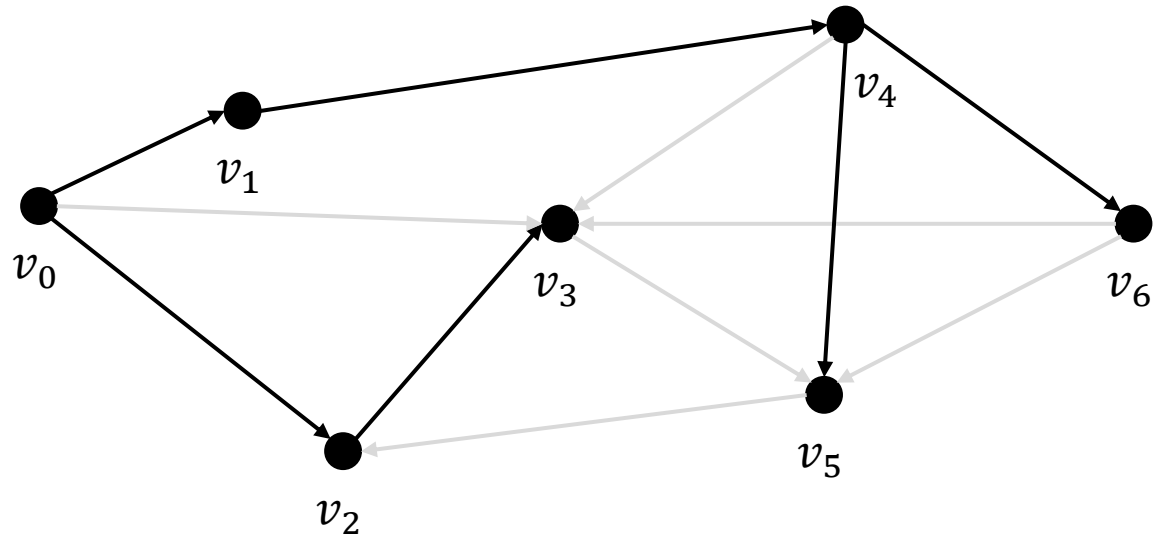
# Bellman-Ford Algorithm

# Why Bellman-Ford Algorithm?

- **Bellman-Ford Algorithm is a dynamic programming algorithm and is extremely simple (even simpler than Dijkstra)**
- **It has a higher cost than Dijkstra, but can handle graphs with negative edge weights**
- **It can be parallelized**

# Bellman-Ford is a dynamic programming algorithm

- Let  $D_{i,k}$  indicate the shortest distance from source  $s$  to vertex  $i$  using no more than  $k$  hops (number of edges)



# Bellman-Ford is a dynamic programming algorithm

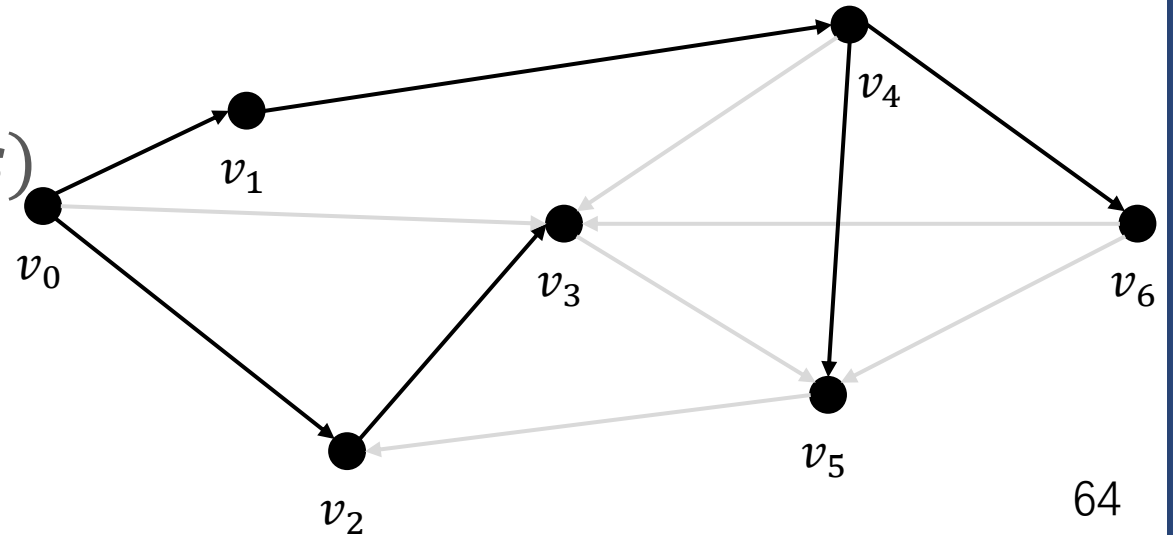
- Let  $D_{i,k}$  indicate the shortest distance from source  $s$  to vertex  $i$  using no more than  $k$  hops (number of edges)

- Consider the last edge:

$$D_{i,k} = \min \left\{ \begin{array}{l} D_{i,k-1} \\ \min_{(j,i) \in E} \{ D_{j,k-1} + w(j,i) \} \end{array} \right.$$

