CSE 431/531: Algorithm Analysis and Design (Fall 2023)
Graph Algorithms

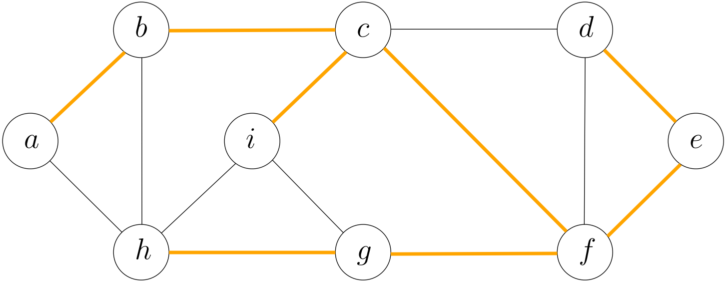
Lecturer: Kelin Luo

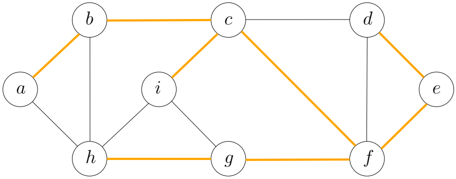
Department of Computer Science and Engineering
University at Buffalo

Outline

Spanning Tree

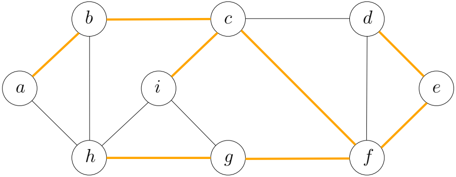
Def. Given a connected graph $G = (V, E)$, a spanning tree $T = (V, F)$ of G is a sub-graph of G that is a tree including all vertices V.





Lemma Let $T = (V, F)$ be a subgraph of $G = (V, E)$. The following statements are equivalent:

- T is a spanning tree of G;



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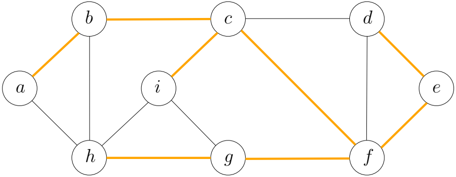

Lemma Let $T = (V, F)$ be a subgraph of $G = (V, E)$. The following statements are equivalent:

- T is a spanning tree of G;
- T is acyclic and connected;
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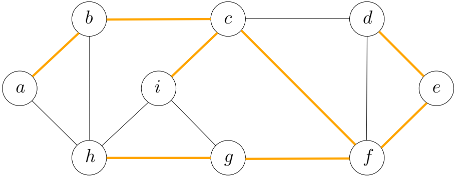

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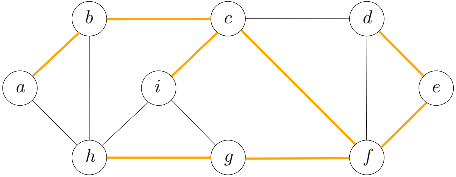

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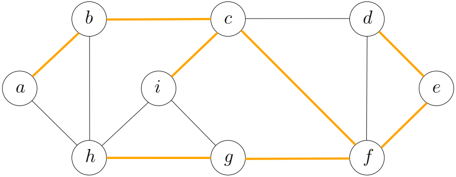

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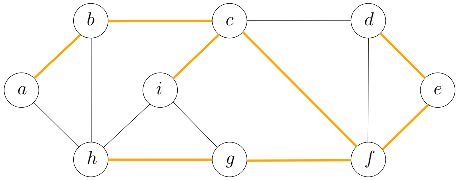

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- T is maximally acyclic: addition of any edge creates a cycle;
- T has a unique simple path between every pair of nodes.

