

Data Structures

MST 2

CS 225

November 3, 2025

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Learning Objectives

Review the minimum spanning tree (with weights)

Review Kruskal's / Prim's MST Algorithms

Focus on determining Big O of complex pseudocode

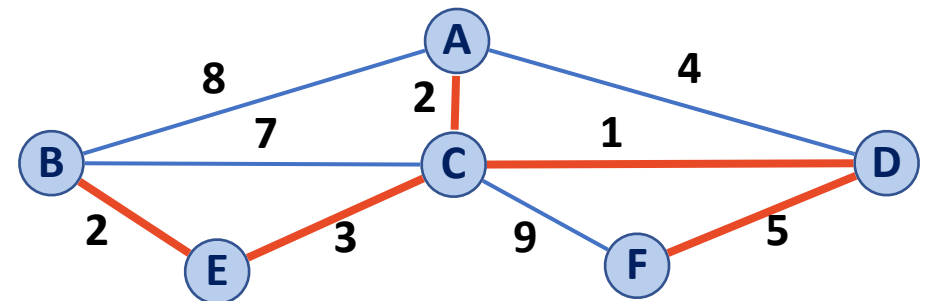
Compare implementations under different conditions

Minimum Spanning Tree Algorithms

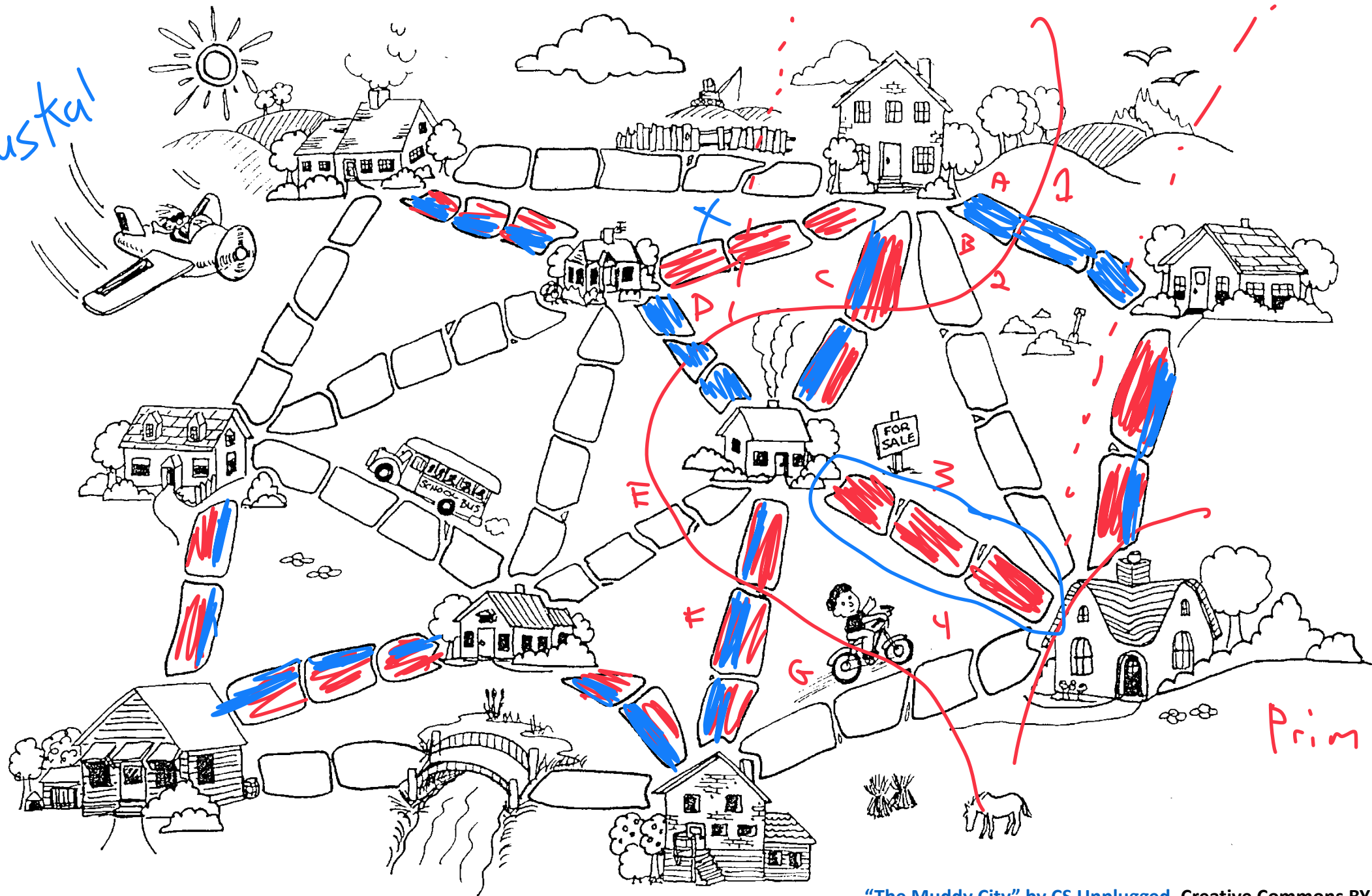
Input: Connected, undirected graph **G** with edge weights (unconstrained, but must be additive)

