

Greedy Algorithm for TSP



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by Christine Alvarado, Mia Minnes, and Leo Porter, 2015.

Concept Challenge: Procedure

- **Pause** Try to solve the problem yourself
- **Discuss** with other learners (if you can)
- **Watch** the UC San Diego learners video
- **Answer** the question again
- **Confirm** your understanding with our explanation

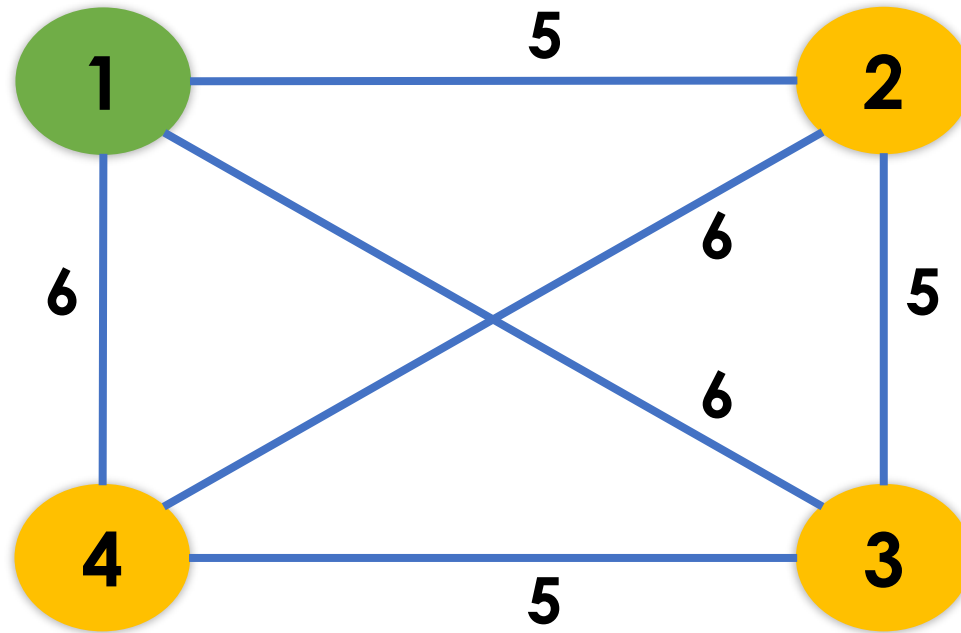


In TSP, given n cities with one Hometown and all pairwise distances, plan a tour starting and ending at Hometown that visits every city exactly once and has minimum distance.

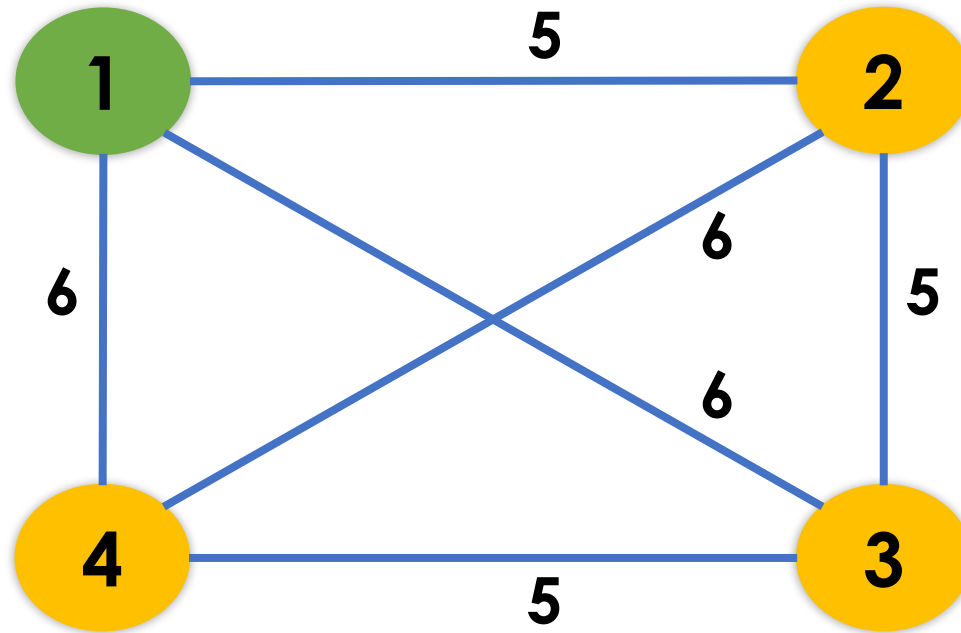
In TSP, given n cities with one Hometown and all pairwise distances, plan a tour starting and ending at Hometown that visits every city exactly once and has minimum distance.

