

# Minimum Spanning Trees



#### **Overview**

#### **Problem**

- A town has a set of houses and a set of roads.
- A road connects 2 and only 2 houses.
- A road connecting houses u and v has a repair cost w(u, v).

- Goal: Repair enough (and no more) roads such that
- 1. everyone stays connected: can reach every house from all other houses, and
- 2. total repair cost is minimum.

#### **Overview**

#### Model as a graph

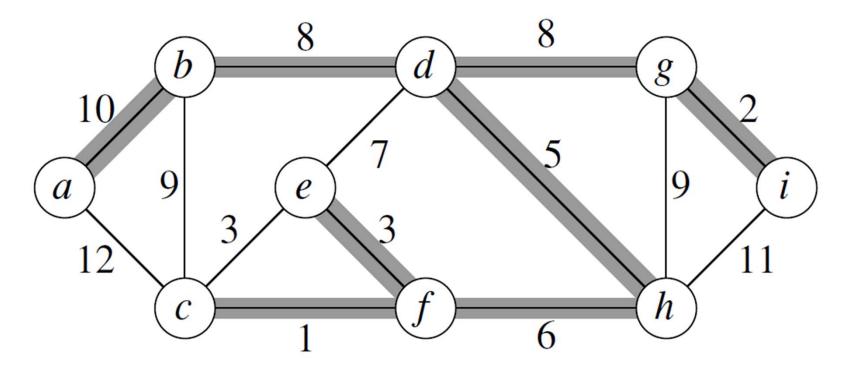
- Undirected graph G = (V, E).
- Weight w(u, v) on each edge  $(u, v) \in E$ .
- Find  $T \subseteq E$  such that
  - 1. T connects all vertices (T is a spanning tree), and
  - 2.  $w(T) = \sum_{(u,v) \in T} w(u,v)$  is minimized.

A spanning tree whose weight is minimum over all spanning trees is called a *minimum spanning tree*, or *MST*.



#### **Overview**

Example of such a graph [edges in MST are shaded]



In this example, there is more than one MST. Replace edge (e, f) by (c, e). Get a different spanning tree with the same weight.



#### Some properties of an MST:

- It has |V| 1 edges.
- It has no cycles.
- It might not be unique.

#### **Building up the solution**

- We will build a set A of edges.
- Initially, A has no edges.
- As we add edges to A, maintain a loop invariant:

**Loop invariant:** A is a subset of some MST.

• Add only edges that maintain the invariant. If A is a subset of some MST, an edge (u, v) is **safe** for A if and only if  $A \cup \{(u, v)\}$  is also a subset of some MST. So we will add only safe edges.

#### **Generic MST algorithm**

```
GENERIC-MST(G,w)
A \leftarrow \emptyset
while A is not a spanning tree (i.e., while nodes are not completely connected)
do find an edge (u, v) that is safe for A
A \leftarrow A \cup \{(u, v)\}
return A
```

Use the loop invariant to show that this generic algorithm works.

**Initialization:** The empty set trivially satisfies the loop invariant.

**Maintenance:** Since we add only safe edges, *A* remains a subset of some MST.

**Termination:** All edges added to A are in an MST, so when we stop, A is a spanning tree that is also a MST.



#### Finding a safe edge

Some definitions: Let  $S \subseteq V$  and  $A \subseteq E$ .

- A *cut* (S, V S) is a partition of vertices into disjoint sets S and V S.
- Edge  $(u, v) \subseteq E$  crosses cut (S, V S) if one endpoint is in S and the other is in V S.
- A cut *respects* A if and only if no edge in A crosses the cut.
- An edge is a *light edge* crossing a cut if and only if its weight is minimum over all edges crossing the cut. For a given cut, there can be > 1 light edge crossing it.



#### **Theorem**

Let A be a subset of some MST, (S, V - S) be a cut that respects A, and (u, v) be a light edge crossing (S, V - S). Then (u, v) is safe for A.

**Proof** Let T be a MST that includes A.

If T contains (u, v), done.

So now assume that T does not contain (u, v). We'll construct a different MST T' that includes  $A \cup \{(u, v)\}$ .



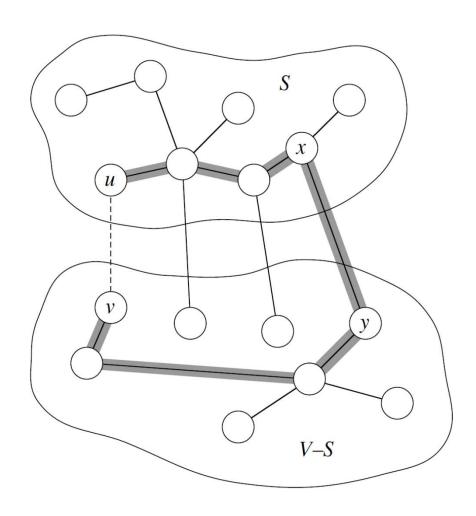
Recall: a tree has unique path between each pair of vertices.

