

Dijkstra's Algorithm Verification

Yazhe Feng

March 14, 2019

1 Dijkstra's Algorithm

1.1 Pseudocode

Given input graph g and source node s with types:

g : Graph gsize weight
 s : Node gsize

We denote (u, v) as an edge from node u to v , $weight(u, v)$ as the weight of edge (u, v) . For any two nodes u, w that are not connected by an edge in the graph, we let $weight(u, w)$ equals infinity. We define $unexplored$ as the list of unexplored nodes, and $dist$ as the list storing distance from s to each node $n \in g$

(initially $unexplored$ contains all nodes in graph g)
 $unexplored$: List(Node gsize)
 $unexplored = \{v : v \in g\}$

(node value is used to index $dist$, initially distance of all nodes are infinity except the source node)
 $dist$: List weight
 $dist[s] = 0, dist[a] = infinity, \forall a \in g, a \neq s$

The Dijkstra's Algorithm runs as follows: Given graph g and source node s , $dist$ stores the distance value from s to all nodes in g calculated by the Dijkstra's algorithm, $dist[v]$ gives the corresponding distance value of v from s . We index $unexplored$ and $dist$ by the number of iterations. Specifically, denote u_i as the node being explored at the i^{th} iteration, and denote $dist_i$, $unexplored_i$ as the value of distance list and unexplored list at the beginning of the i^{th} iteration. Then during each iteration the Dijkstra's Algorithm calculates $dist$, $unexplored$, $explored$ as follows:

$\forall k \geq 1$
choose $u_k \in unexplored_k$ **and** $\forall u' \in unexplored_k, dist_k[u_k] \leq dist_k[u']$
 $unexplored_{k+1} = unexplored_k - \{u_k\}$
 $\forall v \in g,$
 $dist_{k+1}[v] = \min(dist_k[v], (dist_k[u_k] + weight(u_k, v)))$

1.2 Assumptions

1. Weight of edges in graph are non-negative and smaller than infinity
2. Distance value can only be zero, infinity, or summation of edge weights
3. All nodes n and edge e are valid: $n, e \in g$

2 Definition

Definition 2.1. Path

(We adopt the definition of path presented in the *Discrete Mathematics with Applications* book by SUSANNA S. EPP.)

A path from node v to w is a finite alternating sequence of adjacent vertices and edges of G , which does not contain any repeated edge or vertex. A path from v to w has the form:

$$ve_0v_0e_1v_2\dots v_{n-1}e_nw$$

where e_i is an edge in g with endpoints v_{i-1}, v_i . We denote the set of paths from v to w as $path(v, w)$.

Definition 2.2. Prefix of Path

Given a path from node v to w : $p(v, w) = ve_0v_0e_1v_2\dots v_{n-1}e_nw$, the prefix of this $v - w$ path is defined as the subsequence of $p(v, w)$ that starts with v and ends with some node $w' \in p(v, w)$ (w' is a vertex in the sequence $p(v, w)$).

Definition 2.3. Length of Path

The length of a path $p = ve_0v_0e_1v_2\dots v_{n-1}e_nw$ is the sum of the weights of all edges in p . We write:

$$length(p) = \sum weight(e_i), \forall e_i \in p.$$

Definition 2.4. Shortest Path

Denote $\Delta(s, v)$ as the shortest path from s to v , and $\delta(v)$ as the length of $\Delta(s, v)$. $\Delta(s, v)$ must fulfill:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(s, v) &\in path(s, v) \\ \text{and} \\ \forall p' \in path(s, v), \delta(v) = length(\Delta(s, v)) &\leq length(p') \end{aligned}$$

3 Proof of Correctness

3.1 Proof of Termination

The inner for loop is guaranteed to terminate as the algorithm goes through each adjacent node exactly once. As the size of list `unexplored` decreases by one during each iteration of the while loop, the algorithm is guaranteed to terminate.

3.2 Proof of Correctness

Denote *explored* as the list of nodes in g but not in *unexplored*, i.e., *explored* stored all nodes whose neighbors have been updated by the algorithm. We index *explored* by the number of iterations, such that $explored_i$ denotes the value of *explored* at the beginning of the i^{th} iteration.

Lemma 3.1. Given any two nodes v, w , the prefix of the shortest path $\Delta(v, w)$ is also a shortest path.

Proof. We will prove Lemma 3.1 by contradiction.

Consider any node q in the sequence of $\Delta(v, w)$, we have $\Delta(v, w) = ve_0v_0e_1v_2...v_iqv_j...v_{n-1}e_nw$. Suppose the prefix of $\Delta(v, w)$ from v to q , denote as $p(v, q)$, is not the shortest path from v to q . Then we know $p(v, q) = ve_0v_0e_1v_2...v_iq$ is a path from v to q and $length(p(v, q)) > length(\Delta(v, q))$.

