

# VE281

Data Structures and Algorithms

Shortest Path Problem and  
Minimum Spanning Trees

# Announcement

- Pre-test for programming project two will be available to you by this Friday.
  - Please see TA announcement on Sakai.
- Programming project three will be put online by this Friday.
  - About graph algorithms.
  - Due in two weeks.
- Participate in the online course evaluation “IDEA” .
  - It will close on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - Follow the link in an email sent to your SJTU email account.

# Review

- Breadth-First Search
- Topological Sorting
- Shortest Path Problem
  - Unweighted graph

# Outline

- Shortest Path Problem for Weighted Graph
- Minimum Spanning Tree

# Shortest Path for Weighted Graphs

- The problem becomes more difficult when edges have different weights.
  - Weights represent different costs on using those edges.
- We require all weights to be **non-negative**.
- The standard algorithm is the **Dijkstra's Algorithm**.

# Dijkstra's Algorithm

- A greedy algorithm for solving single source all destinations shortest path problem.
- Basic idea: if the shortest path from  $s$  to  $d$  passes through an intermediate node  $v_i$ , i.e.,  $P = (s, \dots, v_i, \dots, d)$ , then  $P' = (s, \dots, v_i)$  must be the shortest path from  $s$  to  $v_i$ .

# Dijkstra's Algorithm

- Keep **distance estimates**  $D(v)$  and **predecessor**  $P(v)$  for each node  $v$ .
  - Predecessor: the previous node on the shortest path.
- 1. Initially,  $D(s) = 0$ ;  $D(v)$  for each of the other nodes is infinite;  $P(v)$  is unknown.
- 2. Store all the nodes in a set  $R$ .
- 3. While  $R$  is not empty
  - 1. Choose node  $v$  in  $R$  such that  $D(v)$  is the smallest. Remove  $v$  from the set  $R$ .
  - 2. Declare that  $v$ 's shortest distance is known, which is  $D(v)$ .
  - 3. For each of  $v$ 's neighbors  $u$  that is **still in  $R$** , update distance estimate  $D(u)$  and predecessor  $P(u)$ .

# Updating

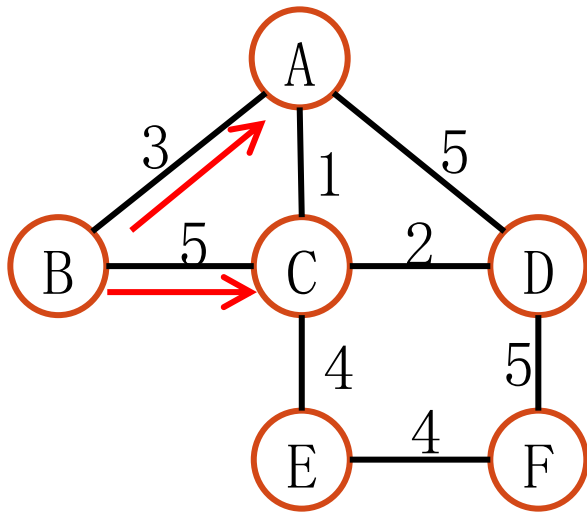
- For each of  $v$ 's neighbors  $u$  that is still in  $R$ , if  $D(v) + w(v, u) < D(u)$ , then update  $D(u) = D(v) + w(v, u)$  and the predecessor  $P(u) = v$ .
  - I.e., update  $D(u)$  if the path going through  $v$  is cheaper than the best path so far to  $u$ .



# Dijkstra's Algorithm

## Example

- Suppose B is the source.



Initial set up

$R = \{A, B, C, D, E, F\}$

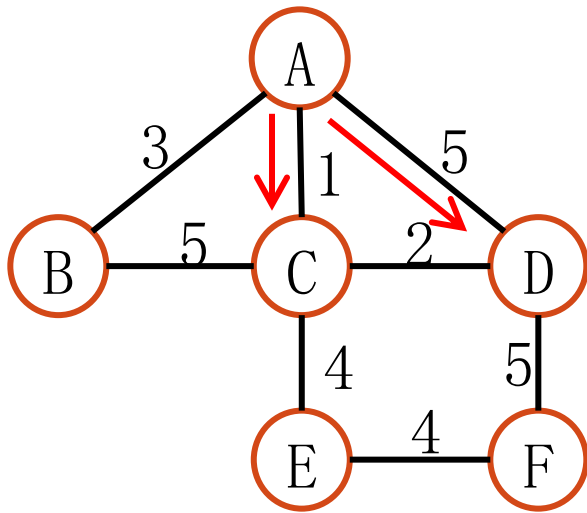
	A	B	C	D	E	F
$D(\cdot)$	$\infty$	0	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
$P(\cdot)$	—	—	—	—	—	—

Update B's neighbors (still in R)

# Dijkstra's Algorithm

## Example

- Suppose B is the source.



$R = \{A, C, D, E, F\}$

	A	B	C	D	E	F
$D(\cdot)$	<del><math>\infty</math></del> 3	0	<del><math>\infty</math></del> 5	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
$P(\cdot)$	B	—	B	—	—	—

$$D(B) + w(B, A) = 3 < D(A)$$

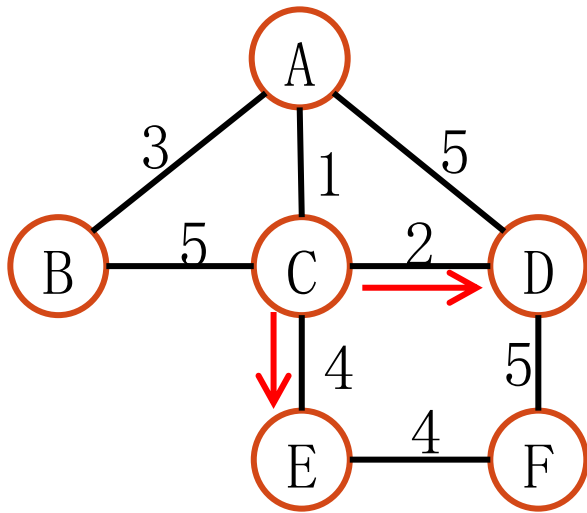
$$D(B) + w(B, C) = 5 < D(C)$$

Update A's neighbors (still in R)

# Dijkstra's Algorithm

## Example

- Suppose B is the source.



