

# Shortest Paths



# Outline

- Shortest Paths
- Single Source Shortest Path
  - Bellman-Ford Algorithm
  - Shortest Paths in a DAG

# Shortest Path Algorithms

Algorithm	Comments	Graph Rep	Running Time	Space Used
Bellman-Ford	Single-Source	Adj List	$O(VE)$	$O(V)$
In DAG	Single-Source DAG	Adj List	$O(V + E)$	$O(V)$
Dijkstra	Single-Source Non-Neg Weights	Adj List	$O(E \log V)$	$O(V)$
All-Pairs 1	All-Pairs	Adj Matrix	$O(V^4)$	$O(V^2)$
All-Pairs 2	All-Pairs	Adj Matrix	$O(V^3 \log V)$	$O(V^2)$
Floyd-Warshall	All Pairs	Adj Matrix	$O(V^3)$	$O(V^2)$

Space Used is in addition to space required to store the graph. For simplicity, we use  $V$  and  $E$  to denote  $|V|$  and  $|E|$ , respectively, in complexity bounds.

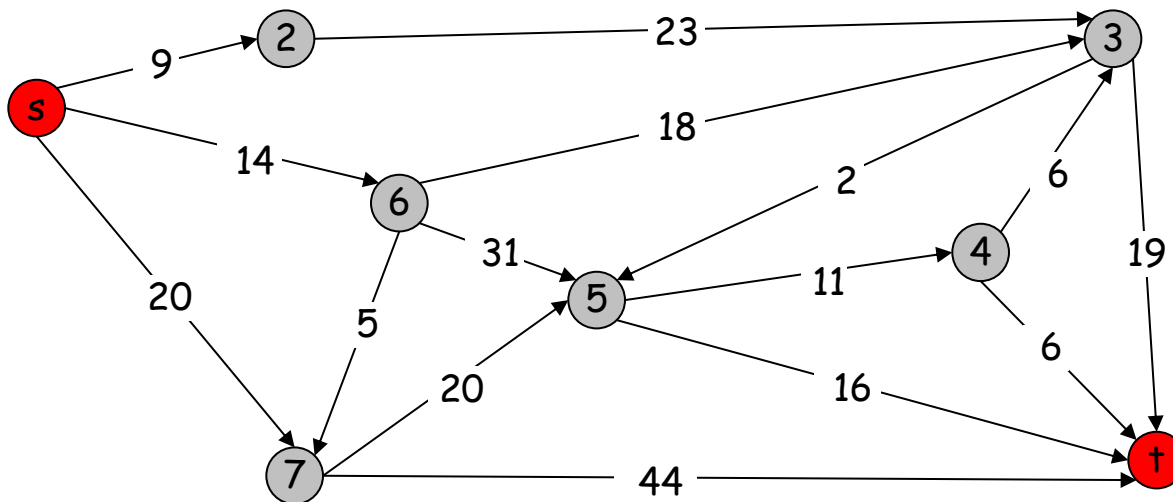
# Shortest Path Problem

## Input:

- Directed graph  $G = (V, E)$ .
  - An undirected edge can be considered as two directed edges.
- Source  $s$ , destination  $t$ .
- Weight  $w(e) = \text{length of edge } e$  ( $w(e)$  can be negative)

**Shortest path problem:** Find the shortest path from  $s$  to  $t$ .

**Def:**  $\delta(u, v)$ , the **distance** from  $u$  to  $v$ , is the length of the shortest path from  $u$  to  $v$ .



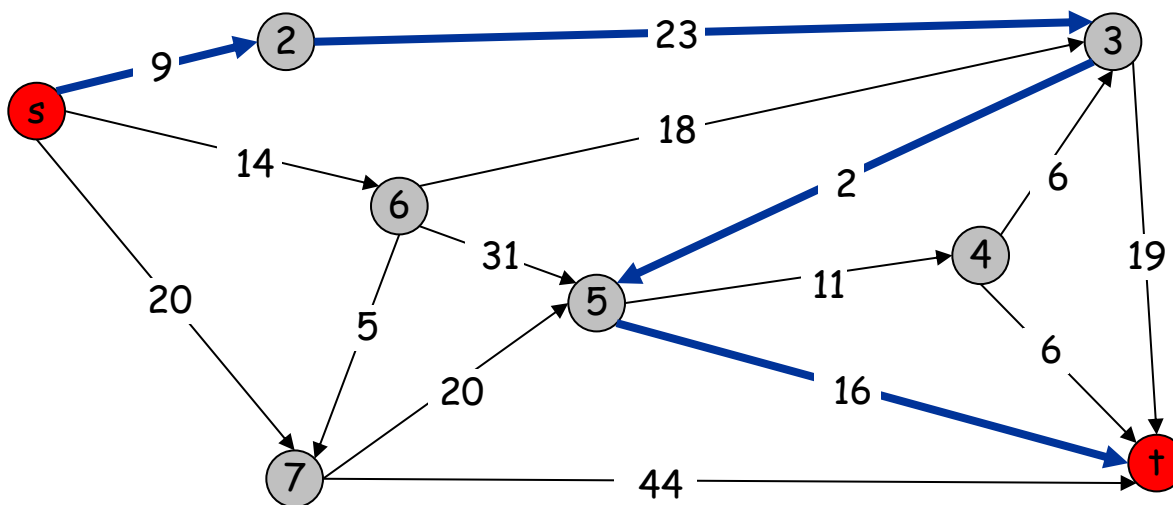
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$$\delta(s, t) = 9 + 23 + 2 + 16 = 50.$$