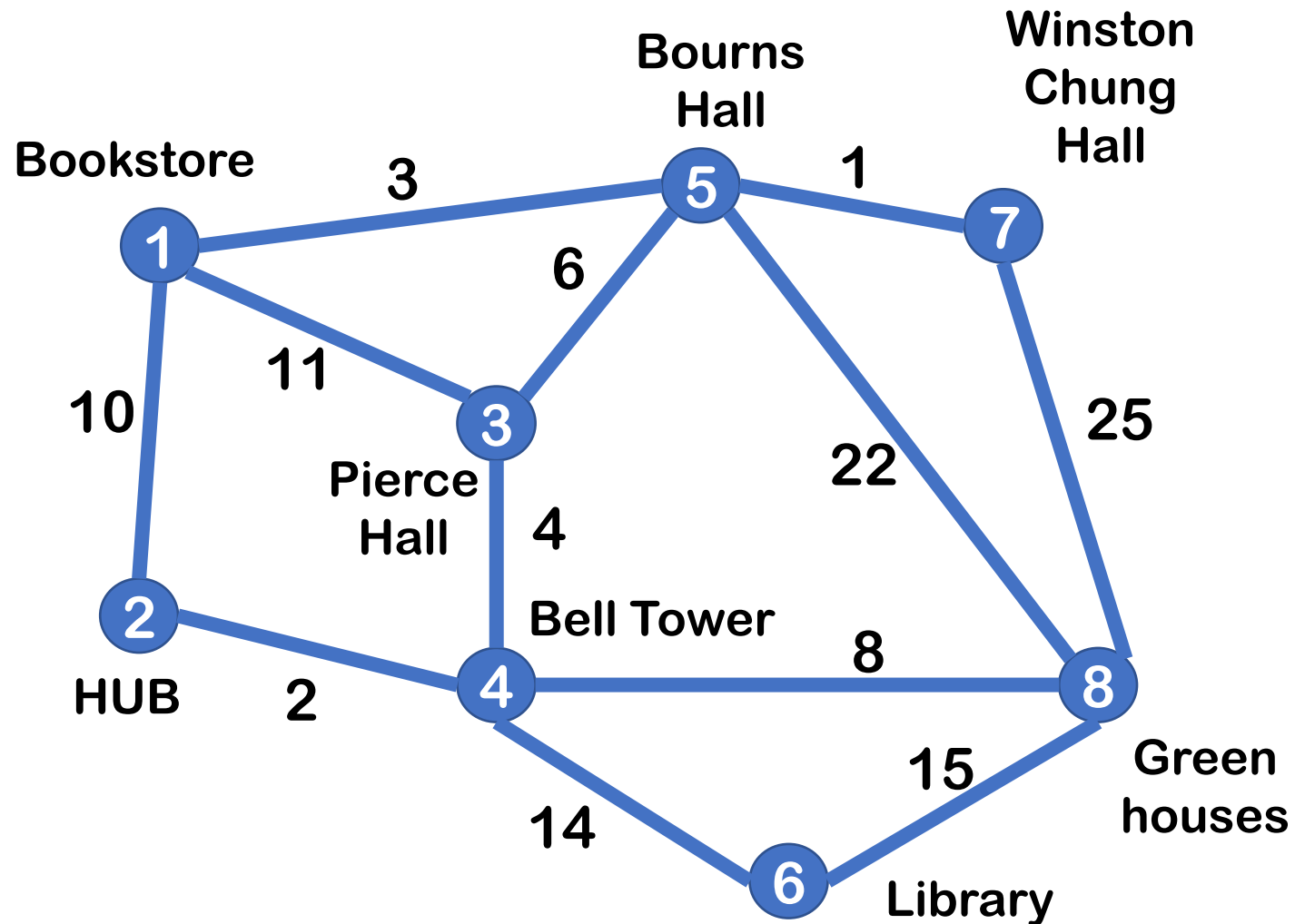
- Boundaries:  $D_{s,0} = 0$ ,  $D_{i,0} = \infty$  ( $i \neq s$ )