Output: A graph **G'** with the following properties:

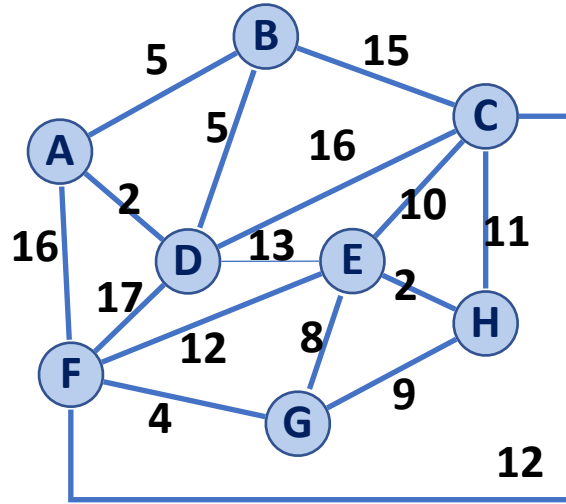
- **G'** is a spanning graph of **G**
- **G'** is a tree (connected, acyclic)
- **G'** has a minimal total weight among all spanning trees



Krustal



Kruskal's Algorithm *(A graph algorithm for the MST problem)*



What information do I need to get efficiently?

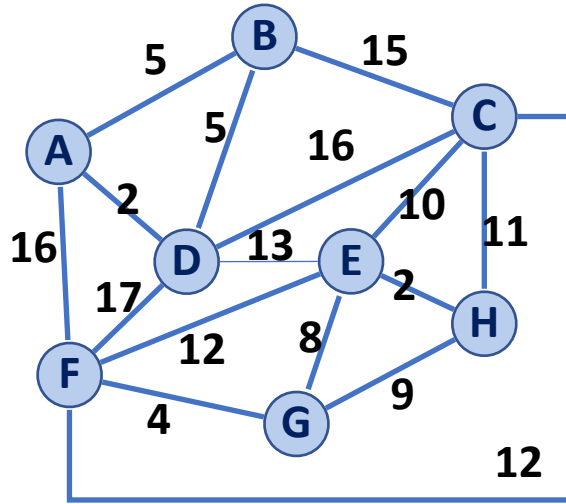
- 1) The global minimum edge weight
- 3) If two vertices are already connected

What does this tell me about my implementation choices?

- 1) We need a **priority queue** of edges (sorted by weight)
- 2) We need a **disjoint set** of vertices

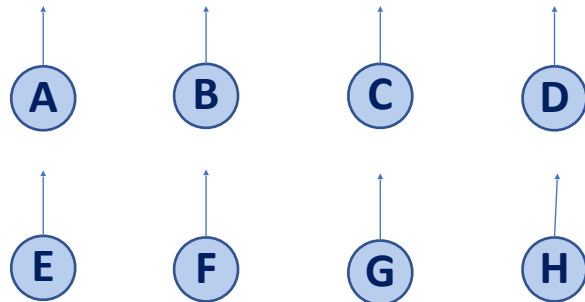
Kruskal's Algorithm

(A, D)
(E, H)
(F, G)
(A, B)
(B, D)
(G, E)
(G, H)
(E, C)
(C, H)
(E, F)
(F, C)
(D, E)
(B, C)
(C, D)
(A, F)
(D, F)



