

# Kruskal's Algorithm

Shusen Wang

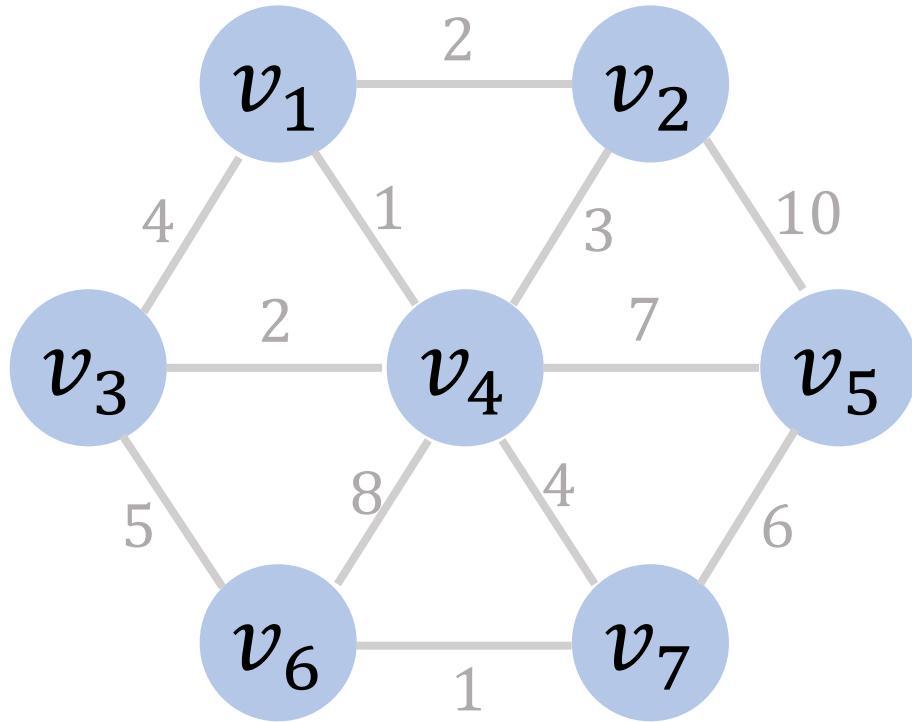
<http://wangshusen.github.io/>

# Kruskal's Algorithm

**Basic idea:** Maintain a forest, i.e., a collection of trees.

- Initially, there are  $n$  trees; every vertex is a tree.
- Each iteration studies one edge; the edge may be chosen so that two trees are merged.
- Stop when there is only one tree.
- The algorithm runs in at most  $|\mathcal{E}|$  iterations. (Because there are  $|\mathcal{E}|$  edges.)

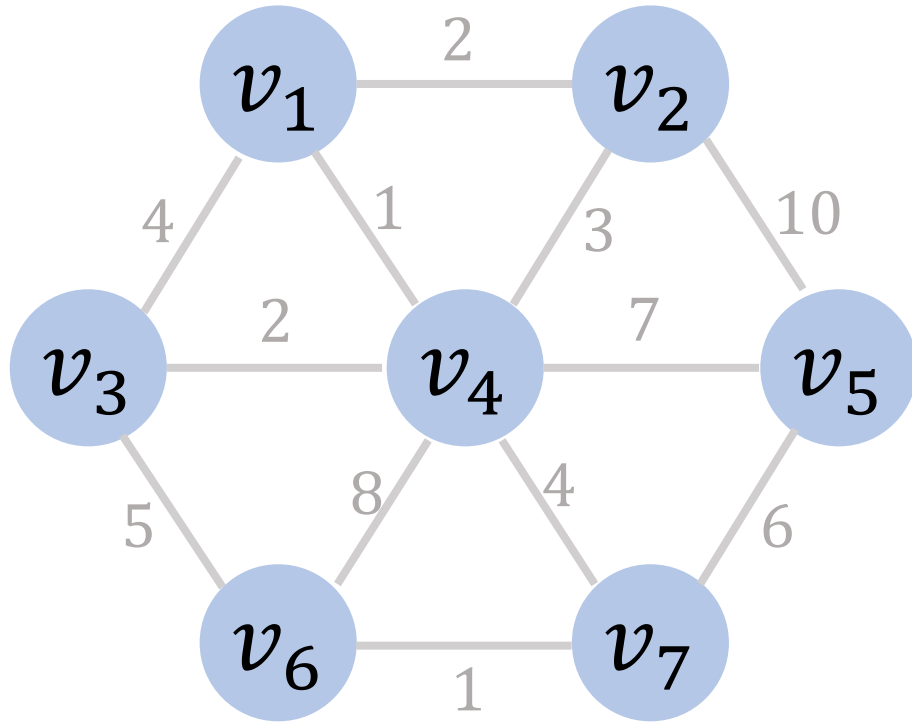
# Preparations



- Build a queue of edges.
- Sort the elements so that the weights are in ascending order.

Edge	Weight
(1, 4)	1
(6, 7)	1
(1, 2)	2
(3, 4)	2
(2, 4)	3
(1, 3)	4
(4, 7)	4
(3, 6)	5
(5, 7)	6
(4, 5)	7
(4, 6)	8
(2, 5)	10

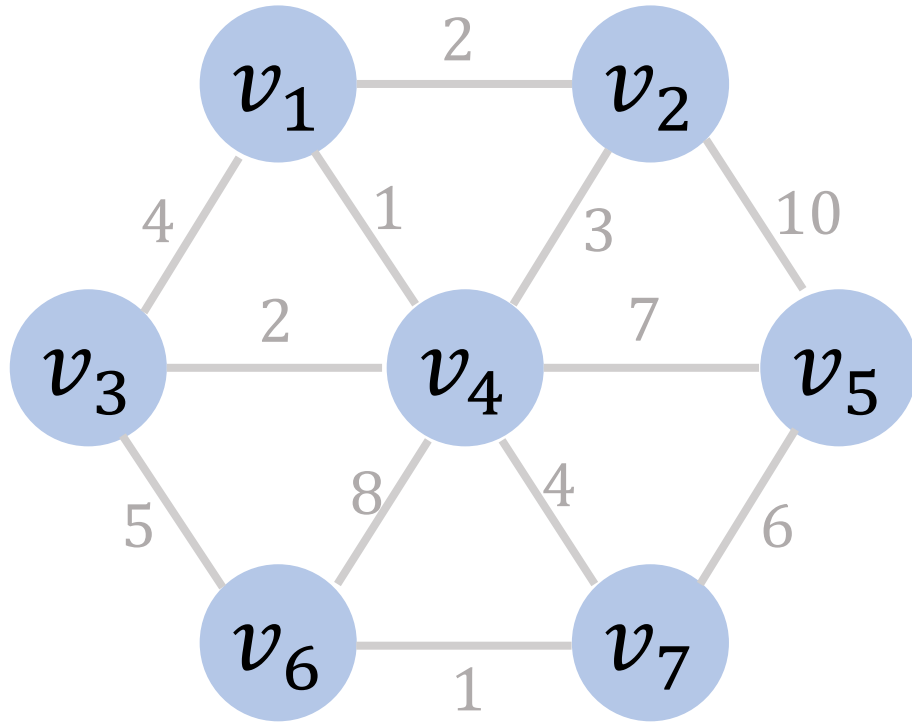
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(5, 7)	6
(4, 5)	7
(4, 6)	8
(2, 5)	10

# Preparations

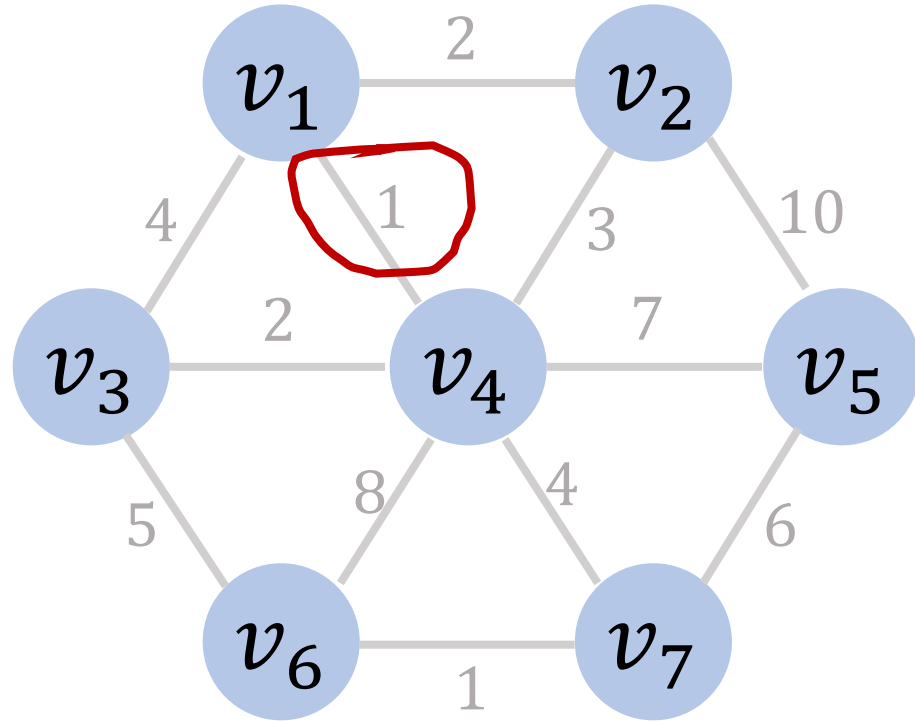


- Build a queue of edges.
- Sort the elements so that the weights are in ascending order.

Edge	Weight
(1, 4)	1
(6, 7)	1
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(3, 4)	2
(2, 4)	3
(1, 3)	4
(4, 7)	4
(3, 6)	5
(5, 7)	6
(4, 5)	7
(4, 6)	8
(2, 5)	10

$\mathcal{T} = \emptyset$ . (Record the selected edges.)

# Iteration 1

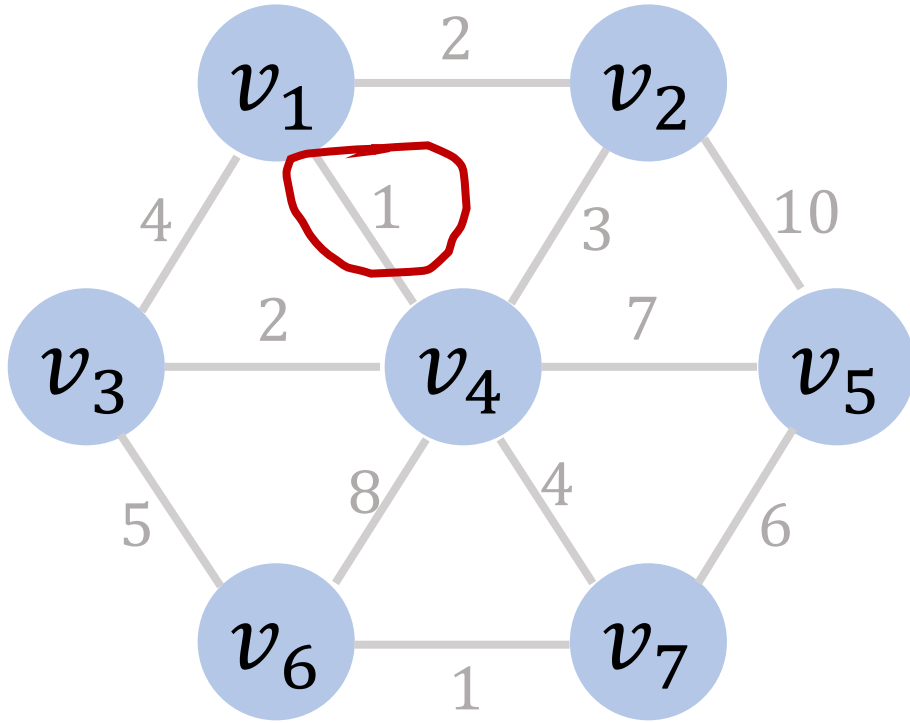


- Perform dequeue and get the edge  $(1, 4)$ .

$$\mathcal{T} = \emptyset$$

Edge	Weight
$(1, 4)$	1
$(6, 7)$	1
$(1, 2)$	2
$(3, 4)$	2
$(2, 4)$	3
$(1, 3)$	4
$(4, 7)$	4
$(3, 6)$	5
$(5, 7)$	6
$(4, 5)$	7
$(4, 6)$	8
$(2, 5)$	10

