



<http://algs4.cs.princeton.edu>

## 4.3 MINIMUM SPANNING TREES

---

- ▶ *introduction*
- ▶ *greedy algorithm*
- ▶ *edge-weighted graph API*
- ▶ *Kruskal's algorithm*
- ▶ *Prim's algorithm*
- ▶ *context*



# Algorithms

ROBERT SEDGEWICK | KEVIN WAYNE

<http://algs4.cs.princeton.edu>

## 4.3 MINIMUM SPANNING TREES

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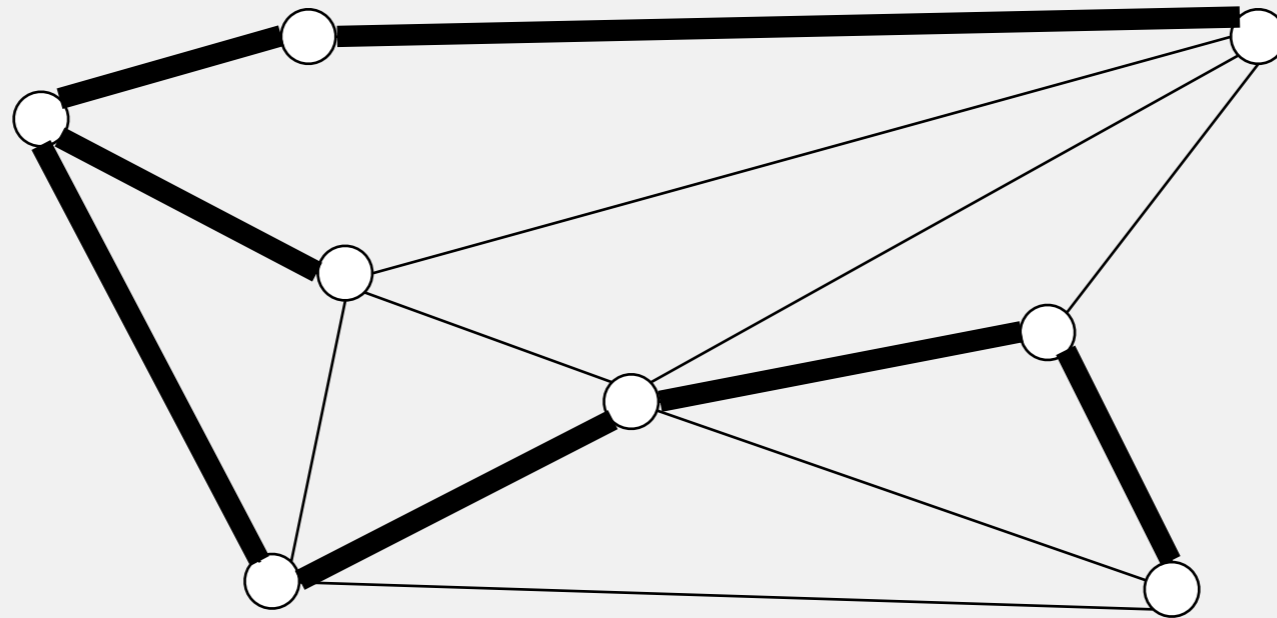
- ▶ *introduction*
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- ▶ *Prim's algorithm*
- ▶ *context*

# Minimum spanning tree

---

**Def.** A **spanning tree** of  $G$  is a subgraph  $T$  that is:

- A tree: connected and acyclic.
- Spanning: includes all of the vertices.



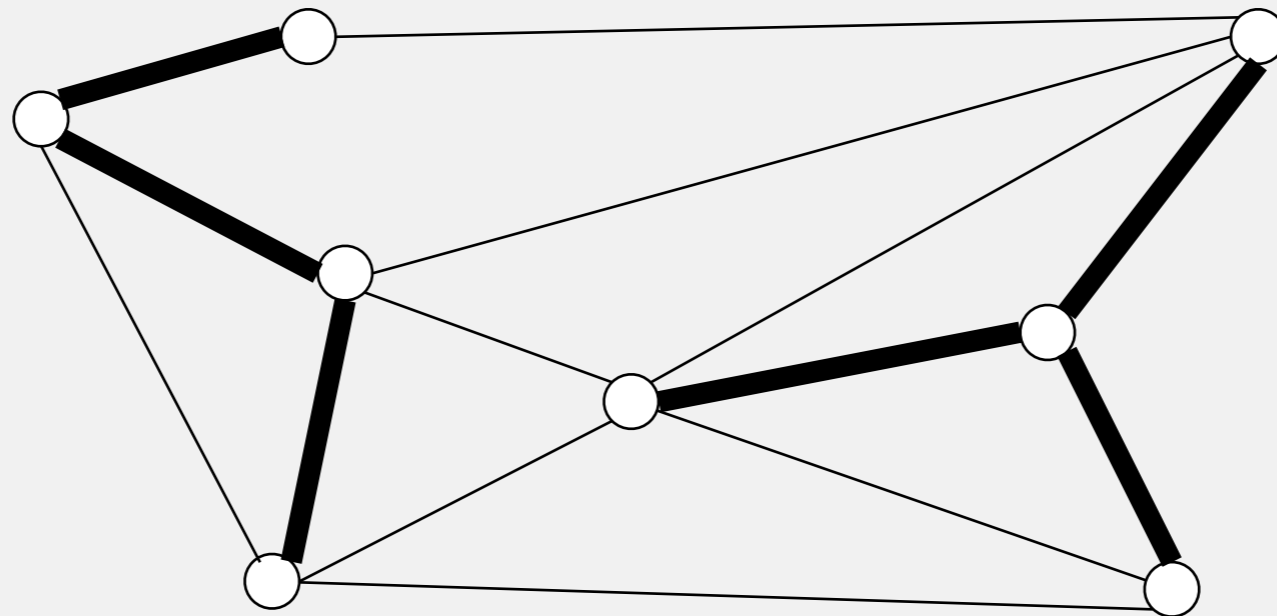
graph G

# Minimum spanning tree

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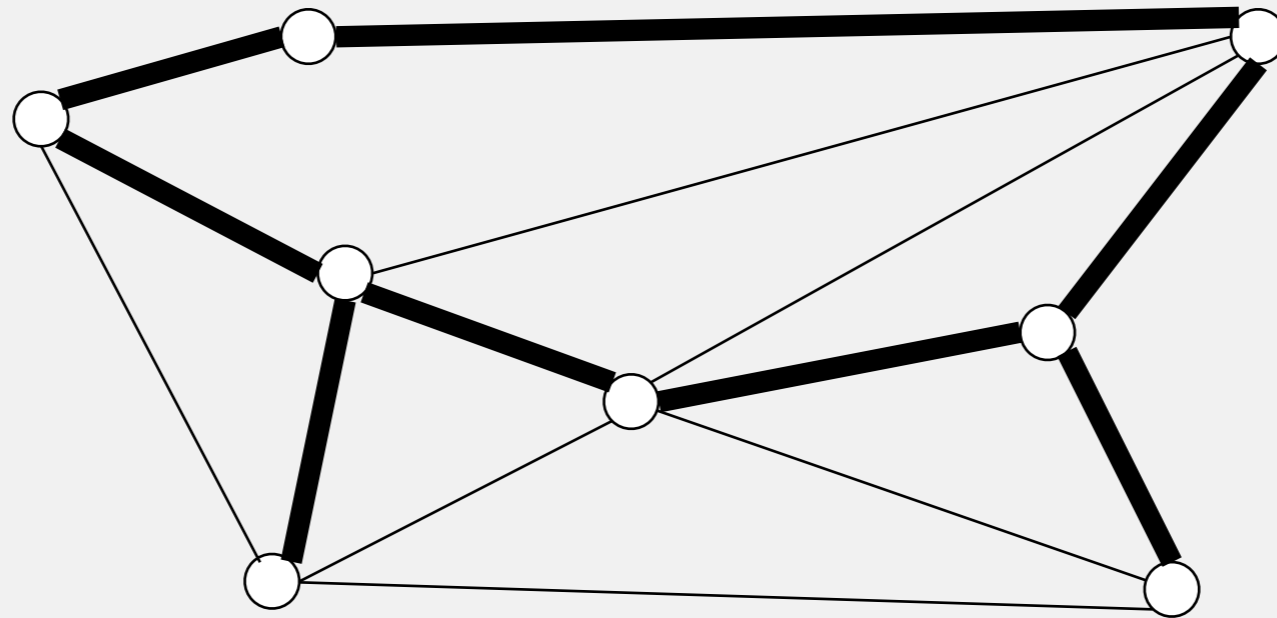
**not a tree (not connected)**

# Minimum spanning tree

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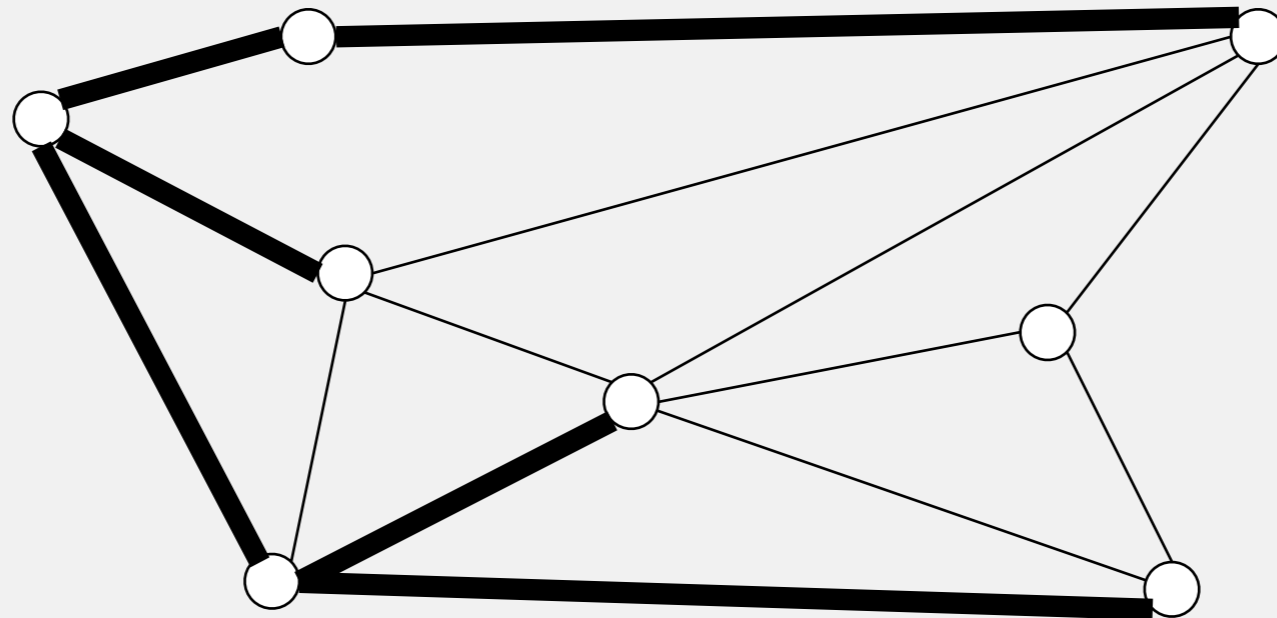
**not a tree (cyclic)**

# Minimum spanning tree

---

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- A tree: connected and acyclic.
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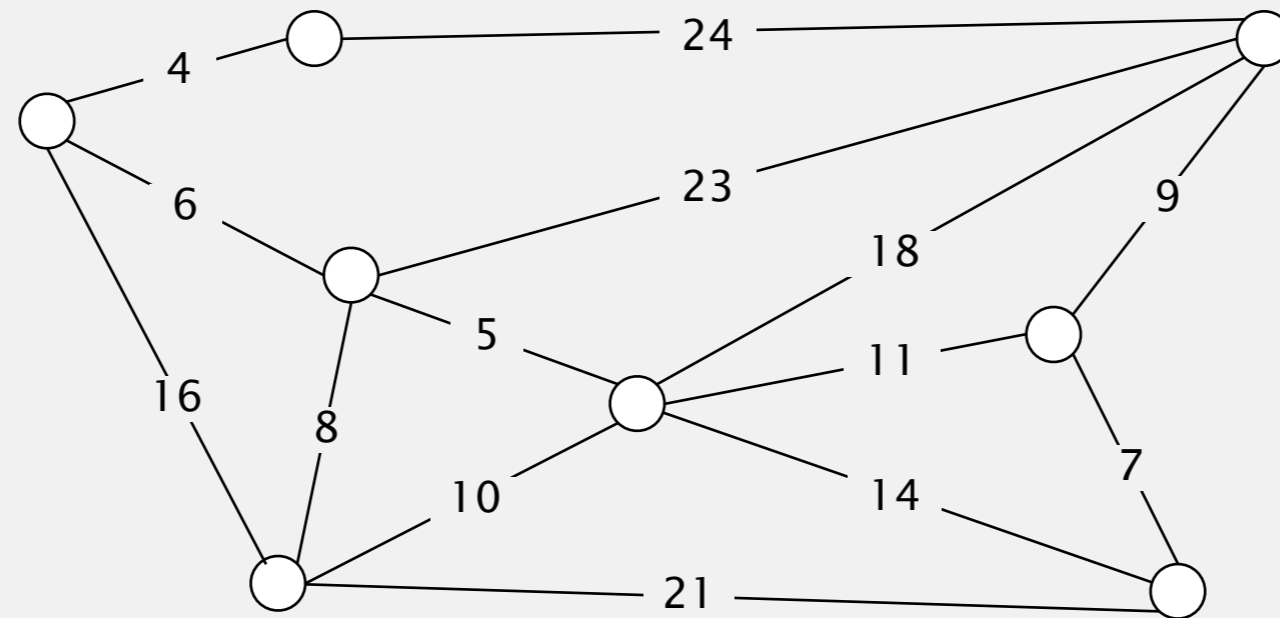


**not spanning**

# Minimum spanning tree problem

---

**Input.** Connected, undirected graph  $G$  with positive edge weights.



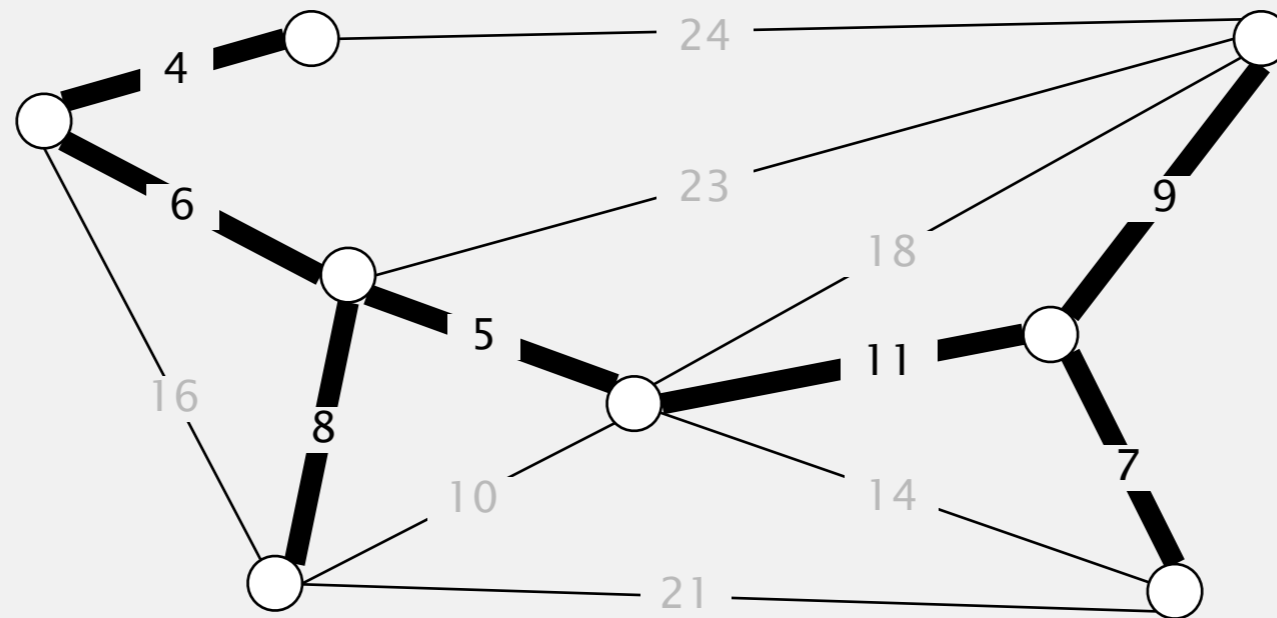
**edge-weighted graph  $G$**

# Minimum spanning tree problem

---

**Input.** Connected, undirected graph  $G$  with positive edge weights.

**Output.** A spanning tree of minimum weight.



**minimum spanning tree  $T$**   
**(weight = 50 = 4 + 6 + 8 + 5 + 11 + 9 + 7)**

**Brute force.** Try all spanning trees?



# Minimum spanning trees: quiz 1

---

Let  $G$  be a connected edge-weighted graph with  $V$  vertices and  $E$  edges.

