

# CS2040S – Data Structures and Algorithms

## Lecture 17 – Connecting People - MST

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# Outline

## Minimum Spanning Tree (MST)

- Motivating Example & Some Definitions

## Two Algorithms to solve MST (you have a choice!)

- Prim's (greedy algorithm with PriorityQueue)
  - PriorityQueue is discussed in Lecture 09
- Kruskal's (greedy algorithm, uses sorting and UFDS)
  - UFDS is discussed in Lecture 10

# Review

Definitions that we have learned before

- **Tree  $T$**

- $T$  is a **connected graph** that has  **$V$**  vertices and  **$V-1$**  edges
- Important: **One unique path between any two pair of vertices in  $T$**

- **Spanning Tree  $ST$  of connected graph  $G$**

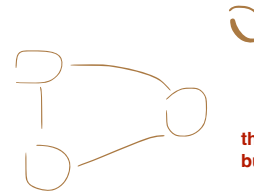
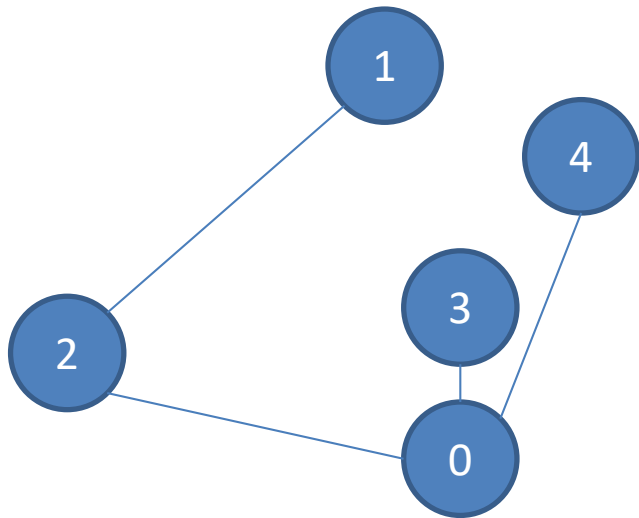
- **$ST$**  is a tree that spans (covers) every vertex in  **$G$**
- Recall the **BFS and DFS Spanning Tree**

# Is This A Tree?

1. Yes, why it is connected graph with  $v$  vertices and  $v-1$  edges

2. No, why \_\_\_\_\_

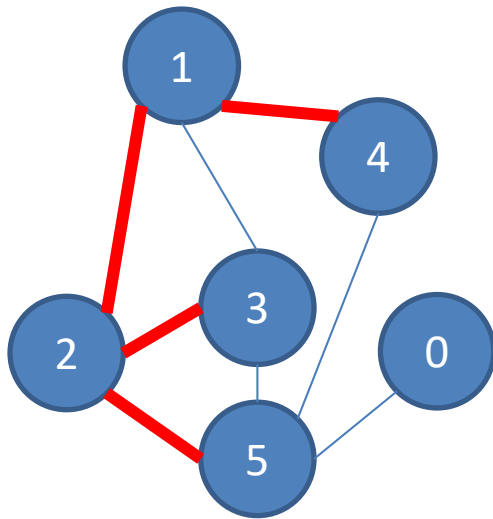
keyword is connected because we cannot just say  $v$  vertices and  $v-1$  edges



this also has  $v$  vertices and  $v-1$  edges  
but it is not a tree because it is NOT CONNECTED

Do the edges highlighted in red part form a spanning tree of the original graph?

1. Yes, why \_\_\_\_\_
2. No, why vertex 0 is disconnected from the rest



# Motivating Example

## Government Project

- Want to link rural villages with roads
- The cost to build a road depends on the terrain, etc
- You only have limited budget
- How are you going to build the roads?



# Definitions (1)

- Vertex set **V** (e.g. street intersections, houses, etc)
- Edge set **E** (e.g. streets, roads, avenues, etc)
  - Generally undirected (e.g. bidirectional road, etc)
  - Weighted (e.g. distance, time, toll, etc)
- Weight function  **$w(a, b): E \rightarrow R$** 
  - Sets the weight of edge from **a** to **b**
- **Weighted Graph G:  $G(V, E), w(a, b): E \rightarrow R$**
- **Connected** undirected graph **G**
  - There is a path from any vertex **a** to any other vertex **b** in **G**
- The graph **G** we're concerned with is **connected** **undirected** and **weighted** when dealing with **MST**

# More Definitions (2)

- Spanning Tree **ST** of connected undirected weighted graph **G**
  - Let **w(ST)**, weight of **ST**, denotes the total weight of edges in **ST**

$$w(ST) = \sum_{(a,b) \in ST} w(a,b)$$

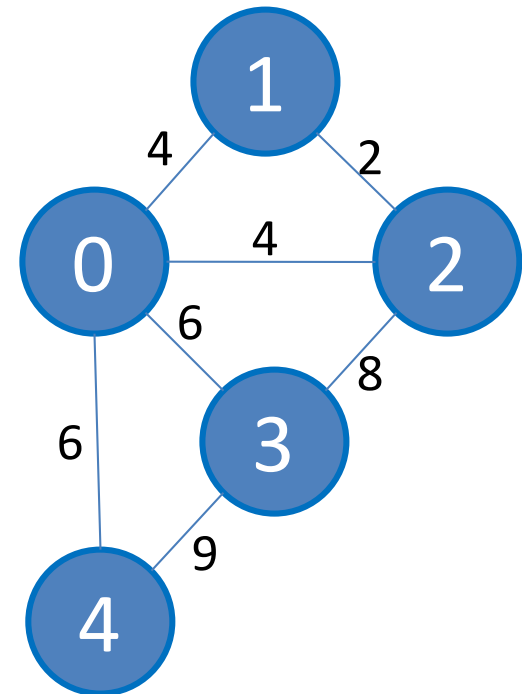
- **Minimum Spanning Tree (MST)** of connected undirected weighted graph **G**
  - **MST** of **G** is an **ST** of **G** with the minimum possible **w(ST)**