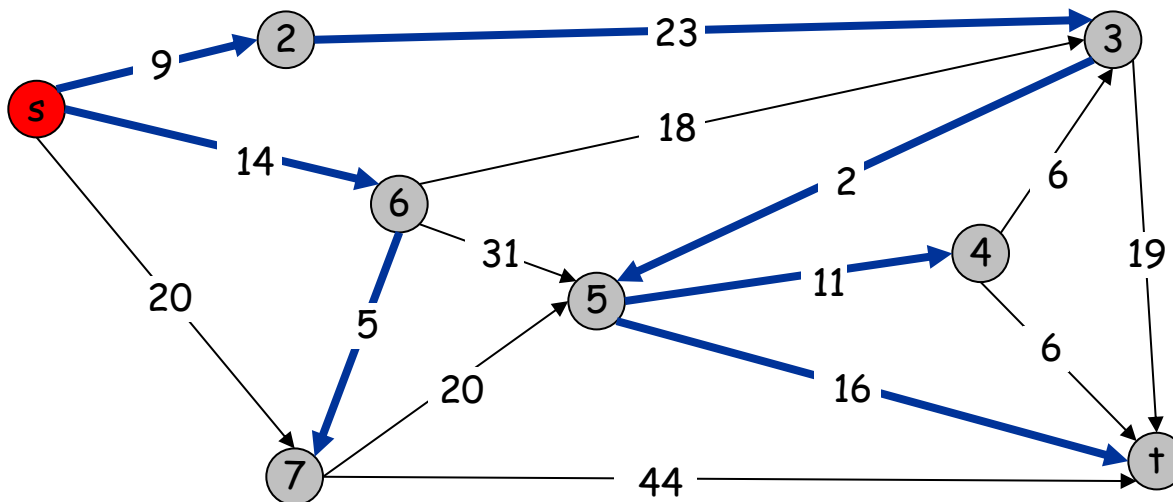
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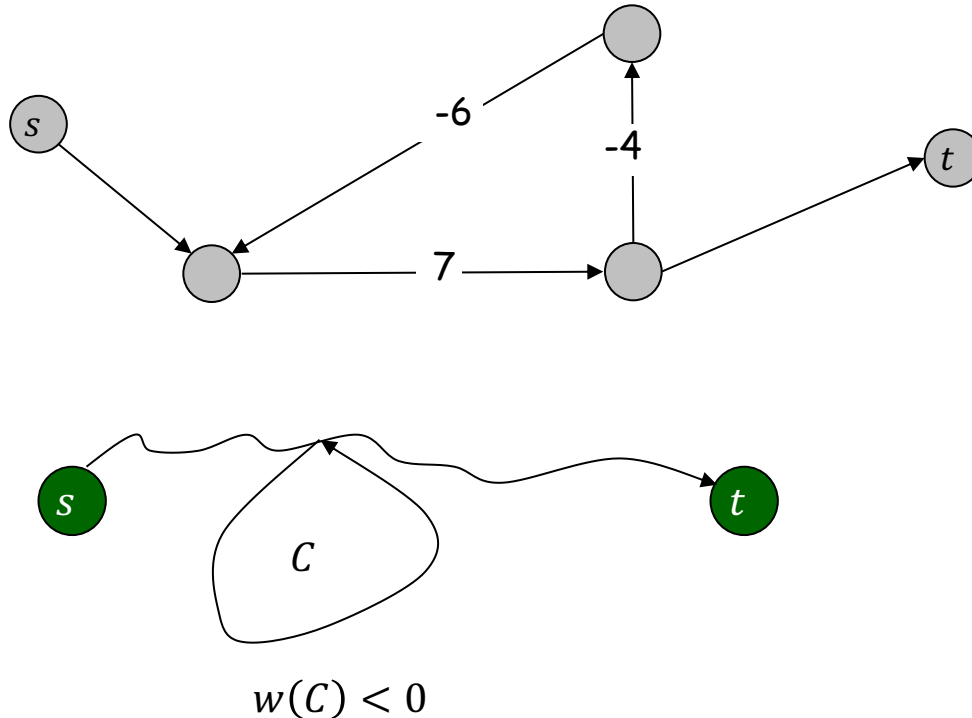
**Single-source shortest path:** Find the shortest path from  $s$  to every node.



x	Shortest path from s to x	$\delta(s, x)$
2	s,2	9
3	s,2,3	32
4	s,2,3,5,4	45
5	s,2,3,5	34
6	s,6	14
7	s,6,7	19
t	s,2,3,5,t	50

# Shortest Paths: Negative Weight Cycles

Negative weight cycles.

