

# CS3000: Algorithms & Data

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Lecture 16:

- Minimum Spanning Trees

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# Minimum Spanning Trees

# Network Design

- **Build a cheap, well connected network** (= graph)
- We are given
  - a set of **nodes**  $V = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$
  - a set of **possible edges**  $E \subseteq V \times V$
- Want to build a network to connect these locations
  - Every  $v_i, v_j$  must be **connected**
  - Must be as **cheap** as possible
- Many variants of network design
  - Recall the bus routes problem from HW2

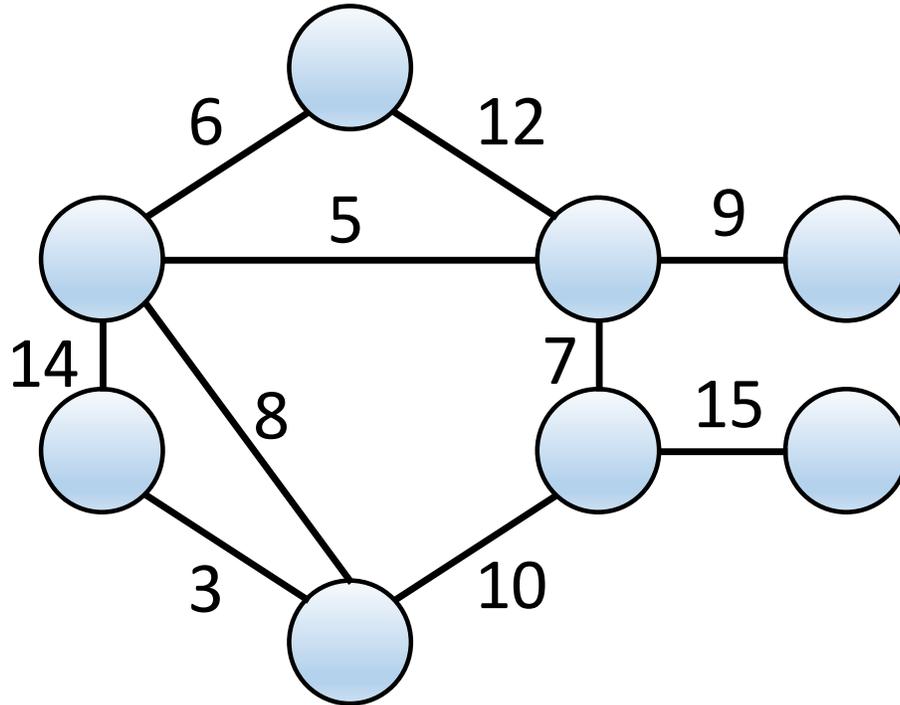
# Minimum Spanning Trees (MST)

- **Input:** a weighted graph  $G = (V, E, \{w_e\})$ 
  - Undirected, connected, weights may be negative
  - All edge weights are distinct (makes life simpler)
- **Output:** a spanning tree  $T$  of minimum cost
  - A **spanning tree** of  $G$  is a subset of  $T \subseteq E$  of the edges such that  $(V, T)$  forms a tree (connected, no cycles)
  - **Cost** of a spanning tree  $T$  is the sum of the edge weights

$$\text{cost}(T) = \sum_{e \in T} w(e)$$

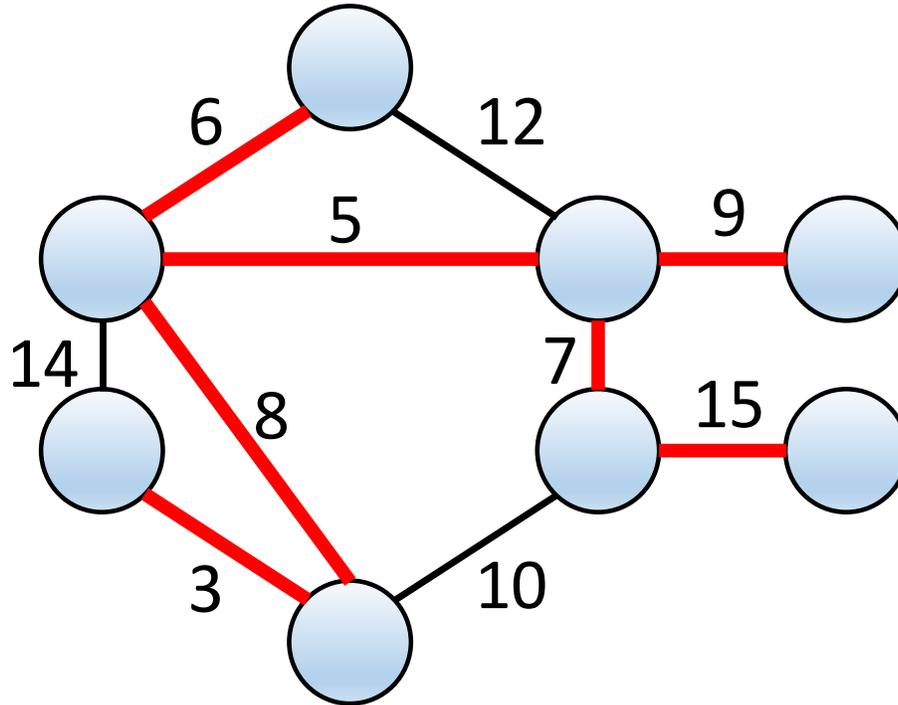
- MST:  $T^* \in \underset{\text{trees } T}{\text{argmin}} \text{cost}(T)$