Based on the definition of shortest path, we know:

$$length(\Delta(v, w)) \leq length(p), \forall p \in path(v, w)$$

Denote the path after the node q as $p(q, w) = qv_j...v_{n-1}e_nw$, since $\Delta(v, w) = ve_0v_0e_1v_2...v_iqv_j...v_{n-1}e_nw$, then $\Delta(v, w) = p(v, q) + p(q, w)$, and that $length(\Delta(v, w)) = length(p(v, q)) + length(p(q, w))$. Then we have:

$$length(\Delta(v, w)) = length(p(v, q)) + length(p(q, w)) \leq length(p), \forall p \in path(v, w)$$

Since $p(v, q)$ is not the shortest path from v to q by assumption, there exists another $v - w$ path $p'(v, w)$ such that:

$$\begin{aligned} p'(v, w) &\in path(v, w) \\ p'(v, w) &= \Delta(v, q) + p(q, w) \\ length(p'(v, w)) &= length(\Delta(v, q)) + length(p(q, w)) \\ &< length(p(v, q)) + length(p(q, w)) \\ \text{i.e. } length(p'(v, w)) &< length(\Delta(v, w)) \end{aligned}$$

Hence we have reached a contradiction. Thus by the principle of prove by contradiction, for any the prefix $p(v, q)$ of $\Delta(v, w)$ is the shortest path from v to q . Lemma 3.1 holds. \square

Lemma 3.2. After the n^{th} iteration for $n \geq 1$, for all node $v \in explored_{n+1}$, if $dist_{n+1}[v] \neq infinity$, then $dist_{n+1}[v]$ is the length of some $s - v$ path, i.e, $path(s, v) \neq \emptyset$.

Proof. We will prove Lemma 3.2 by inducting on the number of iterations.

Let $P(n)$ be: After the n^{th} iteration, $n \geq 1$, for all node $v \in g$, if $dist_{n+1}[v] \neq infinity$, then $dist_{n+1}[v]$ is the length of some $s - v$ path.

Base Case: We shall show $P(1)$ holds.

Based on the algorithm, initially $dist_1[s] = 0$ and for all node $v \in g, v \neq s, dist_1[v] = infinity$, then s is the only node whose distance value is not infinity. Based on the definition of path, the path from the source node s to itself is s , $path(s, s) = \{s\}$. Hence $P(1)$ holds.

Inductive Hypothesis: Suppose $\forall i, 1 \leq i \leq k$, $P(i)$ holds. That is, after the i^{th} iteration, $1 \leq i \leq k$, for all nodes $v \in g$, if $dist_{i+1}[v] \neq infinity$, then $dist_{i+1}[v]$ is the length of some $s - v$ path.

Inductive Step: We shall show $P(k+1)$ holds.

For node u_{k+1} being explored during the $(k+1)^{th}$ iteration, based on the algorithm, $dist_{k+1}[u_{k+1}]$ is calculated as:

$$dist_{k+2}[u_{k+1}] = \min(dist_{k+1}[u_{k+1}], dist_{k+1}[u_{k+1}] + weight(u_{k+1}, u_{k+1}))$$

Since the distance value from u_{k+1} to itself is 0, then $dist_{k+2}[u_{k+1}] = dist_{k+1}[u_{k+1}]$, and that $dist_{k+2}[u_{k+1}]$ and $dist_{k+1}[u_{k+1}]$ are the length of the same $s - u_{k+1}$ path if there exists one.

If $dist_{k+2}[u_{k+1}] \neq infinity$, then $dist_{k+1}[u_{k+1}] = dist_{k+2}[u_{k+1}] \neq infinity$. Since $k \leq k$ and $dist_{k+1}[u_{k+1}] \neq infinity$, then based on the inductive hypothesis, $dist_{k+1}[u_{k+1}]$ is the length of some $s - u_{k+1}$ path, and hence $dist_{k+2}[u_{k+1}]$ is the length of some $s - u_{k+1}$ path.

Based on the algorithm, we have $dist_{k+2}[v] = \min(dist_{k+1}[v], dist_{k+1}[u_{k+1}] + weight(u_{k+1}, v))$. There are two cases:

- **Case 1:** $dist_{k+1}[v] < dist_{k+1}[u_{k+1}] + weight(u_{k+1}, v)$.

In this case, $dist_{k+2}[v] = dist_{k+1}[v]$. Then if $dist_{k+2}[v] \neq infinity$, we have $dist_{k+1}[v] \neq infinity$, and that $dist_{k+2}[v]$ and $dist_{k+1}[v]$ are the length of the same $s - v$ path if there exists one. Since $dist_{k+1}[v] \neq infinity$, the inductive hypothesis implies that $dist_{k+1}[v]$ is the length of some $s - v$ path, hence $dist_{k+2}[v]$ is the length of some $s - v$ path. $P(k+1)$ holds.

