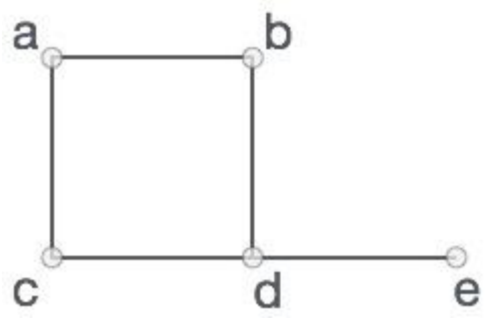
Graph Traversals – DFS

Graph traversal is technique used for searching a vertex in a graph. The graph traversal is also used to decide the order of vertices to be visit in the search process. A graph traversal finds the egdes to be used in the search process without creating loops that means using graph traversal we visit all verticces of graph without getting into looping path.

Or

A graph is a pictorial representation of a set of objects where some pairs of objects are connected by links. The interconnected objects are represented by points termed as **vertices**, and the links that connect the vertices are called **edges**.

Formally, a graph is a pair of sets **(V, E)**, where **V** is the set of vertices and **E** is the set of edges, connecting the pairs of vertices. Take a look at the following graph −



In the above graph,

V = {a, b, c, d, e}

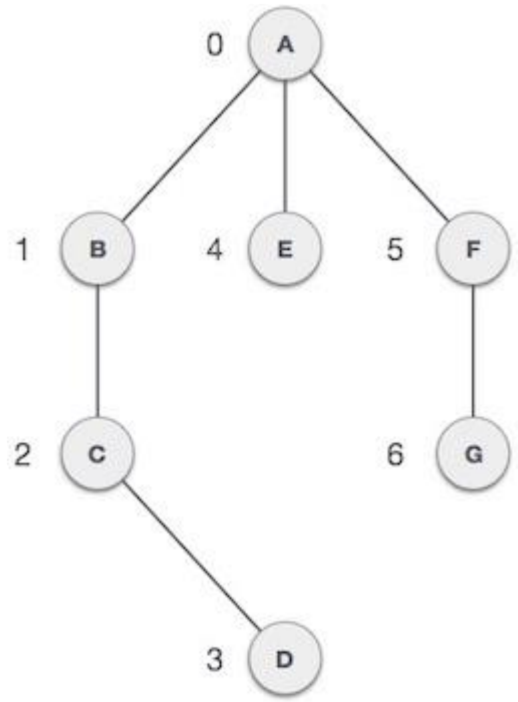
E = {ab, ac, bd, cd, de}

Graph Data Structure

Mathematical graphs can be represented in data structure. We can represent a graph using an array of vertices and a two-dimensional array of edges. Before we proceed further, let's familiarize ourselves with some important terms −

- **Vertex** − Each node of the graph is represented as a vertex. In the following example, the labeled circle represents vertices. Thus, A to G are vertices. We can represent them using an array as shown in the following image. Here A can be identified by index 0. B can be identified using index 1 and so on.
- **Edge** − Edge represents a path between two vertices or a line between two vertices. In the following example, the lines from A to B, B to C, and so on represents edges. We can use a two-dimensional array to represent an array as shown in the following image. Here AB can be represented as 1 at row 0, column 1, BC as 1 at row 1, column 2 and so on, keeping other combinations as 0.

- **Adjacency** − Two node or vertices are adjacent if they are connected to each other through an edge. In the following example, B is adjacent to A, C is adjacent to B, and so on.
- **Path** − Path represents a sequence of edges between the two vertices. In the following example, ABCD represents a path from A to D.

