



## CSE 332: Data Abstractions

### Lecture 16: Shortest Paths

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Winter 2013

# *Announcements*

- **Homework 4** – due NOW
- No class on Monday (Holiday)
- **Project 2** – Phase B due Tues Feb 19<sup>th</sup> at 11pm
- **Homework 5** – due Fri Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>

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# *Today*

- Graphs
  - Graph Traversals
  - Shortest Paths

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## *Shortest Path Applications*

- Network routing
- Driving directions
- Cheap flight tickets
- Critical paths in project management  
(see textbook)
- ...

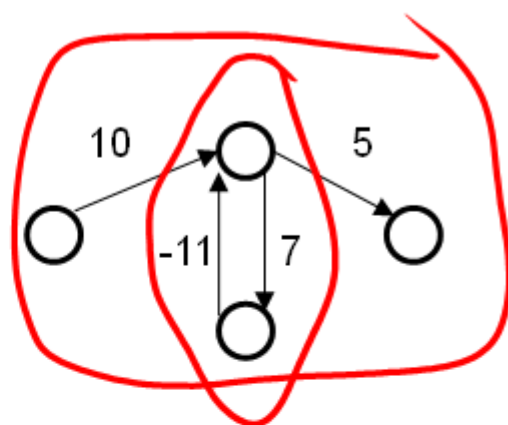
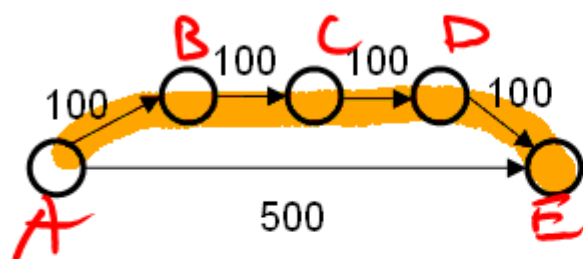
## Single source shortest paths

- Done: BFS to find the minimum path length from  $v$  to  $u$  in  $O(|E|+|V|)$
- Actually, can find the minimum path length from  $v$  to *every node*
  - Still  $O(|E|+|V|)$
  - No faster way for a “distinguished” destination in the worst-case
- Now: Weighted graphs

Given a weighted graph and node  $v$ ,  
find the minimum-cost path from  $v$  to every node

- As before, asymptotically no harder than for one destination
- Unlike before, BFS will not work

## Not as easy



Why BFS won't work: Shortest path may not have the fewest edges

- Annoying when this happens with costs of flights

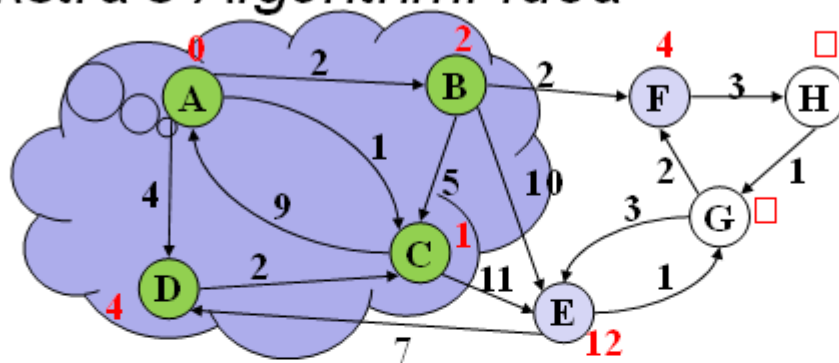
We will assume there are no negative weights

- *Problem* is *ill-defined* if there are negative-cost cycles
- *Today's algorithm* is *wrong* if edges can be negative
  - See homework

## Dijkstra's Algorithm

- Named after its inventor Edsger Dijkstra (1930-2002)
  - Truly one of the “founders” of computer science; 1972 Turing Award; this is just one of his many contributions
  - Sample quotation: “computer science is no more about computers than astronomy is about telescopes”
- The idea: reminiscent of BFS, but adapted to handle weights
  - Grow the set of nodes whose shortest distance has been computed
  - Nodes not in the set will have a “best distance so far”
  - A priority queue will turn out to be useful for efficiency

## Dijkstra's Algorithm: Idea



- Initially, start node has cost 0 and all other nodes have cost  $\infty$
- At each step:
  - Pick closest unknown vertex  $v$
  - Add it to the "cloud" of known vertices
  - Update distances for nodes with edges from  $v$
- That's it! (Have to prove it produces correct answers)