$R = \{C, D, E, F\}$

	A	B	C	D	E	F
$D(\cdot)$	3	0	5	<del><math>\infty</math></del> 8	$\infty$	$\infty$
$P(\cdot)$	B	—	B	A	—	—

$$D(A) + w(A, C) = 4 < D(C)$$

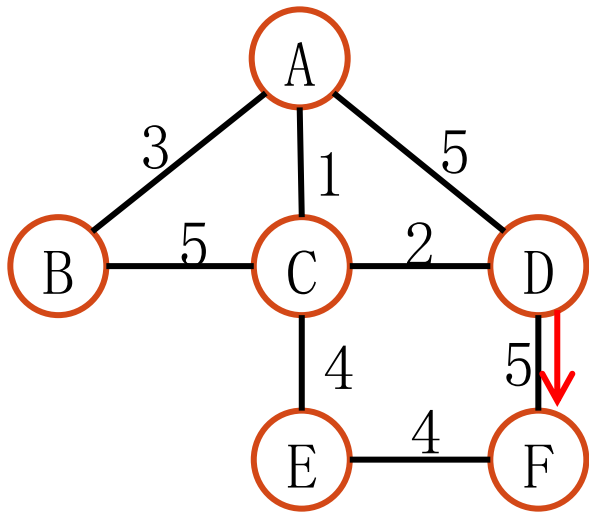
$$D(A) + w(A, D) = 8 < D(D)$$

Update C's neighbors (still in R)

# Dijkstra's Algorithm

## Example

- Suppose B is the source.



$$R = \{D, E, F\}$$

	A	B	C	D	E	F
$D(\cdot)$	3	0	4	<del>8</del> 6	<del><math>\infty</math></del> 8	$\infty$
$P(\cdot)$	B	—	A	A C	C	—

$$D(C) + w(C, D) = 6 < D(D)$$

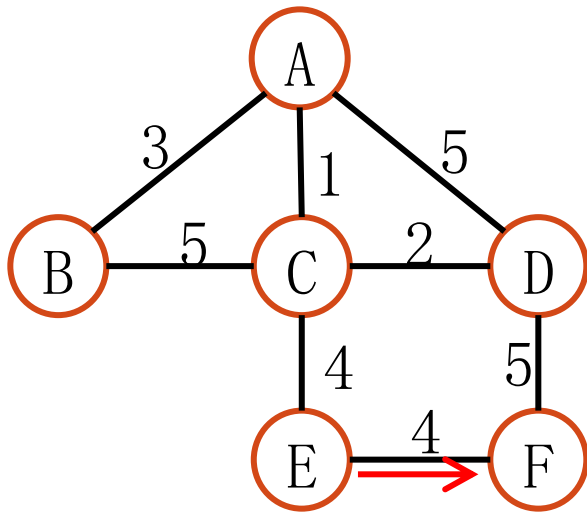
$$D(C) + w(C, E) = 8 < D(E)$$

Update D's neighbors (still in R)

# Dijkstra's Algorithm

## Example

- Suppose B is the source.



$$R = \{E, F\}$$

	A	B	C	D	E	F
$D(\cdot)$	3	0	4	6	8	<del><math>\infty</math></del> 11
$P(\cdot)$	B	—	A	C	C	D

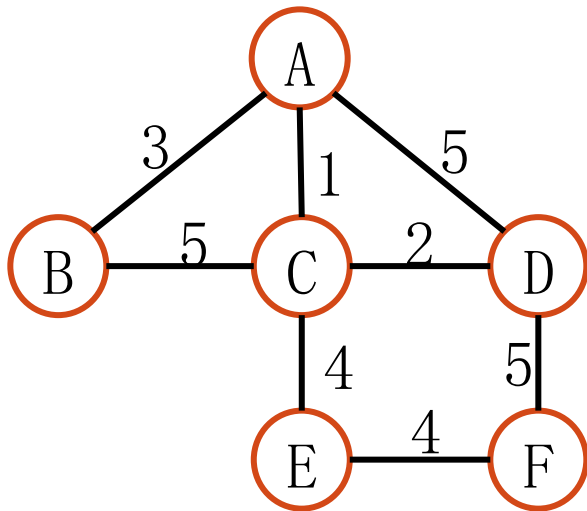
$$D(D) + w(D, F) = 11 < D(F)$$

Update E's neighbors (still in R)

# Dijkstra's Algorithm

## Example

- Suppose B is the source.



$$R = \{F\}$$

	A	B	C	D	E	F
$D(\cdot)$	3	0	4	6	8	11
$P(\cdot)$	B	—	A	C	C	D

$$D(E) + w(E, F) = 12 > D(F) \quad \text{No update}$$

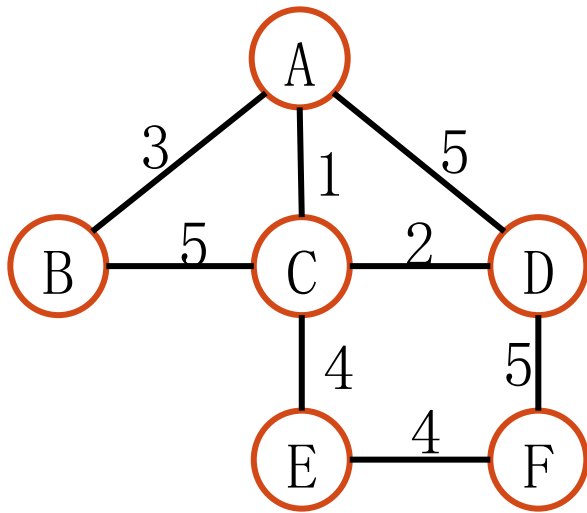
Update F's neighbors (still in R)

F has no neighbor in R

# Dijkstra's Algorithm

## Example

- Suppose B is the source.