# More Definitions (3)

- **The (standard) MST Problem**

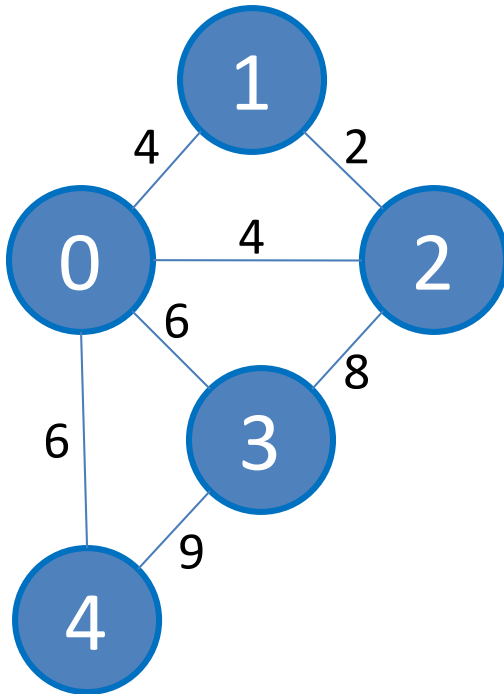
- Input: A connected undirected weighted graph  $G(V, E)$
- Select some edges of  $G$  such that the graph forms a spanning tree, but with minimum total weight
- Output: Minimum Spanning Tree (MST) of  $G$



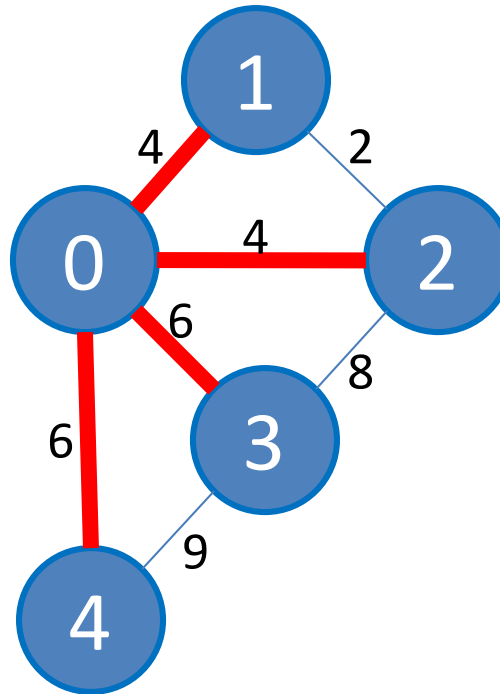
# Example

we only get multiple spanning trees if there are cycles  
cause we have alternative ways of getting to the same vertex

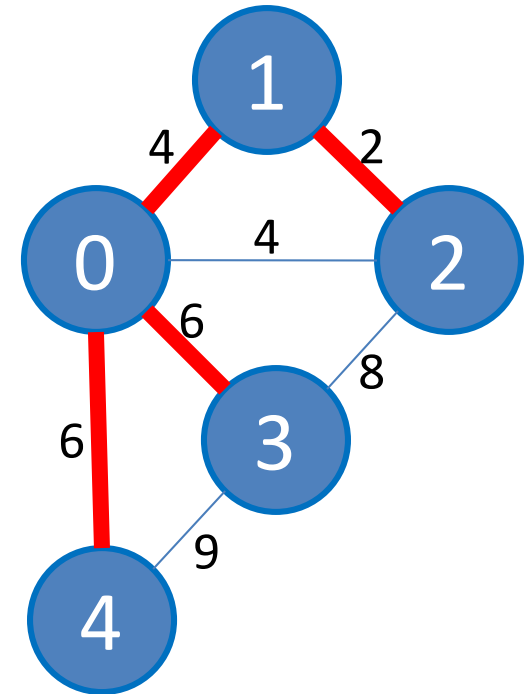
The Original Graph



A Spanning Tree  
Cost:  $4+4+6+6 = 20$

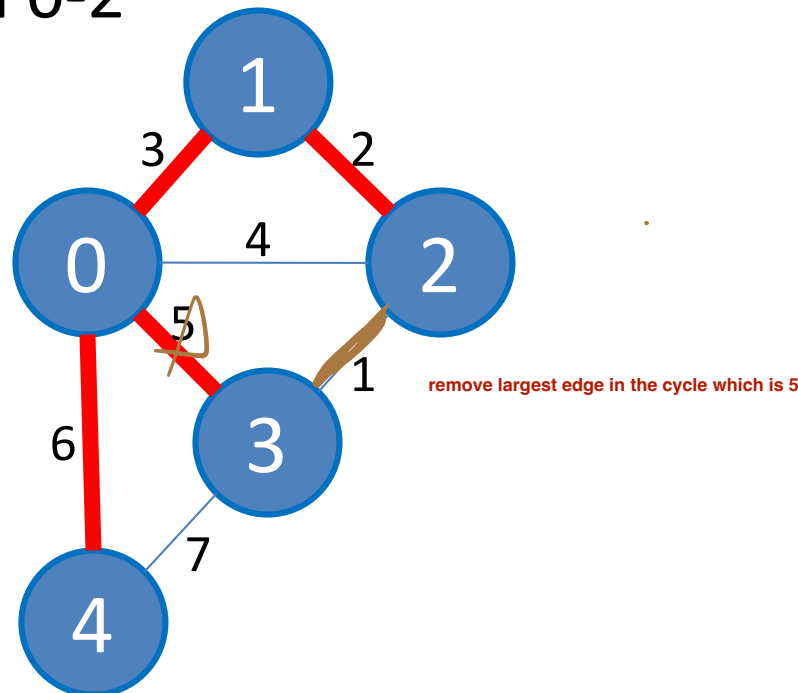


An MST  
Cost:  $4+6+6+2 = 18$



Do the edges highlighted in red part form an MST of the original graph?