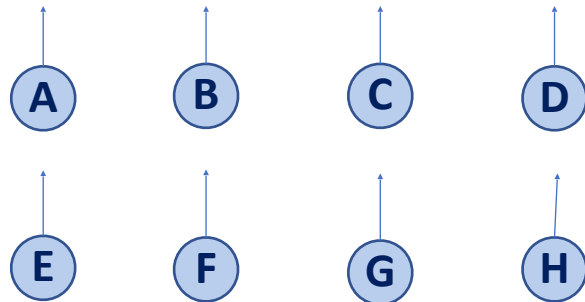
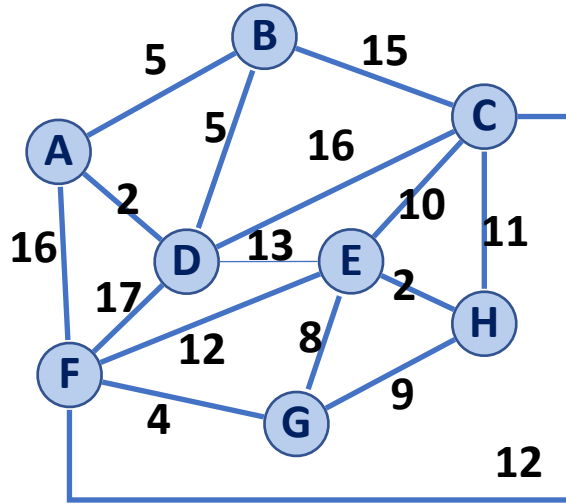
1) Build a **priority queue** on edges

2) Build a **disjoint set** on vertices



Kruskal's Algorithm

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(E, H)
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(F, C)
(D, E)
(B, C)
(C, D)
(A, F)
(D, F)



- 1) Build a **priority queue** on edges
A minheap or *A sorted array*
- 2) Build a **disjoint set** on vertices
All vertices start as their own set
- 3) Loop through min edges
If edge connects two disjoint sets
Union sets and record edge in MST
- 4) Stop when:
N-1 edges recorded
Only a single disjoint set remains

Kruskal's Algorithm

```
1 KruskalMST(G):
2   DisjointSets forest
3   foreach (Vertex v : G.vertices()):
4     forest.makeSet(v)
5
6   PriorityQueue Q    // min edge weight
7   Q.buildFromGraph(G.edges())
8
9   Graph T = (V, {})
10
11   while |T.edges()| < n-1:
12     Vertex (u, v) = Q.removeMin()
13     if forest.find(u) != forest.find(v):
14       T.addEdge(u, v)
15       forest.union( forest.find(u),
16                   forest.find(v) )
17
18   return T
19
```

1) Build a **priority queue** on edges

A minheap

or

A sorted array

2) Build a **disjoint set** on vertices

All vertices start as their own set

3) Loop through min edges

If edge connects two disjoint sets

Union sets and record edge in MST

4) Stop when:

N-1 edges recorded

Only a single disjoint set remains

Kruskal's Algorithm

$|V| = n, |E| = m$

What is the Big O?

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Kruskal's Algorithm

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16                  forest.find(v) )  
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18  return T  
19
```

$|V| = n, |E| = m$

What is the Big O?

2 — 4: $O(n)$

6 — 7: Heap: $O(m)$
 Sorted List: $O(m \log m)$

11: $m \times \langle 12-17 \rangle$

12—17: Heap: $O(\log m)$
 Sorted List: $O(1)$

Disjoint set we treat as $O(1)$ b/c path compression w/ smart union

Kruskal's Algorithm

Priority Queue:	Heap	Sorted Array
Building :7		
Each removeMin :12		

```
1 KruskalMST(G) :  
2     DisjointSets forest  
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15            forest.union( forest.find(u),  
16                          forest.find(v) )  
17  
18    return T
```

Kruskal's Algorithm

Priority Queue:	Heap	Sorted Array
Building :7	$O(m)$	$O(m \log m)$
Each removeMin :12	$O(m \log m)$	$O(m)$

Both result in $m + m \log m$

Why is heap good?

If edge weights can change!

Why is sorted array good?

Sorted array not destroyed and can be useful in other algorithms!

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```


Priority Queue:	Total Running Time
Heap	
Sorted Array	

