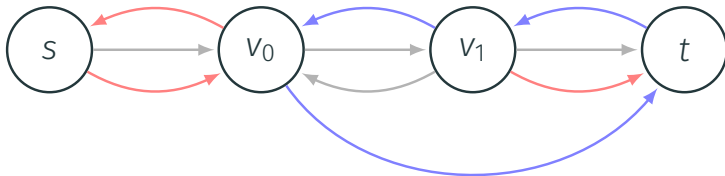




## Pre-lecture brain teaser

You have a graph  $\underline{G}(V,E)$ . Some of the edges are red, some are white and some are blue. You are given two distinct vertices  $u$  and  $v$  and want to find a walk  $[u \rightarrow v]$  such that:

- a white edge must be taken after a red edge only.
- a blue edge must be taken after a white edge only.
- and a red edge may be taken after a blue edge only.
- must start on red edge



# ECE-374-B: Lecture 17 - Bellman-Ford and Dynamic Programming on Graphs

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**Instructor:** Nickvash Kani

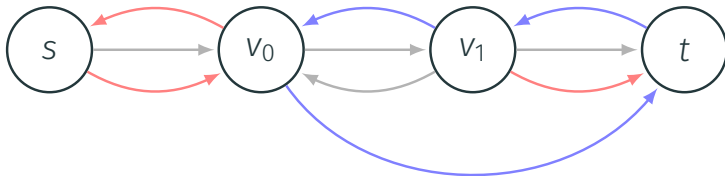
October 28, 2025

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

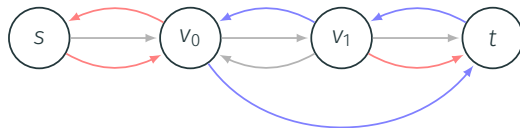
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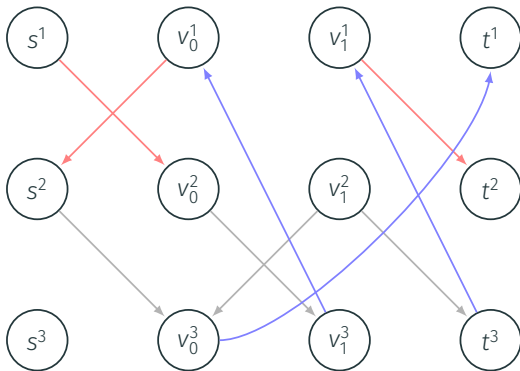
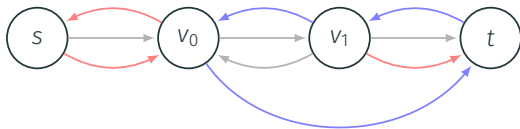
- a white edge must be taken after a red edge only.
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- must start on red edge



## Pre-lecture brain teaser



## Pre-lecture brain teaser



## Shortest Paths with Negative Length Edges

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Why Dijkstra's algorithm fails with  
negative edges

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# Single-Source Shortest Paths with Negative Edge Lengths

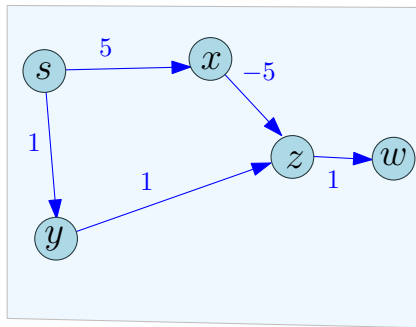
## Single-Source Shortest Path Problems

**Input:** A directed graph  $G = (V, E)$  with arbitrary (including negative) edge lengths.

For edge  $e = (u, v)$ ,  $\ell(e) = \ell(u, v)$  is its length.

- Given nodes  $s, t$  find shortest path from  $s$  to  $t$ .
- Given node  $s$  find shortest path from  $s$  to all other nodes.