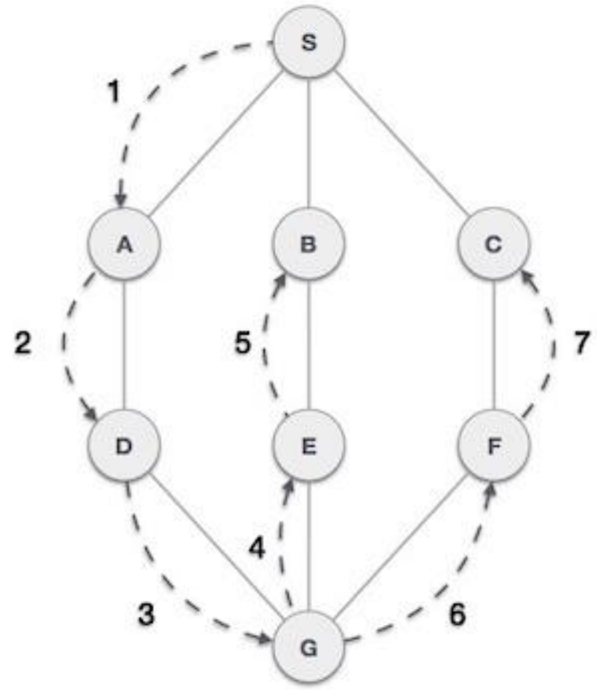


Basic Operations

Following are basic primary operations of a Graph −

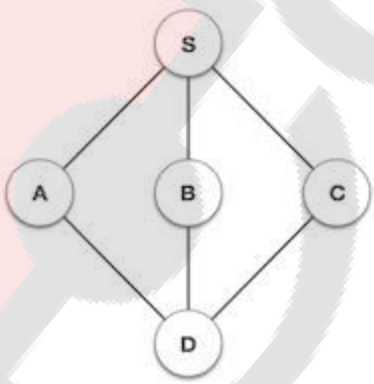
- **Add Vertex** − Adds a vertex to the graph.
- **Add Edge** − Adds an edge between the two vertices of the graph.
- **Display Vertex** − Displays a vertex of the graph.

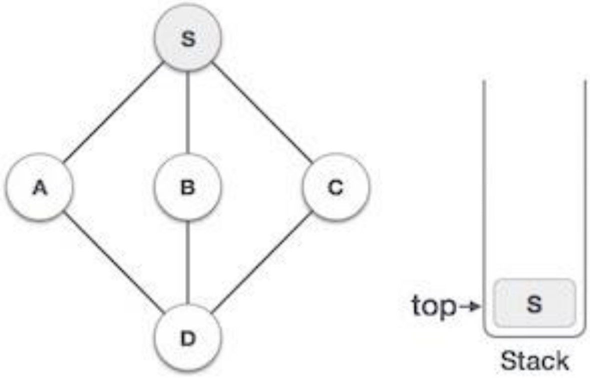
Depth First Search (DFS) algorithm traverses a graph in a depthward motion and uses a stack to remember to get the next vertex to start a search, when a dead end occurs in any iteration.



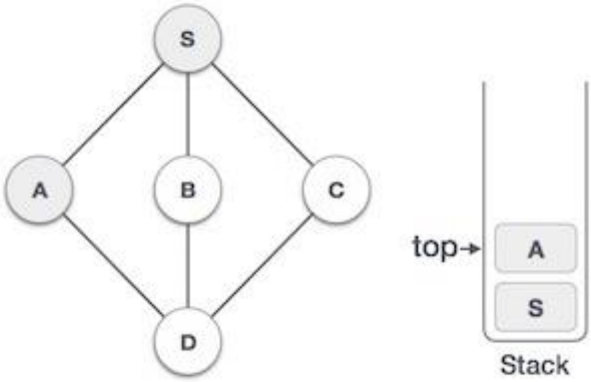
As in the example given above, DFS algorithm traverses from A to B to C to D first then to E, then to F and lastly to G. It employs the following rules.

- **Rule 1** − Visit the adjacent unvisited vertex. Mark it as visited. Display it. Push it in a stack.
- **Rule 2** − If no adjacent vertex is found, pop up a vertex from the stack. (It will pop up all the vertices from the stack, which do not have adjacent vertices.)
- **Rule 3** − Repeat Rule 1 and Rule 2 until the stack is empty.

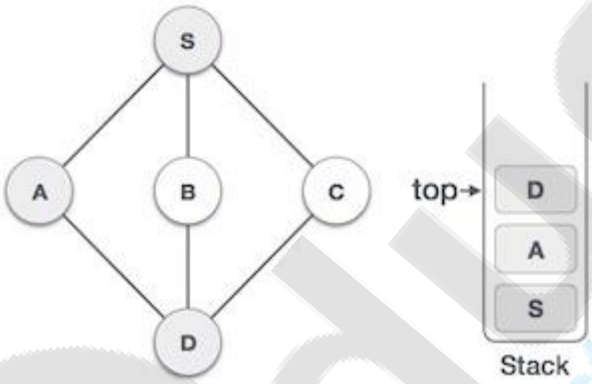
Step	Traversal		Description
1.			Initialize the stack.

2.


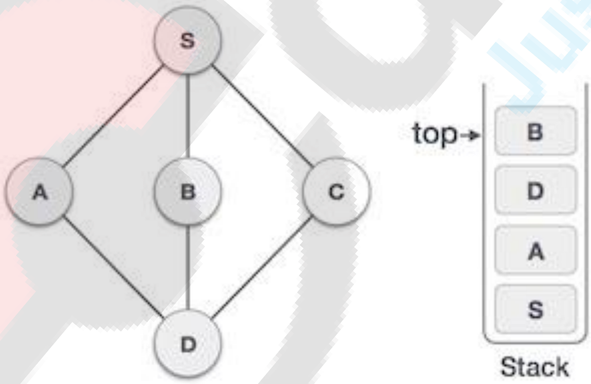
Mark **S** as visited and put it onto the stack. Explore any unvisited adjacent node from **S**. We have three nodes and we can pick any of them. For this example, we shall take the node in an alphabetical order.

