

# Dijkstra

Given a directed or undirected weighted graph with  $V$  vertices and  $E$  edges with no negative cycles, the problem is to find the lengths of the shortest paths from a starting vertex  $s$  to all other vertices, and find the shortest paths themselves. This problem is called *single-source shortest paths problem*.

We maintain an array  $d[]$  where for every vertex  $u$ ,  $d[u]$  is the length of the shortest path from  $s$  to  $u$ . We initialize  $d[u] = \infty \forall u \in V - \{s\}$  where  $\infty$  is some large number. Also,  $d[s] = 0$ .

We also maintain an array  $p[]$  which keeps track of immediate predecessor, i.e.,  $p[v]$  would store the vertex which is predecessor of  $v$ . This array would be helpful in restoring the path from source vertex  $s$  to any other vertex  $t$ .

The algorithm runs for almost  $V$  iterations.

At each iteration, an unmarked vertex  $u$  with least value  $d[u]$  is extracted and marked.

From vertex  $u$ , relaxations are performed on all vertices adjacent to it. That is, for each adjacent vertex  $v$ , we minimize the value of  $d[v]$ . If the current edge length is  $len$ , then

$$d[v] = \min(d[v], len + d[u])$$

On every relaxation we perform, we update the value of  $p[v]$  as:

$$p[v] = u$$

The time for extracting an unmarked vertex  $u$  with least value  $d[u]$  is naively  $O(V)$  if we just loop through all vertices. The step of extraction is performed  $V$  times for every vertex. Since the time for relaxation of an edge is simply  $O(1)$  and we perform the step of relaxation  $E$  times for every edge. The time complexity of this algorithm would be  $O(V^2 + E)$ .

We can use data structures such as AVL trees, binary heap, etc. to solve this problem of extracting minimum in  $O(\log V)$ . For example, we can make a compromise and use a binary heap for both operations of extraction (in  $O(\log V)$ ) and updating the value after relaxation (in  $O(\log V)$ ).

Then, the total complexity would be,

$$O(V \log V + E \log V) = O((V + E) \log V) \approx O(E \log V).$$

Here is an implementation for the algorithm using the `graph.hpp` header introduced before. The file `dijkstra.hpp` has `struct Dijkstra` inherited publicly from `class weightedGraph` in `graph.hpp`.

```
// dijkstra.hpp

#ifndef DIJKSTRA_HPP
#define DIJKSTRA_HPP

#include "graph.hpp"

struct Dijkstra : public weightedGraph {
    using ll = long long int;
    const ll INF = 0x3f3f3f3f3f3f3f3f;

    ll *d;
    Vertex *p;
```

```

/**
 * @brief Constructs a new Dijkstra object.
 *
 * @param _V Number of vertices.
 * @param _directed Default = false. specify true if graph is directed.
 */
Dijkstra(Vertex _V, bool _directed = false) : weightedGraph(_V, _directed) {
    d = new ll[V + 1]();
    p = new Vertex[V + 1]();
}

/**
 * @brief Constructs a new Dijkstra object from a weighted Graph object.
 *
 * @param G The weighted Graph Object to be copied.
 */
Dijkstra(weightedGraph G) : weightedGraph(G) {
    d = new ll[V + 1];
    p = new Vertex[V + 1]();
}

/**
 * @brief Constructs a new Dijkstra object from an old one.
 * It calls the weightedGraph copy constructor.
 *
 * @param copy The old Dijkstra object to be copied.
 */
Dijkstra(const Dijkstra &copy) : weightedGraph(copy) {
    memcpy(d, copy.d, sizeof(ll) * (V + 1));
}

/**
 * @brief Destroys the Dijkstra object.
 */
~Dijkstra() {
    delete []d;
}

/**
 * @brief finds the lengths of shortest paths from the source vertex to all
 * vertices and stores in Dijkstra::d[].
 *
 * @param s Default = 1. The source vertex.
 */
void solveShortestPaths(Vertex s = 1) {
    using length = std::pair<ll, Vertex>;
    std::priority_queue<length, std::vector<length>, std::greater<length>>
                                                                    pq;

    memset(d, 0x3f, sizeof(ll) * (V + 1)); // initializing d[] to INF
    d[s] = 0LL;
    p[s] = -1;
    pq.push(length(d[s], s));
    while (not pq.empty()) {

```

```

        Vertex u = pq.top().second;
        ll dist = pq.top().first;
        pq.pop();

        if (dist > d[u])
            continue;

        for (Edge e : adj[u]) {
            auto [v, len] = e;
            if (len + d[u] < d[v]) {
                d[v] = len + d[u];
                p[v] = u;
                pq.push(length(d[v], v));
            }
        }
    }
}

/**
 * @brief prints a path from start vertex s to destination vertex t. Also
 * returns a vector container having the path.
 *
 * @param s Start vertex s.
 * @param t Destination vertex t.
 * @return std::vector<Vertex> Vector Container having the correct order
 * of vertices in its path.
 */
std::vector<Vertex> printPath(Vertex s, Vertex t) {
    std::vector<Vertex> path;
    path.reserve(V);
    for (Vertex u = t; u != s; u = p[u])
        path.push_back(u);
    path.push_back(s);
    std::reverse(path.begin(), path.end());
    for (int u : path) {
        std::cout << u << ' ';
    }
    std::cout << "\n";
    return path;
}

};

```

The C++ STL `std::priority_queue` uses a binary heap. Therefore, the push and pop operations would be  $O(\log V)$ .

Hence, the above function `solveShortestPaths(s)` runs in  $O(E \log V)$ .

The process of printing is also very simple. The idea is to store the parent of destination vertex  $u$ ,  $p[u]$  in a container and assign  $u$  as  $p[u]$ . The function `printPath(s, t)` runs in  $O(V)$ .