Since *T* is a MST, it contains a unique path *p* between *u* and *v*.

Path p must cross the cut (S, V - S) at least once. Let (x, y) be an edge of p that crosses the cut.

From how we chose (u, v), must have  $w(u, v) \le w(x, y)$ . (Because of given fact that (u, v) is a light edge)





[Except for the dashed edge (u, v), all edges shown are in T. A is some subset of the edges of T, but A cannot contain any edges that cross the cut (S, V - S), since this cut respects A. Shaded edges are the path p.]



Since the cut respects A, edge (x, y) is not in A.

To form T' from T:

- Remove (x, y). Breaks T into two components.
- Add (u, v). Reconnects.

So 
$$T' = T - \{(x, y)\} \cup \{(u, v)\}.$$
  
 $T'$  is a spanning tree.  
 $w(T') = w(T) - w(x, y) + w(u, v)$   
 $\leq w(T)$ ,

since  $w(u, v) \le w(x, y)$ . Since T' is a spanning tree,  $w(T') \le w(T)$ , and T is a MST, then T' must be a MST.

Need to show that (u, v) is safe for A:

- $A \subseteq T$  and  $(x, y) \not\in A \Rightarrow A \subseteq T'$ .
- $A \cup \{(u, v)\} \subseteq T'$ .
- Since T is a MST, (u, v) is safe for A. (theorem)



#### So, in GENERIC-MST:

- A is a forest containing connected components. Initially, each component is a single vertex.
- Any safe edge merges two of these components into one. Each component is a tree.
- Since a MST has exactly |V| 1 edges, the **for** loop iterates |V| 1 times.

Equivalently, after adding |V|-1 safe edges, we're down to just one component (which is MST).



#### **Corollary**

If  $C = (V_C, E_C)$  is a connected component in the forest  $G_A = (V, A)$  and (u, v) is a light edge connecting C to some other component in  $G_A$  (i.e., (u, v) is a light edge crossing the cut  $(V_C, V - V_C)$ ), then (u, v) is safe for A.

**Proof** Set  $S = V_C$  in the theorem. (corollary)

This naturally leads to the algorithm called Kruskal's algorithm to solve the minimum-spanning-tree problem.



### Kruskal's algorithm

#### Kruskal's algorithm

G = (V, E) is a connected, undirected, weighted graph.  $w : E \to \mathbf{R}$ .

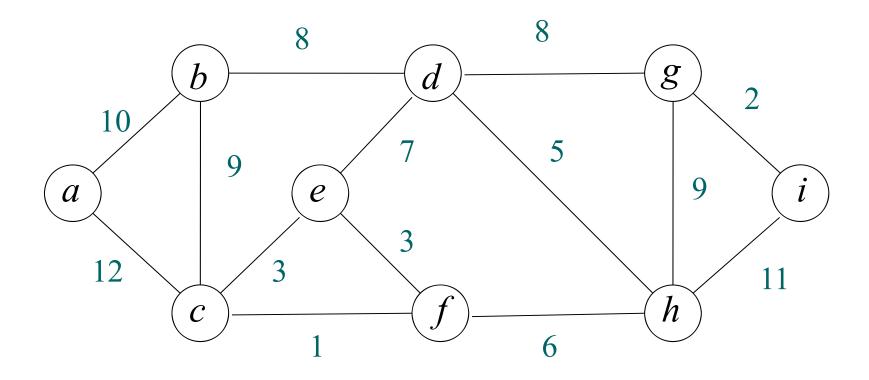
- Starts with each vertex being its own component.
- Repeatedly merges two components into one by choosing the light edge that connects them (i.e., the light edge crossing the cut between them).
- Scans the set of edges in monotonically increasing order by weight.
- Uses a disjoint-set data structure to determine whether an edge connects vertices in different components.
- There can be more than one connected components during merge process.