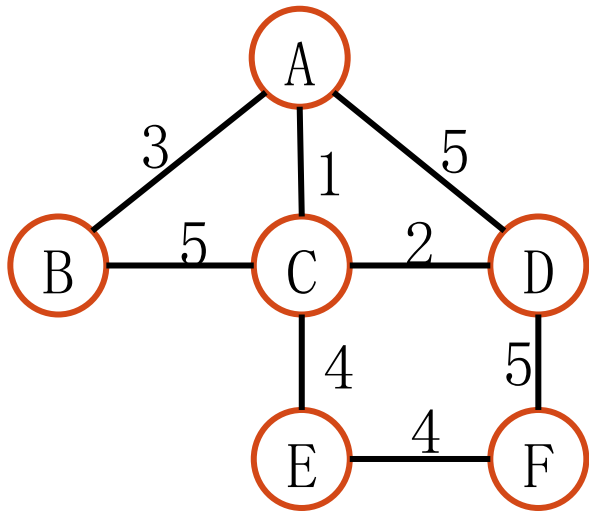
$R = \emptyset$

We are done.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
$D(\cdot)$	3	0	4	6	8	11
$P(\cdot)$	B	—	A	C	C	D

# Obtaining the Shortest Path

- We can obtain the shortest path by backtracking.  
**B → A → C → D → F**
- E.g., shortest from B to F



	A	B	C	D	E	F
$D(\cdot)$	3	0	4	6	8	11
$P(\cdot)$	B	—	A	C	C	D





# Dijkstra's Algorithm

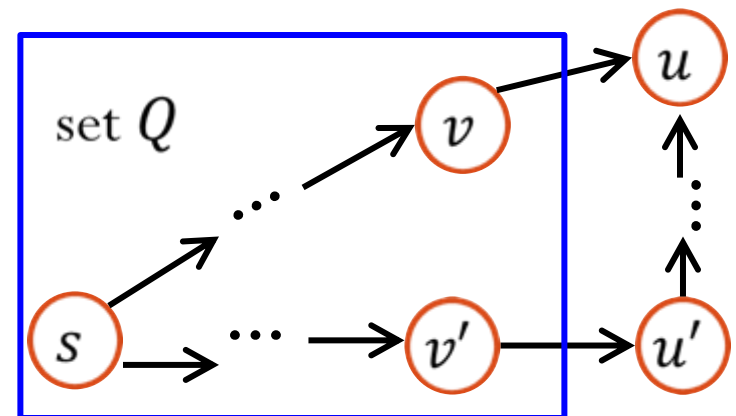
## Proof

- We want to prove that each time when we choose  $D(v)$  that is the smallest, then  $D(v)$  is the shortest distance for  $v$ .
- We prove this by mathematical induction.
- Base case: the source node is chosen. Its shortest distance is 0.
- Inductive step: Assume that the set of nodes chosen so far all have their  $D(v)$  as the shortest distance. We want to prove that adding the closest neighbor is also correct.
  - Prove by contradiction.

# Dijkstra's Algorithm

## Proof

- Suppose in this step,  $D(u)$  is the smallest. So  $u$  is chosen. Suppose its predecessor is  $v$ .
- Contradiction: the path from node  $s$  to  $u$  through  $v$  is not the shortest; there exists an even shorter path from  $s$  to  $u$ .
- Assume the set of nodes chosen so far is  $Q$ .
- Assume the shorter path is  $P = (s, \dots, v', u', \dots, u)$ , with  $s, \dots, v' \in Q$  and  $u' \notin Q$ .
- The path to  $u'$  should be shorter than the path to  $u$ .
- Then we should have chosen  $u'$  instead of choosing  $u$ .



# Dijkstra's Algorithm

## Time Complexity

- Method 1: linear scan the set  $R$  to find the smallest  $D(v)$ .
- Number of times to find the smallest  $D(v)$ :  $|V|$ .
  - Each cost:  $O(|V|)$ .
- Total number of times to update the neighbors:  $|E|$ .
  - Since each neighbor of each node could be potentially updated.
  - Each cost:  $O(1)$ .
- Total running time is  $O(|E| + |V|^2) = O(|V|^2)$ .

# Dijkstra's Algorithm

## Time Complexity

- Method 2: use a priority queue to store  $D(v)$ 's.
- Number of times to find the smallest  $D(v)$ :  $|V|$ .
  - Each cost:  $O(\log |V|)$ .
- Total number of times to update the neighbors:  $|E|$ .
  - Each cost is  $O(\log |V|)$ , since after updating  $D(v)$ , we should restore the priority queue property.
- Total running time is  $O(|V| \log |V| + |E| \log |V|)$   
 $= O(|E| \log |V|)$ .

# Dijkstra's Algorithm

## Time Complexity

- Method 1: linear scan the set  $R$  to find the smallest  $D(v)$ .
  - Total running time:  $O(|V|^2)$ .
- Method 2: use a priority queue to store  $D(v)$ 's.
  - Total running time:  $O(|E| \log |V|)$ .
- Which one is better?
  - For sparse graphs, i.e.,  $|E| \approx |V|$ , using priority queue is better.
  - For dense graphs, i.e.,  $|E| \approx |V|^2$ , using linear scan is better.

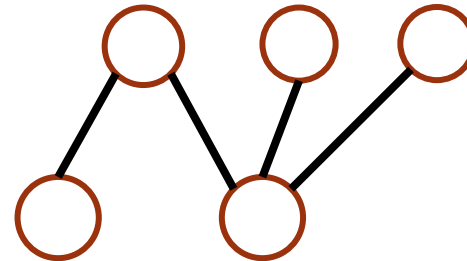
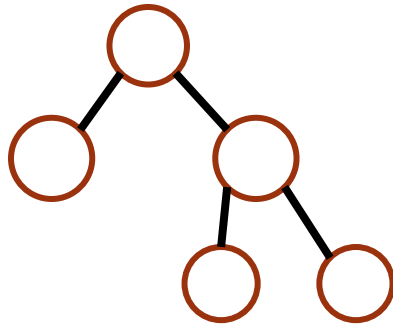
# Outline

- Shortest Path Problem for Weighted Graph
- Minimum Spanning Tree

# Tree and Graph

- A **tree** is an **acyclic, connected undirected** graph.