1. No, we must replace edge 0-3 with edge 2-3
2. No, we must replace edge 1-2 with 0-2
3. Yes



# Brute force/Complete Search Solution?

- Consider all cycles in the graph and break them!
  - For each cycle remove the largest edge
  - If 1 or more edges in a cycle has already been removed previously move on to the next cycle
- Cycle property: For any cycle  $C$  in graph  $G(V,E)$ , if weight of an edge  $e$  is larger than every other edge in  $C$ ,  $e$  cannot be included in the MST of  $G(V,E)$  basically for each cycle remove the largest edge
- How to get all cycles in the graph?
  - Not so easy except for some special graphs ... (Can you think of a way to do this?)
  - Can have up to  $O(V!)$  different cycles!
  - Listing down one by one is slow !

# MST Algorithms

MST is a well-known Computer Science problem

Several efficient (polynomial) algorithms:

- Jarnik's/Prim's greedy algorithm
  - Uses PriorityQueue Data Structure taught in Lecture 09
- Kruskal's greedy algorithm
  - Uses Union-Find Data Structure taught in Lecture 10
- Boruvka's greedy algorithm (not discussed here)
- And a few more advanced variants/special cases...

# Do you still remember Prim's/Kruskal's algorithms from CS1231/S?

1. Yes and I also know how to ***implement*** them
2. Yes, but I have not try implementing them yet
3. I forgot that particular CS1231/S material... but I know it exists
4. Eh?? These two algorithms were covered before in CS1231/S??
5. I didn't take CS1231/S 😞

# Prim's Algorithm

## Very simple pseudo code

1.  $T \leftarrow \{s\}$ , a starting vertex  $s$  (usually vertex 0) pick a source vertex
2. enqueue edges connected to  $s$  (*only the other ending vertex and edge weight*) into a priority queue PQ PQ stores a pair(  $w(u,v)$  the weight of the edge  $uv$  and the other end of the edge  $V$ ) **min heap** that orders elements based on increasing weight  


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so we keep choosing the smallest weight edge
3. **while** there are unprocessed edges left in PQ  
 take out the front most edge  $e$   
**if** vertex  $v$  linked with this edge  $e$  is not taken yet if the VERTEX hasnt been included in the spanning tree yet  
 $T \leftarrow T \cup v$  (including this edge  $e$ ) add it to the spanning tree  
 enqueue each edge adjacent to  $v$  into the PQ if it is not already in T
4.  $T$  is an MST taken array prevents forming of cycles

# MST Algorithm: Prim's

Ask VisuAlgo to perform Prim's from various sources on the sample Graph (CP3 4.10), then try other graphs

In the screen shot below, we show the start of **Prim(0)**

The screenshot shows the VisuAlgo interface for Minimum Spanning Tree. The top bar displays the VisuAlgo logo and the title "MINIMUM SPANNING TREE" in Exploration Mode. The main area shows a graph with 5 nodes (0, 1, 2, 3, 4) and weighted edges. Node 0 is highlighted in green, indicating it is the source. The edges and their weights are: (0,1) weight 4, (0,2) weight 4, (0,3) weight 6, (0,4) weight 9, (1,2) weight 2, (2,3) weight 8, and (3,4) weight 6. A blue arrow points from the text "then try other graphs" to the "Sample Graphs" option in the left sidebar.

**Prim's Algorithm, starting from 0**

Add (4,1), (4,2), (6,3), (6,4) to the PQ.  
The PQ is now (4,1), (4,2), (6,3), (6,4).

```

T = {s}
enqueue edges connected to s in PQ by weight
while (!PQ.isEmpty)
    if (vertex v linked with e=PQ.remove is not in T)
        T = T U v, enqueue edges connected to v
    else ignore e
T is an MST
  
```

Left sidebar options: Draw Graph, Random Graph, Sample Graphs, Kruskal's Algo, Prim's Algo. Bottom buttons: 0, GO.



# Easy Java Implementation

You need to use two known Data Structures to be able to implement Prim's algorithm:

1. A priority queue **PQ** (we can use Java PriorityQueue), and
2. A boolean array **taken** (to decide if a vertex has been taken or not)

With these DSes, we can run Prim's in  **$O(E \log V)$**  using Adjacency list

Max size of PQ is  $O(E)$

- We only process each edge once (enqueue and dequeue it),  **$O(E)$** 
  - Each time, we enqueue/dequeue from a PQ in  $O(\log E)$  enq/deq takes  $\log E$  time
  - As  $E = O(V^2)$ , we have  $O(\log E) = O(\log V^2) = O(2 \log V) = O(\log V)$
  - Total time  $O(E) * O(\log V) = O(E \log V)$   $E$  can range from  $O(V)$  for a tree to  $O(V^2)$  for a complete graph