- How to find a spanning tree?
  - BFS

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  - BFS
  - DFS

Minimum Spanning Tree (MST) Problem

Input: Graph $G = (V, E)$ and edge weights $w : E \to \mathbb{R}$

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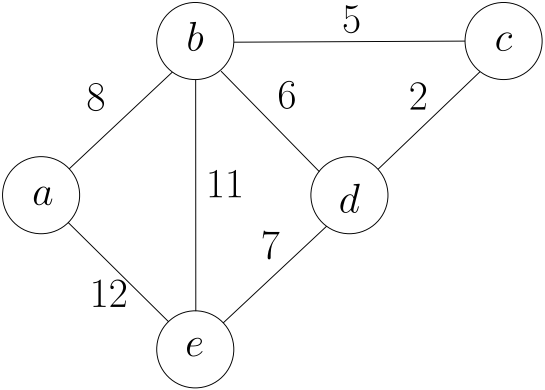

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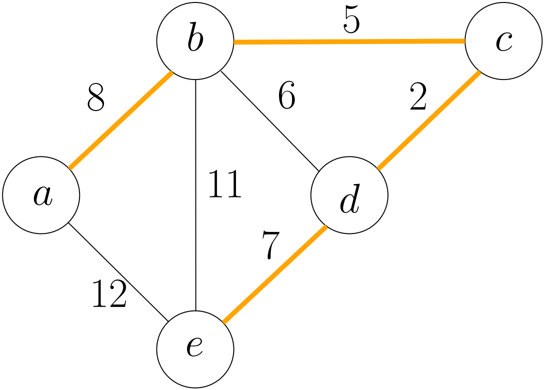

Recall: Steps of Designing A Greedy Algorithm

- Design a "reasonable" strategy
- Prove that the reasonable strategy is "safe" (key, usually done by "exchanging argument")
- Show that the remaining task after applying the strategy is to solve a (many) smaller instance(s) of the same problem (usually trivial)

Def. A choice is "safe" if there is an optimum solution that is "consistent" with the choice

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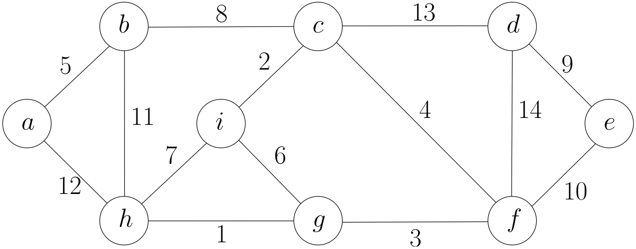
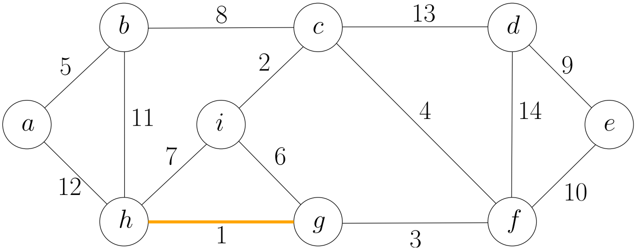
Two Classic Greedy Algorithms for MST

- Kruskal's Algorithm
- Prim's Algorithm

Outline



Q: Which edge can be safely included in the MST?



Q: Which edge can be safely included in the MST?

A: The edge with the smallest weight (lightest edge).

Lemma It is safe to include the lightest edge: there is a minimum spanning tree, that contains the lightest edge.

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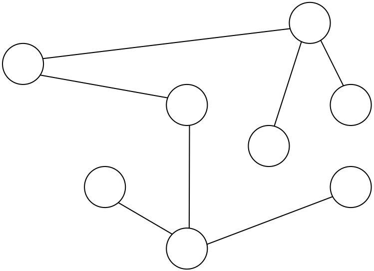
Proof.

- Take a minimum spanning tree T



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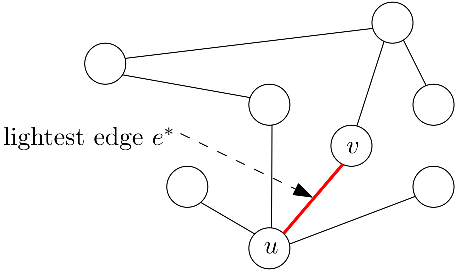
- Take a minimum spanning tree T
- Assume the lightest edge e^* is not in T



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Proof.

