

Greedy Graph Algorithms

T. M. Murali

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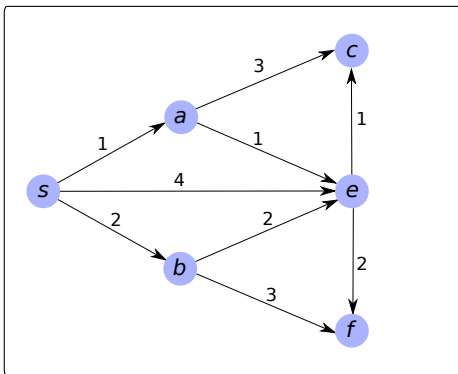
Algorithm Design

- Start discussion of different ways of designing algorithms.
- Greedy algorithms, divide and conquer, dynamic programming, flow-based approaches.
- Discuss principles that can solve a variety of problem types.
- Design an algorithm, prove its correctness, analyse its complexity.

Algorithm Design

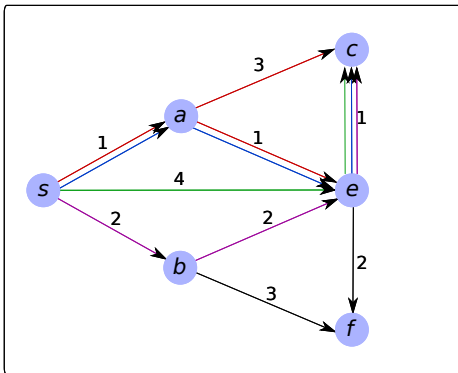
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- Greedy algorithms, divide and conquer, dynamic programming, flow-based approaches.
- Discuss principles that can solve a variety of problem types.
- Design an algorithm, prove its correctness, analyse its complexity.
- Greedy algorithms: make the current best choice.
 - ▶ First discussed greedy algorithms for scheduling (Chapters 4.1 to 4.2).
 - ▶ Now we will discuss greedy graph algorithms (Chapters 4.4 to 4.6).

Shortest Paths Problem



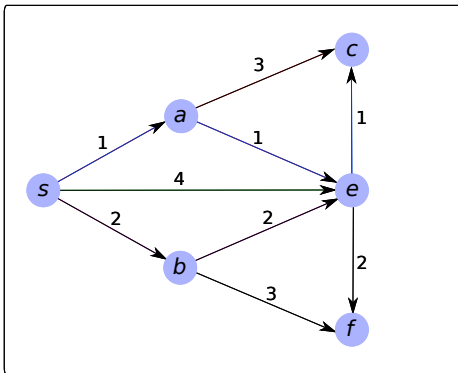
- $G(V, E)$ is a connected directed graph. Each edge e has a length $l(e) \geq 0$.
- *Length of a path P* is the sum of the lengths of the edges in P .

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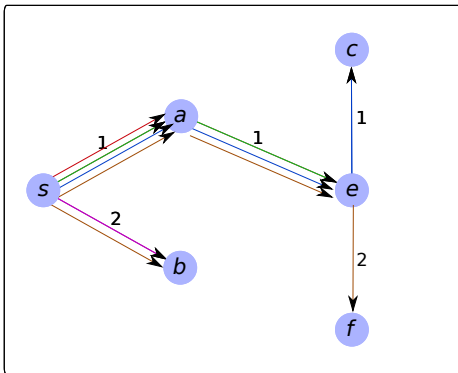
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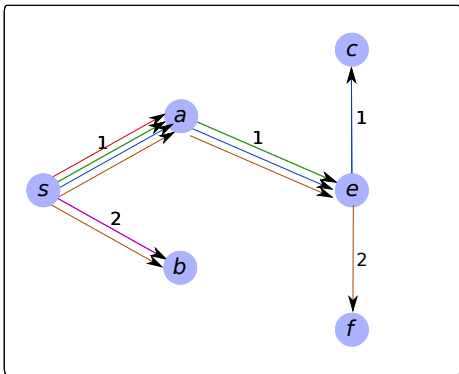
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- Goal: compute the shortest path from a specified start node s to each node in V .

SHORTEST PATHS

INSTANCE: A directed graph $G(V, E)$, a function $l : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$, and a node $s \in V$

SOLUTION: A set $\{P_u, u \in V\}$ of paths, where P_u is the shortest path in G from s to u .

Shortest Paths Problem



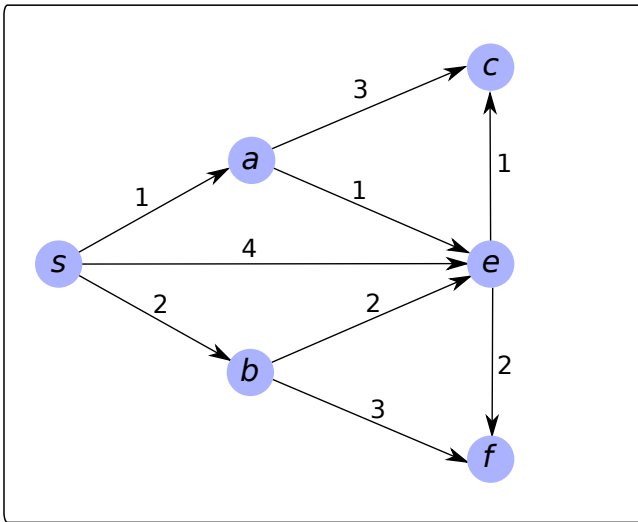
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- Aside: If G is undirected, convert to a directed graph by replacing each edge in G by two directed edges.

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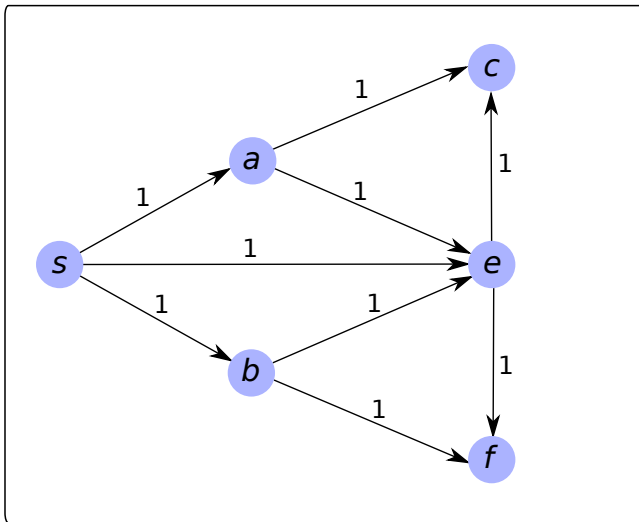
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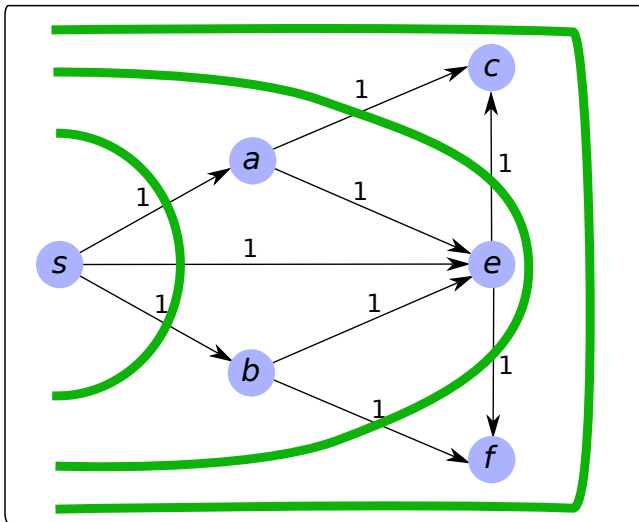
Shortest Paths Problem Instance



Generalizing BFS

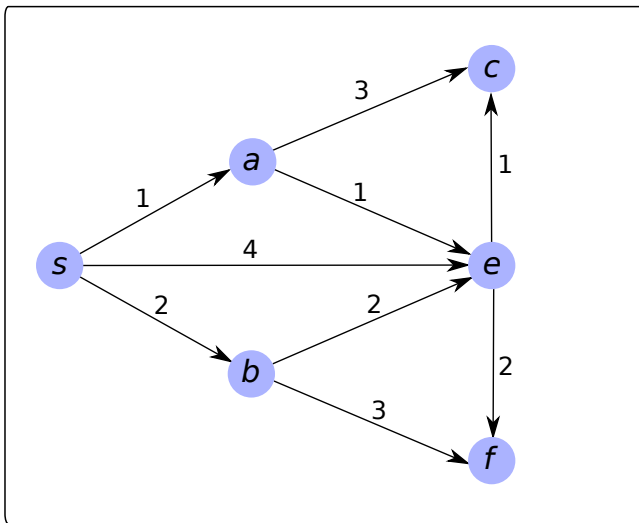


Generalizing BFS



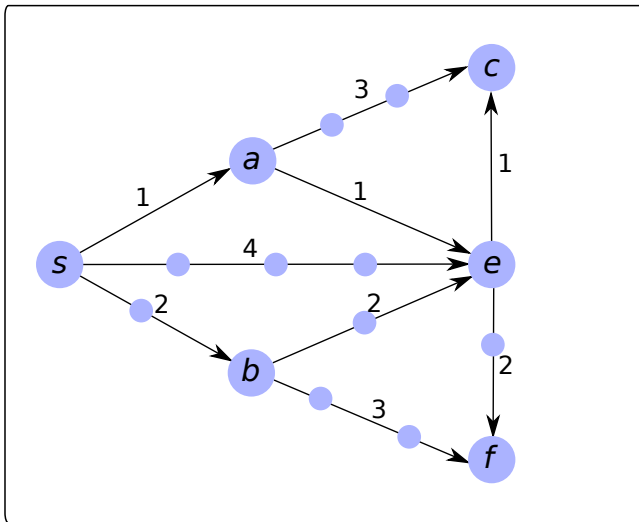
Unweighted graph: Use BFS. Process nodes in non-decreasing order of distance.

Generalizing BFS



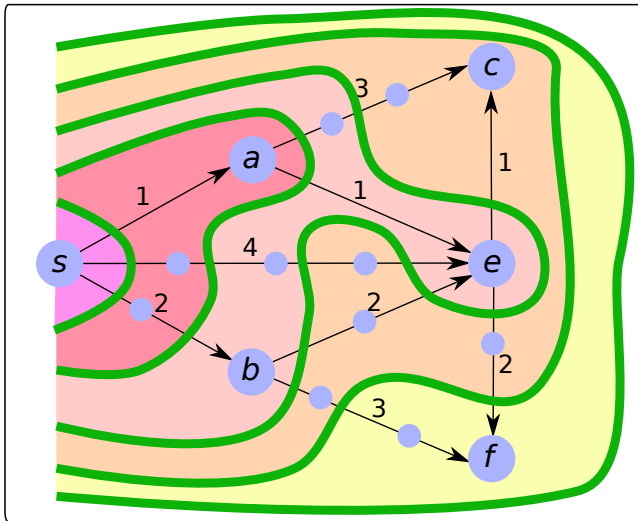
Weighted graph: Edge weights are integers. Can we make the graph unweighted?

Generalizing BFS



Add dummy nodes: Edge of weight w gets $w - 1$ nodes.