Greedy algorithm: pick best next choice

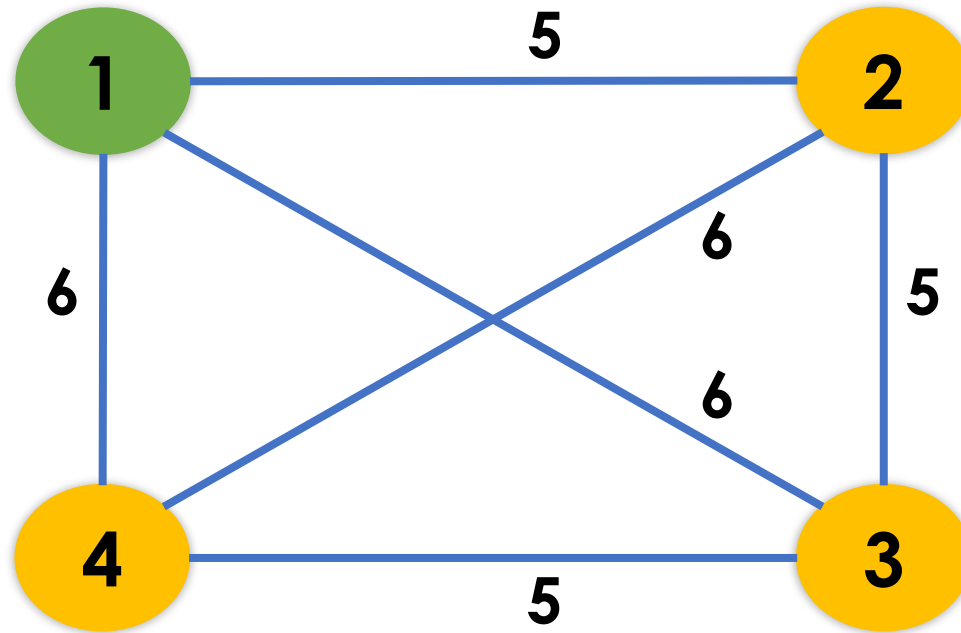
Warmup: What tour does the Greedy algorithm construct for this graph?



Is this the best possible tour for this graph?



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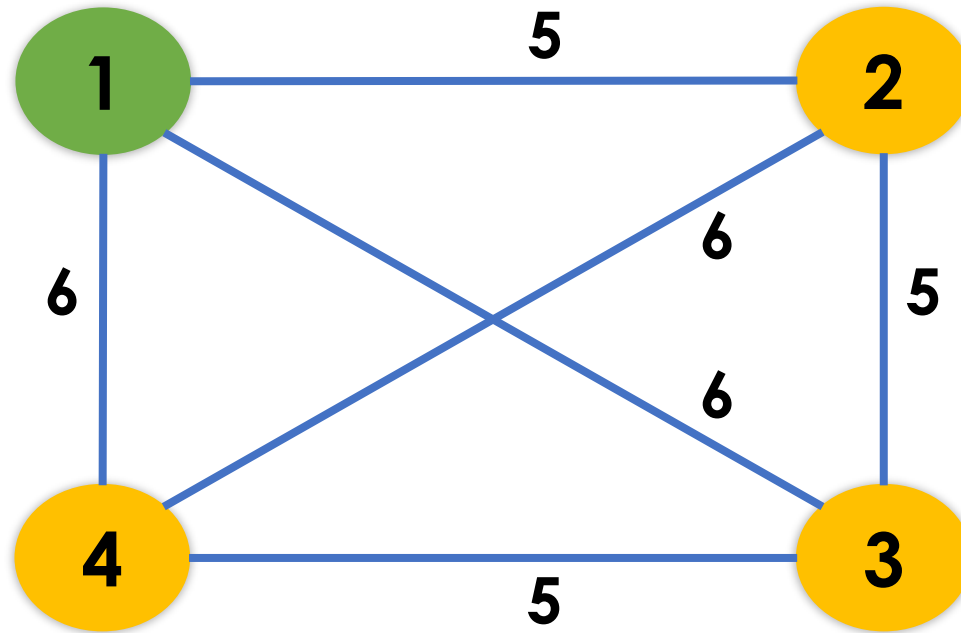


$1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1$

$1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 1$

$1 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1$

Is this the best possible tour for this graph?