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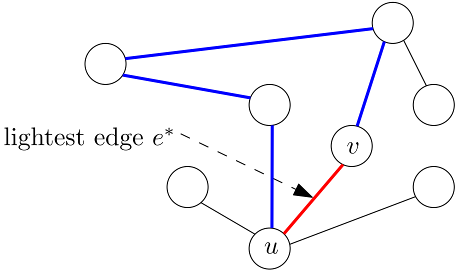
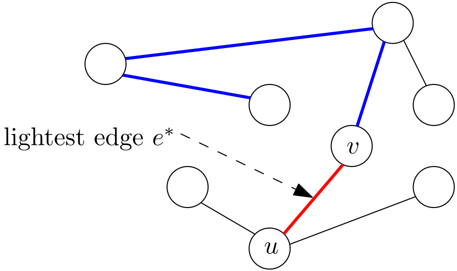
- There is a unique path in T connecting u and v



Lemma It is safe to include the lightest edge: there is a minimum spanning tree, that contains the lightest edge.

Proof.

- Take a minimum spanning tree T
- Assume the lightest edge e^* is not in T
- There is a unique path in T connecting u and v
- Remove any edge e in the path to obtain tree T'



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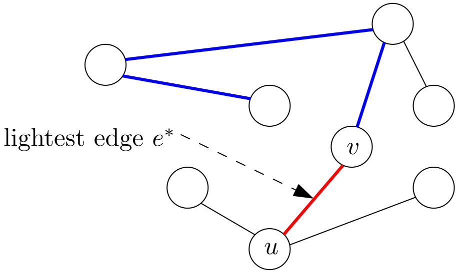
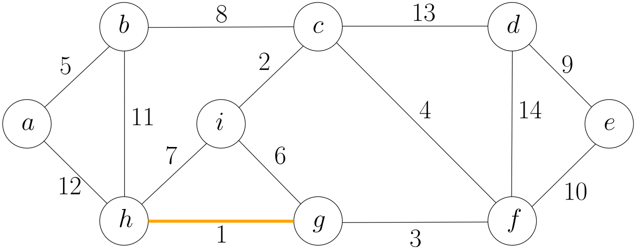
- $w(e^*) \le w(e) \implies w(T') \le w(T)$: T' is also a MST □



Is the Residual Problem Still a MST Problem?



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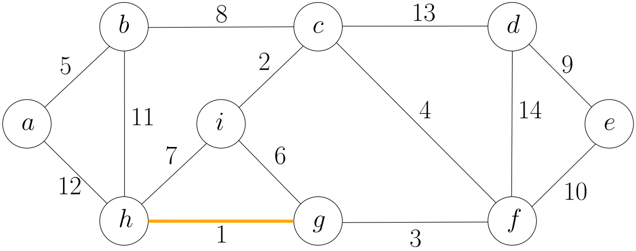

- Residual problem: find the minimum spanning tree that contains edge (g, h)

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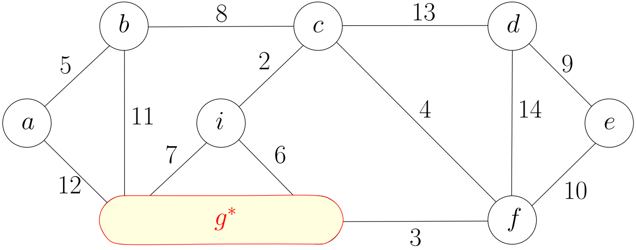

- Residual problem: find the minimum spanning tree that contains edge (g, h)
- Contract the edge (g, h)

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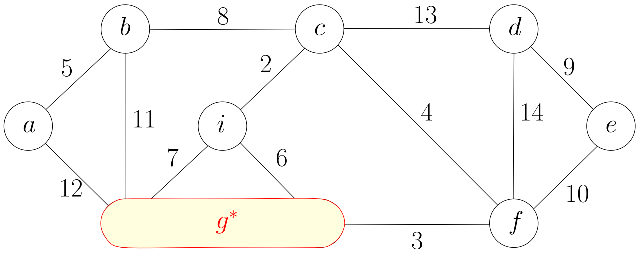
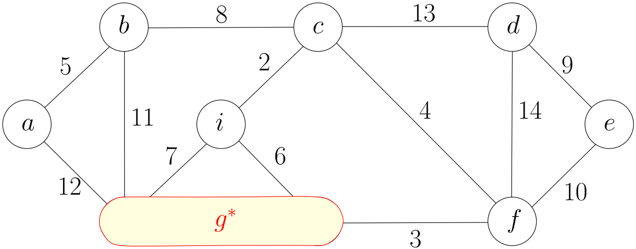