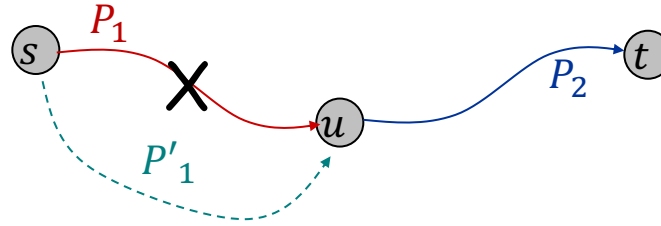


**Note.** The shortest path problem is not well defined if the graph contains negative-weight cycles.

*(Repeating  $C$  can create arbitrarily negative  $s-t$  paths.)*

**So we will always assume no negative cycles exist.**

# Subpath Optimality



## Lemma (Cut and Paste Argument):

Let  $P = (s, \dots, u, \dots, t)$  be a shortest  $s - t$  path. Then the subpaths

$$P_1 = (s, \dots, u) \quad \text{and} \quad P_2 = (u, \dots, t)$$

must also be, respectively, shortest  $s-u$  and  $u-t$  paths.

**Pf:** (by contradiction)

- Suppose the subpath  $P_1 = (s, \dots, u)$  is not the shortest  $s-u$  path; i.e., there is another path  $P'_1$  from  $s$  to  $u$  that is shorter than  $P_1$ .
- Then we can replace  $P_1$  with  $P'_1$ ,  
this creates  $P' = P'_1 P_2$ , a  $s-t$  path shorter than  $P$ .
- This contradicts the choice of  $P$  as a shortest  $s-t$  path. Impossible!
- Same proof works for the subpath from  $u$  to  $t$ .



# Concept of Relaxation

Let  $v.d$  be shortest distance found so far from starting node  $s$  to node  $v$ ,  
and

$v.p$  be the last node in the current shortest path from  $s$  to node  $v$ .

**Relaxing** edge  $(u, v)$  means checking whether  
taking shortest path to  $u$  and then edge  $(u, v)$   
gives an even shorter path to  $v$   
improving known shortest path to  $v$ .

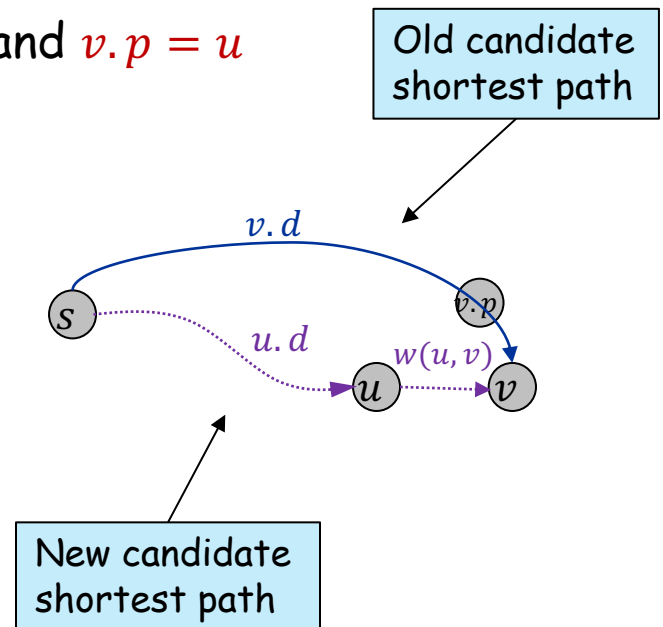
If this occurs, we update  $v.d = u.d + w(u, v)$  and  $v.p = u$

$\text{Relax}(u, v)$

If  $u.d + w(u, v) < v.d$  Then

$v.d = u.d + w(u, v)$

$v.p = u$



# Bellman-Ford Algorithm

- Initially, we set  $v.d = \infty$  for all nodes,  
except the starting node  $s$  for which  $s.d = 0$
- Relax all edges once, in no particular order.  
After finishing,  $v.d < \infty$  for all neighbors of  $s$ , or equivalently for all nodes that are connected with  $s$  through a path with length 1 edge.
- Relax all edges a 2<sup>nd</sup> time (in no particular order).  
After finishing,  $v.d < \infty$  for all nodes that can be reached from  $s$  through a path with length 1 or 2. A relaxation, may only decrease distances so  $v.d$  is the shortest distance for paths with maximum length 2.
- In general, after relaxing all edges for the  $i$ -th time,  $v.d$  is the shortest distance for paths with maximum length  $i$  edges.
- Assuming no negative cycles, what is the max number of edges in a path?
- A path may have at most  $V - 1$  edges.
- Thus, after relaxing all edges  $V - 1$  times,  $v.d$  is the actual shortest distance between  $v$  and  $s$ .