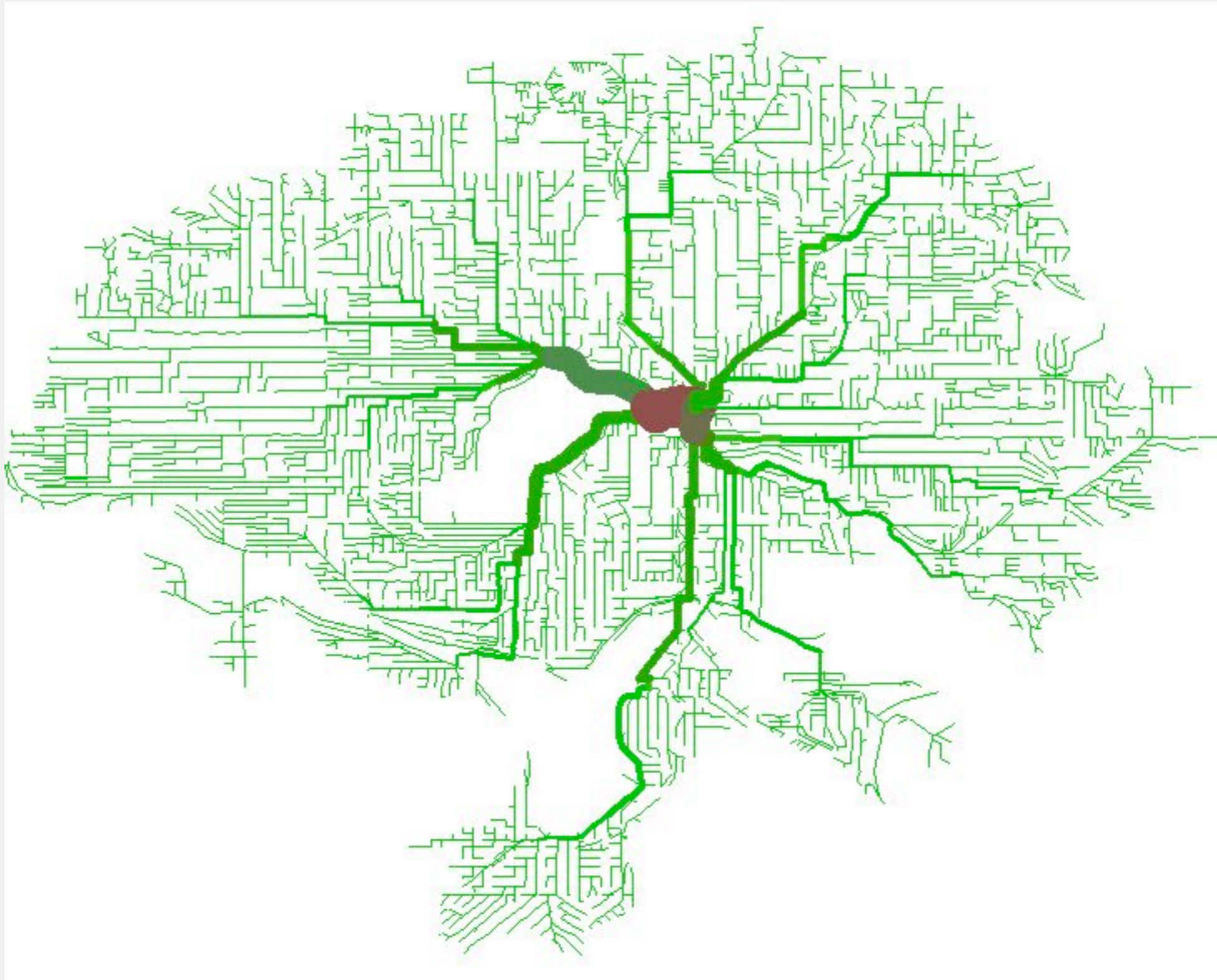
How many edges are in a MST of  $G$ ?

- A.  $V - 1$
- B.  $V$
- C.  $E - 1$
- D.  $E$
- E. *I don't know.*

# Network design

---

## MST of bicycle routes in North Seattle

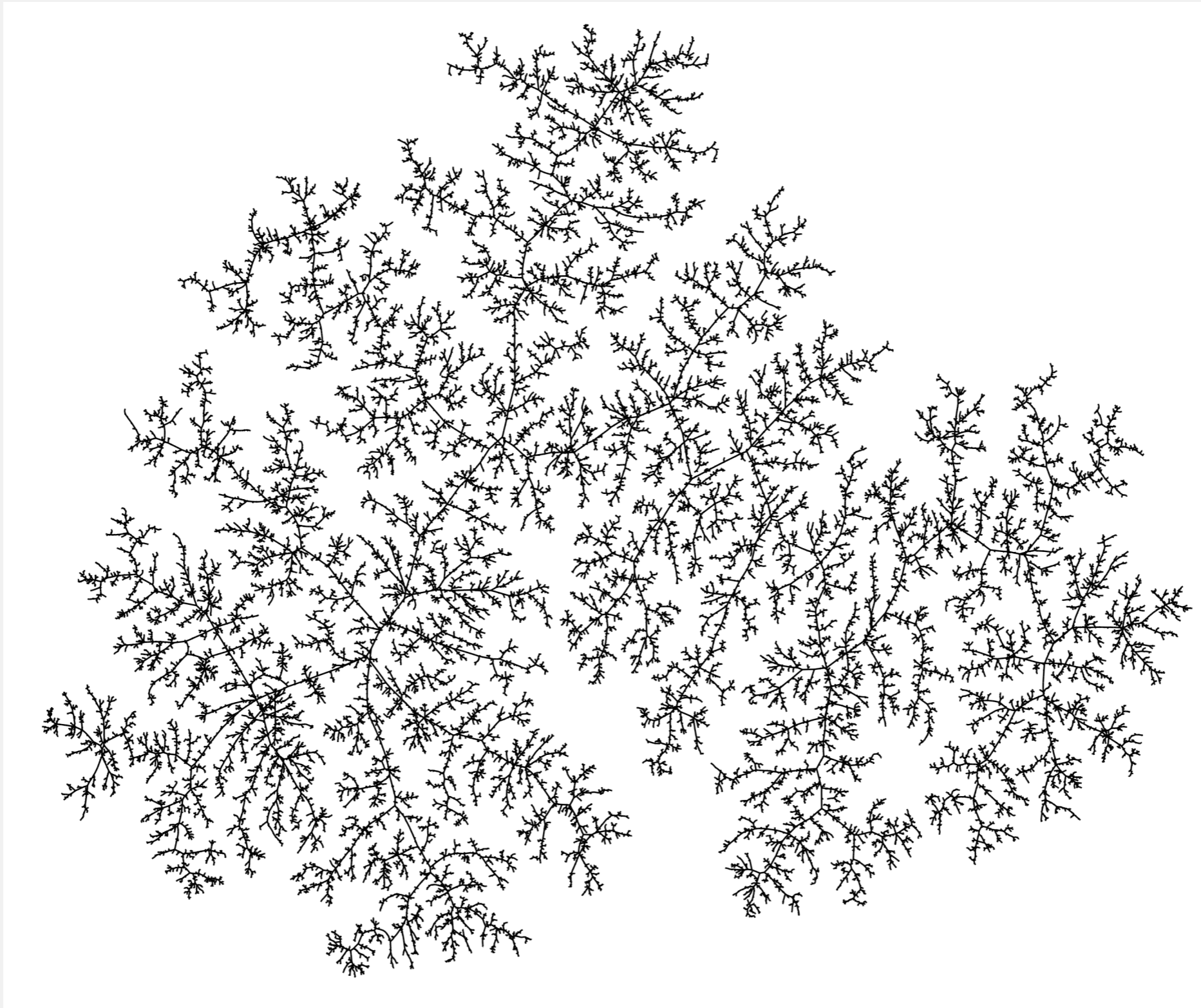


<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ewedistrict/21980840>

# Models of nature

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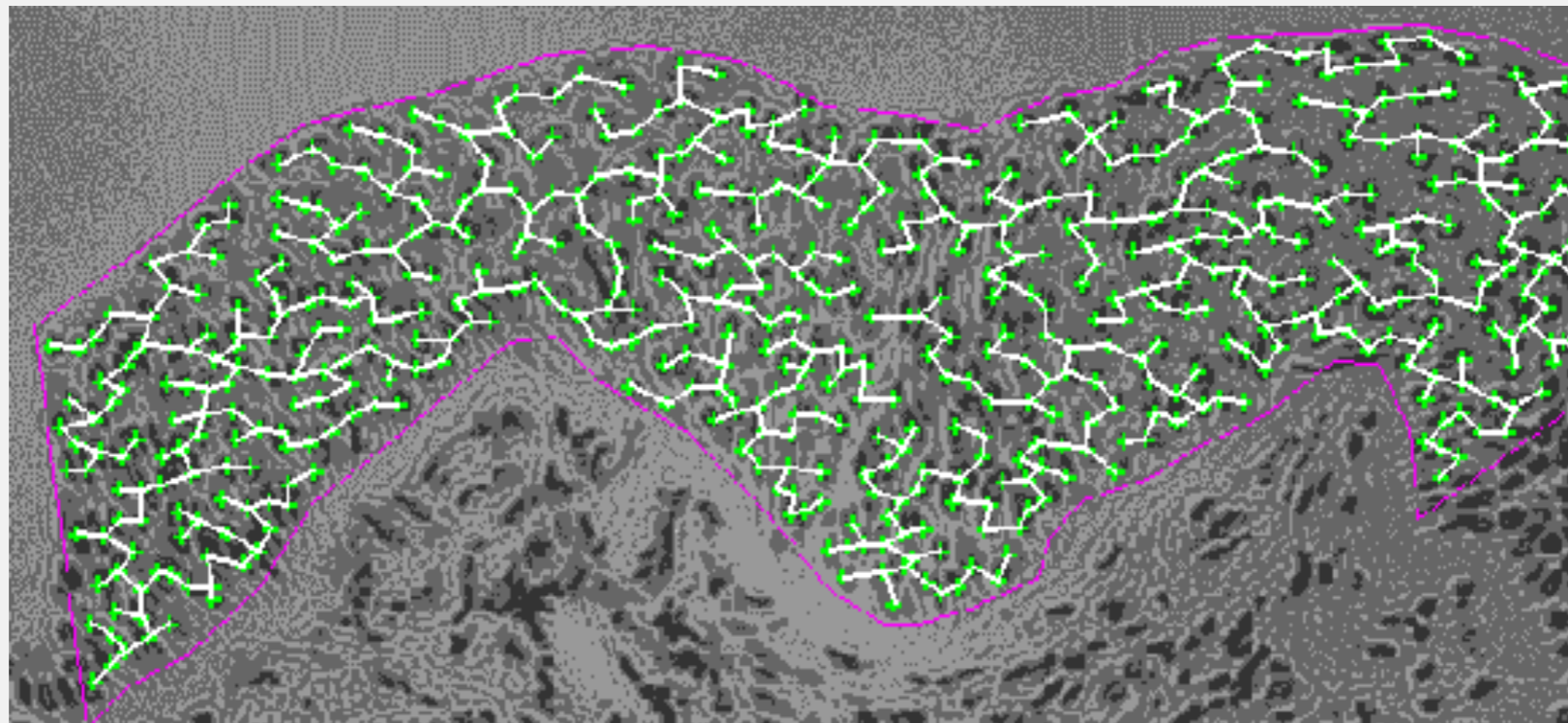
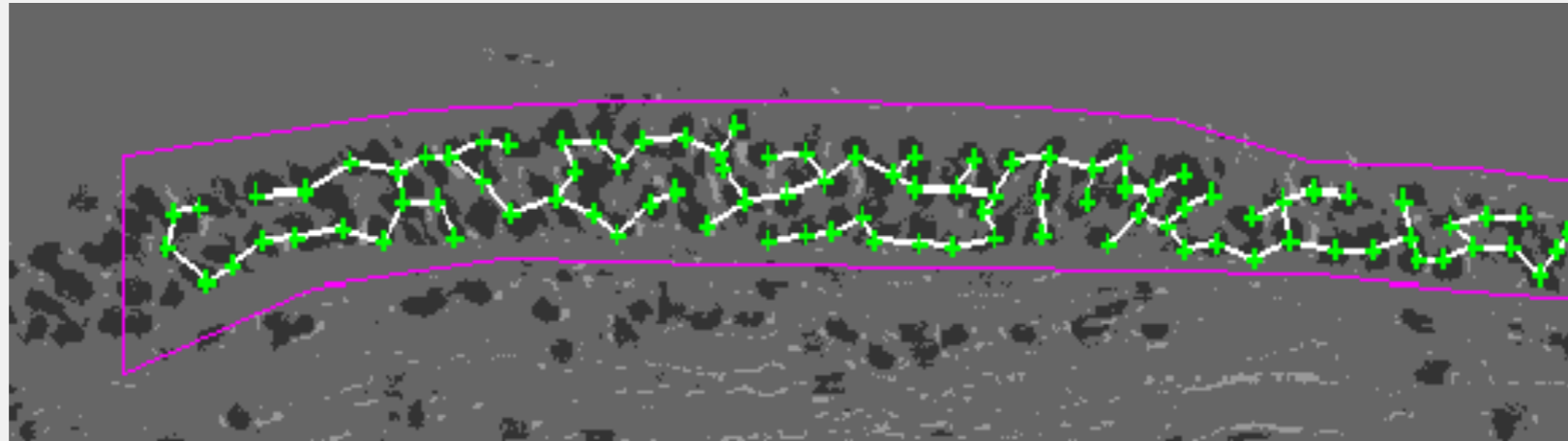
## MST of random graph



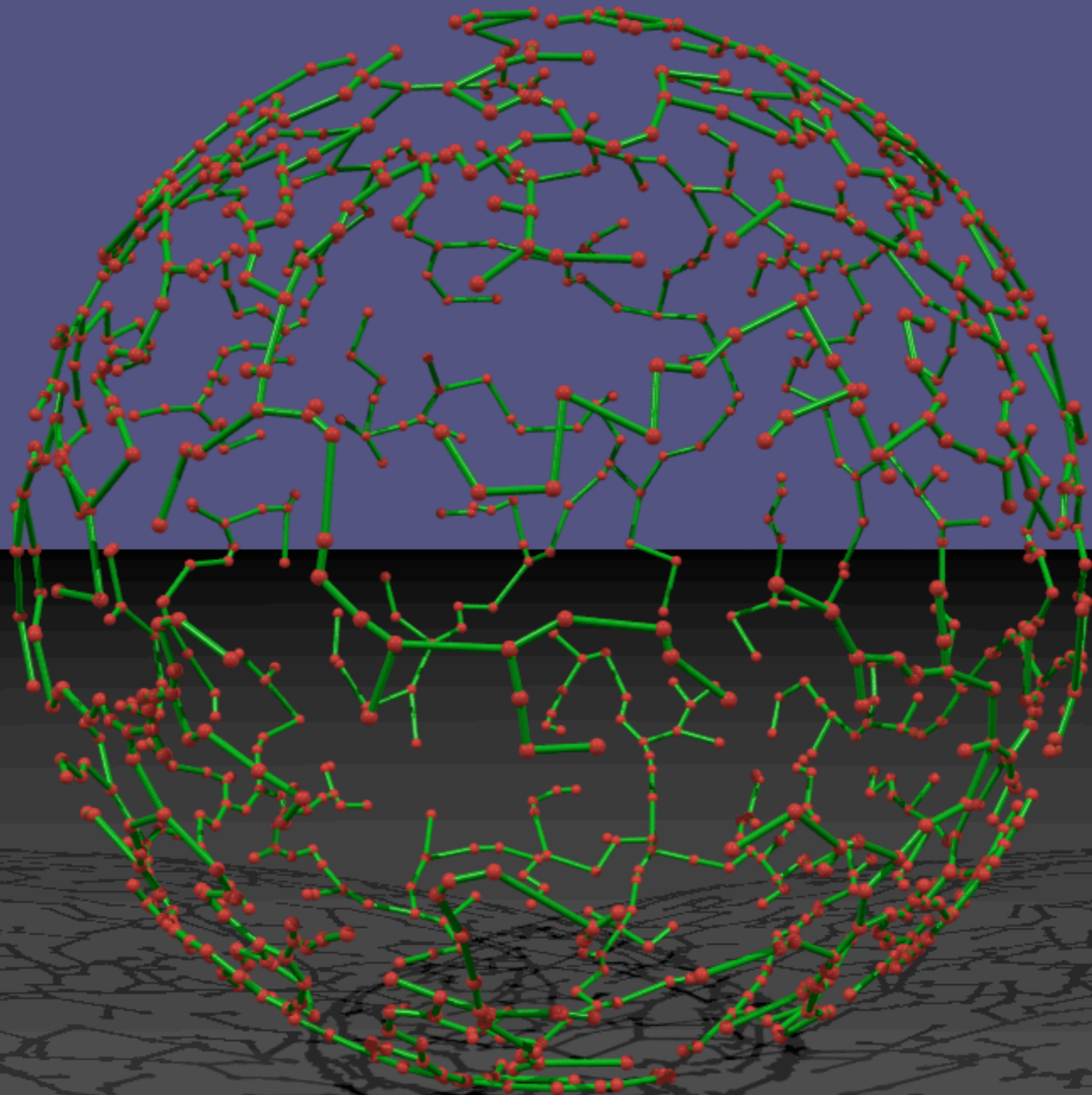
# Medical image processing

---

MST describes arrangement of nuclei in the epithelium for cancer research



[http://www.bccrc.ca/ci/ta01\\_archlevel.html](http://www.bccrc.ca/ci/ta01_archlevel.html)



# Applications

---

MST is fundamental problem with diverse applications.

- Dithering.
- Cluster analysis.
- Max bottleneck paths.
- Real-time face verification.
- LDPC codes for error correction.
- Image registration with Renyi entropy.
- Find road networks in satellite and aerial imagery.
- Reducing data storage in sequencing amino acids in a protein.
- Model locality of particle interactions in turbulent fluid flows.
- Autoconfig protocol for Ethernet bridging to avoid cycles in a network.
- Approximation algorithms for NP-hard problems (e.g., TSP, Steiner tree).
- Network design (communication, electrical, hydraulic, computer, road).

