

# Data Structures and Algorithms

## Finding Shortest Way

From Here to There, Part II



# Acknowledgement

- The contents of these slides have origin from School of Computing, National University of Singapore.
- We greatly appreciate support from Dr. Steven Halim for kindly sharing these materials.



# Policies for students

- These contents are only used for students PERSONALLY.
- Students are NOT allowed to modify or deliver these contents to anywhere or anyone for any purpose.



# Recording of modifications

- Currently, there are no modification on these contents.



# Outline

VisuAlgo: <http://visualgo.net/sssp.html>

**Four** special cases of the classical SSSP problem

- Special Case 1: The graph is a **tree**
- Special Case 2: The graph is **unweighted**
- Special Case 3: The graph is **directed** and **acyclic** (DAG)
- Special Case 4ab: The graph has **no negative weight/cycle**

Review of the SSSP problem, *with VisuAlgo test mode*



# Basic Form and Variants of a Problem

In this lecture, we will *revisit* the same topic that we have seen in the previous lecture:

- The **Single-Source Shortest Paths (SSSP)** problem

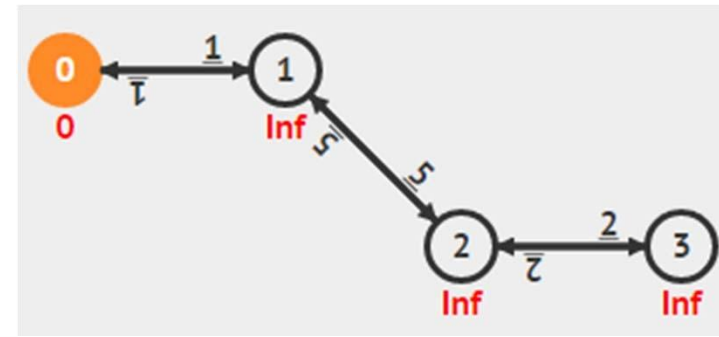
An idea from the previous lecture and this one (and also from our PSes so far) is that a certain problem can be made '**simpler**' if some assumptions are made

- These variants (special cases) may have better algorithm
  - PS: It is true that some variants can be more complex than their basic form, but usually, we made some assumptions in order to simplify the problems 😊



# Special Case 1:

The weighted graph is a **Tree**



When the weighted graph is a tree, solving the SSSP problem becomes much easier as every path in a tree is a shortest path. **Q1: Why?**

There won't be any negative weight cycle. **Q2: Why?**

Thus, any  **$O(V)$**  graph traversal, i.e. **either DFS or BFS** can be used to solve this SSSP problem.

**Q3: Why  $O(V)$  and not the standard  $O(V+E)$ ?**

Important note: You can try this on PS5 Subtask A 😊

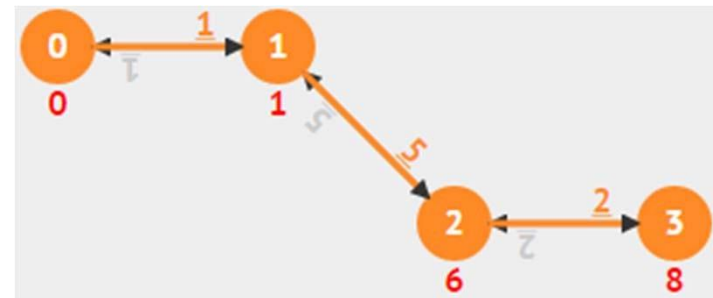
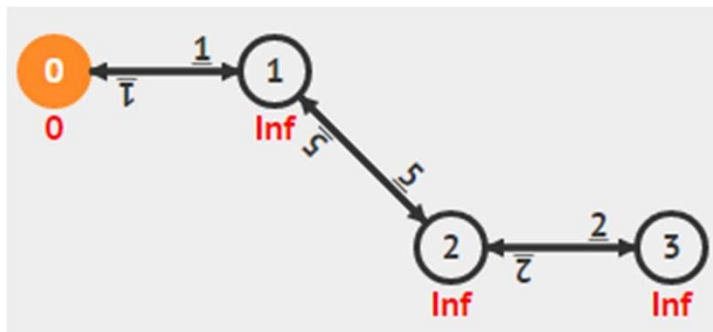