```

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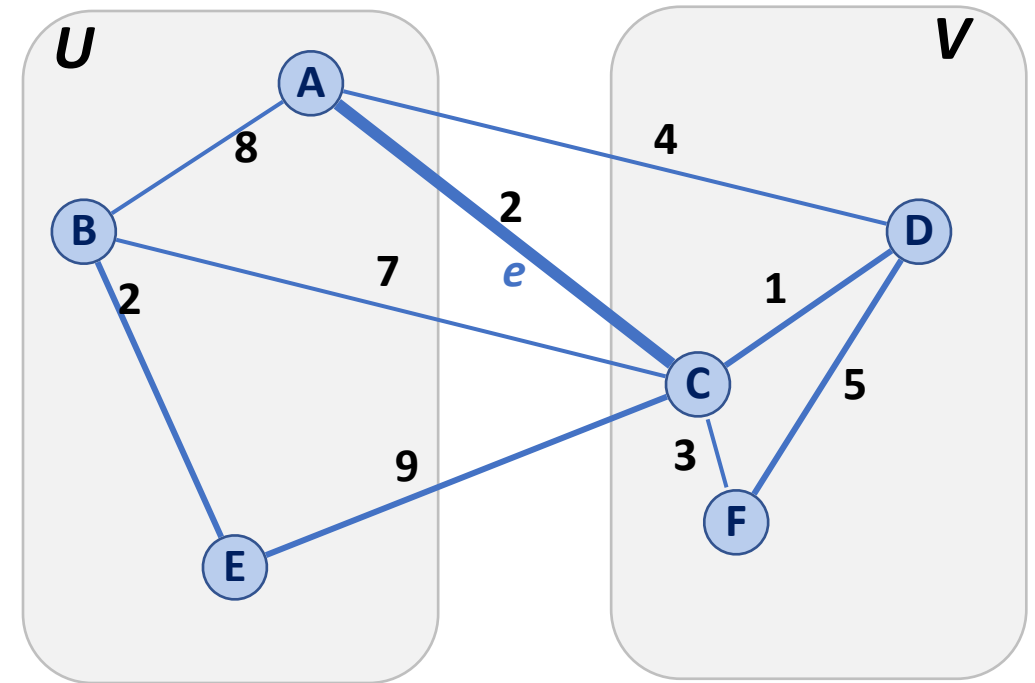
```


Partition Property

Consider an arbitrary partition of the vertices on G into two subsets U and V .