# Bellman-Ford- Basic Implementation

```
Shortest-Path( $G, s$ ):  
for each node  $v \in V$  do  
     $v.d \leftarrow \infty$   
 $s.d \leftarrow 0$   
for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $V - 1$   
    for each edge  $(u, v) \in E$   
        if  $u.d + w(u, v) < v.d$  then  
             $v.d \leftarrow u.d + w(u, v)$   
             $v.p \leftarrow u$  } Relax( $u, v$ )
```

**Analysis.**  $\Theta(VE)$  time,  $\Theta(V)$  space.

# Bellman-Ford as Dynamic Programming

**Def.**  $v.d[i]$  = length of shortest path from  $s$  to  $v$  using up to  $i$  edges.

**Recurrence:**

- Suppose  $(u, v)$  is the last edge of the shortest path from  $s$  to  $v$ . By the **cut and paste argument**, the subpath from  $s$  to  $u$  must also be shortest, using at most  $i - 1$  edges, followed by  $(u, v)$ .

$$v.d[i] = \min_{u, (u,v) \in E} \{u.d[i-1] + w(u, v)\}$$
$$v.d[0] = \infty$$

- Final solution:  $v.d[n-1]$  = length of the actual shortest path from  $s$  to  $v$ , since no shortest path can have  $n$  edges or more.
- Bellman-Ford uses a single  $v.d$  instead of  $v.d[i]$ 
  - After the  $i$ -th iteration,  $v.d \leq v.d[i]$

# Bellman-Ford: Efficient Implementation

```
Bellman-Ford( $G, s$ ) :  
for each node  $v \in V$   
     $v.d \leftarrow \infty, v.p \leftarrow \text{nil}$   
 $s.d \leftarrow 0$   
for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $V - 1$   
    for each node  $u \in V$   
        if  $u.d$  changed in previous iteration then  
            for each  $v \in \text{Adj}[u]$   
                if  $u.d + w(u, v) < v.d$  then  
                     $v.d \leftarrow u.d + w(u, v)$   
                     $v.p \leftarrow u$  } Relax( $u, v$ )  
    if no  $v.d$  changed in this iteration then terminate
```

## Analysis.

- $O(VE)$  time in the worst case, but can be much faster in practice
- $O(V)$  space.

## Remark:

- Can be run in parallel.
- Used on massive graphs (even if no negative edges).
- Can also detect whether there is a negative cycle.

# Exercise Bellman-Ford for Negative Cycle Detection

How you can use Bellman-Ford to detect negative cycles?

Solution:

Assuming no negative cycles, the max number of edges in a path is  $V - 1$ .

What happens if there are negative cycles?

Some nodes distances will continue decreasing after relaxing all edges for  $V$  times.

Apply Bellman-Ford and add another round of relaxations:

For each edge  $(u, v)$  // check for negative cycles

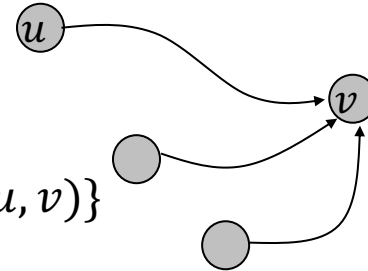
If  $d[u] + w(u, v) < d[v]$  then return "Negative Cycle"

# Shortest path in a DAG

- Input is a DAG, a *Directed Acyclic Graph*
- $\delta(s, v)$  will store shortest path distance from  $s$  to  $v$ .

- By subpath optimality, we have

$$\delta(s, v) = \min_{u, (u, v) \in E} \{\delta(s, u) + w(u, v)\}$$



- Unlike in Bellman-Ford, each edge will only be relaxed once.
- We need to ensure that when  $v$  is processed,  
ALL  $u$  with  $(u, v) \in E$  have already been processed,  
so  $\delta(s, u)$  holds the correct value when  $v$  is processed,
- We can do that by processing  $v$  (and thus the  $\delta(s, v)$ ) in the topological order of the nodes.

# Shortest path in a DAG: algorithm

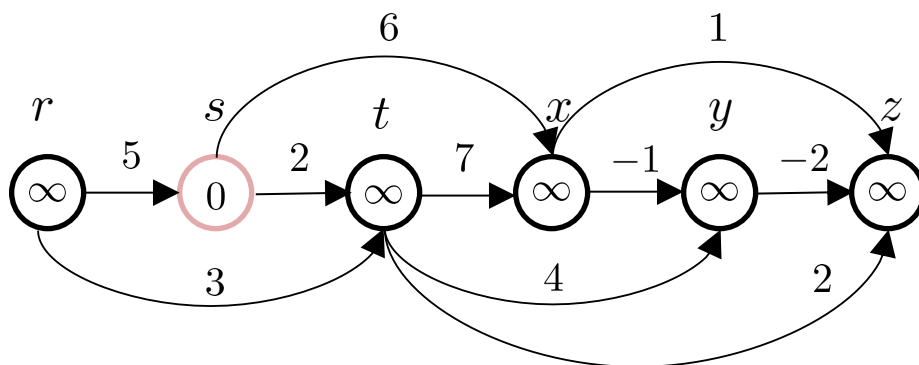
```
DAG-Shortest-Path( $G, s$ )
topologically sort the vertices of  $G$ 
for each vertex  $v \in V$ 
     $v.d \leftarrow \infty$ 
     $v.p \leftarrow nil$ 
 $s.d \leftarrow 0$ 
for each vertex  $u$  in topological order
    for each vertex  $v \in Adj[u]$ 
        if  $v.d > u.d + w(u, v)$  then
             $v.d \leftarrow u.d + w(u, v)$ 
             $v.p \leftarrow u$ 
        } Relax ( $u, v$ )
```