The tree we see before However, this is also a tree

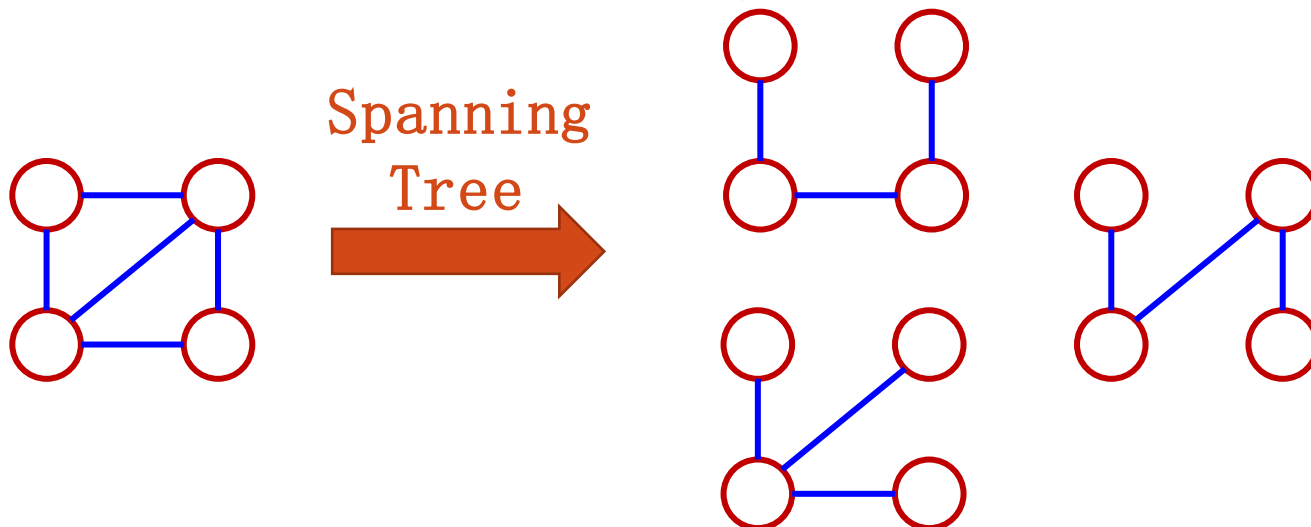


Any node can be the root of the tree.

- For a tree,  $|E| = |V| - 1$ .
- Any connected graph with  $N$  nodes and  $N - 1$  edges is a tree.

# Subgraph and Spanning Tree

- $G' = (V', E')$  is a **subgraph** of  $G = (V, E)$  if and only if  $V' \subseteq V$  and  $E' \subseteq E$ .
- A **spanning tree** of a connected undirected graph  $G$  is a subgraph of  $G$  that
  - contains all the nodes of  $G$ ;
  - is a tree, i.e., connected and acyclic.





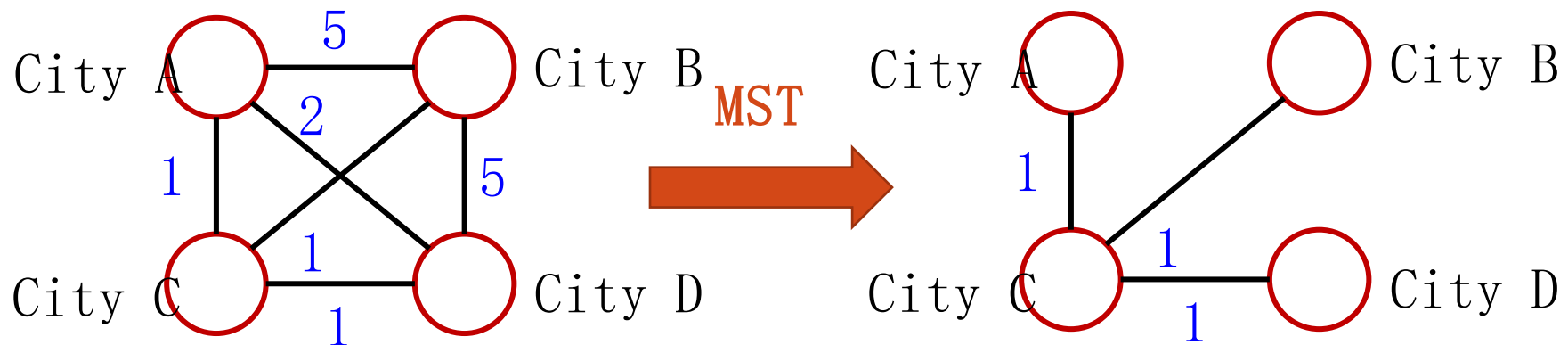
# Minimum Spanning Tree (MST)

- Given a weighted, connected, undirected graph  $G = (V, E)$ , a **minimum spanning tree**  $T$  of  $G$  is a spanning tree of  $G$  whose sum of all edge weights is the minimal.



# Application of MST

- A government planning a freeway system to connect all the cities.



- A railroad company planning where to lay down tracks.
- A power company planning where to lay down high-voltage power lines.

# Minimum Spanning Tree

## Algorithms

- Main idea: greedily select edges one by one and add to a growing sub-graph.
- Two standard algorithms:
  - Prim' s algorithm
  - Kruskal' s algorithm

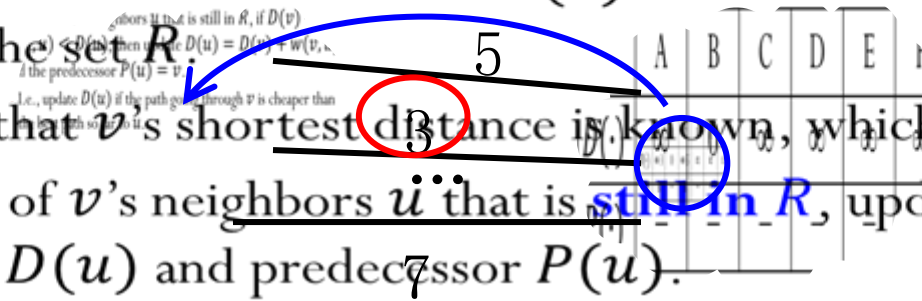
# Prim's Algorithm

- Separate  $V$  into two sets:
  - $T$ : the set of nodes that we have added to the MST.
  - $T'$ : those nodes that have not been added to the MST, i.e.,  $T' = V - T$ .
- Prim's algorithm initially sets  $T$  as empty and  $T'$  as  $V$ . The algorithm moves one node from  $T'$  to  $T$  in each iteration. After the last iteration,  $T = V$  and we have constructed the MST.