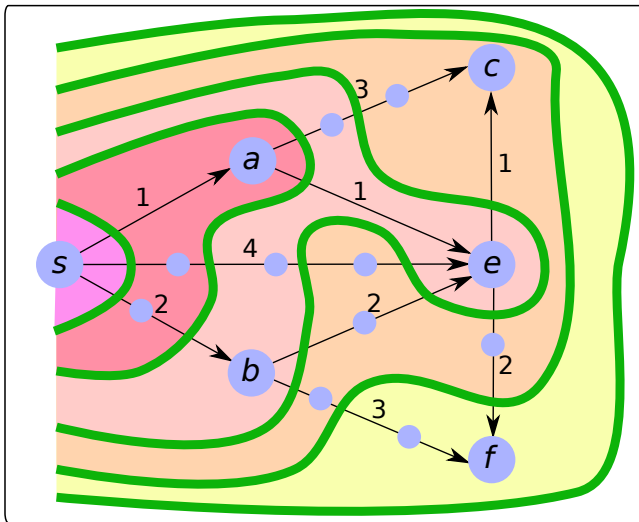
Generalizing BFS



Dummy nodes: BFS computes shortest paths correctly. Running time is

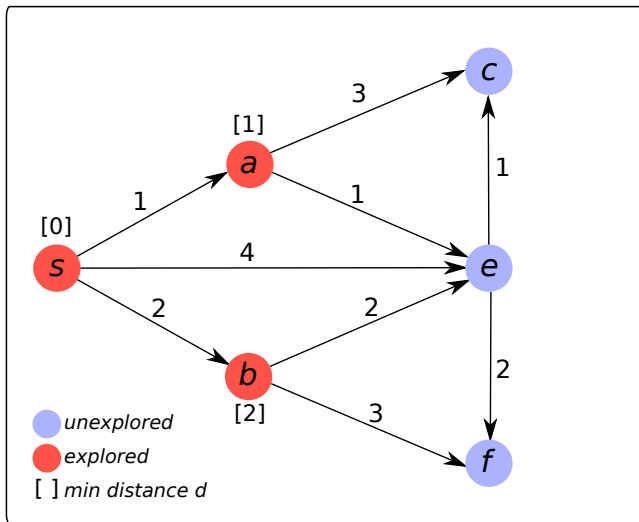
► Lectures 9-12: Greedy graph algorithms: Running time of BFS with dummy nodes

Generalizing BFS



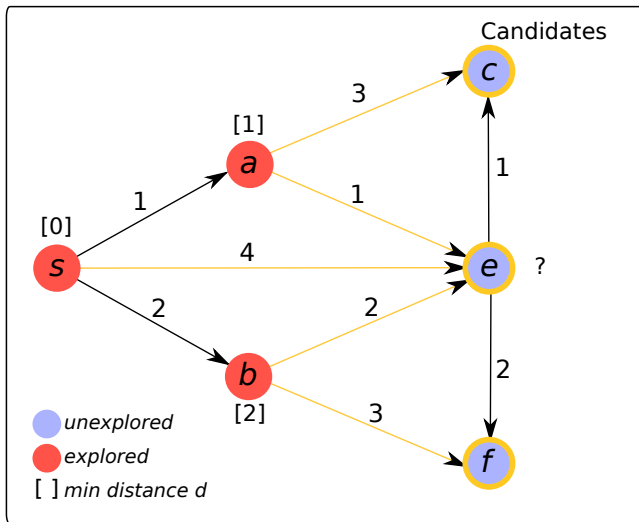
Dummy nodes: BFS computes shortest paths correctly. Running time is $O(m + n + \sum_{e \in E} l(e))$. *Pseudo-polynomial time*: depends on input values.

Generalizing BFS to Dijkstra's Algorithm



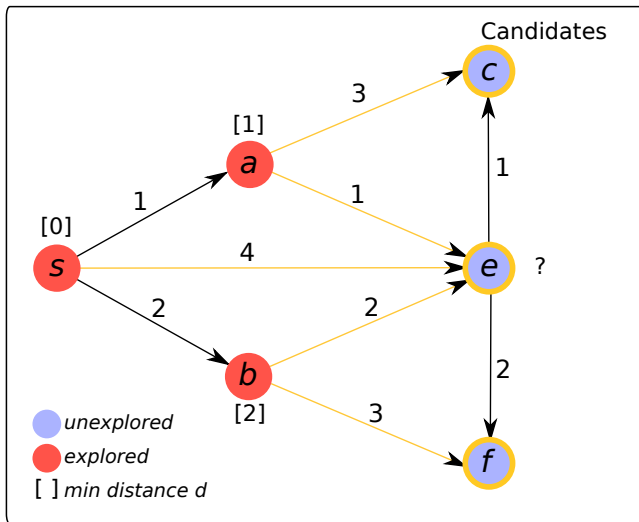
Like BFS: explore nodes in non-increasing order of distance from s . Once a node is explored, its distance is fixed.

Generalizing BFS to Dijkstra's Algorithm



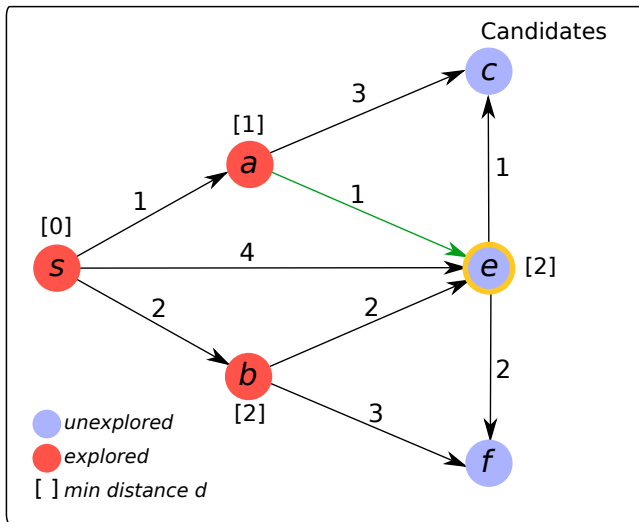
Unlike BFS: Layers are not uniform. Which node to process next? Candidates are nodes with an edge from a explored node.

Generalizing BFS to Dijkstra's Algorithm



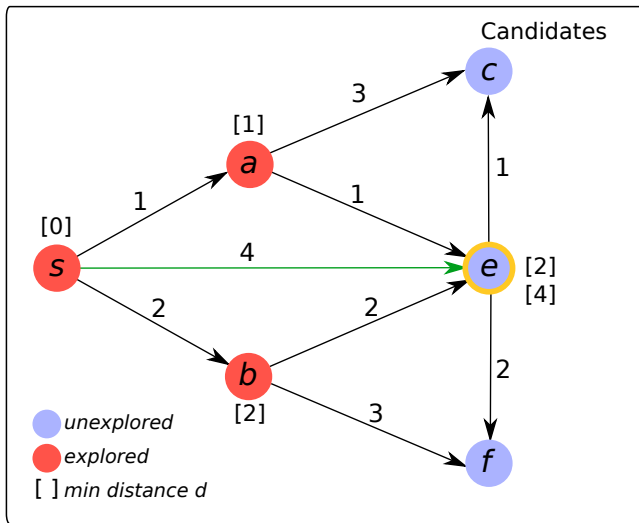
For each unexplored node, determine “best” preceding explored node.

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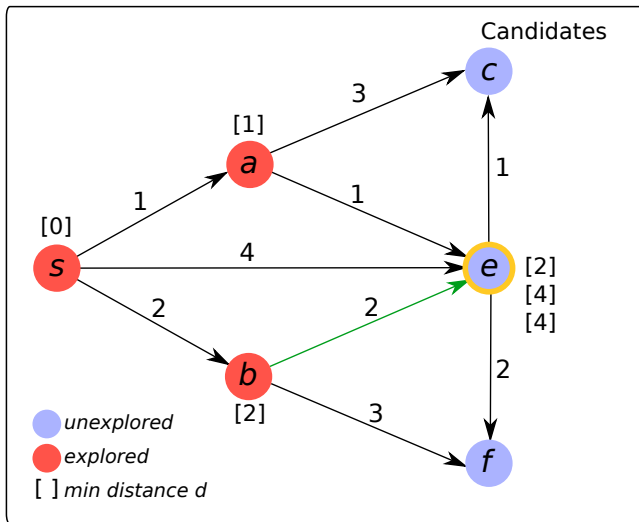
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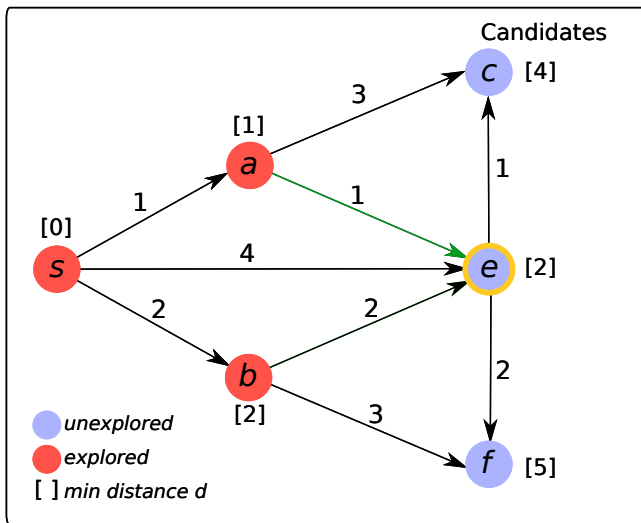
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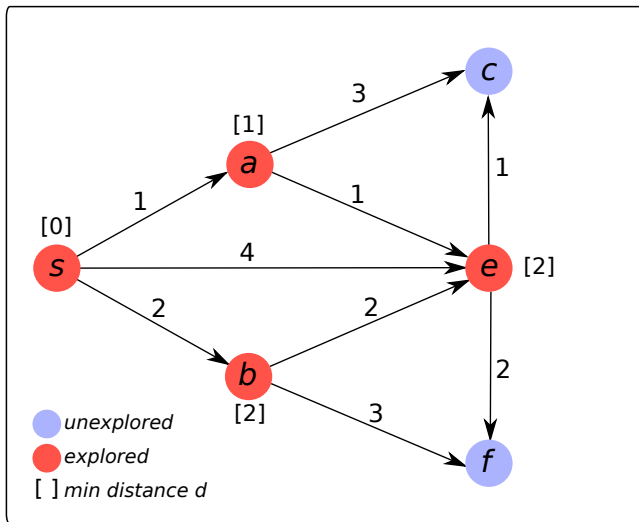
For each unexplored node, determine “best” preceding explored node. Record shortest path length only through explored nodes.

Generalizing BFS to Dijkstra's Algorithm



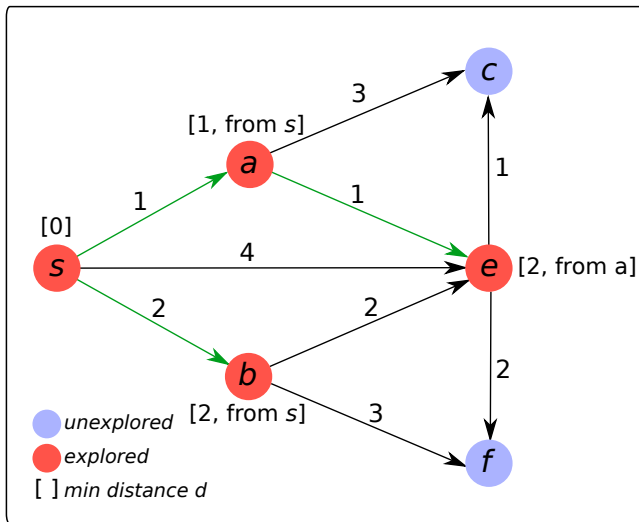
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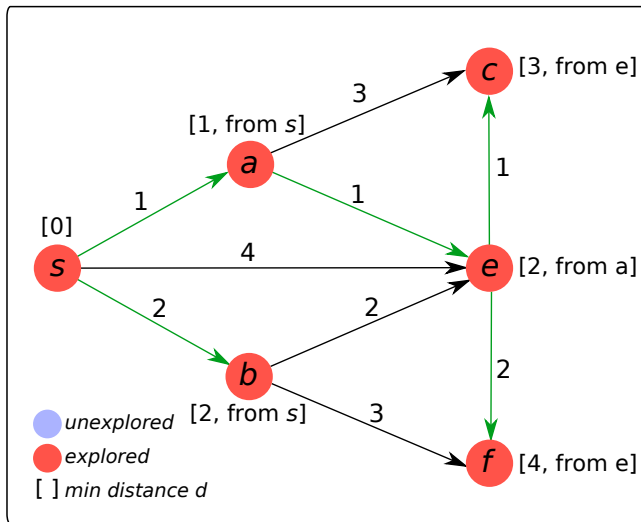
Explore node with smallest path length only through explored nodes.

