

Introduction to Algorithms

Lecture 11 Minimum Spanning Trees

Xue Chen

xuechen1989@ustc.edu.cn

2025 spring in

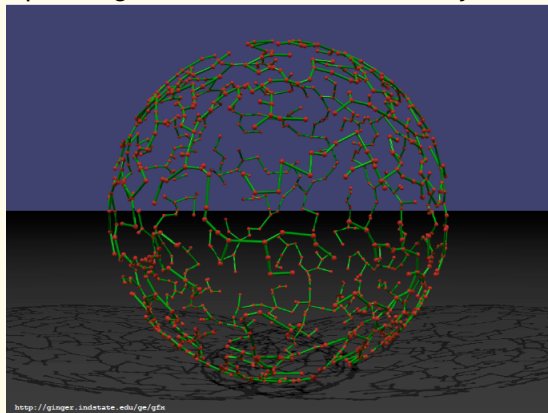


Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Basic Properties
- 3 Prim's Algorithm
- 4 Kruskal's Algorithm
- 5 Data Structures for Disjoint Sets

Overview

Spanning trees are fundamental objects in graph theory

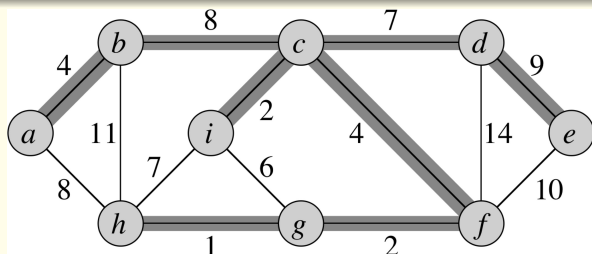


- 1 Connectivity: DFS/BFS trees
- 2 Single Source Shortest Paths Tree
- 3 Today: **Minimum Spanning Trees**
- 4 More: trees for cut, ...

Problem Description

Minimum Spanning Tree (MST)

Give a undirected & weighted graph G , define the weight of a tree T to be the sum of all weights on its edges. The goal is to find a Tree with minimum weight.



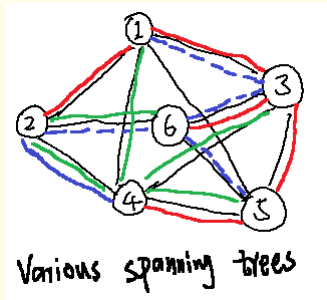
- 1 Network Design: Traffic, electrical, ...
- 2 Algorithm Design: traveling salesman prob, Steiner tree, ...

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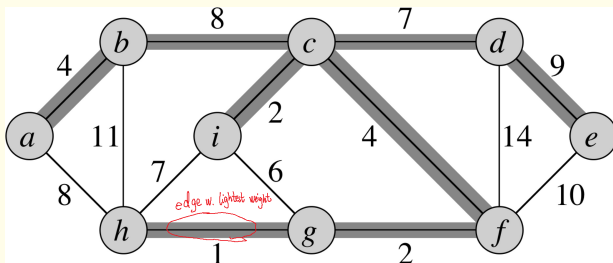
Basic Properties of Trees

- 1 Spanning tree is a **minimal way** to connect a graph
- 2 Remove a cycle edge can **not** disconnect a graph
- 3 A tree on n nodes has $n - 1$ edges
- 4 Any **connected** graph $G = (V, E)$ with $|E| = |V| - 1$ is a tree
- 5 A connected graph is a tree iff \exists a **unique** path between any two nodes



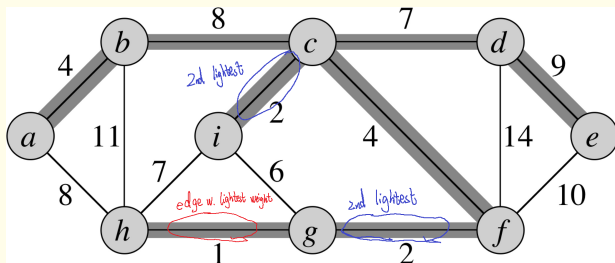
Cut Property

- ① True or False: If \exists a unique edge e with the lightest weight, e is in any MST.



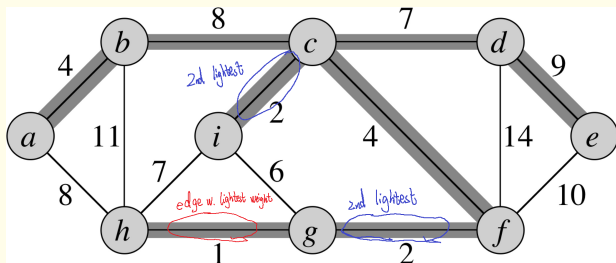
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- 2 Question: So (h, g) is always in MST, how about 2nd lightest edges (i, c) and (g, f) ?