#### Kruskal's algorithm

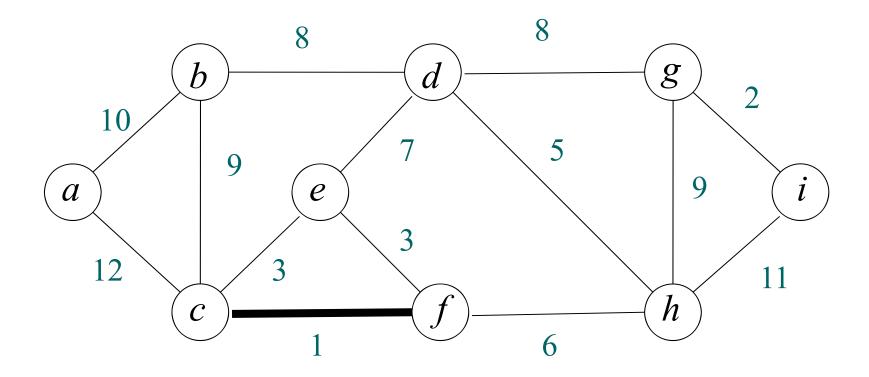
```
KRUSKAL(V, E, w)
A \leftarrow \emptyset
for each vertex v \in V
    do MAKE-SET(v)
sort E into nondecreasing order by weight w
for each (u, v) taken from the sorted list
    do if FIND-SET(u) \neq FIND-SET(v)
          then A \leftarrow A \cup \{(u, v)\}
                UNION(u, v)
return A
```