Running time:  $\Theta(V + E)$

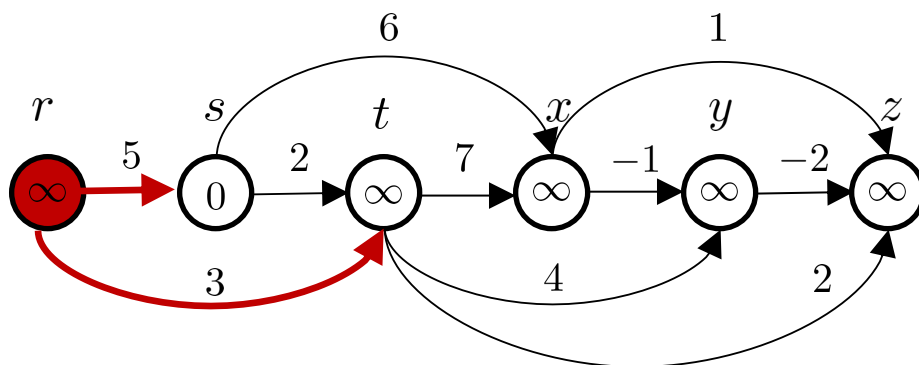
Note:

- Can find the actual shortest path by tracing the parent pointers.
- If we just want to find the shortest path from  $s$  to  $t$ , can stop the algorithm when  $u = t$ . But this does not reduce the running time asymptotically.

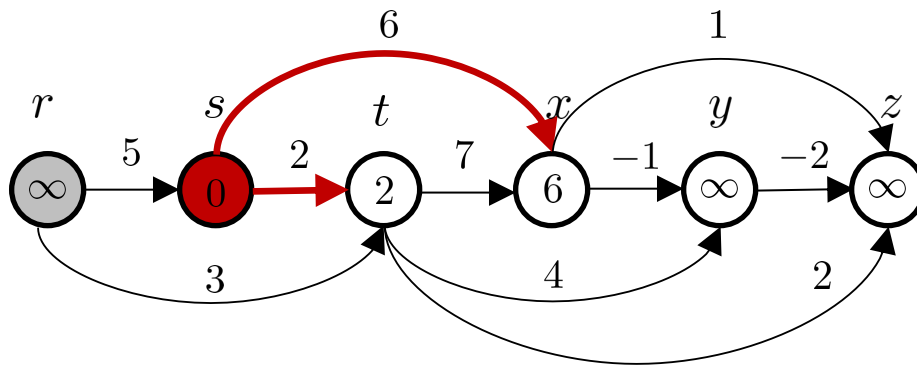




$v$	$v.d$	$v.p$
$r$	$\infty$	$nil$
$s$	0	$nil$
$t$	$\infty$	$nil$
$x$	$\infty$	$nil$
$y$	$\infty$	$nil$
$z$	$\infty$	$nil$



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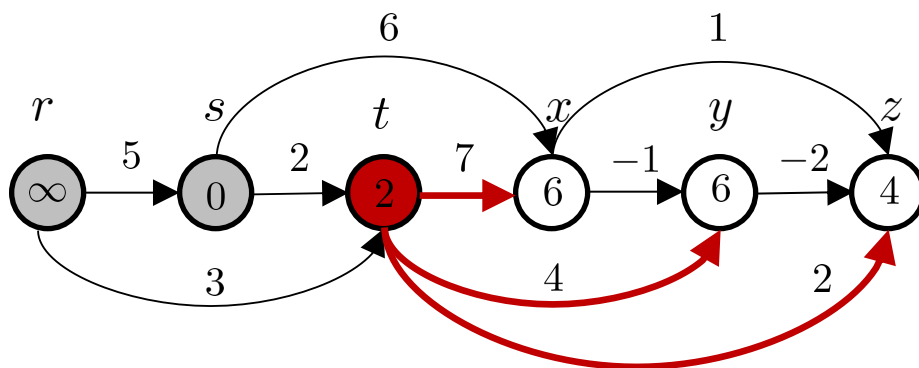


OLD

$v$	$v.d$	$v.p$
$r$	$\infty$	$nil$
$s$	0	$nil$
$t$	$\infty$	$nil$
$x$	$\infty$	$nil$
$y$	$\infty$	$nil$
$z$	$\infty$	$nil$

NEW

$v$	$v.d$	$v.p$
$r$	$\infty$	$nil$
$s$	0	$nil$
$t$	2	$s$
$x$	6	$s$
$y$	$\infty$	$nil$
$z$	$\infty$	$nil$

