

## Approximating Travelling Salesman Problem

TSP: Given a graph with edge weights visit every vertex (and return home) exactly once using smallest total weight.

### Christofides Algorithm for TSP 1976

1. Find  $T$ =minimum spanning tree of  $G$
2. Compute minimum length complete (perfect) matching  $M$  in the complete graph on odd-degree vertices of  $T$ .
3. Find Euler tour  $E$  in  $T \cup M$ .
4. Eliminate repeated vertices from  $E$  to get TSP tour  $R$ .

A TSP tour minus any edge is a spanning tree.