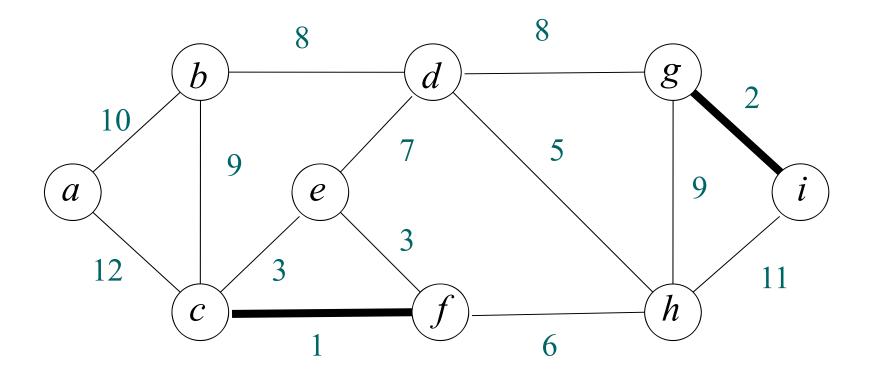
$$A = \{\}$$





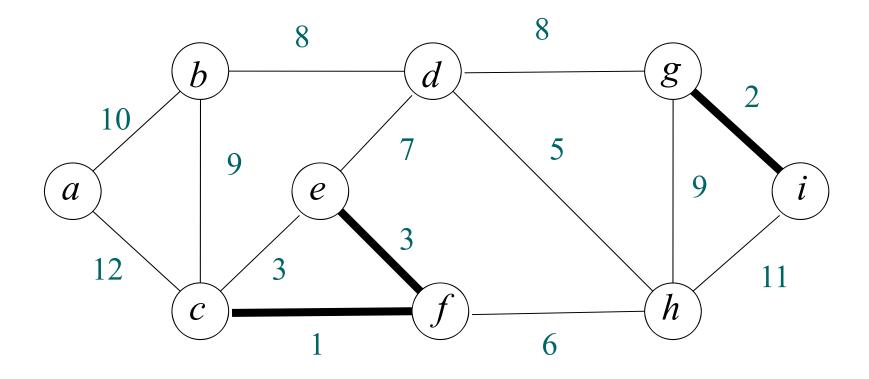
$$A = \{(c, f)\}$$





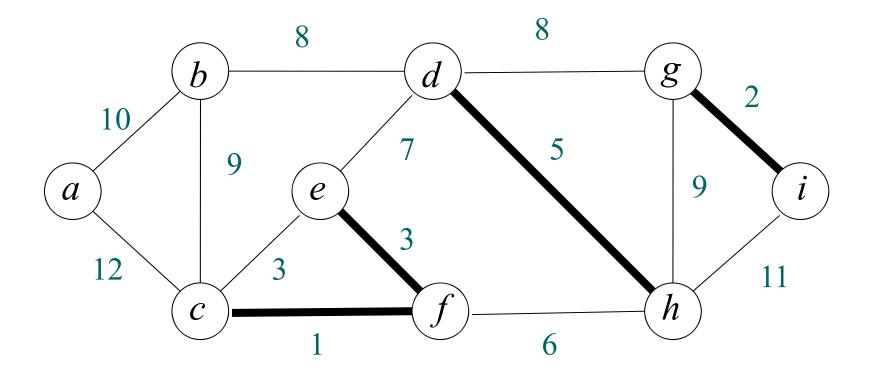
$$A = \{(c, f), (g, i)\}$$





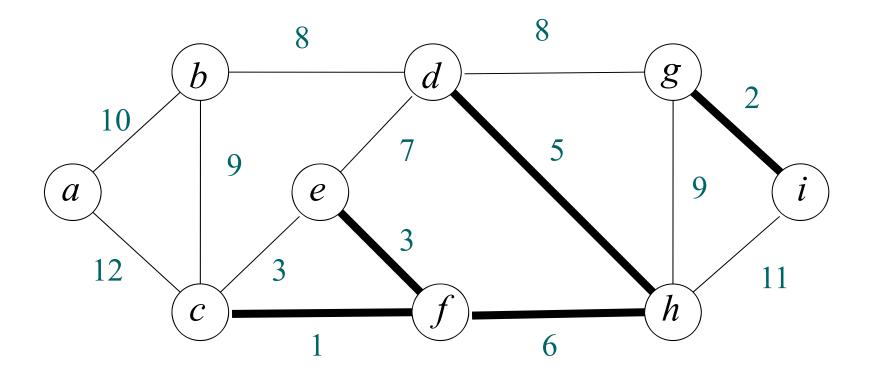
$$A = \{(c, f), (g, i), (e, f)\}$$





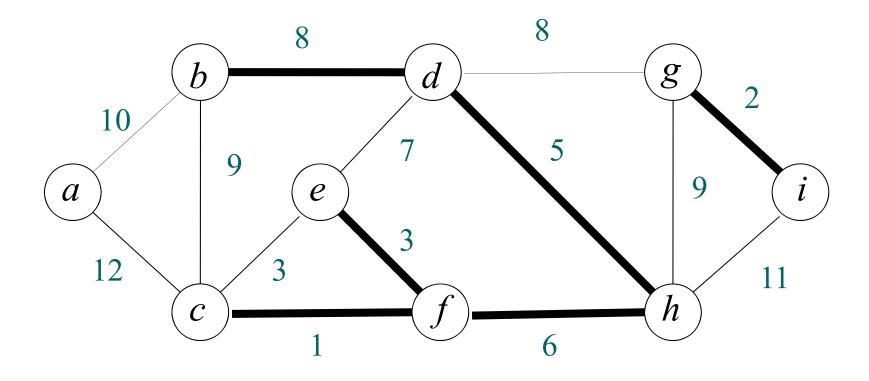
$$A = \{(c, f), (g, i), (e, f), (d, h)\}$$





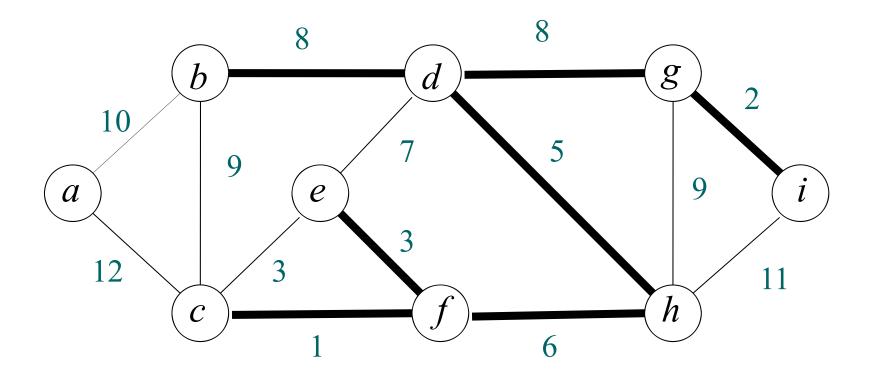
$$A = \{(c, f), (g, i), (e, f), (d, h), (f, h)\}$$





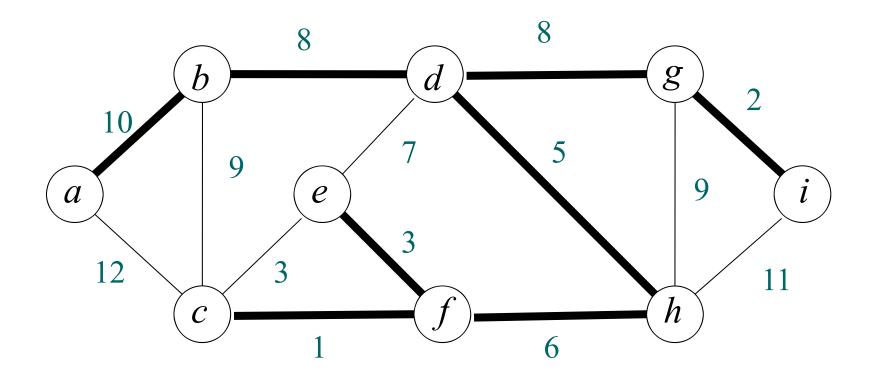
$$A = \{(c, f), (g, i), (e, f), (d, h), (f, h), (b, d)\}$$