# The Algorithm

1. For each node  $v$ , set  $v.cost = \infty$  and  $v.known = false$
2. Set  $source.cost = 0$
3. While there are unknown nodes in the graph
  - a) Select the unknown node  $v$  with lowest cost
  - b) Mark  $v$  as known
  - c) For each edge  $(v, u)$  with weight  $w$ ,
 

```

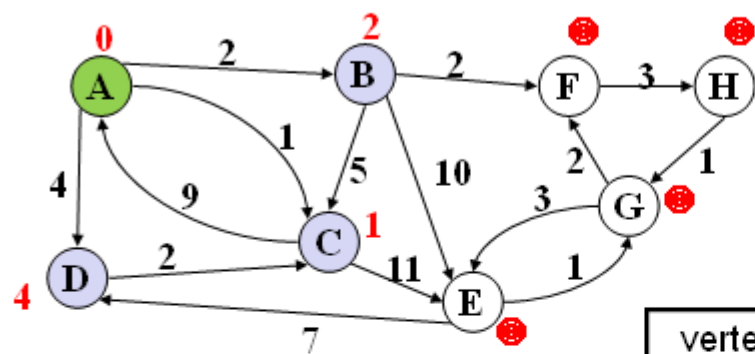
c1 = v.cost + w // cost of best path through v to u
c2 = u.cost // cost of best path to u previously known
if (c1 < c2) { // if the path through v is better
    u.cost = c1
    u.path = v // for computing actual paths
}
```

## *Important features*

- Once a vertex is marked known, the cost of the shortest path to that node is known
  - The path is also known by following back-pointers
- While a vertex is still not known, another shorter path to it might still be found



# Example #1

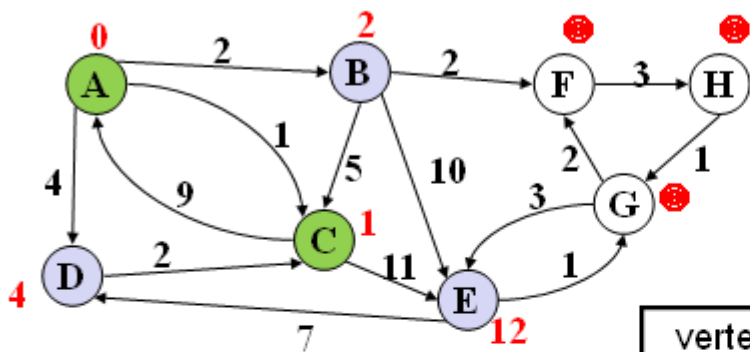


Order Added to Known Set:

A

vertex	known?	cost	path
A	Y	0	
B		$\leq 2$	A
C		$\leq 1$	A
D		$\leq 4$	A
E		??	
F		??	
G		??	
H		??	

# Example #1

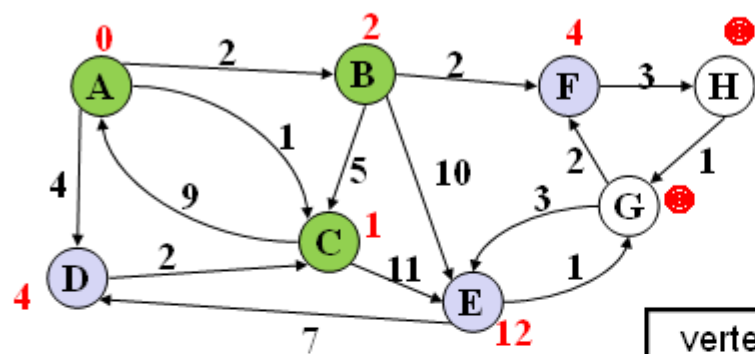


Order Added to Known Set:

A, C

vertex	known?	cost	path
A	Y	0	
B		$\leq 2$	A
C	Y	1	A
D		$\leq 4$	A
E		$\leq 12$	C
F		??	
G		??	
H		??	

# Example #1

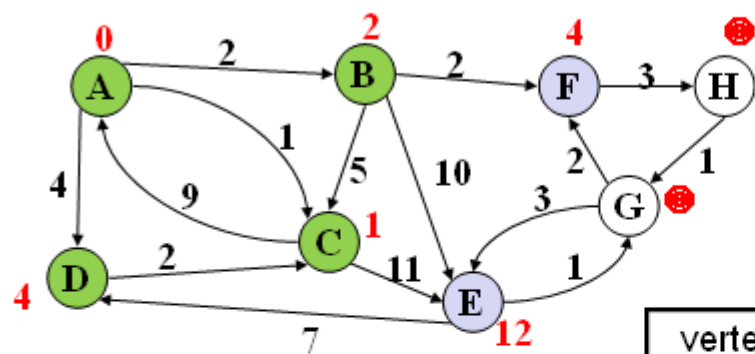


Order Added to Known Set:

A, C, B

vertex	known?	cost	path
A	Y	0	
B	Y	2	A
C	Y	1	A
D		$\leq 4$	A
E		$\leq 12$	C
F		$\leq 4$	B
G		??	
H		??	

