

# Why does Kruskal's algorithm work?

We summarize the proof by contradiction:

- ▶ We let  $T^*$  be a MST different from  $T$
- ▶ We took any edge  $e$  from  $T^*$  that wasn't in  $T$ , and we added it to  $T$
- ▶ We argued this created a cycle  $\gamma$  and that  $e$  had to be the heaviest edge in  $\gamma$
- ▶ We argued there was an edge  $f$  in  $\gamma$  that isn't in  $T^*$  and we could add it to  $T^* - e$  and get a spanning tree that had smaller weight
- ▶ Hence we obtained a contradiction