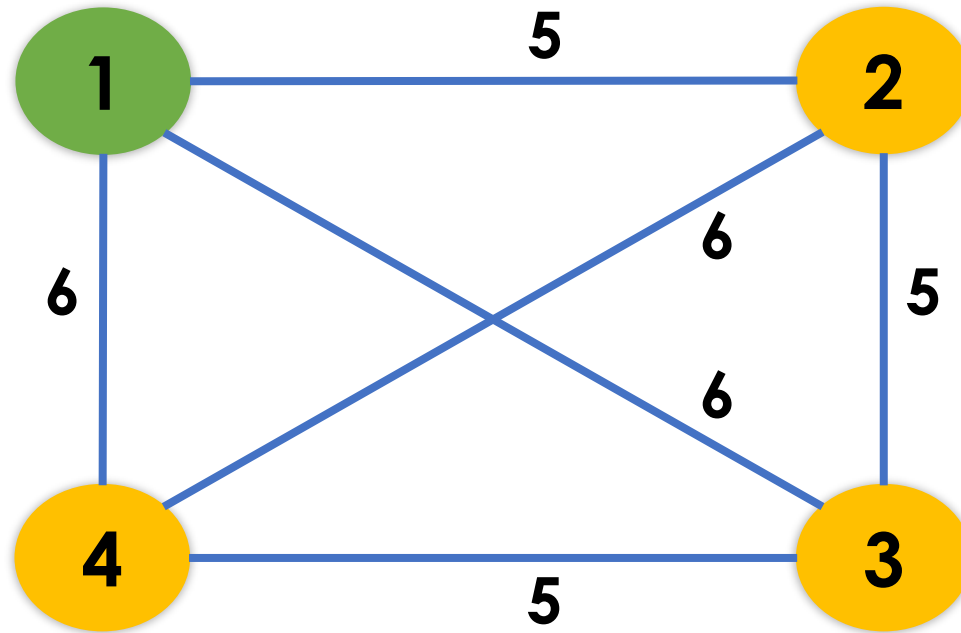
$1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1$

21

$1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 1$

$1 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1$

Is this the best possible tour for this graph?



1 → 2 → 3 → 4 → 1

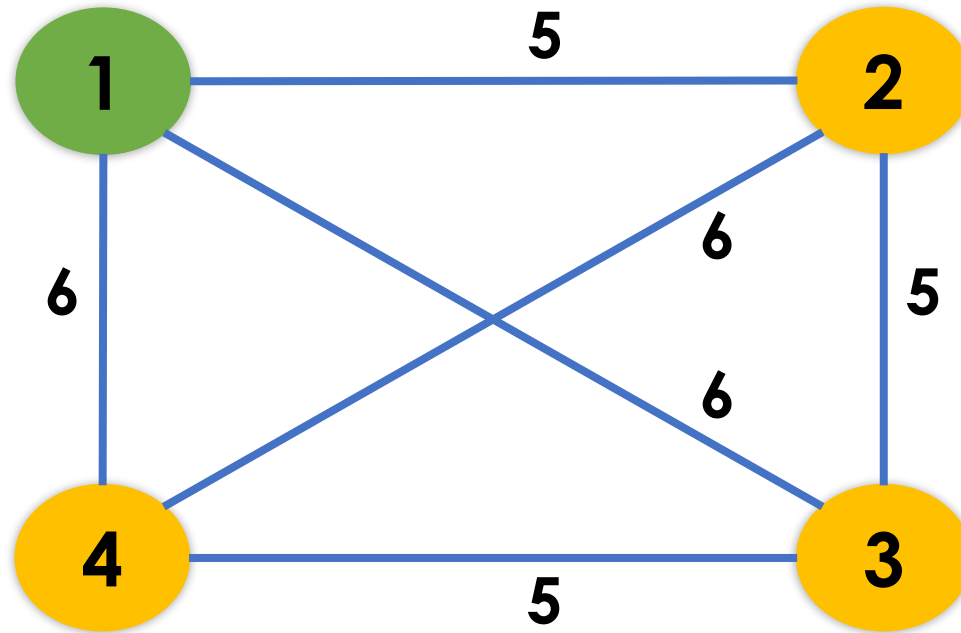
21

1 → 2 → 4 → 3 → 1

22

1 → 3 → 2 → 4 → 1

Is this the best possible tour for this graph?