<http://www.ics.uci.edu/~eppstein/gina/mst.html>



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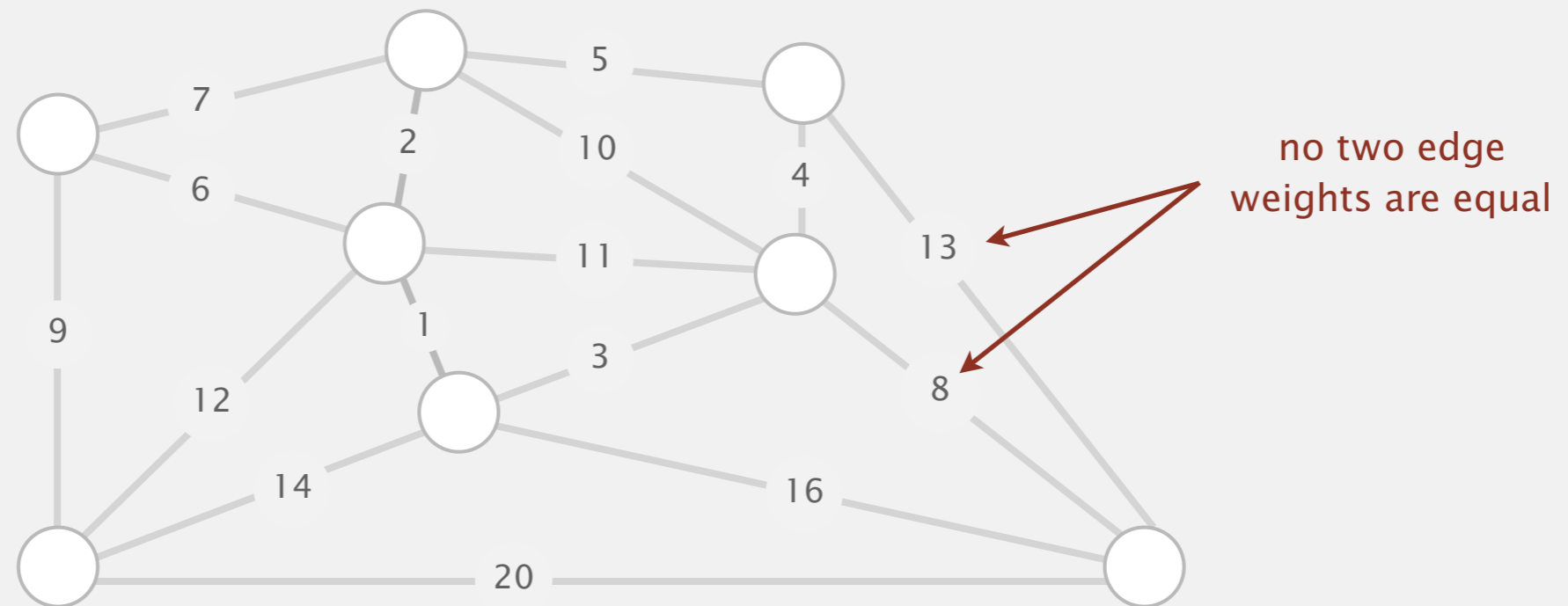
- ▶ *introduction*
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# Simplifying assumptions

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For simplicity, we assume

- The graph is connected.  $\Rightarrow$  MST exists.
- The edge weights are distinct.  $\Rightarrow$  MST is unique.





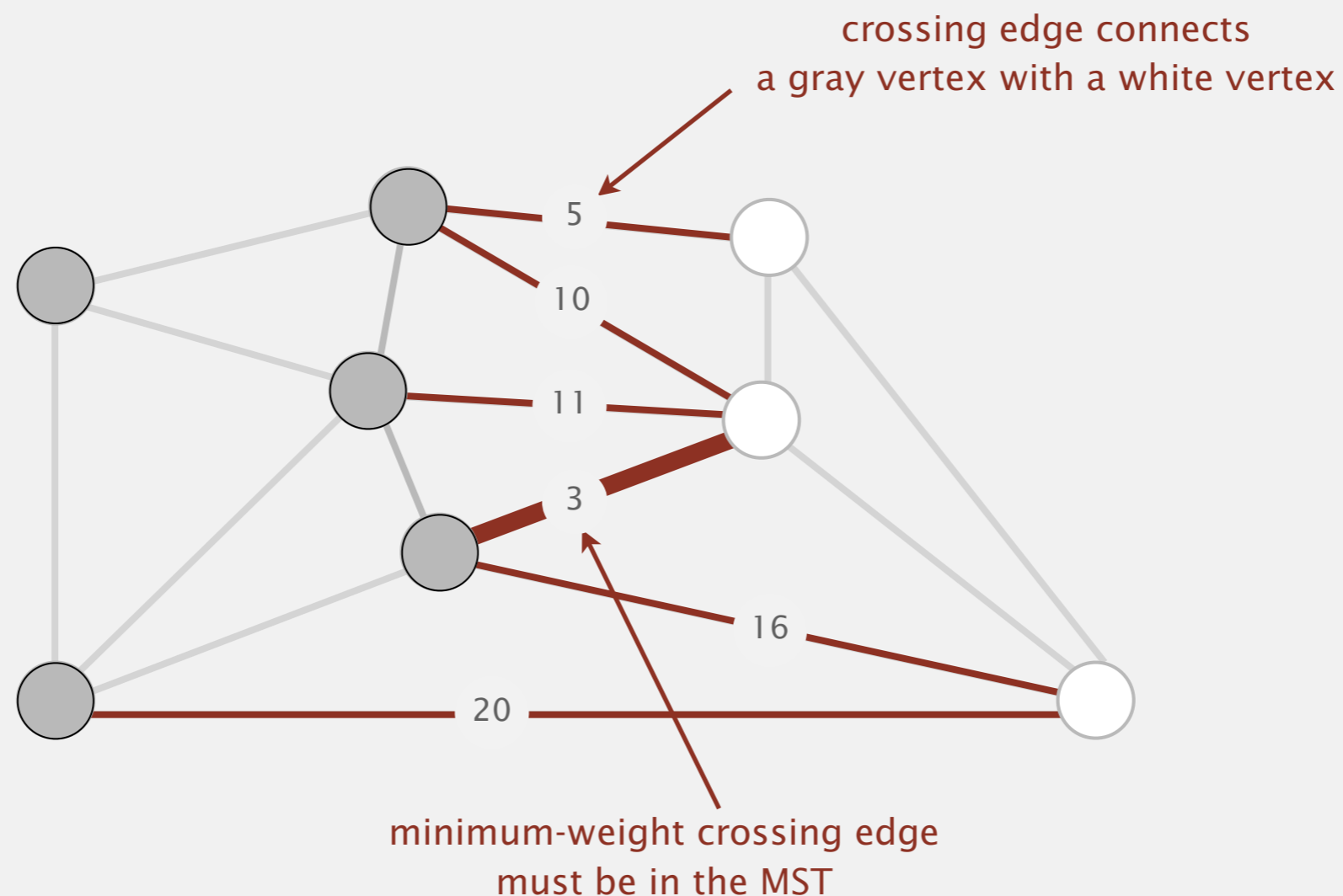
# Cut property

---

**Def.** A **cut** in a graph is a partition of its vertices into two (nonempty) sets.

**Def.** A **crossing edge** connects a vertex in one set with a vertex in the other.

**Cut property.** Given any cut, the crossing edge of min weight is in the MST.



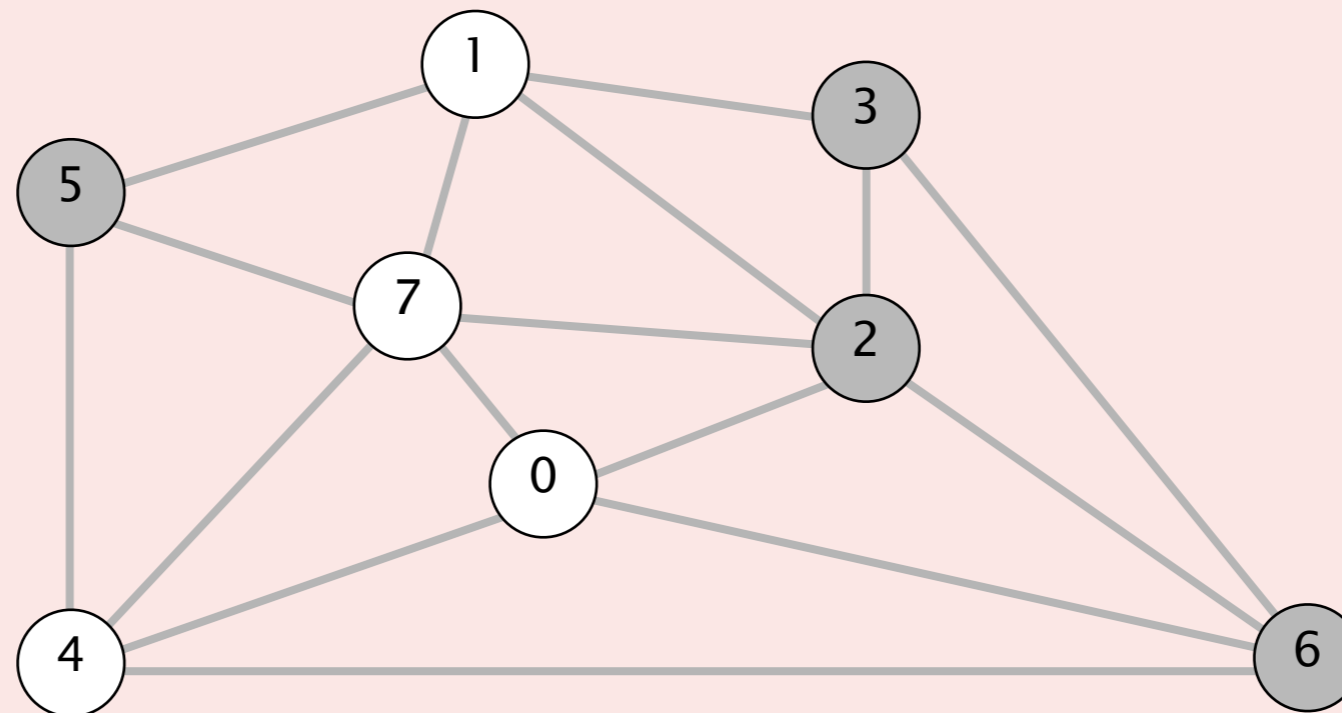
# Minimum spanning trees: quiz 2

---

Which is the min weight edge crossing the cut  $\{ 2, 3, 5, 6 \}$  ?

- A. 0–7 (0.16)
- B. 2–3 (0.17)
- C. 0–2 (0.26)
- D. 5–7 (0.28)
- E. *I don't know.*

0–7	0.16
2–3	0.17
1–7	0.19
0–2	0.26
5–7	0.28
1–3	0.29
1–5	0.32
2–7	0.34
4–5	0.35
1–2	0.36
4–7	0.37
0–4	0.38
6–2	0.40
3–6	0.52
6–0	0.58
6–4	0.93



# Cut property: correctness proof

---

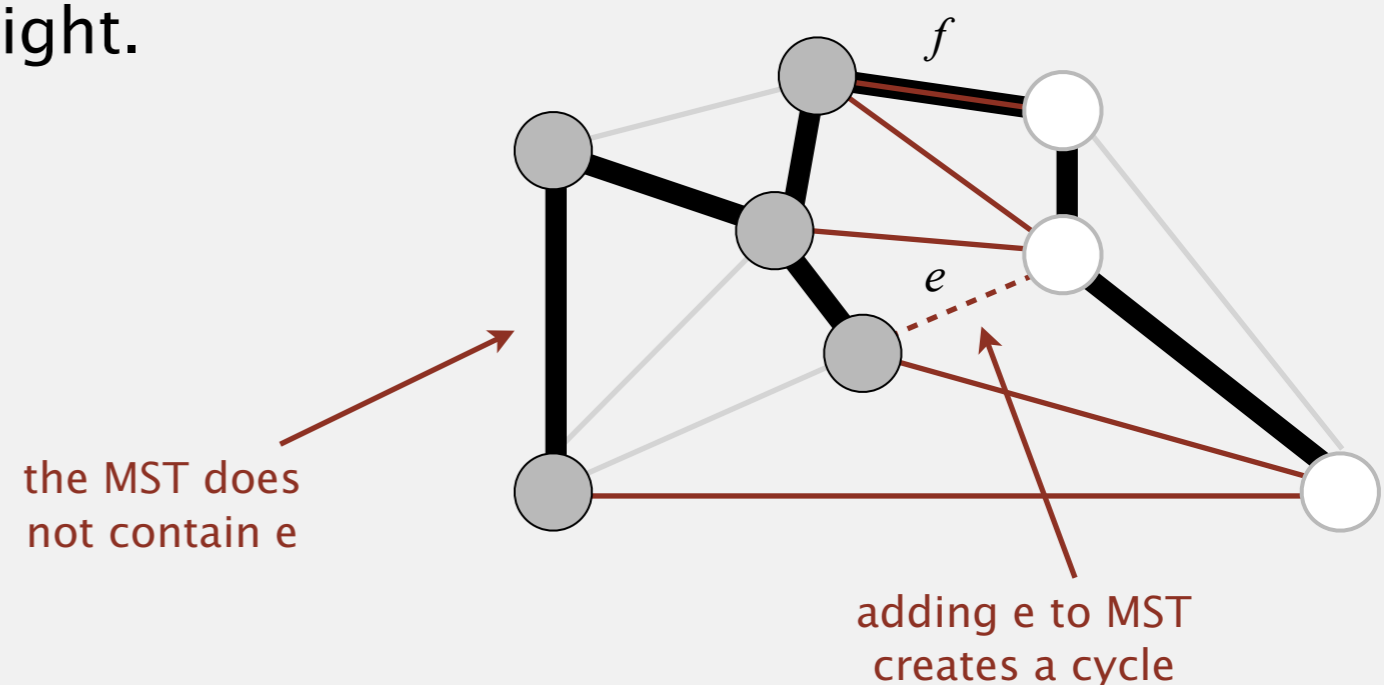
**Def.** A **cut** in a graph is a partition of its vertices into two (nonempty) sets.

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**Cut property.** Given any cut, the crossing edge of min weight is in the MST.

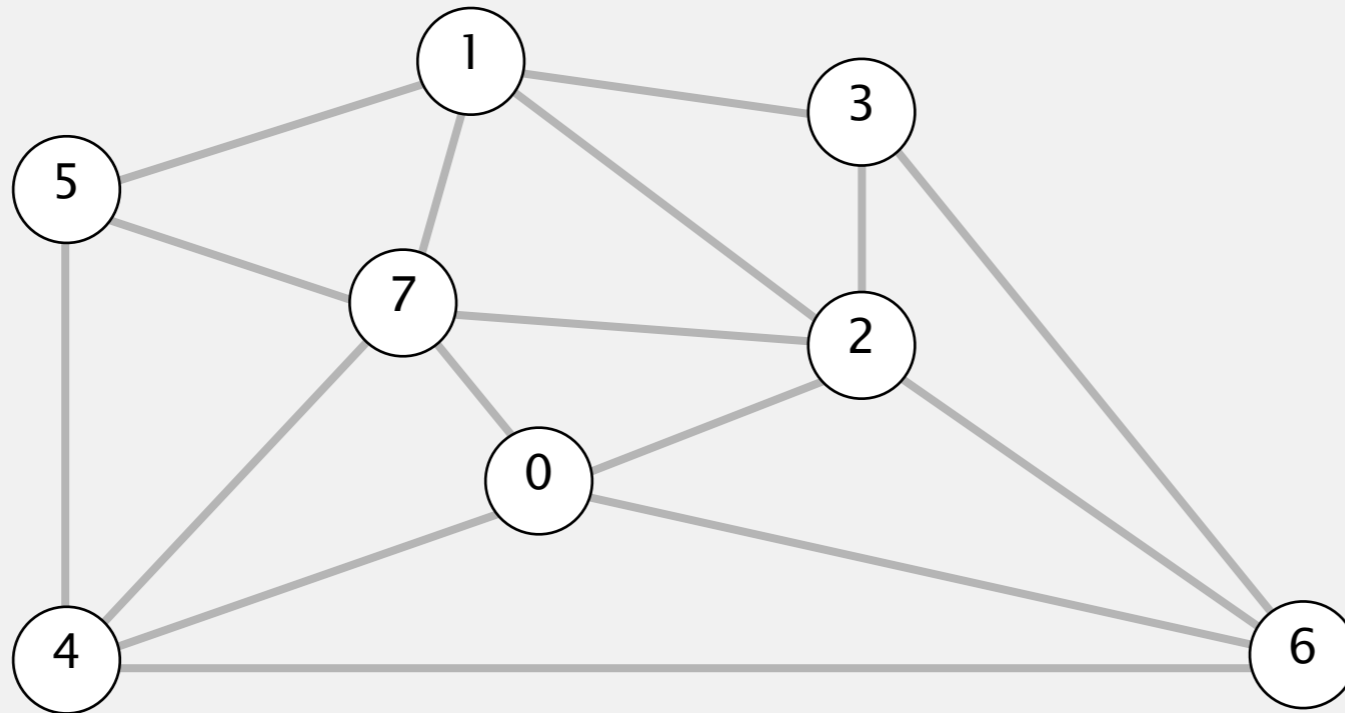
**Pf.** Suppose min-weight crossing edge  $e$  is not in the MST.

- Adding  $e$  to the MST creates a cycle.
- Some other edge  $f$  in cycle must be a crossing edge.
- Removing  $f$  and adding  $e$  is also a spanning tree.
- Since weight of  $e$  is less than the weight of  $f$ , that spanning tree has lower weight.
- Contradiction. ■



# Greedy MST algorithm demo

- Start with all edges colored gray.
- Find cut with no black crossing edges; color its min-weight edge black.
- Repeat until  $V - 1$  edges are colored black.



an edge-weighted graph

0-7	0.16
2-3	0.17
1-7	0.19
0-2	0.26
5-7	0.28
1-3	0.29
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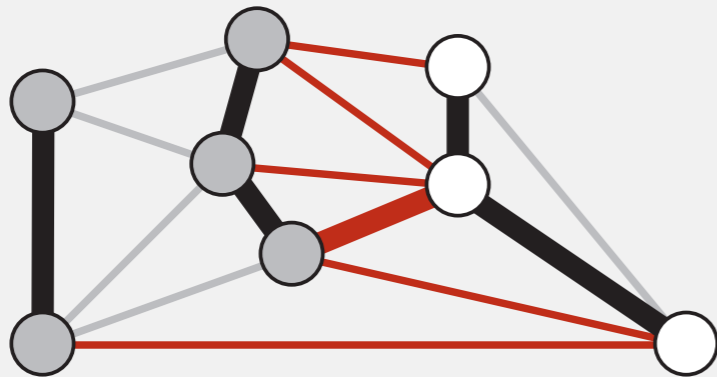
# Greedy MST algorithm: correctness proof

---

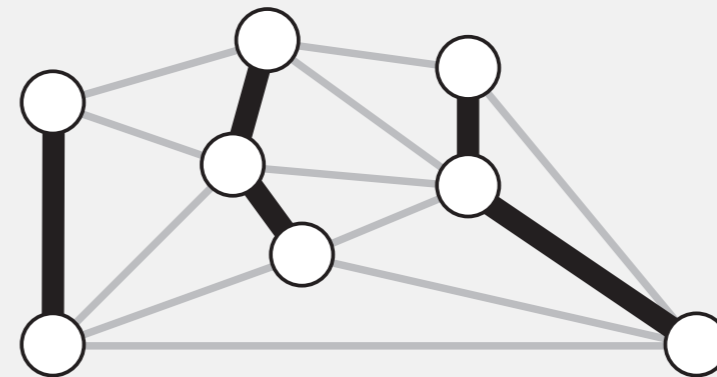
**Proposition.** The greedy algorithm computes the MST.