 $A = \{(c, f), (g, i), (e, f), (d, h), (f, h), (b, d), (d, g)\}$ 





 $A = \{(c, f), (g, i), (e, f), (d, h), (f, h), (b, d), (d, g), (a, b)\}$ 



#### Kruskal's algorithm

#### **Analysis**

Initialize A: O(1)

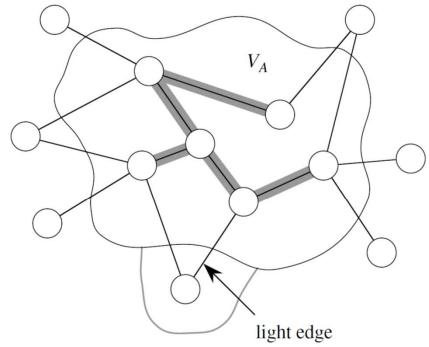
First **for** loop: |V| MAKE-SETs

Second for loop: O(E) FIND-SETs and UNIONs

Therefore, total time is  $O(E \lg E)$ .



- Builds one tree, so A is always a tree.
- Starts from an arbitrary "root" r.
- At each step, find a light edge crossing cut  $(V_A, V V_A)$ , where  $V_A$  = vertices that A is incident on. Add this edge to A.





How to find the light edge quickly?

# Use a priority queue Q:

- Each object, in Q, is a vertex in  $V V_A$ .
- Key of v is minimum weight of any edge (u, v), where  $u \in V_A$ .
- Then the vertex returned by EXTRACT-MIN is v such that there exists  $u \in V_A$  and (u, v) is light edge crossing  $(V_A, V V_A)$ .
- Key of v is  $\infty$  if v is not adjacent to any vertices in  $V_A$ .

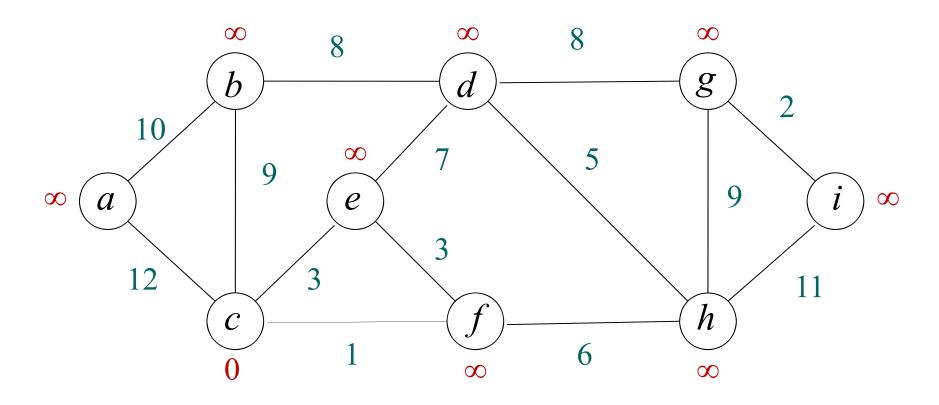
#### The edges of A will form a rooted tree with root r:

- r is given as an input to the algorithm, but it can be any vertex.
- Each vertex knows its parent in the tree by the attribute  $\pi[v] = \text{parent of } v$ .  $\pi[v] = \text{NIL if } v = r \text{ or } v \text{ has no parent.}$
- As algorithm progresses,  $A = \{(v, \pi[v]) : v \in V - \{r\} - Q\}.$
- At termination,  $V_A = V \Rightarrow Q = \emptyset$ , so MST is  $A = \{(v, \pi[v]) : v \subseteq V - \{r\}\}$ .



```
PRIM(V, E, w, r)
Q \leftarrow \emptyset
for each u \in V
     do key[u] \leftarrow \infty
         \pi[u] \leftarrow \text{NIL}
         INSERT(Q, u)
DECREASE-KEY(Q, r, 0) > key[r] \leftarrow 0
while Q \neq \emptyset
     do u \leftarrow \text{EXTRACT-MIN}(Q)
         for each v \in Adj[u]
              do if v \in Q and w(u, v) < key[v]
                     then \pi[v] \leftarrow u
                           DECREASE-KEY (Q, v, w(u, v))
```