# Iteration 1

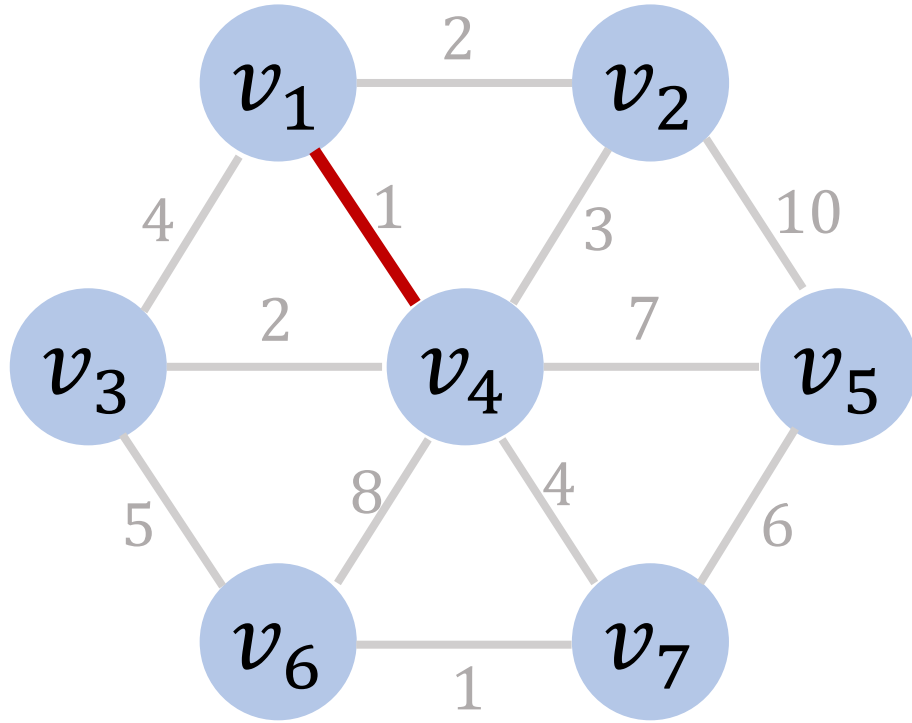


- Perform dequeue and get the edge  $(1, 4)$ .
- $v_1$  and  $v_4$  are not in the same tree.
- Thus accept edge  $(1, 4)$ .

$$\mathcal{T} = \emptyset$$

Edge	Weight
$(6, 7)$	1
$(1, 2)$	2
$(3, 4)$	2
$(2, 4)$	3
$(1, 3)$	4
$(4, 7)$	4
$(3, 6)$	5
$(5, 7)$	6
$(4, 5)$	7
$(4, 6)$	8
$(2, 5)$	10

# Iteration 1



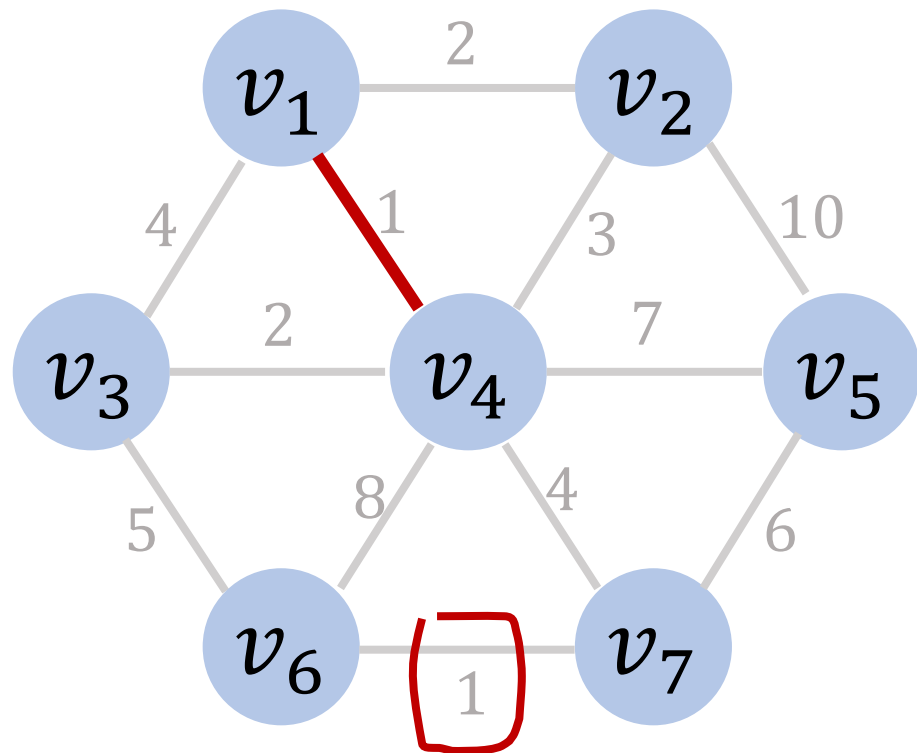
$$\mathcal{T} = \{e_{1,4}\}$$

- Perform dequeue and get the edge  $(1, 4)$ .
- $v_1$  and  $v_4$  are not in the same tree.
- Thus accept edge  $(1, 4)$ .
- Append  $(1, 4)$  to  $\mathcal{T}$ .

Edge	Weight
$(6, 7)$	1
$(1, 2)$	2
$(3, 4)$	2
$(2, 4)$	3
$(1, 3)$	4
$(4, 7)$	4
$(3, 6)$	5
$(5, 7)$	6
$(4, 5)$	7
$(4, 6)$	8
$(2, 5)$	10



# Iteration 2

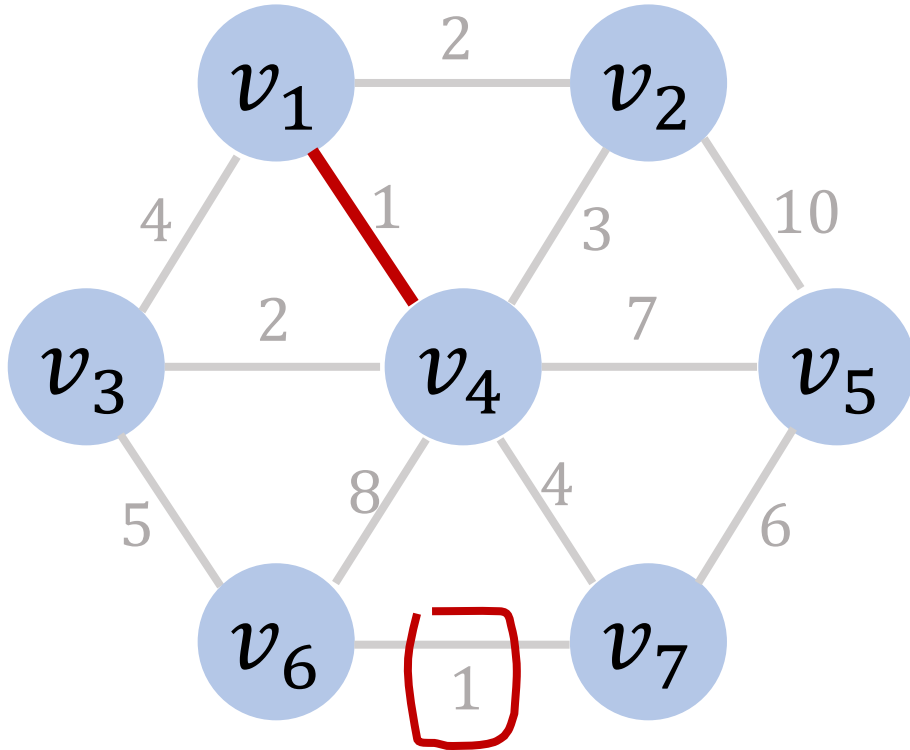


- Perform dequeue and get the edge  $(6, 7)$ .

$$\mathcal{T} = \{e_{1,4}\}$$

Edge	Weight
$(6, 7)$	1
$(1, 2)$	2
$(3, 4)$	2
$(2, 4)$	3
$(1, 3)$	4
$(4, 7)$	4
$(3, 6)$	5
$(5, 7)$	6
$(4, 5)$	7
$(4, 6)$	8
$(2, 5)$	10

# Iteration 2

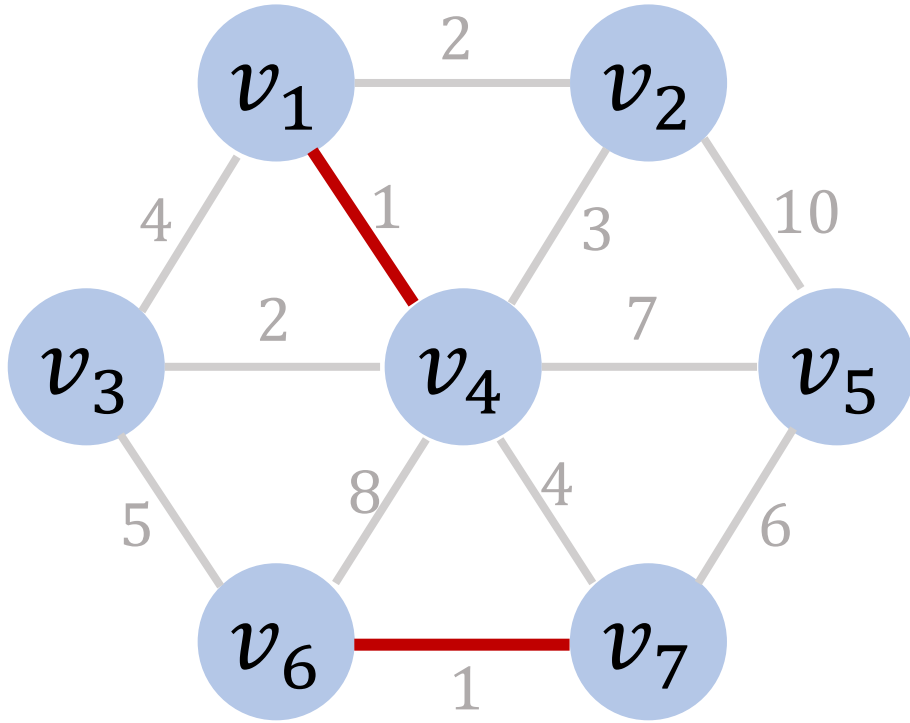


$$\mathcal{T} = \{e_{1,4}\}$$

- Perform dequeue and get the edge  $(6, 7)$ .
- $v_6$  and  $v_7$  are not in the same tree.
- Thus accept edge  $(6, 7)$ .

Edge	Weight
$(1, 2)$	2
$(3, 4)$	2
$(2, 4)$	3
$(1, 3)$	4
$(4, 7)$	4
$(3, 6)$	5
$(5, 7)$	6
$(4, 5)$	7
$(4, 6)$	8
$(2, 5)$	10

# Iteration 2

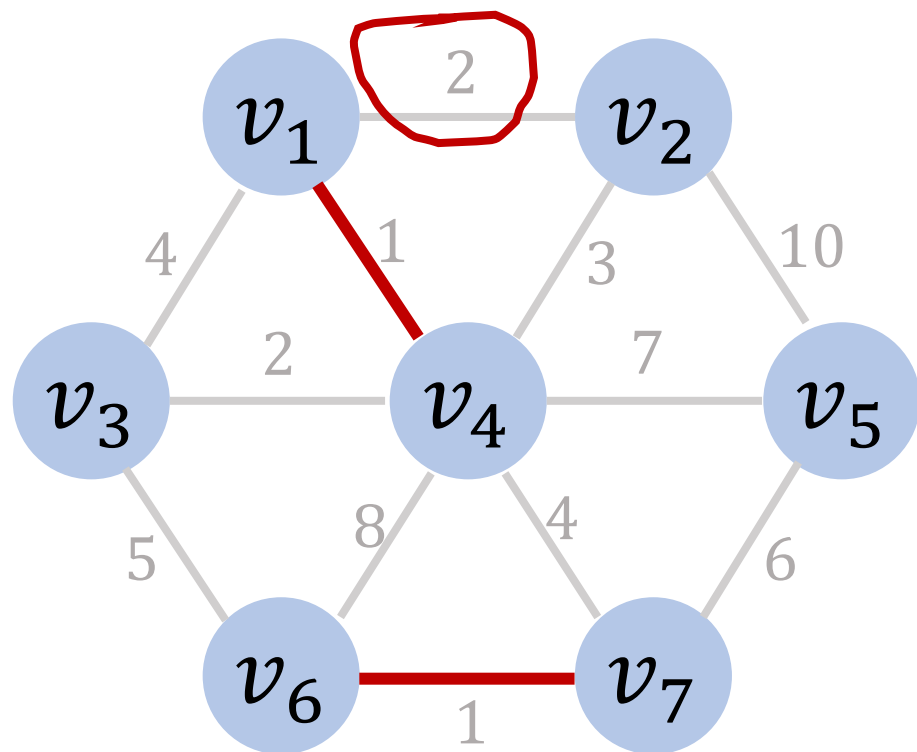


$$\mathcal{T} = \{e_{1,4}, e_{6,7}\}$$

- Perform dequeue and get the edge  $(6, 7)$ .
- $v_6$  and  $v_7$  are not in the same tree.
- Thus accept edge  $(6, 7)$ .
- Append  $(6, 7)$  to  $\mathcal{T}$ .