- **Case 2:** $dist_{k+1}[v] \geq dist_{k+1}[u_{k+1}] + weight(u_{k+1}, v)$

Under this case, $dist_{k+2}[v] = dist_{k+1}[u_{k+1}] + weight(u_{k+1}, v)$. If $dist_{k+2}[v] \neq infinity$, then it follows that $dist_{k+1}[u_{k+1}] = dist_{k+2}[v] - weight(u_{k+1}, v) \neq infinity$. Then the inductive hypothesis implies that $dist_{k+1}[u_{k+1}]$ must be the length of some $s - u_{k+1}$ path, denote as $p(s, u_{k+1})$. Since there is an edge $(u_{k+1}, v) \in g$, then $dist_{k+2}[v] = dist_{k+1}[u_{k+1}] + weight(u_{k+1}, v)$ must be the length of the $s - v$ path through u_{k+1} . $P(k+1)$ holds.

Hence $P(k+1)$ holds for u_{k+1} and all nodes $v \in g$ other than u_{k+1} . By the principle of prove by induction, $P(n)$ holds. **Lemma 3.2** proved. \square

Lemma 3.3. For any node $v \in g$, if after the i^{th} iteration, $dist_{i+1}[v] = \delta(v)$, then for each proceeding j^{th} iteration, $j > i$, $dist_{j+1}[v] = dist_{i+1}[v] = \delta(v)$.

Proof. We will prove **Lemma 3.3** by induction on the number iterations after the i^{th} iteration.

Let $P(n)$ be: For any node $v \in g$, if after the i^{th} iteration, $dist_{i+1}[v] = \delta(v)$, then for the $(i+n)^{th}$ iteration, $n \geq 1$, $dist_{i+n+1}[v] = dist_{i+1}[v] = \delta(v)$

Base Case: We shall show $P(1)$ holds.

During the $(i+1)^{th}$ iteration, suppose u_{i+1} is the node being explored, then $dist_{i+2}[v]$ is calculated as:

$$dist_{i+2}[v] = \min(dist_{i+1}[v], dist_{i+1}[u_{i+1}] + weight(u_{i+1}, v))$$

If $(u_{i+1}, v) \in g$, $dist_{i+1}[u_{i+1}]$ is the length of some $s - u_{i+1}$ path, then $(dist_{i+1}[u_{i+1}] + weight(u_{i+1}, v))$ is the length of some $s - v$ path. Since $dist_{i+1}[v] = \delta(v)$, based on the definition of shortest path, $dist_{i+1}[v] \leq dist_{i+1}[u_{i+1}] + weight(u_{i+1}, v)$, hence $dist_{i+2}[v] = dist_{i+1}[v] = \delta(v)$.

If u_{i+1} does not have an edge to v , $weight(u_{i+1}, v) = \infty$, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} dist_{i+2}[v] &= \min(dist_{i+1}[v], dist_{i+1}[u_{i+1}] + weight(u_{i+1}, v)) \\ &= \min(dist_{i+1}[v], dist_{i+1}[u_{i+1}] + \infty) \\ &= dist_{i+1}[v] = \delta(v). \end{aligned}$$

Hence $dist_{i+2}[v] = dist_{i+1}[v] = \delta(v)$. P(1) holds.

Inductive Hypothesis: Suppose P(k) holds, that is, if after the i^{th} iteration, $dist_{i+1}[v] = \delta(v)$, then for the $(i+k)^{th}$ iteration, $n \geq 1$, $dist_{i+k+1}[v] = dist_{i+1}[v] = \delta(v)$.

Inductive Step: We shall show P(k+1) holds.

Based on the algorithm, for $dist_{i+k+2}[v]$, we have:

$$dist_{i+k+2}[v] = \min(dist_{i+k+1}[v], dist_{i+k+1}[u_{i+k+1}] + weight(u_{i+k+1}, v))$$

If u_{i+k+1} does not have an edge to v , then $weight(u_{i+k+1}, v) = \infty$, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} dist_{i+k+2}[v] &= \min(dist_{i+k+1}[v], dist_{i+k+1}[u_{i+k+1}] + weight(u_{i+k+1}, v)) \\ &= \min(dist_{i+k+1}[v], dist_{i+k+1}[u_{i+k+1}] + \infty) \end{aligned}$$

Based on our inductive hypothesis, $dist_{i+k+1}[v] = dist_{i+1}[v] = \delta(v)$, then if $weight(u_{i+k+1}, v) = \infty$, we have $dist_{i+k+2}[v] = dist_{i+k+1}[v] = \delta(v)$.

If $weight(u_{i+k+1}, v) \neq \infty$, $dist_{i+k+1}[u_{i+k+1}]$ is the length of some $s - u_{i+k+1}$ path, then $(dist_{i+k+1}[u_{i+k+1}] + weight(u_{i+k+1}, v))$ is the length of some $s - v$ path. Based on the definition of shortest path distance, $dist_{i+k+1}[v] = \delta(v) \leq (dist_{i+k+1}[u_{i+k+1}] + weight(u_{i+k+1}, v))$. Hence:

$$\begin{aligned} dist_{i+k+2}[v] &= \min(dist_{i+k+1}[v], dist_{i+k+1}[u_{i+k+1}] + weight(u_{i+k+1}, v)) \\ &= \min(\delta(v), dist_{i+k+1}[u_{i+k+1}] + weight(u_{i+k+1}, v)) \\ &= \delta(v) = dist_{i+1}[v] \end{aligned}$$

Thus P(k+1) holds. By the principle of prove by induction, P(n) holds. **Lemma 3.3** proved. \square

Lemma 3.4. For any node $v \in g$, for each $u_i \in explored_{n+1}$, $n \geq 1, 1 \leq i \leq n$, $dist_{n+1}[v] \leq dist_i[u_i] + weight(u_i, v)$.