# Try in VisuAlgo!

(for now, use Bellman Ford's or Dijkstra's in VisuAlgo)

Try finding the shortest paths from source vertex 0 to other vertices in this weighted (undirected) tree

- Notice that you will always encounter unique (simple) path between those two vertices
- Try adding negative weight edges, it does not matter if the graph is a tree 😊

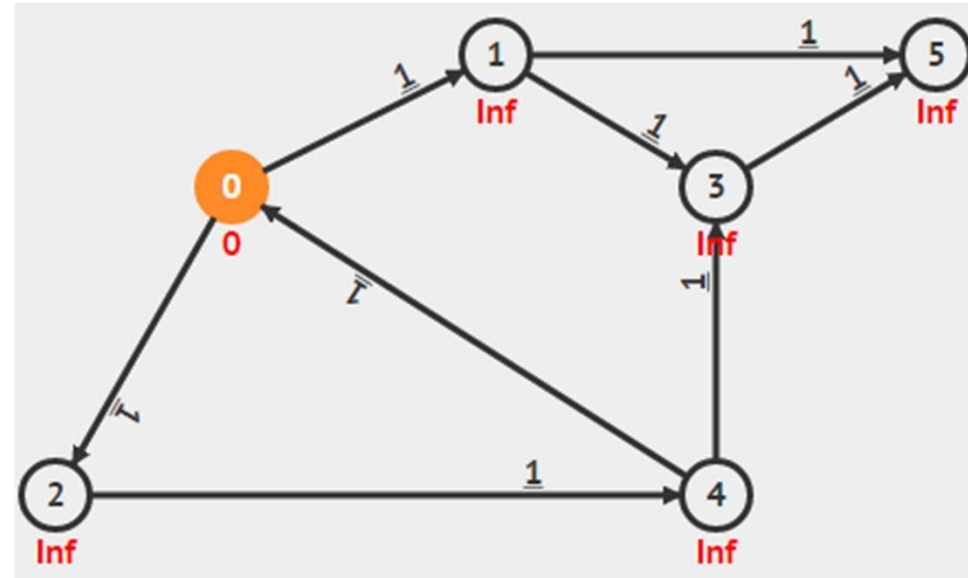




# Special Case 2:

The graph is **unweighted**

This has been discussed  
last week 😊



**Solution:  $O(V+E)$  BFS**

Important note:

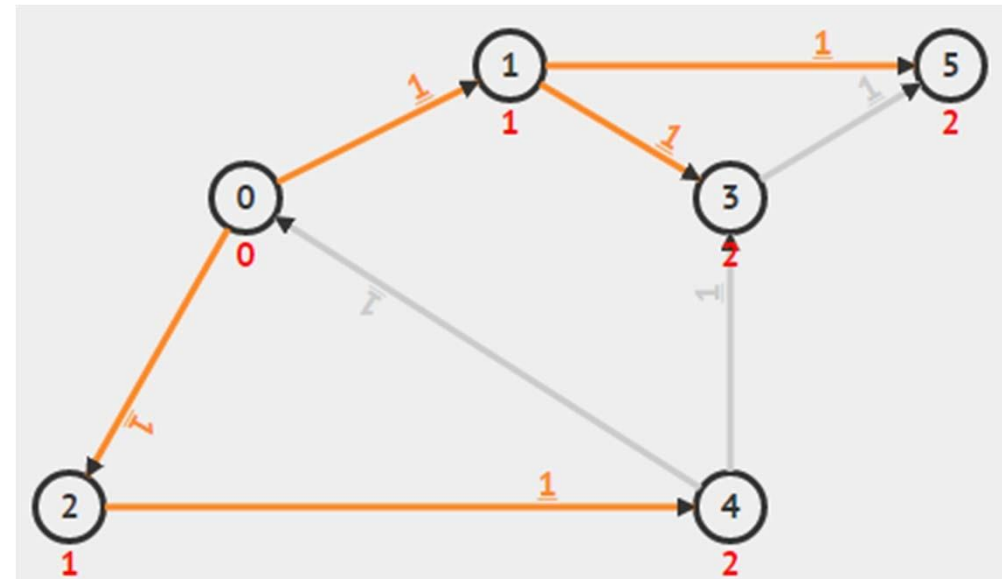
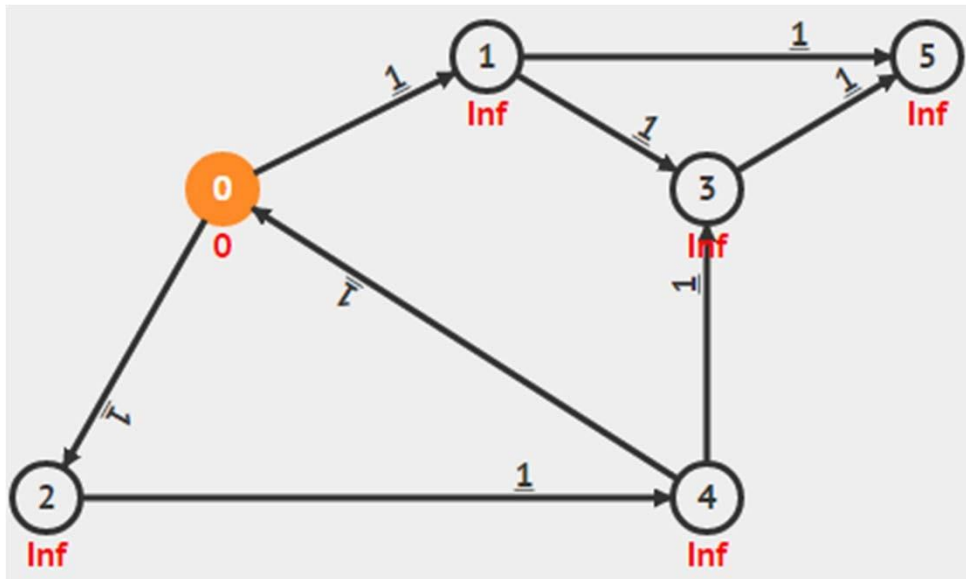
- For SSSP on unweighted graph, we can only use BFS
- For SSSP on tree, we can use either DFS/BFS
- You can try this on PS5 Subtask A+B



# Try in VisuAlgo!

This graph is unweighted (i.e. all edge weight = 1)

Try finding the shortest paths from source vertex 0 to other vertices using **BFS**





# Special Case 3:

The weighted graph is **directed & acyclic** (DAG)

Cycle is a major issue in SSSP

When the graph is **acyclic** (has no cycle), we can “modify” the Bellman Ford’s algorithm by replacing the outermost **V-1** loop to just **one pass**

- i.e. we only run the relaxation across all edges once
  - But in **topological order**, recall toposort in Lecture 06

Why it works?