Edge	Weight
$(1, 2)$	2
$(3, 4)$	2
$(2, 4)$	3
$(1, 3)$	4
$(4, 7)$	4
$(3, 6)$	5
$(5, 7)$	6
$(4, 5)$	7
$(4, 6)$	8
$(2, 5)$	10

# Iteration 3

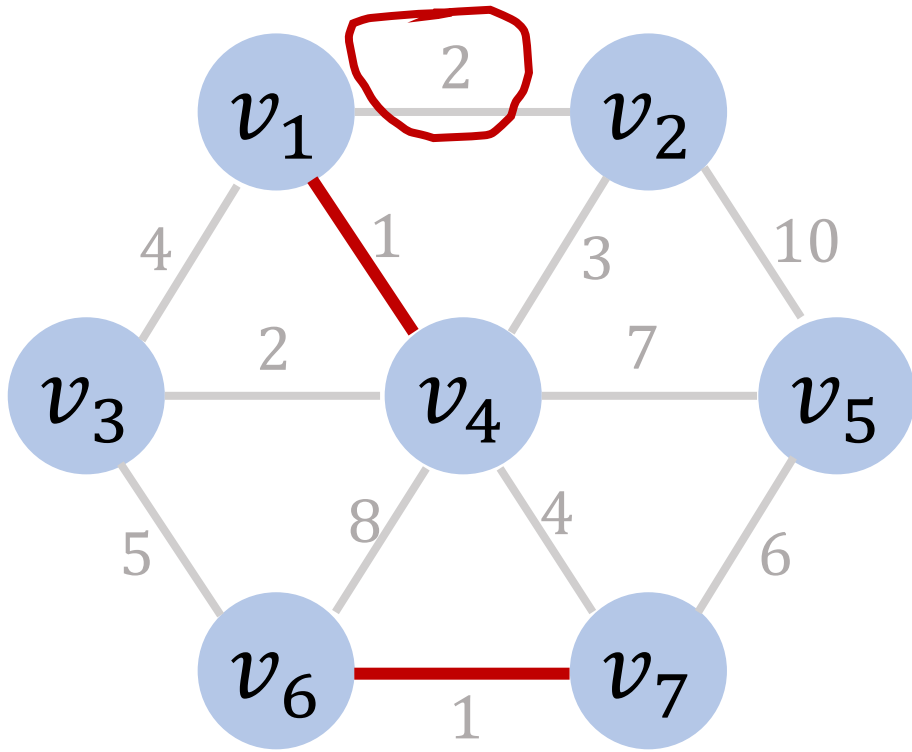


- Perform dequeue and get the edge  $(1, 2)$ .

$$\mathcal{T} = \{e_{1,4}, e_{6,7}\}$$

Edge	Weight
$(1, 2)$	2
$(3, 4)$	2
$(2, 4)$	3
$(1, 3)$	4
$(4, 7)$	4
$(3, 6)$	5
$(5, 7)$	6
$(4, 5)$	7
$(4, 6)$	8
$(2, 5)$	10

# Iteration 3

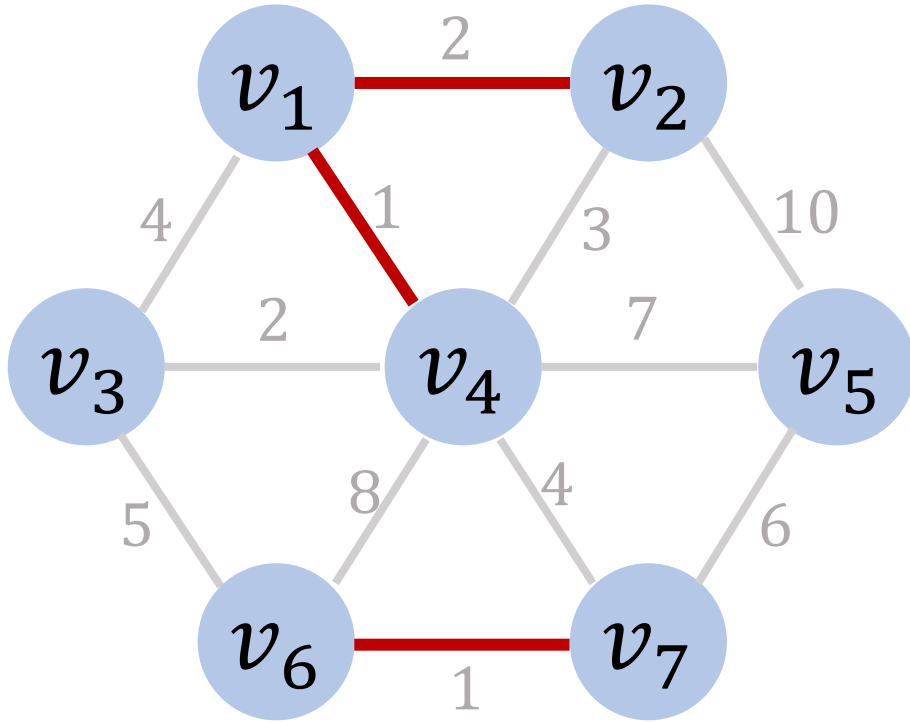


- Perform dequeue and get the edge  $(1, 2)$ .
- $v_1$  and  $v_2$  are not in the same tree.
- Thus accept edge  $(1, 2)$ .

Edge	Weight
$(3, 4)$	2
$(2, 4)$	3
$(1, 3)$	4
$(4, 7)$	4
$(3, 6)$	5
$(5, 7)$	6
$(4, 5)$	7
$(4, 6)$	8
$(2, 5)$	10

$$\mathcal{T} = \{e_{1,4}, e_{6,7}\}$$

# Iteration 3

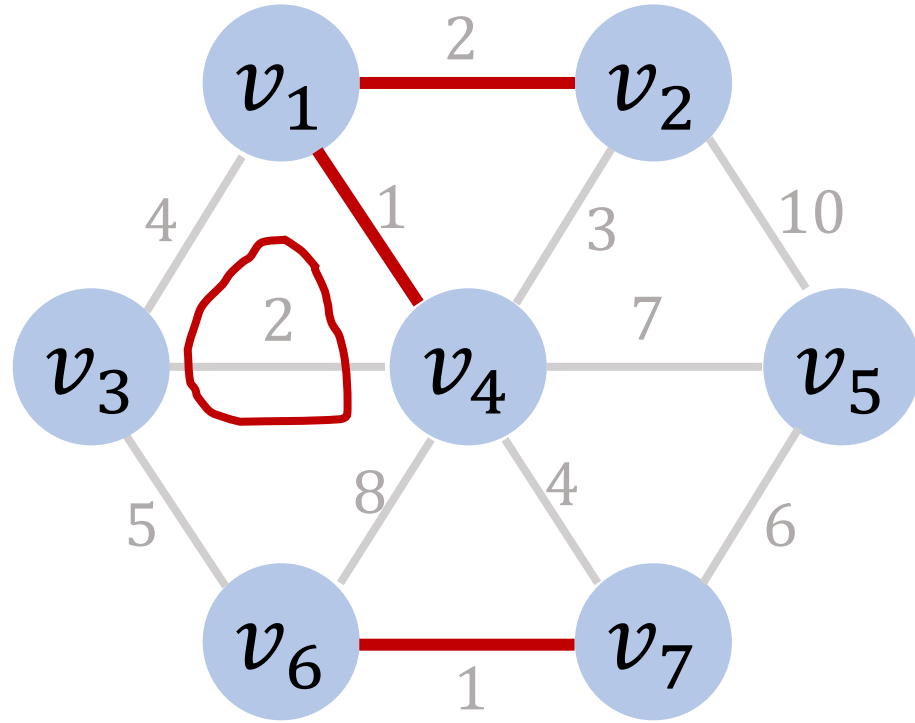


$$\mathcal{T} = \{e_{1,4}, e_{6,7}, e_{1,2}\}$$

- Perform dequeue and get the edge  $(1, 2)$ .
- $v_1$  and  $v_2$  are not in the same tree.
- Thus accept edge  $(1, 2)$ .
- Append  $(1, 2)$  to  $\mathcal{T}$ .

Edge	Weight
$(3, 4)$	2
$(2, 4)$	3
$(1, 3)$	4
$(4, 7)$	4
$(3, 6)$	5
$(5, 7)$	6
$(4, 5)$	7
$(4, 6)$	8
$(2, 5)$	10

# Iteration 4

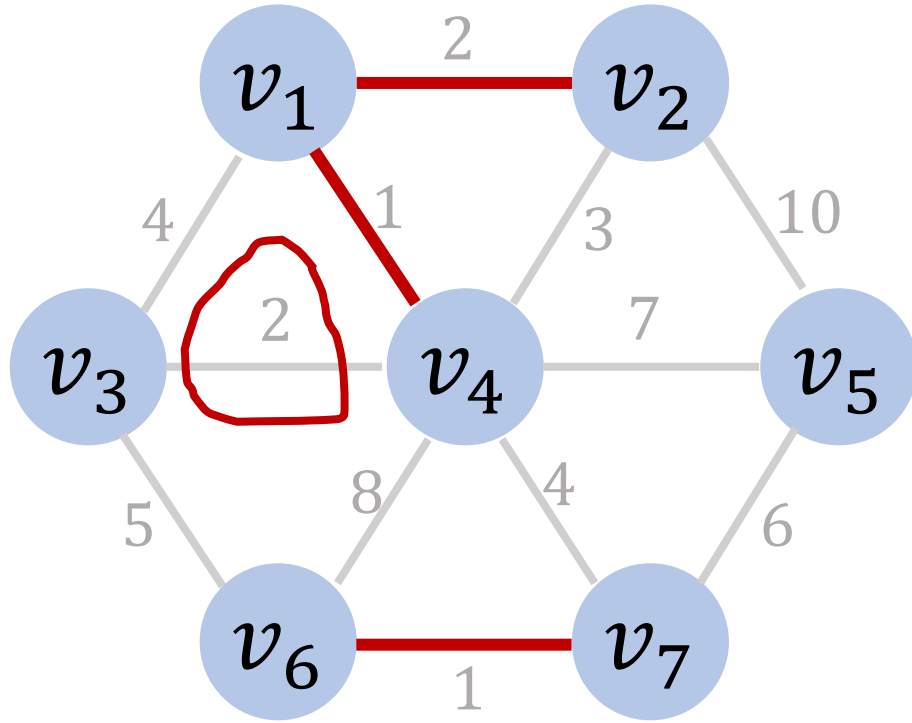


- Perform dequeue and get the edge  $(3, 4)$ .

Edge	Weight
$(3, 4)$	2
$(2, 4)$	3
$(1, 3)$	4
$(4, 7)$	4
$(3, 6)$	5
$(5, 7)$	6
$(4, 5)$	7
$(4, 6)$	8
$(2, 5)$	10

$$\mathcal{T} = \{e_{1,4}, e_{6,7}, e_{1,2}\}$$

# Iteration 4



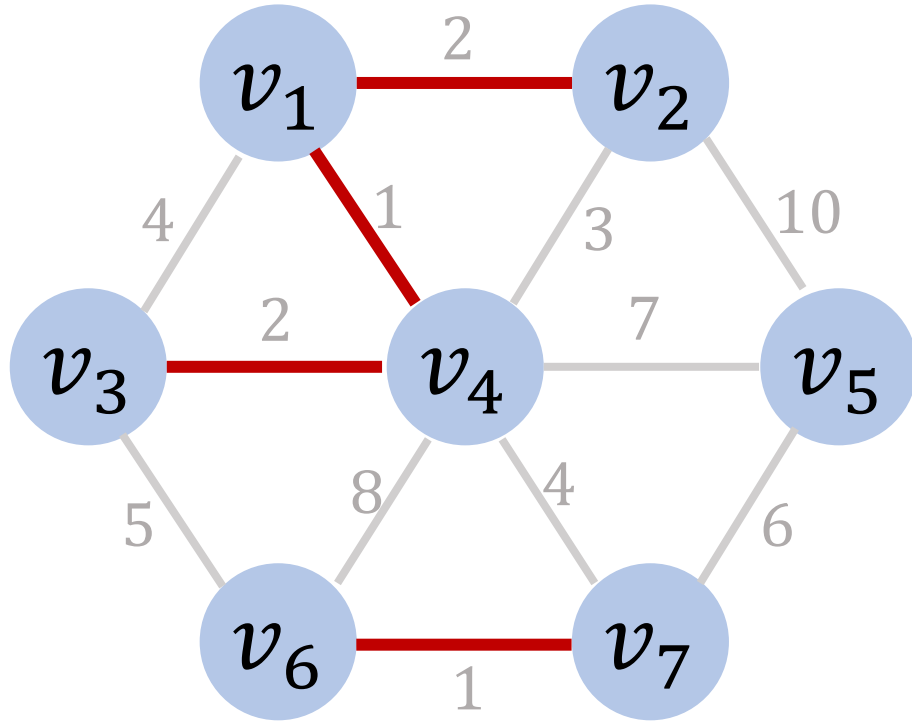
- Perform dequeue and get the edge  $(3, 4)$ .
- $v_3$  and  $v_4$  are not in the same tree.
- Thus accept edge  $(3, 4)$ .