Proof. We will prove Lemma 3.4 by inducting on the number n .

Let P(n) be: for any node $v \in g$, for each $u_i \in explored_{n+1}$, $n \geq 1, 1 \leq i \leq n$, $dist_{n+1}[v] \leq dist_i[u_i] + weight(u_i, v)$.

Base Case: We shall show P(1) holds.

Based on the algorithm, $dist_1[s] = 0$, and for all node $v \in g$ other than s , $dist_1[v] = \infty$, and $explored_2$ only contains s . For node s , $dist_2[s] = 0 \leq dist_1[s] + weight(s, s) = 0$. For all node $v \in g$ other than s , we have:

$$\begin{aligned} dist_2[v] &= \min(dist_1[v], dist_1[s] + weight(s, v)) \\ &\leq dist_1[s] + weight(s, v) \end{aligned}$$

Since s is the only node in $explored_2$, then the above equation directly shows that $P(1)$ holds.

Induction Hypothesis: Suppose $P(k)$ holds for $k > 1$. That is, for any node $v \in g$, for each $u_i \in explored_{k+1}$, $k > 1, 1 \leq i \leq k$, $dist_{k+1}[v] \leq dist_i[u_i] + weight(u_i, v)$.

Inductive Step: we shall show $P(k+1)$ holds. That is, for $k+1 > 1$, for all nodes $v \in g$, for each $u_i \in explored_{k+2}$, $k > 1, 1 \leq i \leq k+1$, $dist_{k+2}[v] \leq dist_i[u_i] + weight(u_i, v)$.

Suppose u_{k+1} is the node being explored during the $(k+1)^{th}$ iteration, then $explored_{k+2} = explored_{k+1} \cup \{u_{k+1}\}$. For all node $v \in g$, we have:

$$dist_{k+2}[v] = \min(dist_{k+1}[v], dist_{k+1}[u_{k+1}] + weight(u_{k+1}, v))$$

Hence we have:

$$\begin{aligned} dist_{k+2}[v] &\leq dist_{k+1}[v] \quad ([E3.4.1]) \\ dist_{k+2} &\leq dist_{k+1}[u_{k+1}] + weight(u_{k+1}, v) \quad ([E3.4.2]) \end{aligned}$$

The induction hypothesis implies that $dist_{k+1}[v] \leq dist_i[u_i] + weight(u_i, v), \forall u_i \in explored_{k+1}$. Combining with [E3.4.1], we have:

$$dist_{k+2}[v] \leq dist_i[u_i] + weight(u_i, v), \forall u_i \in explored_{k+1} \quad [E3.4.3]$$

Since $explored_{k+2} = explored_{k+1} \cup \{u_{k+1}\}$, then equation [E3.4.2] and equation [E3.4.3] implies that $dist_{k+2}[v] \leq dist_i[u_i] + weight(u_i, v), \forall u_i \in explored_{k+1} \cup \{u_{k+1}\} = explored_{k+2}$. $P(k+1)$ holds. By the principle of prove by induction, $P(n)$ holds. **Lemma 3.4** proved. \square

Lemma 3.5. Assume g is a connected graph. For all node $v \in explored_{n+1}$:

1. $dist_{n+1}[v] < \infty$
2. $dist_{n+1}[v] \leq \delta(v'), \forall v' \in unexplored_{n+1}$.
3. $dist_{n+1}[v] = \delta(v)$

Proof. We will prove **Lemma 3.5** by inducting on the number of iterations.

Let $P(n)$ be: For a connected graph g , for $n \geq 1$, for all node $w \in explored_{n+1}$: (L1) $dist_{n+1}[w] < \infty$; (L2) $dist_{n+1}[w] \leq \delta(w'), \forall w' \in unexplored_{n+1}$; (L3) $dist_{n+1}[w] = \delta(w)$.

Base Case: We shall show $P(1)$ holds

Based on the algorithm, during the first iteration, the node with minimum distance value is the source node s with $dist_1[s] = 0$. Hence during the first iteration, only s is removed from $unexplored_1$ and added to $explored_2$. Since $dist_2[s] = 0 < \infty$, then (L1) holds for $P(1)$. Since all edge weights are non-negative, then the shortest distance value from s to s is indeed 0, hence $dist_2[s] = 0 = \delta(s)$ and $dist_2[s] \leq \delta(v'), \forall v' \in unexplored_2$. Thus (L2) and (L3) holds for $P(1)$. Hence $P(1)$ holds.