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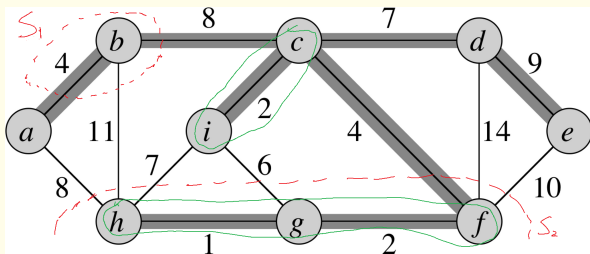
Greedy method in Theorem 23.1 of CLRS

Let A be a subset of edges that is included in some MST. Pick any cut (S, \bar{S}) such that S and \bar{S} are NOT connected by edges in A .

Then for any lightest edge e on $S \times \bar{S}$, \exists a MST that contains e .

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- 2 Kruskal's Algorithm: Add an edge e and check $A \cup \{e\}$ has a cycle or not.

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Overview

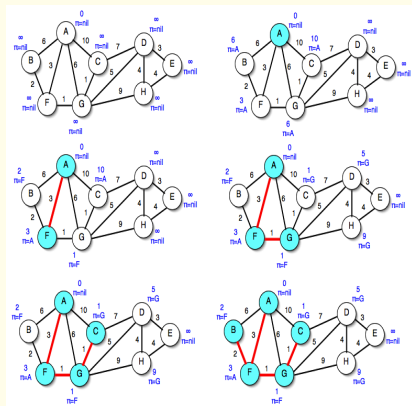
Based on the cut property, consider a greedy method to grow a tree S :

- 1 Start from $S = \{\text{root}\}$ and add a neighbor with the lightest **crossing edge to** S every time

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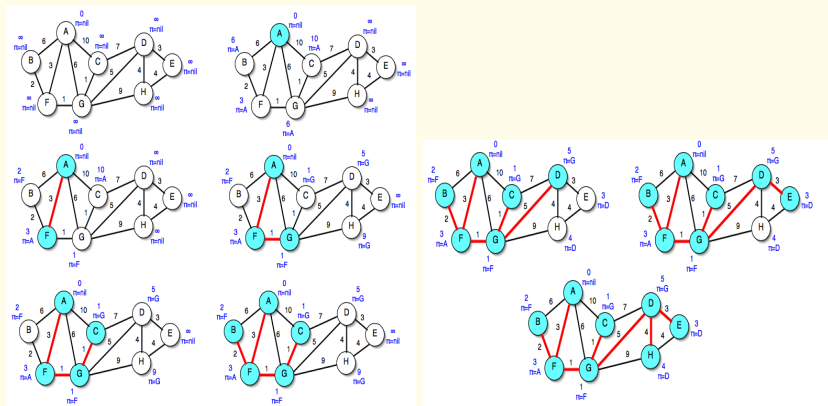
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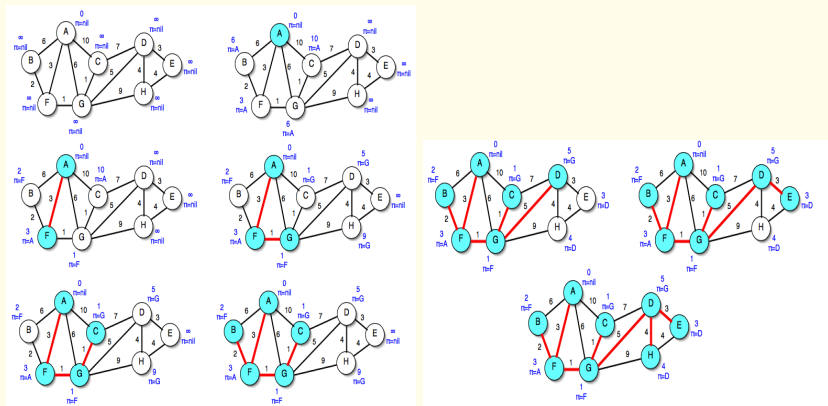
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Overview

Based on the cut property, consider a greedy method to grow a tree S :

- 1 Start from $S = \{\text{root}\}$ and add a neighbor with the lightest **crossing edge** to S every time
- 2 Use a heap to maintain the lightest cross edge to v for every $v \notin S$



- ① $u.key := \min_{v \in S} w(u, v)$ for $u \notin S$
- ② $u.\pi$ denotes its argmin (as its father in MST)
- ③ Q maintains \overline{S} according to $u.key$