# Example #1

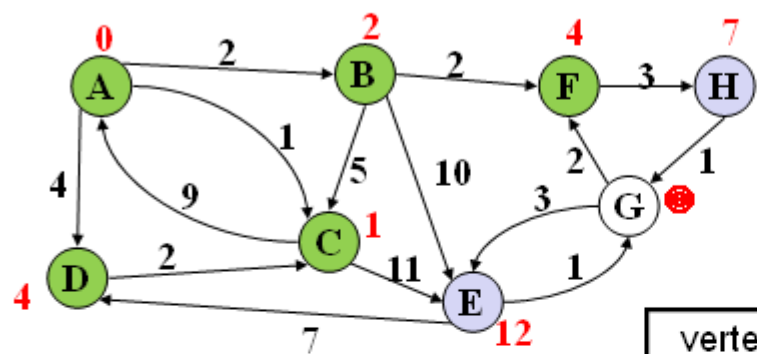


Order Added to Known Set:

A, C, B, D

vertex	known?	cost	path
A	Y	0	
B	Y	2	A
C	Y	1	A
D	Y	4	A
E		$\leq 12$	C
F		$\leq 4$	B
G		??	
H		??	

# Example #1



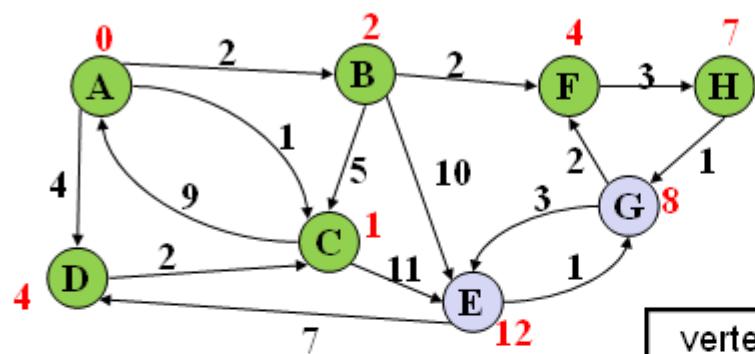
Order Added to Known Set:

A, C, B, D, F

vertex	known?	cost	path
A	Y	0	
B	Y	2	A
C	Y	1	A
D	Y	4	A
E		$\leq 12$	C
F	Y	4	B
G		??	
H		$\leq 7$	F



# Example #1

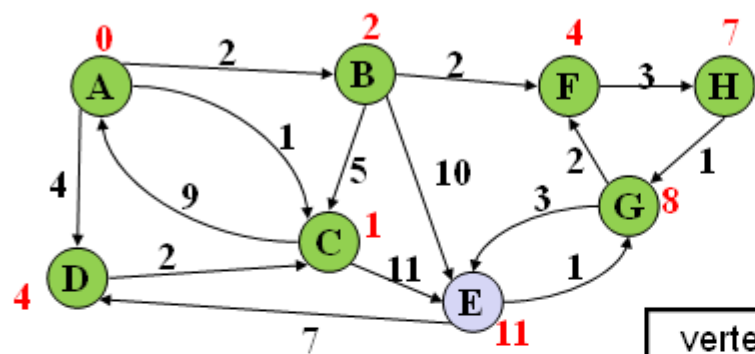


Order Added to Known Set:

A, C, B, D, F, H

vertex	known?	cost	path
A	Y	0	
B	Y	2	A
C	Y	1	A
D	Y	4	A
E		≤ 12	C
F	Y	4	B
G		≤ 8	H
H	Y	7	F

# Example #1

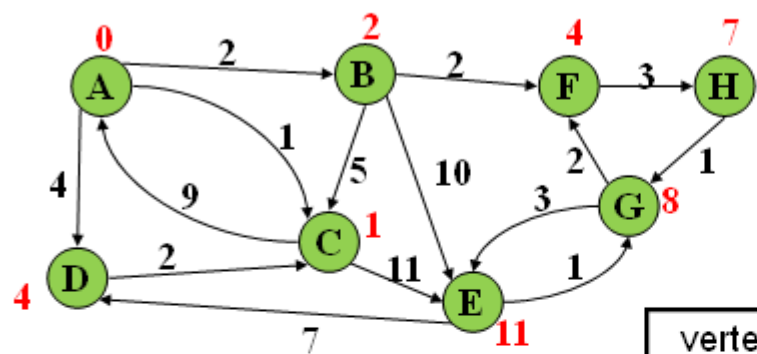


Order Added to Known Set:

A, C, B, D, F, H, G

vertex	known?	cost	path
A	Y	0	
B	Y	2	A
C	Y	1	A
D	Y	4	A
E		$\leq 11$	G
F	Y	4	B
G	Y	8	H
H	Y	7	F

# Example #1



Order Added to Known Set:

A, C, B, D, F, H, G, E

vertex	known?	cost	path
A	Y	0	
B	Y	2	A
C	Y	1	A
D	Y	4	A
E	Y	11	G
F	Y	4	B
G	Y	8	H
H	Y	7	F

## Features

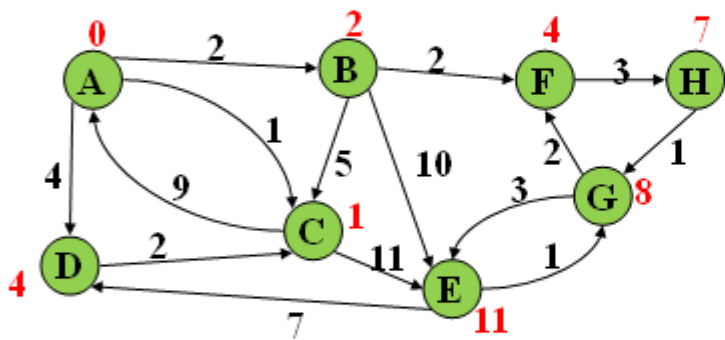
- When a vertex is marked known,  
the cost of the shortest path to that node is known
  - The path is also known by following back-pointers
- While a vertex is still not known,  
another shorter path to it **might** still be found

Note: The “Order Added to Known Set” is not important

- A detail about how the algorithm works (client doesn't care)
- Not used by the algorithm (implementation doesn't care)
- It is sorted by path-cost, resolving ties in some way

# Interpreting the Results

- Now that we're done, how do we get the path from, say, A to E?



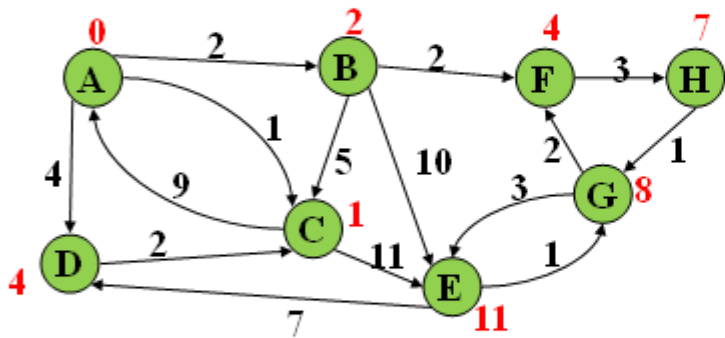
Order Added to Known Set:

A, C, B, D, F, H, G, E

vertex	known?	cost	path
A	Y	0	
B	Y	2	A
C	Y	1	A
D	Y	4	A
E	Y	11	G
F	Y	4	B
G	Y	8	H
H	Y	7	F

# Stopping Short

- How would this have worked differently if we were only interested in:
  - The path from A to G?
  - The path from A to D?

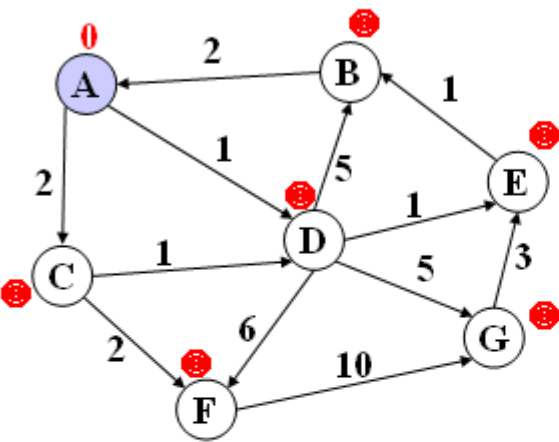


Order Added to Known Set:

A, C, B, D, F, H, G, E

vertex	known?	cost	path
A	Y	0	
B	Y	2	A
C	Y	1	A
D	Y	4	A
E	Y	11	G
F	Y	4	B
G	Y	8	H
H	Y	7	F