Induction Hypothesis: Suppose $P(i)$ is true for all $1 \leq i \leq k$. That is, for all $1 < i \leq k$, for all

node $w \in explored_{i+1}$: (L1) $dist_{i+1}[w] < \infty$; (L2) $dist_{i+1}[w] \leq \delta(w')$, $\forall w' \in unexplored_{i+1}$; (L3) $dist_{i+1}[w] = \delta(w)$;

Inductive Step: We shall show $P(k+1)$ holds. That is, for all node $w \in explored_{k+2}$, (L1) $dist_{k+2}[w] \neq \infty$; (L2) $dist_{k+2}[w] \leq \delta(w')$, $\forall w' \in unexplored_{k+2}$; (L3) $dist_{k+2}[w] = \delta(w)$;

Suppose u_{k+1} is the node added into $explored$ during the $(k+1)^{th}$ iteration, then $explored_{k+2} = explored_{k+1} \cup \{u_{k+1}\}$. We will show that (L1)(L2) and (L3) holds for all nodes in $explored_{k+1}$ in **Part (a)**, and **Part (b)** proves (L1)(L2)(L3) holds for u_{k+1} , so that the statements holds for all nodes in $explored_{k+2}$.

- **Part(a): WTP: After the $(k+1)^{th}$ iteration, $\forall w \in explored_{k+1}$, (L1)(L2)(L3) holds.**

Consider each node $q \in (explored_{k+1} \cap explored_{k+2}) = explored_{k+1}$, q must be explored before the $(k+1)^{th}$ iteration. Suppose q is explored during the i^{th} iteration for some $i < k+1$, then based on our induction hypothesis, $dist_{i+1}[q] = \delta(q)$, and $\delta(q) \leq \delta(q')$, $\forall q' \in unexplored_{i+1}$.

Proof of (L3): Since for each node $q \in explored_{k+1}$, the induction hypothesis implies that $dist_{k+1}[q] = \delta(q)$, then **Lemma 3.3** implies that $dist_{k+2}[q] = dist_{k+1}[q] = \delta(q)$. (L3) holds for $explored_{k+1}$.

Proof of (L2): Based on the algorithm, for each iteration, the algorithm explores exactly one node and never revisits any explored nodes. For each node $q \in explored_{k+1}$ mentioned above, since q is explored before the $(k+1)^{th}$ iteration, then $unexplored_{k+1} \subseteq unexplored_{i+1}$. Since $\delta(q) \leq \delta(q')$, $\forall q' \in unexplored_{i+1}$, and $unexplored_{i+1}$ includes all node in $unexplored_{k+1}$, then $\delta(q) \leq \delta(q')$, $\forall q' \in unexplored_{k+1}$. Since proof of (L3) above shows that $dist_{k+2}[q] = \delta(q)$, then $dist_{k+2}[q] \leq \delta(q')$, $\forall q' \in unexplored_{k+1}$. (L2) holds for $explored_{k+1}$.

Proof of (L1): Since the induction hypothesis implies that $\forall q \in explored_{k+1}$, $dist_{k+1}[q] < \infty$, and the proof of (L3) above shows that $dist_{k+2}[q] = dist_{k+1}[q]$, then $dist_{k+2}[q] < \infty$. (L1) holds for $explored_{k+1}$.

Hence we have proved that both (1) and (2) holds for all nodes in $explored_{k+1}$.

- **Part(b): (L1)(L2)(L3) holds for $\{u_{k+1}\}$.**
Specifically, we want to show: (L1) $dist_{k+2}[u_{k+1}] < \infty$; (L2) $dist_{k+2}[u_{k+1}] \leq \delta(v')$, $\forall v' \in unexplored_{k+2}$, and (L3) $dist_{k+2}[u_{k+1}] = \delta(u_{k+1})$.

1. (L1) $dist_{k+2}[u_{k+1}] \neq \infty$

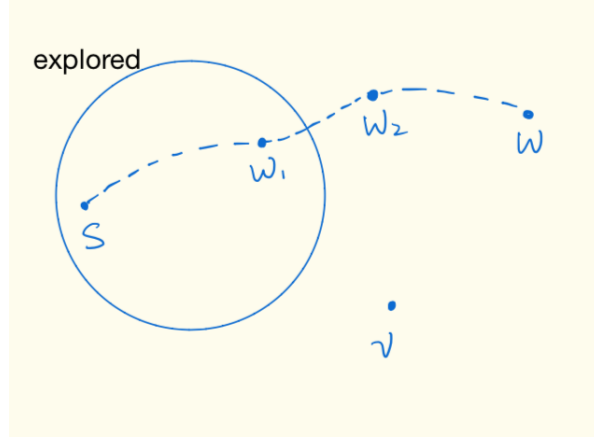
Since g is a connected graph, then s must have a path to u_{k+1} . Since u_{k+1} is the node currently being explored, then we know there must exists a $s - u_{k+1}$ path, denote as $p(s, u_{k+1})$, such any node proceeding u_{k+1} in $p(s, u_{k+1})$ are explored before u_{k+1} , i.e., in $explored_{k+1}$.