MST-PRIM(G, w, r)

```
1  for each  $u \in G.V$ 
2       $u.key = \infty$ 
3       $u.\pi = \text{NIL}$ 
4   $r.key = 0$ 
5   $Q = G.V$ 
6  while  $Q \neq \emptyset$ 
7       $u = \text{EXTRACT-MIN}(Q)$ 
8      for each  $v \in G.Adj[u]$ 
9          if  $v \in Q$  and  $w(u, v) < v.key$ 
10              $v.\pi = u$ 
11              $v.key = w(u, v)$ 
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Time Complexity

$O(m \log n)$: Each vertex will be extracted once; so every edge will make **at most one** change in the heap

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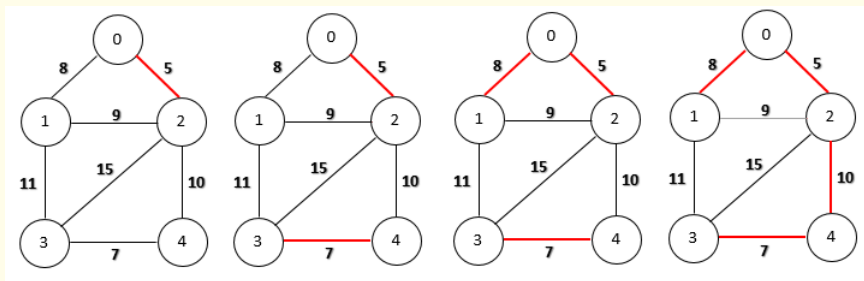
An alternate greedy approach:

- 1 Maintain a set of edges A (the same one in THM 23.1 in [CLRS](#))
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Description

MST-KRUSKAL(G, w)