# Minimum Spanning Trees (MST)



# Minimum Spanning Trees (MST)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{cost}(\tau) &= 3 + 5 + 6 + 7 \\ &\quad + 8 + 9 + 15 \\ &= ??? \end{aligned}$$

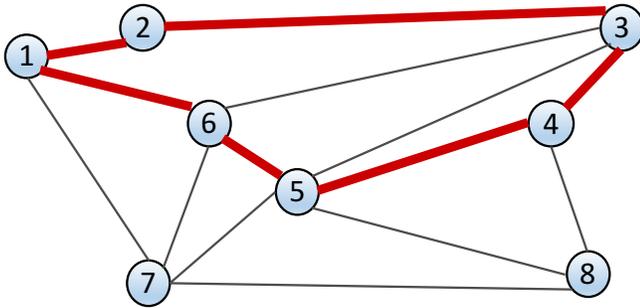


# MST Algorithms

- There are at least four reasonable MST algorithms
  - **Borůvka's Algorithm:** start with  $T = \emptyset$ , in each round add cheapest edge out of each connected component
  - **Prim's Algorithm:** start with some  $s$ , at each step add cheapest edge that grows the connected component
  - **Kruskal's Algorithm:** start with  $T = \emptyset$ , consider edges in ascending order, adding edges unless they create a cycle
  - **Reverse-Kruskal:** start with  $T = E$ , consider edges in descending order, deleting edges unless it disconnects

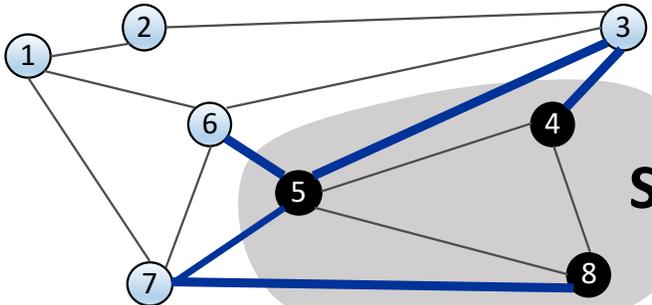
# Cycles and Cuts

- **Cycle:** a set of edges  $(v_1, v_2), (v_2, v_3), \dots, (v_k, v_1)$



Cycle C = (1,2),(2,3),(3,4),(4,5),(5,6),(6,1)

- **Cut:** a subset of nodes  $S$



Cut S = {4, 5, 8}

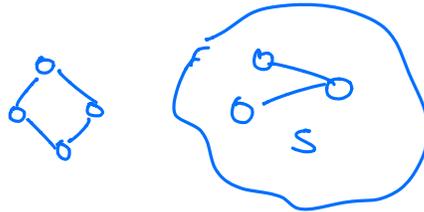
Cutset = (5,6), (5,7), (3,4), (3,5), (7,8)

$$\text{Cutset}(S) = \{ (u,v) \in E : u \in S, v \notin S \}$$

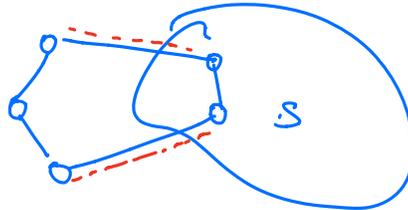
# Cycles and Cuts

- **Fact:** a cycle and a cutset intersect in an even number of edges

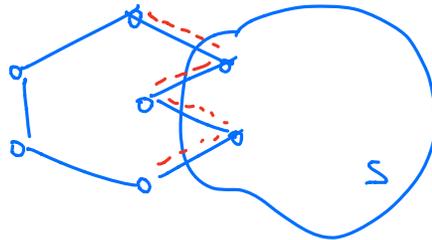
$$|C \cap S| = 0$$



$$|C \cap S| = 2$$



$$|C \cap S| = 4$$



If I walk around a cycle, I cross the cut an even number of times.