Generalizing BFS to Dijkstra's Algorithm



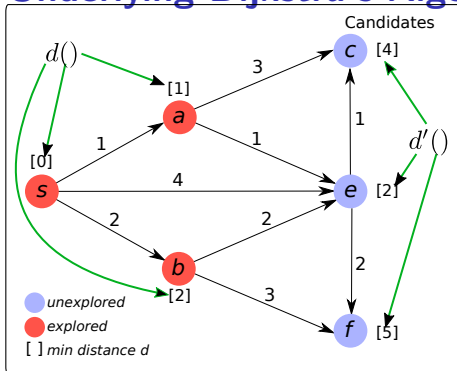
Like BFS: Record previous node in the computed path.

Generalizing BFS to Dijkstra's Algorithm



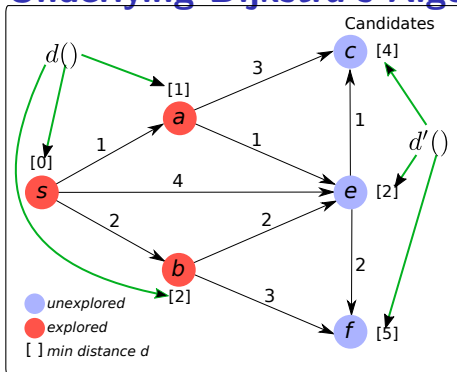
Follow previous nodes to compute shortest path. Like BFS: these edges form a tree.

Idea Underlying Dijkstra's Algorithm



- Maintain a set S of explored nodes.
 - For each node $u \in S$, compute a value $d(u)$, which (we will prove) is the length of the shortest path from s to u .
 - For each node $x \notin S$, maintain a value $d'(x)$, which is the length of the shortest path from s to x using only the nodes in S (and x , of course).

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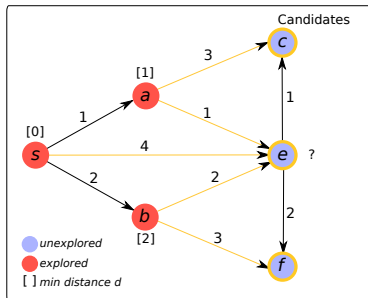


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- “Greedily” add a node v to S that has the smallest value of $d'(v)$ (is closest to s using only nodes in S).

Dijkstra's Algorithm

DIJKSTRA'S ALGORITHM(G, l, s)

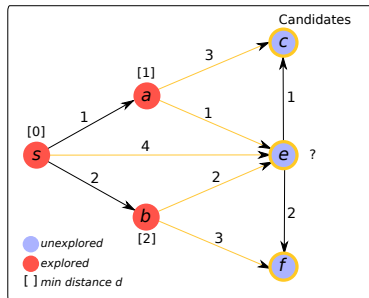
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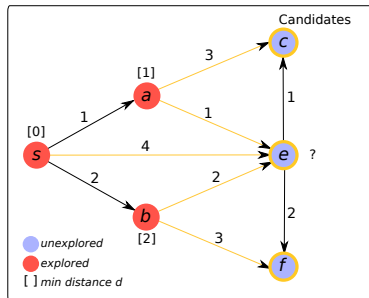


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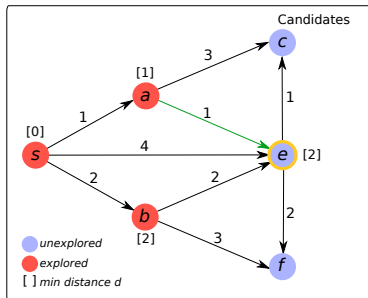


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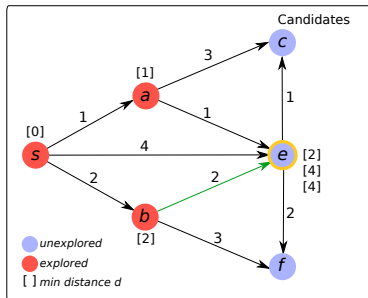


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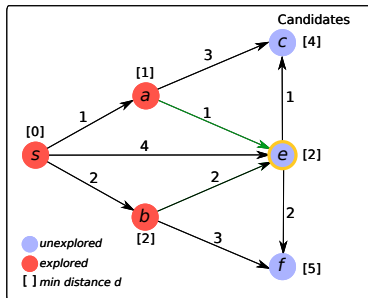


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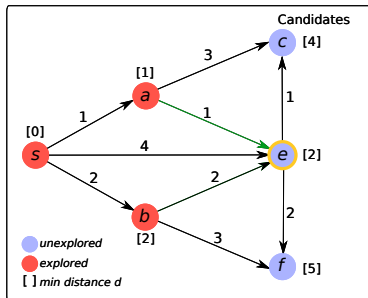
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 - ▶ We store the smallest of these values in $d'(x)$.

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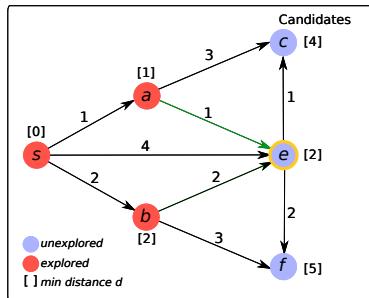
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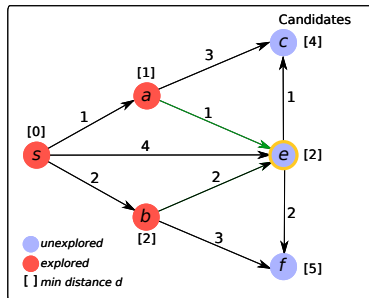


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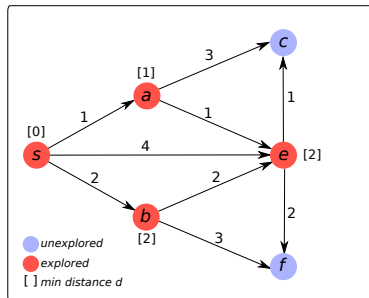


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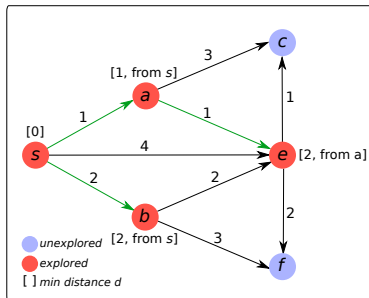


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 - ▶ Return the *argument* (i.e., the node) that has the smallest value of $d'(x)$.
- To compute the shortest paths: when adding a node v to S , store the predecessor u that minimises $d'(v)$.

Proof of Correctness

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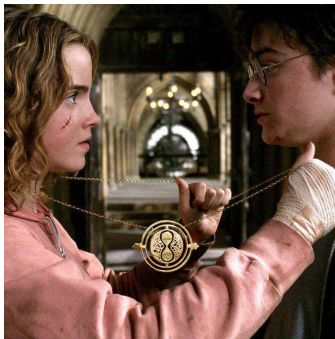
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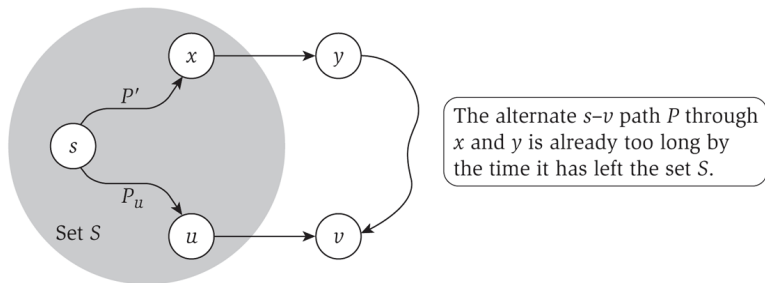


Figure 4.8 The shortest path P_v and an alternate s - v path P through the node y .

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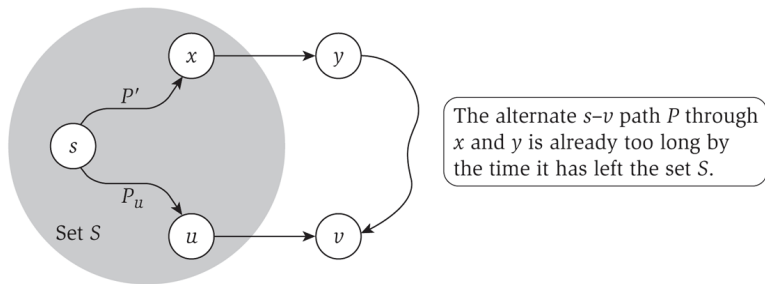


Figure 4.8 The shortest path P_v and an alternate s - v path P through the node y .

Proof of Correctness

- Let P_u be the path computed by the algorithm for an arbitrary node u .
- Claim: P_u is the shortest path from s to u .
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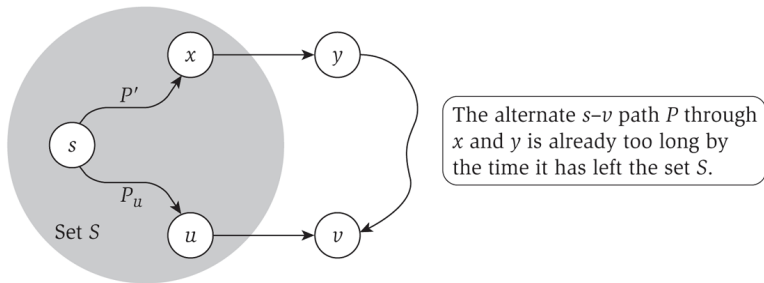


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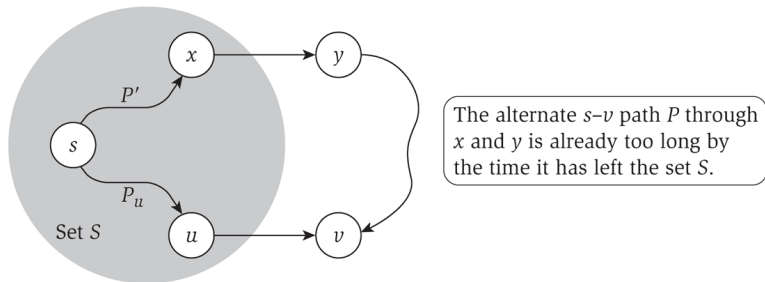


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Comments about Dijkstra's Algorithm

- Algorithm cannot handle negative edge lengths. We will discuss the Bellman-Ford algorithm in a few weeks.
- Union of shortest paths output by Dijkstra's algorithm forms a tree. Why?

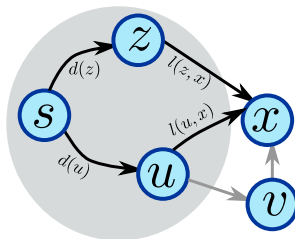
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- Algorithm cannot handle negative edge lengths. We will discuss the Bellman-Ford algorithm in a few weeks.
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- Union of shortest paths from a fixed source s forms a tree; paths not necessarily computed by Dijkstra's algorithm.