```
1   $A = \emptyset$ 
2  for each vertex  $v \in G.V$ 
3      MAKE-SET( $v$ )
4  sort the edges of  $G.E$  into nondecreasing order by weight  $w$ 
5  for each edge  $(u, v) \in G.E$ , taken in nondecreasing order by weight
6      if  $\text{FIND-SET}(u) \neq \text{FIND-SET}(v)$ 
7           $A = A \cup \{(u, v)\}$ 
8          UNION( $u, v$ )
9  return  $A$ 
```

Example: Pseudo-code from CLRS

Time Complexity

$\text{SORT}(m \text{ edges}) + n \times \text{UNION} + m \times \text{FIND-SET}$

Next: Disjoint sets supports UNION and FIND-SET in almost **constant time**: RADIX-SORT + Disjoint sets is faster than $O(m \log n)$

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Introduction

A data structure for disjoint sets: For a fixed ground set, support 3 operations

- 1 MAKE-SET(x): create a new set $\{x\}$ for element x
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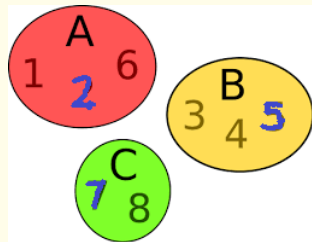
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A data structure for disjoint sets: For a fixed ground set, support 3 operations

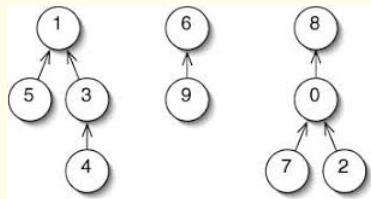
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Applications

Maintenance of connected components in graphs and maps, equivalence relation, least-common ancestors problem, ...

Implementation



Maintain those **sets as trees**

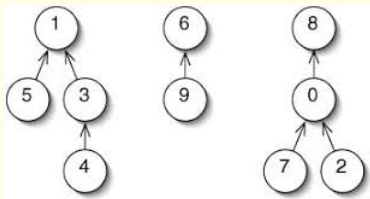
① Root is **the unique representation**

② Question:

How to implement MAKE-SET and FIND-SET?

How about UNION operation?

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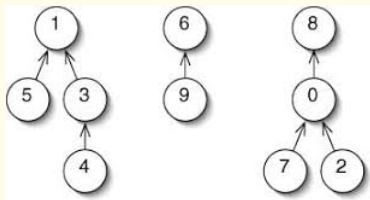
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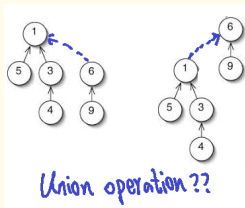
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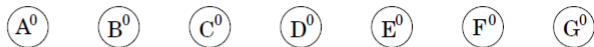
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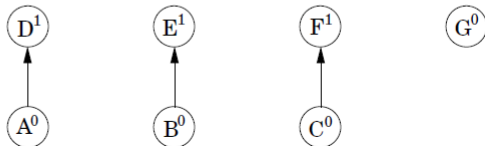
Rank of elements

To maintain heights, define a **rank** for each element:

After `makeset(A), makeset(B), ..., makeset(G)`:



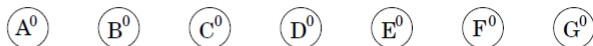
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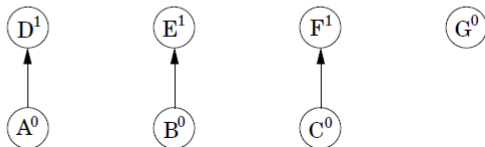
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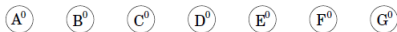
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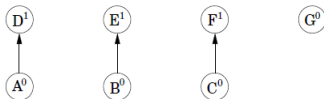
UNION(x, y)

- 1 Let r_x and r_y be their representatives
- 2 If $rank(r_x) > rank(r_y)$: $\pi(r_y) = r_x$
- 3 Else: $\pi(r_x) = r_y$ and Update $rank(r_y)$ to $\max\{rank(r_y), rank(r_x) + 1\}$

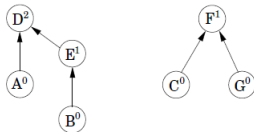
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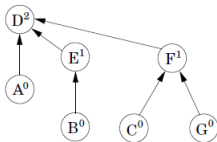
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After $\text{union}(B, G)$:



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- ① For any non-root x , $rank(\pi(x)) > rank(x)$
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A Small trick improves time significantly