Denote the node right before u_{k+1} in $p(s, u_{k+1})$ as u' , $u' \in explored_{k+1}$. Suppose u' is explored during the i^{th} iteration, $i < k+1$. The induction hypothesis implies that $dist_{i+1}[u'] < \infty$. Since $dist_{i+1}[u'] = \min(dist_i[u'], dist_i[u'] + weight(u', u')) = \min(dist_i[u'], dist_i[u'] + 0) = dist_i[u']$, then $dist_i[u'] < \infty$. **Lemma 3.4** implies $dist_{k+2}[u_{k+1}] \leq dist_i[u'] + weight(u', u_{k+1})$, then it follows that $dist_{k+1}[u_{k+1}] < \infty$. (L1) holds for u_{k+1} .

2. (L2) $dist_{k+2}[u_{k+1}] \leq \delta(v')$, $\forall v' \in unexplored_{k+2}$

We will prove (L2) by contradiction. Suppose there exists $w \in \text{unexplored}_{k+2}$, such that $\text{dist}_{k+2}[u_{k+1}] > \delta(w)$ ([E3.5.1]).

Consider the shortest path $\Delta(s, w)$ from s to w , $\delta(w) = \text{length}(\Delta(s, w))$. Since $w \notin \text{explored}_{k+2}$, then there must exist some node in $\Delta(s, w)$ that are not in explored_{k+2} . Suppose the first node along $\Delta(s, w)$ that is not in the explored_{k+2} list is w_2 , and the node right before w_2 in the s to w_2 subpath is w_1 , thus $w_1 \in \text{explored}_{k+2}$. The image below illustrates this construction:



Denote the subpath from s to w_1 in $\Delta(s, w)$ as $p(s, w_1)$, subpath from s to w_2 in $\Delta(s, w)$ as $p(s, w_2)$, and subpath w_2 to w as $p(w_2, w)$. Based on **Definition 2.2 Prefix of Path**, $p(s, w_1)$ is a prefix of $\Delta(s, w)$. Since $p(s, w_1)$ is the prefix of the shortest $s - w$ path, then based on **Lemma 3.1**, $p(s, w_1)$ is the shortest path from s to w_1 , $\Delta(s, w_1) = p(s, w_1)$, $\text{length}(p(s, w_1)) = \delta(w_1)$. Similarly, since $p(s, w_2) = p(s, w_1) + (w_1, w_2)$, then $p(s, w_2)$ is a prefix of $\Delta(s, w)$, and hence **Lemma 3.1** implies that $p(s, w_2)$ is the shortest path from s to w_2 . Then we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(s, w_2) &= p(s, w_2) = p(s, w_1) + (w_1, w_2) \\ \delta(w_2) &= \text{length}(\Delta(s, w_2)) \\ &= \text{length}(p(s, w_2)) \\ &= \text{length}(p(s, w_1)) + \text{weight}(w_1, w_2) \\ &= \delta(w_1) + \text{weight}(w_1, w_2) \text{ ([E3.5.2])} \end{aligned}$$

For $\Delta(s, w)$ we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(w) &= \text{length}(p_w) \\ &= \text{length}(p(s, w_1)) + \text{weight}(w_1, w_2) + \text{length}(p(w_2, w)) \\ &= \delta(w_1) + \text{weight}(w_1, w_2) + \text{length}(p(w_2, w)) \end{aligned}$$

Since all edge weights are non-negative, then:

$$\delta(w_2) = \delta(w_1) + \text{weight}(w_1, w_2) \leq \delta(w) \text{ ([E3.5.3])}$$

Since $w_1 \in \text{explored}_{k+2}$, there are two cases to consider: $w_1 = u_{k+1}$ and $w_1 \neq u_{k+1}$. We will prove P(k+1) under both cases below.

Case 1: $w_1 = u_{k+1}$

Since $\delta(w_2) = \delta(w_1) + \text{weight}(w_1, w_2) \leq \delta(w)$ and all edge weights are non-negative, then $\delta(w_1) \leq \delta(w)$. When $w_1 = u_{k+1}$, we have $\delta(u_{k+1}) \leq \delta(w)$. Since $\text{dist}_{k+2}[u_{k+1}] > \delta(w)$ and $\delta(u_{k+1}) \leq \delta(w)$, we have $\delta(u_{k+1}) < \text{dist}_{k+2}[u_{k+1}]$.