Running time of Dijkstra's Algorithm

DIJKSTRA'S ALGORITHM(G, l, s)

- 1: $S = \{s\}$ and $d(s) = 0$
 - 2: **while** $S \neq V$ **do**
 - 3: **for** every node $x \in V - S$ **do**
 - 4: Set $d'(x) = \min_{(u,x): u \in S} (d(u) + l(u, x))$
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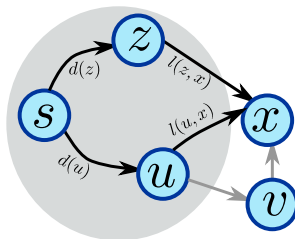
- V has n nodes and E has m edges.
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► Greedy graph algorithms: Running time of Dijkstra's algorithm: take 1

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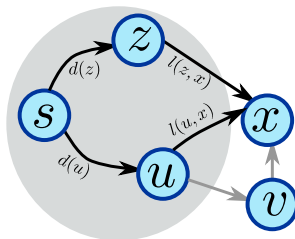
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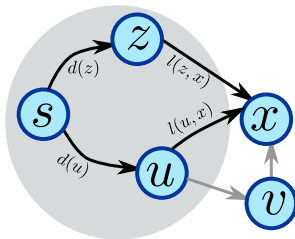
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Running time of Dijkstra's Algorithm

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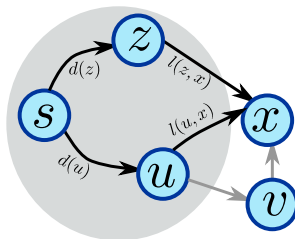
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► Greedy graph algorithms: Running time of Dijkstra's algorithm: take 1

Running time of Dijkstra's Algorithm

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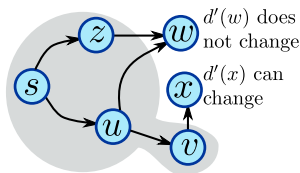
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- Running time per iteration is $O(m)$, since the algorithm processes each edge (u, x) in the graph exactly once (when computing $d'(x)$).
- The overall running time is $O(nm)$.

A Faster implementation of Dijkstra's Algorithm

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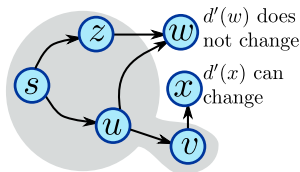
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- Observation: If we add v to S , $d'(x)$ changes only

► Greedy graph algorithms: Running time of Dijkstra's algorithm: updating d'

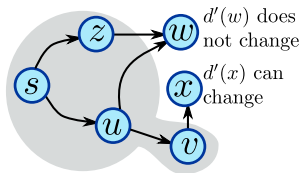


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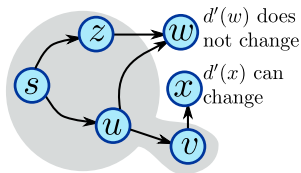
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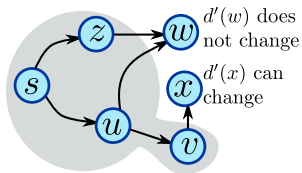


- Observation: If we add v to S , $d'(x)$ changes only if (v, x) is an edge in G and x is not in S .
- Idea: For each node $x \in V - S$, store the current value of $d'(x)$. Upon adding a node v to S , update $d'()$ only for neighbours of v that are not in S .

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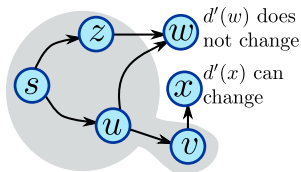
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- How do we efficiently compute $v = \arg \min_{x \in V-S} d'(x)$?

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- How do we efficiently compute $v = \arg \min_{x \in V-S} d'(x)$?
- Use a priority queue!

Faster Dijkstra's Algorithm

DIJKSTRA'S ALGORITHM(G, l, s)

```
1: INSERT( $Q, s, 0$ ).  
2: while  $S \neq V$  do  
3:   ( $v, d'(v)$ ) = EXTRACTMIN( $Q$ )  
4:   Add  $v$  to  $S$  and set  $d(v) = d'(v)$   
5:   for every node  $x \in V - S$  such that  $(v, x)$  is an edge in  $G$  do  
6:     if  $d(v) + l(v, x) < d'(x)$  then  
7:        $d'(x) = d(v) + l(v, x)$   
8:       CHANGEKEY( $Q, x, d'(x)$ )
```

- For each node $x \in V - S$, store the pair $(x, d'(x))$ in a priority queue Q with $d'(x)$ as the key.
- Determine the next node v to add to S using EXTRACTMIN (line 3).
- After adding v to S , for each node $x \in V - S$ such that there is an edge from v to x , check if $d'(x)$ should be updated, i.e., if there is a shortest path from s to x via v (lines 5–8).
- In line 8, if x is not in Q , simply insert it.

Running Time of Faster Dijkstra's Algorithm

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- How many times does the algorithm invoke EXTRACTMIN?

► Greedy graph algorithms: Running time of Dijkstra's algorithm: take 2

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- How many times does the algorithm invoke EXTRACTMIN? $n - 1$ times.

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- What is total running time of the algorithm? $O(m \log n)$.