# Properties of MSTs

Recall edge wts  
are distinct

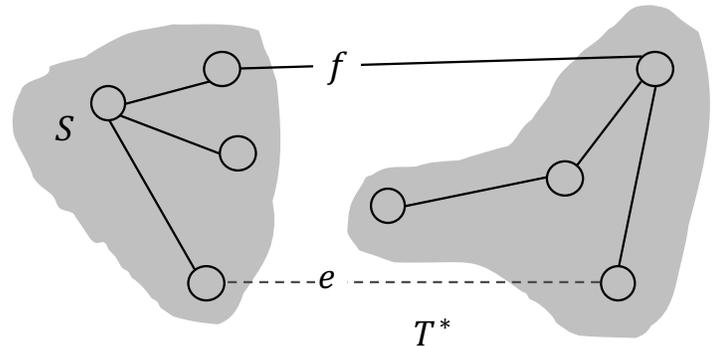
- **Cut Property:** Let  $S$  be a cut. Let  $e$  be the minimum weight edge cut by  $S$ . Then the MST  $T^*$  contains  $e$ 
  - We call such an  $e$  a **safe edge**
- **Cycle Property:** Let  $C$  be a cycle. Let  $f$  be the maximum weight edge in  $C$ . Then the MST  $T^*$  does not contain  $f$ .
  - We call such an  $e$  a **useless edge**

# Proof of Cut Property

- **Cut Property:** Let  $S$  be a cut. Let  $e$  be the minimum weight edge cut by  $S$ . Then the MST  $T^*$  contains  $e$

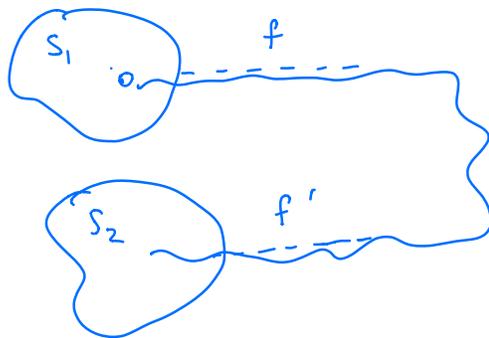
Proof: (By contradiction)

- Suppose  $T^*$  is an MST that does not contain  $e$
- There is some edge  $f$  in both the cutset  $S$  and in  $T^*$  (or else  $T^*$  is not connected)
- By assumption  $w(f) > w(e)$  (all wts distinct)
- $\text{cost}(T^* - \{f\} + \{e\}) < \text{cost}(T^*)$



- But  $T^* - \{f\} + \{e\}$  is a spanning tree
  - $S$  is connected
  - $S^c$  is connected
  - $e$  connects  $S$  to  $S^c$
- But then  $T^*$  was not an MST, contradiction.  $\square$

Why is  $S$  connected by  $T^* - \{f\}$ ?

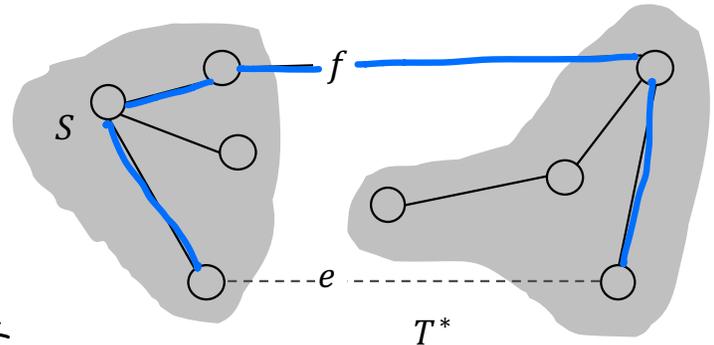


# Proof of Cycle Property

- **Cycle Property:** Let  $C$  be a cycle. Let  $f$  be the max weight edge in  $C$ . The MST  $T^*$  does not contain  $f$ .