1 → 2 → 3 → 4 → 1

21

1 → 2 → 4 → 3 → 1

22

1 → 3 → 2 → 4 → 1

23

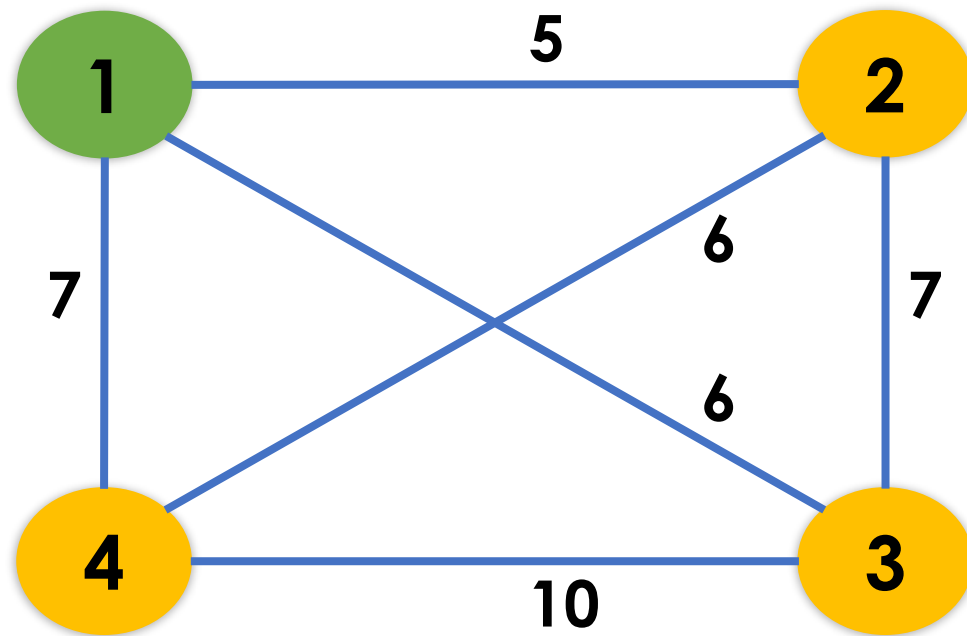
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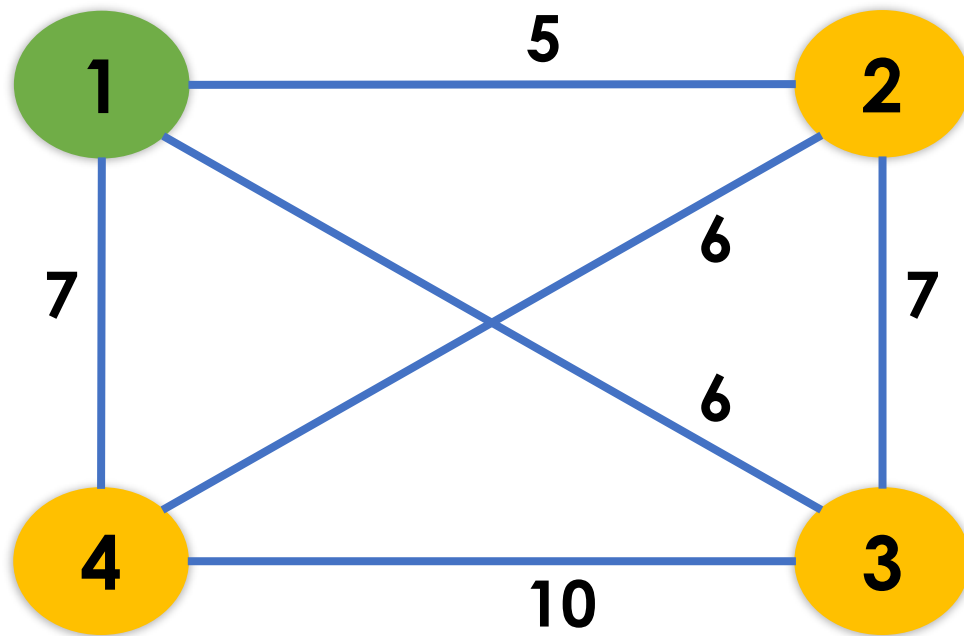
Greedy algorithm: pick best next choice

Will the greedy algorithm always work?