- Final answer to vertex  $i$  is  $D_{i,n-1}$

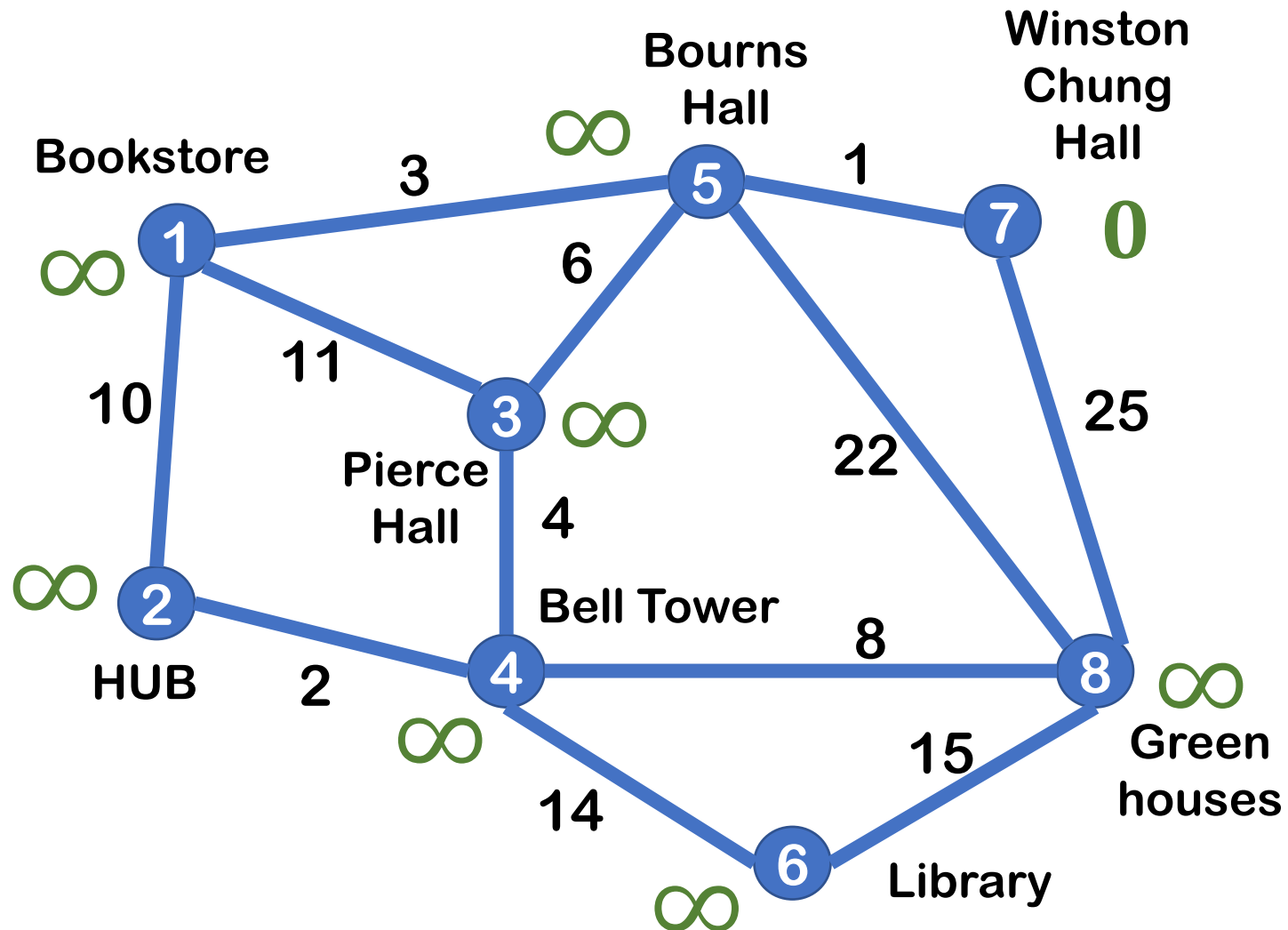




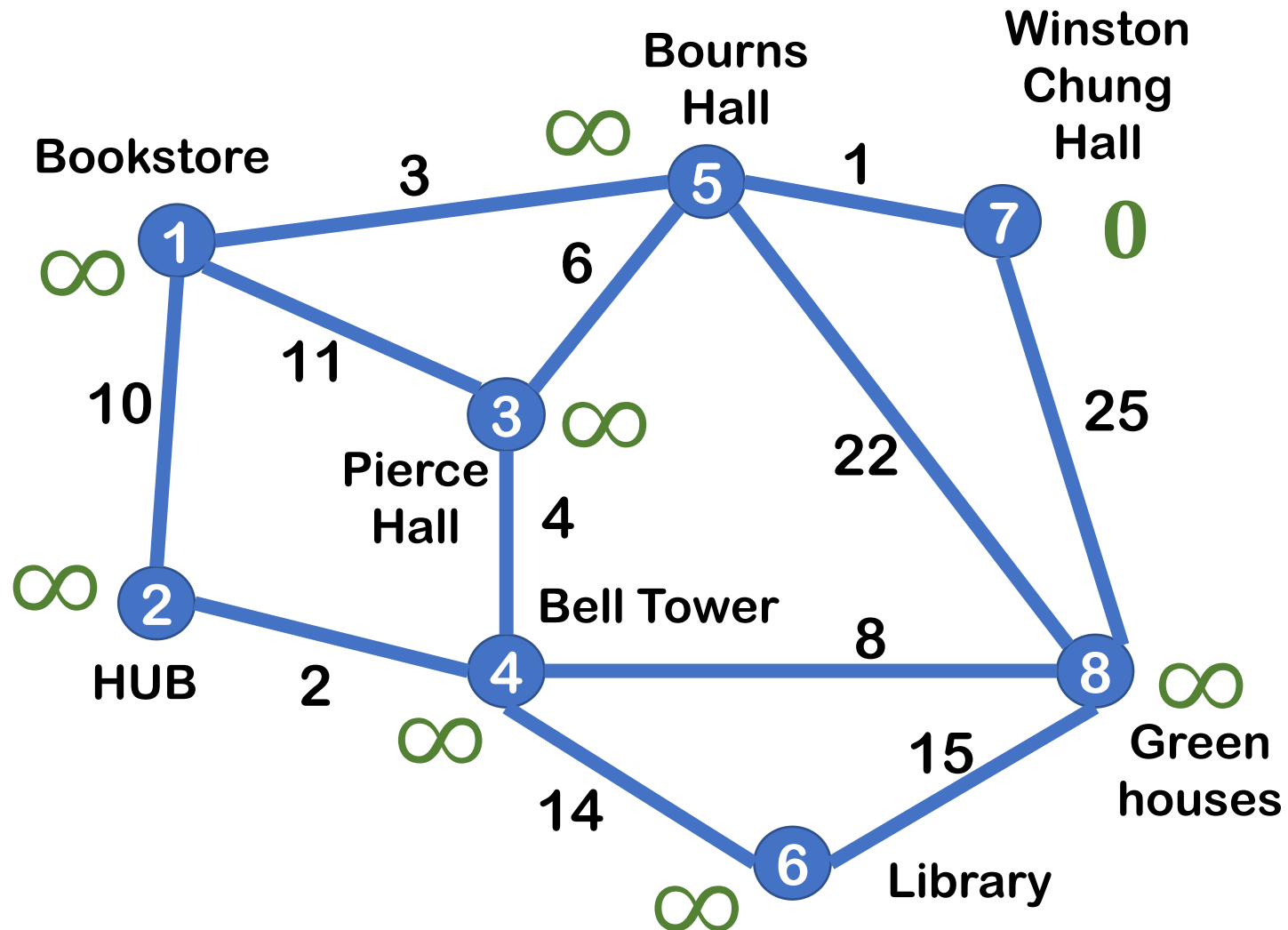
# Walking in the campus as an