Proof: (By contradiction)

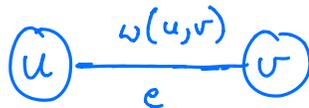
- Suppose  $T^*$  is an MST
- Removing  $f$  disconnects the graph into two components,  $S$  and  $S^c$
- $f \in \text{Cutset}(S)$ ,  $|\text{Cutset}(S)|$  is even  $\therefore$  there is some edge  $e$  in both  $\text{Cutset}(S)$  and in  $C$
- $\text{wt}(e) < \text{wt}(f)$  (edge wts are distinct)



- $\text{cost}(T^* - \{f\} + \{e\}) < \text{cost}(T^*)$
- $T^* - \{f\} + \{e\}$  is a spanning tree (see cut property)
- But then  $T^*$  is not an MST, contradiction  $\square$

# Ask the Audience

- Assume  $G$  has distinct edge weights
- **True/False?** If  $e$  is the edge with the smallest weight, then  $e$  is always in the MST  $T^*$
- **True/False?** If  $e$  is the edge with the largest weight, then  $e$  is never in the MST  $T^*$



$e$  is the min wt edge for the cut  $S = \{u\}$

# Ask the Audience

- Assume  $G$  has distinct edge weights
- **True/False?** If  $e$  is the edge with the smallest weight, then  $e$  is always in the MST  $T^*$
- **True/False?** If  $e$  is the edge with the largest weight, then  $e$  is never in the MST  $T^*$



The max wt edge may not lie on any cycle.

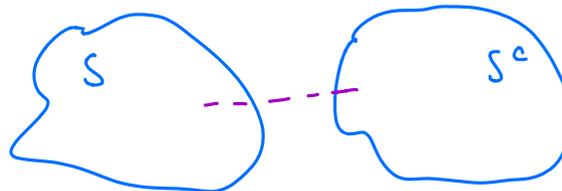
# The “Only” MST Algorithm

- **GenericMST:**

- Let  $T = \emptyset$
- Repeat until  $T$  is connected:
  - Find one or more safe edges not in  $T$
  - Add safe edges to  $T$

- **Theorem: GenericMST** outputs an MST

If  $T$  is not connected then it has  $\geq$  two connected components



Cutset( $S$ ) contains  
 $\geq 1$  edge in  $E$   
 $\Rightarrow$  exists  $\geq$  safe  
edge in the graph

# Borůvka's Algorithm

- **Borůvka:**

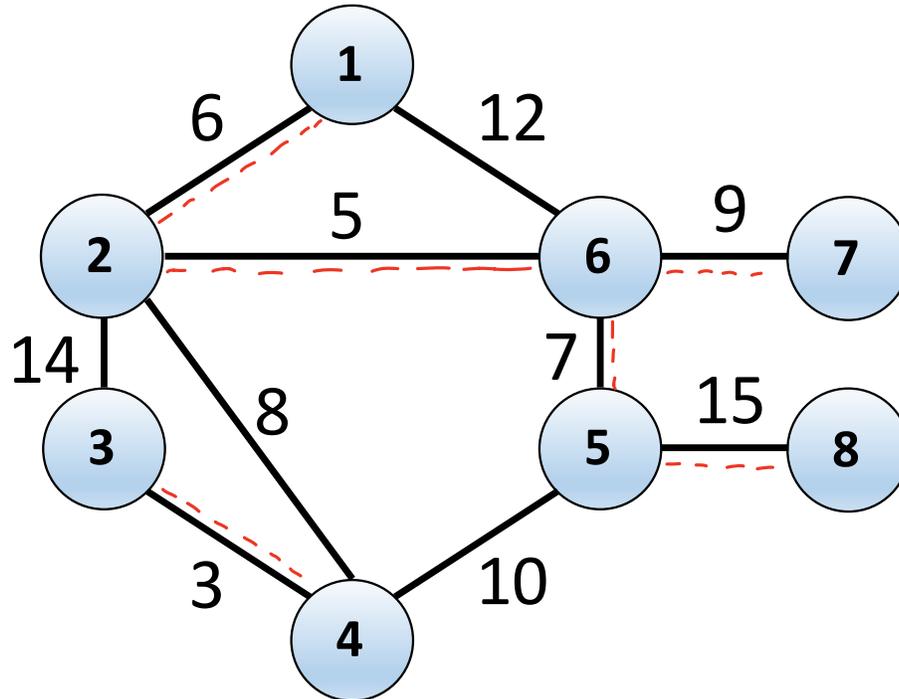
- Let  $T = \emptyset$
- Repeat until  $T$  is connected:
  - Let  $C_1, \dots, C_k$  be the connected components of  $(V, T)$
  - Let  $e_1, \dots, e_k$  be the safe edge for the cuts  $C_1, \dots, C_k$
  - Add  $e_1, \dots, e_k$  to  $T$

- **Correctness:** every edge we add is safe

# Borůvka's Algorithm

Label Connected Components  
(for the graph  $(V, T)$ )