If yes, why?

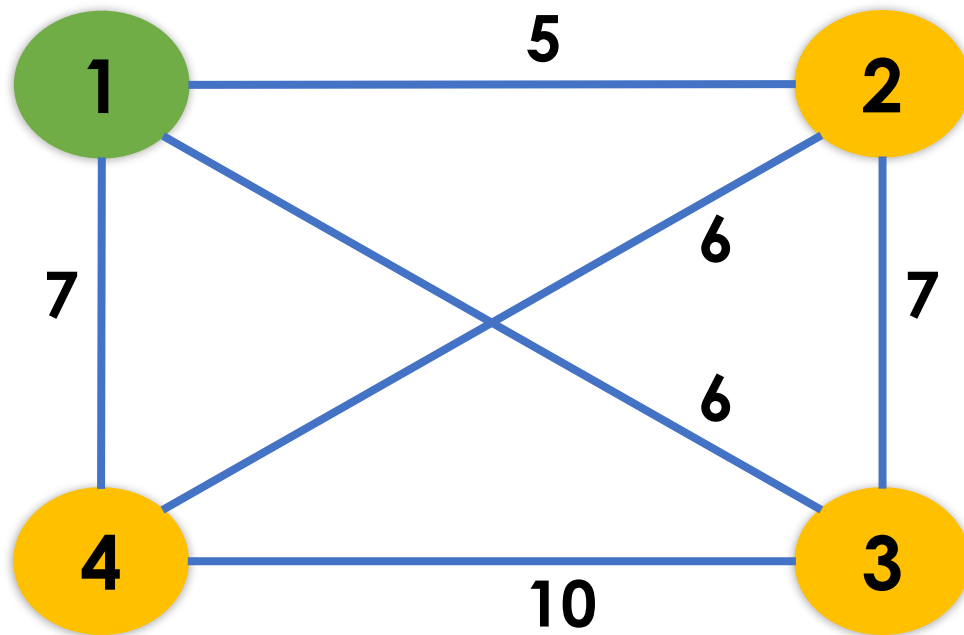
If no, find counterexample.





Greedy:

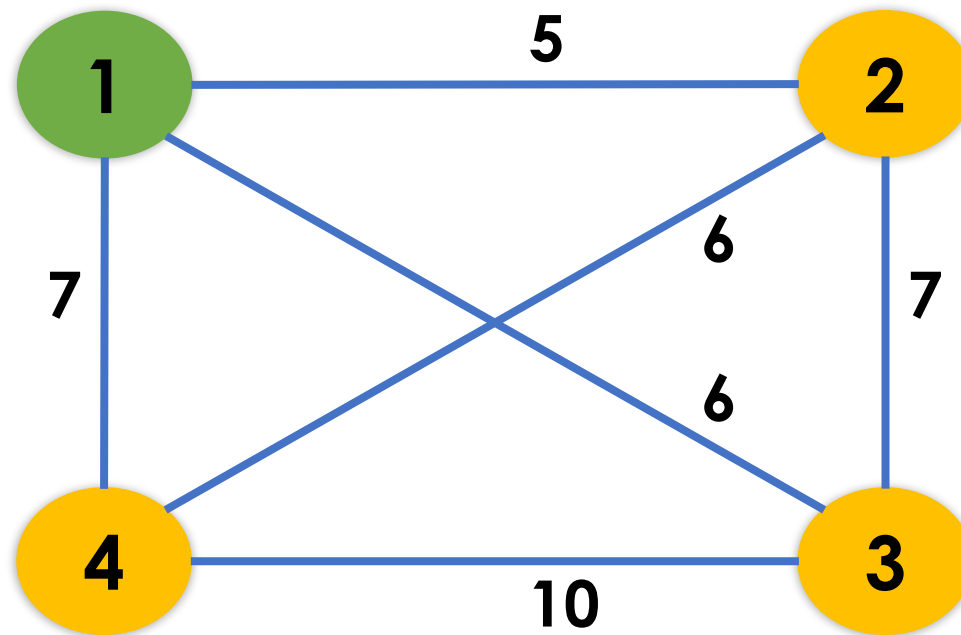
$1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 1$



