

Exercise 10

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First, note that we can suppose that G is not a tree, and thus contains a cycle.

Indeed, if G is a tree, its spanning tree is G , and hence $E(G) \setminus E(T) = \emptyset$.

Thus, suppose that G is a graph with at least one cycle.

We will now show that, if $e \in E(G) \setminus E(T)$, then e is contained in a cycle of G .

For the sake of contradiction, suppose that $e = \{a, b\}$ ¹ is not contained in a cycle.

Then there exists $c \in V$ such that there only is one path v_0, \dots, v_k such that $v_0 = a, v_k = c$.

Since the spanning tree contains c as a vertex, we deduce that the spanning tree must contain a as a vertex.

Hence, choose an edge $e' \in E(T)$ of the form $\{a, d\}$ and which is contained in the same cycle as e , hence e' is not a leaf.

Remove e' and add e from T , note that the resulting graph is still a tree since we have not added any cycles and that it still contains all the edges of G since b is not a leaf (it is contained in a cycle).

1. $a, b \in V$