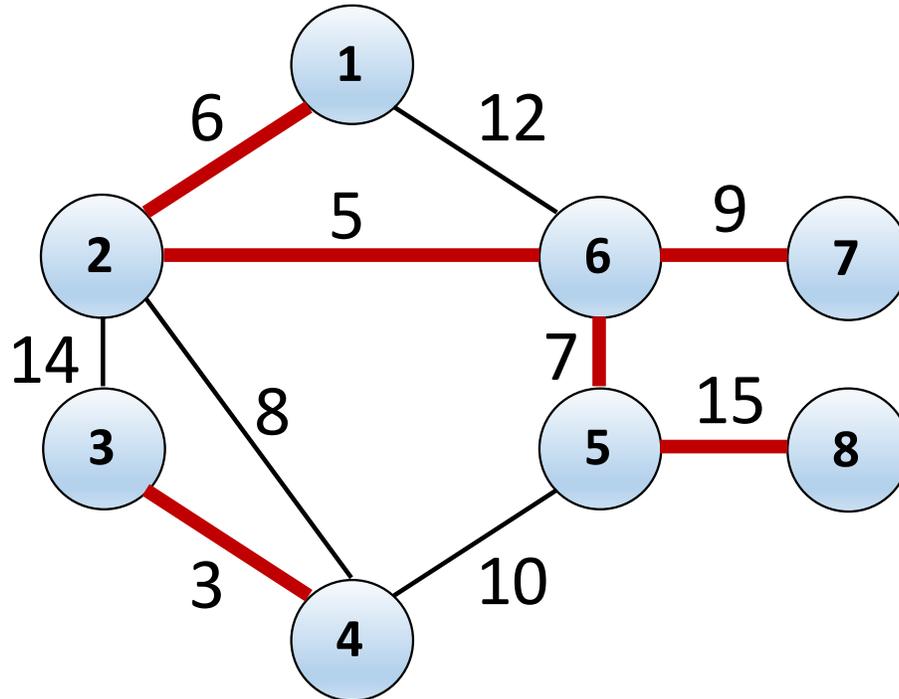
Initially  $T = \emptyset$



# Borůvka's Algorithm

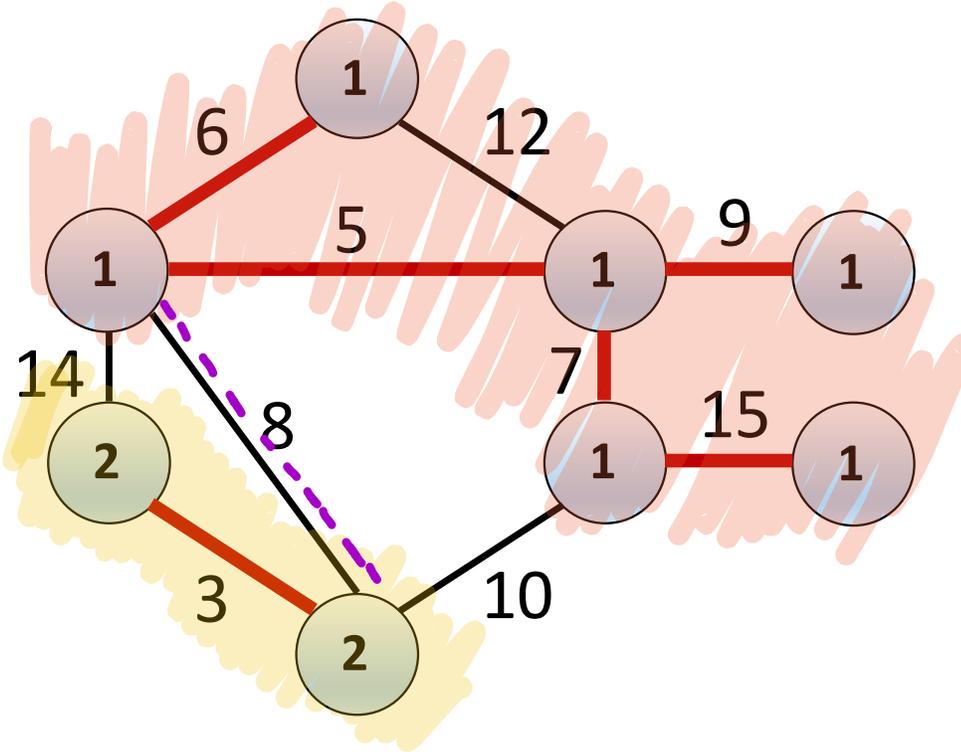
Add Safe Edges

$$T = \{ \text{red edges} \}$$



# Borůvka's Algorithm

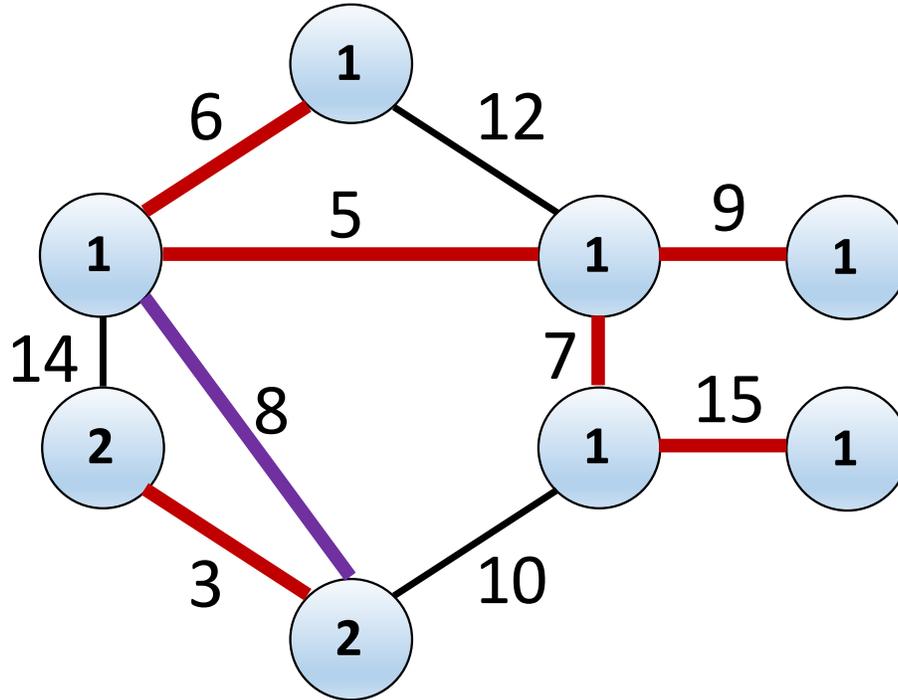