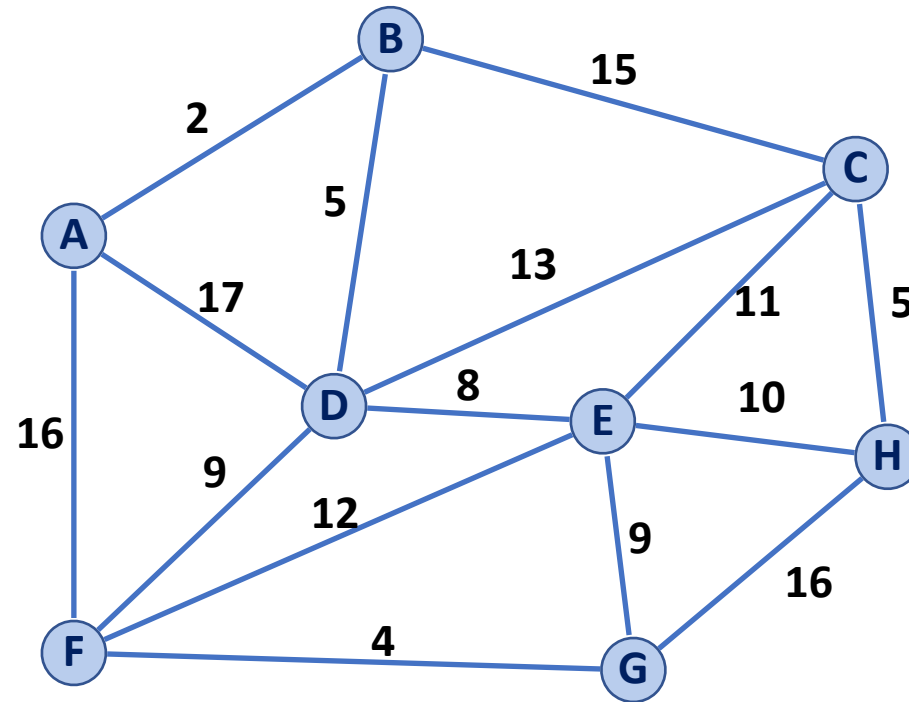
Let e be an edge of minimum weight across the partition.

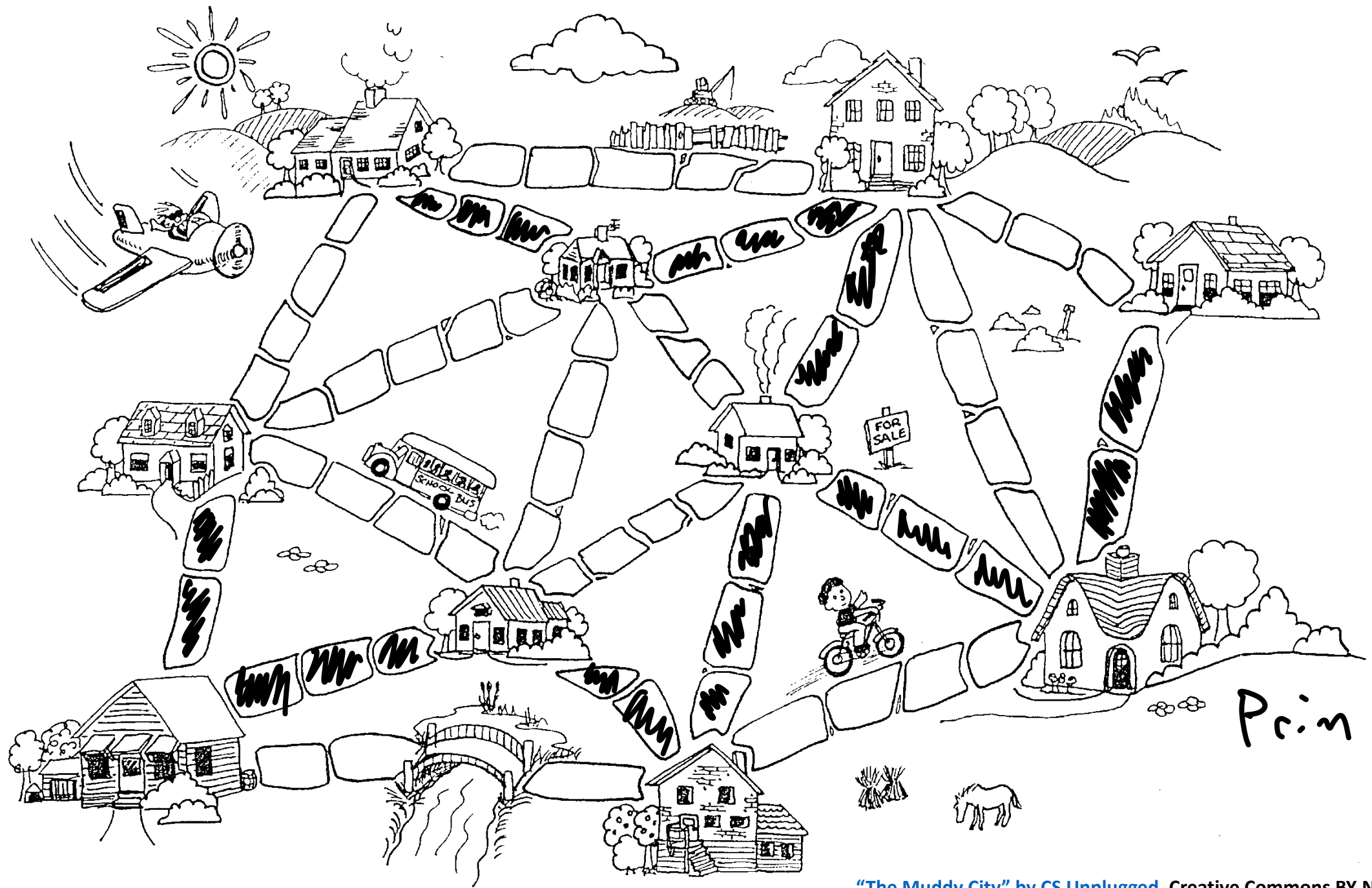
Then e is part of some minimum spanning tree.