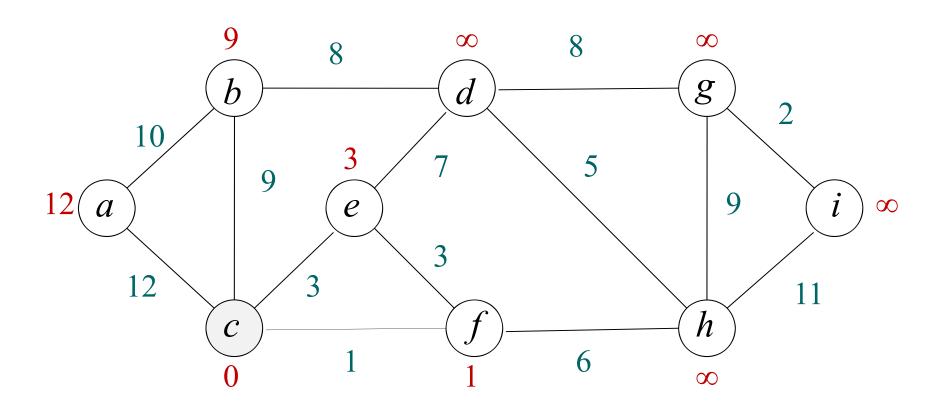




Q = {a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i}  

$$V_A = \{\}$$
  
A = {}

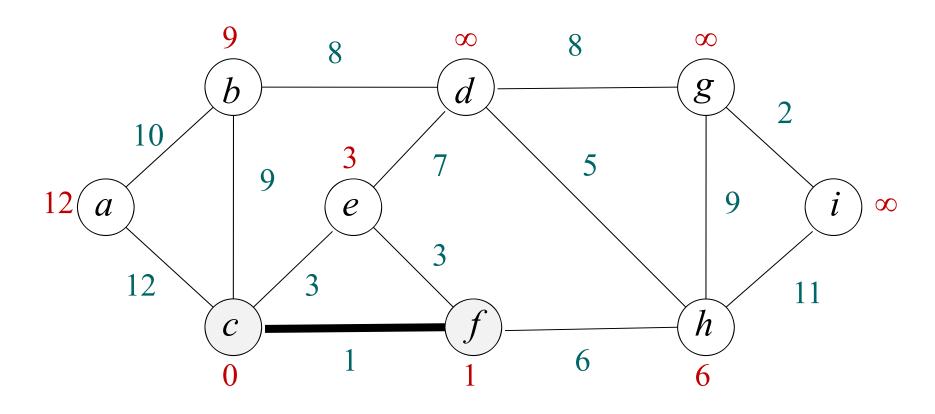




Q = {a, b, d, e, f, g, h, i}  

$$V_A = \{c\}$$
  
A = {}

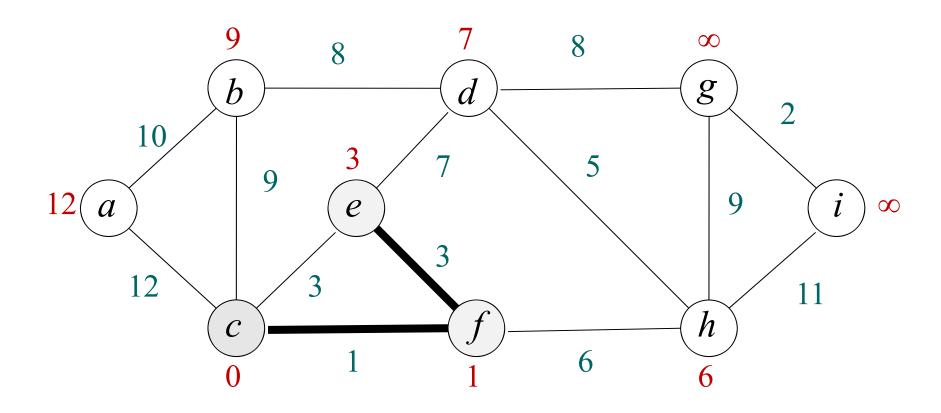




Q = {a, b, d, e, g, h, i}  

$$V_A = \{c, f\}$$
  
 $A = \{(f, c)\}$ 

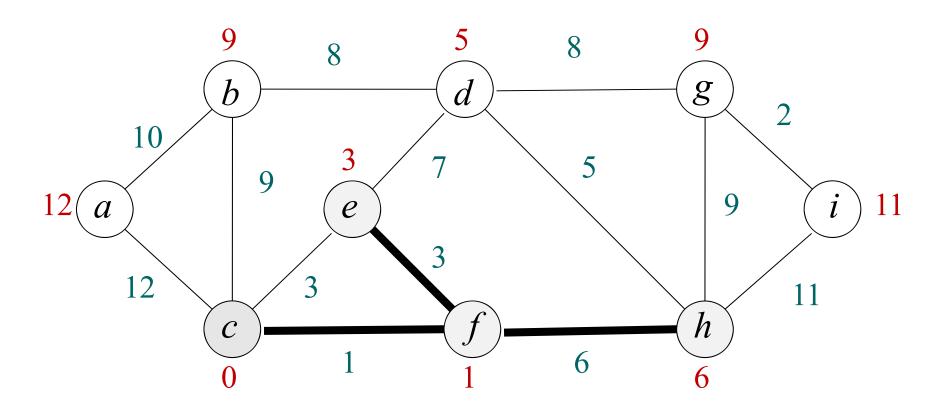




Q = {a, b, d, g, h, i}  

$$V_A = \{c, f, e\}$$
  
A = {(f, c), (e, f)}

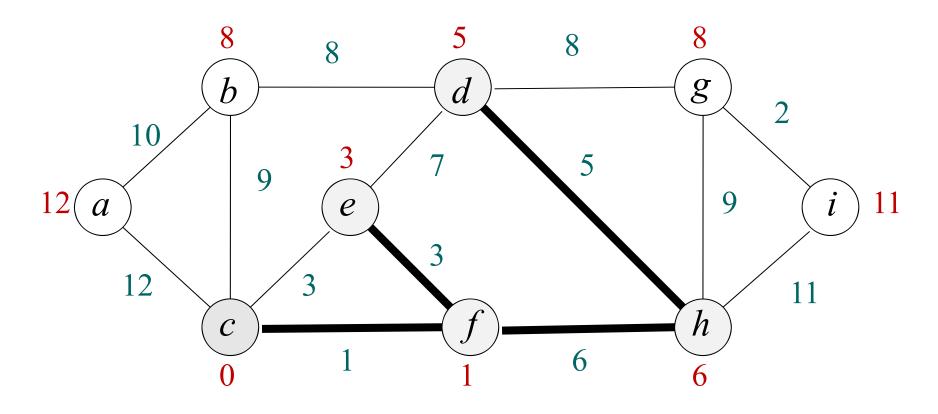




Q = {a, b, d, g, i}  

$$V_A = \{c, f, e, h\}$$
  
A = {(f, c), (e, f), (h, f)}