Let's have a quick look at PrimDemo.java

# Why Does Prim's Work? (1)

First, we have to realize that **Prim's algorithm** is a **greedy algorithm**

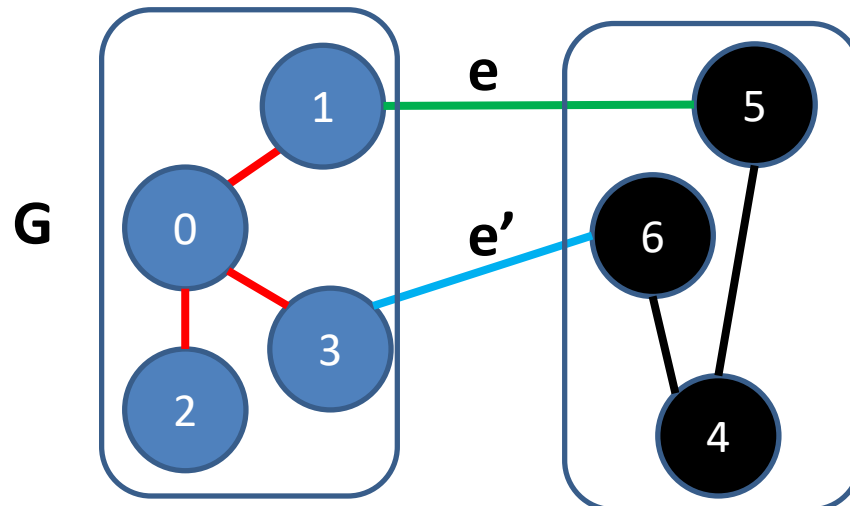
This is because **at each step**, it always try to select the next valid edge  $e$  with **minimal weight** (greedy!)

Greedy algorithm is usually simple to implement

- However, it usually requires “proof of correctness”
- Here, we will just see a quick proof

# Cut Property of a Connected Graph $G$

- **Cut of a connected graph:** any partition of vertices of  $G$  into 2 disjoint subset (vertices in one set is not in the other). An example is shown below.
- **Cut Set:** The set of edges that cross a cut ( $e$  and  $e'$  in the example)
- **Cut Property of a connected graph:** For any cut of the graph, if the weight of an edge  $e$  in the cut-set is strictly smaller than the weights of other edges of the Cut Set, then  $e$  belongs to all MSTs of the graph.



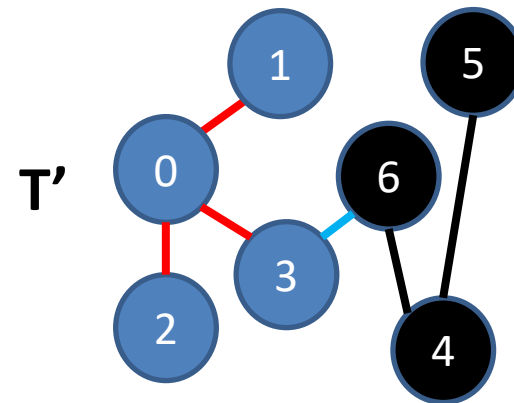
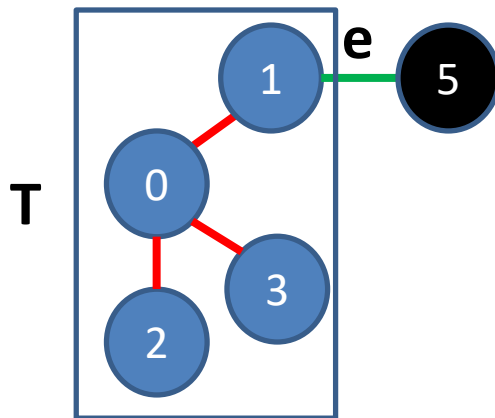
use the smallest edge in the cut set to link two disjoint sets that are already msts

# Why Does Prim's Work? (2)

with visual explanation

Proof by contradiction:

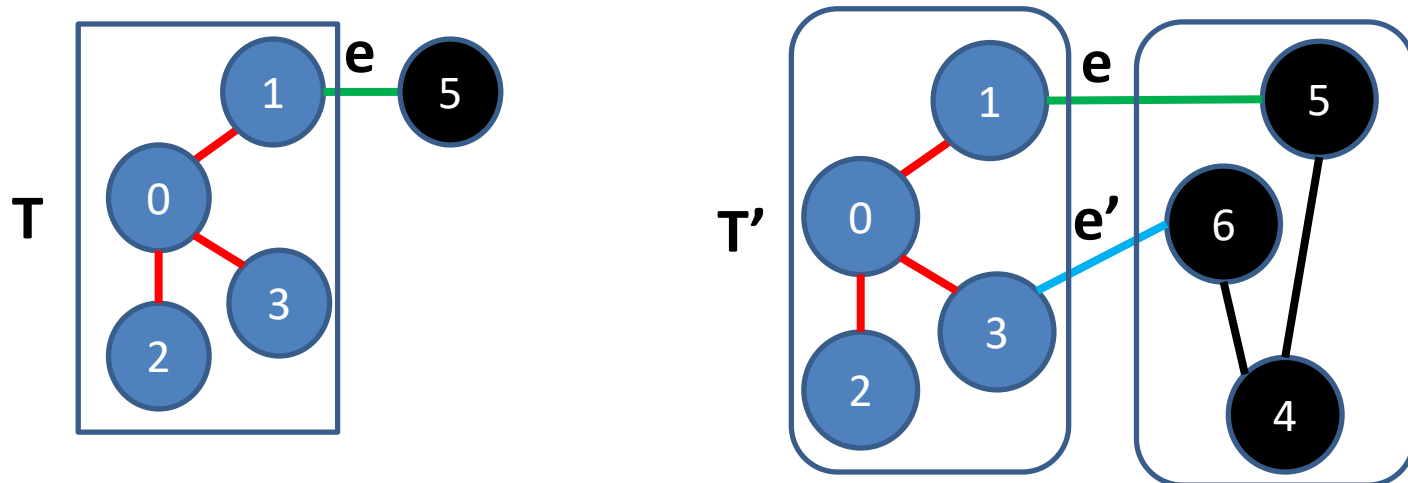
- Assume that edge  $e$  is the first edge at iteration  $k$  chosen by Prim's which is not in any valid MST.
- Let  $T$  be the tree generated by Prim's before adding  $e$ .
- Now  $T$  must be a subtree of some valid MST  $T'$