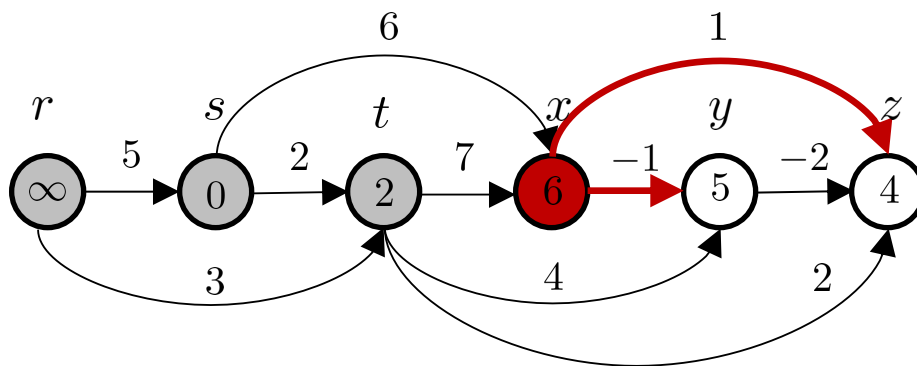


OLD

$v$	$v.d$	$v.p$
$r$	$\infty$	$nil$
$s$	0	$nil$
$t$	2	$s$
$x$	6	$s$
$y$	$\infty$	$nil$
$z$	$\infty$	$nil$

NEW

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$s$	0	$nil$
$t$	2	$s$
$x$	6	$s$
$y$	6	$t$
$z$	4	$t$

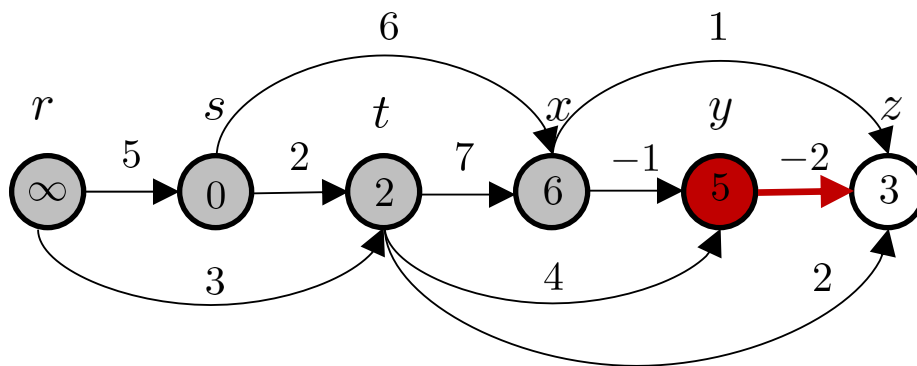


OLD

<i>v</i>	<i>v.d</i>	<i>v.p</i>
<i>r</i>	$\infty$	<i>nil</i>
<i>s</i>	0	<i>nil</i>
<i>t</i>	2	<i>s</i>
<i>x</i>	6	<i>s</i>
<i>y</i>	6	<i>t</i>
<i>z</i>	4	<i>t</i>

NEW

<i>v</i>	<i>v.d</i>	<i>v.p</i>
<i>r</i>	$\infty$	<i>nil</i>
<i>s</i>	0	<i>nil</i>
<i>t</i>	2	<i>s</i>
<i>x</i>	6	<i>s</i>
<i>y</i>	5	<i>x</i>
<i>z</i>	4	<i>t</i>

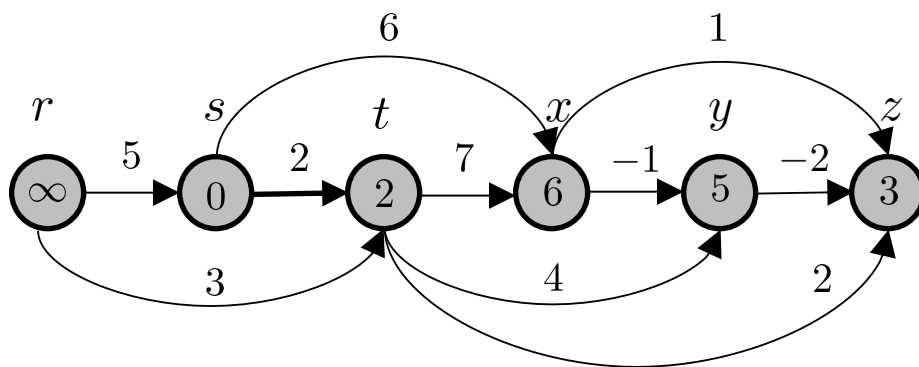


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$r$	$\infty$	$nil$
$s$	0	$nil$
$t$	2	$s$
$x$	6	$s$
$y$	5	$x$
$z$	4	$t$

NEW

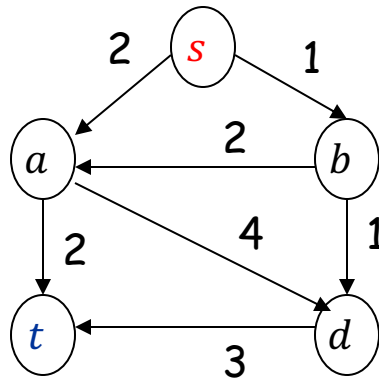
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$r$	$\infty$	$nil$
$s$	0	$nil$
$t$	2	$s$
$x$	6	$s$
$y$	5	$x$
$z$	3	$y$



$v$	$v.d$	$v.p$
$r$	$\infty$	$nil$
$s$	0	$nil$
$t$	2	$s$
$x$	6	$s$
$y$	5	$x$
$z$	3	$y$

# Exercise on Longest Path in DAG

Given a directed acyclic graph with real-valued edge weights and two vertices  $s$ ,  $t$ , describe a dynamic programming algorithm for finding the **longest** weighted simple path from  $s$  to  $t$ .