example



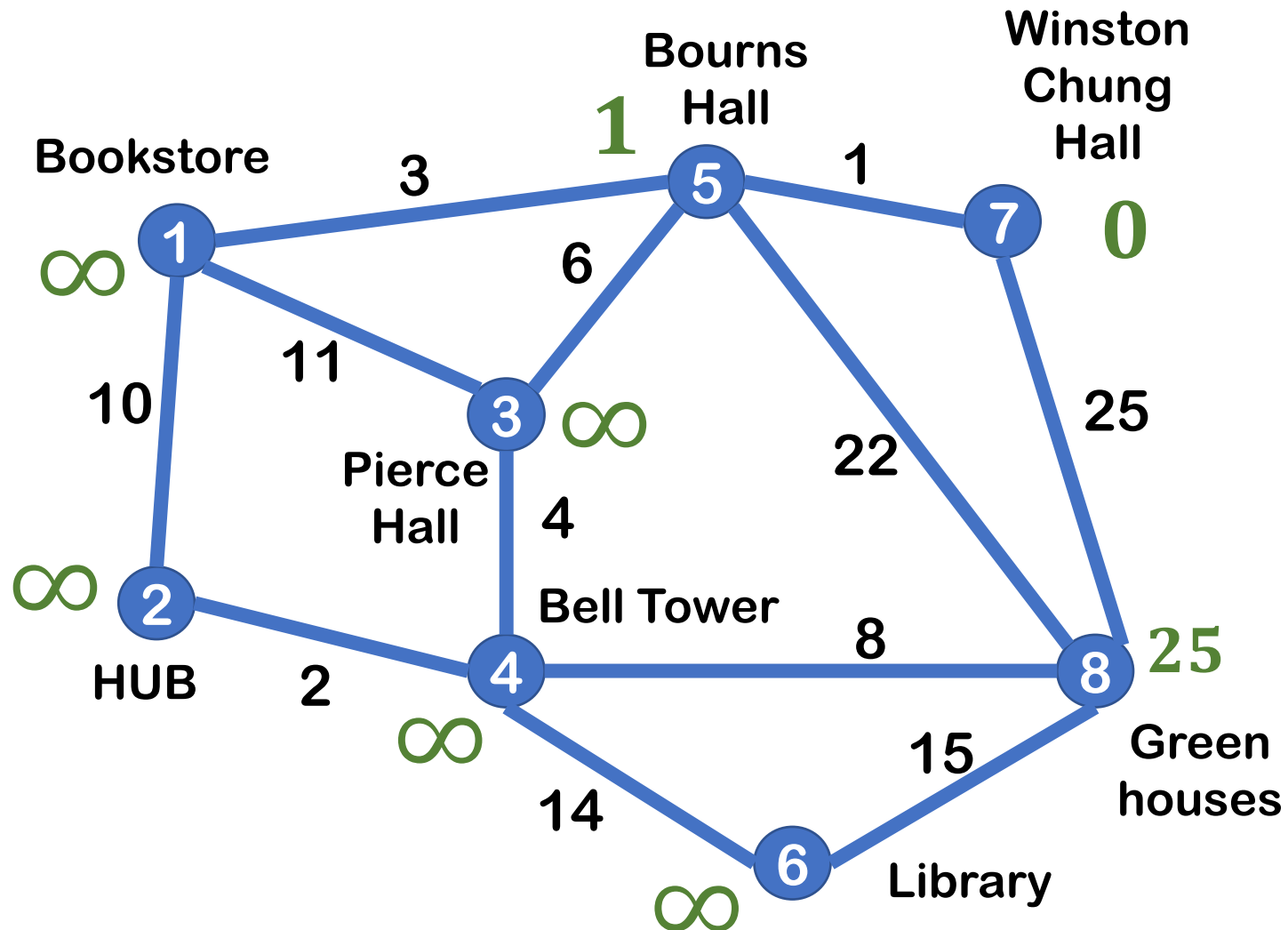
# Step 0: boundaries



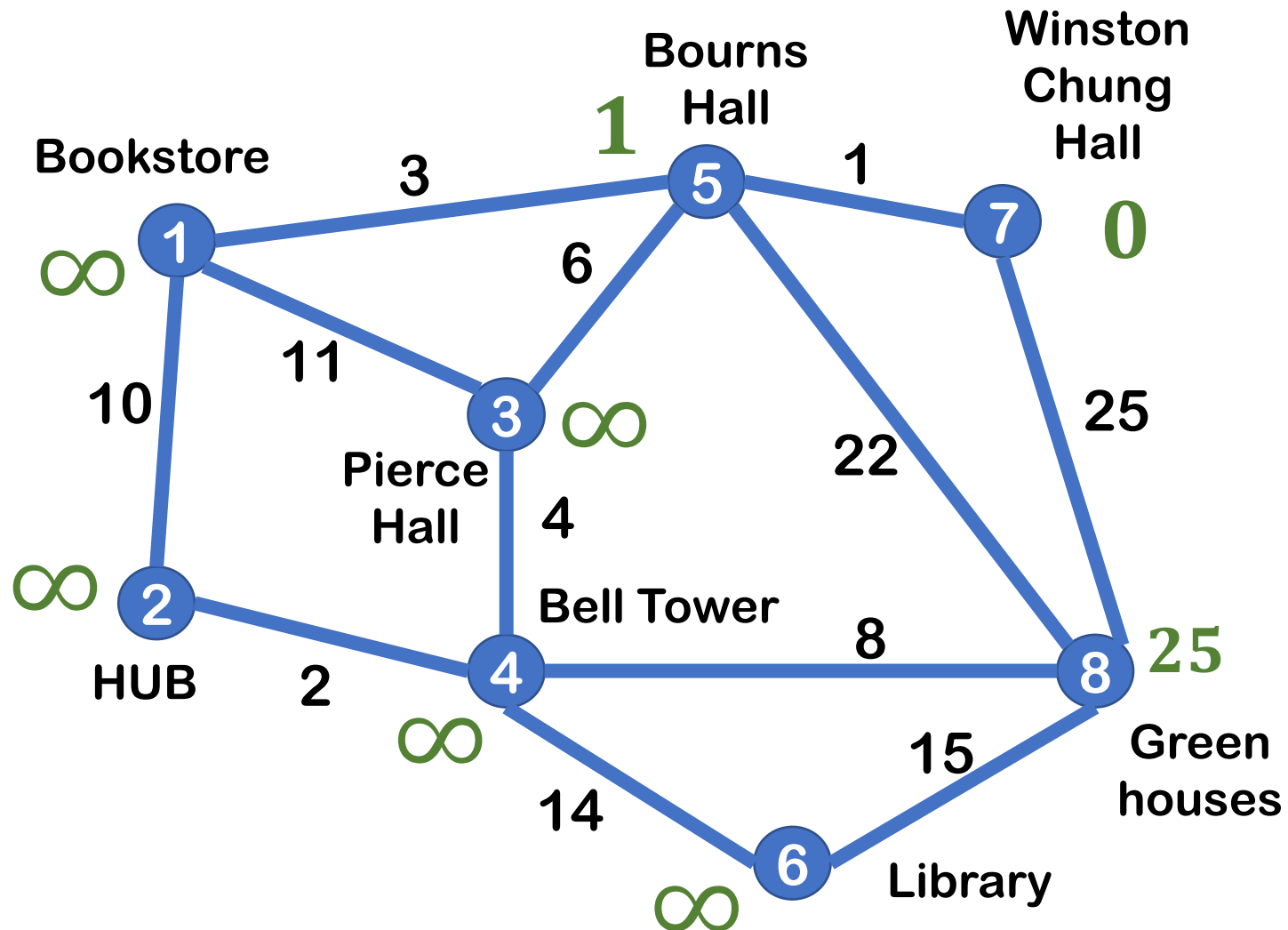
# Step 1: Given $D_{i,0}$ , to compute $D_{i,1}$