# Why Does Prim's Work? (3)

with visual explanation

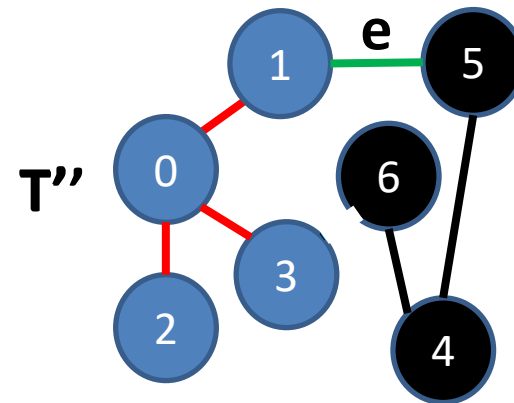
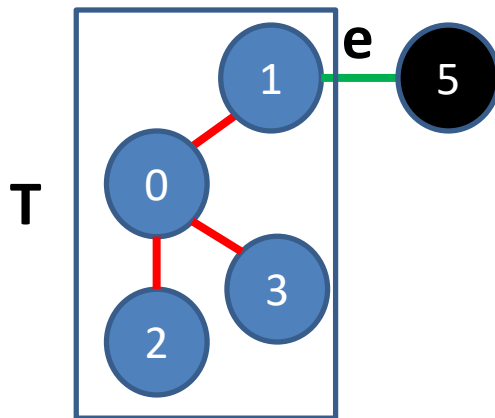
- Adding edge  $e$  to  $T'$  will now create a cycle.
- Since  $e$  has 1 endpoint in  $T$  (the valid endpoint) and one endpoint outside  $T$ , trace around this cycle in  $T'$  until we get to some edge  $e'$  that goes back to  $T$
- Vertices of  $T$  (blue) and vertices outside  $T$  (black) forms 2 disjoint subsets of  $T'$ . This is a cut of  $T'$ , where  $\{e, e'\}$  is the cut set



# Why Does Prim's Work? (4)

with visual explanation

- By Prim's algorithm  $\mathbf{e}$  and  $\mathbf{e}'$  must be candidate edges at iteration  $k$ , but  $\mathbf{e}$  was chosen meaning  $w(\mathbf{e}) \leq w(\mathbf{e}')$  by the **cut property**
- Now replacing  $\mathbf{e}'$  with  $\mathbf{e}$  in  $\mathbf{T}'$  must give us tree  $\mathbf{T}''$  covering all vertices of the graph s.t  $w(\mathbf{T}'') \leq w(\mathbf{T}')$
- Contradiction that  $\mathbf{e}$  is first edge chosen wrongly



# \*Prim's variant for Dense Graphs (1)

if sparse graph,  $E = O(V)$ ,  $O(V \log V)$

- For dense graphs where  $E = O(V^2)$ , time complexity of Prim's is  $O(E \log V) = \mathbf{O(V^2 \log V)}$
- We can improve this time complexity .... ironically by replacing the PQ with a simple array **A** of size V
  - For each **A[v]**, store a pair info  $\langle w(u,v), u \rangle$  of the smallest weighted edge (u,v) to v among all edges to v that has been explored as Prim's is executed
  - *Why only track the smallest weighted explored edge to a vertex v?* because we want MST

*\*this variant is not in Visualgo*

# Prim's variant for Dense Graphs (2)

Pseudo code is as follows

1. Initialize  $A[v] = \langle +\infty, v \rangle$  for all  $v$  make edge weight inf
2.  $A[s] = \langle 0, s \rangle$
3. While not all vertices are in  $T$  find edge with min weight
  - Scan  $A$  to get  $v$  where  $A[v].\text{first}$  is minimum in  $A$
  - $T \leftarrow T \cup v$  and the adjoining edge
  - set edge weight back to inf because we dont want to deq it again  $A[v] = \langle +\infty, A[v].\text{second} \rangle$  // will not choose it again
  - for all  $u$  adjacent to  $v$  // all neighbors of v
    - if ( $u$  is not in  $T$  &&  $A[u].\text{first} > w(v, u)$ )
    - $A[u] = \langle w(v, u), v \rangle$  if we find a smaller edge, make it the new edge to traverse
4.  $T$  is an MST