Greedy:

$1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 1$

27

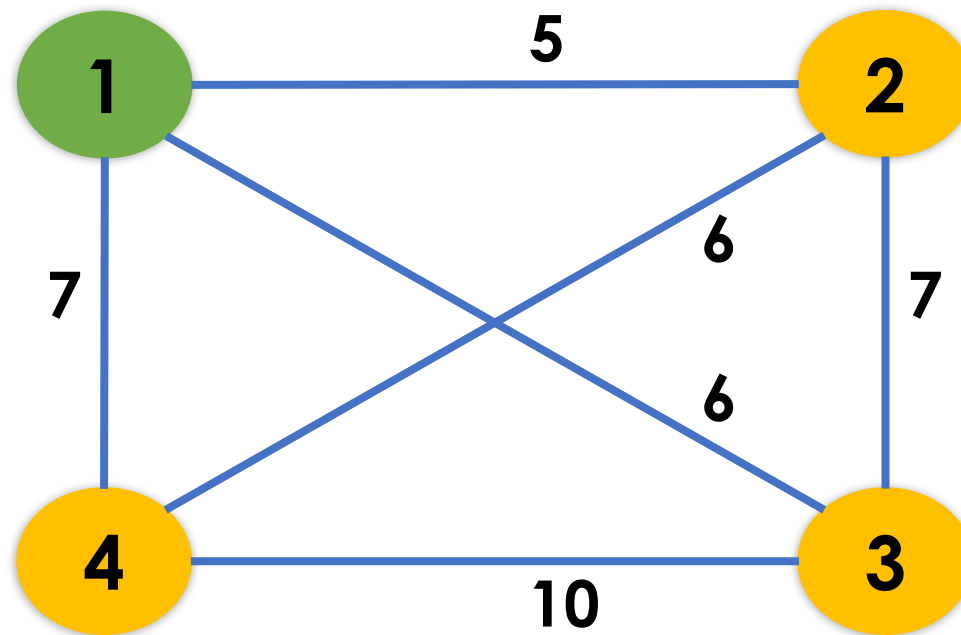


$1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1$

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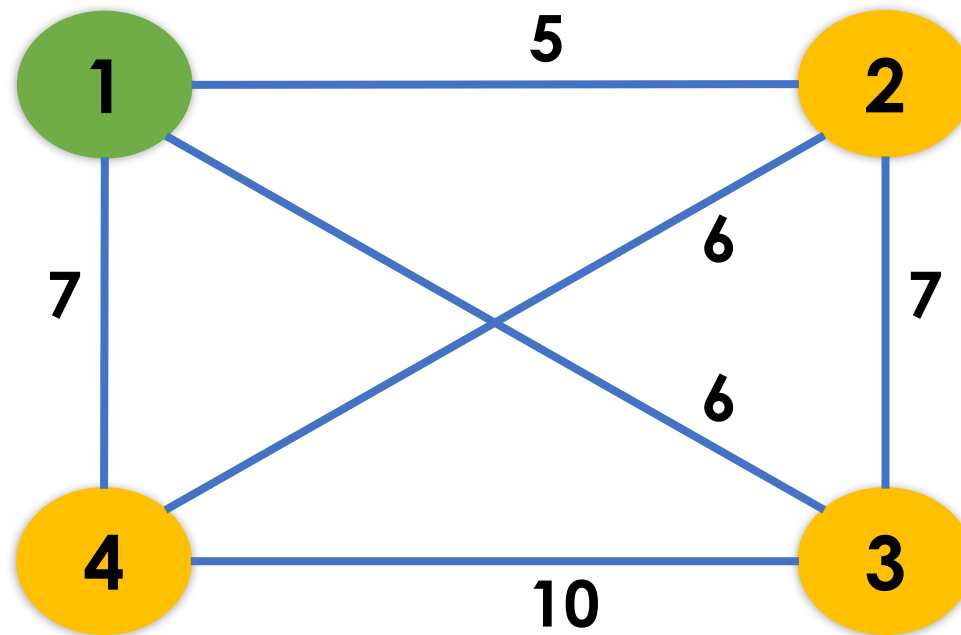
27



$1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1$ 29

$1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 1$ 27

$1 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1$



$1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1$	29
$1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 1$	27
$1 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1$	26