**Pf.**

- Any edge colored black is in the MST (via cut property).
- Fewer than  $V-1$  black edges  $\Rightarrow$  cut with no black crossing edges.  
(consider cut whose vertices are any one connected component)



a cut with no black crossing edges



fewer than  $V-1$  edges colored black

# Greedy MST algorithm: efficient implementations

---

**Proposition.** The greedy algorithm computes the MST.

**Efficient implementations.** Find cut? Find min-weight edge?

**Ex 1.** Kruskal's algorithm. [stay tuned]

**Ex 2.** Prim's algorithm. [stay tuned]

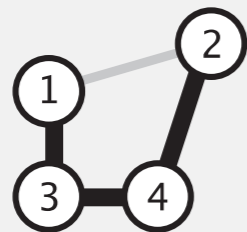
**Ex 3.** Borůvka's algorithm.

# Removing two simplifying assumptions

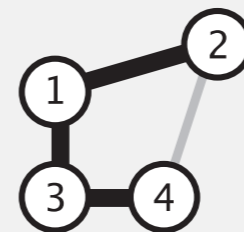
---

Q. What if edge weights are not all distinct?

A. Greedy MST algorithm correct even if equal weights are present!  
(our correctness proof fails, but that can be fixed)



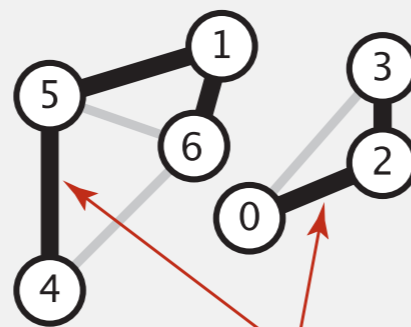
1	2	1.00
1	3	0.50
2	4	1.00
3	4	0.50



1	2	1.00
1	3	0.50
2	4	1.00
3	4	0.50

Q. What if graph is not connected?

A. Compute minimum spanning forest = MST of each component.



4	5	0.61
4	6	0.62
5	6	0.88
1	5	0.11
2	3	0.35
0	3	0.6
1	6	0.10
0	2	0.22

*can independently compute  
MSTs of components*

# Greed is good

---



**Gordon Gecko (Michael Douglas) address to Teldar Paper Stockholders in Wall Street (1986)**





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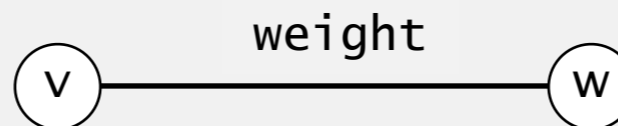
- ▶ *introduction*
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- ▶ *context*

# Weighted edge API

---

Edge abstraction needed for weighted edges.

```
public class Edge implements Comparable<Edge>
    Edge(int v, int w, double weight)           create a weighted edge v-w
    int either()                               either endpoint
    int other(int v)                           the endpoint that's not v
    int compareTo(Edge that)                   compare this edge to that edge
    double weight()                             the weight
    String toString()                           string representation
```



Idiom for processing an edge `e`: `int v = e.either(), w = e.other(v);`

# Weighted edge: Java implementation

---

```
public class Edge implements Comparable<Edge>
{
    private final int v, w;
    private final double weight;
```

```
    public Edge(int v, int w, double weight)
    {
        this.v = v;
        this.w = w;
        this.weight = weight;
    }
```

← constructor

```
    public int either()
    { return v; }
```

← either endpoint

```
    public int other(int vertex)
    {
        if (vertex == v) return w;
        else return v;
    }
```

← other endpoint

```
    public int compareTo(Edge that)
    {
        if (this.weight < that.weight) return -1;
        else if (this.weight > that.weight) return +1;
        else return 0;
    }
```

← compare edges by weight

```
}
```

# Edge-weighted graph API

---

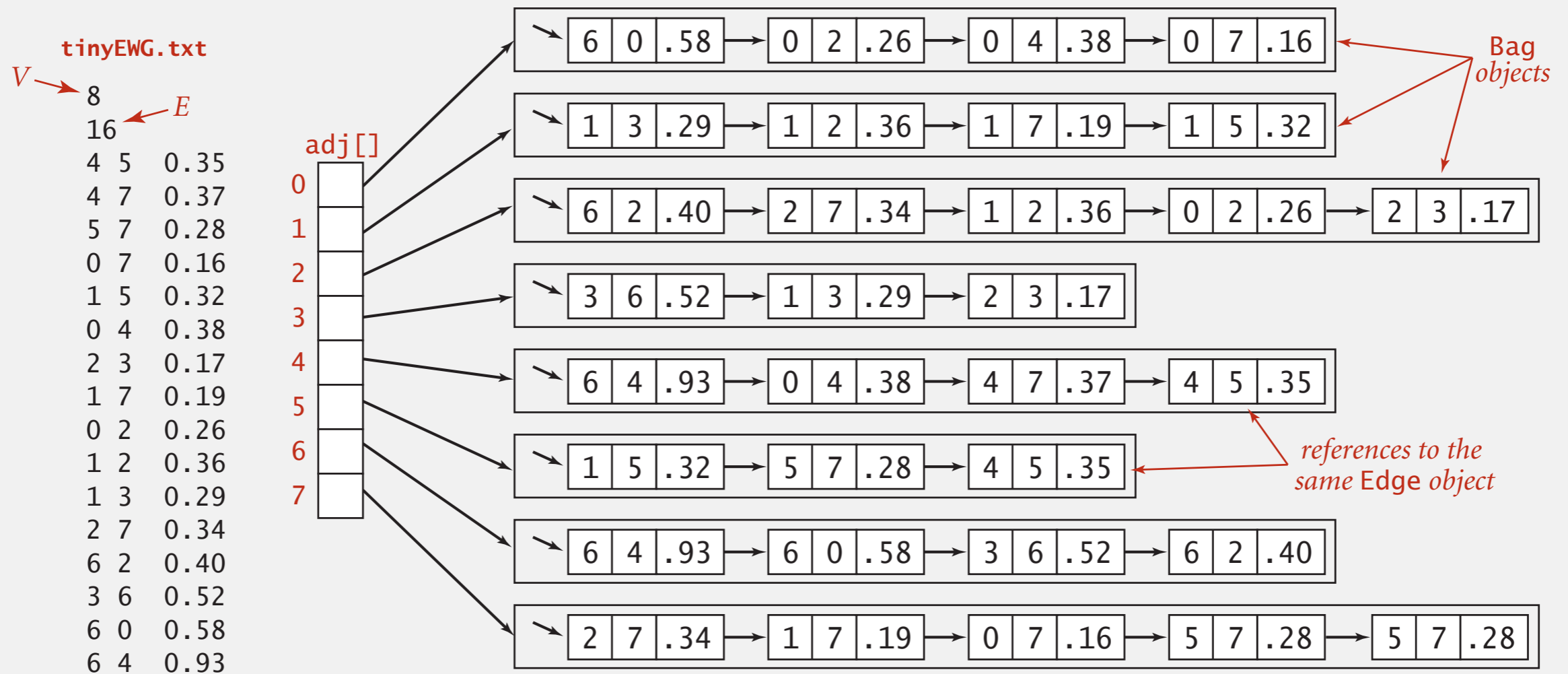
```
public class EdgeWeightedGraph
```

<code>EdgeWeightedGraph(int V)</code>	<i>create an empty graph with <math>V</math> vertices</i>
<code>EdgeWeightedGraph(In in)</code>	<i>create a graph from input stream</i>
<code>void addEdge(Edge e)</code>	<i>add weighted edge <math>e</math> to this graph</i>
<code>Iterable&lt;Edge&gt; adj(int v)</code>	<i>edges incident to <math>v</math></i>
<code>Iterable&lt;Edge&gt; edges()</code>	<i>all edges in this graph</i>
<code>int V()</code>	<i>number of vertices</i>
<code>int E()</code>	<i>number of edges</i>
<code>String toString()</code>	<i>string representation</i>

**Conventions.** Allow self-loops and parallel edges.

# Edge-weighted graph: adjacency-lists representation

Maintain vertex-indexed array of Edge lists.



# Edge-weighted graph: adjacency-lists implementation

---

```
public class EdgeWeightedGraph
{
    private final int V;
    private final Bag<Edge>[] adj;
```

← same as Graph, but adjacency lists of Edges instead of integers

```
    public EdgeWeightedGraph(int V)
    {
        this.V = V;
        adj = (Bag<Edge>[]) new Bag[V];
        for (int v = 0; v < V; v++)
            adj[v] = new Bag<Edge>();
    }
```

← constructor

```
    public void addEdge(Edge e)
    {
        int v = e.either(), w = e.other(v);
        adj[v].add(e);
        adj[w].add(e);
    }
```

← add edge to both adjacency lists

```
    public Iterable<Edge> adj(int v)
    { return adj[v]; }
}
```

# Minimum spanning tree API

---

Q. How to represent the MST?

```
public class MST
```

```
    MST(EdgeWeightedGraph G)
```

*constructor*

```
    Iterable<Edge> edges()
```

*edges in MST*

```
    double weight()
```

*weight of MST*



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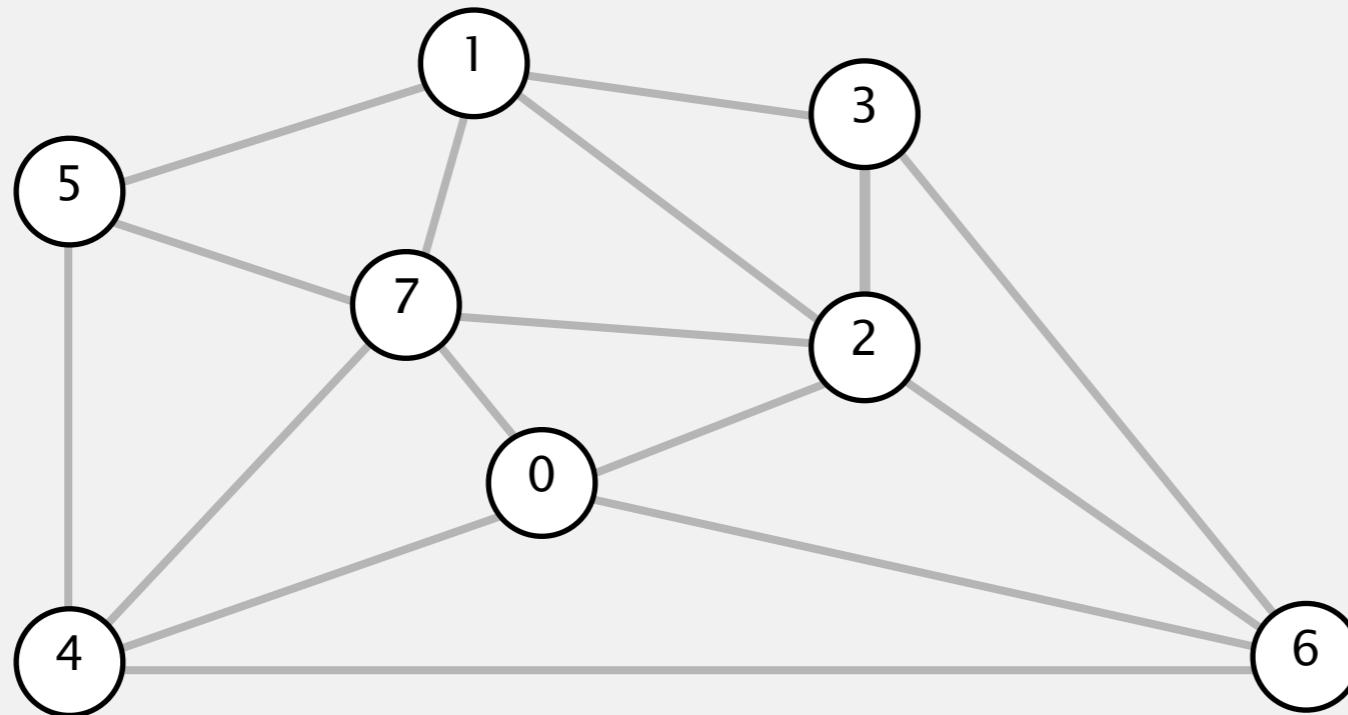
- ▶ *introduction*
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# Kruskal's algorithm demo

Consider edges in ascending order of weight.

- Add next edge to tree  $T$  unless doing so would create a cycle.



an edge-weighted graph

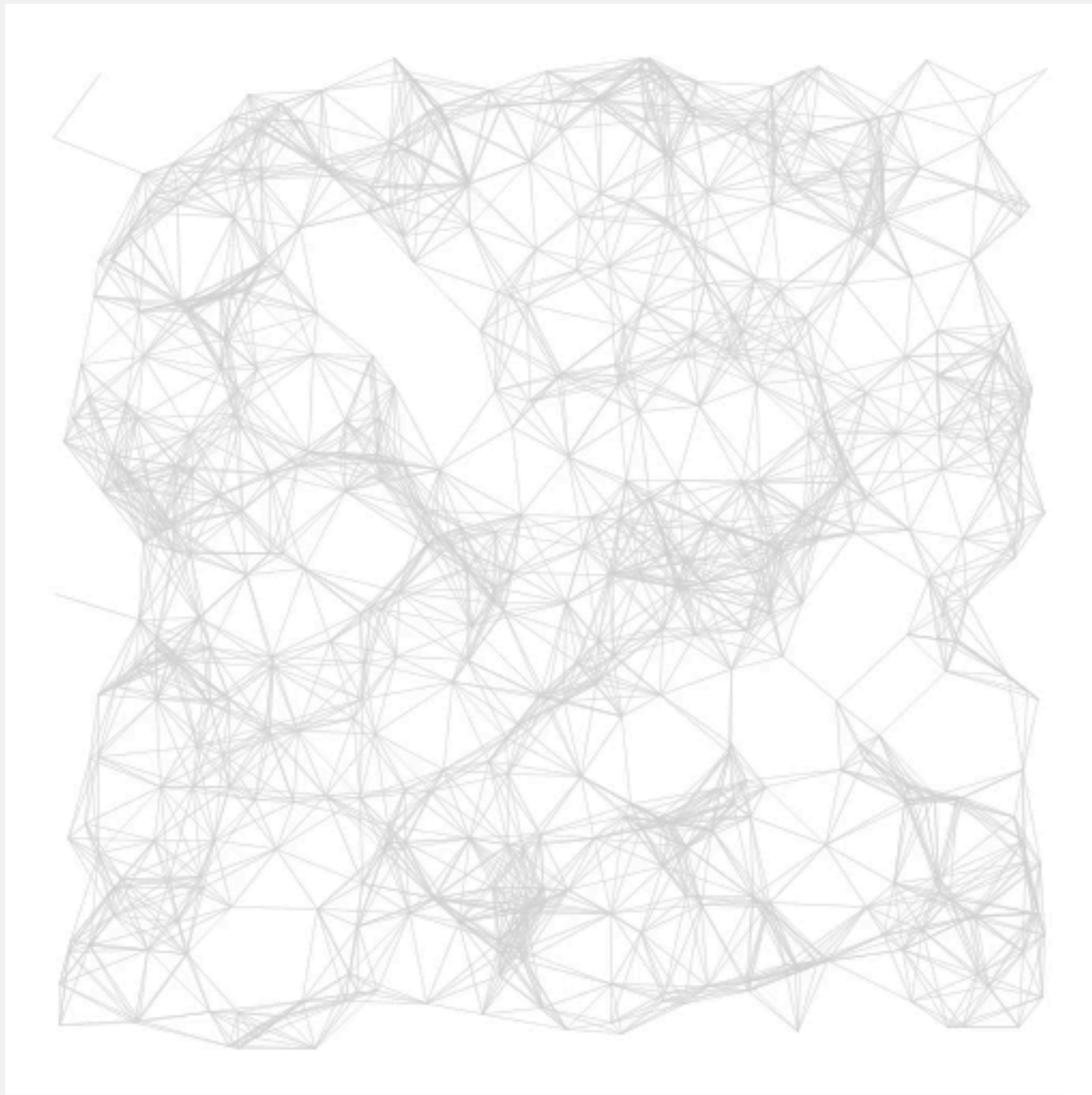
graph edges  
sorted by weight



0-7	0.16
2-3	0.17
1-7	0.19
0-2	0.26
5-7	0.28
1-3	0.29
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# Kruskal's algorithm: visualization

---



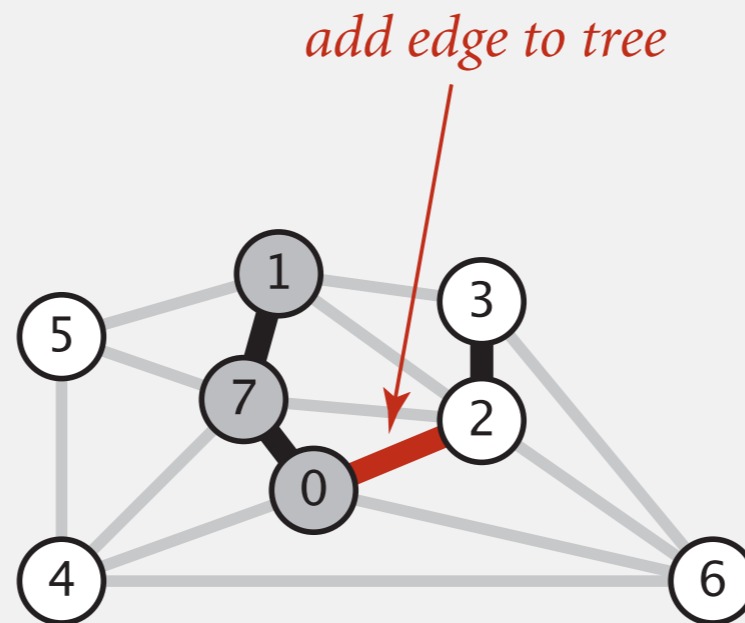
# Kruskal's algorithm: correctness proof

---

**Proposition.** [Kruskal 1956] Kruskal's algorithm computes the MST.

**Pf.** Kruskal's algorithm is a special case of the greedy MST algorithm.

- Suppose Kruskal's algorithm colors the edge  $e = v-w$  black.
- Cut = set of vertices connected to  $v$  in tree  $T$ .
- No crossing edge is black.
- No crossing edge has lower weight. Why?