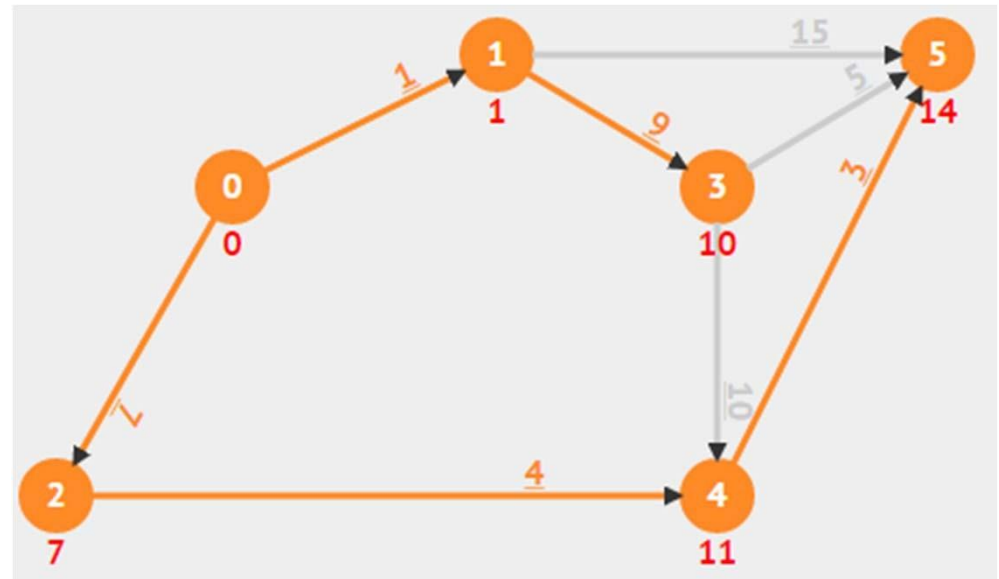
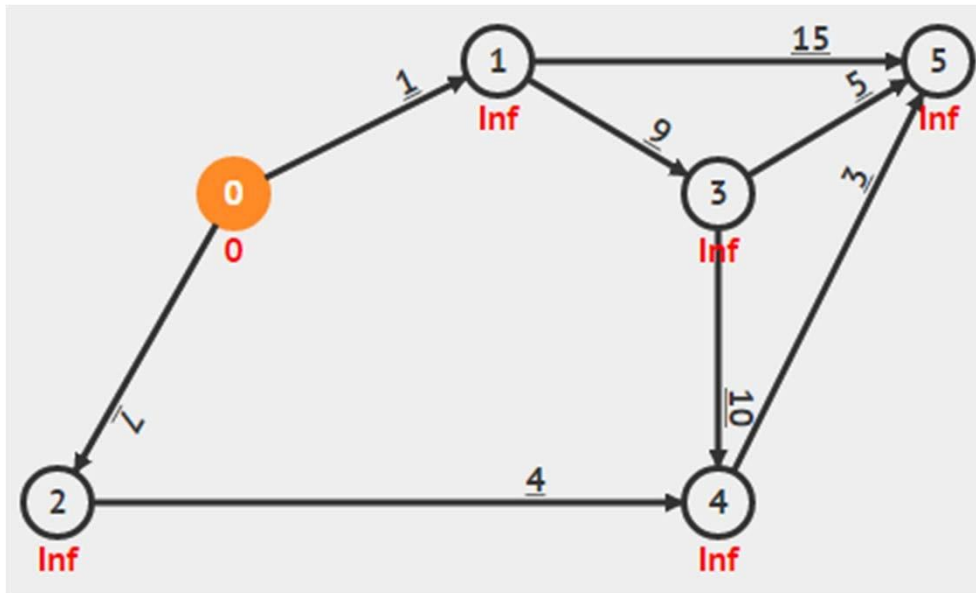
- More details later in the introductory lecture on Dynamic Programming (Week 10)



# Try in VisuAlgo!

Topological Sort of this DAG is {0, 2, 1, 3, 4, 5}

- Try relaxing the outgoing edges of vertices listed in the topological order above
  - With just one pass, all vertices will have the correct  $\text{dist}[v]$ 
    - (This will be revisited in Lecture 10)





# Special Case 4a:

The graph has **no negative weight**

**Bellman Ford's algorithm** works fine for all cases of SSSP on weighted graphs, but it runs in  **$O(VE)$** ... ☹

- For a “**reasonably sized**” weighted graphs with  $V \sim 1000$  and  $E \sim 100000$  (recall that  $E = O(V^2)$  in a complete simple graph), Bellman Ford's is (really) “**slow**”...

For many practical cases, the SSSP problem is performed on a graph where all its edges have **non-negative weight**

- Example: Traveling between two cities on a map (graph) usually takes **positive amount** of time units

Fortunately, there is a *faster* SSSP algorithm that exploits this property: The **Dijkstra's** algorithm



The 'original version'

# **DIJKSTRA'S ALGORITHM**



# Key Ideas of (the original) Dijkstra's Algorithm



Formal assumption:

- For each **edge**( $u, v$ )  $\in E$ , we assume  $w(u, v) \geq 0$  (**non-negative**)

Key ideas of (the original) Dijkstra's algorithm:

- Maintain a set **S(olved)** of vertices whose **final shortest path weights** have been determined, initially **Solved** = {**s(source)**}, the source vertex **s** only
- Repeatedly select vertex **u** in {**V-Solved**} with the min shortest path *estimate*, add **u** to **Solved**, and relax all edges out of **u**
  - This entails the use of a kind of “**Priority Queue**”, **Q: Why?**
  - This choice of relaxation order is “**greedy**”: Select the “best so far”
    - But it eventually ends up with optimal result (see the proof later)



# SSSP: Dijkstra's (Original)

Ask VisuAlgo to perform Dijkstra's (Original) algorithm from various sources on the sample Graph (CP3 4.17)