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6:     if  $d(v) + l(v, x) < d'(x)$  then
7:        $d'(x) = d(v) + l(v, x)$ 
8:       CHANGEKEY( $Q, x, d'(x)$ )
```

- How many times does the algorithm invoke EXTRACTMIN? $n - 1$ times.
- For every node v , what is the running time of step 5? $O(d_v)$, the number of *outgoing* neighbours of v .
- What is the total running time of step 5? $\sum_{v \in V} O(d_v) = O(m)$.
- How many times does the algorithm invoke CHANGEKEY? At most m times.
- What is total running time of the algorithm? $O(m \log n)$.
- State of the art: Fibonacci heaps achieve a running time of $O(m)$ for all CHANGEKEY operations, for a running time of $O(n \log n + m)$.

Network Design

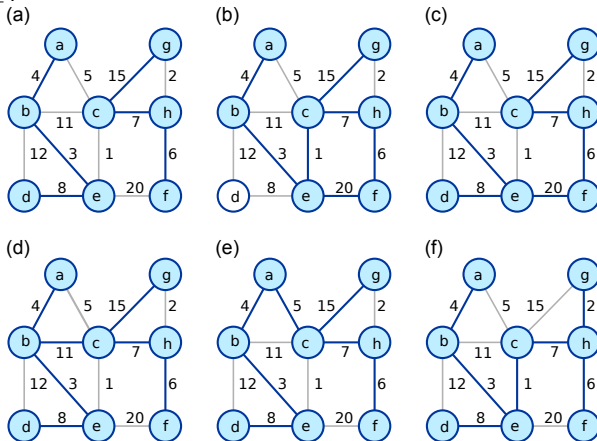
- Connect a set of nodes using a set of edges with certain properties.
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Minimum Spanning Tree (MST)

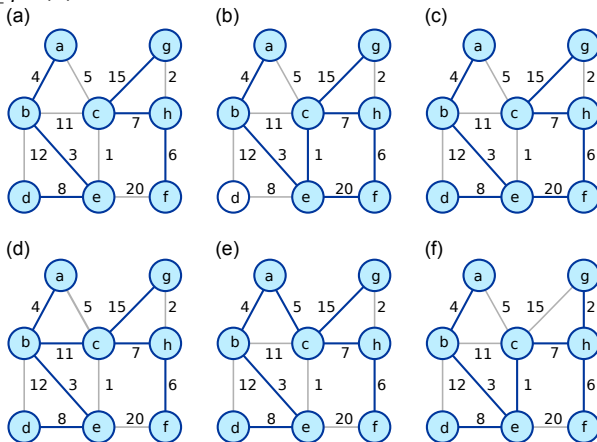
- Given an undirected graph $G(V, E)$ with a cost $c(e) > 0$ associated with each edge $e \in E$.
- Find a subset T of edges such that the graph (V, T) is connected and the cost $\sum_{e \in T} c(e)$ is as small as possible.



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▶ Lectures 9–12: MST: Connected and minimum examples

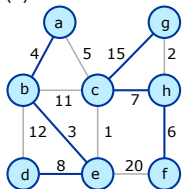


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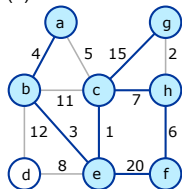
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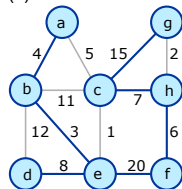
(a) Not connected



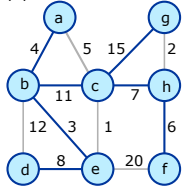
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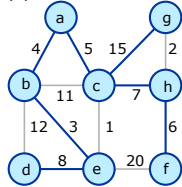
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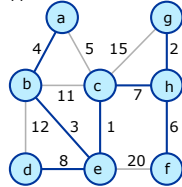
(d) Not smallest cost



(e) Not smallest cost



(f) Smallest cost

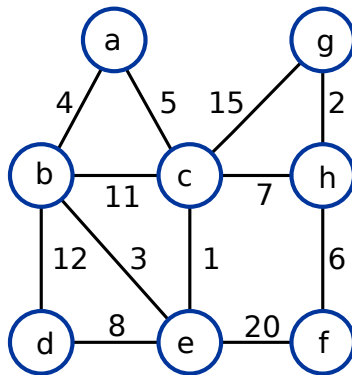


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INSTANCE: An undirected graph $G(V, E)$ and a function $c : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$

SOLUTION: A set $T \subseteq E$ of edges such that (V, T) is connected and the cost $\sum_{e \in T} c(e)$ is as small as possible.

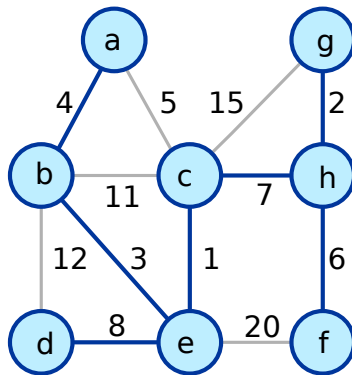


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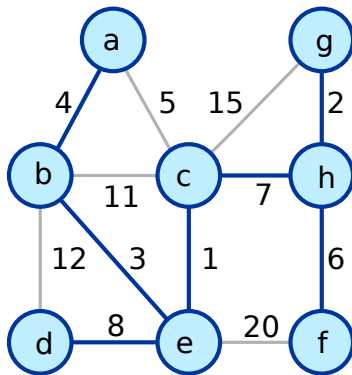


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- Claim: If T is a minimum-cost solution to this problem then (V, T) is a tree.
- A subset T of E is a *spanning tree* of G if (V, T) is a tree.

Greedy Algorithm for the MST Problem

- Template: process edges in some order. Add an edge to T if tree property is not violated.

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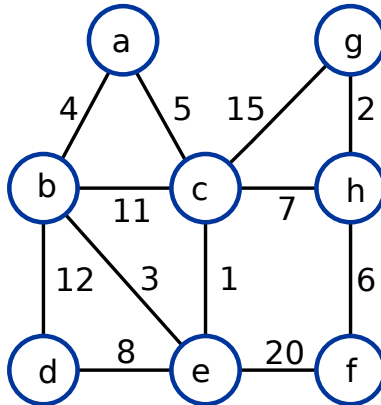
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 - ▶ We obtain a cycle.
 - ▶ Which edge in the cycle can we be sure does not belong to an MST?

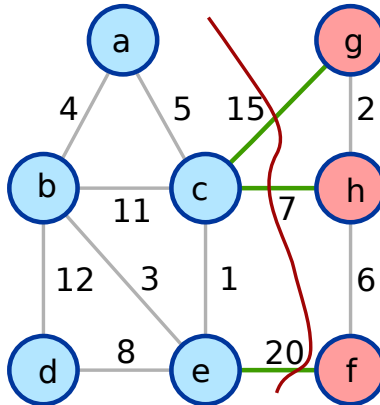
Graph Cuts

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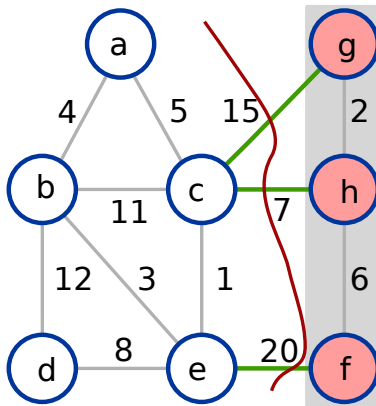
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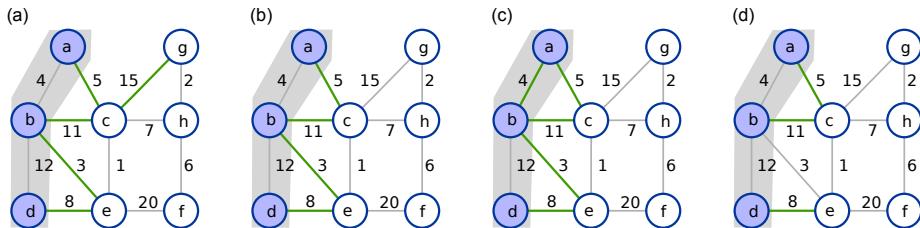
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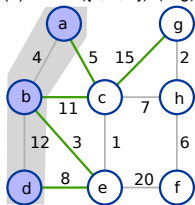


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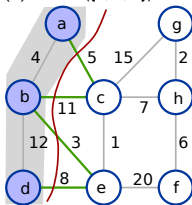
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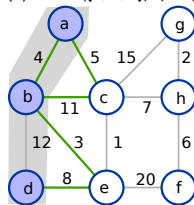
(a) Not cut($\{a, b, d\}$): (c, g)



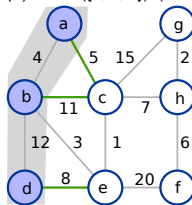
(b) Is cut($\{a, b, d\}$)



(c) Not cut($\{a, b, d\}$): (a, b)



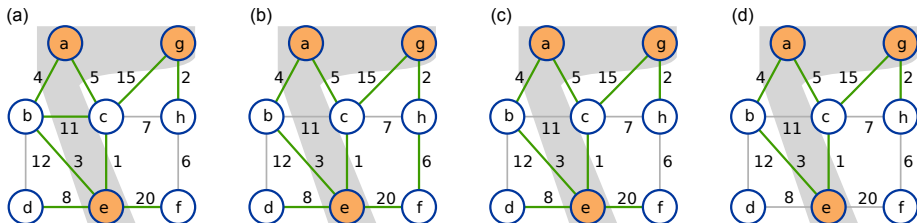