Edge	Weight
$(2, 4)$	3
$(1, 3)$	4
$(4, 7)$	4
$(3, 6)$	5
$(5, 7)$	6
$(4, 5)$	7
$(4, 6)$	8
$(2, 5)$	10

$$\mathcal{T} = \{e_{1,4}, e_{6,7}, e_{1,2}\}$$



# Iteration 4

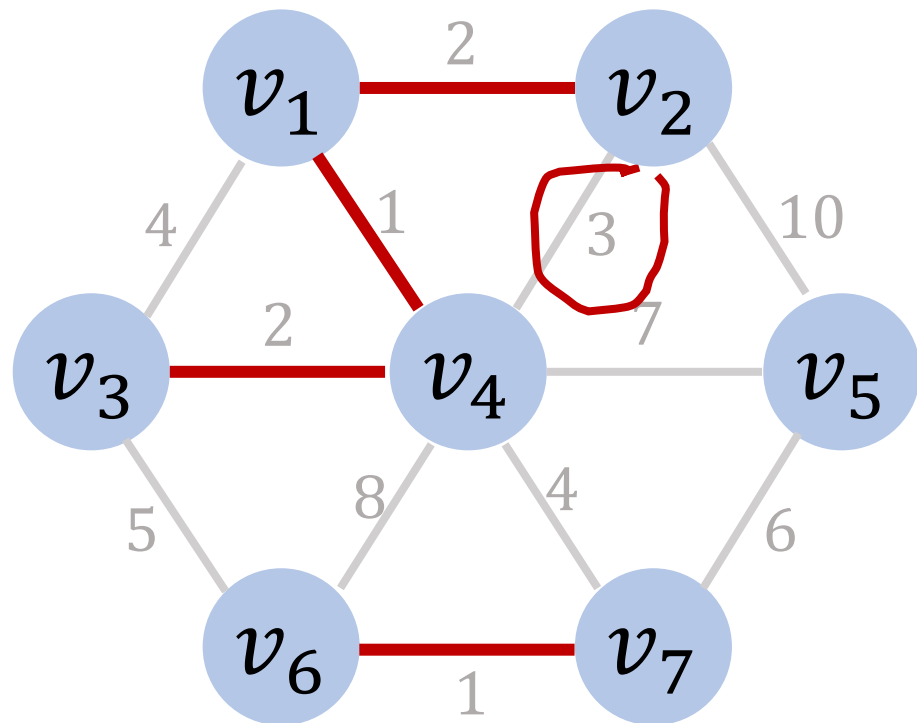


$$\mathcal{T} = \{e_{1,4}, e_{6,7}, e_{1,2}, e_{3,4}\}$$

- Perform dequeue and get the edge  $(3, 4)$ .
- $v_3$  and  $v_4$  are not in the same tree.
- Thus accept edge  $(3, 4)$ .
- Append  $(3, 4)$  to  $\mathcal{T}$ .

Edge	Weight
$(2, 4)$	3
$(1, 3)$	4
$(4, 7)$	4
$(3, 6)$	5
$(5, 7)$	6
$(4, 5)$	7
$(4, 6)$	8
$(2, 5)$	10

# Iteration 5

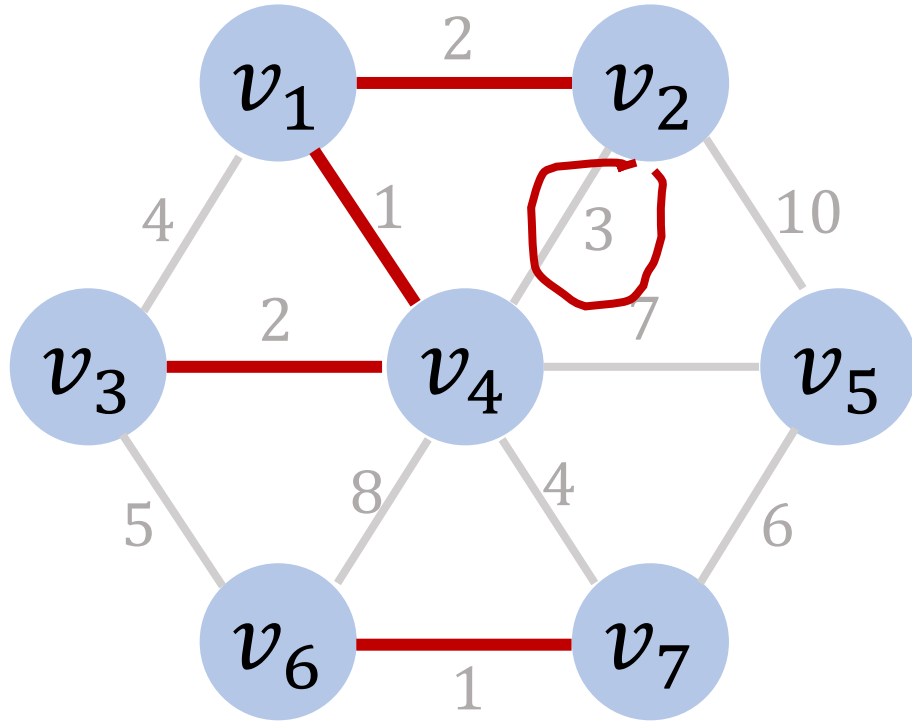


- Perform dequeue and get the edge  $(2, 4)$ .

Edge	Weight
$(2, 4)$	3
$(1, 3)$	4
$(4, 7)$	4
$(3, 6)$	5
$(5, 7)$	6
$(4, 5)$	7
$(4, 6)$	8
$(2, 5)$	10

$$\mathcal{T} = \{e_{1,4}, e_{6,7}, e_{1,2}, e_{3,4}\}$$

# Iteration 5

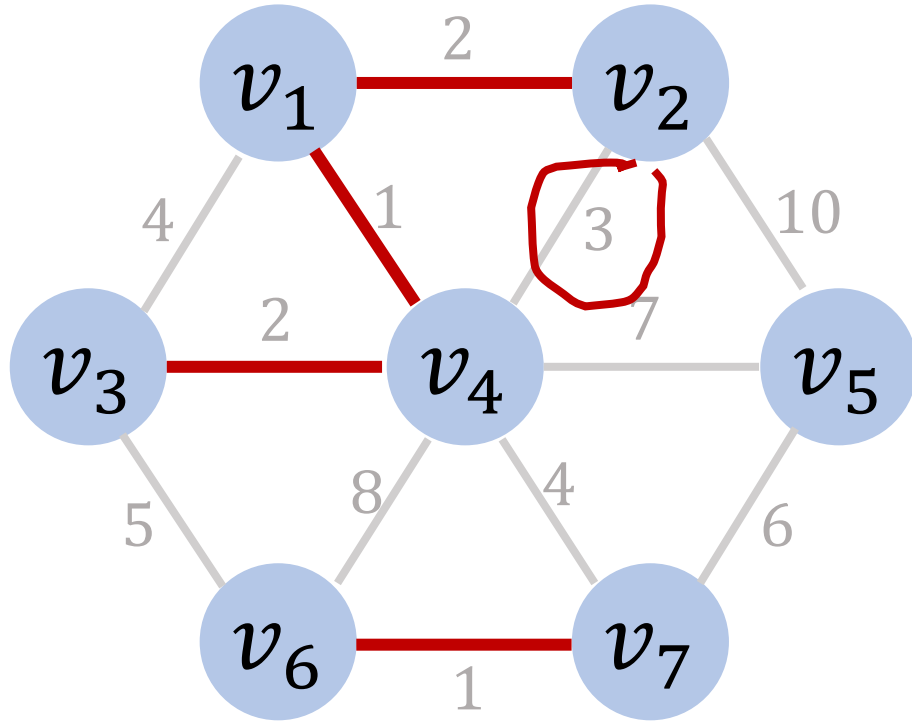


- Perform dequeue and get the edge  $(2, 4)$ .
- $v_2$  and  $v_4$  are in the same tree.

Edge	Weight
$(1, 3)$	4
$(4, 7)$	4
$(3, 6)$	5
$(5, 7)$	6
$(4, 5)$	7
$(4, 6)$	8
$(2, 5)$	10

$$\mathcal{T} = \{e_{1,4}, e_{6,7}, e_{1,2}, e_{3,4}\}$$

# Iteration 5



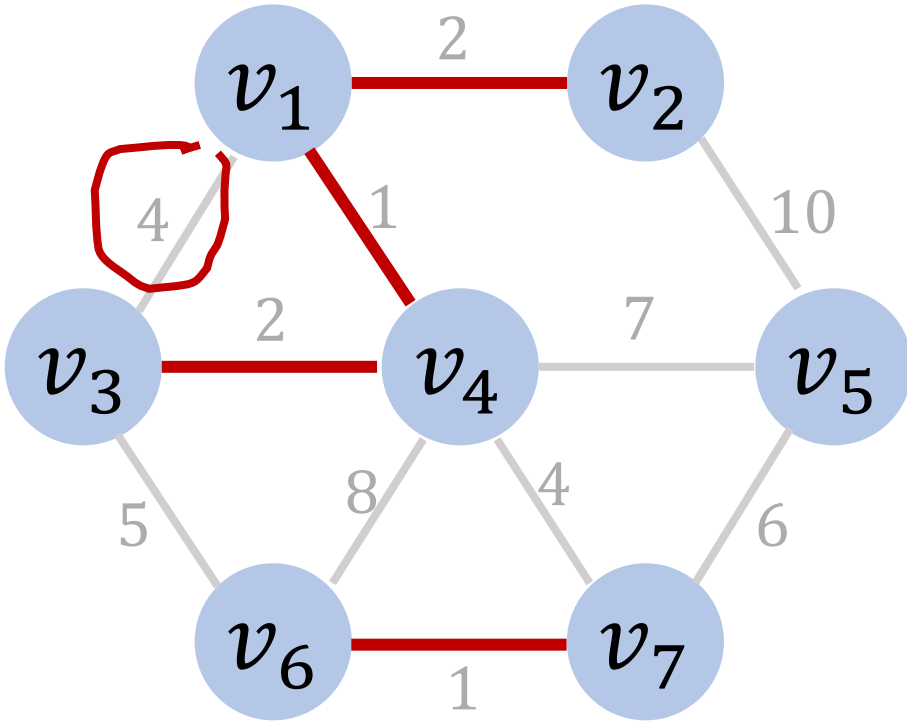
- Perform dequeue and get the edge  $(2, 4)$ .
- $v_2$  and  $v_4$  are in the same tree.
- Thus reject edge  $(2, 4)$ .