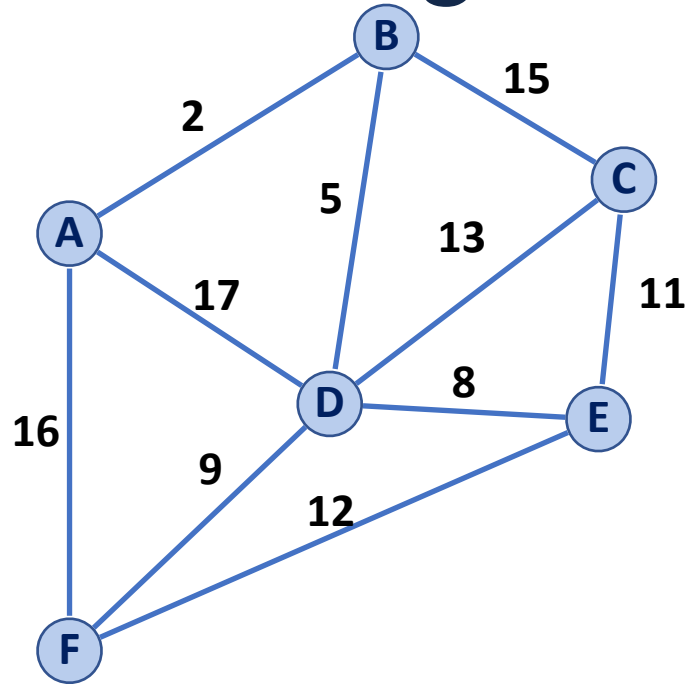
Partition Property

The partition property suggests an algorithm:





Prim's Algorithm

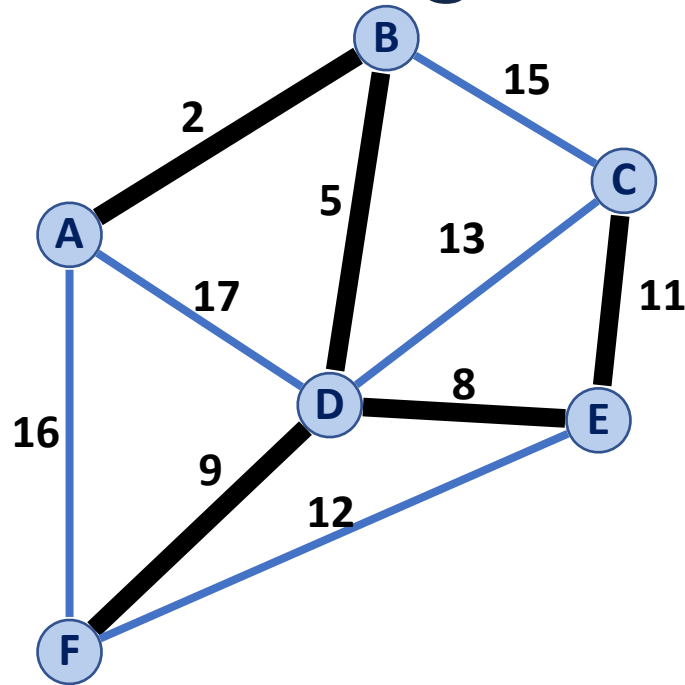


A	B	C	D	E	F