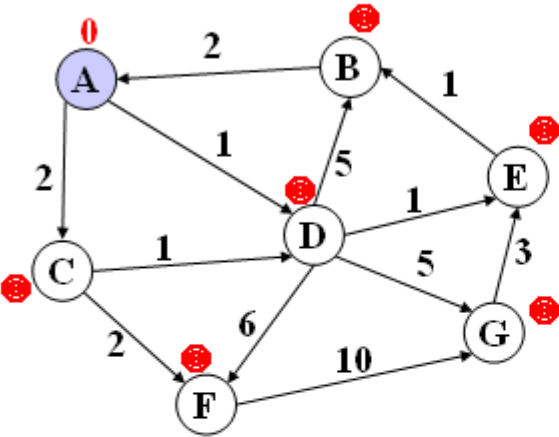
# Example #2



Order Added to Known Set:

vertex	known?	cost	path
A		0	
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			

# Example #2

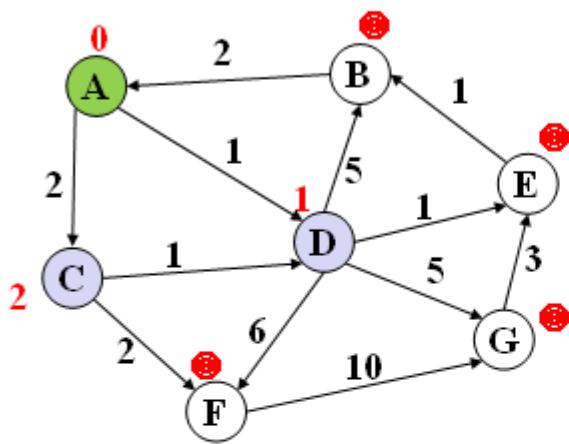


Order Added to Known Set:

vertex	known?	cost	path
A		0	
B		??	
C		??	
D		??	
E		??	
F		??	
G		??	



# Example #2

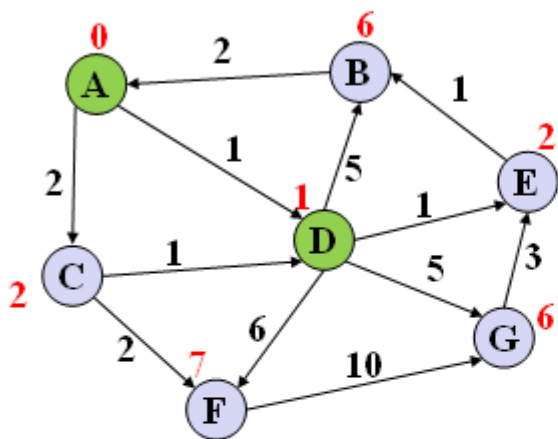


Order Added to Known Set:

A

vertex	known?	cost	path
A	Y	0	
B		??	
C		$\leq 2$	A
D		$\leq 1$	A
E		??	
F		??	
G		??	

# Example #2

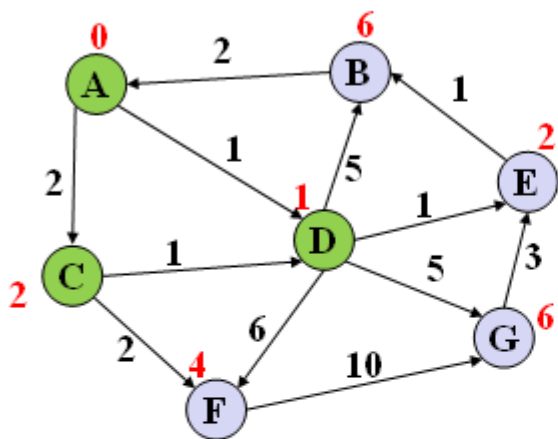


Order Added to Known Set:

A, D

vertex	known?	cost	path
A	Y	0	
B		$\leq 6$	D
C		$\leq 2$	A
D	Y	1	A
E		$\leq 2$	D
F		$\leq 7$	D
G		$\leq 6$	D

# Example #2

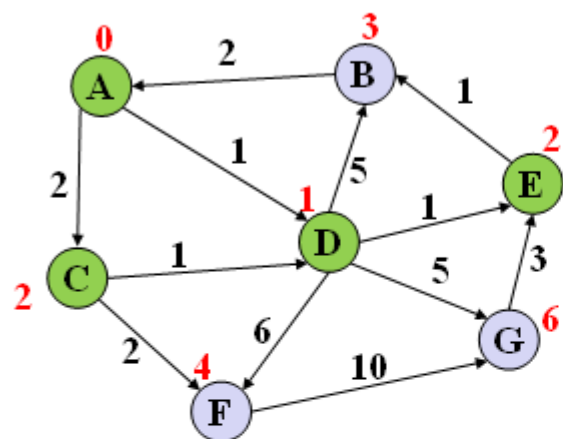


Order Added to Known Set:

A, D, C

vertex	known?	cost	path
A	Y	0	
B		$\leq 6$	D
C	Y	2	A
D	Y	1	A
E		$\leq 2$	D
F		$\leq 4$	C
G		$\leq 6$	D

# Example #2

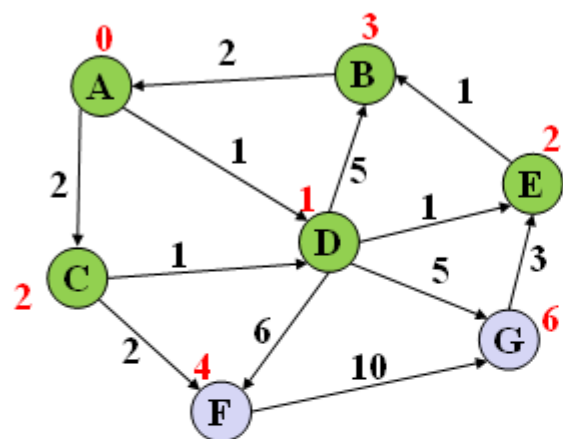


Order Added to Known Set:

A, D, C, E

vertex	known?	cost	path
A	Y	0	
B		$\leq 3$	E
C	Y	2	A
D	Y	1	A
E	Y	2	D
F		$\leq 4$	C
G		$\leq 6$	D

# Example #2

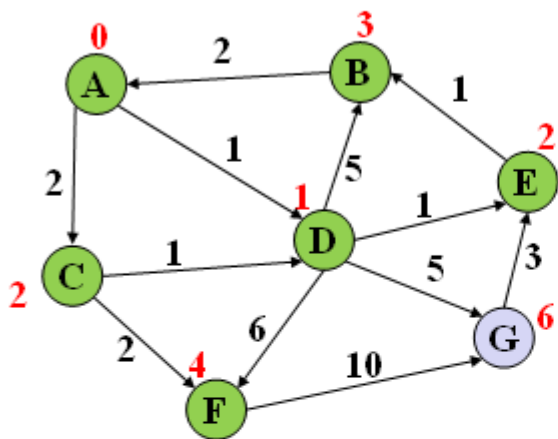


Order Added to Known Set:

A, D, C, E, B

vertex	known?	cost	path
A	Y	0	
B	Y	3	E
C	Y	2	A
D	Y	1	A
E	Y	2	D
F		≤ 4	C
G		≤ 6	D

# Example #2

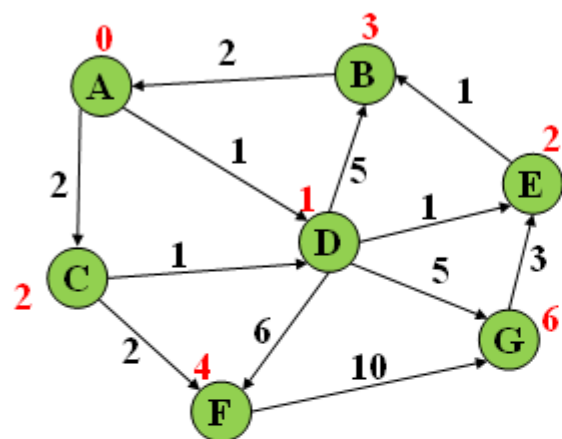


Order Added to Known Set:

A, D, C, E, B, F

vertex	known?	cost	path
A	Y	0	
B	Y	3	E
C	Y	2	A
D	Y	1	A
E	Y	2	D
F	Y	4	C
G		≤ 6	D

# Example #2

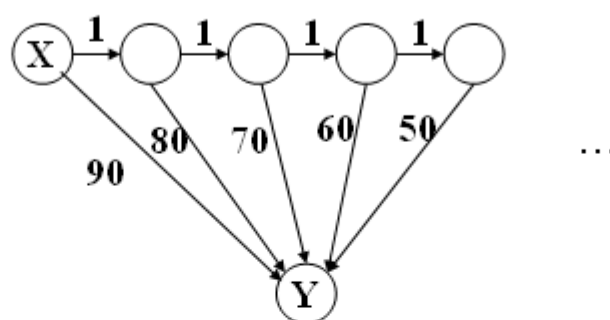


Order Added to Known Set:

A, D, C, E, B, F, G

vertex	known?	cost	path
A	Y	0	
B	Y	3	E
C	Y	2	A
D	Y	1	A
E	Y	2	D
F	Y	4	C
G	Y	6	D

## Example #3



How will the best-cost-so-far for Y proceed?