# Prim's Algorithm

## Basic Version

- Keep **distance estimates**  $D(v)$  and **predecessor**  $P(v)$  for each node  $v$ .
  - Predecessor: the previous node on the shortest path.
- 1. Initially,  $D(s) = 0$ ;  $D(v)$  for each of the other nodes is infinite;  $P(v)$  is unknown.
- 2. Store all the nodes in a set  $R$ .
- 3. While  $R$  is not empty
  1. Choose node  $v$  in  $R$  such that  $D(v)$  is the smallest. Remove  $v$  from the set  $R$ .
  2. Declare that  $v$ 's shortest distance is known, which is  $D(v)$ .
  3. For each of  $v$ 's neighbors  $u$  that is still in  $R$ , update distance estimate  $D(u)$  and predecessor  $P(u)$ .



# Selecting the Smallest Edge and Node

- For each node  $v \in T'$ , keep a measure  $D(v)$ , storing the **smallest weight** of any edge that connects any node in  $T$  to  $v$ .
- To choose the edge with the smallest weight that connects between a node in  $T$  and a node in  $T'$ , we pick the node  $v \in T'$  with the smallest  $D(v)$ .
- If we move a node  $v$  from  $T'$  to  $T$ , then for each of  $v$ 's neighbor  $u$  that is in  $T'$ , we update its  $D(u)$  as follows:
  - If  $D(u) > w(v, u)$ , then let  $D(u) = w(v, u)$ .
  - I.e., update  $D(u)$  if the weight of edge  $(v, u)$  is smaller than the weight of any other edge that connects a node in  $T$  to  $u$ .

# Prim's Algorithm

## Full Version

- We keep previous node  $P(v)$  for each node  $v$  to record the edges chosen in the MST.
- 1. Arbitrarily pick one node  $s$ . Set  $D(s) = 0$ . For any other node  $v$ , set  $D(v)$  as infinite and  $P(v)$  as unknown.
- 2. While  $T' \neq \emptyset$ 
  - 1. Choose node  $v$  in  $T'$  such that  $D(v)$  is the smallest. Remove  $v$  from the set  $T'$ .
  - 2. For each of  $v$ 's neighbors  $u$  that is still in  $T'$ , if  $D(u) > w(v, u)$ , then update  $D(u)$  as  $w(v, u)$  and  $P(u)$  as  $v$ .

Prim's algorithm is similar to Dijkstra's algo

# Prim's Algorithm v. s. Dijkstra's Algorithm

- Dijkstra's algorithm: grow the set of nodes to which we know the shortest path.
- Prim's algorithm: grow the set of nodes we have added to the MST.

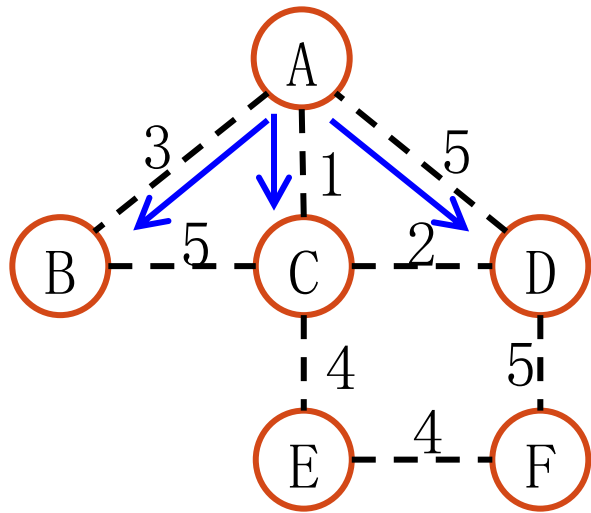


# Prim's Algorithm

## Example

Randomly choose a node, say node A

$$D(A) + w(A, C) = 4 < D(C)$$

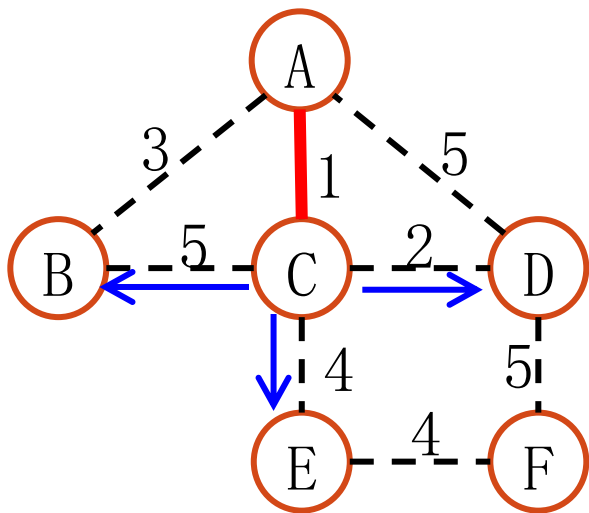


	A	B	C	D	E	F
$D(\cdot)$	0	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
$P(\cdot)$	—	—	—	—	—	—

$$D(A) + w(A, D) = 8 < D(D)$$

# Prim's Algorithm

## Example



$$D(C) + w(C, D) = 6 < D(D)$$

	A	B	C	D	E	F
$D(\cdot)$	0	$\infty$ 3	$\infty$ 1	$\infty$ 5	$\infty$	$\infty$
$P(\cdot)$	—	A	A	A	—	—