3.


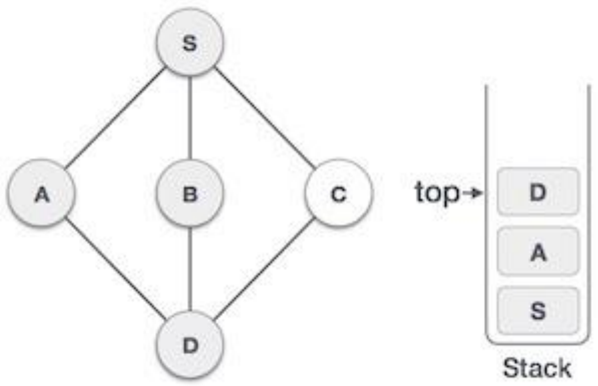
Mark **A** as visited and put it onto the stack. Explore any unvisited adjacent node from A. Both **S** and **D** are adjacent to **A** but we are concerned for unvisited nodes only.

4.


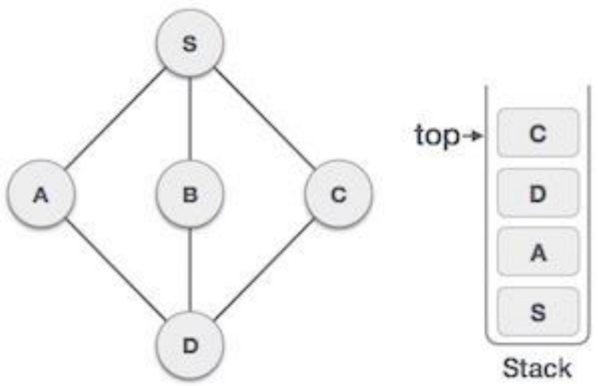
Visit **D** and mark it as visited and put onto the stack. Here, we have **B** and **C** nodes, which are adjacent to **D** and both are unvisited. However, we shall again choose in an alphabetical order.

5.


We choose **B**, mark it as visited and put onto the stack. Here **B** does not have any unvisited adjacent node. So, we pop **B** from the stack.

6. 

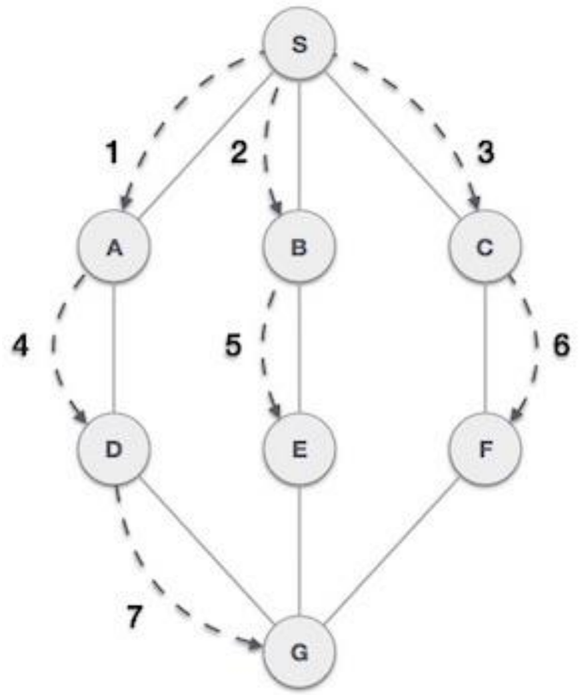
We check the stack top for return to the previous node and check if it has any unvisited nodes. Here, we find **D** to be on the top of the stack.

7. 

Only unvisited adjacent node is from **D** is **C** now. So we visit **C**, mark it as visited and put it onto the stack.

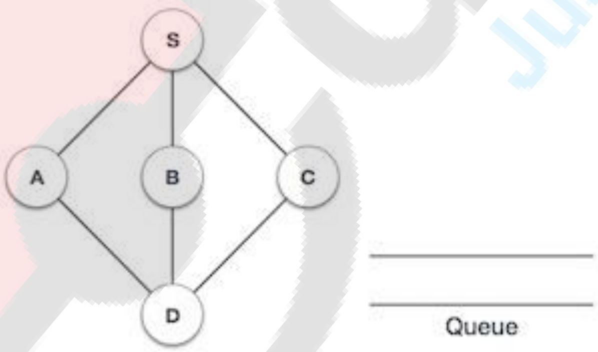
As **C** does not have any unvisited adjacent node so we keep popping the stack until we find a node that has an unvisited adjacent node. In this case, there's none and we keep popping until the stack is empty.