Suppose the node right before u_{k+1} in $\Delta(s, u_{k+1})$ is w_3 . We know $\text{length}(\Delta(s, u_{k+1})) = \text{length}(p(s, w_3)) + \text{weight}(w_3, u_{k+1})$, where $p(s, w_3)$ is the prefix of $\Delta(s, u_{k+1})$. Based on Lemma 3.1, we know $\text{length}(p(s, w_3)) = \delta(w_3)$. Hence:

$$\begin{aligned}\delta(u_{k+1}) &= \text{length}(p(s, w_3)) + \text{weight}(w_3, u_{k+1}) \\ &= \delta(w_3) + \text{weight}(w_3, u_{k+1}) \\ &< \text{dist}_{k+2}[u_{k+1}]\end{aligned}$$

i.e.

$$\text{dist}_{k+2}[u_{k+1}] > \delta(w_3) + \text{weight}(w_3, u_{k+1}) \quad ([E3.5.6])$$

Based on the construction, w_2 is the first node along $\Delta(s, w)$, w_1 is right before w_2 in the path, w_3 is right before $w_1 = u_{k+1}$ in the path, then $w_3 \in \text{explored}_{k+2}$. Assume w_3 is explored during the j^{th} iteration. Then based on Lemma 3.4, we have:

$$\text{dist}_{k+2}[u_{k+1}] \leq \text{dist}_j[w_3] + \text{weight}(w_3, u_{k+1}) \quad ([E3.5.7])$$

The induction hypothesis implies $\text{dist}_{j+1}[w_3] = \delta(w_3)$. For $\text{dist}_{j+1}[w_3]$ we have:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{dist}_{j+1}[w_3] &= \min(\text{dist}_j[w_3], \text{dist}_j[w_3] + \text{weight}(w_3, w_3)) \\ &= \min(\text{dist}_j[w_3], \text{dist}_j[w_3] + 0) \\ &= \text{dist}_j[w_3]\end{aligned}$$

Hence $\text{dist}_j[w_3] = \delta(w_3)$, combine with [E3.5.7], we have:

$$\text{dist}_{k+2}[u_{k+1}] \leq \delta(w_3) + \text{weight}(w_3, u_{k+1}) \quad ([E3.5.8])$$

The equation [E3.5.8] contradicts with equation[E3.5.6]. Hence by the principle of prove by contradiction, (L2) holds when $w_1 = u_{k+1}$.

Case 2: $w_1 \neq u_{k+1}$

Since $w_1 \in \text{explored}_{k+2}$ and $w_1 \neq u_{k+1}$, w_1 is explored before the $(k+1)^{\text{th}}$ iteration. i.e., $w_1 \in \text{explored}_{k+1}$. Suppose w_1 is being explored during the i^{th} iteration, $i < k+1$, then based on the algorithm, the value of $\text{dist}_{i+1}[w_1]$ is calculated as:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{dist}_{i+1}[w_1] &= \min(\text{dist}_i[w_1], \text{dist}_i[w_1] + \text{weight}(w_1, w_1)) \\ &= \min(\text{dist}_i[w_1], \text{dist}_i[w_1] + 0) \\ &= \min(\text{dist}_i[w_1], \text{dist}_i[w_1]) \\ &= \text{dist}_i[w_1]\end{aligned}$$

Since the induction hypothesis implies that $dist_{i+1}[w_1] = \delta(w_1)$, then $dist_i[w_1] = \delta(w_1)$. Since w_1 has an edge to w_2 , then $dist_{i+1}[w_2]$ must have been updated according as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} dist_{i+1}[w_2] &= \min(dist_i[w_2], dist_i[w_1] + weight(w_1, w_2)) \\ &= \min(dist_i[w_2], \delta(w_1) + weight(w_1, w_2)) \end{aligned}$$

Based on [E3.5.2] we know that $\delta(w_2) = \delta(w_1) + weight(w_1, w_2)$, then $dist_{i+1}[w_2] = \min(dist_i[w_2], \delta(w_2))$. If $dist_i[w_2] = \infty$, then $dist_{i+1}[w_2] = \min(dist_i[w_2], \delta(w_2)) = \delta(w_2)$. If $dist_i[w_2] \neq \infty$, then based on Lemma 3.2, $dist_i[w_2]$ is the length of some $s - w_2$ path. Since $\delta(w_2) \leq length(p), \forall p \in path(s, w_2)$, then $dist_{i+1}[w_2] = \min(dist_i[w_2], \delta(w_2)) = \delta(w_2)$. Hence in either cases, we conclude that $dist_{i+1}[w_2] = \delta(w_2)$.

Since $dist_{i+1}[w_2] = \delta(w_2)$ and $i < k + 1$, then based on Lemma 3.3, we have:

$$dist_{k+1}[w_2] = dist_{i+1} = \delta(w_2) \text{ ([E3.5.4])}$$

Based on our assumption, at the beginning of the $(k + 1)^{th}$ generation, $u_{k+1}, w_2 \notin explored_{k+1}$ and u_{k+1} is selected by the algorithm, then we must have $dist_{k+1}[w_2] \geq dist_{k+1}[u_{k+1}]$. For $dist_{k+2}[u_{k+1}]$ we have:

$$\begin{aligned} dist_{k+2}[u_{k+1}] &= \min(dist_{k+1}[u_{k+1}], dist_{k+1}[u_{k+1}] + weight(u_{k+1}, u_{k+1})) \\ &= \min(dist_{k+1}[u_{k+1}], dist_{k+1}[u_{k+1}] + 0) \\ &= dist_{k+1}[u_{k+1}] \end{aligned}$$