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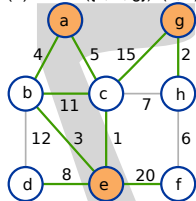


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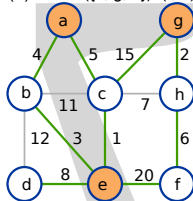
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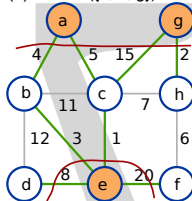
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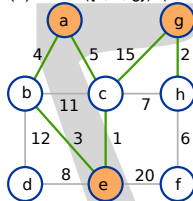
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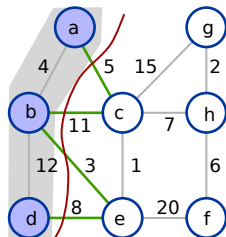


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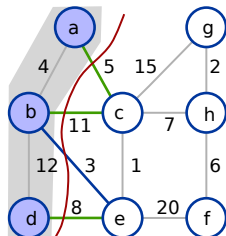
Cut Property

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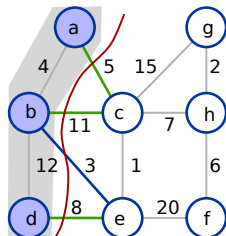
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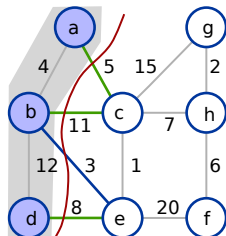
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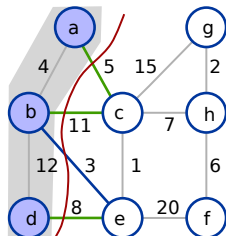
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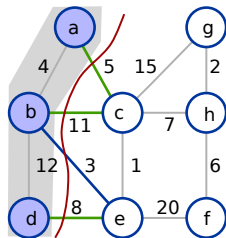
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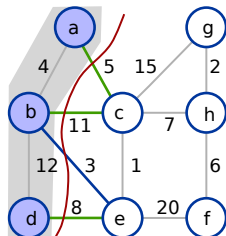
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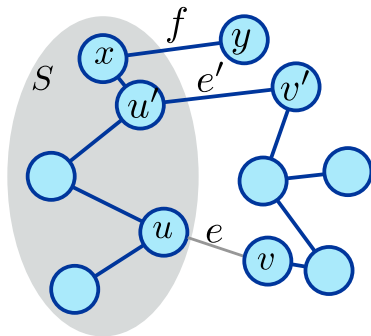
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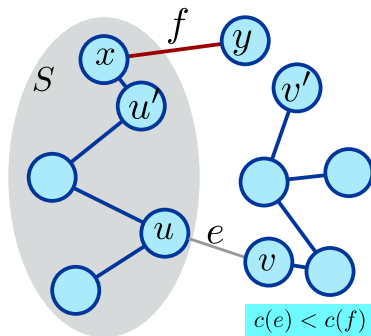
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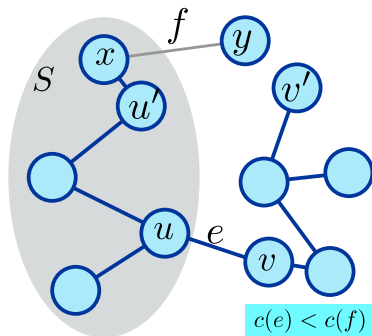
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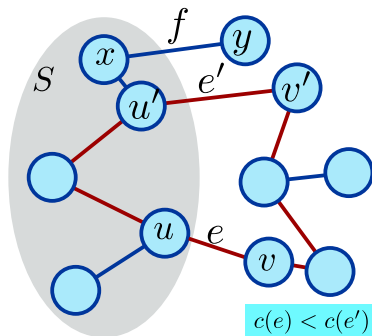
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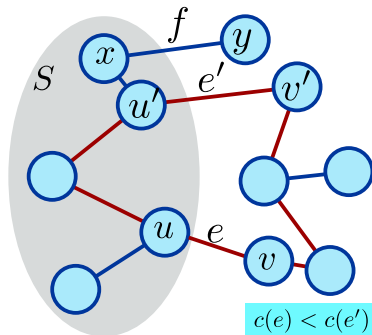
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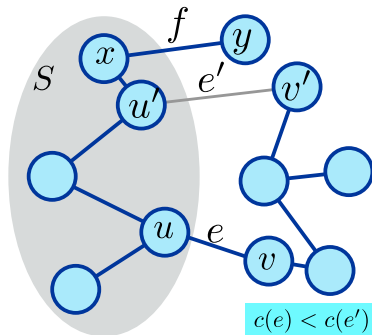
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PRIM'S ALGORITHM(G, c, s)

- 1: $S = \{s\}$ and $T = \emptyset$
 - 2: **while** $S \neq V$ **do**
 - 3: Compute $(u, v) = \arg \min_{(u,v): u \in S, v \in V-S} c(u, v)$
 - 4: Add the node v to S and add the edge (u, v) to T .
-

► Lectures 9–12: MST: Step 3 of Prim's algorithm

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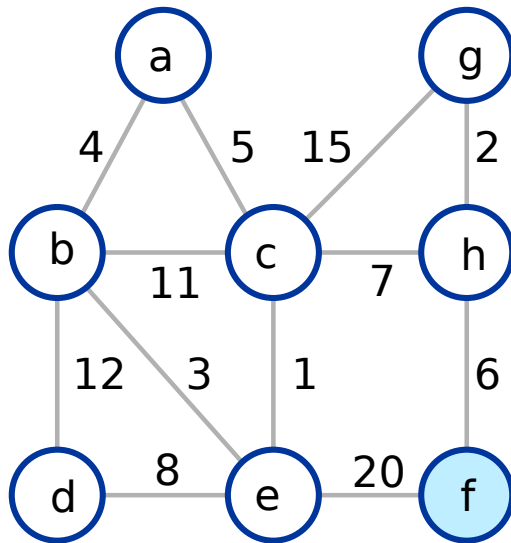
► Lectures 9–12: MST: Step 3 of Prim's algorithm

- Note that

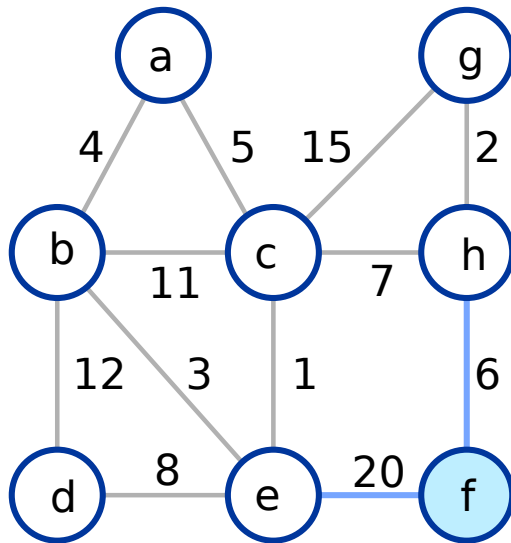
$$\arg \min_{(u,v), u \in S, v \in V-S} c(u, v) \equiv \arg \min_{(u,v) \in \text{cut}(S)} c(u, v).$$

- In other words, in each step, Prim's algorithm computes and adds the cheapest edge in the current value of $\text{cut}(S)$.

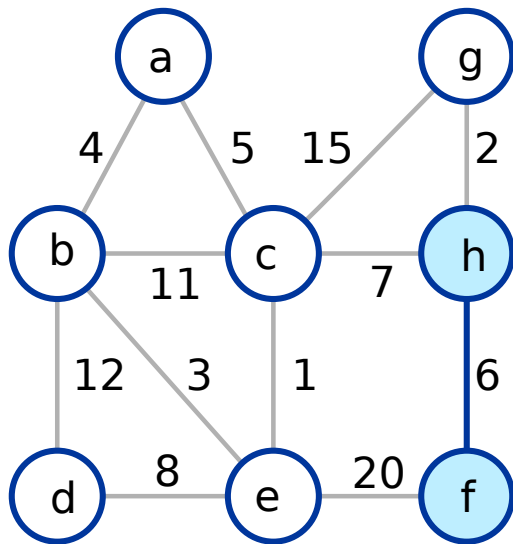
Example of Prim's Algorithm



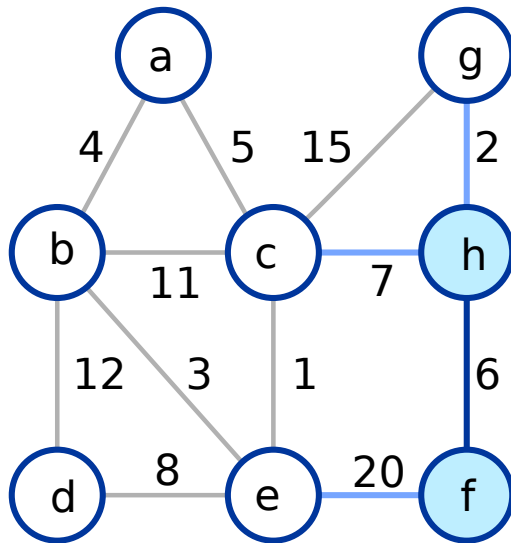
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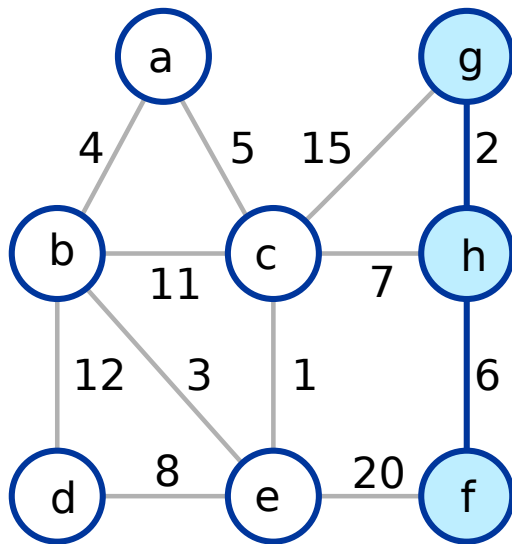
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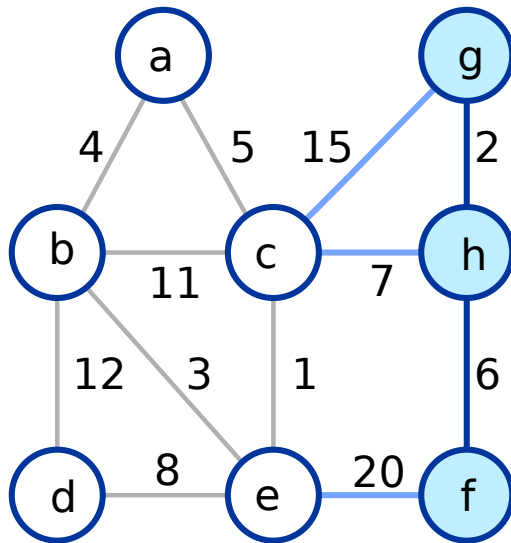
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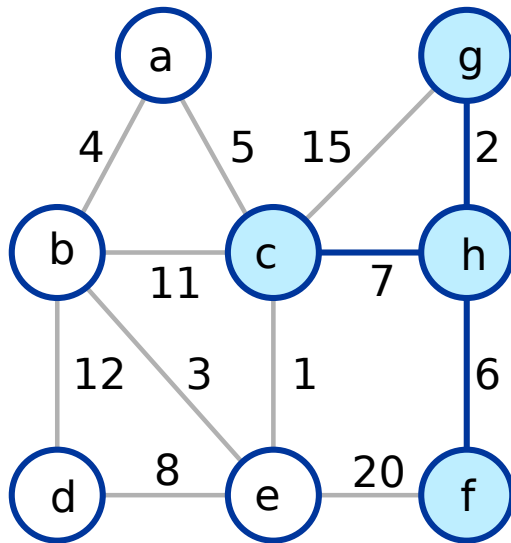
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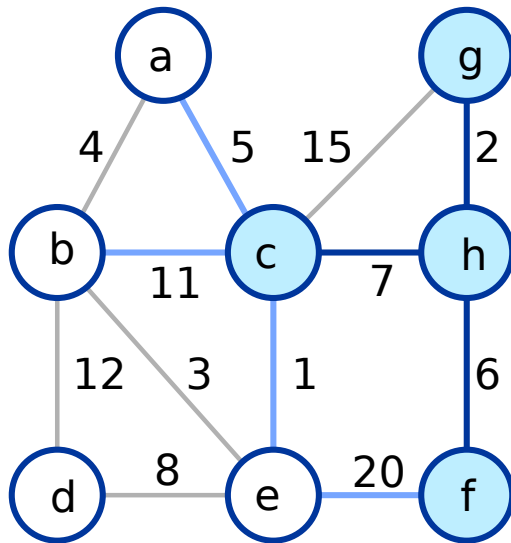
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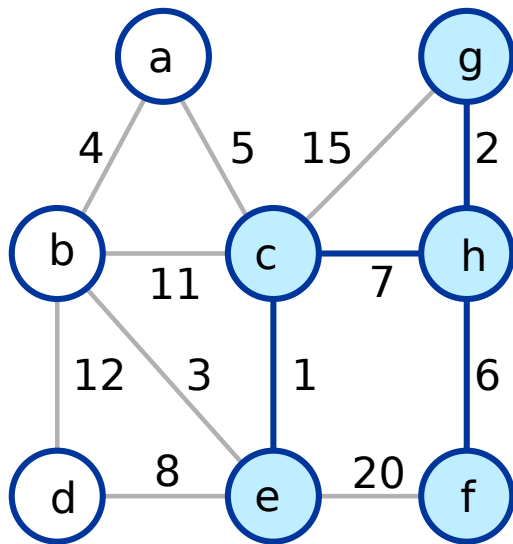
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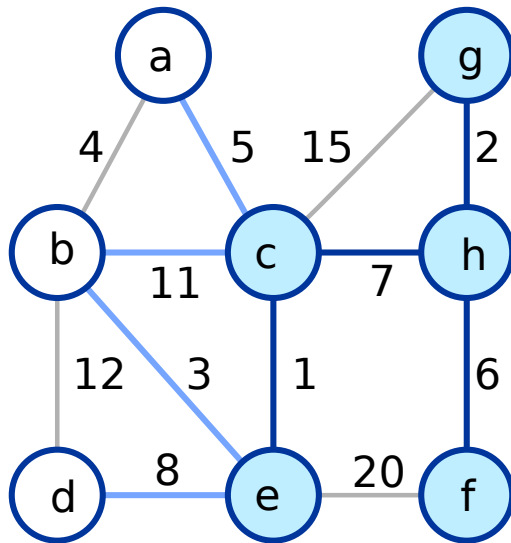
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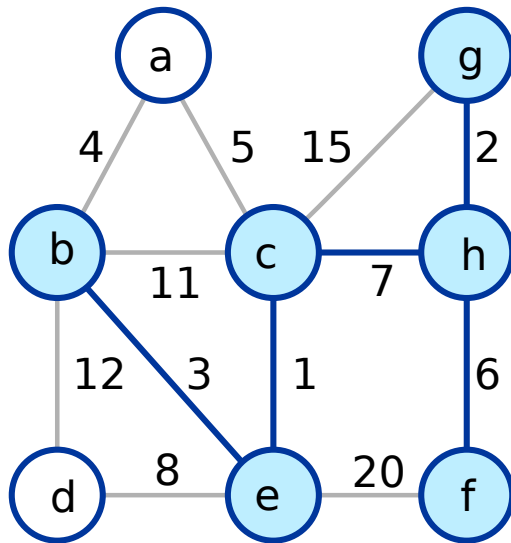
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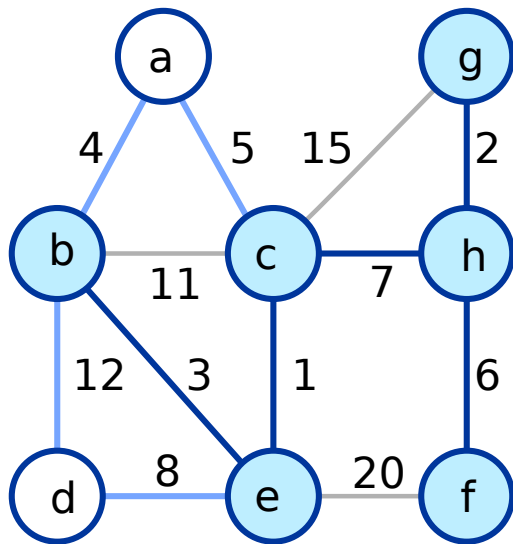
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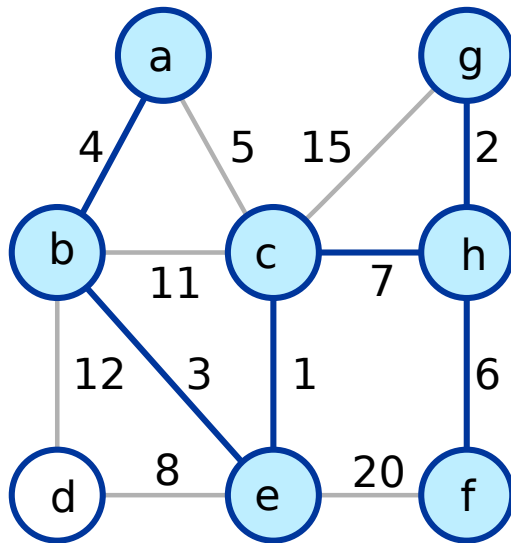
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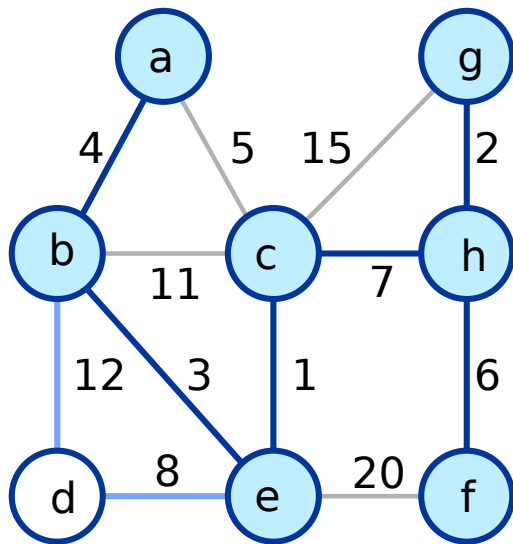
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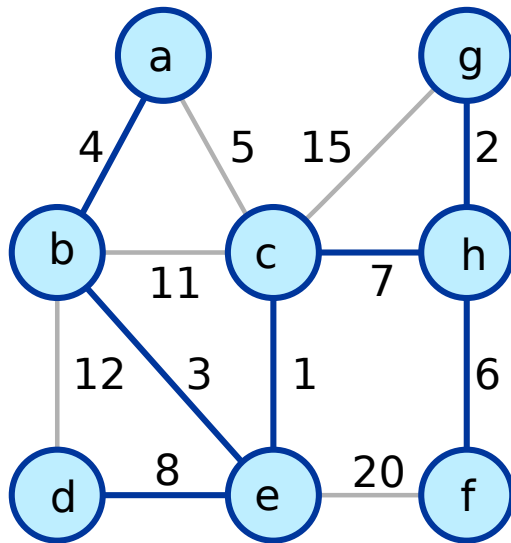
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► Lectures 9–12: MST: No cycles in output of Prim's algorithm

