



A negative cycle that represents an arbitrage opportunity

INITIALIZE-SINGLE-SOURCE( $G, s$ )

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1 for each vertex  $v \in G.V$ 
2    $v.d = \infty$ 
3    $v.\pi = \text{NIL}$ 
4    $s.d = 0$ 

```

RELAX( $u, v, w$ )

```

1 if  $v.d > u.d + w(u, v)$ 
2    $v.d = u.d + w(u, v)$ 
3    $v.\pi = u$ 

```

BELLMAN-FORD-FIND-NEGATIVE-CYCLE( $G, w, s$ )

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1 INITIALIZE-SINGLE-SOURCE( $G, s$ )
2 for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $|V[G]| - 1$ 
3   do for each edge  $(u, v) \in E[G]$ 
4     do RELAX( $u, v, w$ )
5 for each edge  $(u, v) \in E[G]$ 
6   do if  $d[v] > d[u] + w(u, v)$ 
7     then mark  $v$ 
8        $x \leftarrow v$ 
9       while  $\pi[x]$  is not marked
10        do mark  $\pi[x]$ 
11           $x \leftarrow \pi[x]$ 
12       return marked nodes
13 return NIL

```

- $w(u, v)$  - Weight of the edge  $(u, v)$
- $\delta(s, v)$  - Weight of the shortest path from  $s$  to  $v$
- $v.d$  - Estimate of the weight of the shortest path from  $s$  to  $v$ . Goal is  $v.d = \delta(s, v)$
- $v.\pi$  - Pointer to the parent vertex of  $v$  in the shortest path from  $s$  to  $v$
- **Relaxing** an edge  $(u, v)$  updates  $v.d$  if  $u.d + w(u, v)$  is less than  $v.d$ .

The Bellman-Ford algorithm can be described in three steps:

1. **Initialize:** For all  $v$ , set  $v.d = \infty$ ,  $v.\pi = \text{NIL}$ . Set  $s.d = 0$
2. **Relax:** Relax every edge in  $G$ . Repeat for a total of  $|V| - 1$  times
3. **Detect Negative Cycles:** Relax every edge in  $G$  one more time. If no vertices were updated with a smaller  $v.d$  value, then we are done and  $v.d = \delta(s, v)$ . If at least one vertex was updated, then a negative weight cycle must exist and the  $v.d$  values are not necessarily correct. (Optional: Find the negative weight cycle and mark all the vertices on it and reachable from it to have  $v.d = -\infty$ )

**Solution:** Run BELLMAN-FORD on the graph and determine whether or not a negative-weight cycle exists. If one exists, then we discover it by finding an edge  $(u, v)$  that is part of the cycle. Once we have this, we can use a simple dynamic programming algorithm to find a negative-weight cycle containing  $u$  by computing the shortest path from  $u$  to every other node containing at most  $k$  edges. That is, compute the  $n \times n$  matrix  $S$ , where  $S[k, v]$  is the length of the shortest path from  $u$  to  $v$  containing at most  $k$  edges, and also remember the path along the way (using a separate predecessor matrix). Note that  $n = |V|$ . This can be done in  $O(n^3)$  time. Notice that this is almost exactly what BELLMAN-FORD does, and so we can simply use the predecessor field that it computes. Specifically the following procedure should return a negative-weight cycle if one exists, and return NIL if none does.