# Prim's variant for Dense Graphs (3)

## Time complexity of Prim's variant for dense graphs

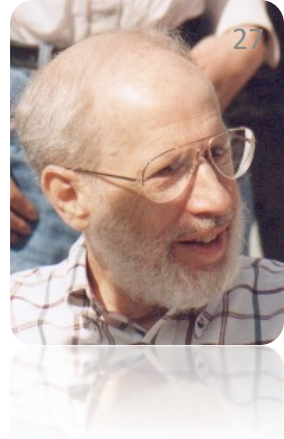
1. Initialize  $A[v] = \langle +\infty, v \rangle$  for all  $v$
2.  $A[s] = \langle 0, s \rangle$
3. While not all vertices are in  $T$  //  $O(V)$  iterations
  - scan  $A$  to get  $v$  where  $A[v].\text{first}$  is minimum in  $A$  //  $O(V)$
  - $T \leftarrow T \cup v$  and the adjoining edge
  - $A[v] = \langle +\infty, A[v].\text{second} \rangle$
  - for all  $u$  adjacent to  $v$  //  $O(V)$  due to  $O(V)$  neighbors
    - if ( $u$  is not in  $T$  &&  $A[u].\text{first} > w(v, u)$ )
    - $A[u] = \langle w(v, u), v \rangle$
4.  $T$  is an MST

always takes  $O(V^2)$  time regardless if  
its sparse or dense graph

Total Time Complexity =  **$O(V^2)$** , better than  $O(V^2 \log V)$  for  
standard Prim's algorithm

Coming up next: Kruskal's algorithm

# Kruskal's Algorithm



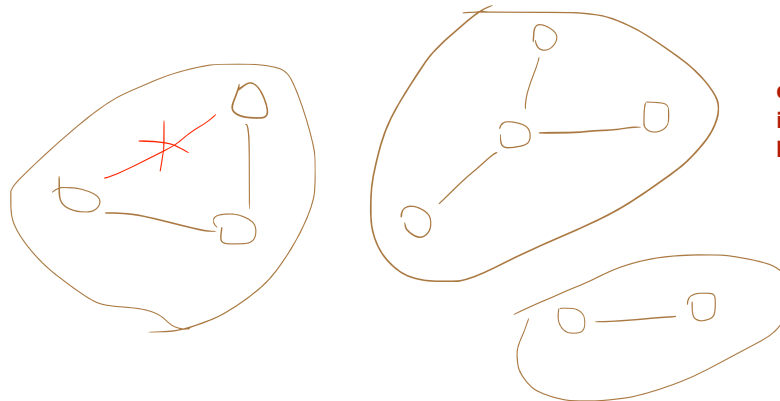
## Very simple pseudo code

sort the set of  $E$  edges by increasing weight  
 $T \leftarrow \{\}$   
**while** there are unprocessed edges left  
    pick an unprocessed edge  $e$  with min cost  
    **if** adding  $e$  to  $T$  does not form a cycle  
        add  $e$  to  $T$   
 $T$  is an MST

best graph data structure to store the graph is edge list because it gives us all the edges and we can sort it in increasing order

simply go down the edge list since it is already sorted

kruskal's works by forming a forest of trees by picking out the overall smallest edges so it forms a cycle when the two vertices it links are in the same component/subtree



can represent each subtree as a disjoint set if they are in the same set, don't add the edge but if not, we can add the edge to the disjoint set

# Kruskal's Implementation (1)



```
sort the set of E edges by increasing weight //  $O(?)$   
T  $\leftarrow \{\}$  ElogE  
merge sort  
while there are unprocessed edges left //  $O(E)$   
    pick an unprocessed edge e with min cost //  $O(?)$   $O(E)$   
    if adding e to T does not form a cycle //  $O(?)$   $O(\alpha(E))$   
        add e to the T //  $O(1)$  use UFDS find set operation  
T is an MST  
Total time complexity ElogE
```

To sort the edges:

- We use **EdgeList** to store graph information
- Then use “any” sorting algorithm that we have seen before

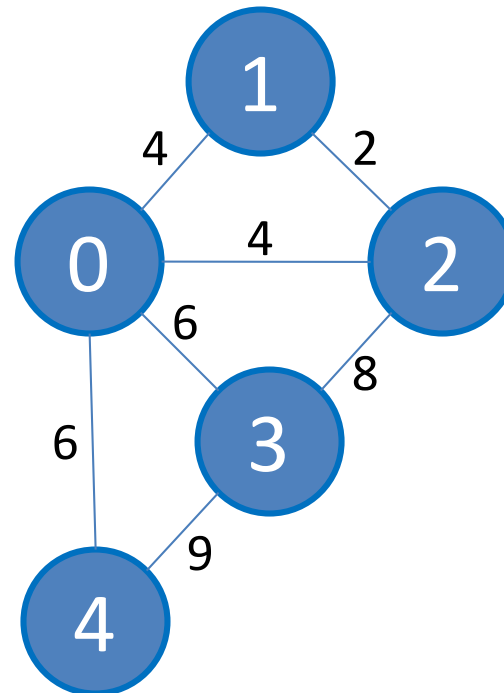
To test for cycles:

- We use **Union-Find Disjoint Sets**

# Sorting Edges in Edge List

Adjacency Matrix/List that we have learned previously are *not suitable* for edge-sorting task!