Edge	Weight
$(1, 3)$	4
$(4, 7)$	4
$(3, 6)$	5
$(5, 7)$	6
$(4, 5)$	7
$(4, 6)$	8
$(2, 5)$	10

$$\mathcal{T} = \{e_{1,4}, e_{6,7}, e_{1,2}, e_{3,4}\}$$

# Iteration 6

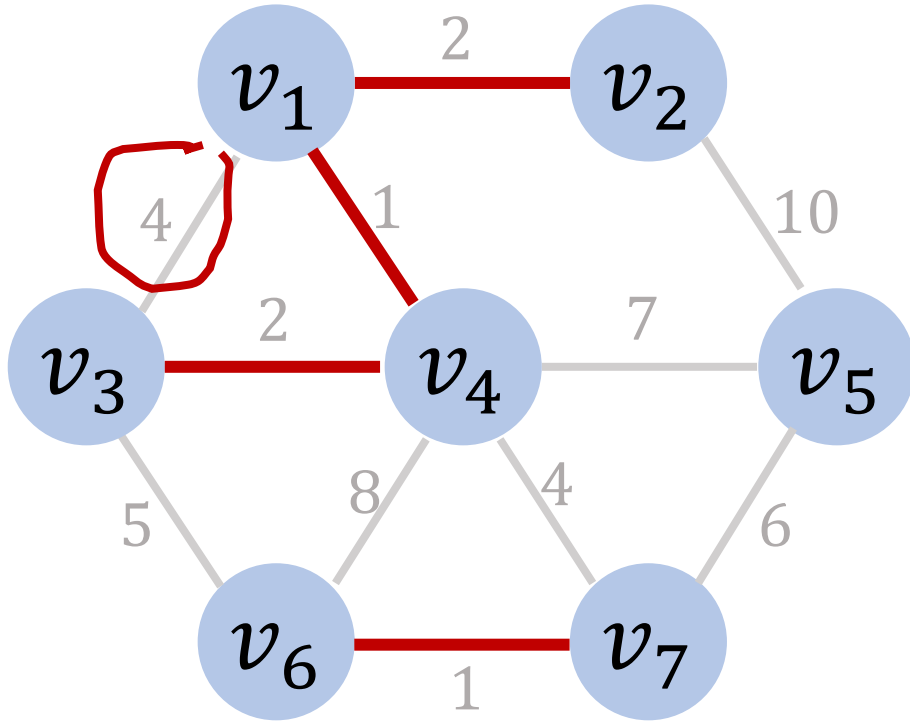
- Perform dequeue and get the edge  $(1, 3)$ .



$$\mathcal{T} = \{e_{1,4}, e_{6,7}, e_{1,2}, e_{3,4}\}$$

Edge	Weight
$(1, 3)$	4
$(4, 7)$	4
$(3, 6)$	5
$(5, 7)$	6
$(4, 5)$	7
$(4, 6)$	8
$(2, 5)$	10

# Iteration 6

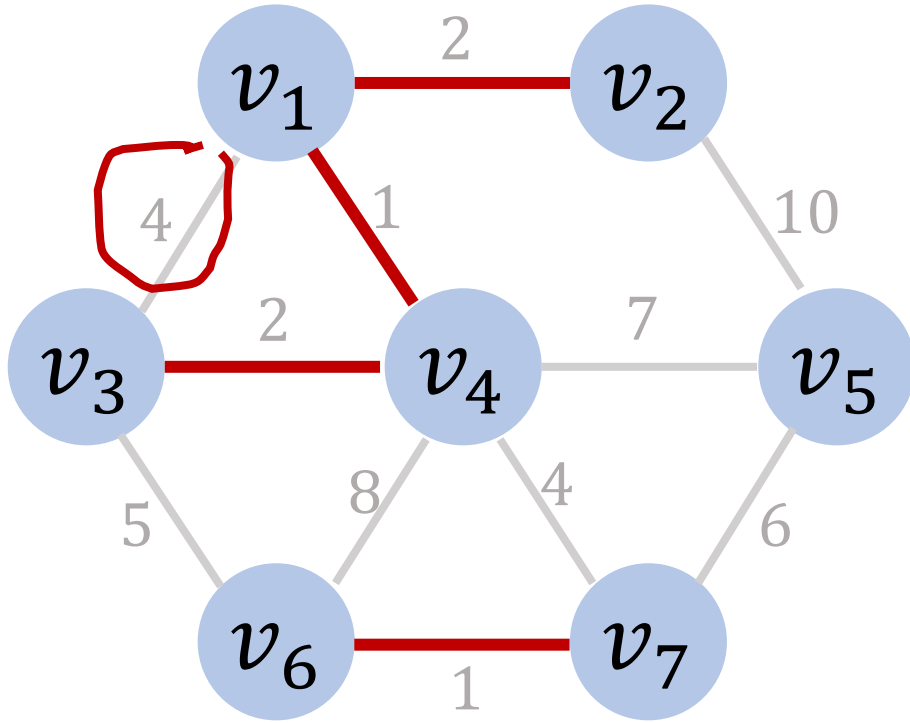


- Perform dequeue and get the edge **(1, 3)**.
- $v_1$  and  $v_3$  are in the same tree.

Edge	Weight
(4, 7)	4
(3, 6)	5
(5, 7)	6
(4, 5)	7
(4, 6)	8
(2, 5)	10

$$\mathcal{T} = \{e_{1,4}, e_{6,7}, e_{1,2}, e_{3,4}\}$$

# Iteration 6

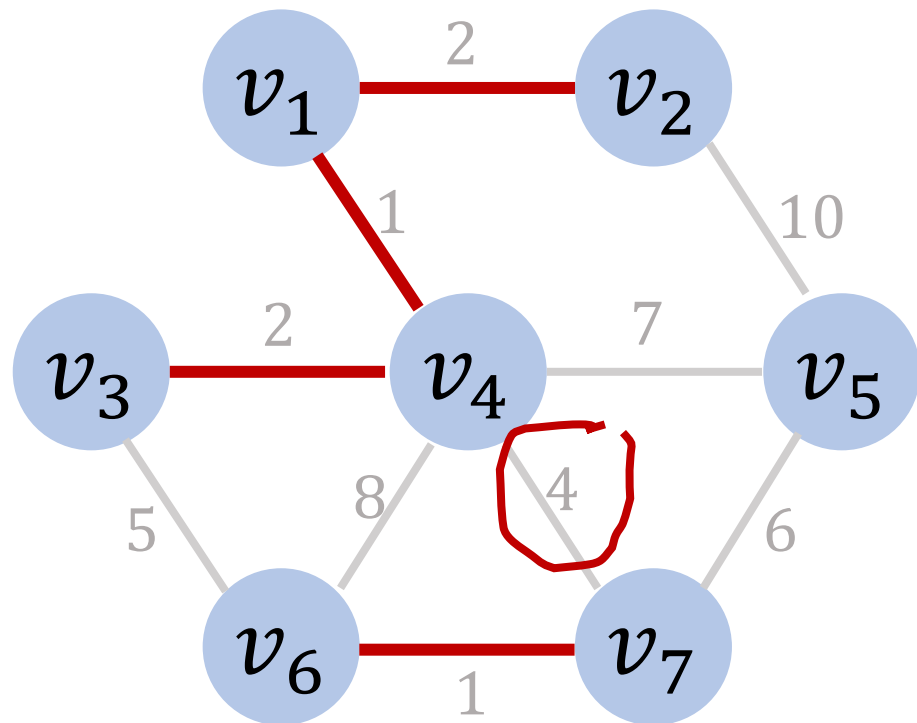


- Perform dequeue and get the edge  $(1, 3)$ .
- $v_1$  and  $v_3$  are in the same tree.
- Thus reject edge  $(1, 3)$ .

Edge	Weight
$(4, 7)$	4
$(3, 6)$	5
$(5, 7)$	6
$(4, 5)$	7
$(4, 6)$	8
$(2, 5)$	10

$$\mathcal{T} = \{e_{1,4}, e_{6,7}, e_{1,2}, e_{3,4}\}$$

# Iteration 7



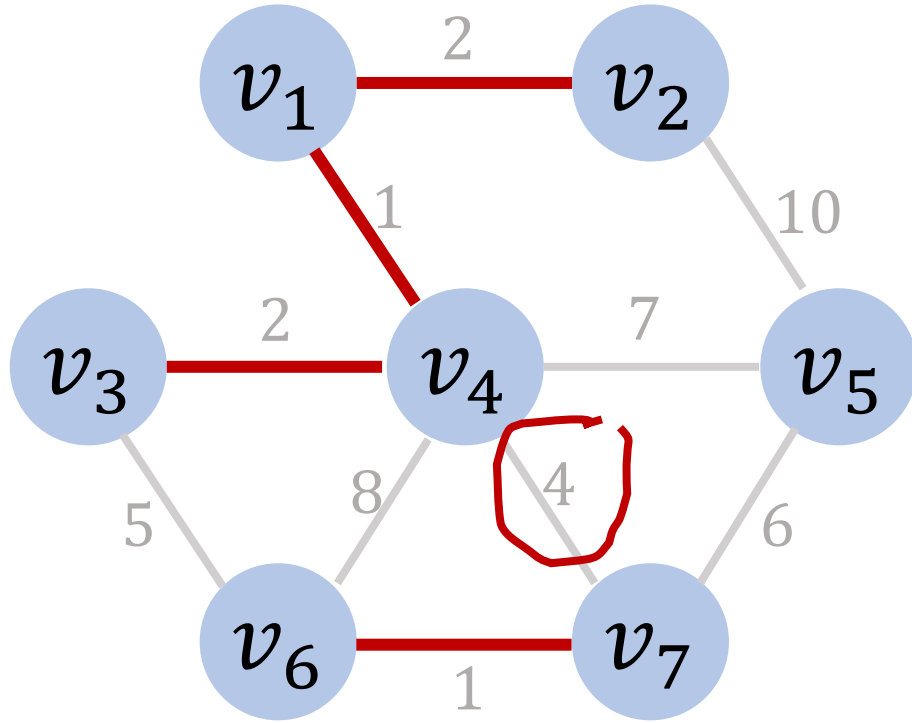
- Perform dequeue and get the edge  $(4, 7)$ .

Edge	Weight
$(4, 7)$	4
$(3, 6)$	5
$(5, 7)$	6
$(4, 5)$	7
$(4, 6)$	8
$(2, 5)$	10

$$\mathcal{T} = \{e_{1,4}, e_{6,7}, e_{1,2}, e_{3,4}\}$$



# Iteration 7

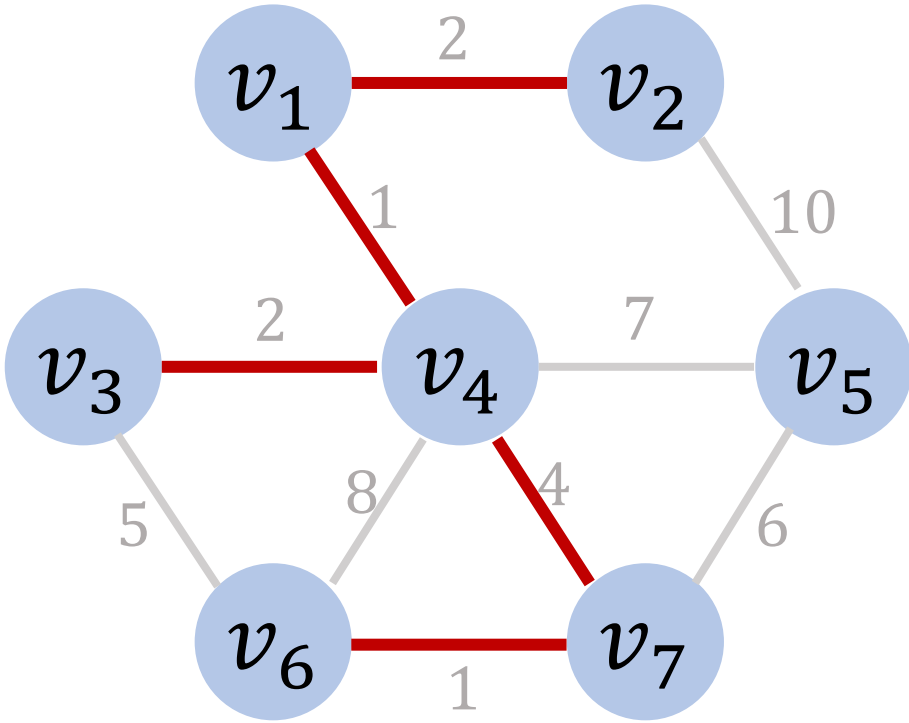


- Perform dequeue and get the edge  $(4, 7)$ .
- $v_4$  and  $v_7$  are not in the same tree.
- Thus accept edge  $(4, 7)$ .

Edge	Weight
$(3, 6)$	5
$(5, 7)$	6
$(4, 5)$	7
$(4, 6)$	8
$(2, 5)$	10

$$\mathcal{T} = \{e_{1,4}, e_{6,7}, e_{1,2}, e_{3,4}\}$$

# Iteration 7

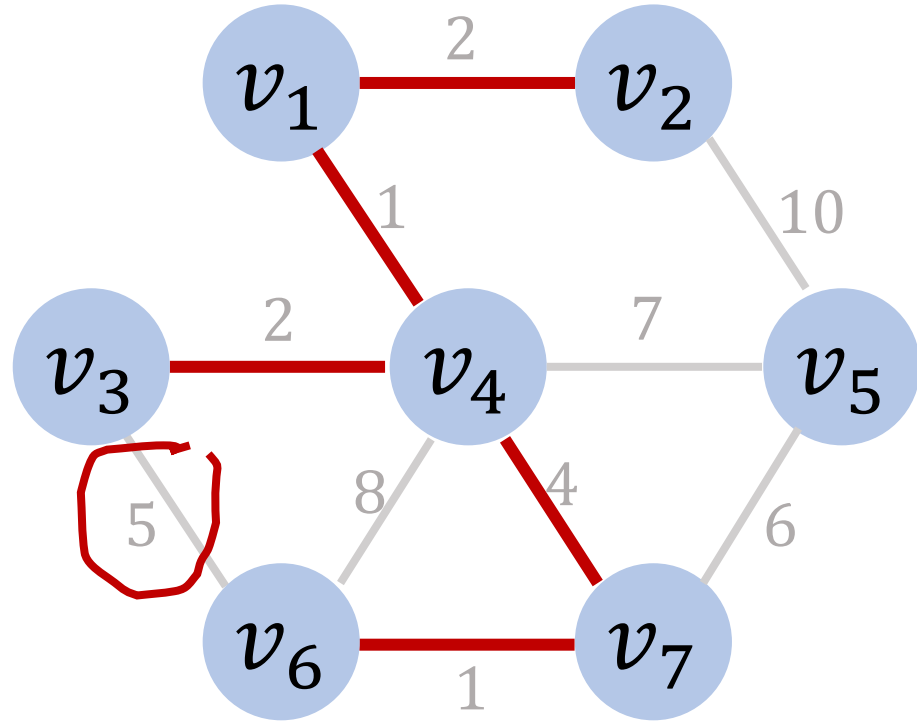


$$\mathcal{T} = \{e_{1,4}, e_{6,7}, e_{1,2}, e_{3,4}, e_{4,7}\}$$

- Perform dequeue and get the edge  $(4, 7)$ .
- $v_4$  and  $v_7$  are not in the same tree.
- Thus accept edge  $(4, 7)$ .
- Append  $(4, 7)$  to  $\mathcal{T}$ .