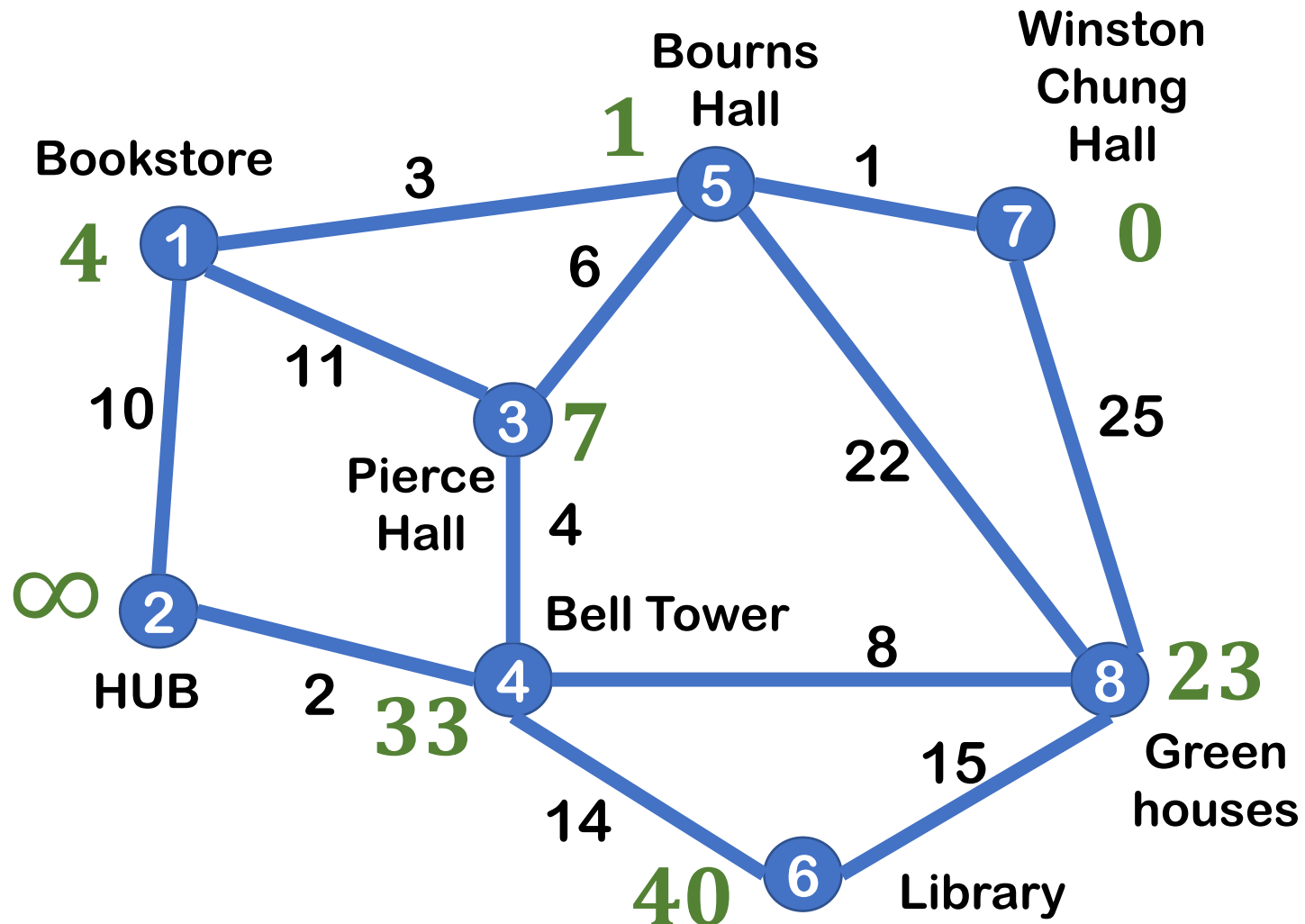
# Step 1: after all updates



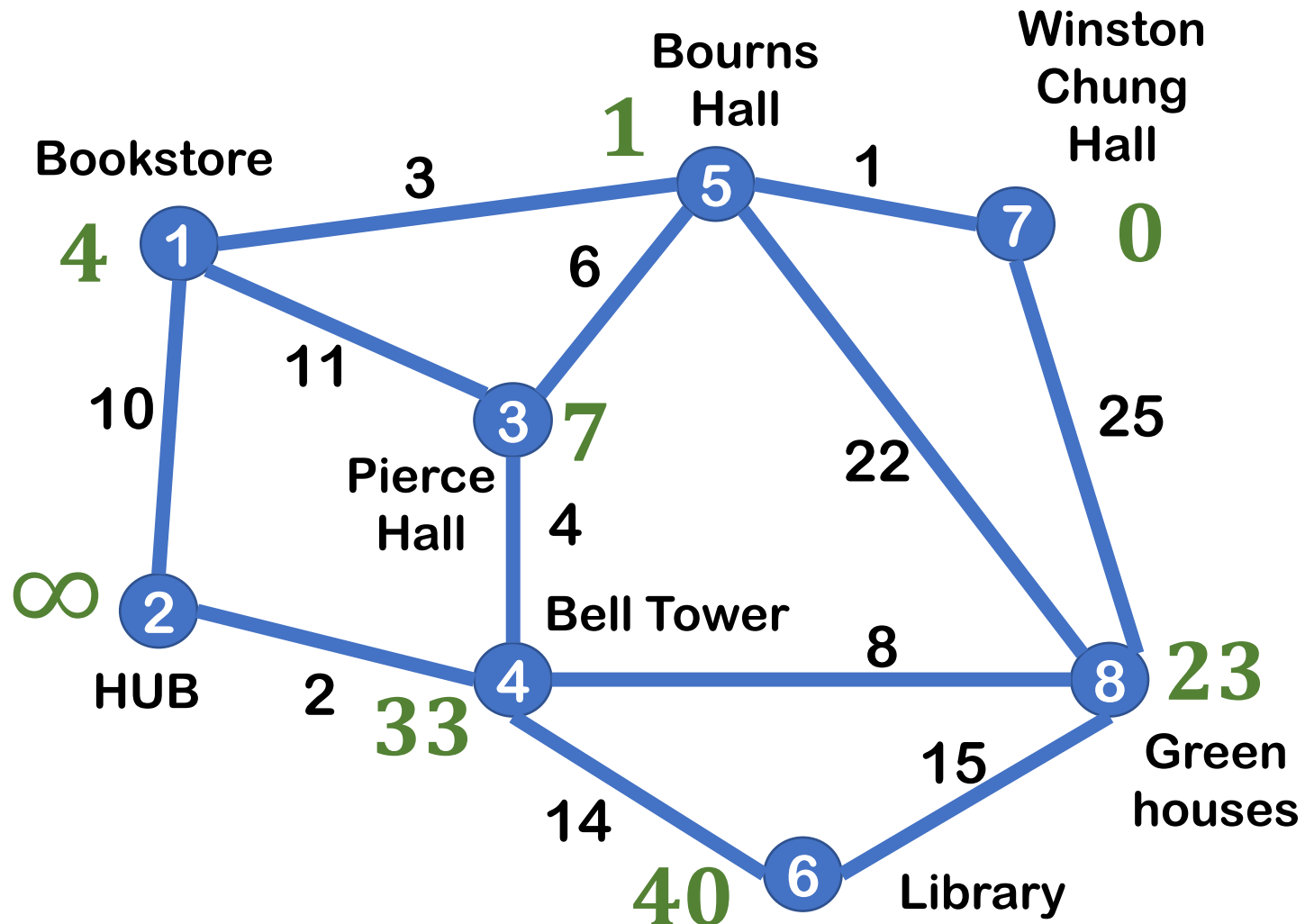
## Step 2: Given $D_{i,1}$ , to compute $D_{i,2}$