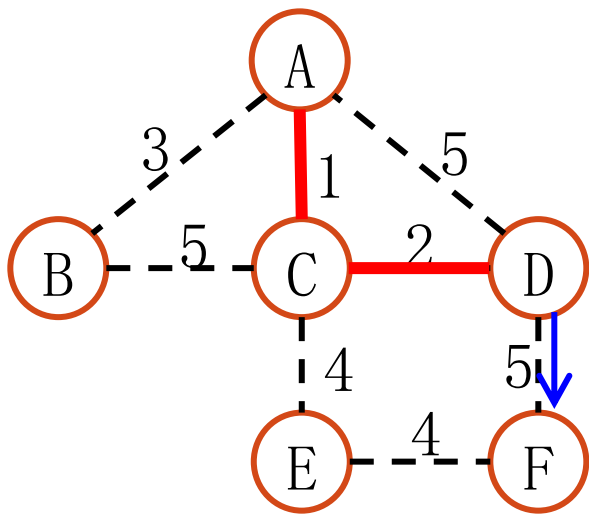
$$w(A, C) = 1 < D(C)$$

$$w(A, D) = 5 < D(D)$$

$$D(C) + w(C, E) = 8 < D(E)$$

# Prim's Algorithm

Example



$$T' = \{B, D, E, F\}$$

	A	B	C	D	E	F
$D(\cdot)$	0	3	1	<del>5</del> 2	<del><math>\infty</math></del> 4	$\infty$
$P(\cdot)$	—	A	A	A, C	C	—

$$w(C, B) = 5 > D(B)$$

$$w(C, D) = 2 < D(D)$$

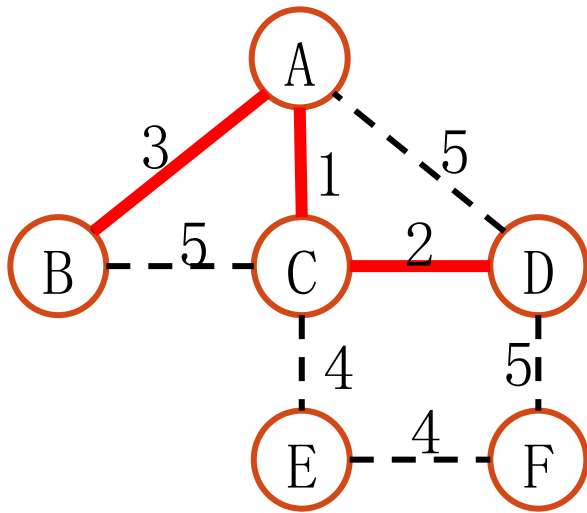
No update

	A	B	C	D	E	F
$D(\cdot)$	3	0	4	6	8	$\infty$ 11
$P(\cdot)$	B	—	A	C	C	D

Update D's neighbors (still in  $T'$ )

# Prim's Algorithm

## Example



	A	B	C	D	E	F
$D(\cdot)$	3	0	4	6	8	11
$P(\cdot)$	B	-	A	C	C	D

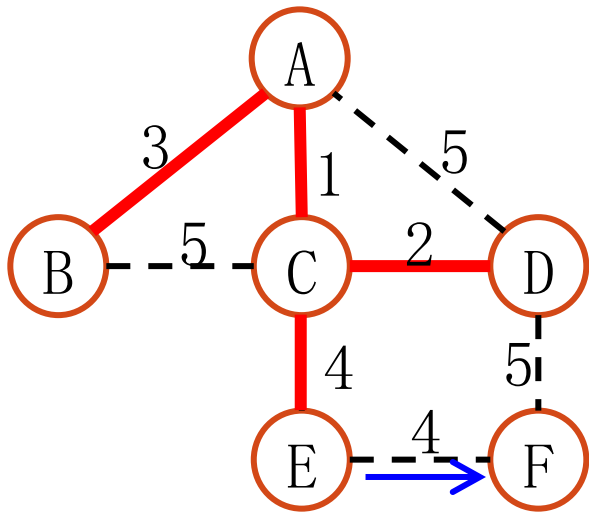
	A	B	C	D	E	F
$D(\cdot)$	0	3	1	2	4	<del>8</del> 5
$P(\cdot)$	-	A	A	C	C	D

$$D(E) + w(E, F) = 12 > D(F)$$

- We want to prove that each time when we choose  $D(v)$  that is the smallest, then  $D(v)$  is the shortest distance for  $v$ .
- We prove this by mathematical induction.
- Base case: the source node is chosen. Its shortest distance is 0.
- Inductive step: Assume that the set of nodes chosen so far all have their  $D(v)$  as the shortest distance. We want to prove that adding the closest neighbor is also correct.
  - Prove by contradiction.

