



Design and Analysis  
of Algorithms I

# Graph Primitives

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## Dijkstra's Algorithm: Why It Works

# Dijkstra's Algorithm

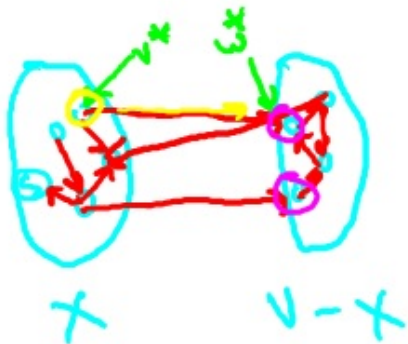
This array  
only to help  
explanation!

## Initialize:

- $X = [s]$  [vertices processed so far]
- $A[s] = 0$  [computed shortest path distances]
- $B[s] = \text{empty path}$  [computed shortest paths]

## Main Loop

- while  $X \neq V$ :



-need to grow  
x by one node

## Main Loop cont'd:

- among all edges  $(v, w) \in E$  with  $\underline{v \in X}, w \notin X$ , pick the one that minimizes  $\underline{A[v]} + l_{vw}$   
[call it  $(v^*, w^*)$ ] **Already computed in earlier iteration**
- add  $w^*$  to  $X$
- set  $A[w^*] := \underline{A[v^*]} + \underline{l_{v^*w^*}}$
- set  $B[w^*] := B[v^*]u(v^*, w^*)$

# Correctness Claim

Theorem [Dijkstra] For every directed graph with nonnegative edge lengths, Dijkstra's algorithm correctly computes all shortest-path distances.

$$[i.e., A[v] = L(v) \quad \forall v \in V]$$

what algorithm  
computes

True shortest  
distance from  $s$  to  $v$

Proof: by induction on the number of iterations.

Base Case:  $A[s] = L[s] = 0$  (correct)

## 递归

# Proof

Inductive Step:

Inductive Hypothesis: all previous iterations correct (i.e.,  $A[v] = L(v)$  and  $B[v]$  is a true shortest s-v path in  $G$ , for all  $v$  already in  $X$ ).

In current iteration:

We pick an edge  $(v^*, w^*)$  and we add  $w^*$  to  $X$ .

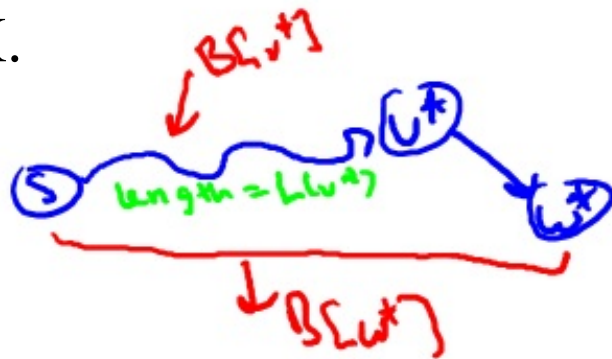
We set  $B[w^*] = B[v^*] \cup (v^*, w^*)$

has length  $L(v^*) + l_{v^*w^*}$

has length  $L(v^*)$

$L(v^*)$  by I.H

Also:  $A[w^*] = A[v^*] + l_{v^*w^*} = L(v^*) + l_{v^*w^*}$



# Proof (con'd)

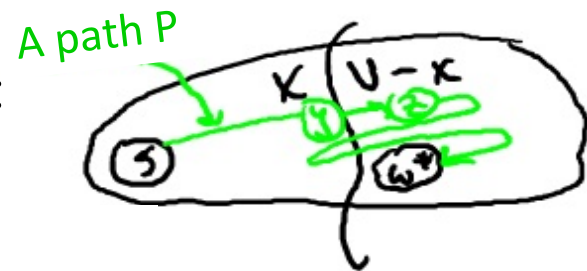
Upshot: in current iteration, we set:

1.  $A[w^*] = L(v^*) + l_{v^*w^*}$
2.  $B[w^*] = \text{an } s \rightarrow w^* \text{ path with length } (L(v^*) + l_{v^*w^*})$

To finish proof: need to show that *every*  $s \rightarrow w^*$  path has length  $\geq$   
 $L(v^*) + l_{v^*w^*}$  (if so, our path is the shortest!)

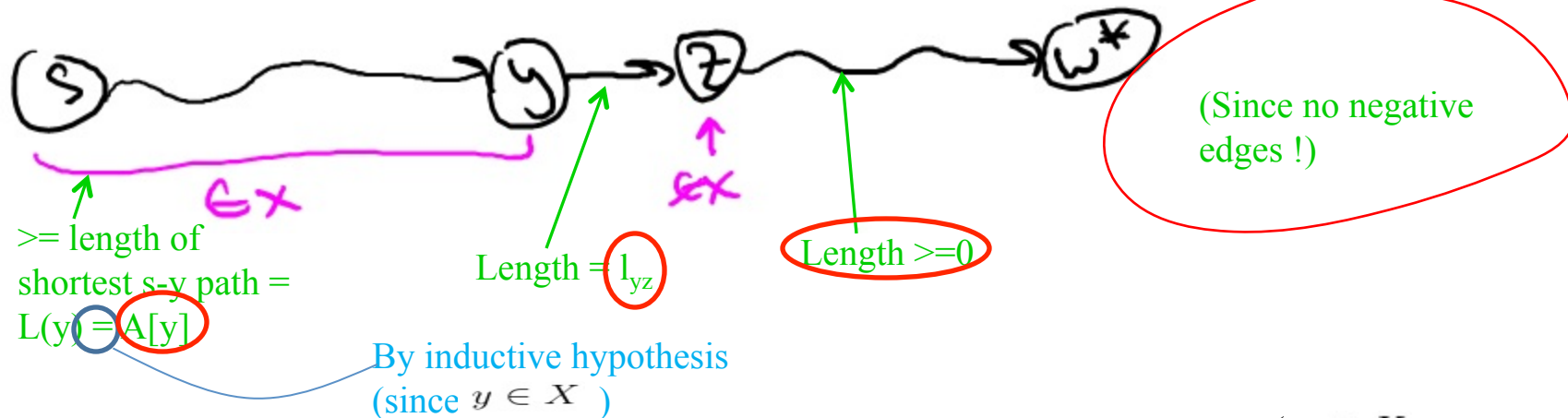
So: Let  $P = \text{any } s \rightarrow w^*$  path. Must “cross the frontier”:

and so has the form:



# Proof (con'd)

So: every  $s \rightarrow w^*$  path  $P$  has to have the form



Total length of path P: at least  $A[y] + C_{yz}$  length of our path !

$(y \in X, z \notin X)$

$\rightarrow$  by Dijkstra's greedy criterion,  $A[v^*] + l_{v^*w^*} \leq A[y] + l_{yz} \leq \text{length of } P$

Q.E.D.