

# R12 Bellman-Ford

3.30/3.31 [https://github.com/GUMI-21/MIT6.006\\_note](https://github.com/GUMI-21/MIT6.006_note)

## Self summary of Bellman-Ford

1. If graph is a DAG, we can directed use DAG Relaxation in topological order to solve SSSP.
2. If graph does not have negative-weight cycles, shortest path from S to V must be simple (proof is in note)
3. simple path contain at most  $|V| - 1$  edges
4. If  $\delta_{|V|}(s, v) < \delta_{|V|-1}(s, v)$ , then  $\delta(s, v) = -\infty$ , if A vertex V has this property, then V is a witness, can see a example which vertex at the end of a negative cycle.
5. Why need  $|V| - 1$  iterate?

If you are confused with Lec and the recitation note's code, I think this may be help you to understand Bellman-Ford.

Because we input graph vertex array may not in a topological order, means the second index of array may not connect to source vertex array[0], then in worst case we need loop  $|V|-1$  times to finally update all vertex estimate distance to be shortest weighted path. May we can associate this to Full-DFS, think just like Full-Relaxation. After all nodes be relaxed, then we can do one more relaxation to detect if there is a negative cycle. if any vertex still can be relaxed, then there must be a negative cycle in graph.

A important point is do  $|V|-1$  loop is to ensure every vertex can be full-relaxed, not mean to detect negative cycle. The operations are two things, I think it is a good way to relax the confusion.

## Recitation

The original Bellman-Ford algorithm is easier to state but is a little less powerful.

The algorithm is straight-forward:

- initialize distance estimates, and then relax every edge in the graph in  $|V| - 1$  rounds
- if the graph does not contain negative-weight cycles,  $d(s, v) = \delta(s, v)$  for all  $v \in V$  at termination;
- otherwise if any edge still relaxable (i.e., still violates the triangle inequality), the graph contains a negative weight cycle.

```
def bellman_ford(Adj, w, s):  
    # initialization  
    infinity = float('inf')    # number greater than sum of all + weights
```

```

d = [infinity for _ in Adj] # shortest path estimates d(s,v)
parent = [None for _ in Adj] # initialize parent pointers
d[s], parent[s] = 0,s      # initialize source
# construct shortest paths in rounds
V = len(Adj)               # number of vertices
for k in range(V - 1):     # relax all edges in (V - 1) rounds
    for u in range(V):
        for v in Adj[u]:
            # try to relax edges. All unreachable from S throw
            if d[u] != infinity and d[v] > d[u] + w[u][v]:
                d[v] = d[u] + w[u][v]
                parent[v] = u

# check for negative weight cycles accessible from s
for u in range(V):
    for v in Adj[u]:
        if d[u] != infinity and d[v] > d[u] + w[u][v]: # if edge relax-
able, report cycle
            raise Exception('Ack! There is a negative weight cycle')
return d,parent

```



*the algorithm relaxes every edge of the graph in a series of  $|V| - 1$  rounds*

## Correctness

- Lemma 1

*At the end of relaxation round  $i$  of Bellman-Ford,  $d(s, v) = \delta(s, v)$  for any vertex  $v$  that has a shortest path from  $s$  to  $v$  which traverses at most  $i$  edges*

Proof by induction.

base case:  $i = 0$ ,  $d(s, s) = 0 = \delta(s, s)$ . correct

induction step:

Now suppose the claim is true at the end of round  $i - 1$ . Let  $v$  be a vertex containing a shortest path from  $s$  traversing at most  $i$  edges.

$d(s, v) \neq \delta(s, v)$  prior to round  $i$ , and let  $u$  be the second to last vertex visited along some shortest path from  $s$  to  $v$  which traverses exactly  $i$  edges. Some shortest path from  $s$  to  $u$  traverses at most  $i - 1$  edges, so  $d(s, u) = \delta(s, u)$  prior to round  $i$ . Then after the edge from  $u$  to  $v$  is relaxed during round  $i$ ,  $d(s, v) = \delta(s, v)$  as desired. correct.

- runtime

This algorithm runs  $|V|$  rounds, where each round performs a constant amount of work for each edge in the graph, so Bellman-Ford runs in  $O(|V||E|)$  time.

- supplement

*Note that if edges are processed in a topological sort order with respect to a shortest path tree from  $s$ , then Bellman-Ford will correctly compute shortest paths from  $s$  after its first round;*

*of course, it is not easy to find such an order.*

*However, for many graphs, significant savings can be obtained by stopping Bellman-Ford after any round for which no edge relaxation is modifying.*