Is this expensive?





## A Greedy Algorithm

- Dijkstra's algorithm
  - For single-source shortest paths in a weighted graph (directed or undirected) with no negative-weight edges
- An example of a *greedy algorithm*:
  - At each step, irrevocably does what seems best at that step
    - A locally optimal step, not necessarily globally optimal
  - Once a vertex is known, it is not revisited
    - Turns out to be globally optimal

Making change for 15¢ using  
smallest #  
of coins

~~2015/05/13~~

25, 10, 5, 1

10 + 5 → 2 coins

25, 12, 10, 5, 1

12 + 1 + 1 + 1 = 4 coins

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## *Where are we?*

- What should we do after learning an algorithm?
  - Prove it is correct
    - Not obvious!
    - We will sketch the key ideas
  - Analyze its efficiency
    - Will do better by using a data structure we learned earlier!

## *Correctness: Intuition*

Rough intuition:

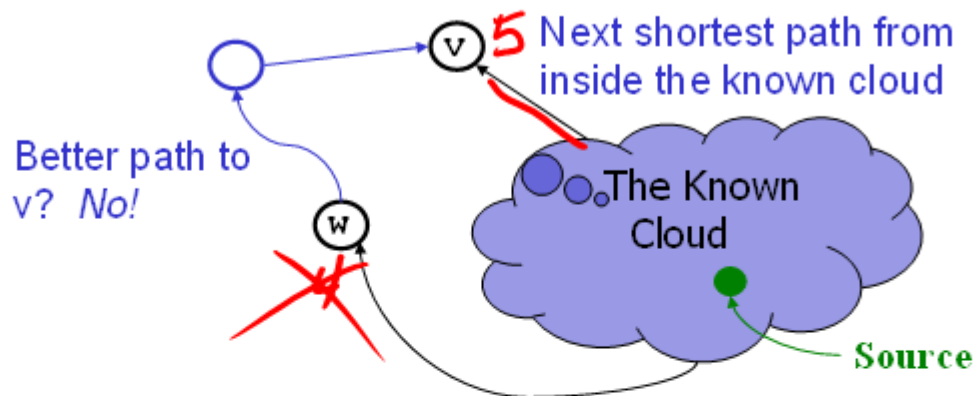
All the “known” vertices have the correct shortest path

- True initially: shortest path to start node has cost 0
- If it stays true every time we mark a node “known”, then by induction this holds and eventually everything is “known”

Key fact we need: When we mark a vertex “known” we won’t discover a shorter path later!

- This holds only because Dijkstra’s algorithm picks the node with the next shortest path-so-far
- The proof is by contradiction...

## Correctness: The Cloud (Rough Idea)



Suppose  $v$  is the next node to be marked known ("added to the cloud")

- The **best-known path** to  $v$  must have only nodes "in the cloud"
  - Since we've selected it, and we only know about paths through the cloud to a node right outside the cloud
- Assume the **actual shortest path** to  $v$  is different
  - It won't use only cloud nodes, (or we would know about it), so it must use non-cloud nodes
  - Let  $w$  be the *first* non-cloud node on this path.
  - The part of the path up to  $w$  is **already known** and must be shorter than the best-known path to  $v$ . So  $v$  would not have been picked.

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**Contradiction!**

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## Efficiency, first approach

Use pseudocode to determine asymptotic run-time

- Notice each edge is processed only once



```

dijkstra(Graph G, Node start) {
  for each node: x.cost=infinity, x.known=false
  start.cost = 0
  while(not all nodes are known) {
    b = find unknown node with smallest cost
    b.known = true
    for each edge (b,a) in G
      if(!a.known)
        if(b.cost + weight((b,a)) < a.cost) {
          a.cost = b.cost + weight((b,a))
          a.path = b
        }
  }
}
  
```

Handwritten annotations for complexity analysis:

- $O(V)$  for the first loop (initialization).
- $V$  times for the while loop.
- $O(V)$  for finding the smallest cost node.
- $O(V^2)$  for the while loop body.
- $O(E)$  for the inner loop (processing edges).
- Total complexity:  $O(V^2 + E)$ .

