

Assignment 7 due Nov 23

one more assignment after that  
late assignments usually not accepted

## 4.5 Minimum Spanning Trees

Definition 18 Let  $G = (V, E)$  and  
 $T = (V_T, E_T)$   
be undirected graphs.

$T$  is a spanning tree of  $G$  if:

- $V_T = V$
- $E_T \subseteq E$
- $T$  is a tree (i.e.,  $T$  is connected and acyclic)

Let  $c: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$  be a weight function for  $G$ .

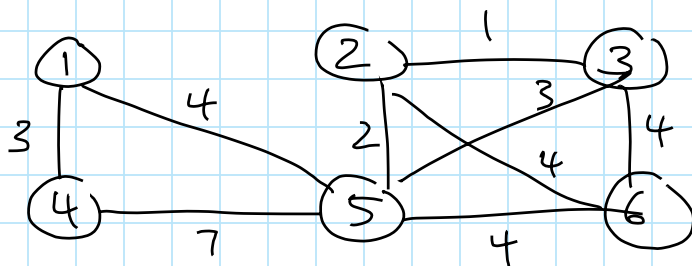
$T$  is a minimum spanning tree (MST) for  $G$   
w.r.t.  $c$  if

- (1)  $T$  is a spanning tree for  $G$  AND
- (2) there is no spanning tree  $T' = (V_T', E_T')$   
for  $G$  with

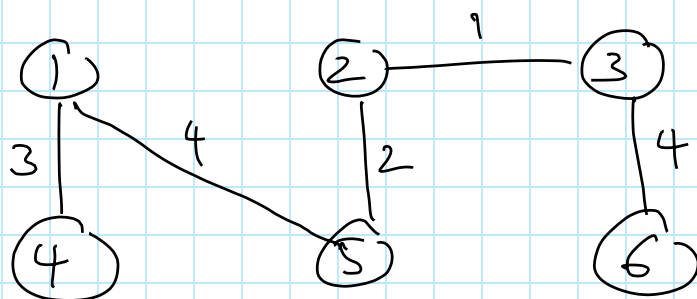
$$\underbrace{\sum_{(v,w) \in E_T'} c(v,w)}_{\text{cost of edges in } T'} < \underbrace{\sum_{(v,w) \in E_T} c(v,w)}_{\text{cost of edges in } T}$$

## Example 48.

$G$

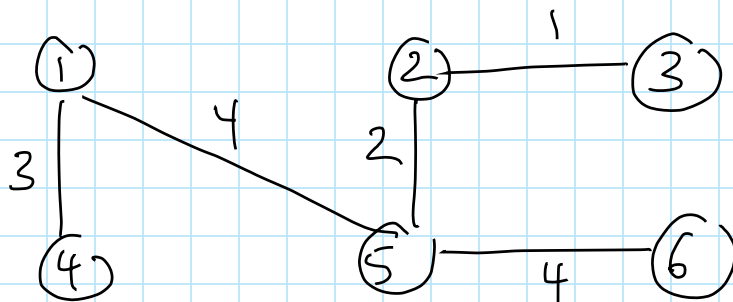


an MST.



need two  
of the  
edges  
(1, 4)  
(1, 5)  
(4, 5)

another  
MST:



## MST Problem

given: undirected graph  $G = (V, E)$   
and weight function  $c: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$

task: find an MST for  $G$  w.r.t.  $c$

(e.g., connect houses in a neighbourhood with min. amount of cable)

## NOTE

- MST exists  $\Leftrightarrow G$  connected

$\leadsto$  we will assume for simplicity that  $G$  is connected

## 4.5.1 Prim's Algorithm

Robert Prim 1957

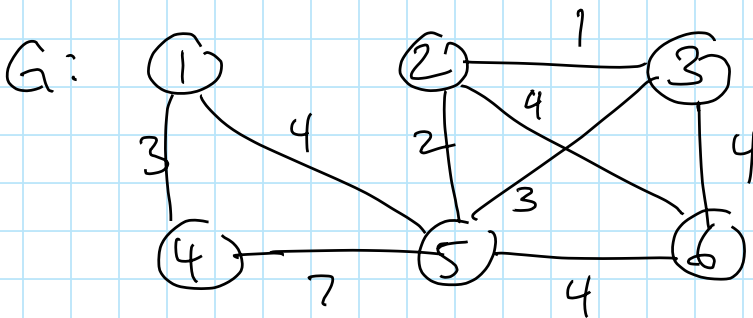
but first: Vojtech Jarník 1930

idea • start at any vertex

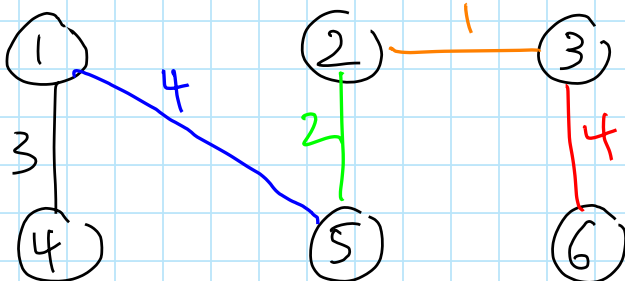
• in each stage, add one edge that connects one new vertex

choose this edge greedily (i.e., with lowest weight) from all edges incident to one of the previously connected vertices

Example 48 cont.



start at vertex ① (for example)



greedily choose

- (i) add (1, 4)
- (ii) add (1, 5)
- (iii) add (5, 2)
- (iv) add (2, 3)
- (v) add (3, 6)

OR. add (5, 6) OR add (2, 6)

implementation: exactly like Dijkstra!

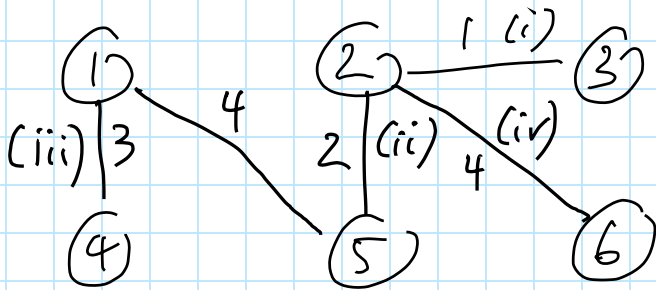
$$O(|V|^2)$$

with same improvements possible for sparse graphs.

## 4.5.2 Kruskal's Algorithm

Joseph Kruskal, 1956

idea • keep greedily adding edges of lowest weight, if they don't create a cycle



(i) add (2,3)

(ii) add (2,5)

(iii) add (1,4)

(iv) add (2,6)

(v) add (1,5)

at intermediate steps, the constructed structure is a forest.

implementation: union-find structure  
(disjoint set class)

see Chapter 8 in textbook

$O(|E| \log |E|)$  running time for Kruskal