The screen shot below shows the *initial stage* of **Dijkstra(0)** (the original algorithm)

7 VISUALGO SINGLE-SOURCE SHORTEST PATHS Exploration Mode Logout Steven Halim

Dijkstra(0)

The priority queue is now {(2,1), (6,2), (7,3), ...}  
Exploring neighbors of vertex u = 1

```
initSSSP
while the priority queue PQ is not empty
  for each neighbor v of u = PQ.front()
    relax(u, v, w(u, v)) + update PQ
```

Draw Graph  
Random Graph  
Sample Graphs  
BFS Algorithm  
Bellman Ford's  
Dijkstra's Algorithm

0 Original Modified

Use the original Dijkstra algorithm

slow fast

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# Why This Greedy Strategy Works? (1)

i.e. why is it sufficient to only process each vertex just once?

Loop invariant = *Every vertices in set **Solved** have correct shortest path distance from source*

- This is true initially, **Solved** = {s} and **dist[s]** =  $\delta(s, s) = 0$ 
  - FYI, to make it easier to vocalize the variable  $S$ ,  $d$ , and  $\delta$ , I purposely rename it to 'S(olved)', 'dist(ance)', and delta

Dijkstra's algorithm iteratively adds the next vertex **u** with the lowest **dist[u]** into set **Solved**

- Is the loop invariant always valid?
- Let's see the next short proof first



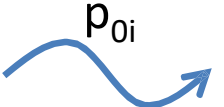

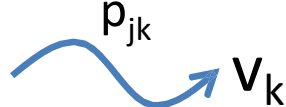

# Theorem: Subpaths of a shortest path are shortest paths

Let  $\mathbf{p}$  be the shortest path:  $p = \langle v_0, v_1, v_2, \square, v_k \rangle$

Let  $\mathbf{p}_{ij}$  be the subpath of  $\mathbf{p}$ :  $p_{ij} = \langle v_i, v_{i+1}, \square, v_j \rangle, 0 \leq i \leq j \leq k$

Then  $\mathbf{p}_{ij}$  is a shortest path (from  $\mathbf{i}$  to  $\mathbf{j}$ )

Proof by contradiction:

- Let the shortest path  $\mathbf{p} = v_0$    $v_i$    $v_j$    $v_k$   

- If  $\mathbf{p}_{ij}$  is not the shortest path, then we have another  $\mathbf{p}_{ij}'$  that is shorter than  $\mathbf{p}_{ij}$ . We can then cut out  $\mathbf{p}_{ij}$  and replace it with  $\mathbf{p}_{ij}'$ , which results in a shorter path from  $\mathbf{v}_0$  to  $\mathbf{v}_k$
- But  $\mathbf{p}$  is the shortest path from  $v_0$  to  $v_k \rightarrow$  contradiction!
- Thus  $\mathbf{p}_{ij}$  must be a shortest path between  $\mathbf{i}$  and  $\mathbf{j}$



# Why This Greedy Strategy Works? (2)

i.e. why is it sufficient to only process each vertex just once?

Dijkstra's algorithm iteratively adds the next vertex **u** with the lowest **dist[u]** into set **Solved**

- What we know: Vertex **u** has the lowest **dist[u]**
- It means that there is a vertex **x** already in **Solved** (hence **dist[x] =  $\delta(s, x)$** ) connected to vertex **u** via an **edge(x, u)** and **weight(x, u)** is the shortest way to reach vertex **u** from **x**
- Then **dist[u] = dist[x] + weight(x, u) =  $\delta(s, x) + \delta(x, u) = \delta(s, u)$** 
  - Recall: Subpaths of a shortest path are shortest paths too

Thus, when (the original) Dijkstra's algorithm terminates, we have **dist[v] =  $\delta(s, v)$**  for all **v**  $\in$  set **V**



# Original Dijkstra's – Analysis (1)

In the original Dijkstra's, each vertex will only be extracted from the priority queue **once**

- As there are  **$V$**  vertices, we will do this max  $O(V)$  times
- Each extract min runs in  $O(\log V)$  if implemented using **binary min heap, ExtractMin()** as discussed in Lecture 02 or using **balanced BST, findMin()** as discussed in Lecture 03-04