Edge	Weight
$(3, 6)$	5
$(5, 7)$	6
$(4, 5)$	7
$(4, 6)$	8
$(2, 5)$	10

# Iteration 8

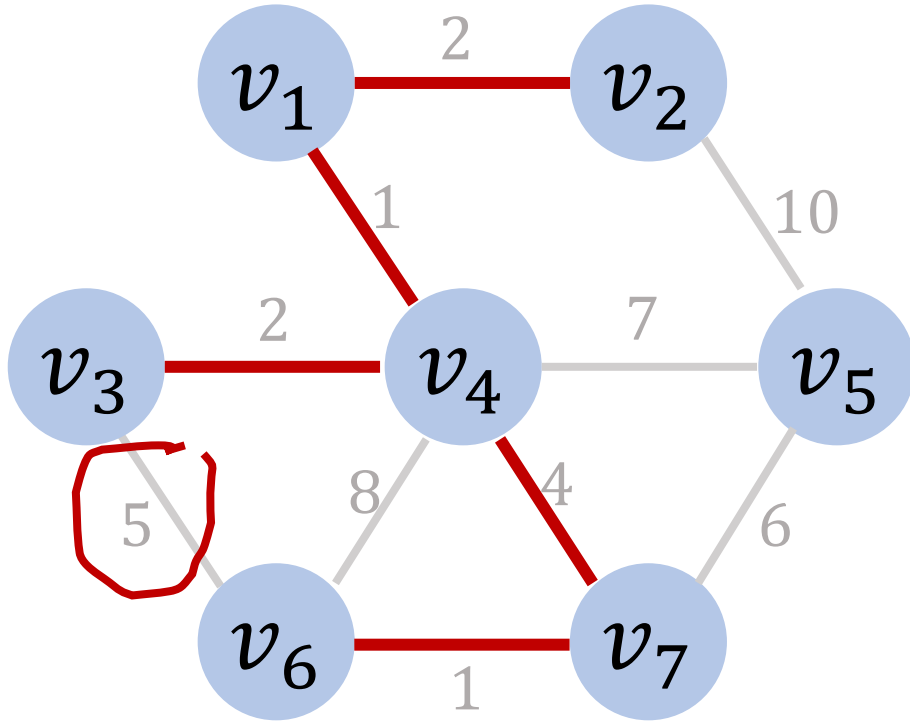


- Perform dequeue and get the edge  $(3, 6)$ .

Edge	Weight
$(3, 6)$	5
$(5, 7)$	6
$(4, 5)$	7
$(4, 6)$	8
$(2, 5)$	10

$$\mathcal{T} = \{e_{1,4}, e_{6,7}, e_{1,2}, e_{3,4}, e_{4,7}\}$$

# Iteration 8

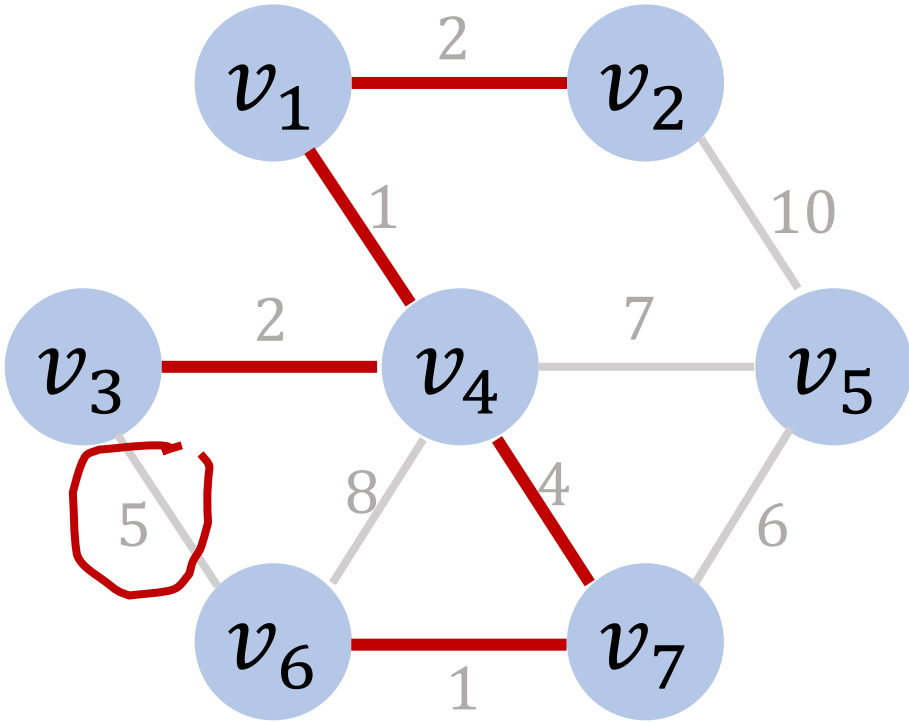


- Perform dequeue and get the edge  $(3, 6)$ .
- $v_3$  and  $v_6$  are in the same tree.

Edge	Weight
$(5, 7)$	6
$(4, 5)$	7
$(4, 6)$	8
$(2, 5)$	10

$$\mathcal{T} = \{e_{1,4}, e_{6,7}, e_{1,2}, e_{3,4}, e_{4,7}\}$$

# Iteration 8

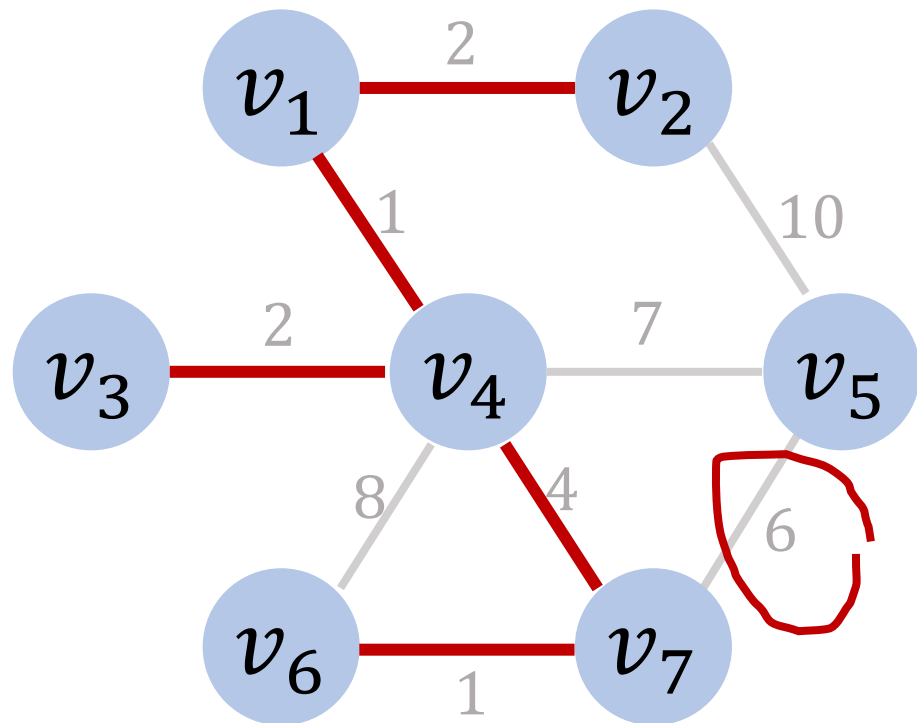


- Perform dequeue and get the edge  $(3, 6)$ .
- $v_3$  and  $v_6$  are in the same tree.
- Thus reject edge  $(3, 6)$ .

Edge	Weight
$(5, 7)$	6
$(4, 5)$	7
$(4, 6)$	8
$(2, 5)$	10

$$\mathcal{T} = \{e_{1,4}, e_{6,7}, e_{1,2}, e_{3,4}, e_{4,7}\}$$

# Iteration 9

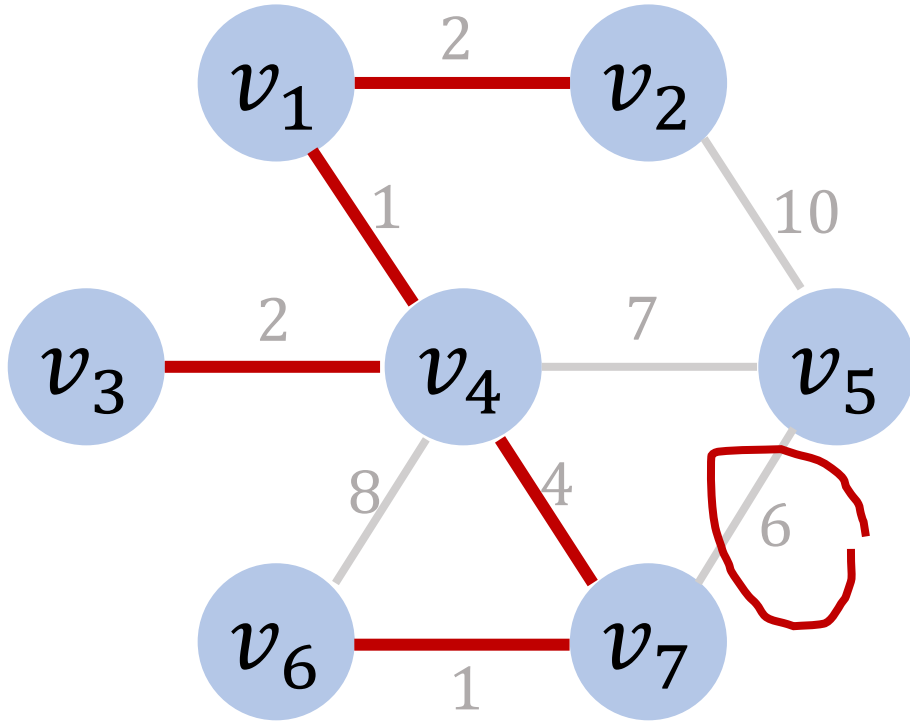


- Perform dequeue and get the edge  $(5, 7)$ .

Edge	Weight
$(5, 7)$	6
$(4, 5)$	7
$(4, 6)$	8
$(2, 5)$	10

$$\mathcal{T} = \{e_{1,4}, e_{6,7}, e_{1,2}, e_{3,4}, e_{4,7}\}$$

# Iteration 9

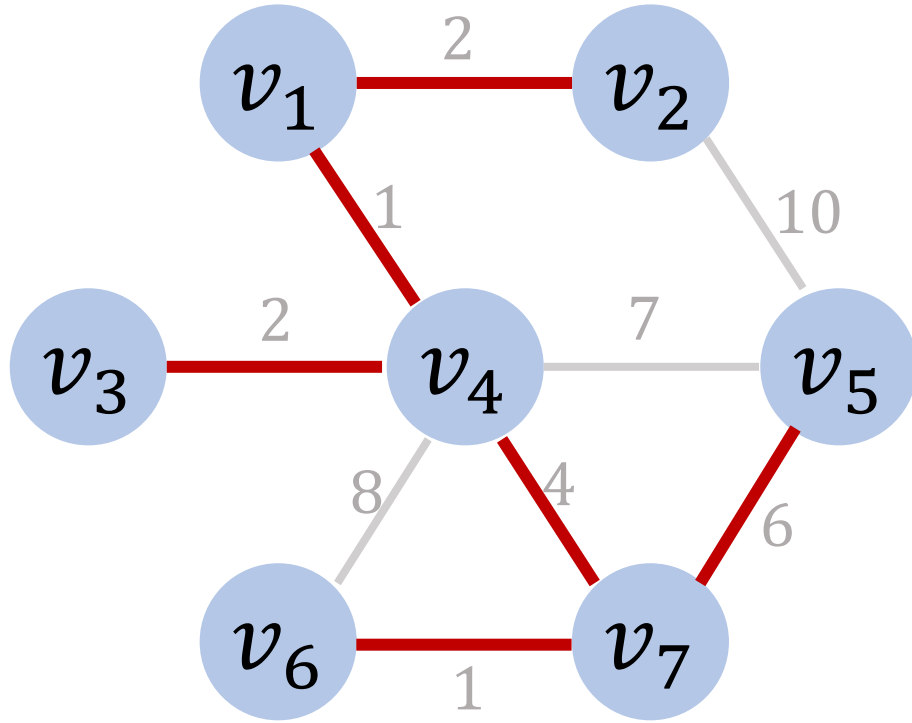


- Perform dequeue and get the edge  $(5, 7)$ .
- $v_5$  and  $v_7$  are not in the same tree.
- Thus accept edge  $(5, 7)$ .

