

We are given a directed and weighted graph  $G = (V, E, w)$ , where  $w(e) > 0$  for each  $e \in E$ . Additionally, each edge is coloured either red or blue.

- (a) Let  $\text{ONLYREDEDGES}(u, v, \ell)$  denote the weight of the shortest path from  $u$  to  $v$  that uses *only* red edges and have length at most  $\ell$ . For a fixed pair of points  $u$  and  $v$ , describe an  $O(n^3 \log k)$  algorithm to compute  $\text{ONLYREDEDGES}(u, v, k - 1)$ .

**Hint.** You should only need  $O(n^2 \log k)$  subproblems.

**Hint 2.** Alternatively... you can just apply Bellman-Ford.

- (b) Hence, describe an  $O(n^3 \log k)$  algorithm that returns a *closed walk* with the smallest weight that contains *at least* one blue edge and does not contain  $k$  consecutive red edges.

A *closed walk* is a walk that starts and ends at the same vertex.

### Solution.

- (a) We initialise a Dynamic Programming table  $DP$  with  $DP[i][j]$  to represent the shortest path using only red edges from vertex  $u$  to  $j$  using at most  $i$  edges. Obviously,  $DP[0][u] = 0$ . Now, for all  $i$  from 1 to  $k - 1$ , we take each vertex  $j$  and set  $DP[i][j] = DP[i - 1][j]$ , then for each vertex  $v$ , if there is a red edge  $(v, j)$ , we update  $DP[i][j] = \min\{DP[i][j], DP[i - 1][v] + w(v, j)\}$ .
- (b) Solution to part (b) goes here...