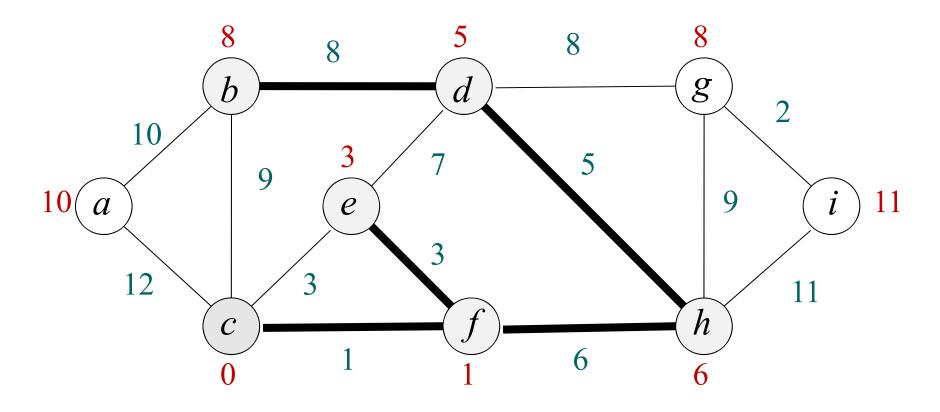




Q = {a, b, g, i}  

$$V_A = \{c, f, e, h, d\}$$
  
A = {(f, c), (e, f), (h, f), (d, h)}



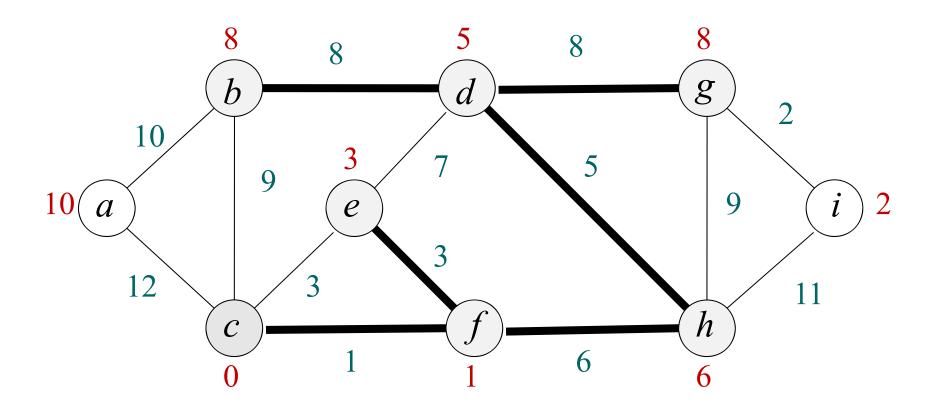


$$Q = \{a, g, i\}$$

$$V_A = \{c, f, e, h, d, b\}$$

$$A = \{(f, c), (e, f), (h, f), (d, h), (b, d)\}$$



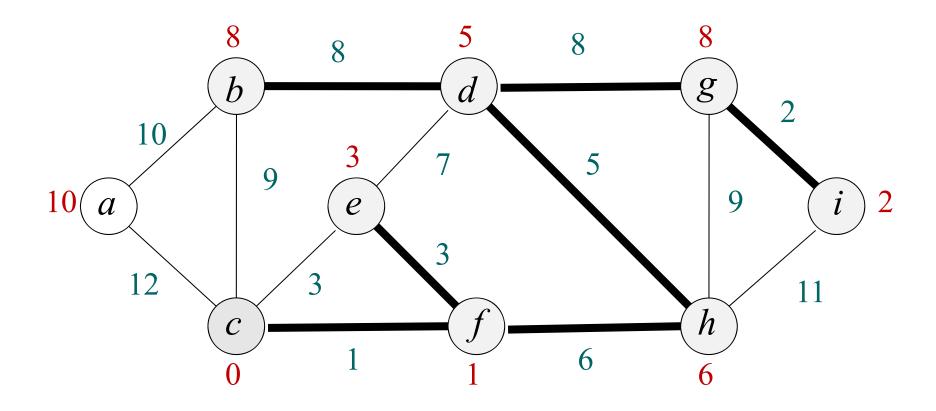


$$Q = \{a, i\}$$

$$V_A = \{c, f, e, h, d, b, g\}$$

$$A = \{(f, c), (e, f), (h, f), (d, h), (b, d), (g, d)\}$$



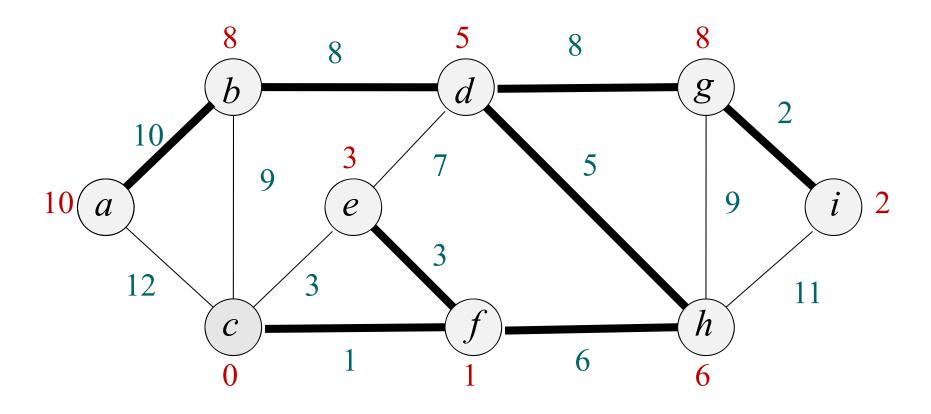


$$Q = \{a\}$$

$$V_{A} = \{c, f, e, h, d, b, g, i\}$$

$$A = \{(f, c), (e, f), (h, f), (d, h), (b, d), (g, d), (i, g)\}$$





$$Q = \{\}$$

$$V_{A} = \{c, f, e, h, d, b, g, i, a\}$$

$$A = \{(f, c), (e, f), (h, f), (d, h), (b, d), (g, d), (i, g), (a, b)\}$$



#### **Analysis**

Depends on how the priority queue is implemented:

• Suppose Q is a binary heap.

Initialize Q and first **for** loop:  $O(V \lg V)$ 

Decrease key of r:  $O(\lg V)$ 

while loop: |V| EXTRACT-MIN calls  $\Rightarrow O(V \lg V)$ 

 $\leq |E| \text{ DECREASE-KEY calls } \Rightarrow O(E \lg V)$ 

 $(\leq |E|$ , since all the edge-weights can be used in DECREASE-KEY calls or some of them can be already smaller than w(u, v) being considered.)

Total:  $O(E \lg V)$