Hence $dist_{k+1}[w_2] \geq dist_{k+2}[u_{k+1}]$. Combine with [E3.5.4], [E3.5.3] we have:

$$\begin{aligned} dist_{k+1}[w_2] &\geq dist_{k+2}[u_{k+1}] \text{ (from [E3.5.4])} \\ dist_{k+1}[w_2] &= dist_{i+1} = \delta(w_2) \text{ (from [E3.5.4])} \\ \delta(w) &\geq \delta(w_2) = \delta(w_1) + weight(w_1, w_2) \text{ (from [E3.5.3])} \end{aligned}$$

Hence $\delta(w) \geq dist_{k+2}[u_{k+1}]$, which contradicts with [E3.5.1]. Hence by the principle of prove by contradiction, when $w_1 \neq u_{k+1}$, $dist_{k+2}[u_{k+1}] \leq \delta(w), \forall w \in unexplored_{k+2}$. (L2) holds for u_{k+1} .

3. (L3) $dist_{k+2}[u_{k+1}] = \delta(u_{k+1})$

We will prove this by contradiction.

Since (L1) proves $dist_{k+2}[u_{k+1}] \neq \infty$, then Lemma 3.2 implies that $dist_{k+2}[u_{k+1}]$ is the length of some $s - u_{k+1}$ path, denote as p . Suppose there is a $s - u_{k+1}$ path p' that's shorter than p , i.e., $dist_{k+2}[u_{k+1}] > length(p')$ ([E3.5.9]). Suppose the node right before u_{k+1} in p' is v' . Then we know:

$$\begin{aligned} length(p') &= length(p(s, v')) + weight(v', u_{k+1}) \\ length(p') &< dist_{k+2}[u_{k+1}] \end{aligned}$$

, where $p(s, v')$ is the prefix of p' from s to v' . Hence:

$$dist_{k+2}[u_{k+1}] > length(p(s, v')) + weight(v', u_{k+1})$$

Based on the definition of shortest path, $length(p(s, v')) \geq \delta(v')$, then we have:

$$dist_{k+2}[u_{k+1}] > \delta(v') + weight(v', u_{k+1}) \quad ([E3.5.10])$$

There are two cases to consider: (1) $v' \in explored_{k+2}$; (2) $v' \notin explored_{k+2}$

Case(1): $v' \in explored_{k+2}$

Suppose v' is explored during the i^{th} iteration. Then **Lemma 3.4** implies:

$$dist_{k+2}[u_{k+1}] \leq dist_i[v'] + weight(v', u_{k+1}) \quad ([E3.5.11])$$

The induction hypothesis implies $dist_{i+1}[v'] = \delta(v')$, and for $dist_{i+1}[v']$ we have:

$$\begin{aligned} dist_{i+1}[v'] &= \min(dist_i[v'], dist_i[v'] + weight(v', v')) \\ &= \min(dist_i[v'], dist_i[v'] + 0) \\ &= dist_i[v'] \end{aligned}$$

Hence $dist_i[v'] = \delta(v')$. Combining [E3.5.11], we have:

$$dist_{k+2}[u_{k+1}] \leq \delta(v') + weight(v', u_{k+1}) \quad ([E3.5.12])$$

Hence equation [E3.5.12] contradicts with equation [E3.5.10]. By the principle of prove by contradiction, (L3) holds when $v' \in explored_{k+2}$.

Case(2): $v' \notin explored_{k+2}$

Since $length(p') = length(p(s, v')) + weight(v', u_{k+1})$, $p(s, v)$ is the prefix of p' from s to v' , then based on the definition of shortest path, $length(p(s, v')) \leq \delta(v')$, and thus $\delta(v') + weight(v', u_{k+1}) \leq length(p(s, v')) + weight(v', u_{k+1}) = length(p')$. Since all edge weights are non-negative, then $\delta(v') \leq length(p')$.

Since $v' \notin explored_{k+2}$, i.e., $v' \in unexplored_{k+2}$, based on proof of (L2), $dist_{k+2}[u_{k+1}] \leq \delta(v')$. Since $dist_{k+2}[u_{k+1}] \leq \delta(v')$ and $\delta(v') \leq length(p')$, then $dist_{k+2}[u_{k+1}] \leq length(p')$, which contradicts with our assumption ([E3.5.9]). Hence by the principle of prove by contradiction, (L3) holds when $v' \notin explored_{k+2}$.

Since we have proved (L3) for both cases, then (L3) holds for $P(K+1)$.

Since we have proved (L1)(L2)(L3) for all nodes in $explored_{k+1}$ after the $(k+1)^{th}$ iteration, $P(k+1)$ holds. Then by the principle of prove by induction, **Lemma 3.5** holds. \square

Proof. **Prove of Correctness**

By applying **Lemma 3.5(L3)** to the last iteration of the algorithm, we obtained that for all nodes n in the explored list, $dist[n]$ is indeed the shortest path distance value from source s to n , hence Dijkstra's algorithm indeed calculates the shortest path distance value from the source s to each node $n \in g$. \square