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Goal: For a weighted graph G, find a minimum-weight spanning tree.

Kruskal's Algorithm finds a minimum-weight spanning tree in a weighted graph.

() Initialization: Order the edges from lowest to highest weight:

 $w(e_1) \leq w(e_2) \leq w(e_3) \leq \cdots \leq w(e_k).$

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If you have a spanning tree, STOP. You have a m.w.s.t. Otherwise, continue onto step i + 1.









































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- Kruskal's algorithm is an example of a greedy algorithm. (It chooses the cheapest edge at each point.)
- ► Greedy algorithms don't always work.

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We can not use a greedy algorithm to find this TSP tour!

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Theorem. When the edge weights satisfy the triangle inequality, the *tree shortcut algorithm* finds a tour that costs at most twice the optimum tour.

Recall. The **triangle inequality** says that if x, y, and z are vertices, then wt(xy) + wt(yz) \leq wt(xz).

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Example: Euclidean distances *Non-example:* Airfares



- Find a minimum-weight spanning tree (Use Kruskal's Algorithm)
- Walk in a circuit around the edges of the tree.
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Then,

 $\operatorname{wt}(TSP_A) \leq \operatorname{wt}(CIRC_A) = 2\operatorname{wt}(MST) \leq 2\operatorname{wt}(TSP^*).$