Label Connected Components



# Borůvka's Algorithm

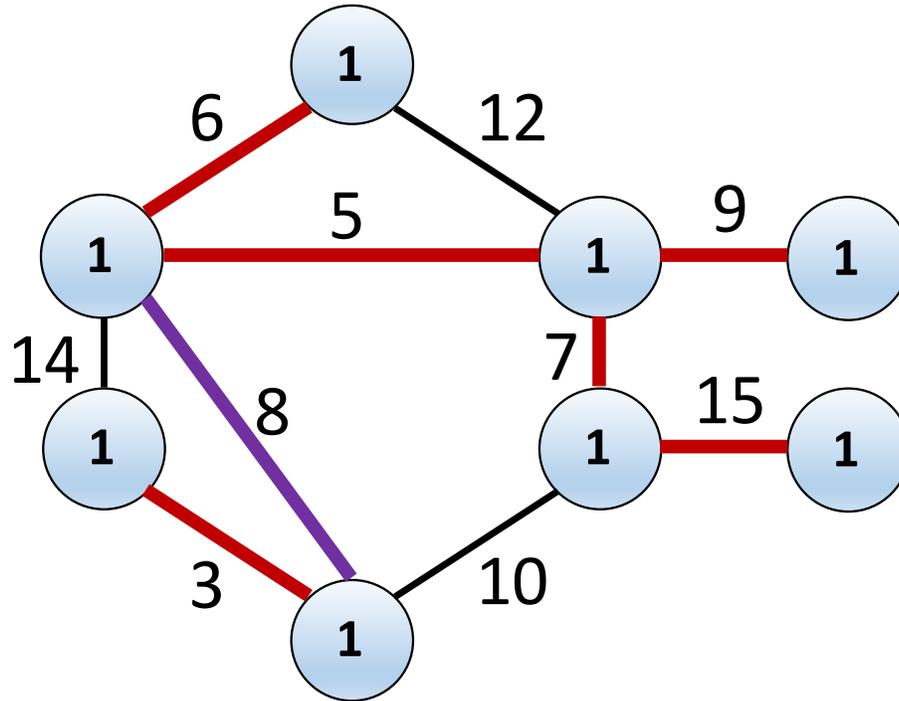
Add Safe Edges

$$T = \{ \text{red edges} + \text{purple edge} \}$$



# Borůvka's Algorithm

Done!