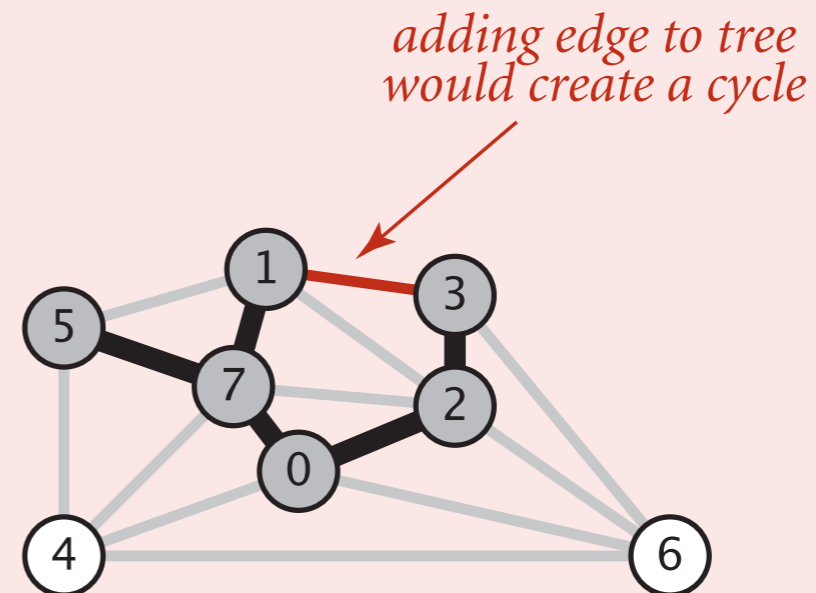
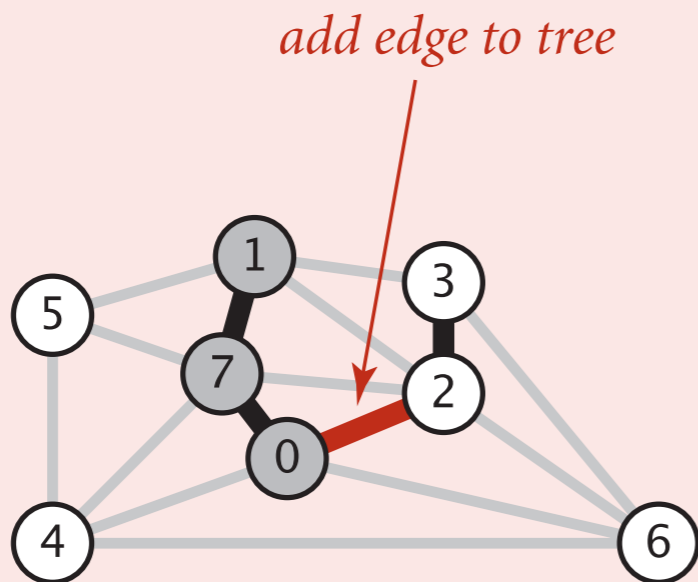
# Kruskal's algorithm: implementation challenge

---

**Challenge.** Would adding edge  $v-w$  to tree  $T$  create a cycle? If not, add it.

How difficult to implement?

- A.  $E + V$
- B.  $V$
- C.  $\log V$
- D.  $\log^* V$
- E. 1



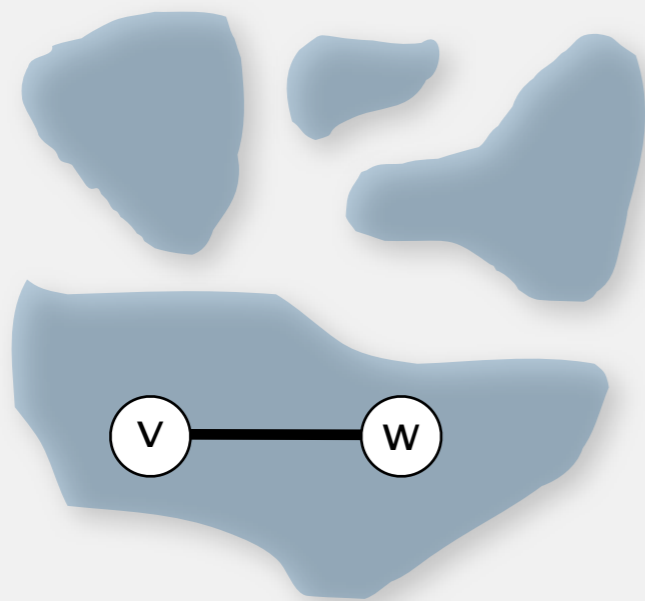
# Kruskal's algorithm: implementation challenge

---

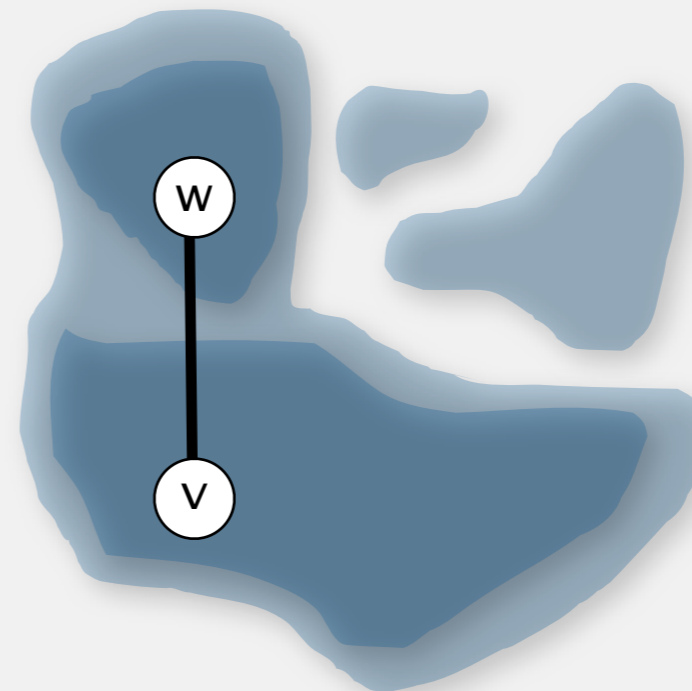
**Challenge.** Would adding edge  $v-w$  to tree  $T$  create a cycle? If not, add it.

**Efficient solution.** Use the **union-find** data structure.

- Maintain a set for each connected component in  $T$ .
- If  $v$  and  $w$  are in same set, then adding  $v-w$  would create a cycle.
- To add  $v-w$  to  $T$ , merge sets containing  $v$  and  $w$ .



Case 1: adding  $v-w$  creates a cycle



Case 2: add  $v-w$  to  $T$  and merge sets containing  $v$  and  $w$

# Kruskal's algorithm: Java implementation

---

```
public class KruskalMST
{
    private Queue<Edge> mst = new Queue<Edge>();

    public KruskalMST(EdgeWeightedGraph G)
    {
        MinPQ<Edge> pq = new MinPQ<Edge>(G.edges());

        UF uf = new UF(G.V());
        while (!pq.isEmpty() && mst.size() < G.V()-1)
        {
            Edge e = pq.delMin();
            int v = e.either(), w = e.other(v);
            if (!uf.connected(v, w))
            {
                uf.union(v, w);
                mst.enqueue(e);
            }
        }
    }

    public Iterable<Edge> edges()
    { return mst; }
}
```

← build priority queue  
(or sort)

← greedily add edges to MST

← edge v-w does not create cycle

← merge connected components

← add edge e to MST

# Kruskal's algorithm: running time

---

**Proposition.** Kruskal's algorithm computes MST in time proportional to  $E \log E$  (in the worst case).

Pf.

operation	frequency	time per op
<b>build pq</b>	1	$E$
<b>delete-min</b>	$E$	$\log E$
<b>union</b>	$V$	$\log^* V^\dagger$
<b>connected</b>	$E$	$\log^* V^\dagger$

← often called fewer than  $E$  times

† amortized bound using weighted quick union with path compression



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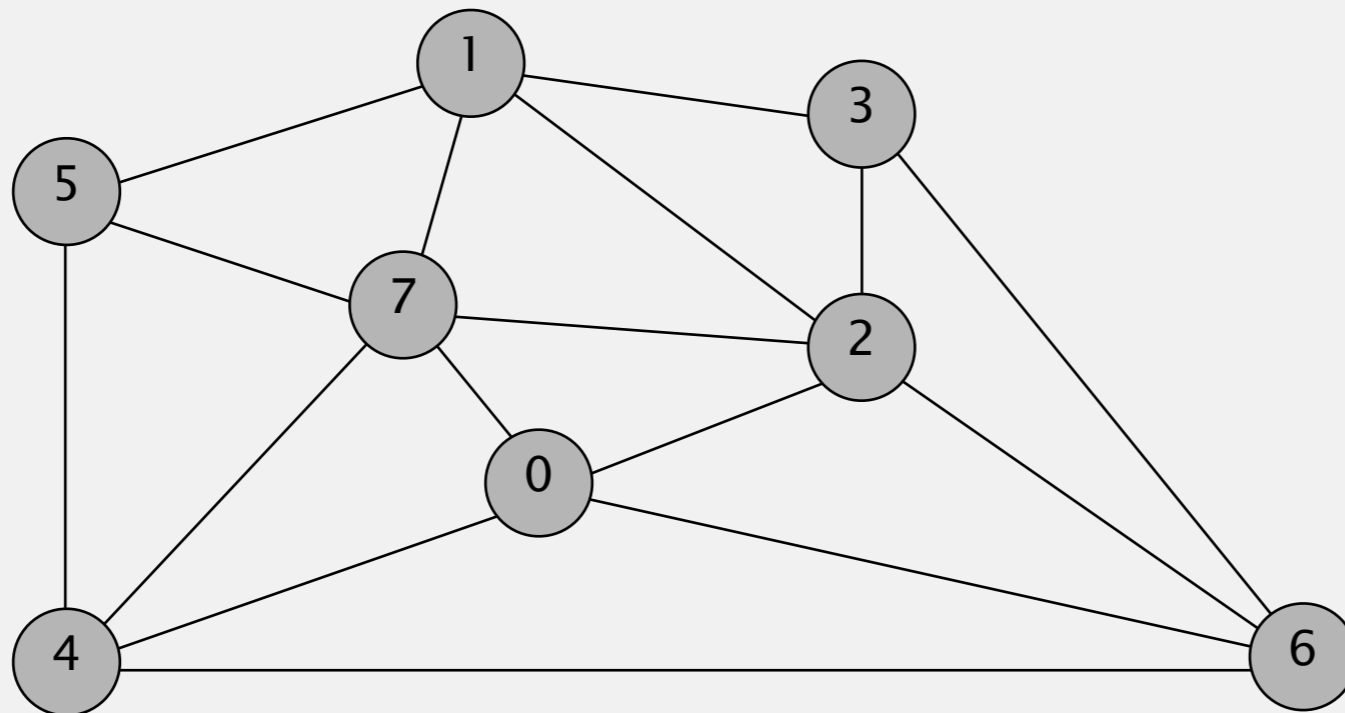
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- ▶ *introduction*
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- ▶ *context*



# Prim's algorithm demo

- Start with vertex 0 and greedily grow tree  $T$ .
- Add to  $T$  the min weight edge with exactly one endpoint in  $T$ .
- Repeat until  $V - 1$  edges.

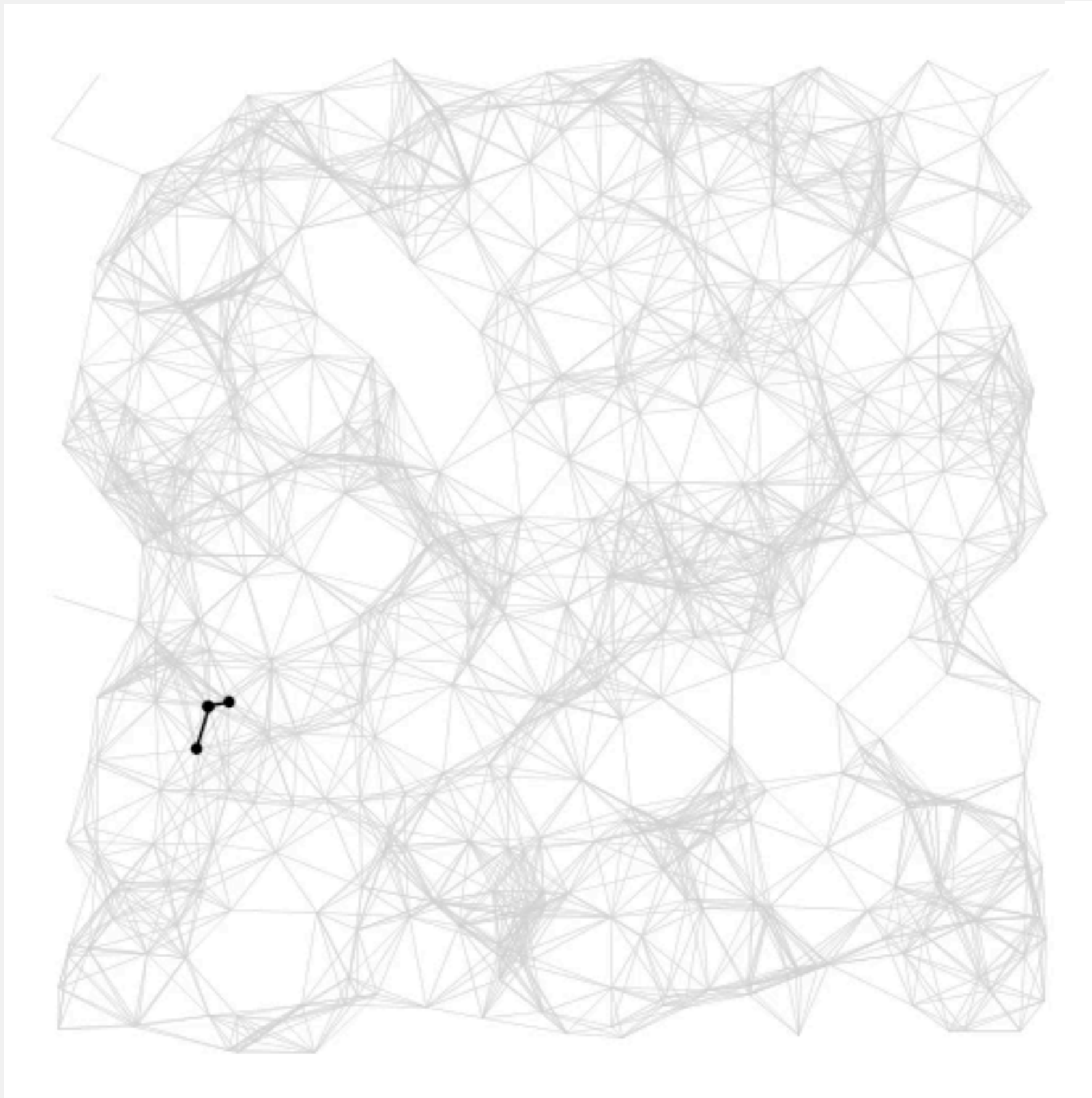


an edge-weighted graph

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# Prim's algorithm: visualization

---



# Prim's algorithm: proof of correctness

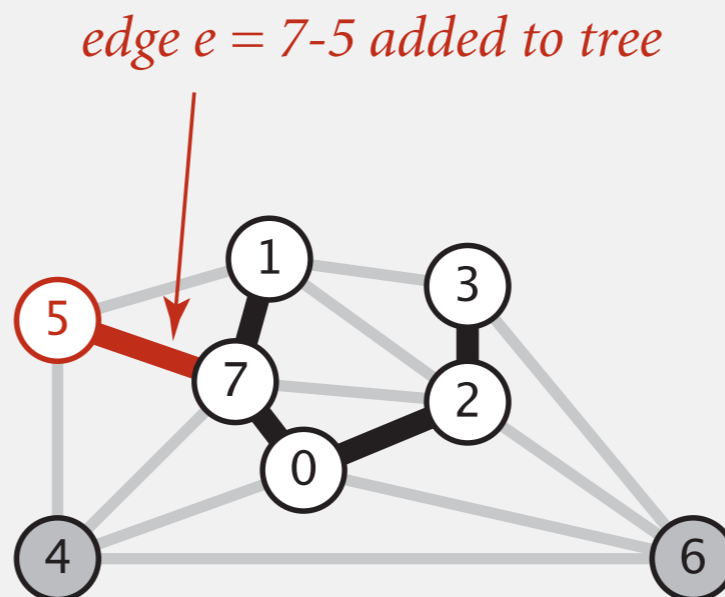
---

**Proposition.** [Jarník 1930, Dijkstra 1957, Prim 1959]

Prim's algorithm computes the MST.

**Pf.** Prim's algorithm is a special case of the greedy MST algorithm.

- Suppose edge  $e = \min$  weight edge connecting a vertex on the tree to a vertex not on the tree.
- Cut = set of vertices connected on tree.
- No crossing edge is black.
- No crossing edge has lower weight.