Longest part:

$s, b, a, d, t$

Total weight=

$$1+2+4+3=10$$

Let  $ld[v]$  be the weight of the longest path from  $s$  to  $v$ :

$$ld[v] = 0, \text{ if } s = v$$

$$ld[v] = \max\{w(u, v) + ld[u] : (u, v) \in E\}, \text{ otherwise}$$

How do we make sure that when we reach  $v$ , we have computed the longest distance for every  $u$  such that there is an edge  $(u, v)$ ?

Answer: We use *topological sort* starting from  $s$ .



# Algorithm on Longest Path in DAG

DP-LD( $G, s, t$ )

Topologically sort the vertices of  $G$ , starting from  $s$

For each vertex  $v$ , set  $ld[v] := -\infty$

$ld[s] := 0$

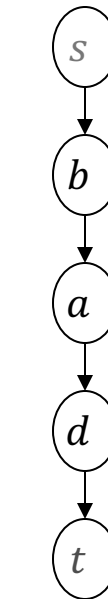
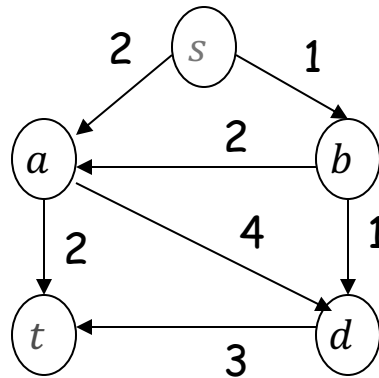
For each vertex  $u$  in the topological order

For each vertex  $v$  in adjacency list of  $u$

if  $ld[u] + w(u, v) > ld[v]$  then

$ld[v] := ld[u] + w(u, v)$     topological  
sort

Running time  $\Theta(V + E)$



$ld[s] = 0$

$ld[b] = 1$

$ld[a] = 3$

$ld[d] = 7$

$ld[t] = 10$

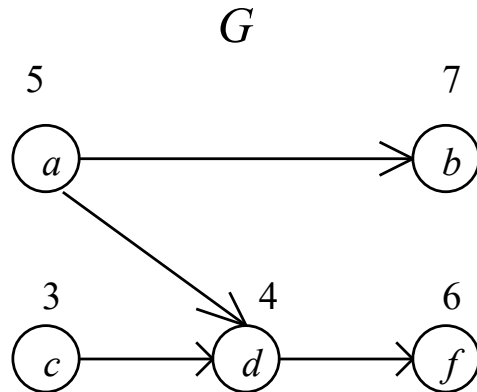
# Exercise on Critical Paths

Let  $G = (V, E)$  be a DAG, where vertices correspond to jobs and edges are sequence constraints:  $(u, v)$  means that job  $u$  should be performed before  $v$  (in other words,  $u$  must finish before  $v$  starts). Each *vertex* is associated with a positive weight that indicates the time to complete the corresponding job.

- Find the minimum time to perform all the jobs.

For instance, in the following graph, to finish  $d$ , we must first complete  $a$  and  $c$ ; total time 9 (4 for  $d$  and 5 for  $a$ ;  $c$  can be performed in parallel with  $a$ ).

Minimum time is the time required to finish  $f$ , i.e., 15.

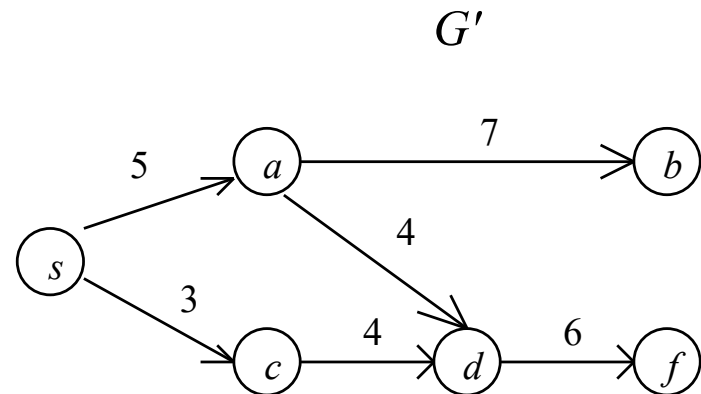
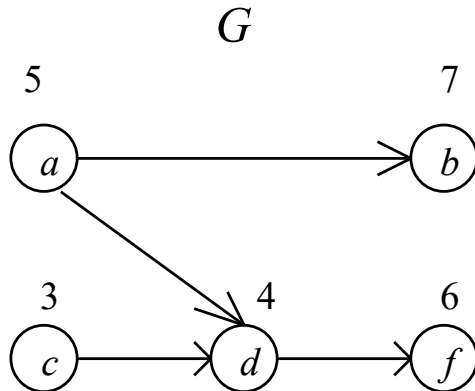


# Solution by Longest Path

I generate a new graph  $G' = (V', E')$  as follows.