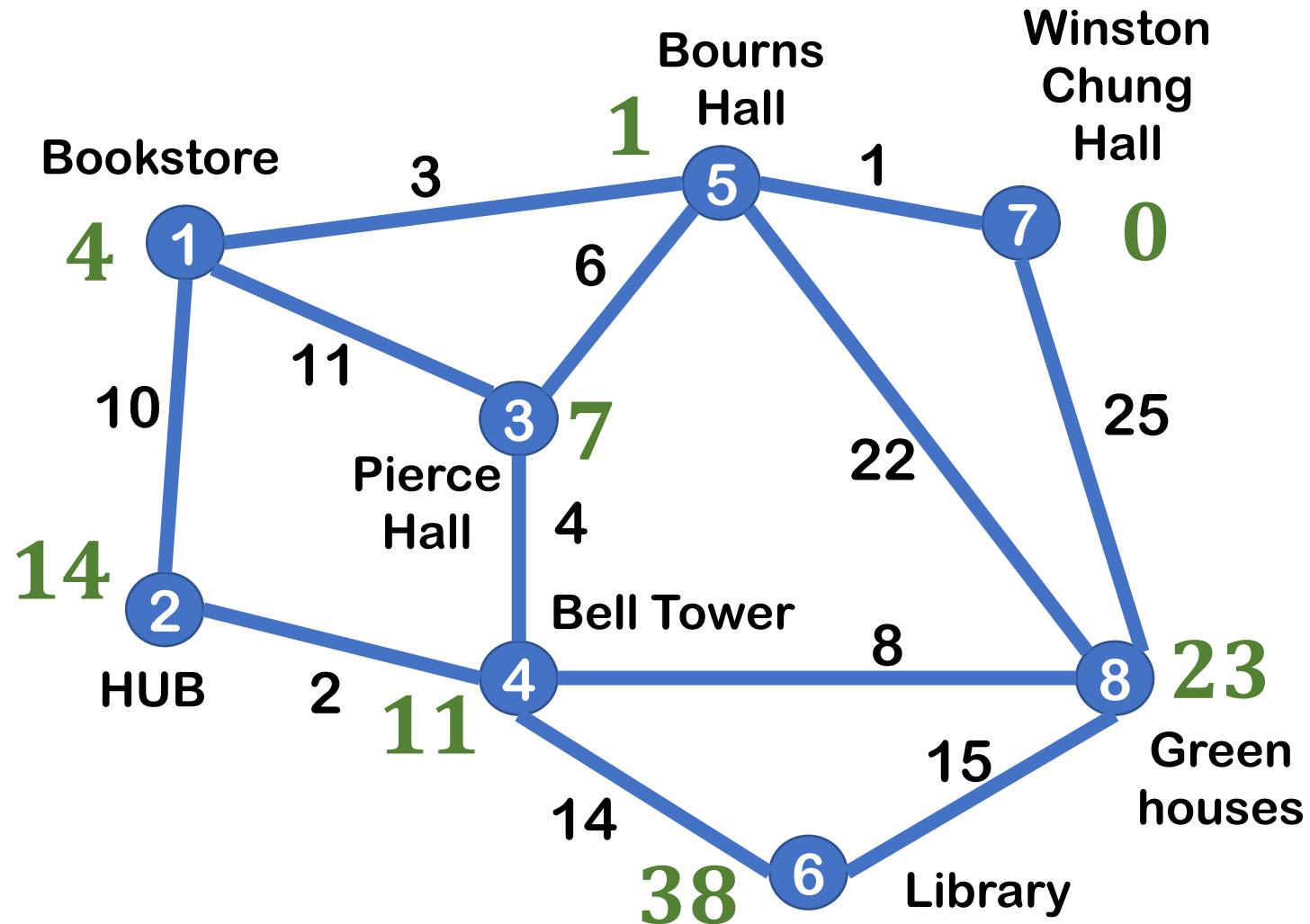
## Step 2: after all updates



## Step 3 : Given $D_{i,2}$ , to compute $D_{i,3}$

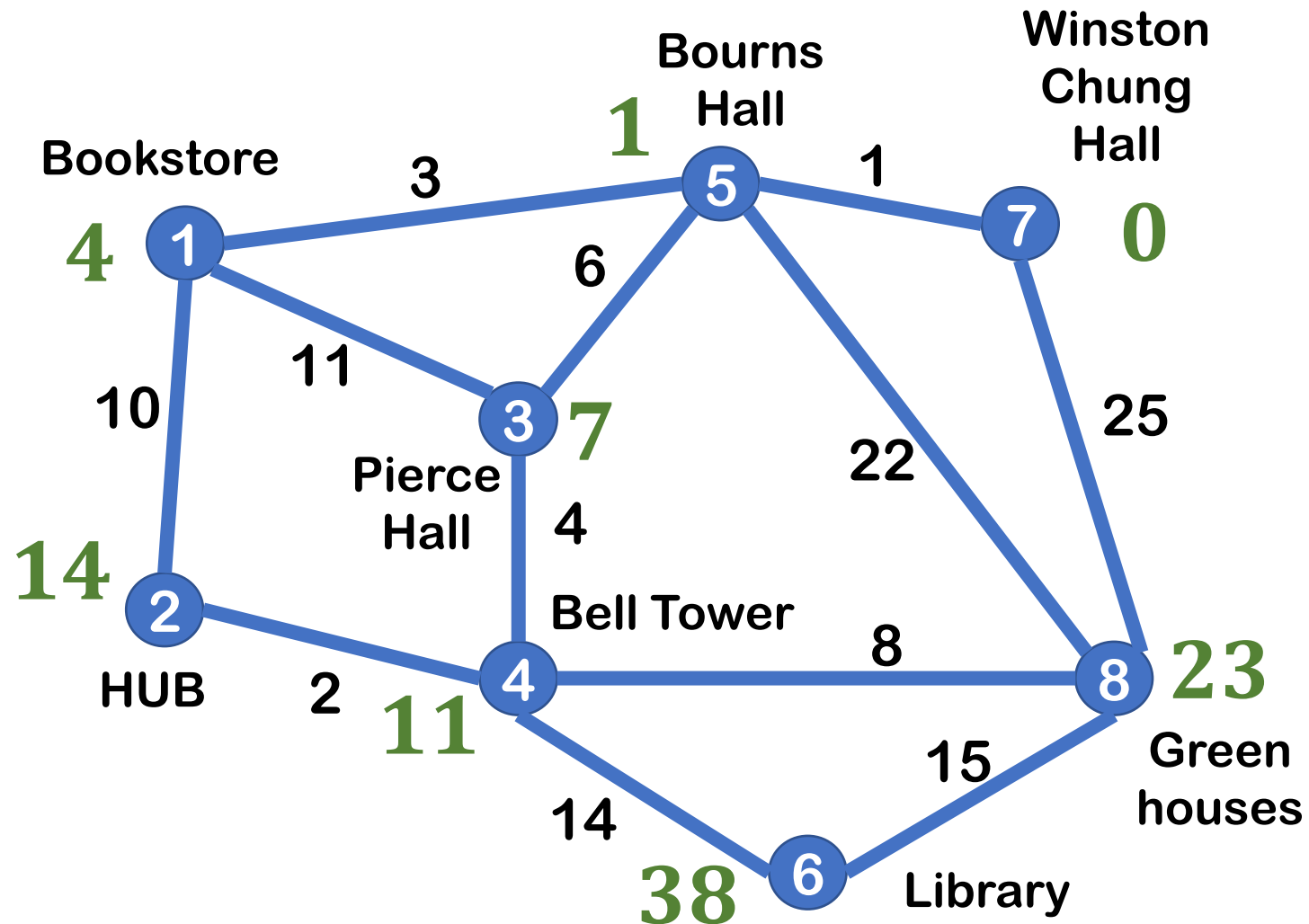


## Step 3: after all updates

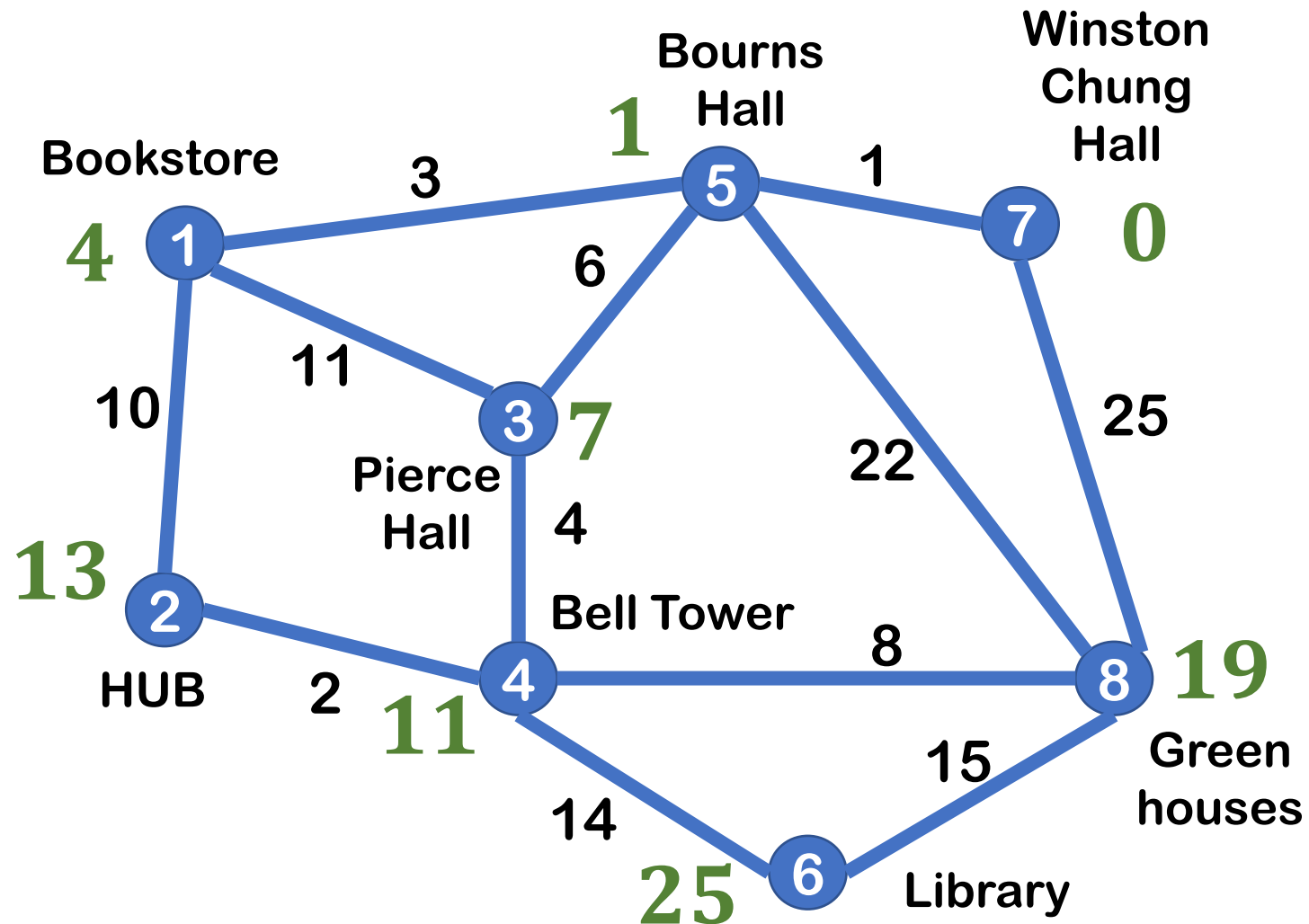




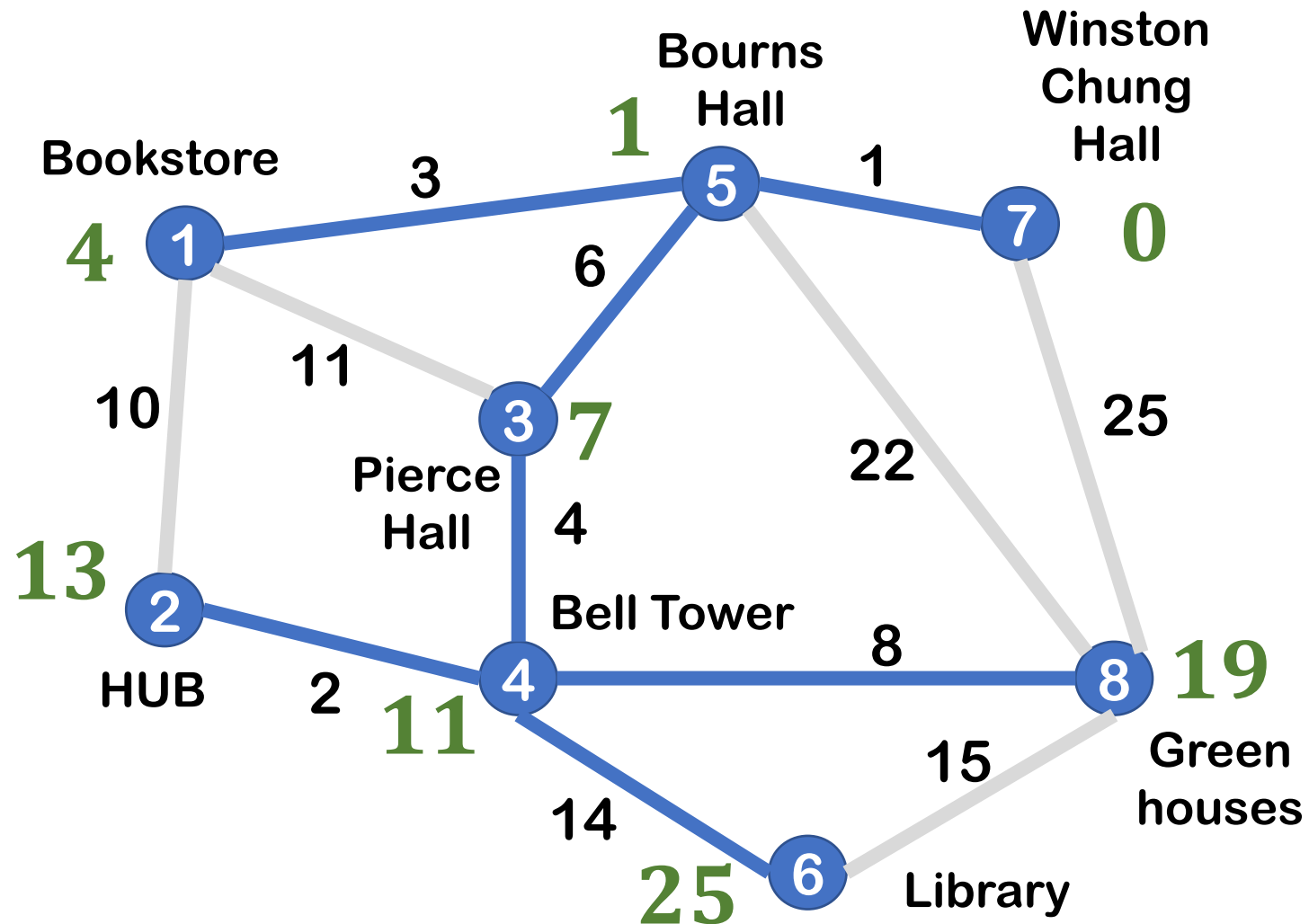
## Step 4: Given $D_{i,3}$ , to compute $D_{i,4}$



## Step 4: after all updates



# The shortest-path tree



# Bellman-Ford Algorithm( $G, s$ )

```
for k=1 to n-1 do
```

```
    for i=1 to n do
```

```
        D[k][i]=MAX
```

```
D[0][s]=0
```

```
for k=1 to n-1 do
```

```
    for each (i,j) in E do
```

```
        if (D[k-1][i]+w(i,j)<D[k][j])
```

```
            D[k][j]=D[k-1][i]+w(i,j), from[j]=i
```