Edge	Weight
$(4, 5)$	7
$(4, 6)$	8
$(2, 5)$	10

$$\mathcal{T} = \{e_{1,4}, e_{6,7}, e_{1,2}, e_{3,4}, e_{4,7}\}$$

# Iteration 9



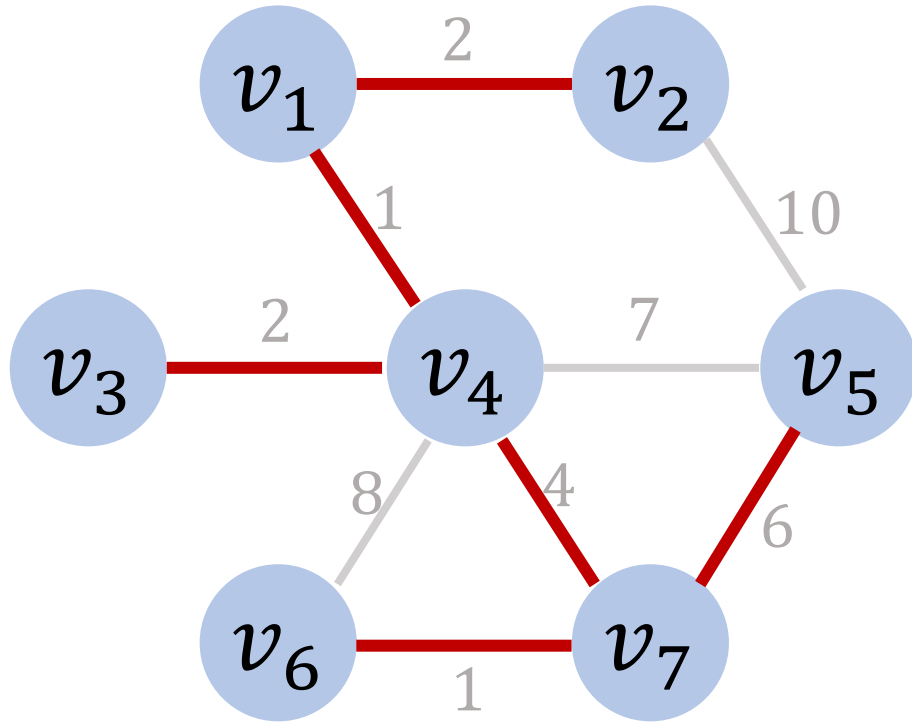
$$\mathcal{T} = \{e_{1,4}, e_{6,7}, e_{1,2}, e_{3,4}, e_{4,7}, e_{5,7}\}$$

- Perform dequeue and get the edge  $(5, 7)$ .
- $v_5$  and  $v_7$  are not in the same tree.
- Thus accept edge  $(5, 7)$ .
- Append  $(5, 7)$  to  $\mathcal{T}$ .

Edge	Weight
$(4, 5)$	7
$(4, 6)$	8
$(2, 5)$	10



# End of Procedure



- All the vertices are connected.
- Return the edges  $\mathcal{T}$ .

Edge	Weight
(4, 5)	7
(4, 6)	8
(2, 5)	10

$$\mathcal{T} = \{e_{1,4}, e_{6,7}, e_{1,2}, e_{3,4}, e_{4,7}, e_{5,7}\}$$

# Kruskal's Algorithm

1. Put all the edges of the input graph into a queue.
2. Sort the queue so that the weights are in ascending order.
3. Let set  $\mathcal{T}$  (which stores the selected edges) be the empty set.

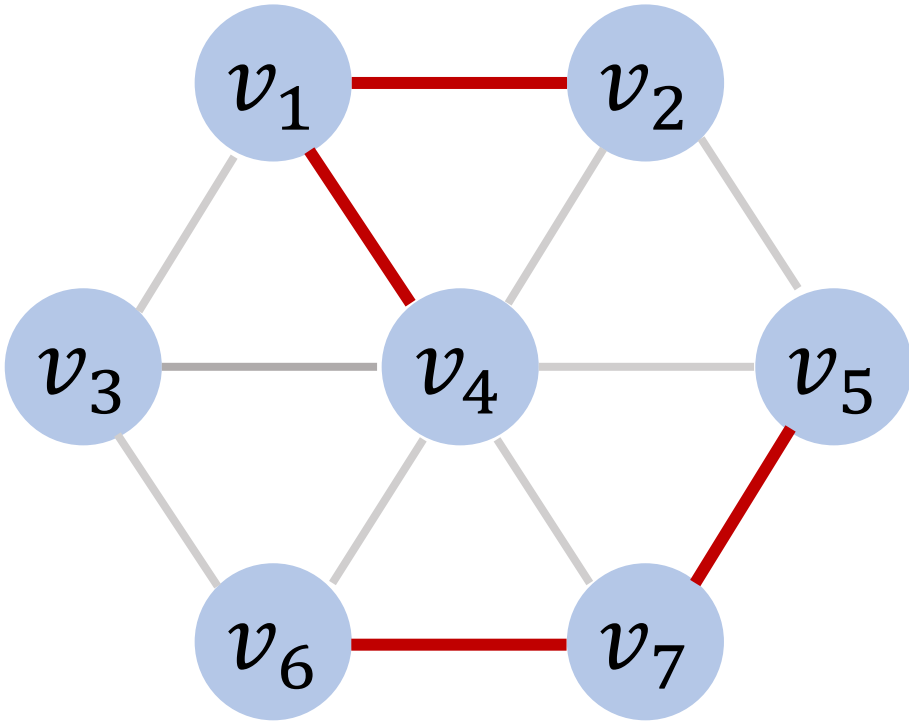
# Kruskal's Algorithm

1. Put all the edges of the input graph into a queue.
2. Sort the queue so that the weights are in ascending order.
3. Let set  $\mathcal{T}$  (which stores the selected edges) be the empty set.
4. While  $|\mathcal{T}| \leq n - 1$ :
  - a. Get an edge:  $e_{\underline{uv}}$   $\leftarrow$  dequeue( ).
  - b. If  $u$  and  $v$  are in different trees, then add  $e_{\underline{uv}}$  to  $\mathcal{T}$  and merge the two trees.
5. Return  $\mathcal{T}$ .

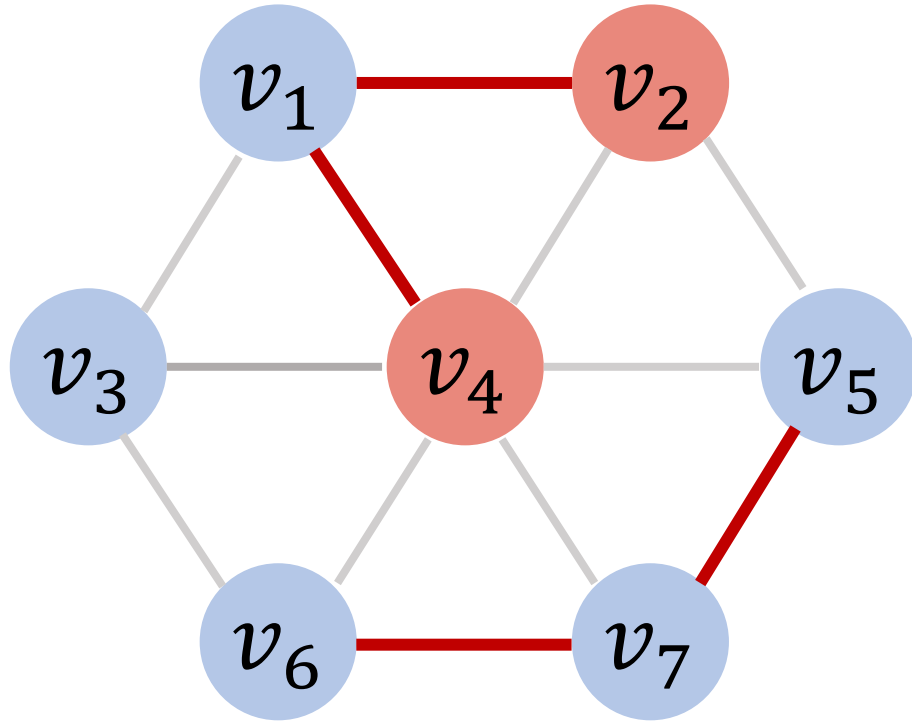
**How to maintain the forest?**

# Using Disjoint Sets Data Structure

**Question 1:** How to decide whether two vertices are in the same tree?



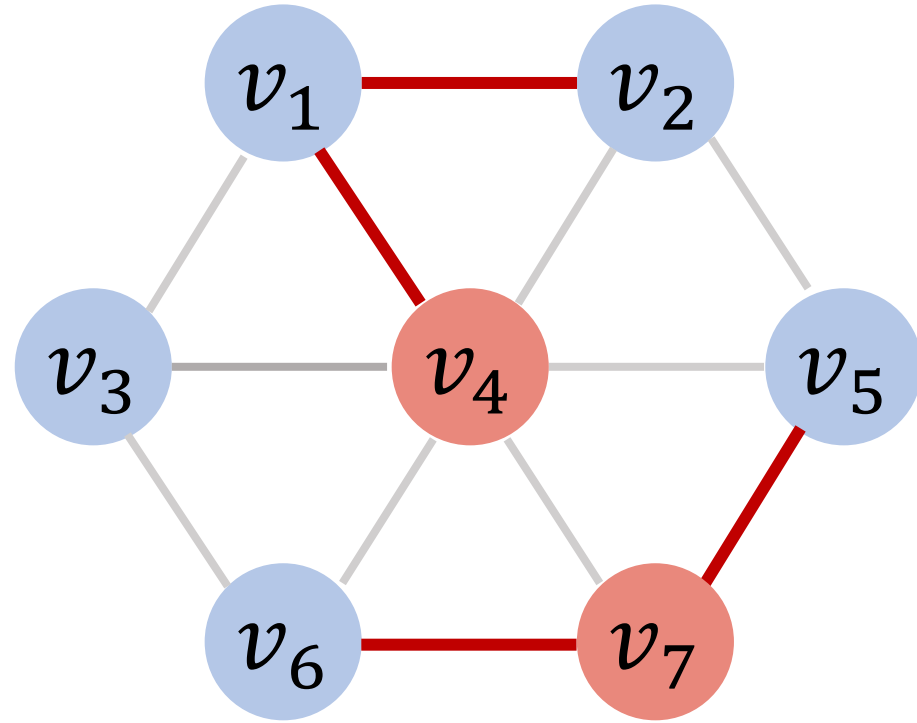
# Using Disjoint Sets Data Structure



**Question 1:** How to decide whether two vertices are in the same tree?

- Are  $v_2$  and  $v_4$  in the same tree?

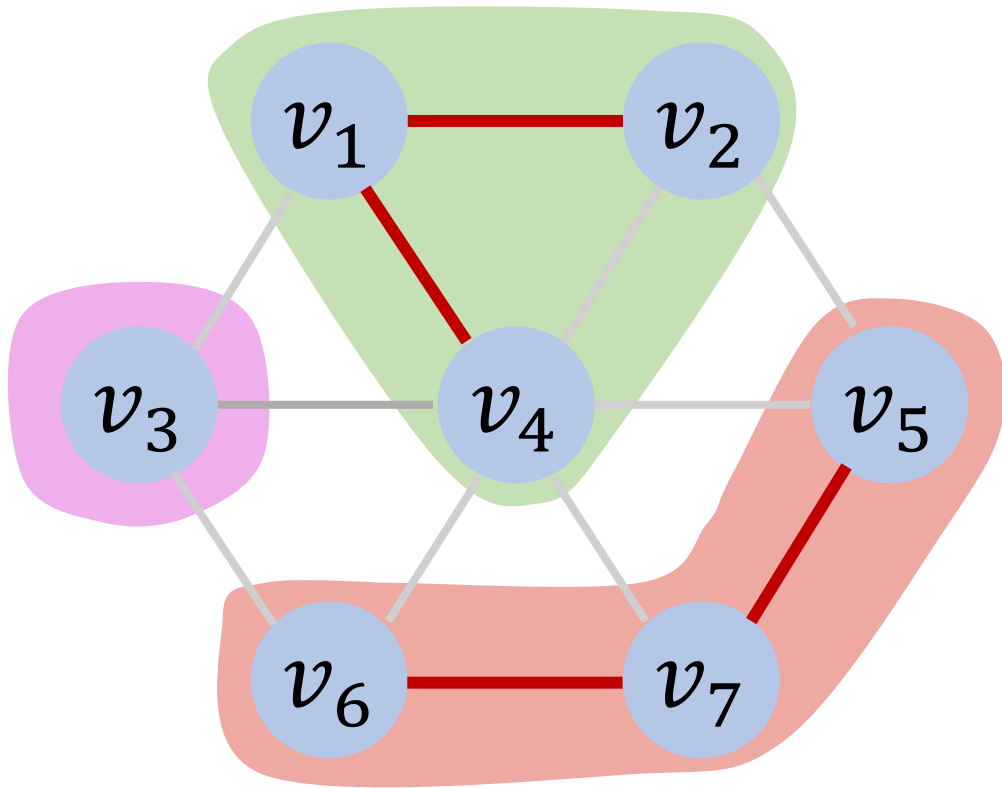
# Using Disjoint Sets Data Structure



**Question 1:** How to decide whether two vertices are in the same tree?

- Are  $v_4$  and  $v_7$  in the same tree?