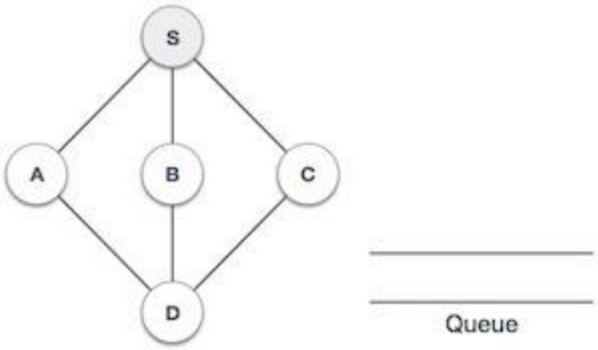
Breadth First Search (BFS) algorithm traverses a graph in a breadthward motion and uses a queue to remember to get the next vertex to start a search, when a dead end occurs in any iteration.



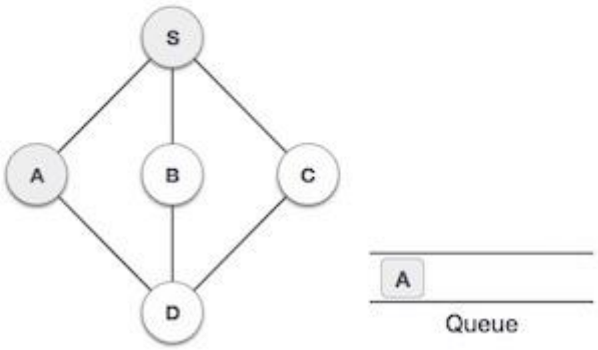
As in the example given above, BFS algorithm traverses from A to B to E to F first then to C and G lastly to D. It employs the following rules.

- **Rule 1** − Visit the adjacent unvisited vertex. Mark it as visited. Display it. Insert it in a queue.
- **Rule 2** − If no adjacent vertex is found, remove the first vertex from the queue.
- **Rule 3** − Repeat Rule 1 and Rule 2 until the queue is empty.

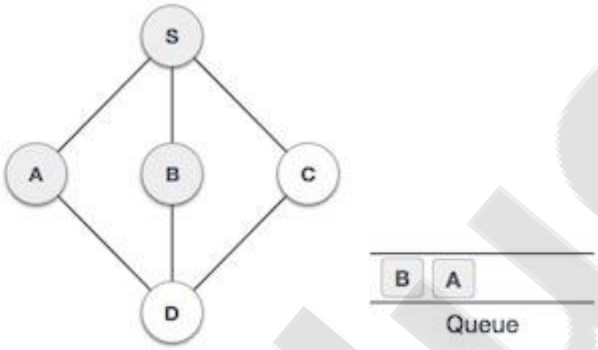
Step	Traversal	Description
1.		Initialize the queue.

2. 

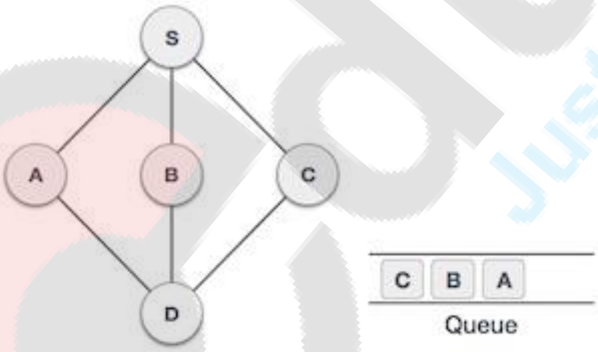
We start from visiting **S** (starting node), and mark it as visited.

3. 

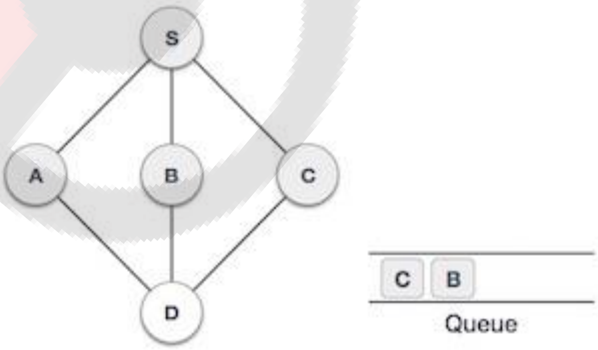
We then see an unvisited adjacent node from **S**. In this example, we have three nodes but alphabetically we choose **A**, mark it as visited and enqueue it.

4. 

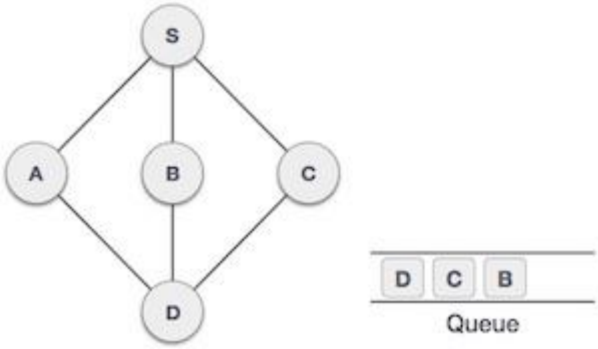
Next, the unvisited adjacent node from **S** is **B**. We mark it as visited and enqueue it.