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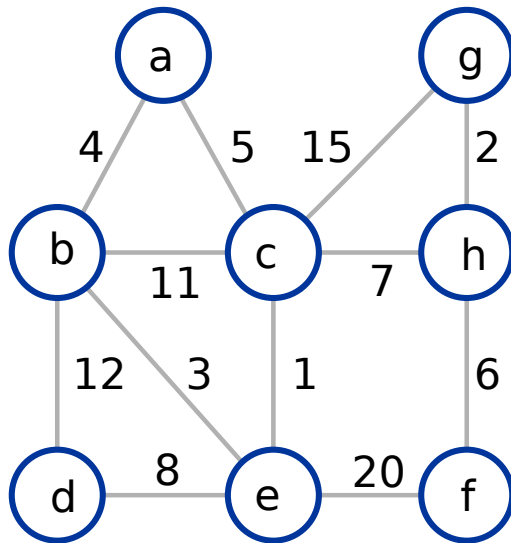
- ★ Why are there no cycles in (V, T) ? ▶ Lectures 9–12: MST: No cycles in output of Prim's algorithm
- ★ Why is (V, T) a spanning tree (edges in T connect all nodes in V)?

▶ Lectures 9–12: MST: No cycles in output of Prim's algorithm

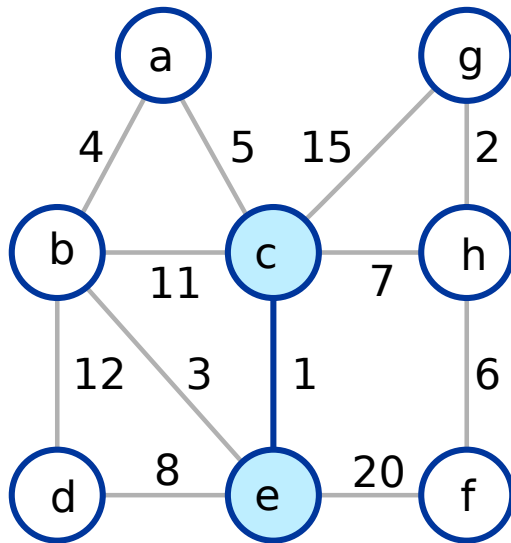
Kruskal's Algorithm

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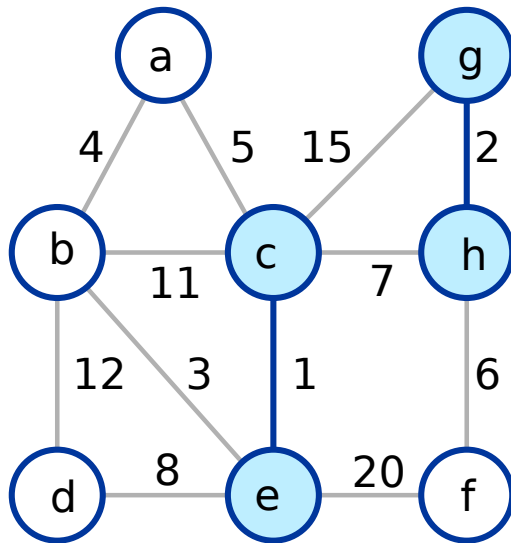
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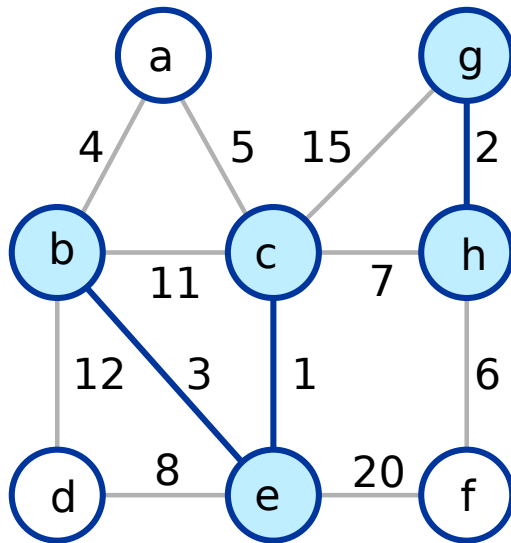
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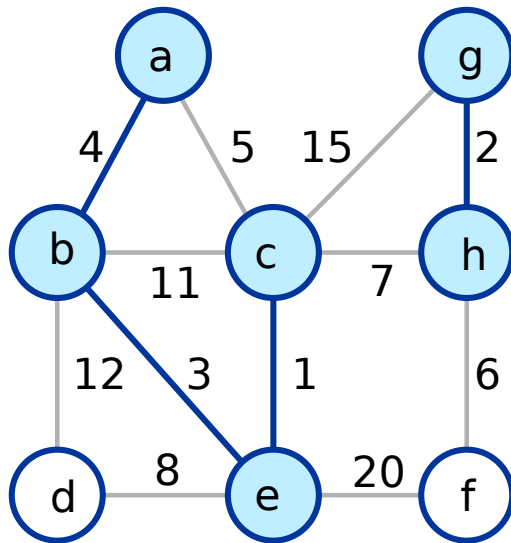
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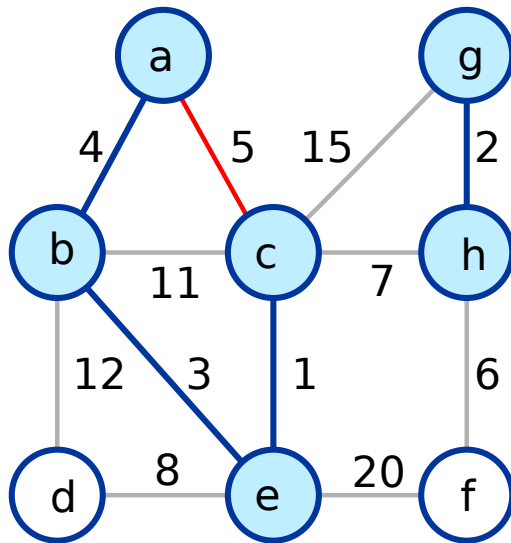
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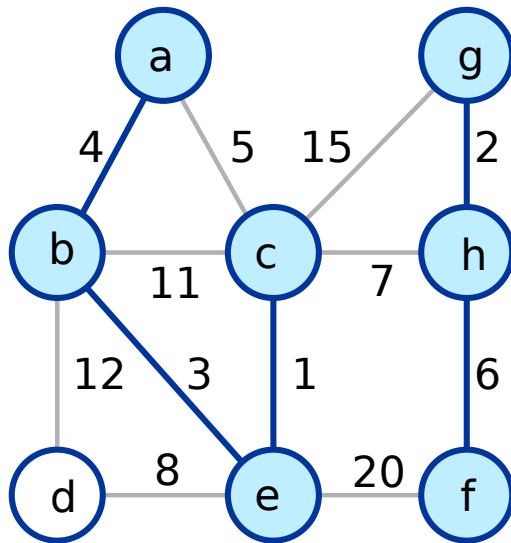
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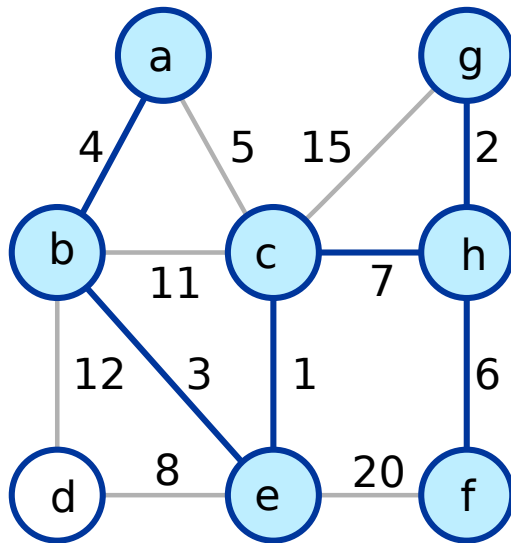
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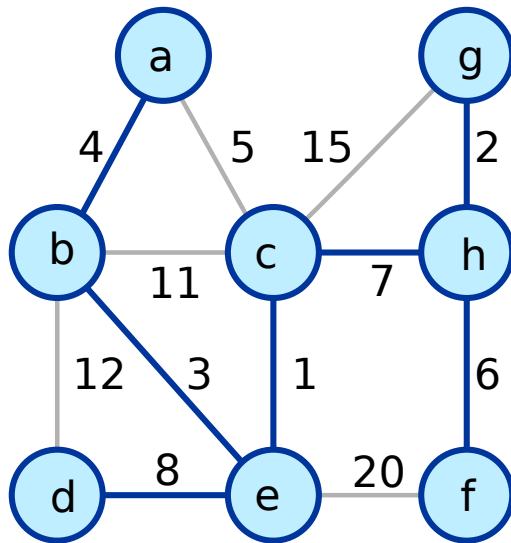
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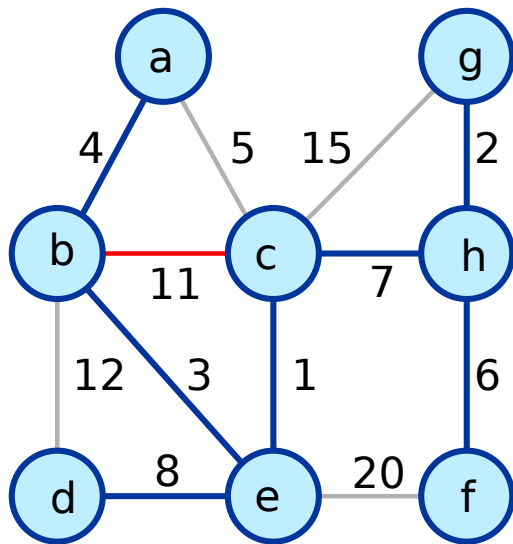
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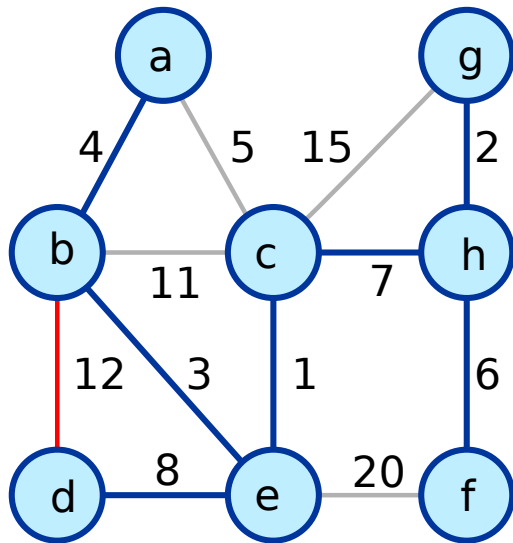
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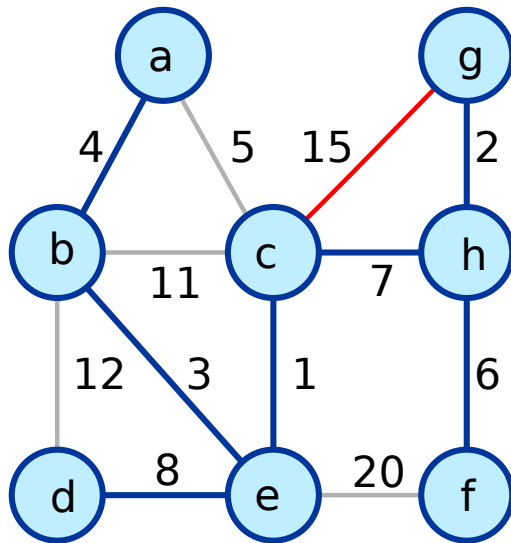
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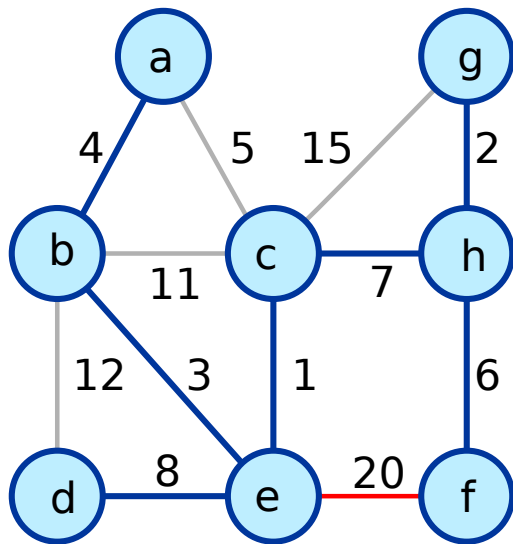
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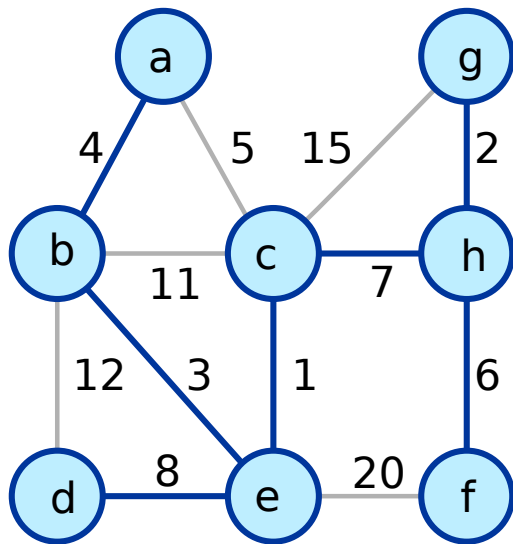
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 - 2 Prove that the algorithm computes a spanning tree.
 - ★ (V, T) contains no cycles by construction.
 - ★ If (V, T) is not connected, there exists a subset S of nodes not connected to $V - S$. What is the contradiction?

Cycle Property

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Cycle Property

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Cycle Property

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- Let C be any cycle in G and let $e = (v, w)$ be the most expensive edge in C .
- Claim: e does not belong to any MST of G .
- Proof: exchange argument. If a supposed MST T contains e , show that there is a tree with smaller cost than T that does not contain e .

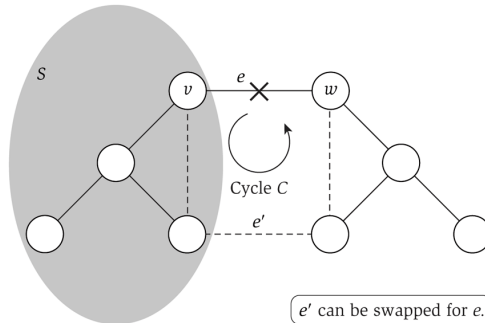


Figure 4.11 Swapping the edge e' for the edge e in the spanning tree T , as described in the proof of (4.20).

Optimality of the Reverse-Delete Algorithm

- Reverse-Delete algorithm: Maintain a set E' of edges.
 - ▶ Start with $E' = E$.
 - ▶ Process edges in decreasing order of cost.
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 - ★ (V, E') is connected at the end, by construction.
 - ★ If (V, E') contains a cycle, consider the costliest edge in that cycle. The algorithm would have deleted that edge.

Implementing Prim's Algorithm

PRIM'S ALGORITHM(G, c, s)

- 1: $S = \{s\}$ and $T = \emptyset$
 - 2: **while** $S \neq V$ **do**
 - 3: Compute $(u, v) = \arg \min_{(u,v): u \in S, v \in V-S} c(u, v)$
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- Implementation and analysis are very similar to Dijkstra's algorithm.
- Maintain S and store attachment costs $a(v) = \min_{e \in \text{cut}(S)} c(e)$ for every node $v \in V - S$ in a priority queue. **Not the same as Dijkstra's algorithm!**
- At each step, extract the node v with the minimum attachment cost from the priority queue and update the attachment costs of the neighbours of v .

Final Version of Prim's Algorithm

PRIM'S ALGORITHM(G, c, s)