**optional optimization: if no distance is updated, break**

$$D_{i,k} = \min \left\{ \begin{array}{l} D_{i,k-1} \\ \min_{(j,i) \in E} \{ D_{j,k-1} + w(j,i) \} \end{array} \right.$$

**Cost:  $O(nm)$**

# Bellman-Ford Algorithm( $G, s$ )

```
for i=1 to n do
```

```
    D[i]=MAX
```

```
D[s]=0
```

```
for k=1 to n-1 do
```

```
    for each (i,j) in E do
```

```
        if (D[i]+w(i,j)<D[j])
```

```
            D[j]=D[i]+w(i,j), from[j]=i
```

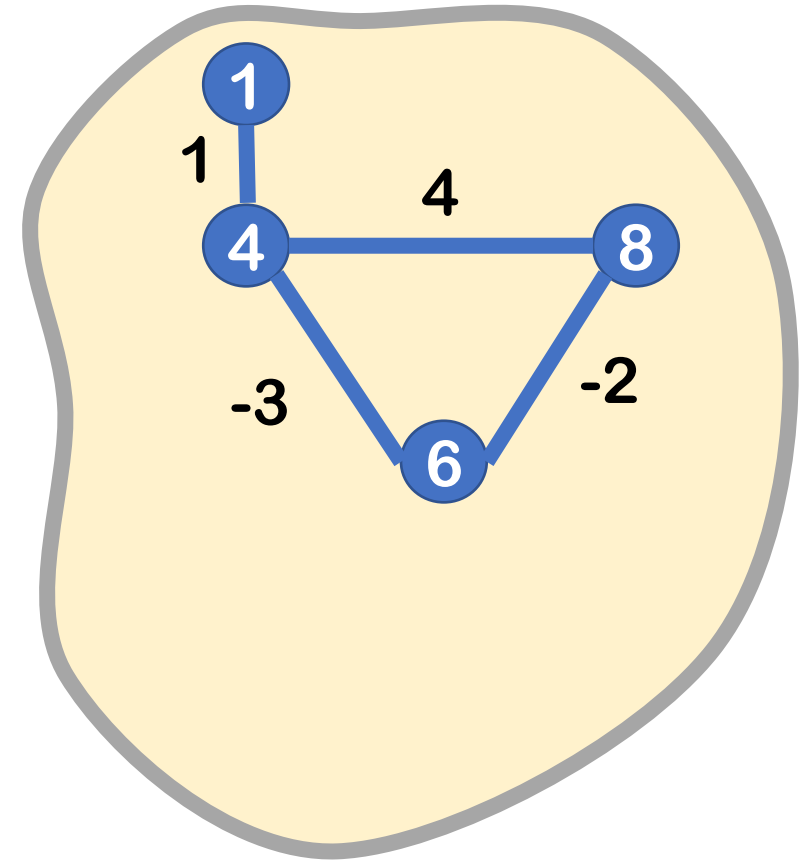
**optional optimization: if no distance is updated, break**

$$D_{i,k} = \min \begin{cases} D_{i,k-1} \\ \min_{(j,i) \in E} \{D_{j,k-1} + w(j,i)\} \end{cases}$$

**Cost:  $O(nm)$**

# Detecting negative cycles

- The graph has a negative cycle  $\Leftrightarrow$  run for another ( $n$ -th) round, and there are still edges being updated
- Intuitively, the distance to a vertex will be negative infinity
- Formal proof in CLRS 24.1



# Summary

# Single-source shortest-paths (SSSP)

- One of the most widely used algorithms
- On unweighted graphs: BFS
- On positive-weighted graphs: Dijkstra's algorithm
  - Similar to Prim's algorithm (greedy approach)
- On any weighted graphs: Bellman-Ford algorithm
  - Based on dynamic programming
- There are many other SSSP algorithms
  - Gabow's algorithm (scaling algorithm, on integer-weight graphs)
  - Thorup's algorithm ( $O(m)$  work on certain restricted integer-weight graphs)
  - Parallel algorithms (Delta-Stepping, Radius-Stepping, Rho-stepping)