- Residual problem: find the minimum spanning tree that contains edge (g, h)
- Contract the edge (g, h)
- Residual problem: find the minimum spanning tree in the contracted graph

Contraction of an Edge (u, v)



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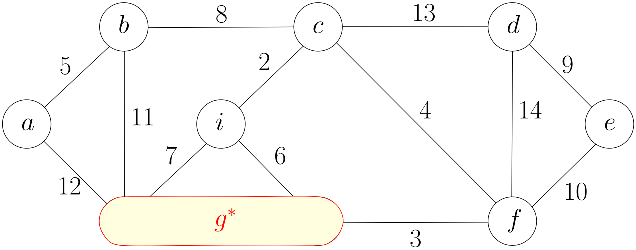

- Remove u and v from the graph, and add a new vertex u^*

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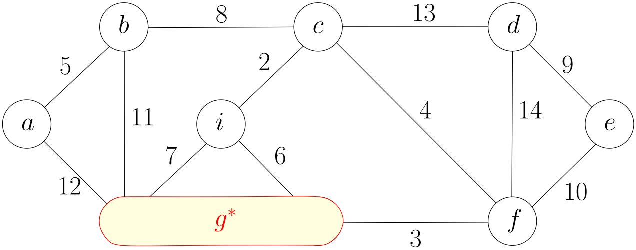

- Remove u and v from the graph, and add a new vertex u^*
- Remove all edges (u, v) from E

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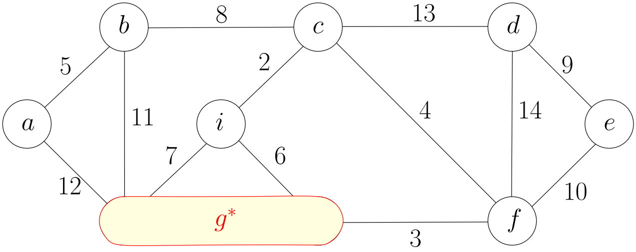

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- For every edge $(u, w) \in E, w \neq v$, change it to (u^*, w)

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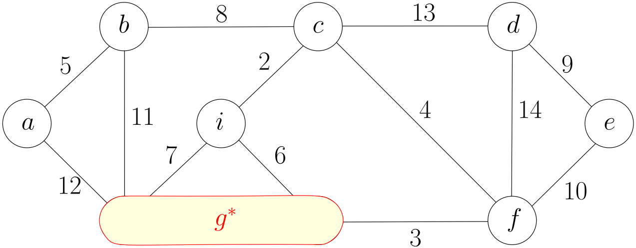

- Remove u and v from the graph, and add a new vertex u^*
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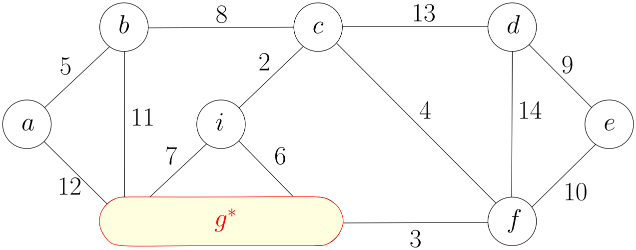

- Remove u and v from the graph, and add a new vertex u^*
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- For every edge $(u, w) \in E, w \neq v$, change it to (u^*, w)
- For every edge $(v, w) \in E, w \neq u$, change it to (u^*, w)
- May create parallel edges! E.g. : two edges (i, g^*)

Greedy Algorithm

Repeat the following step until G contains only one vertex:

1. Choose the lightest edge e^*, add e^* to the spanning tree
2. Contract e^* and update G be the contracted graph

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Q: What edges are removed due to contractions?

A: Edge (u, v) is removed if and only if there is a path connecting u and v formed by edges we selected