```
1: INSERT( $Q, s, 0, \emptyset$ )
2: while  $S \neq V$  do
3:    $(v, a(v), u) = \text{EXTRACTMIN}(Q)$ 
4:   Add node  $v$  to  $S$  and edge  $(u, v)$  to  $T$ .
5:   for every node  $x \in V - S$  such that  $(v, x)$  is an edge in  $G$  do
6:     if  $c(v, x) < a(x)$  then
7:        $a(x) = c(v, x)$ 
8:       CHANGEKEY( $Q, x, a(x), v$ )
```

- Q is a priority queue.
- Each element in Q is a triple: the node, its attachment cost, and its predecessor in the MST.
- In Step 8, if x is not already in Q , simply Insert $(x, a(x), v)$ into Q .

► Lectures 9–12: MST: Running time of Prim's algorithm

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- Q is a priority queue.
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- In Step 8, if x is not already in Q , simply Insert $(x, a(x), v)$ into Q .
- Total of $n - 1$ EXTRACTMIN and m CHANGEKEY/Insert operations, yielding a running time of $O(m \log n)$.

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Implementing Kruskal's Algorithm

- Start with an empty set T of edges.
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- Add the next edge e to T only if adding e does not create a cycle.
- Sorting edges takes $O(m \log n)$ time.
- Key question: “Does adding $e = (u, v)$ to T create a cycle?”
 - ▶ Maintain set of connected components of T .
 - ▶ $\text{FIND}(u)$: return the name of the connected component of T that u belongs to.
 - ▶ $\text{UNION}(A, B)$: merge connected components A and B .

Analysing Kruskal's Algorithm

- How many `FIND` invocations does Kruskal's algorithm need?

Analysing Kruskal's Algorithm

- How many `FIND` invocations does Kruskal's algorithm need? $2m$.
- How many `UNION` invocations does Kruskal's algorithm need?

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- How many UNION invocations does Kruskal's algorithm need? $n - 1$.
- Textbook describes two implementations of UNION-FIND: (see appendix to this set of slides)
 - ▶ Each FIND takes $O(1)$ time, k invocations of UNION take $O(k \log k)$ time in total.
 - ▶ Each FIND takes $O(\log n)$ time and each invocation of UNION takes $O(1)$ time.

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- Total running time of Kruskal's algorithm is $O(m \log n)$.

Comments on Union-Find and MST

- The UNION-FIND data structure is useful to maintain the connected components of a graph as edges are added to the graph.
- The data structure does not support edge **deletion** efficiently.

Comments on MST Algorithms

- To handle multiple edges with the same length, perturb each length by a random infinitesimal amount. Read the textbook.
- *Any* algorithm that constructs a spanning tree by including edges that satisfy the cut property and deleting edges that satisfy the cycle property will yield an MST!
- Current best algorithm for MST runs in $O(m\alpha(m, n))$ time (Chazelle 2000) and $O(m)$ randomised time (Karger, Klein, and Tarjan, 1995).
- Holy grail: $O(m)$ deterministic algorithm for MST.

Union-Find Data Structure

- Abstraction of the data structure needed by Kruskal's algorithm.
- Maintain disjoint subsets of elements from a universe U of n elements.
- Each subset has an name. We will set a set's name to be the identity of some element in it.
- Support three operations:
 - 1 $\text{MAKEUNIONFIND}(U)$: initialise the data structure with elements in U .
 - 2 $\text{FIND}(u)$: return the identity of the subset that contains u .
 - 3 $\text{UNION}(A, B)$: merge the sets named A and B into one set.

Union-Find Data Structure: Implementation 1

- Store all the elements of U in an array `COMPONENT`.
 - ▶ Assume identities of elements are integers from 1 to n .
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 - 1 `MAKEUNIONFIND(U)`: For each $s \in U$, set `COMPONENT[s] = s` in $O(n)$ time.
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- `UNION` is very slow because we cannot efficiently find the elements that belong to a set.

Union-Find Data Structure: Implementation 2

- Optimisation 1: Use an array `ELEMENTS`
 - ▶ Indices of `ELEMENTS` range from 1 to n .
 - ▶ `ELEMENTS[s]` stores the elements in the subset named s in a list.
- Execute `UNION(A, B)` by merging B into A in two steps:
 - 1 Updating `COMPONENT` for elements of B in $O(|B|)$ time.
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- Optimisation 2: Store size of each set in an array (say, `SIZE`). If $\text{SIZE}[B] \leq \text{SIZE}[A]$, merge B into A . Otherwise merge A into B . Update `SIZE`.

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- FIND is fast in the worst case, UNION is fast in an amortised sense. Can we make both operations worst-case efficient?

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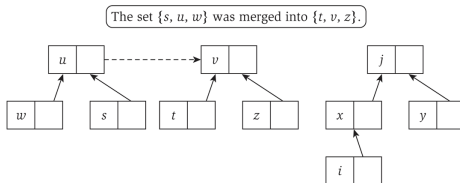


Figure 4.12 A Union-Find data structure using pointers. The data structure has only two sets at the moment, named after nodes v and j . The dashed arrow from u to v is the result of the last Union operation. To answer a Find query, we follow the arrows until we get to a node that has no outgoing arrow. For example, answering the query $\text{Find}(i)$ would involve following the arrows i to x , and then x to j .

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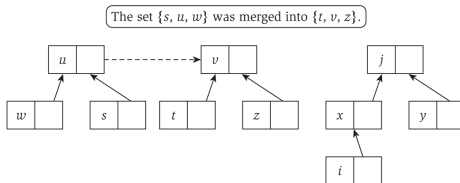


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- Implementing FIND(u): follow pointers from u to the root of u 's tree.
- Implementing UNION(A, B): make smaller tree's root a child of the larger tree's root. Takes $O(1)$ time.

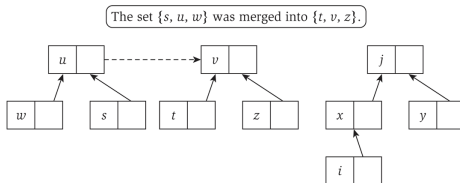


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Union-Find Data Structure: Find in Implementation 3

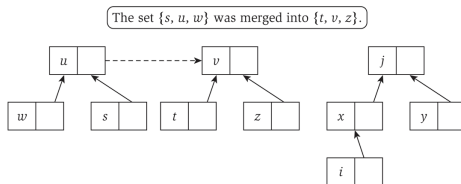


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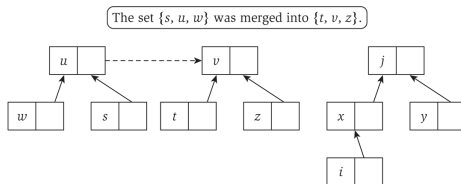


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- Why does $\text{FIND}(u)$ take $O(\log n)$ time?
- Number of pointers followed equals the number of times the identity of the set containing u changed.
- Every time u 's set's identity changes, the set at least doubles in size \Rightarrow there are $O(\log n)$ pointers followed.

Union-Find Data Structure: Improving Implementation

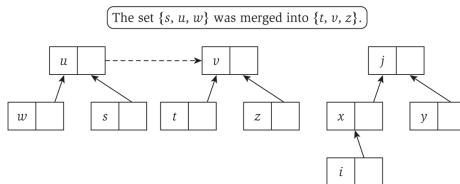


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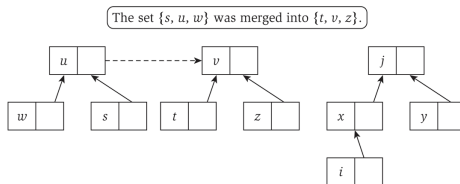


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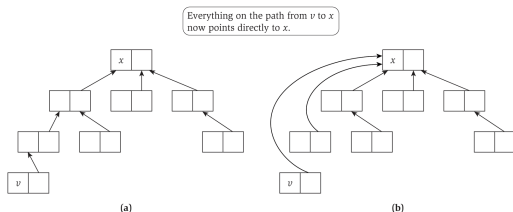


Figure 4.13 (a) An instance of a Union-Find data structure; and (b) the result of the operation $\text{Find}(v)$ on this structure, using path compression.

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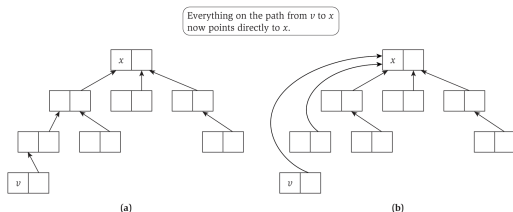


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- Can prove that total time taken by n FIND operations is $O(n\alpha(n))$, where $\alpha(n)$ is the inverse of the Ackermann function, and grows e-x-t-r-e-m-e-l-y s-l-o-w-l-y with n .