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## *Efficiency, first approach*

Use pseudocode to determine asymptotic run-time

- Notice each edge is processed only once

```

dijkstra(Graph G, Node start) {
  for each node: x.cost=infinity, x.known=false
  start.cost = 0
  while(not all nodes are known) {
    b = find unknown node with smallest cost
    b.known = true
    for each edge (b,a) in G
      if(!a.known)
        if(b.cost + weight((b,a)) < a.cost){
          a.cost = b.cost + weight((b,a))
          a.path = b
        }
  }
}

```

Complexity analysis for the pseudocode above:

- $O(|V|)$  for the initialization loop (for each node).
- $O(|V|^2)$  for the while loop (finding the smallest cost node for each iteration).
- $O(|E|)$  for the inner loop (processing each edge once).
- Total complexity:  $O(|V|^2)$ .

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## *Improving asymptotic running time*

- So far:  $O(|V|^2)$
- We had a similar “problem” with topological sort being  $O(|V|^2)$  due to each iteration looking for the node to process next
  - We solved it with a queue of zero-degree nodes
  - But here we need the lowest-cost node and costs can change as we process edges
- Solution?



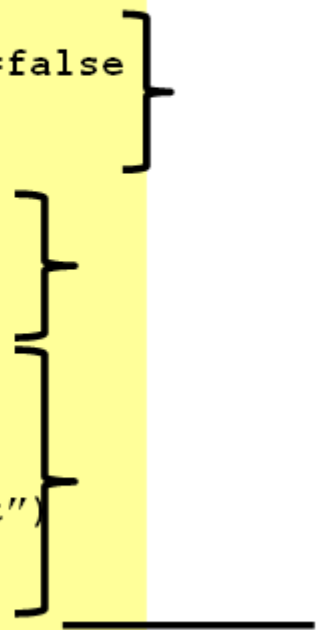
## *Improving (?) asymptotic running time*

- So far:  $O(|V|^2)$
- We had a similar “problem” with topological sort being  $O(|V|^2)$  due to each iteration looking for the node to process next
  - We solved it with a queue of zero-degree nodes
  - But here we need the lowest-cost node and costs can change as we process edges
- Solution?
  - A priority queue holding all unknown nodes, sorted by cost
  - But must support `decreaseKey` operation
    - Must maintain a reference from each node to its position in the priority queue
    - Conceptually simple, but can be a pain to code up

## *Efficiency, second approach*

Use pseudocode to determine asymptotic run-time

```
dijkstra(Graph G, Node start) {  
  for each node: x.cost=infinity, x.known=false  
  start.cost = 0  
  build-heap with all nodes  
  while(heap is not empty) {  
    b = deleteMin()  
    b.known = true  
    for each edge (b,a) in G  
      if(!a.known)  
        if(b.cost + weight((b,a)) < a.cost){  
          decreaseKey(a,"new cost - old cost")  
          a.path = b  
        }  
  }  
}
```



## Efficiency, second approach

Use pseudocode to determine asymptotic run-time

```

dijkstra(Graph G, Node start) {
  for each node: x.cost=infinity, x.known=false
  start.cost = 0
  build-heap with all nodes
  while(heap is not empty) {
    b = deleteMin()
    b.known = true
    for each edge (b,a) in G
      if(!a.known)
        if(b.cost + weight((b,a)) < a.cost){
          → decreaseKey(a, "new cost - old cost")
          a.path = b
        }
  }
}

```

Complexity analysis:

- $O(|V|)$  for the initialization of node costs and building the heap.
- $O(|V|\log|V|)$  for the `deleteMin()` operation in the while loop.
- $O(|E|\log|V|)$  for the `decreaseKey` operation in the while loop.
- Total complexity:  $O(|V|\log|V| + |E|\log|V|)$

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## *Dense vs. sparse again*

- First approach:  $O(|V|^2)$
- Second approach:  $O(|V|\log|V|+|E|\log|V|)$
- So which is better?
  - Sparse:  $O(|V|\log|V|+|E|\log|V|)$  (if  $|E| > |V|$ , then  $O(|E|\log|V|)$ )
  - Dense:  $O(|V|^2)$
- But, remember these are worst-case and asymptotic
  - Priority queue might have slightly worse constant factors
  - On the other hand, for “normal graphs”, we might call `decreaseKey` rarely (or not percolate far), making  $|E|\log|V|$  more like  $|E|$

## *What comes next?*

In the logical course progression, we would next study

1. All-pairs-shortest paths
2. Minimum spanning trees

But to align lectures with projects and homeworks, instead we will

- Start parallelism and concurrency
- Come back to graphs at the end of the course
  - We might skip (1) except to point out where to learn more

Note toward the future:

- We can't do all of graphs last because of the CSE312 co-requisite (needed for study of NP)