# Using Disjoint Sets Data Structure

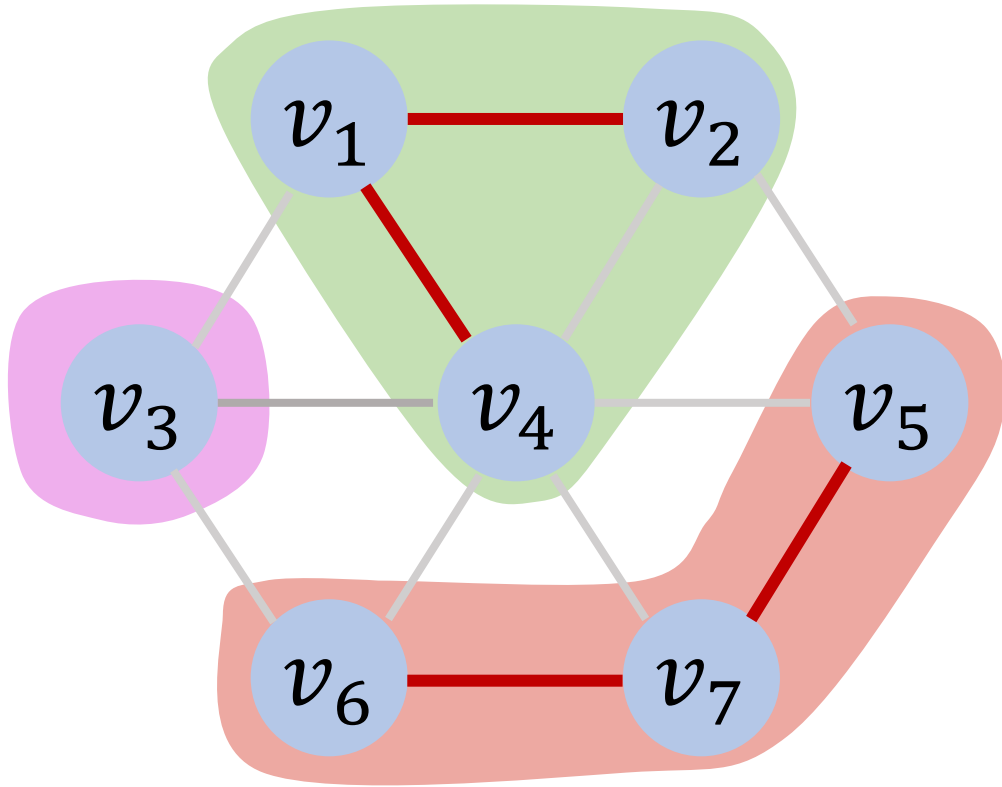


**Question 1:** How to decide whether two vertices are in the same tree?

- Using disjoint sets data structure.
- Put vertices of a tree in the same set.



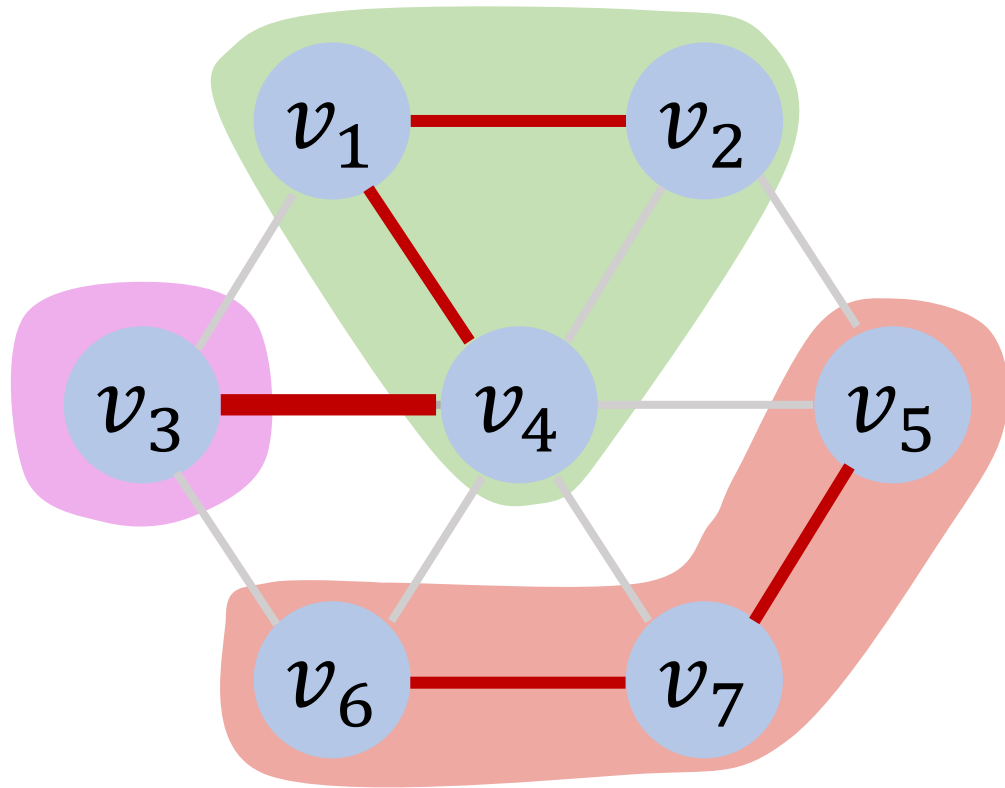
# Using Disjoint Sets Data Structure



**Question 1:** How to decide whether two vertices are in the same tree?

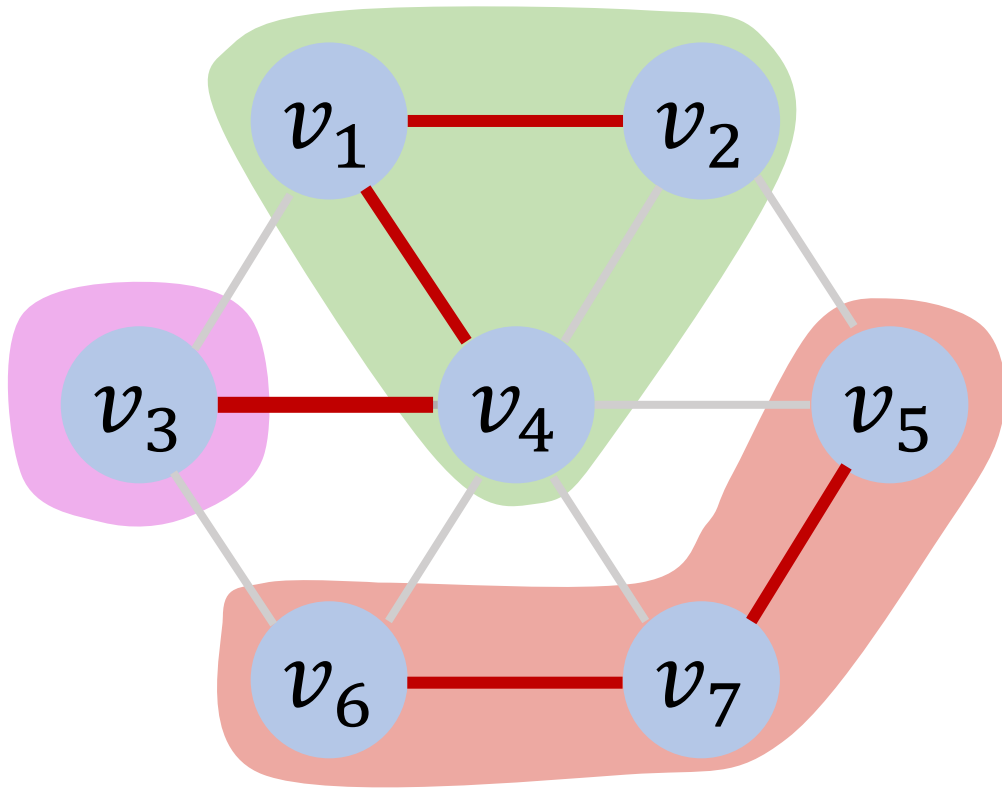
- Using disjoint sets data structure.
- Put vertices of a tree in the same set.
- Deciding whether two vertices belong to the same set costs near  $O(1)$  time.

# Using Disjoint Sets Data Structure



**Question 2:** How to merge two trees?

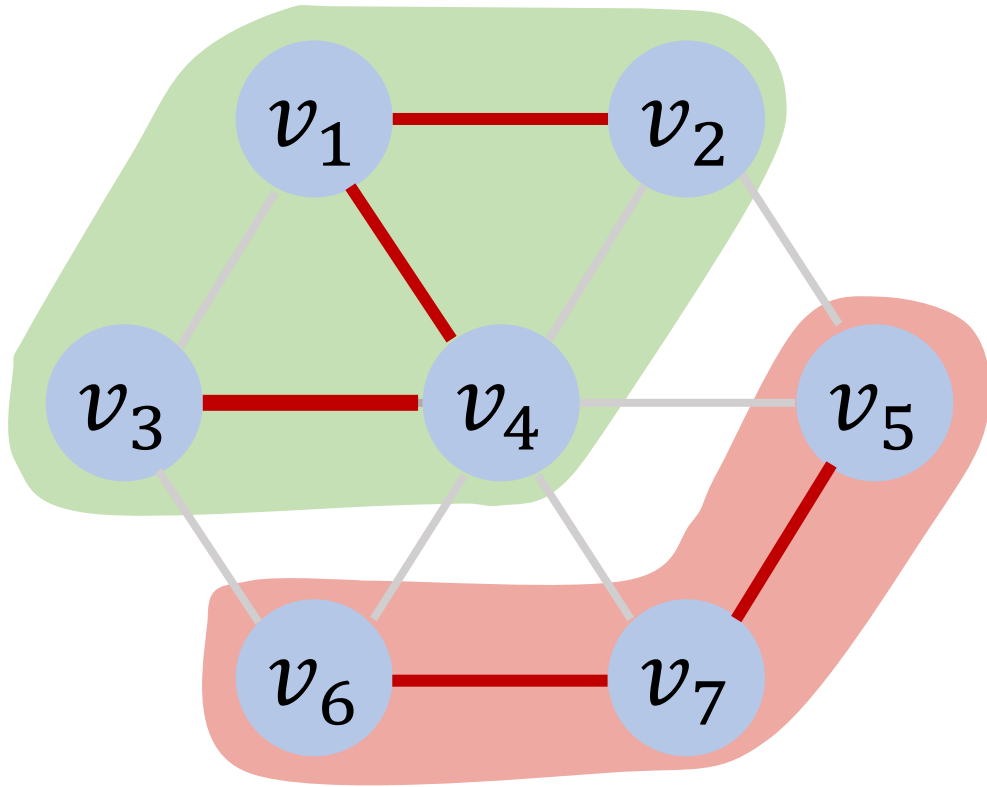
# Using Disjoint Sets Data Structure



**Question 2:** How to merge two trees?

- Union the two sets.

# Using Disjoint Sets Data Structure



**Question 2:** How to merge two trees?

- Union the two sets.
- Union costs near  $O(1)$  time.

# Time Complexity

Overall time complexity is  $O(m \cdot \log m)$ . ( $m = \text{\#edges.}$ )

- Sorting the edges:  $O(m \cdot \log m)$  time complexity.

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Overall time complexity is  $O(m \cdot \log m)$ . ( $m = \text{\#edges.}$ )

- Sorting the edges:  $O(m \cdot \log m)$  time complexity.
- At most  $m$  iterations.
- Per-iteration time complexity is  $\tilde{O}(1)$ .
  - Decide whether two vertices belong to the same tree:  $\tilde{O}(1)$  time.
  - Merge two trees:  $\tilde{O}(1)$  time.
- Overall time complexity:  $O(m \cdot \log m)$  +  $m \cdot \tilde{O}(1)$ .

**Thank You!**

<http://wangshusen.github.io/>