# Borůvka's Algorithm (Running Time)

- **Borůvka**

- Let  $T = \emptyset$
- Repeat until  $T$  is connected:
  - Let  $C_1, \dots, C_k$  be the connected components of  $(V, T)$
  - Let  $e_1, \dots, e_k$  be the safe edge for the cuts  $C_1, \dots, C_m$
  - Add  $e_1, \dots, e_k$  to  $T$

- Running time

- How long to find safe edges?  $O(m)$  time per iteration
- How many times through the main loop?  $O(\log n)$  iterations

- Running time  $O(m \log n)$

# Borůvka's Algorithm (Running Time)

**FindSafeEdges** ( $G, T$ ) :

```
find connected components  $C_1, \dots, C_k$ 
let  $L[v]$  be the component of node  $v$ 
Let  $S[i]$  be the safe edge of  $C_i$ 
for each edge  $(u, v)$  in  $E$ :
    If  $L[u] \neq L[v]$ :
        If  $w(u, v) < w(S[L[u]])$ :
             $S[L[u]] = (u, v)$ 
        If  $w(u, v) < w(S[L[v]])$ :
             $S[L[v]] = (u, v)$ 
Return  $\{S[1], \dots, S[k]\}$ 
```

$O(m)$  time by BFS

$O(1)$  per edge

$O(m)$

Fact: Can find all safe edges in time  $O(m)$

# Borůvka's Algorithm (Running Time)

- **Claim:** every iteration of the main loop halves the number of connected components.

- $\Rightarrow$  We do at most  $\lceil \log_2 n \rceil$  iterations of the main loop.

- Proof: In iteration  $i+1$ , every component contains at least 2 of the components from iteration  $i$ .

$$\Rightarrow (\# \text{ of components in } i+1)$$

$$\leq \frac{1}{2} (\# \text{ of components in } i)$$

□

# Prim's Algorithm

- **Prim Informal**

- Let  $T = \emptyset$
- Let  $s$  be some arbitrary node and  $S = \{s\}$
- Repeat until  $S = V$ 
  - Find the cheapest edge  $e = (u, v)$  cut by  $S$ . Add  $e$  to  $T$  and add  $v$  to  $S$

- **Correctness:** every edge we add is safe



# Prim's Algorithm

$\text{value}[u]$  = minimum wt of an edge from  $u$  to  $S$

**Prim( $G=(V,E)$ )**

let  $Q$  be a priority queue storing  $V$

$\text{value}[v] \leftarrow \infty$ ,  $\text{last}[v] \leftarrow \perp$

$\text{value}[s] \leftarrow 0$  for some arbitrary  $s$

while ( $Q \neq \emptyset$ ):

$u \leftarrow \text{ExtractMin}(Q)$  //  $n$  ExtractMin  $O(n \log n)$

for each edge  $(u,v)$  in  $E$ :

if  $v \in Q$  and  $w(u,v) < \text{value}[v]$ :  
DecreaseKey( $v, w(u,v)$ )  
 $\text{last}[v] \leftarrow u$

}  $m$  DecreaseKey  
 $O(m \log n)$

$T = \{(1, \text{last}[1]), \dots, (n, \text{last}[n])\}$  (excluding  $s$ )

return  $T$

Running Time:  $O(m \log n)$

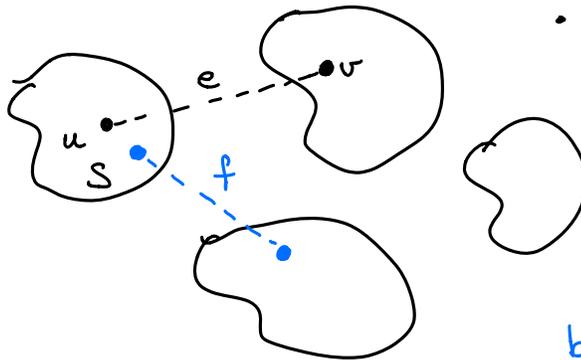
# Kruskal's Algorithm

## • Kruskal's Informal

- Let  $T = \emptyset$
- For each edge  $e$  in ascending order of weight:
  - If adding  $e$  would decrease the number of connected components add  $e$  to  $T$

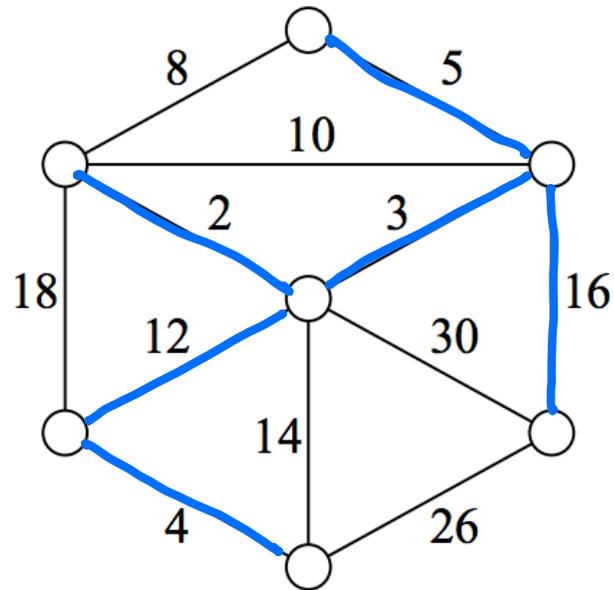
## • Correctness: every edge we add is safe