5. 

Next, the unvisited adjacent node from **S** is **C**. We mark it as visited and enqueue it.

6. 

Now, **S** is left with no unvisited adjacent nodes. So, we dequeue and find **A**.

7. 

From **A** we have **D** as unvisited adjacent node. We mark it as visited and enqueue it.

At this stage, we are left with no unmarked (unvisited) nodes. But as per the algorithm we keep on dequeuing in order to get all unvisited nodes. When the queue gets emptied, the program is over.

Minimum spanning tree

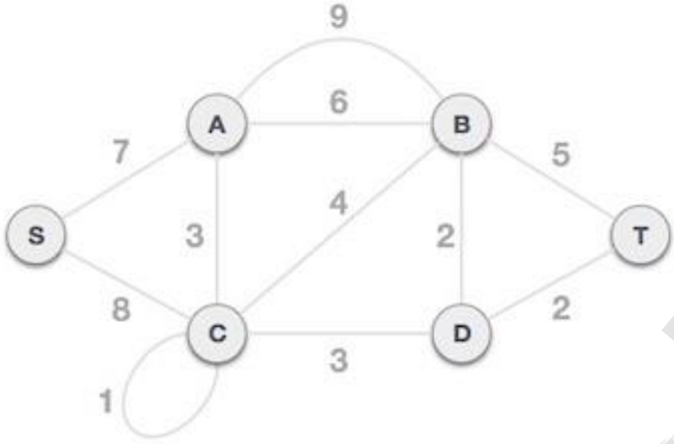
A minimum spanning tree (MST) or minimum weight spanning tree is a subset of the edges of a connected, edge-weighted undirected graph that connects all the vertices together, without any cycles and with the minimum possible total edge weight. That is, it is a spanning tree whose sum of edge weights is as small as possible. More generally, any undirected graph (not necessarily connected) has a minimum spanning forest, which is a union of the minimum spanning trees for its connected components.

There are quite a few use cases for minimum spanning trees. One example would be a telecommunications company which is trying to lay out cables in new neighborhood. If it is constrained to bury the cable only along certain paths (e.g. along roads), then there would be a graph representing which points are connected by those paths. Some of those paths might be more expensive, because they are longer, or require the cable to be buried deeper; these paths would be represented by edges with larger weights. Currency is an acceptable unit for edge weight – there is no requirement for edge lengths to obey normal rules of geometry such as the triangle inequality. A spanning tree for that graph would be a subset of those paths that has no cycles but still connects to every house; there might be several spanning trees possible. A minimum spanning tree would be one with the lowest total cost, thus would represent the least expensive path for laying the cable.

Kruskal's algo

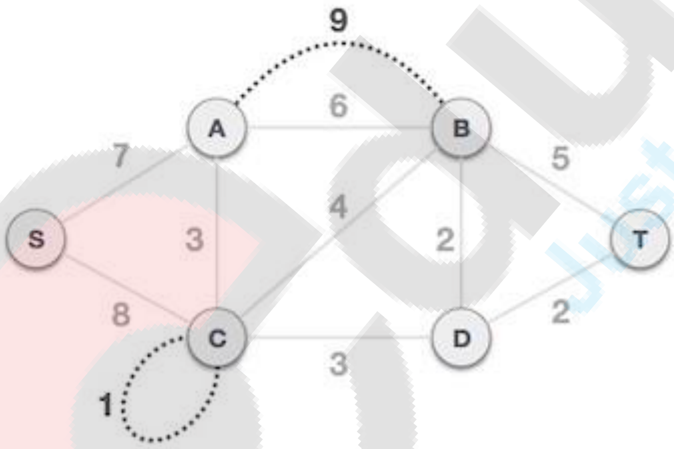
Kruskal's algorithm to find the minimum cost spanning tree uses the greedy approach. This algorithm treats the graph as a forest and every node it has as an individual tree. A tree connects to another only and only if, it has the least cost among all available options and does not violate MST properties.

To understand Kruskal's algorithm let us consider the following example −

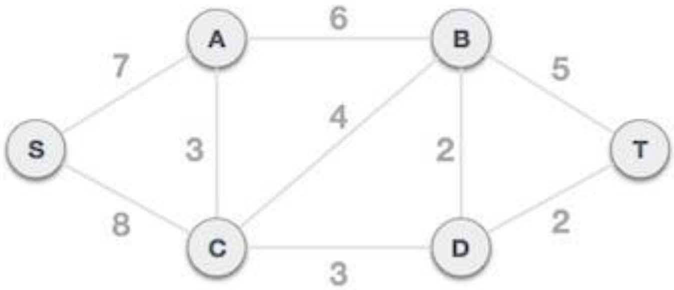


Step 1 - Remove all loops and Parallel Edges

Remove all loops and parallel edges from the given graph.