Path compression: In FIND-SET, set $\pi(x)$ to be the root for all x on the path

Formal Description

function FIND-SET(x)

if $\pi(x) \neq x$ **then**

$\pi(x) = \text{FIND-SET}(\pi(x))$

return $\pi(x)$

// x is not a root

// Path Compression Trick

procedure MAKE-SET(x)

$\pi(x) = x$ and $\text{rank}(x) = 0$

procedure UNION-SET(x, y)

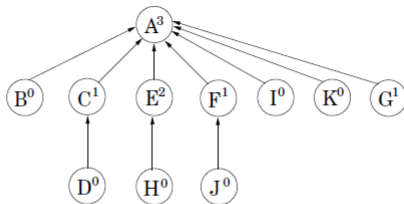
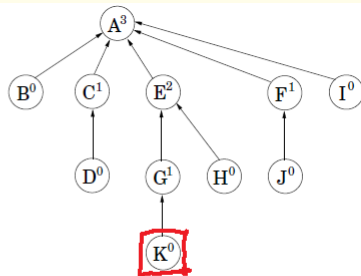
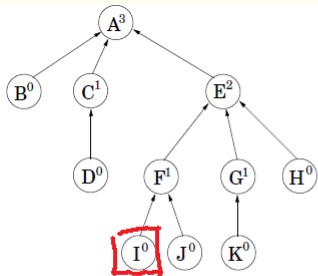
$r_x = \text{FIND-SET}(x)$ and $r_y = \text{FIND-SET}(y)$

if $\text{rank}(r_x) > \text{rank}(r_y)$ **then**

$\pi(r_y) = r_x$

else

$\pi(r_x) = r_y$ and $\text{rank}(r_y) = \max\{\text{rank}(r_y), \text{rank}(r_x) + 1\}$



Find(I) followed by Find(k)

Amortized Analysis

Let $\log^* n$ be number of log operations that bring n down to 1,
e.g., $\log^* 1000 = 4$ and $\log^* 2^{65536} = 5$

THM: Running time of Disjoint Sets

Amortized time of m FIND-SET operations is $O(m + n) \cdot \log^* n$.

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- 1 Consider those ranks— path compression does not affect their ranks
- 2 Divide all ranks into $\log^* n + O(1)$ intervals:

$\leftarrow \log^* n \text{ intervals} \rightarrow$

$$\{1\}, \{2\}, \{3, 4\}, \{5, 6, \dots, 16\}, \{17, \dots, 2^{16} = 65536\}, \{65537, \dots\}, \dots$$

$\leq \frac{n}{2} \text{ nodes}, \leq \frac{n}{4}, \dots, \leq \frac{n}{32} + \dots + \frac{n}{2^{16}} \text{ nodes}, \dots$

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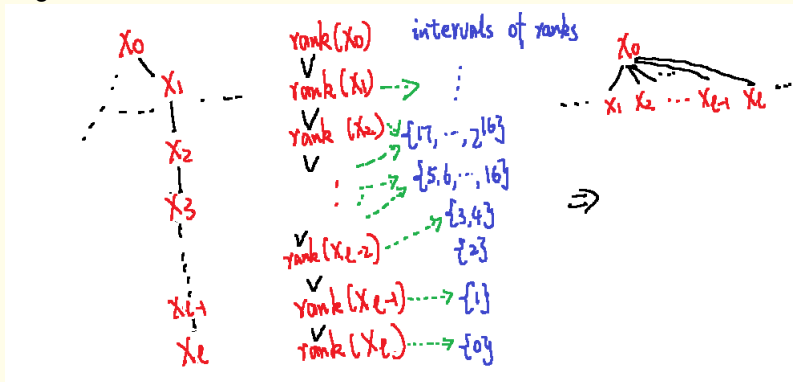
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 $\leq \frac{n}{2}$ nodes, $\leq \frac{n}{4}$, \dots , $\leq \frac{n}{32} + \dots + \frac{n}{2^{16}}$ nodes, \dots

(Handwritten notes: red arrows pointing to the intervals, labeled $\log^ n$ intervals)*

- 3 Amortized analysis with accounting method: For each x whose rank $\in [k + 1, \dots, 2^k]$, assign a budget 2^k — total budget $= n \cdot \log^* n$
- 4 Next: $m \cdot \log^* n + \text{budgets}$ bounds time of $m \times$ FIND-SET

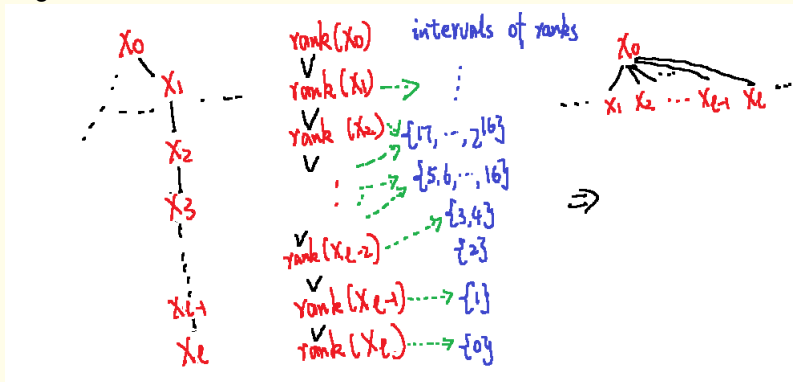
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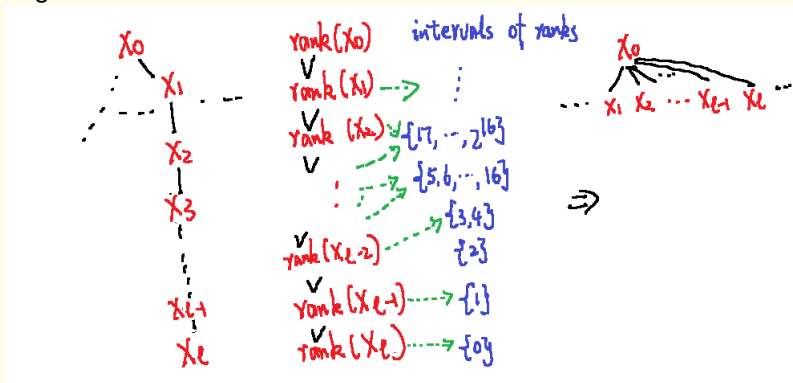
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- 4 OBS: Once $[\text{rank}(x_i), \text{rank}(\pi(x_i))]$ crossed an interval, it keeps crossing those intervals in the future — this part is at most $\log^* n$
- 5 O.w. pay the cost by the budget of x_i — If $\text{rank}(x_i) \in [k+1, \dots, 2^k]$, after x_i paid $\leq 2^k$ times, $\text{rank}(\pi(x_i))$ falls into above case and x_i stops paying

Summary

- 1 Two algorithms implements the greedy idea
- 2 Prim's ALG runs in $O(m \log n)$ via heaps (faster by Fibonacci-heap)
- 3 Kruskal's ALG runs in $O(m \log^* n)$ after sorting

Summary

- 1 Two algorithms implements the greedy idea
- 2 Prim's ALG runs in $O(m \log n)$ via heaps (faster by Fibonacci-heap)
- 3 Kruskal's ALG runs in $O(m \log^* n)$ after sorting
- 4 For disjoint sets, a small change makes a big difference: from $O(\log n)$ to 5!



Questions?