

## Exercise 10

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We will write  $V$  for the set of vertices of  $G$ .

Let  $e \in E(G) \setminus E(T)$ , we can write  $e$  as  $e = \{a, b\}$ ,  $a, b \in V$ .

Since  $E(T)$  is connected, there exists a path in  $T$  of the form  $(a, v_1, \dots, v_n, b)$ ,  $v_i \in G$ .

We define  $K = T + e - \{v_n, b\}$ .

Clearly,  $K$  is still spanning since it still contains  $v_n, a$  and  $b$ <sup>1</sup>.

We now show that  $K$  is a tree.

First, we show that  $K$  still is connected.

Indeed, consider two vertices  $x, y \in V$ .

Consider the path of  $T$  which would connect  $x$  to  $y$  :  $x, u_0, \dots, u_n, y$ .

If there exists  $0 \leq i \leq n$  such that  $\{u_i, u_{i+1}\} = e$ , replace  $u_i, u_{i+1}$  in the path with the path connecting  $a$  and  $b$ , we are left with a path contained in  $K$ .

Hence,  $K$  is connected.

We now show that  $K$  contains no cycle.

For the sake of contradiction, suppose  $K$  contains a cycle of the form  $c_0, \dots, c_k, c_0$ .

If  $\forall 0 \leq j \leq k, \{c_j, c_{j+1}\} \neq e$ , then the cycle is contained in  $T$  which is a contradiction since  $T$  is a tree.

Hence, suppose there exists a  $j$  such that  $\{c_j, c_{j+1}\} = e$ , without loss of generality, suppose that  $c_j = a$  and  $c_{j+1} = b$ .

If that were the case, we could again create a new cycle of the form  $c_0, \dots, c_{j-1}, a, v_1, \dots, v_n, b, c_{j+2}, \dots$ .

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1.  $v_n$  is still contained in  $K$  because  $\{v_{n-1}, v_n\}$  is contained in  $K$