In case of parallel edges, keep the one which has the least cost associated and remove all others.



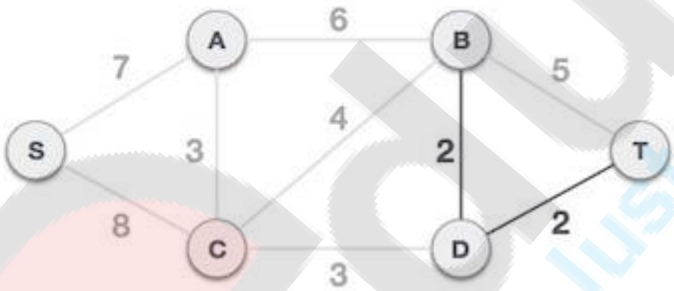
Step 2 - Arrange all edges in their increasing order of weight

The next step is to create a set of edges and weight, and arrange them in an ascending order of weightage (cost).

B, D	D, T	A, C	C, D	C, B	B, T	A, B	S, A	S, C
2	2	3	3	4	5	6	7	8

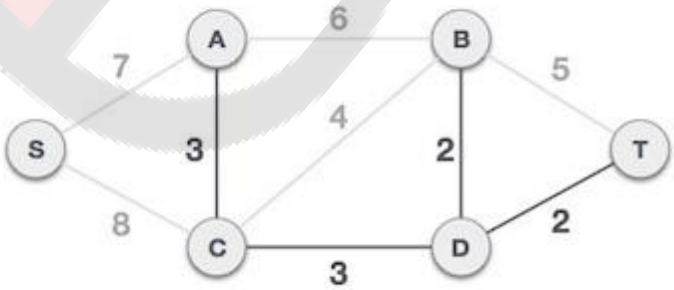
Step 3 - Add the edge which has the least weightage

Now we start adding edges to the graph beginning from the one which has the least weight. Throughout, we shall keep checking that the spanning properties remain intact. In case, by adding one edge, the spanning tree property does not hold then we shall consider not to include the edge in the graph.

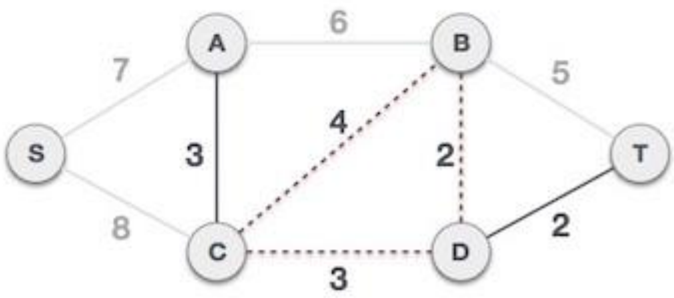


The least cost is 2 and edges involved are B,D and D,T. We add them. Adding them does not violate spanning tree properties, so we continue to our next edge selection.

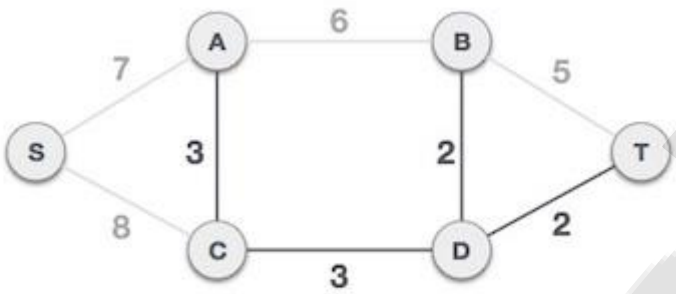
Next cost is 3, and associated edges are A,C and C,D. We add them again −



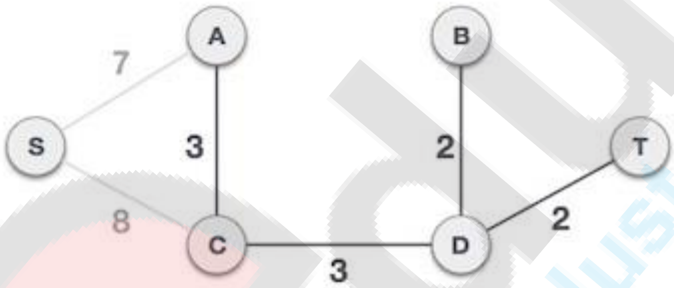
Next cost in the table is 4, and we observe that adding it will create a circuit in the graph. −



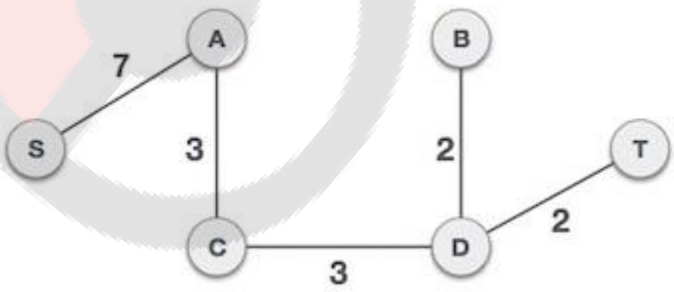
We ignore it. In the process we shall ignore/avoid all edges that create a circuit.