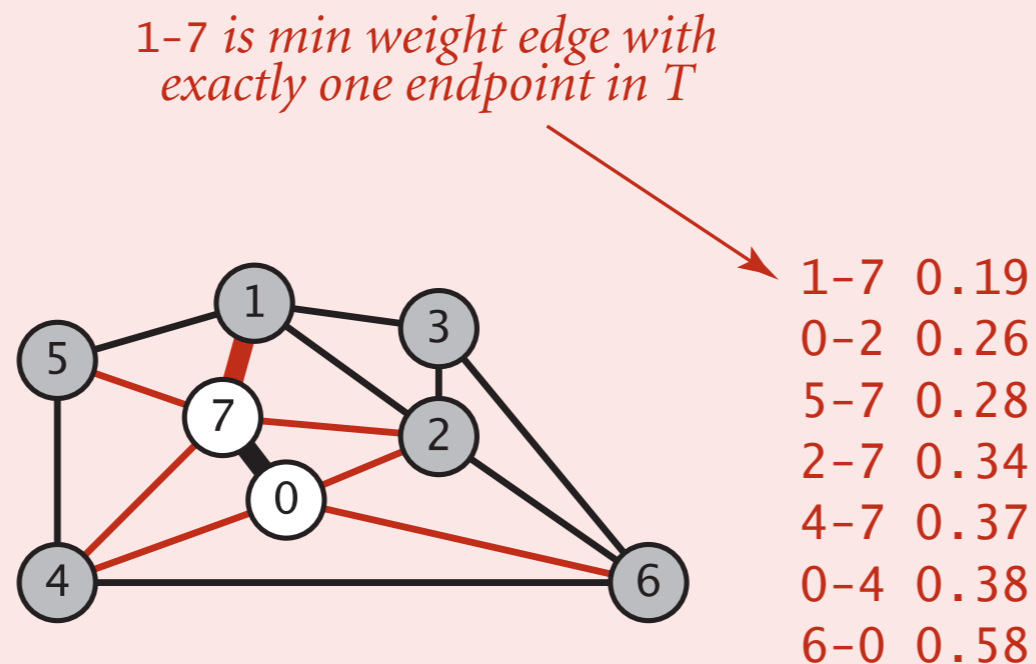
# Prim's algorithm: implementation challenge

---

**Challenge.** Find the min weight edge with exactly one endpoint in  $T$ .

How difficult?

- A.  $E$
- B.  $V$
- C.  $\log E$
- D. 1
- E. *I don't know.*



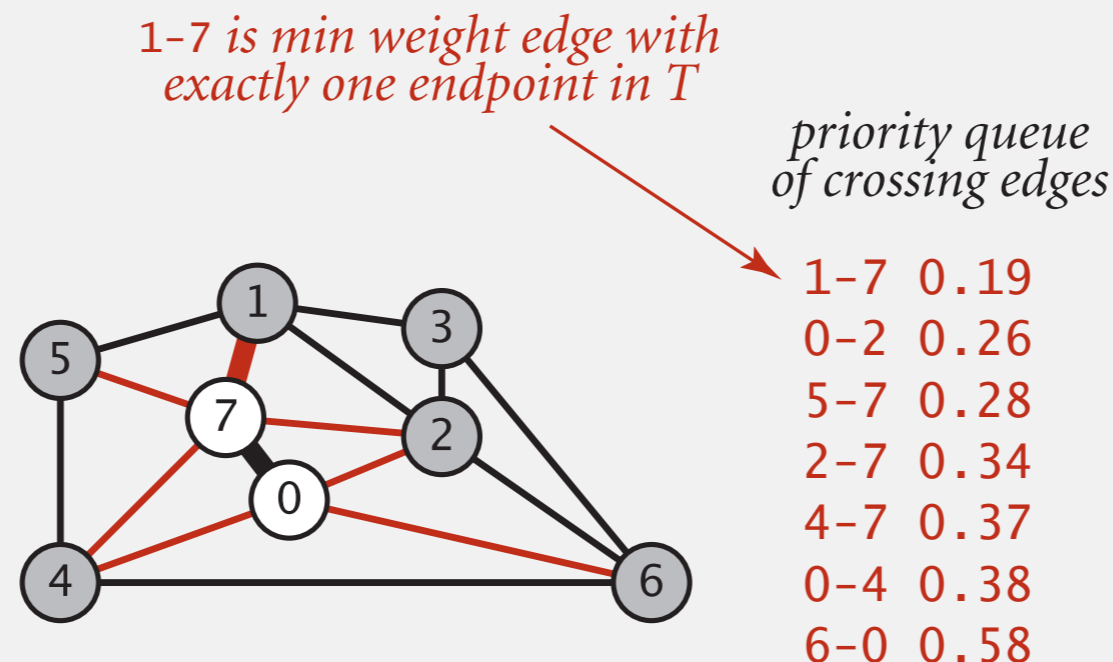
# Prim's algorithm: lazy implementation

---

**Challenge.** Find the min weight edge with exactly one endpoint in  $T$ .

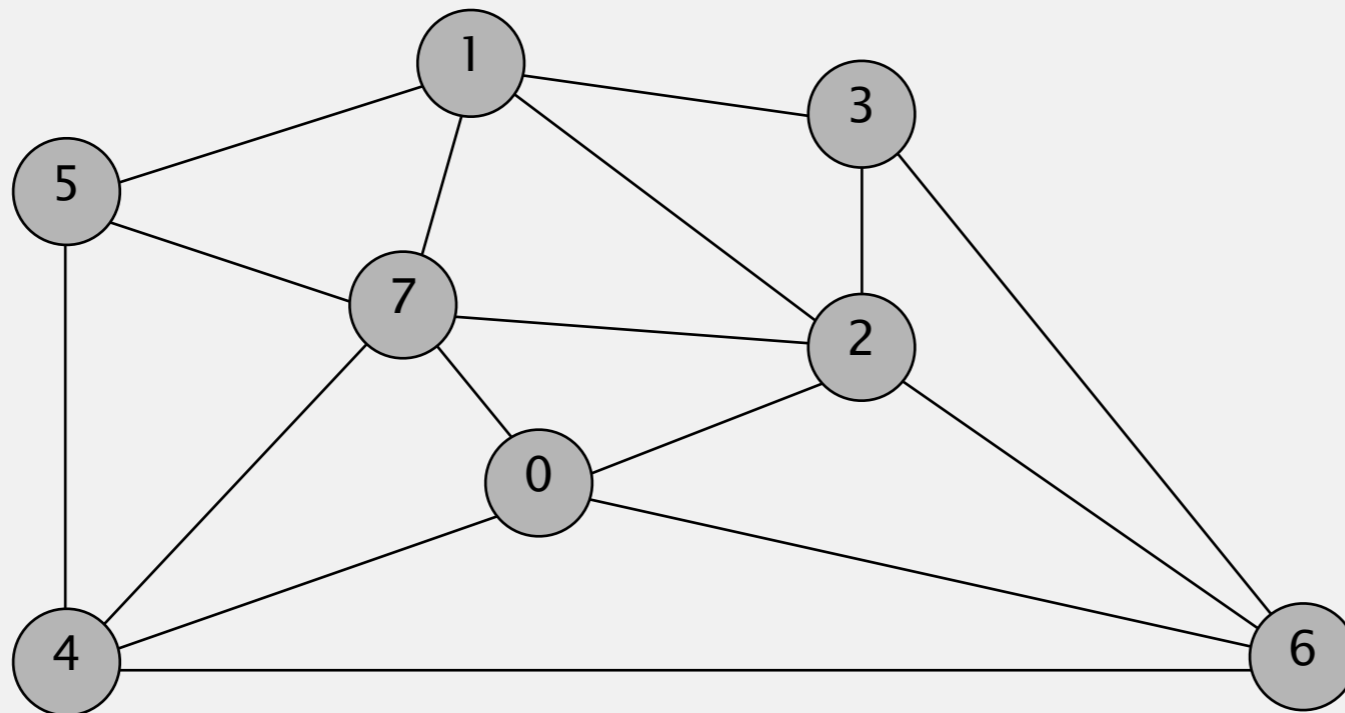
**Lazy solution.** Maintain a PQ of **edges** with (at least) one endpoint in  $T$ .

- Key = edge; priority = weight of edge.
- Delete-min to determine next edge  $e = v-w$  to add to  $T$ .
- Disregard if both endpoints  $v$  and  $w$  are marked (both in  $T$ ).
- Otherwise, let  $w$  be the unmarked vertex (not in  $T$ ):
  - add  $e$  to  $T$  and mark  $w$
  - add to PQ any edge incident to  $w$  (assuming other endpoint not in  $T$ )



# Prim's algorithm: lazy implementation demo

- Start with vertex 0 and greedily grow tree  $T$ .
- Add to  $T$  the min weight edge with exactly one endpoint in  $T$ .
- Repeat until  $V - 1$  edges.



an edge-weighted graph

0-7	0.16
2-3	0.17
1-7	0.19
0-2	0.26
5-7	0.28
1-3	0.29
1-5	0.32
2-7	0.34
4-5	0.35
1-2	0.36
4-7	0.37
0-4	0.38
6-2	0.40
3-6	0.52
6-0	0.58
6-4	0.93

# Prim's algorithm: lazy implementation

---

```
public class LazyPrimMST
{
    private boolean[] marked;    // MST vertices
    private Queue<Edge> mst;     // MST edges
    private MinPQ<Edge> pq;     // PQ of edges

    public LazyPrimMST(WeightedGraph G)
    {
        pq = new MinPQ<Edge>();
        mst = new Queue<Edge>();
        marked = new boolean[G.V()];
        visit(G, 0);

        while (!pq.isEmpty() && mst.size() < G.V() - 1)
        {
            Edge e = pq.delMin();
            int v = e.either(), w = e.other(v);
            if (marked[v] && marked[w]) continue;
            mst.enqueue(e);
            if (!marked[v]) visit(G, v);
            if (!marked[w]) visit(G, w);
        }
    }
}
```

← assume G is connected

← repeatedly delete the  
min weight edge  $e = v-w$  from PQ

← ignore if both endpoints in T

← add edge e to tree

← add either v or w to tree

# Prim's algorithm: lazy implementation

---

```
private void visit(WeightedGraph G, int v)
{
    marked[v] = true;
    for (Edge e : G.adj(v))
        if (!marked[e.other(v)])
            pq.insert(e);
}
```

```
public Iterable<Edge> mst()
{ return mst; }
```

← add v to T


← for each edge  $e = v-w$ , add to PQ if w not already in T



# Lazy Prim's algorithm: running time

---

**Proposition.** Lazy Prim's algorithm computes the MST in time proportional to  $E \log E$  and extra space proportional to  $E$  (in the worst case).

 minor defect

Pf.

operation	frequency	binary heap
<b>delete min</b>	$E$	$\log E$
<b>insert</b>	$E$	$\log E$

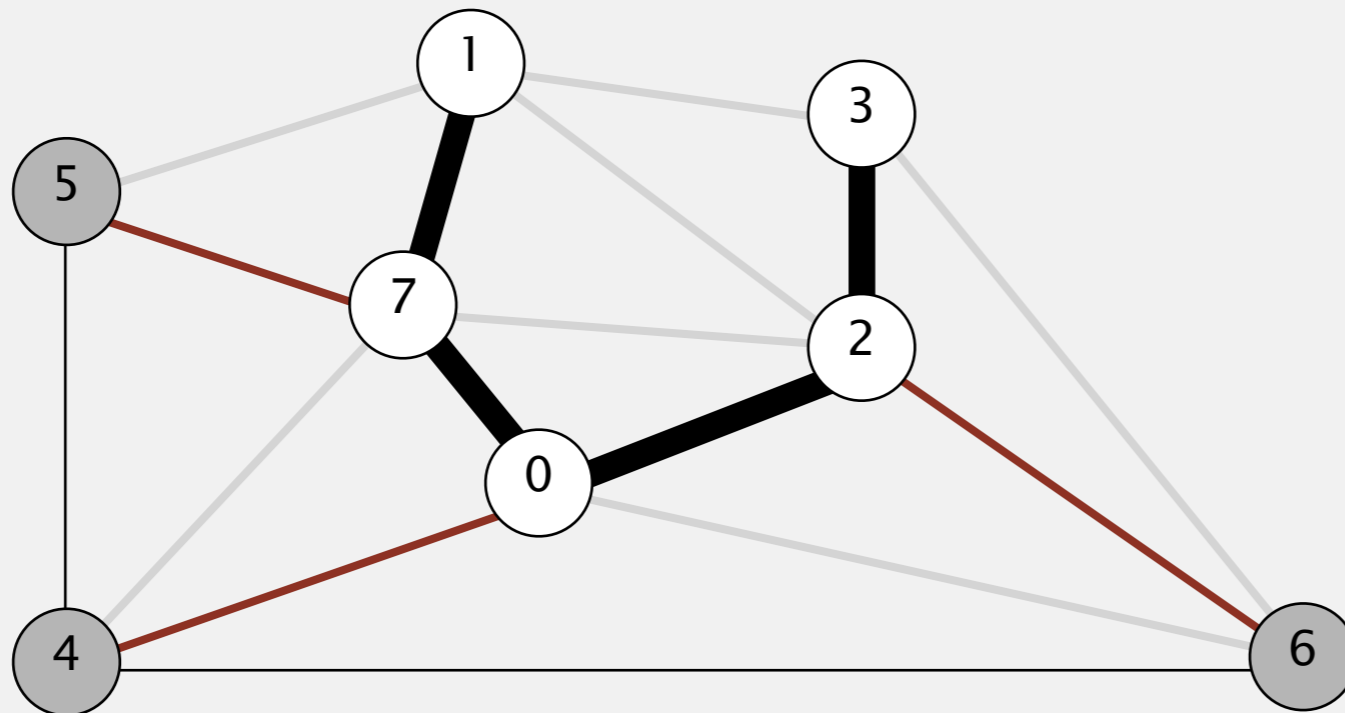
# Prim's algorithm: eager implementation

---

**Challenge.** Find min weight edge with exactly one endpoint in  $T$ .

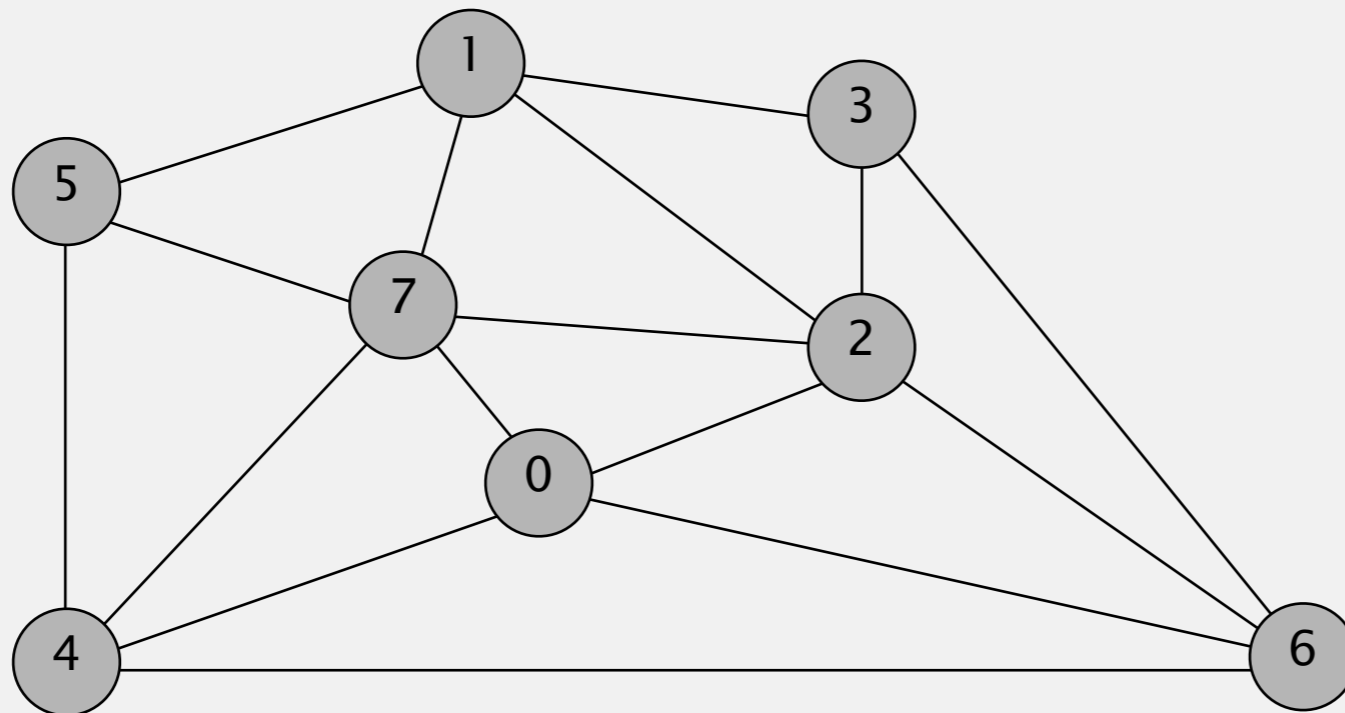
**Observation.** For each vertex  $v$ , need only **lightest** edge connecting  $v$  to  $T$ .

- MST includes at most one edge connecting  $v$  to  $T$ . Why?
- If MST includes such an edge, it must take lightest such edge. Why?



# Prim's algorithm: eager implementation demo

- Start with vertex 0 and greedily grow tree  $T$ .
- Add to  $T$  the min weight edge with exactly one endpoint in  $T$ .
- Repeat until  $V - 1$  edges.