## What are the distances computed by Dijkstra's algorithm?

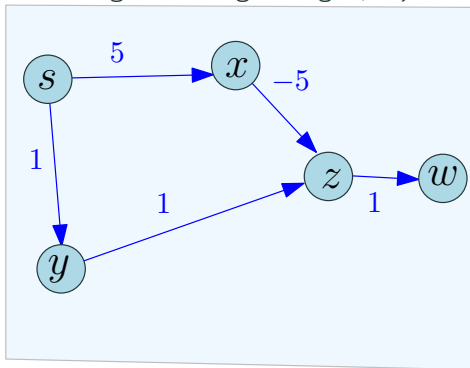


The distance as computed by Dijkstra algorithm starting from  $s$ :

1.  $s = 0, x = 5, y = 1, z = 0$ .
2.  $s = 0, x = 1, y = 2, z = 5$ .
3.  $s = 0, x = 5, y = 1, z = 2$ .
4. IDK.

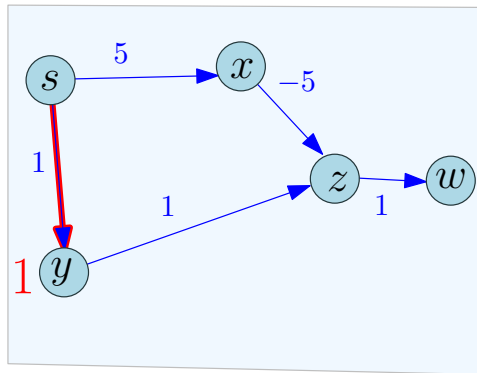
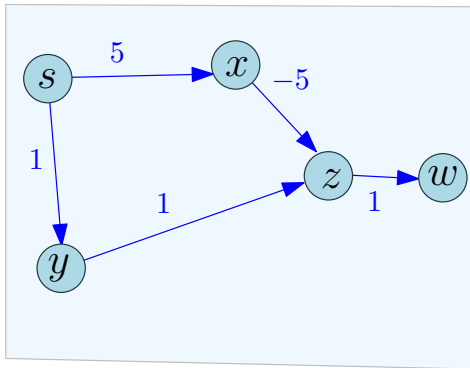
## Dijkstra's Algorithm and Negative Lengths