We observe that edges with cost 5 and 6 also create circuits. We ignore them and move on.



Now we are left with only one node to be added. Between the two least cost edges available 7 and 8, we shall add the edge with cost 7.



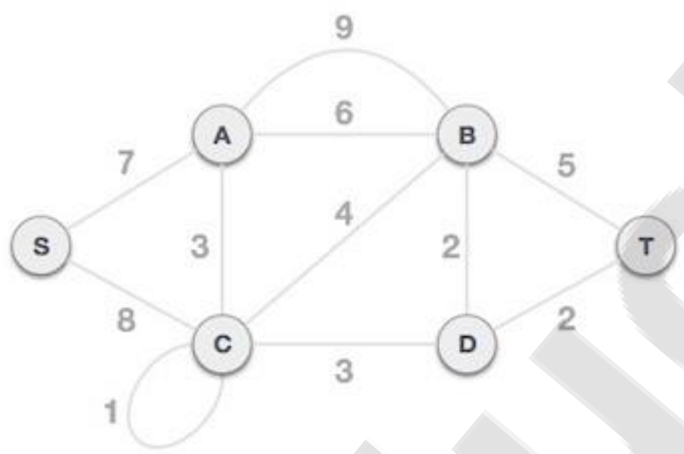
By adding edge S,A we have included all the nodes of the graph and we now have minimum cost spanning tree.

PRIMS ALGO

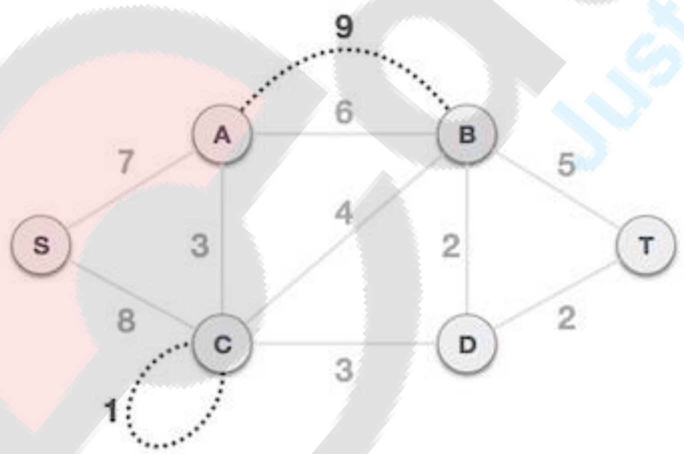
Prim's algorithm to find minimum cost spanning tree (as Kruskal's algorithm) uses the greedy approach. Prim's algorithm shares a similarity with the **shortest path first** algorithms.

Prim's algorithm, in contrast with Kruskal's algorithm, treats the nodes as a single tree and keeps on adding new nodes to the spanning tree from the given graph.

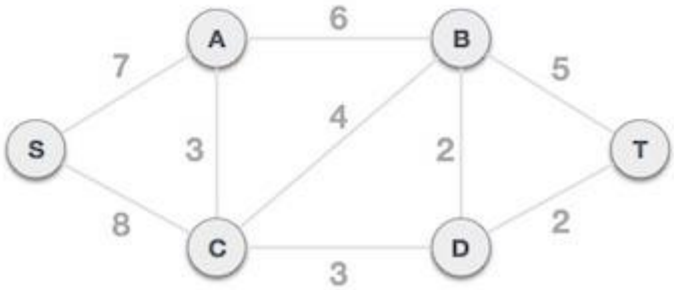
To contrast with Kruskal's algorithm and to understand Prim's algorithm better, we shall use the same example −



Step 1 - Remove all loops and parallel edges



Remove all loops and parallel edges from the given graph. In case of parallel edges, keep the one which has the least cost associated and remove all others.