# Prim's Algorithm

Example



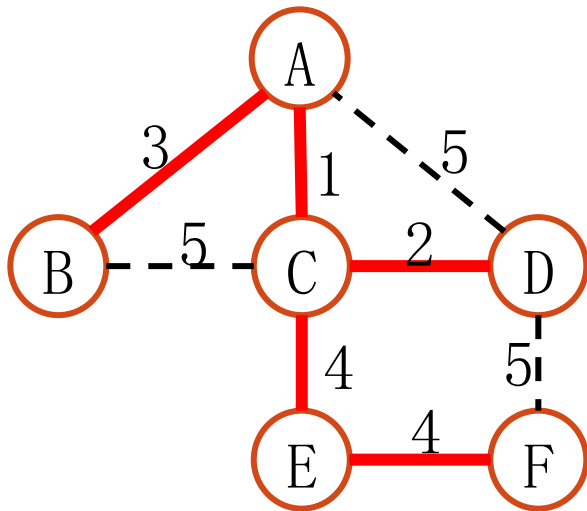
$v$

	A	B	C	D	E	F
$D(\cdot)$	0	3	1	2	4	5
$P(\cdot)$	—	A	A	C	C	D

$S$

# Prim's Algorithm

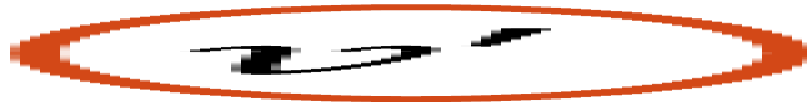
## Example



$u'$

	A	B	C	D	E	F
	0	3	1	2	4	5
	—	A	A	C	C	D

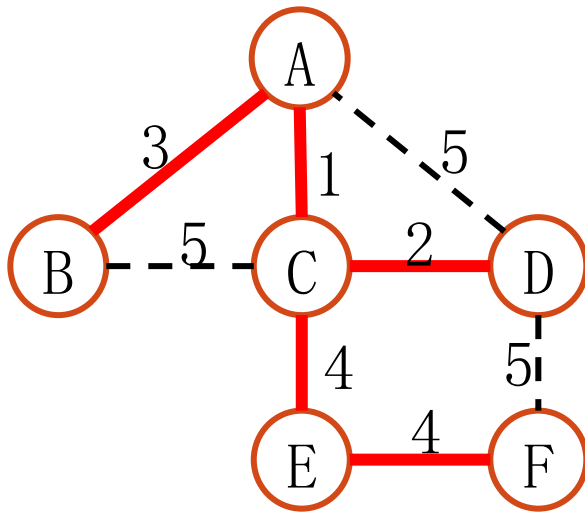
- Method 1: linear scan the set  $R$  to find the smallest  $BC(u)$ .
- Number of times to find the smallest  $BC(u)$ :  $|V|$ .
  - Each cost:  $O(|V|)$ .
- Total number of times to update the neighbors:  $|E|$ .
  - Since each neighbor of each node could be potentially updated.
  - Each cost:  $O(1)$ .
- Total running time is  $O(|E| + |V|^2) = O(|V|^2)$ .



set  $Q$

# Prim's Algorithm

## Example



- Method 2: use a priority queue to store  $D(v)$ 's.
- Number of times to find the smallest  $D(v) : |V|$ .
  - Each cost  $O(\log |V|)$ .
- Total number of times to update the neighbors:  $|E|$ .
  - Each cost is  $O(\log |V|)$ , since after updating  $D(v)$ , we should restore the priority queue property.
- Total running time is  $O(|V| \log |V| + |E| \log |V|)$ 
  - $= O(|E| \log |V|)$ .

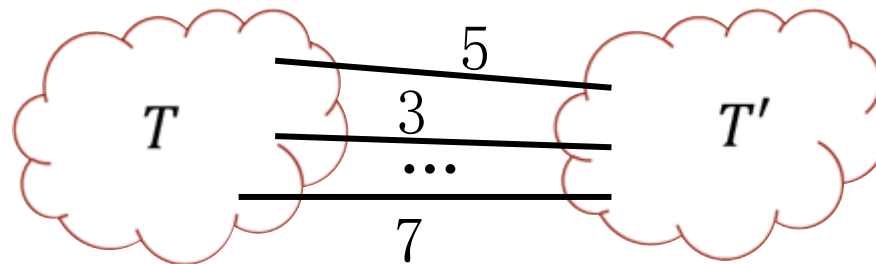
We are done.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
$D(\cdot)$	0	3	1	2	4	4
$P(\cdot)$	—	A	A	C	C	E

# Prim's Algorithm

## Justification

- Let  $T$  and  $T'$  be a partition of  $V$ . In a spanning tree, there must exist at least one edge that connects one node in  $T$  to another node in  $T'$ .
  - Otherwise, it is not a spanning tree.



- Prim's algorithm grows set  $T$  and each time greedily picks the edge with the smallest weight that connects a node in  $T$  to a node in  $T'$ . It ensures:
  - All nodes are connected and there are no cycles, i.e., a tree.
  - The sum of all edge weights is minimal.



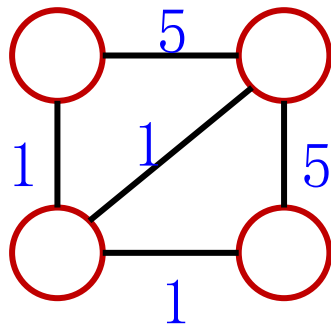
# Prim's Algorithm

## Time Complexity

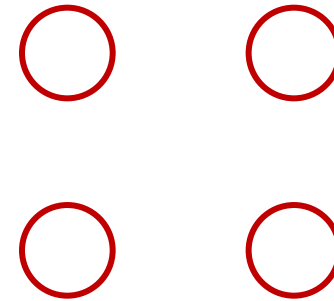

- Number of times to find the smallest  $D(v)$ :  $|V|$ .
  - Cost? Linear scan:  $O(|V|)$ ; Priority queue:  $O(\log |V|)$
- Total number of times to update the neighbors:  $|E|$ .
  - Since each neighbor of each node could be potentially updated.
  - Cost? Linear scan:  $O(1)$ ; Priority queue:  $O(\log |V|)$
- Total time complexity
  - Linear scan:  $O(|E| + |V|^2) = O(|V|^2)$ .
  - Priority queue:  
 $O(|V| \log |V| + |E| \log |V|) = O(|E| \log |V|)$ .

# Kruskal's Algorithm

- Start with a graph containing  $|V|$  nodes and no edges



Initial  
Graph

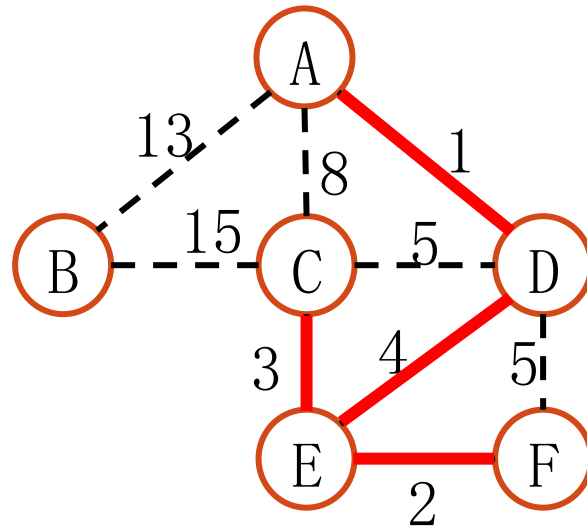


- This initial graph can be viewed as a **forest** of trees.
  - Each tree only has a single node.
- Main idea: repeatedly add the edge with the **smallest weight** that **does not cause a cycle** until no such edges exist.
  - Each added edge performs a union on two trees in the forest.
  - After adding  $|V| - 1$  edges, there is only one tree. This tree is the MST.