```
1  PrimMST(G, s):
2      Input: G, Graph;
3              s, vertex in G, starting vertex
4      Output: T, a minimum spanning tree (MST) of G
5
6      foreach (Vertex v : G.vertices()):
7          d[v] = +inf
8          p[v] = NULL
9      d[s] = 0
10
11     PriorityQueue Q    // min distance, defined by d[v]
12     Q.buildHeap(G.vertices())
13     Graph T            // "labeled set"
14
15     repeat n times:
16         Vertex m = Q.removeMin()
17         T.add(m)
18         foreach (Vertex v : neighbors of m not in T):
19             if cost(v, m) < d[v]:
20                 d[v] = cost(v, m)
21                 p[v] = m
22
23     return T
```



Prim's Algorithm



A	B	C	D	E	F
0, —	2, A	11, E	5, B	8, D	9, D

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Prim's Big O

$$|V| = n, |E| = m$$

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Prim's Big O

$$|V| = n, |E| = m$$

7 — 9: $O(n)$

12—14:

MinHeap: $O(n)$

Unsorted Array: $O(1)$

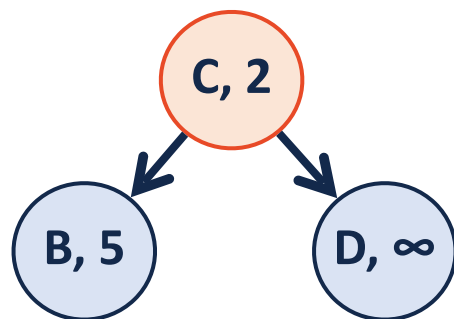
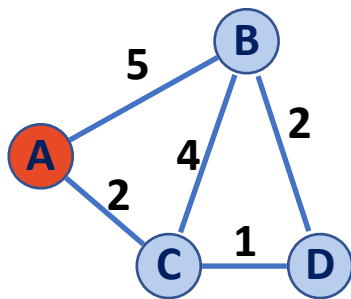
16—22: Complicated!

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```

Depends on choice of **PriorityQueue** (MinHeap vs Unsorted Array)

Depends on choice of **Graph** (Adjacency Matrix vs Adjacency List)

A	B	C	D
0	5	2	∞



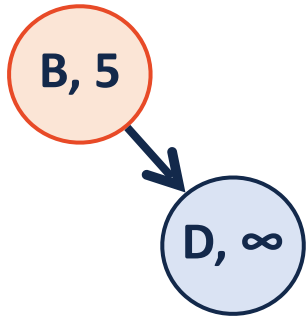
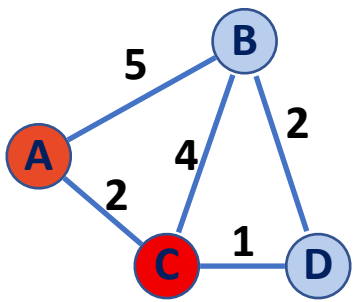
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```

	Adj. Matrix	Adj. List
Heap	$O(n) + \underline{\hspace{2cm}} + O(n^2) + \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$	$O(n) + \underline{\hspace{2cm}} + O(m) + \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

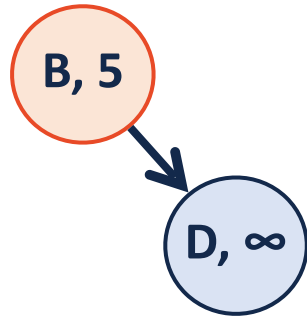
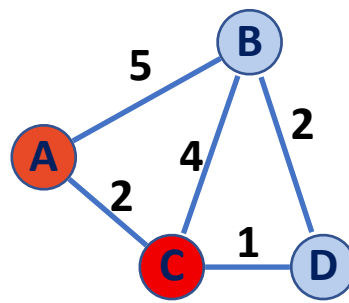
A	B	C	D
0	5	2, A	∞



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```

	Adj. Matrix	Adj. List
Heap	$O(n) + O(n \log n) + O(n^2) + \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$	$O(n) + O(n \log n) + O(m) + \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

A	B	C	D
0	5	2, A	∞



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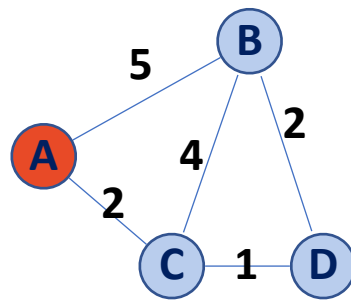
```

1) Change minheap value
2) HeapifyUp()



	Adj. Matrix	Adj. List
Heap	$O(n) + O(n \log n) + O(n^2) + O(m \log n)$	$O(n) + O(n \log n) + O(m) + O(m \log n)$

(A, 0)
(D, ∞)
(C, 2)
(B, 5)



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```

	Adj. Matrix	Adj. List
Heap	$O(n^2 + m \lg(n))$	$O(n \lg(n) + m \lg(n))$
Unsorted Array		

Prim's Algorithm

Sparse Graph:

Dense Graph:



```
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```

	Adj. Matrix	Adj. List
Heap	$O(n^2 + m \lg(n))$	$O(n \lg(n) + m \lg(n))$
Unsorted Array	$O(n^2)$	$O(n^2)$

MST Algorithm Runtime:

Kruskal's Algorithm:
 $O(n + m \log(n))$

Prim's Algorithm:
 $O(n \log(n) + m \log(n))$

Sparse Graph:

Dense Graph:

Suppose I have a new heap:

	Binary Heap	Fibonacci Heap
Remove Min	$O(\lg(n))$	$O(\lg(n))$
Decrease Key	$O(\lg(n))$	$O(1)^*$

What's Prim's updated running time?

```
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Shortest Path