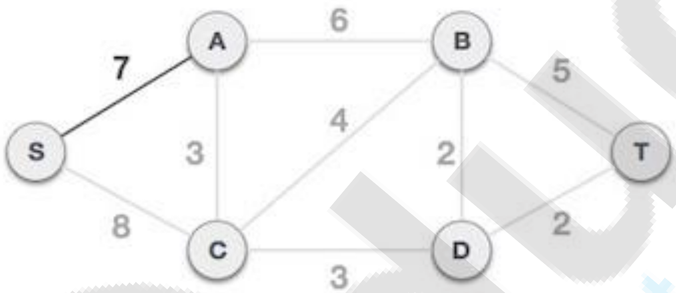


Step 2 - Choose any arbitrary node as root node

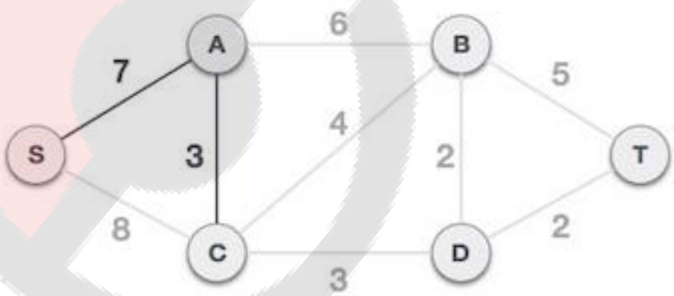
In this case, we choose **S** node as the root node of Prim's spanning tree. This node is arbitrarily chosen, so any node can be the root node. One may wonder why any video can be a root node. So the answer is, in the spanning tree all the nodes of a graph are included and because it is connected then there must be at least one edge, which will join it to the rest of the tree.

Step 3 - Check outgoing edges and select the one with less cost

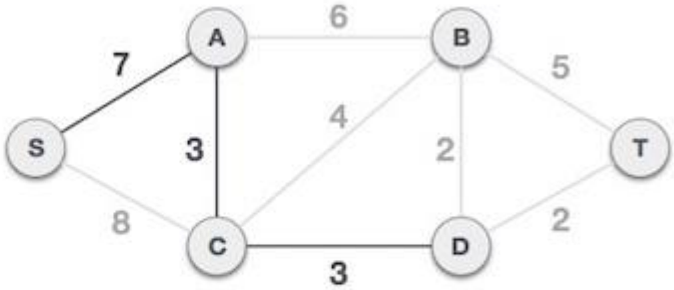
After choosing the root node **S**, we see that S,A and S,C are two edges with weight 7 and 8, respectively. We choose the edge S,A as it is lesser than the other.



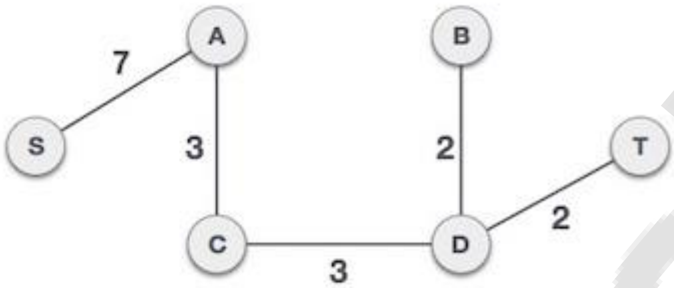
Now, the tree S-7-A is treated as one node and we check for all edges going out from it. We select the one which has the lowest cost and include it in the tree.



After this step, S-7-A-3-C tree is formed. Now we'll again treat it as a node and will check all the edges again. However, we will choose only the least cost edge. In this case, C-3-D is the new edge, which is less than other edges' cost 8, 6, 4, etc.



After adding node **D** to the spanning tree, we now have two edges going out of it having the same cost, i.e. D-2-T and D-2-B. Thus, we can add either one. But the next step will again yield edge 2 as the least cost. Hence, we are showing a spanning tree with both edges included.



We may find that the output spanning tree of the same graph using two different algorithms is same.

FLOYD WARSHALL

Floyd-Warshall algorithm is a procedure, which is used to find the shorthest (longest) paths among all pairs of nodes in a graph, which does not contain any cycles of negative lenght. The main advantage of Floyd-Warshall algorithm is its simplicity.

Description

Floyd-Warshall algorithm uses a matrix of lengths D_0as its input. If there is an edge between nodes $i$and j, than the matrix D_0contains its length at the corresponding coordinates. The diagonal of the matrix contains only zeros. If there is no edge between edges $i$and j, than the position $(i,\ j)$contains positive infinity. In other words, the matrix represents lengths of all paths between nodes that does not contain any intermediate node.

In each iteration of Floyd-Warshall algorithm is this matrix recalculated, so it contains lengths of paths among all pairs of nodes using gradually enlarging set of intermediate nodes. The matrix D_1, which is created by the first iteration of the procedure, contains paths among all nodes using exactly one (predefined) intermediate node. D_2contains lengths using two predefined intermediate nodes. Finally the matrix $D_n$uses $n$intermediate nodes.

This transformation can be described using the following recurrent formula:

$$D_{ij}^{n} = \min(D_{ij}^{n-1}, D_{ik}^{n-1} + D_{kj}^{n-1})$$

Because this transformation never rewrites elements, which are to be used to calculate the new matrix, we can use the same matrix for both D^i and D^{i+1}.