

CS 2100

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Graphs:  
MSTs

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# Recap

- HW due today

- HW4: graded (in git)

Please check! ("git pull")

- Working on grading 7+8 now

- Last lab - due next Friday

- HW - due next Saturday

→ Both on ZyBooks

- Review: last day of  
class  
(sample final handed out  
in class next week)

- Final: Wednesday at 2pm  
No conflicts or testing ctr

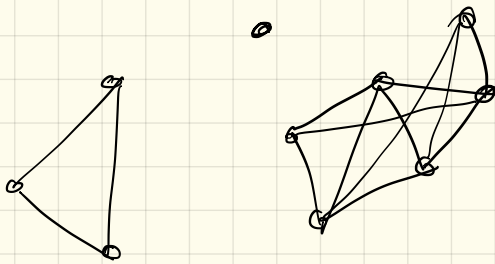
# Today: Minimum Spanning Trees (MSTs)

## Recall:

Dfn: A tree is a maximal acyclic graph, always with  $n-1$  edges.

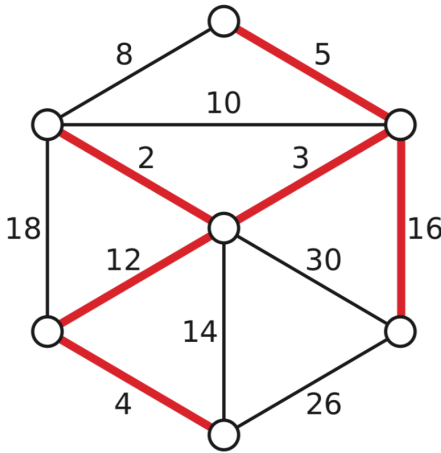
(DFS + BFS can both be used to get trees.)

Dfn: A component of a graph is a maximal connected subset of  $G$ .



# Problem: Minimum Spanning Tree

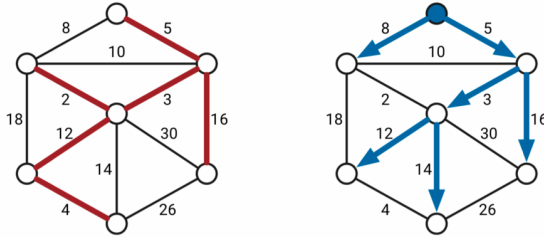
Find a set of edges which connects all vertices & is as small as possible.



A weighted graph and its minimum spanning tree.

Applications: Obvious?

Note : Not a shortest path tree!



**Figure 8.2.** A minimum spanning tree and a shortest path tree of the same undirected graph.

These track fundamentally different structures!

- Overall minimum weight vs distance to a particular goal.

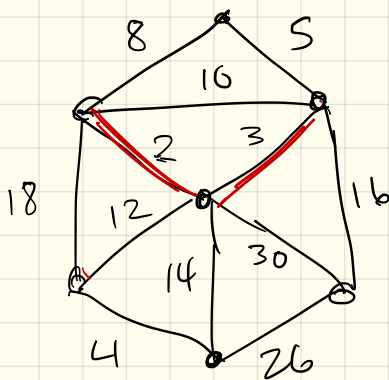
So - different applications, depending on what you want to optimize!

High level idea for algorithm:

- We'll start by assuming edge weights are unique:

so  $w(e) \neq w(e') \quad \forall e, e' \in E$

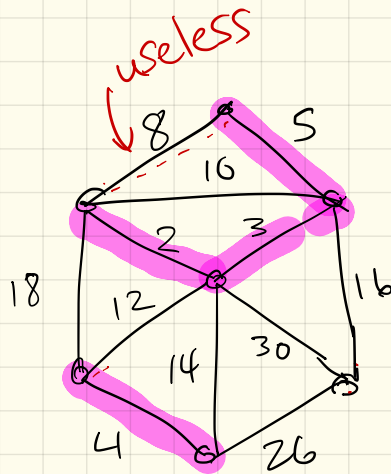
How to get started?



Pick smallest edge.

# Intermediate stage

Now suppose we have a partial MST + a forest.



Classify edges:

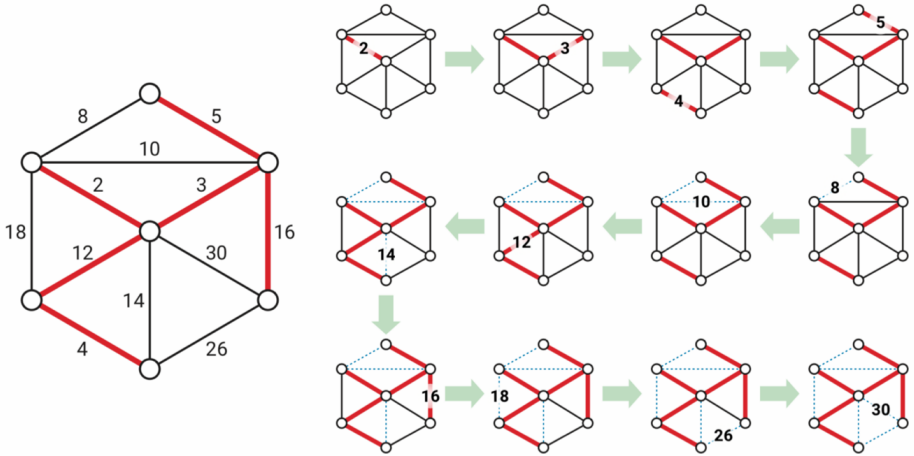
- useless

- potential edges:  
Connect 2 different  
components

Takeaway:

sort:  $O(m \log m)$

**KRUSKAL:** Scan all edges by increasing weight; if an edge is safe, add it to  $F$ .



**Figure 7.6.** Kruskal's algorithm run on the example graph. Thick red edges are in  $F$ ; thin dashed edges are useless.

(Proof that it always works  
↳ go take algorithms!)



Implementing:

Need to track components  
as we add edges.

(Zybooks called these  
vertex sets)

Really, need:

- $\text{MAKESET}(v)$  — Create a set containing only the vertex  $v$ .
- $\text{FIND}(v)$  — Return an identifier unique to the set containing  $v$ .
- $\text{UNION}(u, v)$  — Replace the sets containing  $u$  and  $v$  with their union. (This operation decreases the number of sets.)

This is called union-find  
data structure.

↳ Ties to sets.  
(more next week)

But - with just these 3  
operations...

- Each vertex needs to "know" its component
- Initially, each vertex is its own  $\rightarrow n$  labels
- When combining 2,
  - take smaller graph & relabel all of its vertices

How? Model each component as a graph or tree, & do BFS/DFS

- Then, each time a component label changes, its set is  $\geq$  twice as large.

So: each label can change only  $O(\log n)$  times

# Pseudocode:

KRUSKAL( $V, E$ ):

sort  $E$  by increasing weight  $\leftarrow m \log m$

$F \leftarrow (V, \emptyset)$

for each vertex  $v \in V$

    MAKESET( $v$ )

for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $|E|$

$uv \leftarrow$   $i$ th lightest edge in  $E$

    if FIND( $u$ )  $\neq$  FIND( $v$ )

UNION( $u, v$ )

        add  $uv$  to  $F$

return  $F$

Runtime:

Repeats  $O(m)$

$O(|E|)$

$$O(m \log m + (n+m) \log n)$$

$$= O(m \log m)$$