Therefore this part is  $O(V \log V)$



# Original Dijkstra's – Analysis (2)

Every time a vertex is processed, we relax its neighbors

- In total, all  $O(E)$  edges are processed
- If by relaxing edge( $u, v$ ), we have to decrease **dist[v]**, we call the  $O(\log V)$  **DecreaseKey()** in **binary min heap** (harder to implement) or simply **delete old entry and then re-insert new entry in balanced BST** (which also runs in  $O(\log V)$ , but this is much easier to implement)
  - PS: The easiest implementation is to use **Java TreeSet** as the PQ

This part is  $O(E \log V)$

Thus in overall, Dijkstra's runs in  $O(V \log V + E \log V)$ , or more well known as an  **$O((V+E) \log V)$**  algorithm



# Wait... Let's try this!

Ask VisuAlgo to perform Dijkstra's (Original) algorithm from source = 0 on the sample Graph (CP3 4.18)

Do you get correct answer at vertex 4?

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Dijkstra(0)

The priority queue is now {(0,0), (1000,1), (1000,2), ...}  
Exploring neighbors of vertex u = 0

```
initSSSP
while the priority queue PQ is not empty
  for each neighbor v of u = PQ.front()
    relax(u, v, w(u, v)) + update PQ
```

0 Original Modified

slow fast Use the original Dijkstra algorithm

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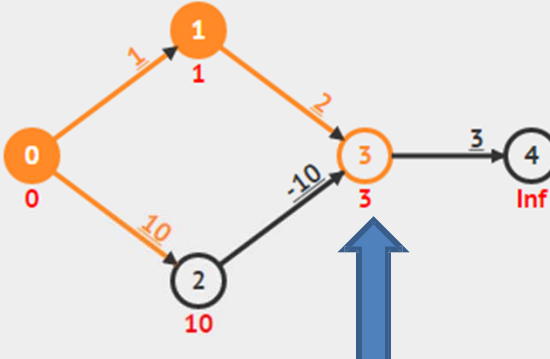


# Why This Greedy Strategy Does Not Work This Time 😞?

The presence of negative-weight edge can cause the vertices “greedily” chosen first eventually not the true “closest” vertex to the source!

- It happens to vertex 3 in this example

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The issue is here...

Dijkstra(0)

The priority queue is now  $\{(3,3), (10,2), (1000,4)\}$   
Exploring neighbors of vertex  $u = 3$

```
initSSSP
while the priority queue PQ is not empty
  for each neighbor v of u = PQ.front()
    relax(u, v, w(u, v)) + update PQ
```

slow fast

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The 'modified' implementation

# **DIJKSTRA'S ALGORITHM**



# Special Case 4b:

The graph has **no negative weight cycle**

For many practical cases, the SSSP problem is performed on a graph where its edges may have **negative weight** **but it has no negative cycle**

- Example: Traveling between two cities on a map (graph) using electric car with battery to minimize battery usage:
  - We take (+) energy from the battery if the road is flat or go uphill
  - We recharge the battery (i.e. take -energy) if the road goes downhill
  - But we cannot keep cycling around to recharge the battery forever due to kinetic energy loss, etc

We have another version of Dijkstra's algorithm that can handle this case: The **Modified Dijkstra's** algorithm



# Modified Implementation (1) of Dijkstra's Algorithm (CP3, Section 4.4.3)

Formal assumption (different from the original one):

- The graph has **no negative weight cycle**  
(but can have negative weight edges :O)

Key ideas:

- We use a **built-in** priority queue in **C++ STL/Java Collections** to order the next vertex **u** to be processed based on its **dist[u]**
  - This vertex information is stored as IntegerPair (**dist[u], u**)
- But with modification: We use “**Lazy Data Structure**” strategy to avoid implementing “DecreaseKey()” in C++/Java PQ library



# Modified Implementation (2)

## of Dijkstra's Algorithm (CP3, Section 4.4.3)

Lazy DS: Get pair **(d, u)** in **front of the priority queue PQ** with the minimum shortest path *estimate so far*

- if **d = dist[u]**, we relax all edges out of **u**,  
else if **d > dist[u]**, we have to delete this inferior **(d, u)** pair
  - See below to understand that we do not delete the wrong **(d, u)** pair immediately, but instead, we wait until the last possible moment (lazy)
- If **dist[v]** of a neighbor **v** of **u** *decreases*, enqueue **(dist[v], v)** to **PQ** again for *future propagation* of shortest path distance info
  - Here we adopt a **lazy approach** not to delete the “wrong **(d, u)** pair” at this point of time. **Q: Why?**
    - Because C++/Java PriorityQueue (Binary Heap) does not have feature to efficiently search for certain entries other than the minimum one!