With negative length edges, Dijkstra's algorithm can fail



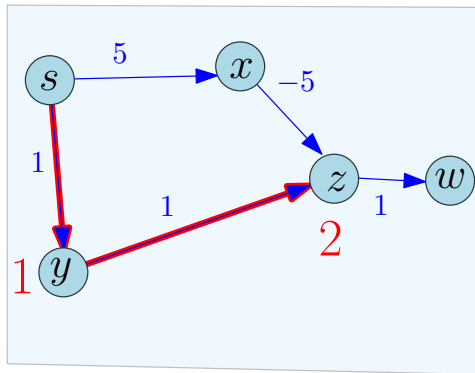
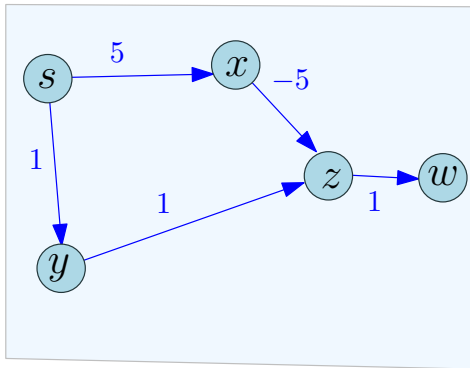
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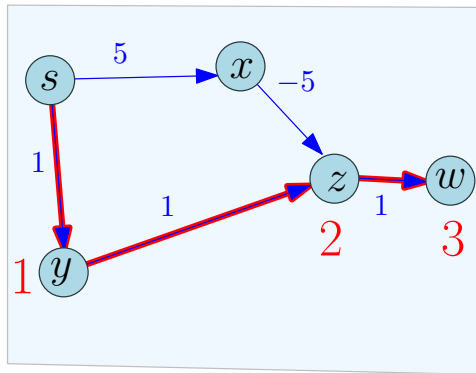
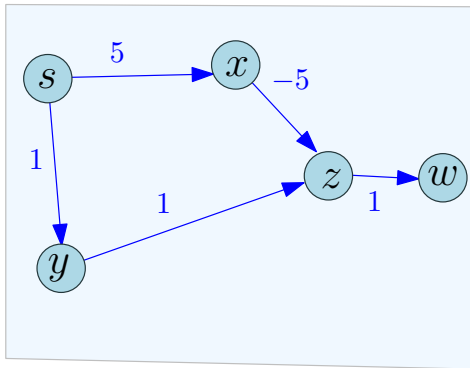
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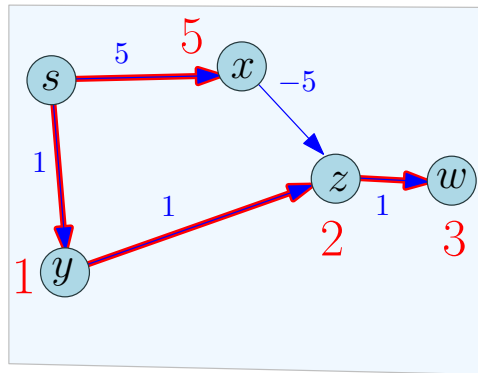
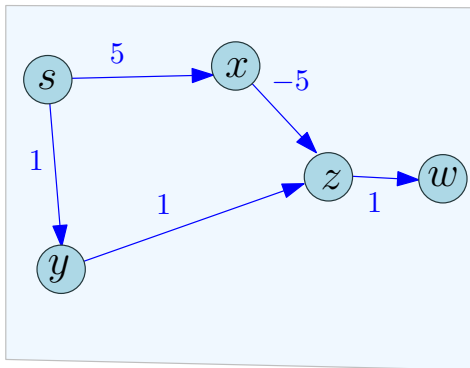
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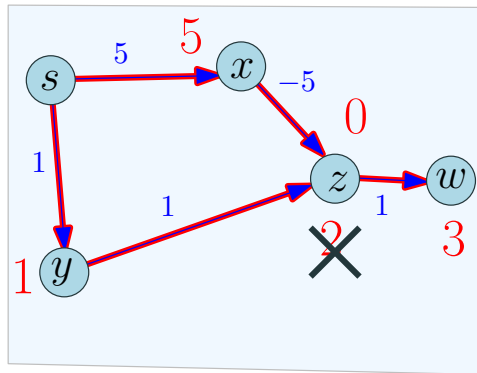
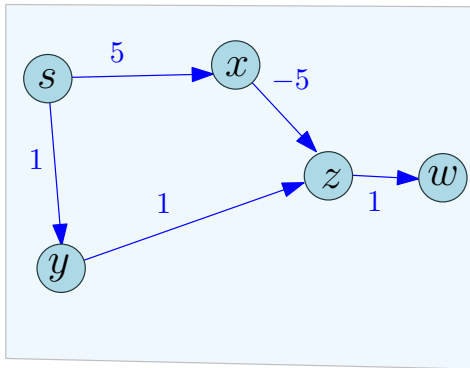
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# Dijkstra's Algorithm and Negative Lengths

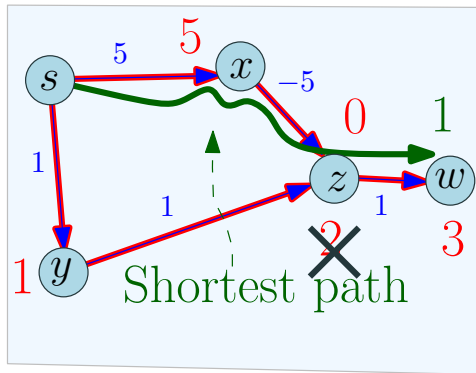
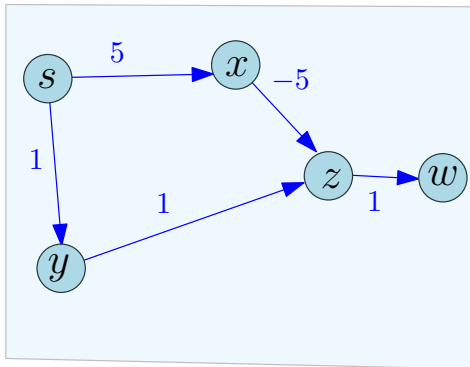
With negative length edges, Dijkstra's algorithm can fail