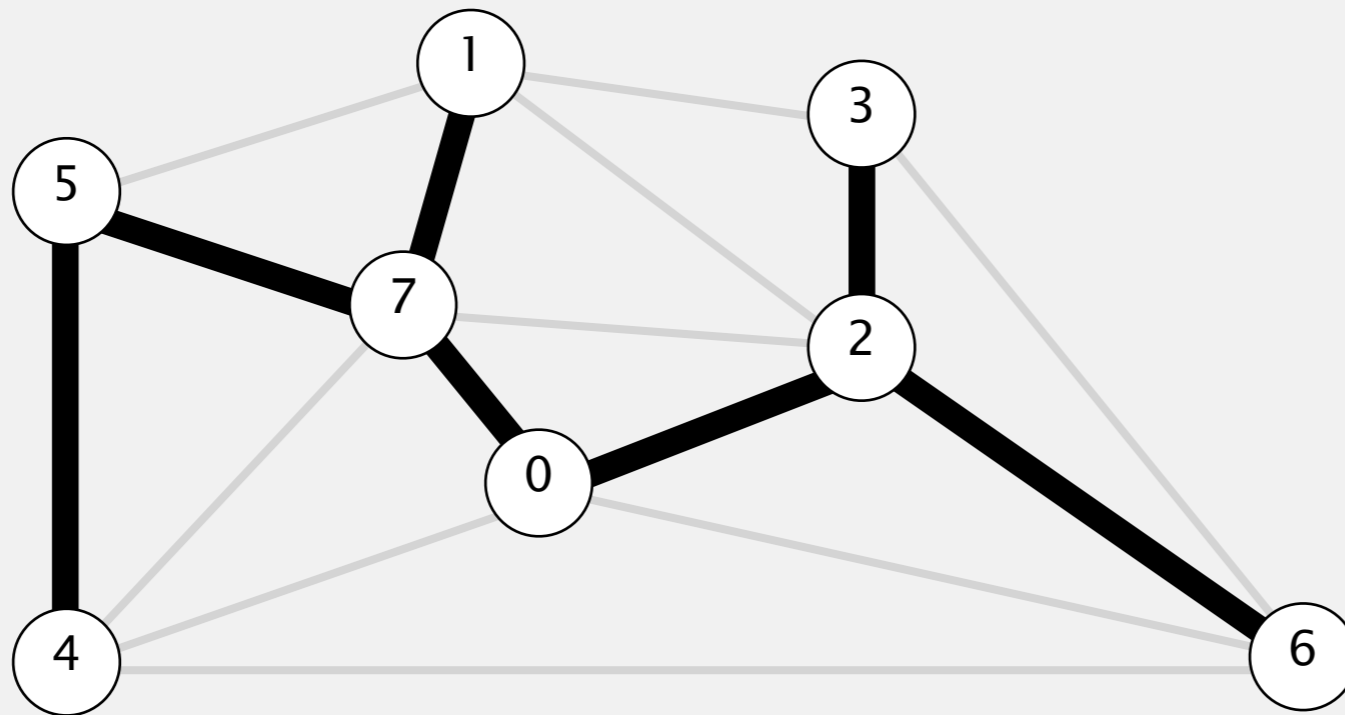


an edge-weighted graph

0-7	0.16
2-3	0.17
1-7	0.19
0-2	0.26
5-7	0.28
1-3	0.29
1-5	0.32
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4-5	0.35
1-2	0.36
4-7	0.37
0-4	0.38
6-2	0.40
3-6	0.52
6-0	0.58
6-4	0.93

# Prim's algorithm: eager implementation demo

- Start with vertex 0 and greedily grow tree  $T$ .
- Add to  $T$  the min weight edge with exactly one endpoint in  $T$ .
- Repeat until  $V - 1$  edges.



v	edgeTo[]	distTo[]
0	-	-
7	0-7	0.16
1	1-7	0.19
2	0-2	0.26
3	2-3	0.17
5	5-7	0.28
4	4-5	0.35
6	6-2	0.40

**MST edges**

0-7 1-7 0-2 2-3 5-7 4-5 6-2

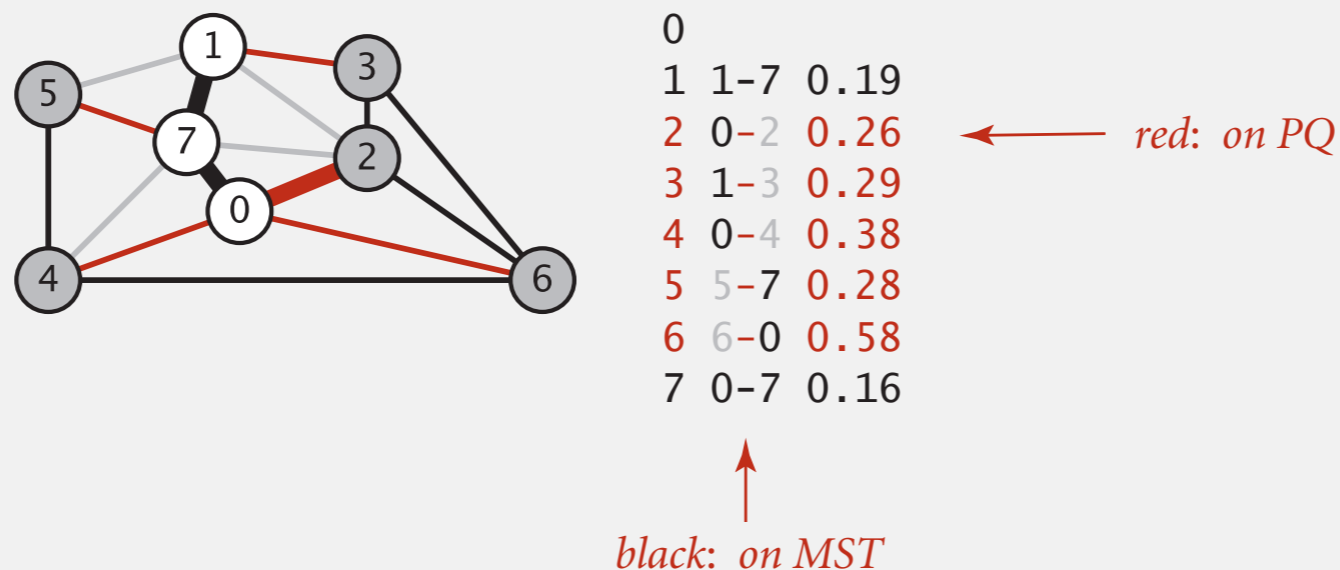
# Prim's algorithm: eager implementation

**Challenge.** Find min weight edge with exactly one endpoint in  $T$ .

PQ has at most one entry per vertex

**Eager solution.** Maintain a PQ of **vertices** connected by an edge to  $T$ , where priority of vertex  $v =$  weight of lightest edge connecting  $v$  to  $T$ .

- Delete min vertex  $v$  and add its associated edge  $e = v-w$  to  $T$ .
- Update PQ by considering all edges  $e = v-x$  incident to  $v$ 
  - ignore if  $x$  is already in  $T$
  - add  $x$  to PQ if not already on it
  - **decrease priority** of  $x$  if  $v-x$  becomes lightest edge connecting  $x$  to  $T$




# Indexed priority queue

---

Associate an index between 0 and  $N - 1$  with each key in a priority queue.

- Insert a key associated with a given index.
- Delete a minimum key and return associated index.
- **Decrease the key** associated with a given index.

for Prim's algorithm,  
 $N = V$  and index = vertex.

```
public class IndexMinPQ<Key extends Comparable<Key>>
```

```
    IndexMinPQ(int N)
```

*create indexed priority queue  
with indices 0, 1, ..., N - 1*

```
    void insert(int i, Key key)
```

*associate key with index i*

```
    int delMin()
```

*remove a minimal key and return its associated index*

```
    void decreaseKey(int i, Key key)
```

*decrease the key associated with index i*

```
    boolean contains(int i)
```

*is i an index on the priority queue?*

```
    boolean isEmpty()
```

*is the priority queue empty?*

```
    int size()
```

*number of keys in the priority queue*

# Indexed priority queue: implementation

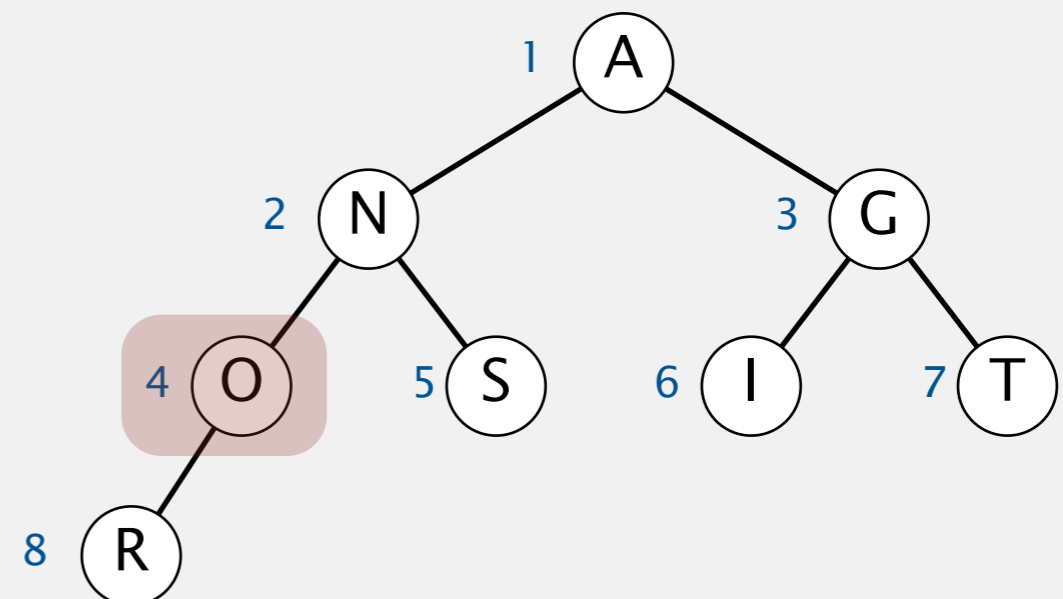
Binary heap implementation. [see Section 2.4 of textbook]

- Start with same code as MinPQ.
- Maintain parallel arrays so that:
  - $keys[i]$  is the priority of vertex  $i$
  - $qp[i]$  is the heap position of vertex  $i$
  - $pq[i]$  is the index of the key in heap position  $i$
- Use  $swim(qp[i])$  to implement  $decreaseKey(i, key)$ .

$i$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
$keys[i]$	A	S	0	R	T	I	N	G	-
$qp[i]$	1	5	4	8	7	6	2	3	-
$pq[i]$	-	0	6	7	2	1	5	4	3

vertex 2 is at  
heap index 4

decrease key of vertex 2 to C



# Prim's algorithm: which priority queue?

---

Depends on PQ implementation:  $V$  insert,  $V$  delete-min,  $E$  decrease-key.

PQ implementation	insert	delete-min	decrease-key	total
<b>unordered array</b>	1	$V$	1	$V^2$
<b>binary heap</b>	$\log V$	$\log V$	$\log V$	$E \log V$
<b>d-way heap</b>	$\log_d V$	$d \log_d V$	$\log_d V$	$E \log_{E/V} V$
<b>Fibonacci heap</b>	$1^\dagger$	$\log V^\dagger$	$1^\dagger$	$E + V \log V$

$\dagger$  amortized

## Bottom line.

- Array implementation optimal for dense graphs.
- Binary heap much faster for sparse graphs.
- 4-way heap worth the trouble in performance-critical situations.
- Fibonacci heap best in theory, but not worth implementing.





# Algorithms

ROBERT SEDGEWICK | KEVIN WAYNE

<http://algs4.cs.princeton.edu>

## 4.3 MINIMUM SPANNING TREES

---

- ▶ *introduction*
- ▶ *greedy algorithm*
- ▶ *edge-weighted graph API*
- ▶ *Kruskal's algorithm*
- ▶ *Prim's algorithm*
- ▶ ***context***

# Does a linear-time MST algorithm exist?

---

## deterministic compare-based MST algorithms

year	worst case	discovered by
1975	$E \log \log V$	Yao
1976	$E \log \log V$	Cheriton-Tarjan
1984	$E \log^* V, E + V \log V$	Fredman-Tarjan
1986	$E \log (\log^* V)$	Gabow-Galil-Spencer-Tarjan
1997	$E \alpha(V) \log \alpha(V)$	Chazelle
2000	$E \alpha(V)$	Chazelle
2002	<i>optimal</i>	Pettie-Ramachandran
20xx	$E$	???

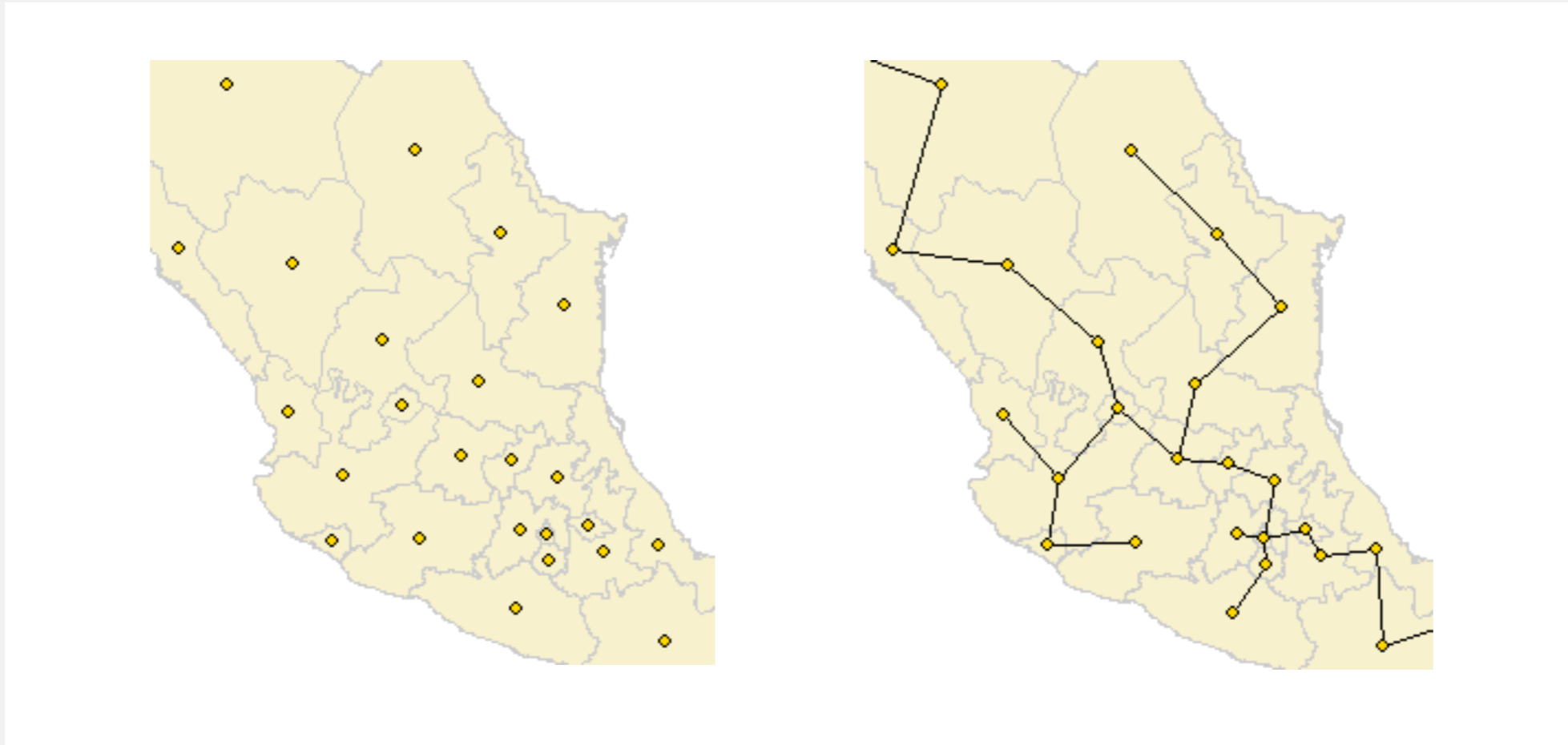


**Remark.** Linear-time randomized MST algorithm (Karger-Klein-Tarjan 1995).

# Euclidean MST

---

Given  $N$  points in the plane, find MST connecting them, where the distances between point pairs are their **Euclidean** distances.



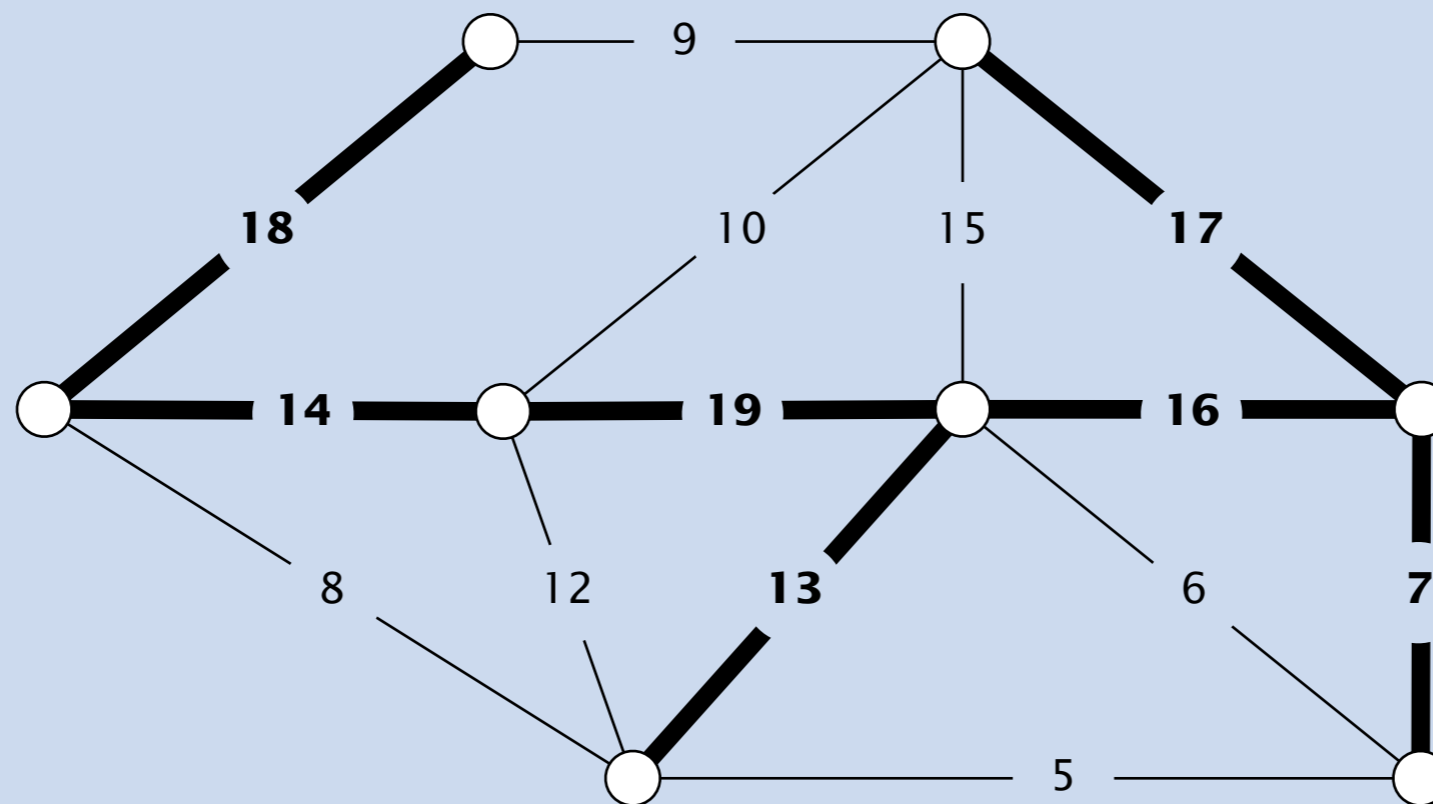
**Brute force.** Compute  $\sim N^2/2$  distances and run Prim's algorithm.