To sort **EdgeList**, we use *one liner* **Java Collections.sort ...**



i	w	u	v
0	2	1	2
1	4	0	1
2	4	0	2
3	6	0	3
4	6	0	4
5	8	2	3
6	9	3	4

# MST Algorithm: Kruskal's

Ask VisuAlgo to perform Kruskal's on the sample Graph (CP3 4.10), then try other graphs

In the screen shot below, we show the start of **Kruskal**  
(there is no parameter for this algorithm)

The screenshot displays the VisuAlgo interface for Minimum Spanning Tree algorithms. The top bar shows '7 VISUALGO MINIMUM SPANNING TREE' and 'Exploration Mode'. On the left, a menu lists 'Draw Graph', 'Random Graph', 'Sample Graphs', 'Kruskal's Algo' (highlighted), and 'Prim's Algo'. The central area shows a graph with 5 nodes (0, 1, 2, 3, 4) and weighted edges. Nodes 1 and 2 are green, indicating they are part of the current tree. Edges (1,2) with weight 2 and (0,2) with weight 4 are highlighted in green. Other edges include (0,1) with weight 4, (0,3) with weight 6, (3,4) with weight 6, (3,2) with weight 8, and (0,4) with weight 9. On the right, the 'Kruskal's Algorithm' section shows the following steps: 'Adding edge (1,2) with weight 2 does not form a cycle, so add it to T. The current weight of T is 2.', 'Sort E edges by increasing weight', 'T = empty set', 'for (i=0; i<edgeList.length; i++)', 'if adding e=edgeList[i] does not form a cycle', 'add e to T', 'else ignore e', and 'T is an MST'. A blue arrow points from the text 'then try other graphs' to the 'Sample Graphs' menu item.

7 VISUALGO MINIMUM SPANNING TREE Exploration Mode ▾

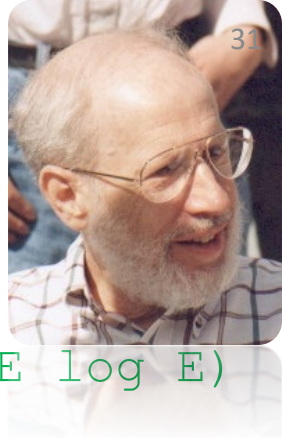
Draw Graph  
Random Graph  
Sample Graphs  
Kruskal's Algo  
Prim's Algo

Kruskal's Algorithm

Adding edge (1,2) with weight 2 does not form a cycle, so add it to T. The current weight of T is 2.

```
Sort E edges by increasing weight
T = empty set
for (i=0; i<edgeList.length; i++)
    if adding e=edgeList[i] does not form a cycle
        add e to T
    else ignore e
T is an MST
```

# Kruskal's Implementation (2)



```
sort the set of E edges by increasing weight //  $O(E \log E)$ 
T  $\leftarrow \{\}$ 
while there are unprocessed edges left //  $O(E)$ 
    pick an unprocessed edge e with min cost //  $O(1)$ 
    if adding e to T does not form a cycle //  $O(\alpha(V)) = O(1)$ 
        add e to the T //  $O(1)$ 
T is an MST
```

To sort the edges, we need  $O(E \log E)$

To test for cycles, we need  $O(\alpha(V))$  – small, assume constant  $O(1)$

In overall

- Kruskal's runs in  $O(E \log E + E \alpha(V))$  //  $E \log E$  dominates!
- As  $E = O(V^2)$ , thus Kruskal's runs in  $O(E \log V^2) = O(E \log V)$

Let's have a quick look at KruskalDemo.java

# Why Does Kruskal's Work? (1)

**Kruskal's algorithm** is also a **greedy algorithm**

Because **at each step**, it always try to select the next unprocessed edge **e** with **minimal weight** (greedy!)

Simple proof on how this greedy strategy works

- Almost the same as that for Prim's

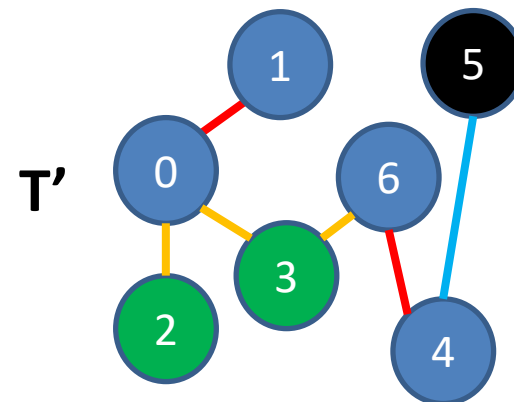
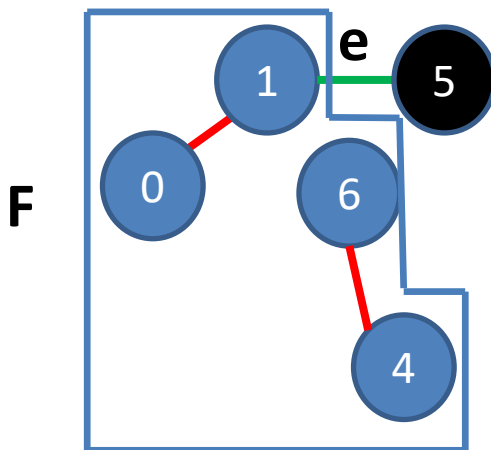


# Why Does Kruskal's Work? (2)

with visual explanation

Proof by contradiction:

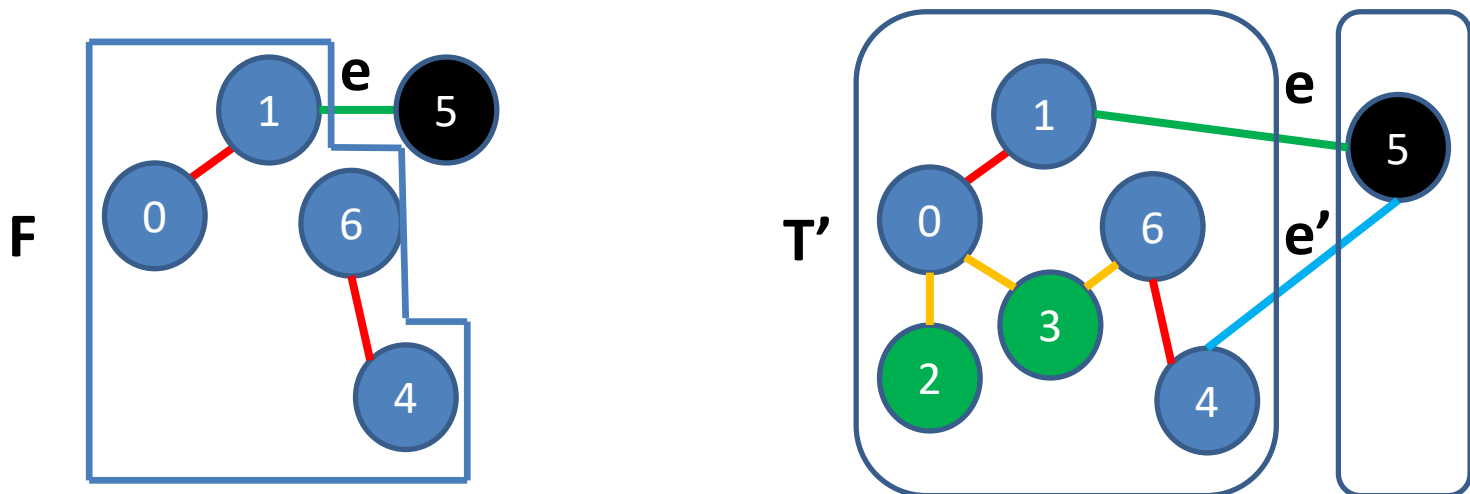
- Assume that edge **e** is the first edge at iteration k chosen by Kruskal's which is not in any valid MST.
- Let **F** be the forest generated by Kruskal's before adding **e**.
- Now **F** must be a part of some valid MST **T'**



# Why Does Kruskal's Work? (3)

with visual explanation

- Putting  $e$  into  $T'$  will create a cycle.
- Tracing the cycle, let  $V'$  be the set of vertices encountered in the cycle that is outside of  $F$  {only 5 in the example}, where  $e'$  is the edge leading back into  $F$
- We can create a cut of  $T'$  where the 2 partitions are {all vertices except  $V'$ } ({0,1,2,3,4,6} in the example) and  $V'$  ({5} in the example), and the cut set is  $\{e, e'\}$  in the example

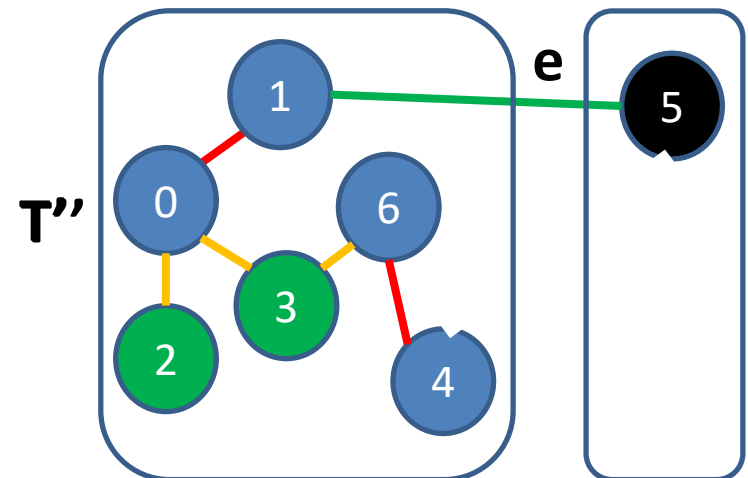
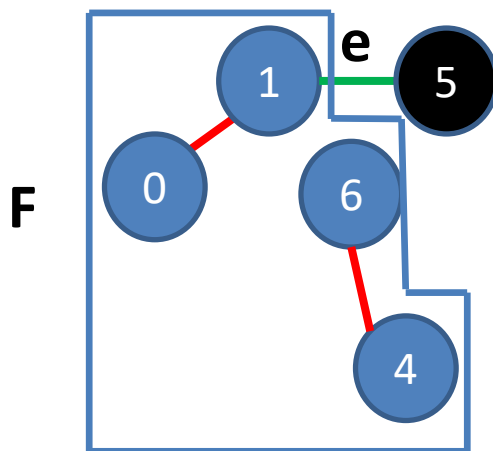


# Why Does Kruskal's Work? (4)

with visual explanation

- At iteration  $k$ , both  $e$  and  $e'$  are candidate (they are not chosen and do not form a cycle if chosen).
- Since  $e$  was chosen,  $w(e) \leq w(e')$  by the **cut property**
- Now replacing  $e'$  with  $e$  in  $T'$  must give us tree  $T''$  covering all vertices of the graph s.t  $w(T'') \leq w(T')$
- Contradiction that  $e$  is first edge chosen wrongly

meaning every edge chosen by kruskal's must be part of the mst



# If given an MST problem, I will...

1. Use/code Kruskal's algorithm
2. Use/code Prim's algorithm if graph very dense, use prims variant
3. No preference...

# Summary

Introduce the MST problem (covered briefly in CS1231/S)

Discuss 2 algorithms

- Prim's algorithm (uses PriorityQueue ADT) & a variant for dense graphs where  $E=O(V^2)$  (uses an array instead of PQ)
- Kruskal's algorithm (uses Edge List and UFDS)
- Can view the above 2 algorithms as making use of the Cut Property as opposed to the Cycle Property to construct the MST of any given connected weighted graph

You *may* learn MST/Prim's/Kruskal's again in CS3230