# Modified Dijkstra's Algorithm

```
initSSSP(s)
```

```
PQ.enqueue((0, s)) // store pair of (dist[u], u)
```

```
while PQ is not empty // order: increasing dist[u]
```

```
    (d, u) ← PQ.dequeue()
```

```
    if d == dist[u] // important check, lazy DS
```

```
        for each vertex v adjacent to u
```

```
            if dist[v] > dist[u] + weight(u, v) // can relax
```

```
                dist[v] = dist[u] + weight(u, v) // relax
```

```
                PQ.enqueue((dist[v], v)) // (re)enqueue this
```



# SSSP: Dijkstra's (Modified)

Ask VisuAlgo to perform Dijkstra's (Modified) algorithm from various sources on the sample Graph (CP3 4.17)

The screen shot below shows the *initial stage* of **Dijkstra(0)** (the modified algorithm)

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Dijkstra(0)

The priority queue is now {(2,1), (6,2), (7,3)}  
Exploring neighbors of vertex u = 1

```
initSSSP
while the priority queue PQ is not empty
    if the front pair is invalid, skip
    for each neighbor v of u = PQ.front()
        relax(u, v, w(u, v)) + insert new pair to PQ
```

Draw Graph  
Random Graph  
Sample Graphs  
BFS Algorithm  
Bellman Ford's  
Dijkstra's Algorithm

0 Original Modified

Use the modified Dijkstra algorithm

slow fast

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# Modified Dijkstra's – Analysis (1)

We **prevent** processed vertex to be re-processed again if its  $d > \text{dist}[u]$

If there is **no-negative weight edge**, there will never be another path that can decrease  $\text{dist}[u]$  once  $u$  is greedily processed. **Q: Why? (PS: we have just seen this case)**

- Each vertex will still be processed from the PriorityQueue once; or all vertices are still processed in  $O(V)$  times
- Each extract min *still runs* in  $O(\log V)$  with Java PriorityQueue (essentially a binary heap)
  - PS: There can be more than one copies of  $u$  in the PriorityQueue, but this will not affect the  $O(\log V)$  complexity, see the next slide



# Modified Dijkstra's – Analysis (2)

Every time a vertex is processed, we try to relax all its neighbors, in total all  $O(E)$  edges are processed

- If relaxing edge( $u, v$ ) decreases **dist[v]**, we re-enqueue the same vertex (with better shortest path distance info), then *duplicates may occur*, but the previous check (see previous slide) prevents re-processing of this inferior (**dist[v]**,  $v$ ) pair
  - $\exists O(E)$  copies of inferior (**dist[v]**,  $v$ ) pair if each edge causes a relaxation
- Each insert *still runs* in  **$O(\log V)$**  in PriorityQueue/Binary heap
  - This is because although there can be at most  $E$  copies of (**dist[v]**,  $v$ ) pairs, we know that  $E = O(V^2)$  and thus  $O(\log E) = O(\log V^2) = O(2 \log V) = O(\log V)$
- Thus in overall, modified Dijkstra's run in  **$O((V+E) \log V)$**  if there is **no-negative weight edge**



# Try!

Ask VisuAlgo to perform Dijkstra's (**modified**) algorithm from source = 0 on the sample Graph (CP3 4.18)

Do you get correct answer at vertex 4?

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Dijkstra(0)

The priority queue is now {(0,0), (1000,1), (1000,2), ...}  
Exploring neighbors of vertex u = 0

```
initSSSP
while the priority queue PQ is not empty
  for each neighbor v of u = PQ.front()
    relax(u, v, w(u, v)) + update PQ
```

0 Original Modified

slow fast Use the original Dijkstra algorithm

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# Not an all-conquering algorithm...

## Check this

If there are negative weight edges without negative cycle, then there exist some (extreme) cases where the modified Dijkstra's re-process the same vertices several/many/crazy amount of times...