- I add a new vertex  $s$  so that  $V' = V \cup \{s\}$ .
- All edges in  $E$  are included in  $E'$ .
- I add an edge from  $s$  to each vertex that has in-degree 0; (only  $s$  vertex has in-degree 0 in  $E'$ ).
- Then, I assign the weight of each edge  $(u, v)$  to be the weight of  $v$ .  
Thus,  $V' = V + 1$  and  $E' \leq E + V$  (since no more than  $V$  vertices have in-degree 0).

The earliest time that I can finish all jobs corresponds to the longest path in  $G'$ .



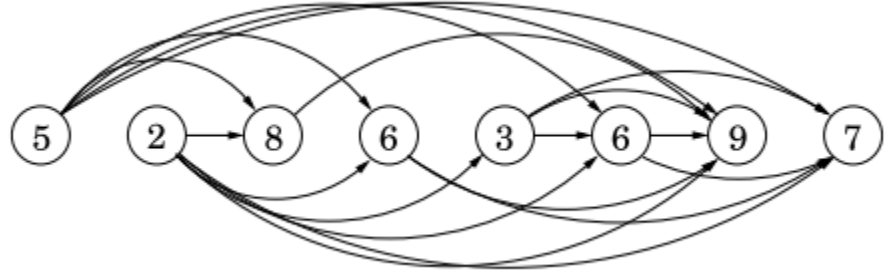
# Exercise on Longest Increasing Subsequence

**Input:** a sequence of numbers:  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$

- Example: 5, 2, 8, 6, 3, 6, 9, 7
- Increasing sequence : 5, 2, 8, 6, 3, 6, 9, 7
- Longest increasing sequence : 5, 2, 8, 6, 3, 6, 9, 7 or 5, 2, 8, 6, 3, 6, 9, 7

**Convert to a directed graph  $G = (V, E)$**

- $V = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$
- $E = \{(a_i, a_j) : i < j \text{ and } a_i < a_j\}$

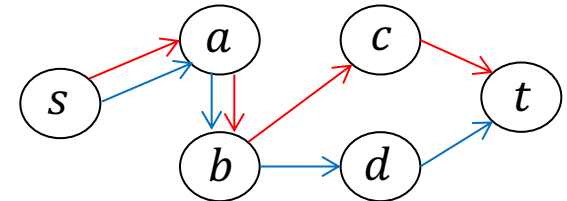
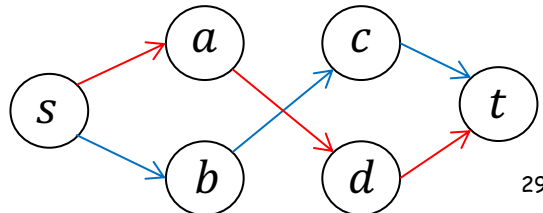
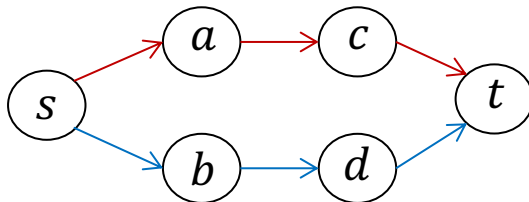
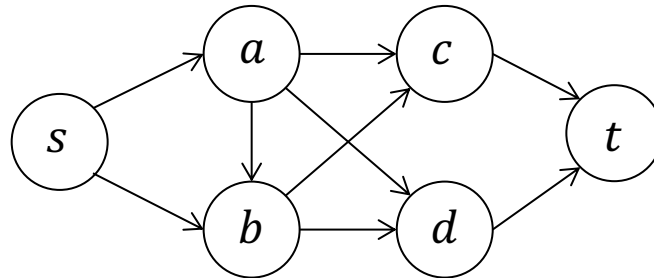


Equivalent graph problem: find longest path in  $G$  starting from every node with in-degree 0.

# Exercise on Count of Distinct Paths

Let  $s, t$  be two vertices in a connected, directed, acyclic graph (DAG)  $G$ , where  $s$  is the first and  $t$  the last vertex in the topological order. Design an algorithm that counts the number of **different** paths from  $s$  to  $t$  (no need to find the paths, just their count). Two paths are different if they differ in at least one edge)

How many different paths exist from  $s$  to  $t$  in following graph?



# Algorithm for Count of Distinct Paths

Let  $d[u]$  be number of distinct paths from source  $s$  to  $u$ . Initially set  $d[s] = 1$ , and  $d[u] = 0$  for  $u \neq s$ .

Do a topological sort on  $G$

For each  $u$  in topological order

$d[v] = d[v] + d[u]$  for every  $v \in \text{Adj}(u)$ .