**Ingenuity.** Exploit geometry and do it in  $N \log N$  time.

# MAXIMUM SPANNING TREE

**Problem.** Given an edge-weighted graph  $G$ , find a spanning tree that **maximizes the sum** of the edge weights.

**Running time.**  $E \log E$  (or better).

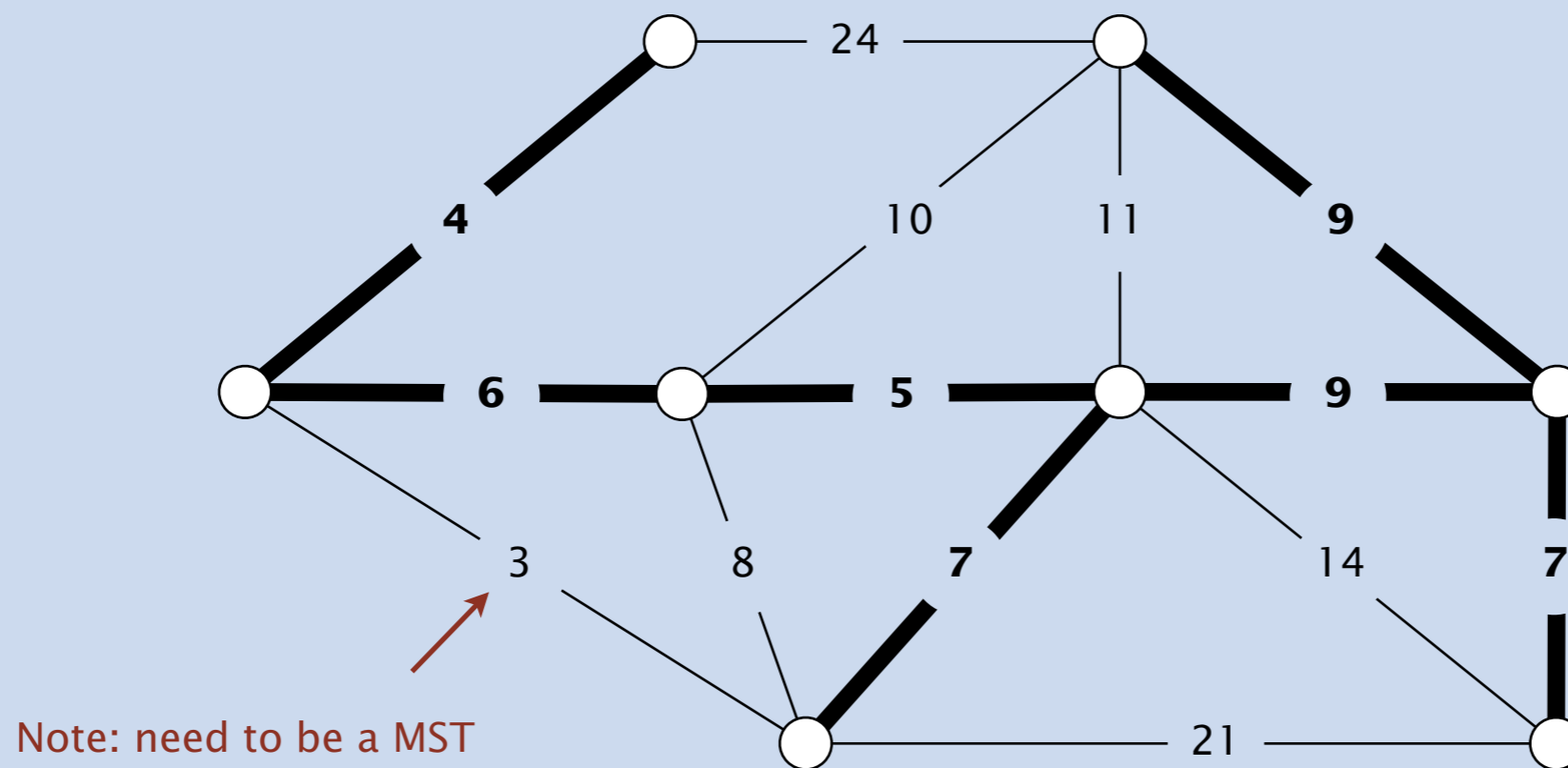


maximum spanning tree  $T$  (weight = 104)

# MINIMUM BOTTLENECK SPANNING TREE

**Problem.** Given an edge-weighted graph  $G$ , find a spanning tree that **minimizes the maximum weight** of any edge in the spanning tree.

**Running time.**  $E \log E$  (or better).



minimum bottleneck spanning tree  $T$  (bottleneck = 9)

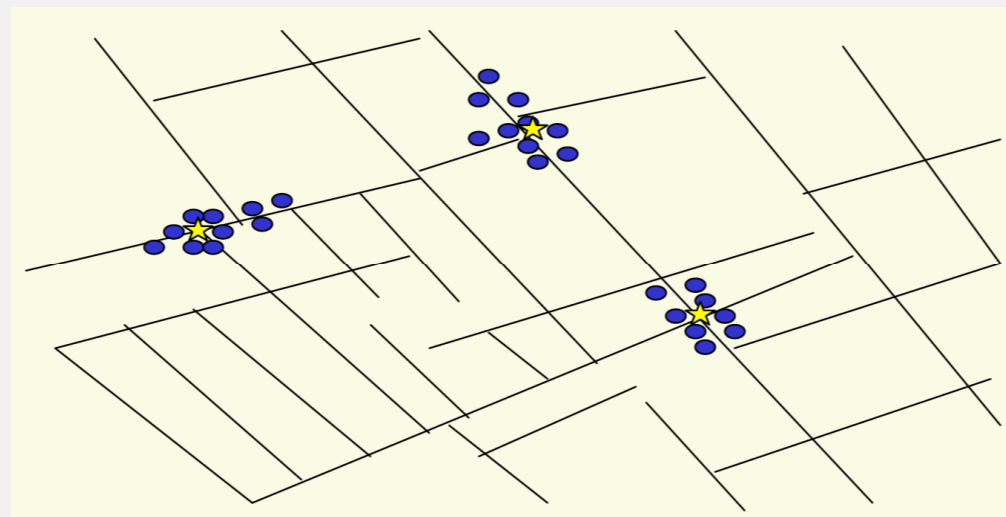
# Scientific application: clustering

---

**k-clustering.** Divide a set of objects classify into  $k$  coherent groups.

**Distance function.** Numeric value specifying "closeness" of two objects.

**Goal.** Divide into clusters so that objects in different clusters are far apart.



outbreak of cholera deaths in London in 1850s (Nina Mishra)

## Applications.

- Routing in mobile ad hoc networks.
- Document categorization for web search.
- Similarity searching in medical image databases.
- Skycat: cluster  $10^9$  sky objects into stars, quasars, galaxies.

# Single-link clustering

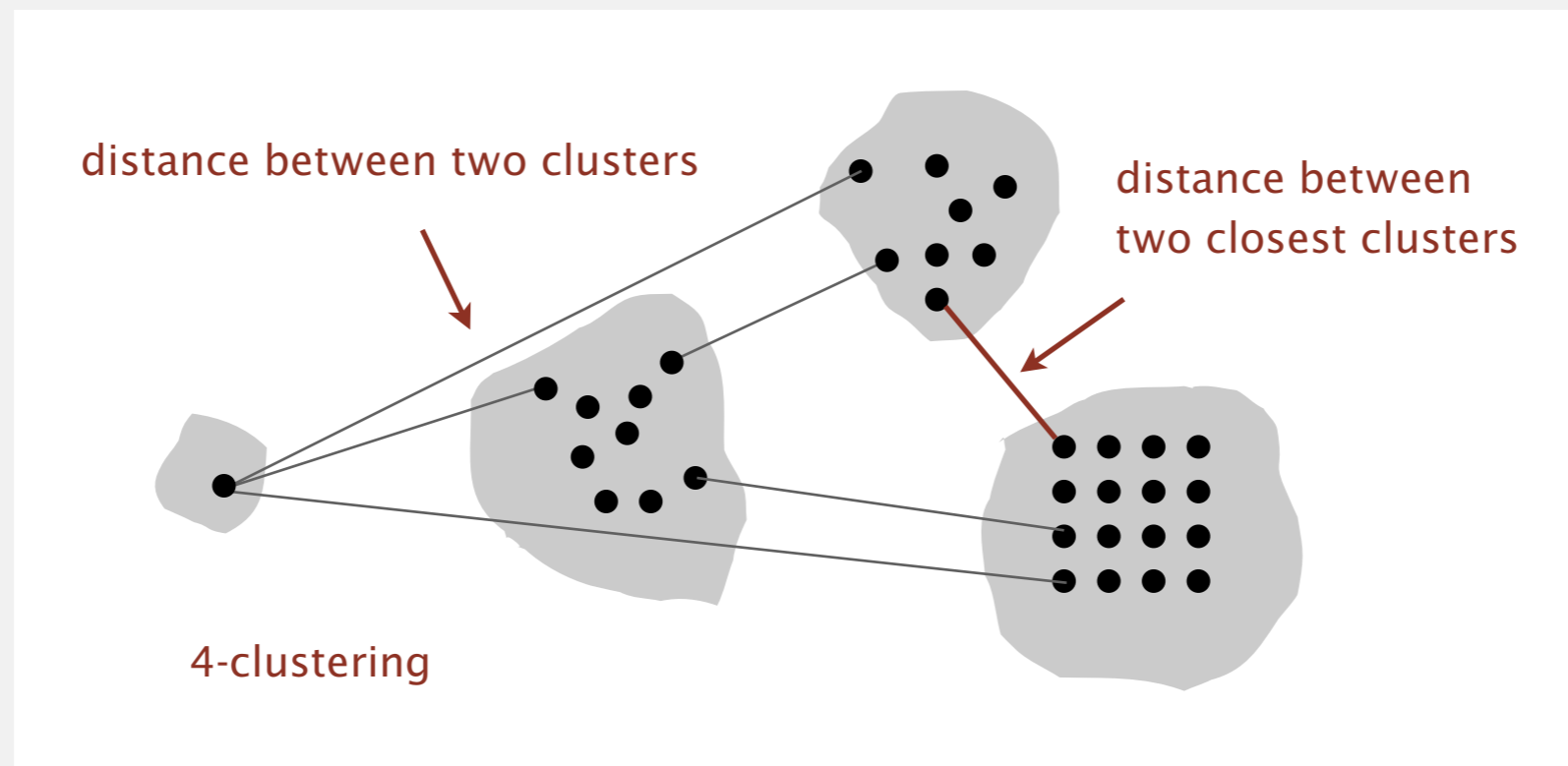
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**k-clustering.** Divide a set of objects classify into  $k$  coherent groups.

**Distance function.** Numeric value specifying "closeness" of two objects.

**Single link.** Distance between two clusters equals the distance between the two closest objects (one in each cluster).

**Single-link clustering.** Given an integer  $k$ , find a  $k$ -clustering that maximizes the distance between two closest clusters.



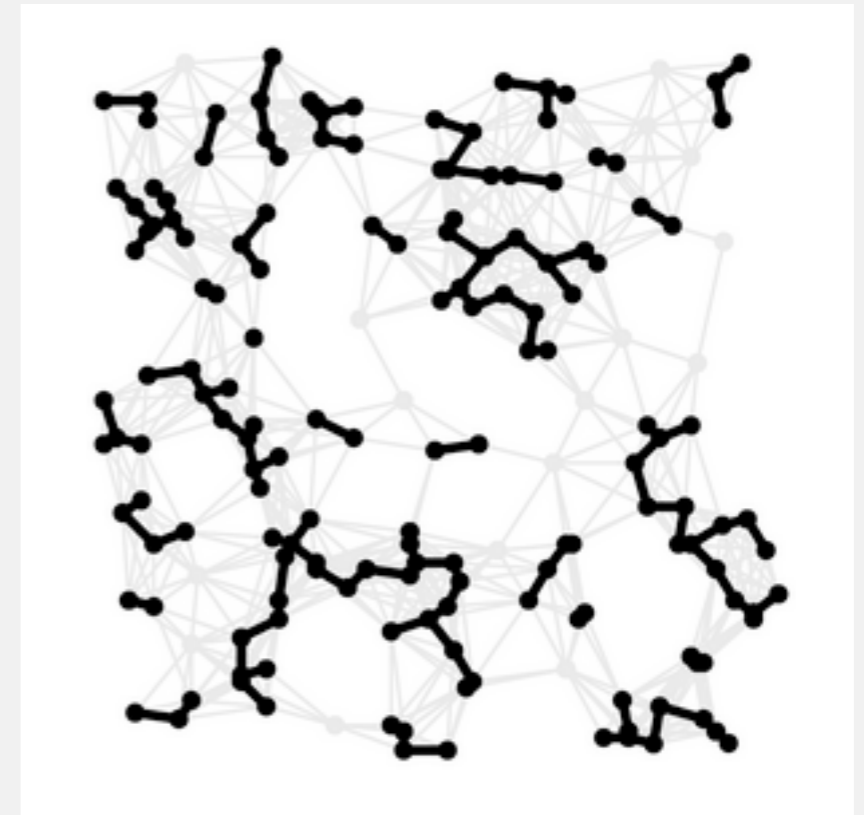
# Single-link clustering algorithm

---

“Well-known” algorithm in science literature for single-link clustering:

- Form  $V$  clusters of one object each.
- Find the closest pair of objects such that each object is in a different cluster, and merge the two clusters.
- Repeat until there are exactly  $k$  clusters.

**Observation.** This is Kruskal's algorithm.  
(stopping when  $k$  connected components)

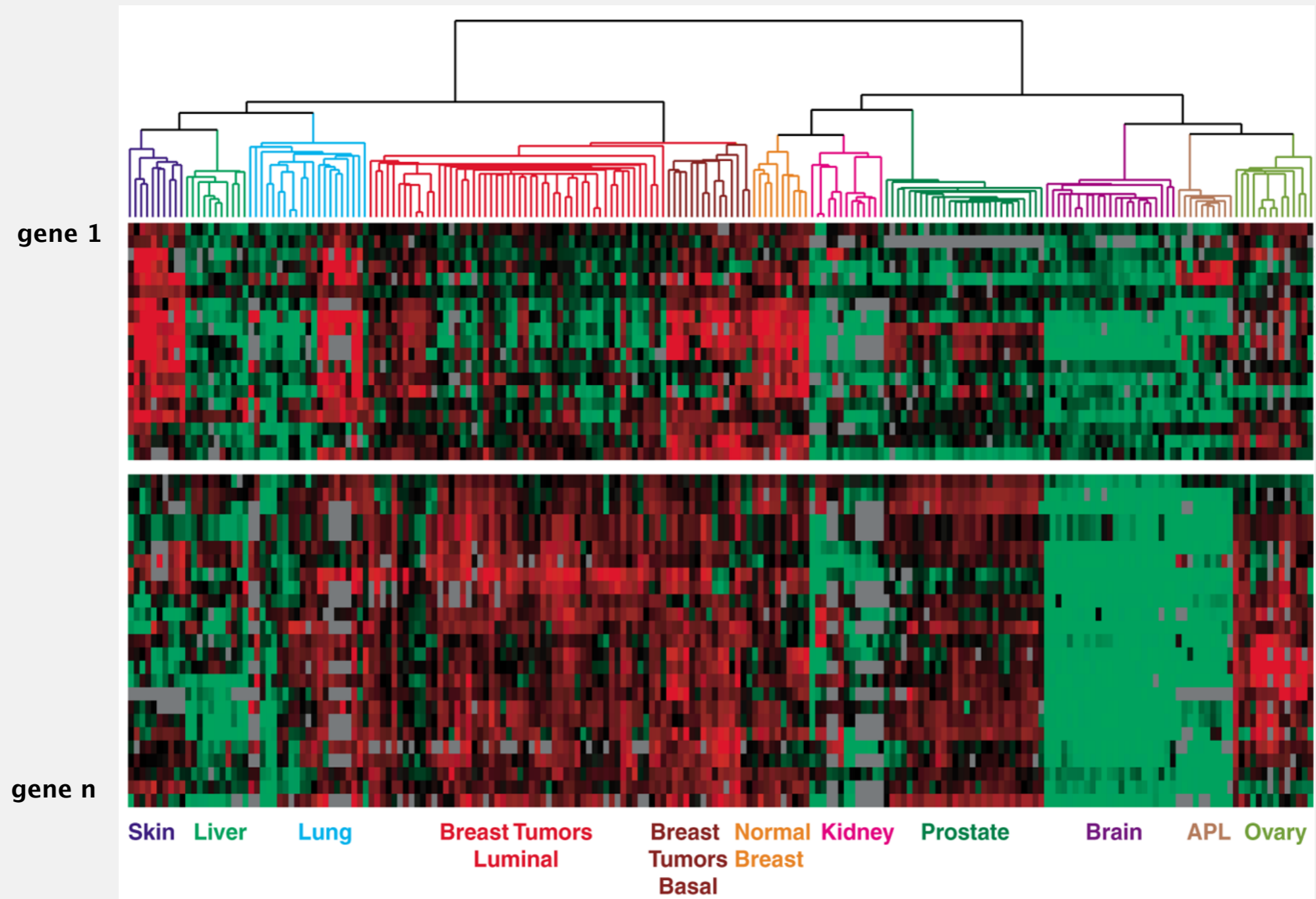


**Alternate solution.** Run Prim; then delete  $k - 1$  max weight edges.



# Dendrogram of cancers in human

Tumors in similar tissues cluster together.



Reference: Botstein & Brown group

■ gene expressed  
■ gene not expressed