- Your Lab TA will discuss this case on Thursday of Week09

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Dijkstra(0)

The priority queue is now {(0,0)}  
Exploring neighbors of vertex u = 0

```
initSSSP
while the priority queue PQ is not empty
    if the front pair is invalid, skip
    for each neighbor v of u = PQ.front()
        relax(u, v, w(u, v)) + insert new pair to PQ
```

Draw Graph  
Random Graph  
Sample Graphs  
BFS Algorithm  
Bellman Ford's  
Dijkstra's Algorithm

0 Original Modified

Use the modified Dijkstra algorithm

slow fast

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# About that Extreme Test Case

Such extreme cases that causes *exponential time complexity* (discussed in Lab Demo) are *rare* and thus in practice, the modified Dijkstra's implementation runs much faster than the Bellman Ford's algorithm 😊

- If you know if your graph has only a few (or no) negative weight edge, this version is probably one of the best current implementation of Dijkstra's algorithm
- But, if you know for sure that your graph has a high probability of having a negative weight cycle, use the tighter (and also simpler)  $O(VE)$  Bellman Ford's algorithm as this modified Dijkstra's implementation can be trapped in an infinite loop



# Try Sample Graph, CP3 4.19!

Find the shortest paths from  $s = 0$  to the rest

- Which one **can terminate**?

The original or the modified Dijkstra's algorithm?

- Which one is **correct when it terminates**?

The original or the modified Dijkstra's algorithm?

The screenshot shows the VISUALGO SINGLE-SOURCE SHORTEST PATHS interface. The graph has 5 nodes (0, 1, 2, 3, 4) and the following edges with weights:

- 0 to 1: 99
- 0 to 4: -99
- 1 to 2: 15
- 2 to 3: 10
- 2 to 1: -42

The interface includes a sidebar with options: Draw Graph, Random Graph, Sample Graphs, BFS Algorithm, Bellman Ford's, and Dijkstra's Algorithm. The Dijkstra's Algorithm section is active, showing a progress bar from 0 to Modified. The main area displays the graph and a code editor for Dijkstra's algorithm. The code editor shows the following code:

```
Dijkstra(0)

Modified Dijkstra's processes  $O((V + E) * \log V) = 45$  edges.
The highlighted edges form the SSSP spanning tree from source = 0

initSSSP
while the priority queue PQ is not empty
    if the front pair is invalid, skip
    for each neighbor v of u = PQ.front()
        relax(u, v, w(u, v)) + insert new pair to PQ
```

The bottom of the interface features a playback control bar with a slider from slow to fast and buttons for play, pause, and stop. The bottom right corner contains links for About, Team, and Terms of use.



# Java Implementation

There is **no DijkstraDemo.java** this time (you will implement the pseudo-code shown in this lecture **by yourself** when you do your PS5 Subtask B)

But I will show the algorithm performance on:

- Small graph **without** negative weight cycle
  - OK
- Small graph with some negative edges; no negative cycle
  - Still OK 😊
- Small graph **with** negative weight cycle
  - SSSP problem is ill undefined for this case
  - The modified Dijkstra's can be trapped in infinite loop



# Summary of Various SSSP Algorithms

- General case: weighted graph
  - Use  $O(VE)$  Bellman Ford's algorithm (the previous lecture)
- Special case 1: Tree
  - Use  $O(V)$  BFS or DFS 😊
- Special case 2: unweighted graph
  - Use  $O(V+E)$  BFS 😊
- Special case 3: DAG (precursor to DP, revisited next week)
  - Use  $O(V+E)$  DFS to get the topological sort,  
then relax the vertices using this topological order
- Special case 4ab: graph has no negative weight/negative cycle
  - Use  $O((V+E) \log V)$  original/modified Dijkstra's, respectively



# Online Quiz 2 (OQ2) Preparation 😊

After Lecture 09, I will set a random test mode  
@ VisuAlgo to see if you are ready for OQ2

OQ2 material: A bit of OQ1 material, and mostly Graph DS,  
Graph Traversal (DFS/BFS), MST (Prim's/Kruskal's),  
SSSP (Bellman Ford's/Dijkstra's)

Meanwhile, train first:

<http://visualgo.net/training.html?diff=Hard&n=20&tl=40&module=graphds,graphtraversal,mst,sssp>