# Kruskal's Algorithm

## Example

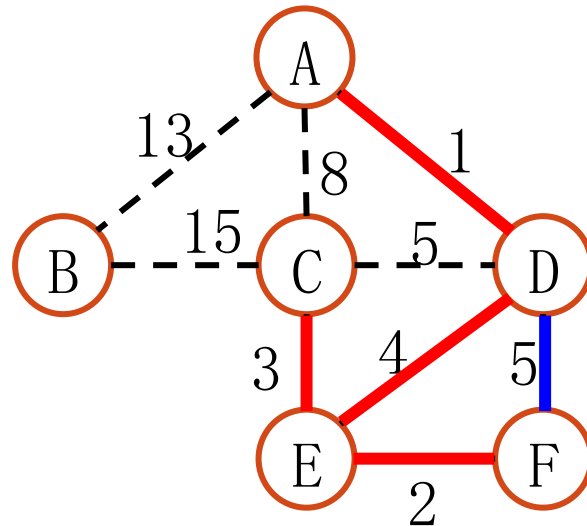
Repeatedly add the edge with the **smallest weight** that **does not cause a cycle** until no such edges exist.



# Kruskal's Algorithm

## Example

Repeatedly add the edge with the **smallest weight** that **does not cause a cycle** until no such edges exist.



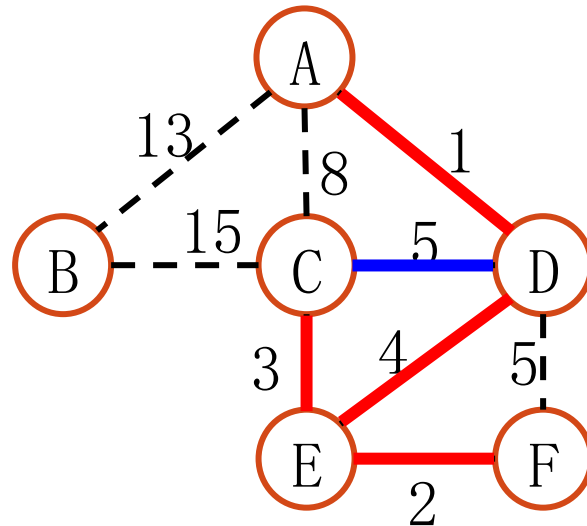
The next edge with the smallest weight is (D,

However, adding it causes a cycle. So it is discarded.

# Kruskal's Algorithm

## Example

Repeatedly add the edge with the **smallest weight** that **does not cause a cycle** until no such edges exist.



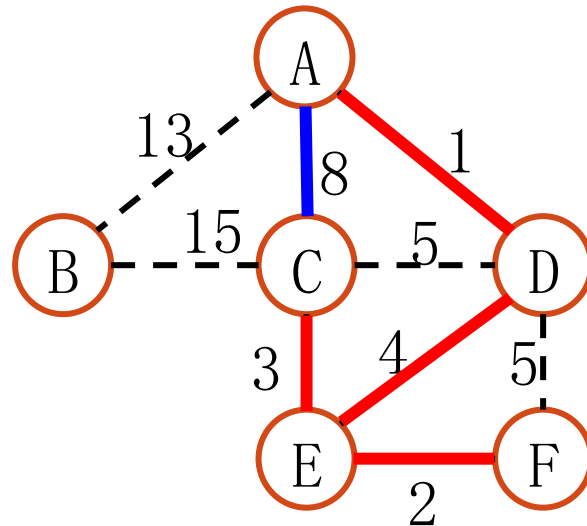
The next edge with the smallest weight is (C,

However, adding it causes a cycle. So it is discarded.

# Kruskal's Algorithm

## Example

Repeatedly add the edge with the **smallest weight** that **does not cause a cycle** until no such edges exist.



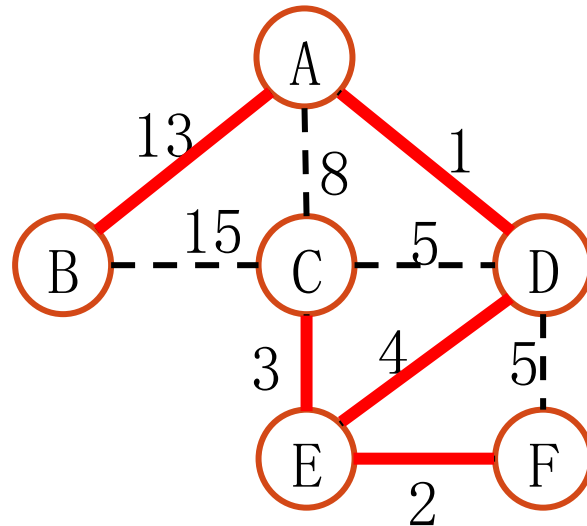
The next edge with the smallest weight is (A,

However, adding it causes a cycle. So it is discarded.

# Kruskal's Algorithm

## Example

Repeatedly add the edge with the **smallest weight** that **does not cause a cycle** until no such edges exist.



The next edge with the smallest weight is (A,

MST construction  
done.

# Detecting Cycles

- Not simple.
- Connected nodes form a **component**.
- Detecting cycle: an edge  $(u, v)$  causes a cycle if nodes  $u$  and  $v$  are in the same component.
- If the edge does not cause a cycle, we add the edge and make union on the two different components connected by the edge.
  - Update the set of components for later detecting cycle purpose.



# Kruskal's Algorithm

## Implementation and Time Complexity

- Sorting the edges by weights
  - Time complexity:  $O(|E| \log |E|)$ .
- Detecting cycle. If no cycle, add edge and merge two trees.
  - Time complexity:  $O(\log |V|)$ . (Not covered)
  - In the worst case, we detect cycles for all edges. The time complexity is  $O(|E| \log |V|)$ .
- Since  $|E| = O(|V|^2)$ , the total running time is  $O(|E| \log |V|)$ .