Consider the graph when we add  $e$



- $e \in \text{Cutset}(S)$  *considered*
- We've already <sup>all</sup>  $f$  s.t.  $w(f) < w(e)$
- If  $f \in \text{Cutset}(S)$ , then it bridges two components
- But, we didn't add  $f$ , contradiction!

# Kruskal's Algorithm

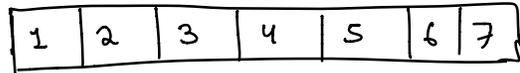


# Implementing Kruskal's Algorithm

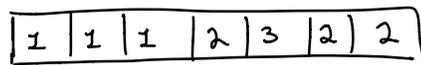
- **Union-Find**: group items into components so that we can efficiently perform two operations:
  - **Find(u)**: lookup which component contains u
  - **Union(u,v)**: merge connected components of u,v
- Can implement **Union-Find** so that
  - Find takes  $O(1)$  time
  - Any  $k$  Union operations takes  $O(k \log k)$  time } amortized running time
- Naive Implementation: find takes  $O(i)$ , union takes  $O(n)$

# Implementing Union Find:

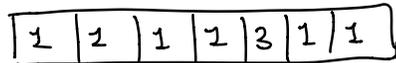
① Maintain an array  $comp[i:n]$  for the component of each  $i$



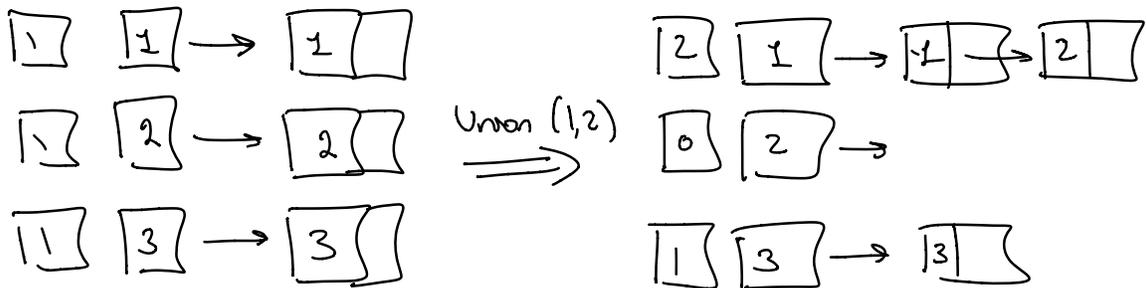
Find =  $O(1)$ , Union =  $O(n)$



↓ Union(1,2)



② Maintain a list of each component's items, and sizes



Find =  $O(1)$     Union =  $O(n)$

## Implementing Union Find:

- ③ Always merge the smaller component into the bigger component. (Minimizes the # of updates needed)

Thm: For any  $k$  union operations, running time is  $O(k \log k)$ .

Pf:

- If we do  $k$  unions, only  $2k$  total elts have to be "touched."
- How many times does each elt change component?
  - Each merge moves it to a component that is  $\geq$  twice as large.
  - Max component size is  $\leq 2k$
  - $\Rightarrow \log_2(2k)$  changes
- $(2k \text{ elements}) \times (\log_2(2k) \text{ changes per element})$   
 $= O(k \log k)$  time

# Kruskal's Algorithm (Running Time)

- **Kruskal's Informal**

- Let  $T = \emptyset$
- For each edge  $e$  in ascending order of weight:
  - If adding  $e$  would decrease the number of connected components add  $e$  to  $T$

- Time to sort:  $O(m \log m)$
- Time to test edges:  $2m$  Find operations =  $O(m)$  time
- Time to add edges:  $n-1$  Union operations =  $O(n \log n)$  time

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Total Time} &= O(m \log m + m + n \log n) \\ &= O(m \log m) \end{aligned}$$

# Comparison

- **Boruvka's Algorithm:**

- Only algorithm worth implementing
- Low overhead, can be easily parallelized
- Each iteration takes  $O(m)$ , very few iterations in practice

- **Prim's/Kruskal's Algorithms:**

- Reveal useful structure of MSTs
- Running time dominated by a single sort