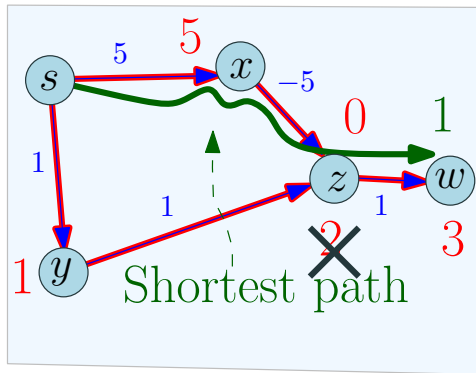
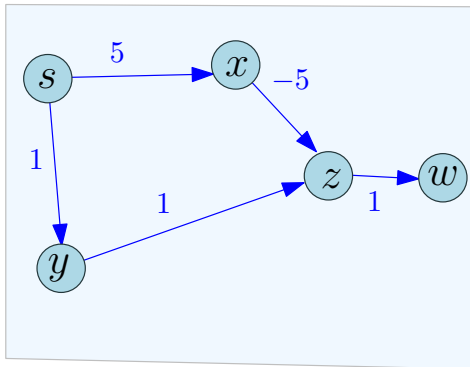
# Dijkstra's Algorithm and Negative Lengths

With negative length edges, Dijkstra's algorithm can fail



## Dijkstra's Algorithm and Negative Lengths

With negative length edges, Dijkstra's algorithm can fail



**False assumption:** Dijkstra's algorithm assumes that if  $s \rightarrow v_0 \rightarrow v_1 \rightarrow v_2 \dots \rightarrow v_k$  is a shortest path from  $s$  to  $v_k$  then  $\text{dist}(s, v_i) \leq \text{dist}(s, v_{i+1})$  for  $0 \leq i < k$ . Holds true only for non-negative edge lengths.

# Shortest Paths with Negative Lengths

## Lemma

*Let  $G$  be a directed graph with arbitrary edge lengths. If*

*$S = v_0 \rightarrow v_1 \rightarrow v_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow v_k$  is a shortest path from  $s$  to  $v_k$  then for  $1 \leq i < k$ :*

- $S = v_0 \rightarrow v_1 \rightarrow v_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow v_i$  is a shortest path from  $s$  to  $v_i$*

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- $S = v_0 \rightarrow v_1 \rightarrow v_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow v_i$  is a shortest path from  $s$  to  $v_i$
- **False:**  $\text{dist}(s, v_i) \leq \text{dist}(s, v_k)$  for  $1 \leq i < k$ . *Holds true only for non-negative edge lengths.*

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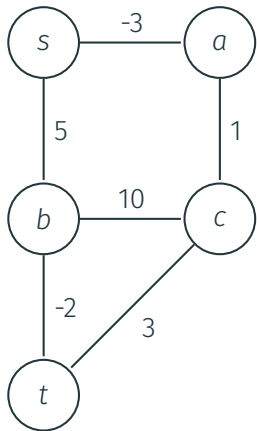
Cannot explore nodes in increasing order of distance! We need other strategies.

Why can't we just re-normalize the edge lengths!?

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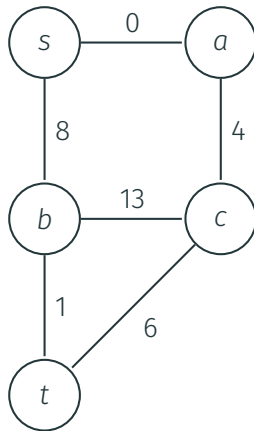
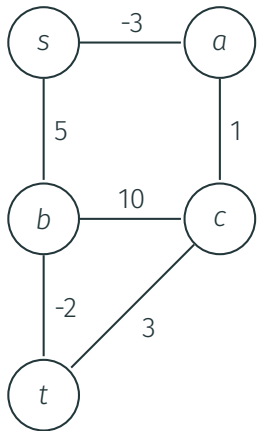
# Instinctual thought

Why can't we simply add a weight to each edge so that the shortest length is 0 (or positive).



# Instinctual thought

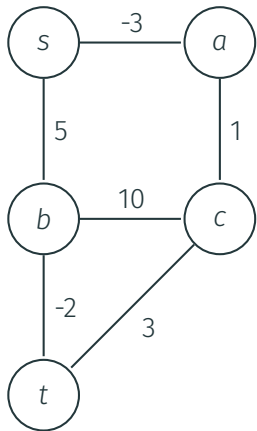
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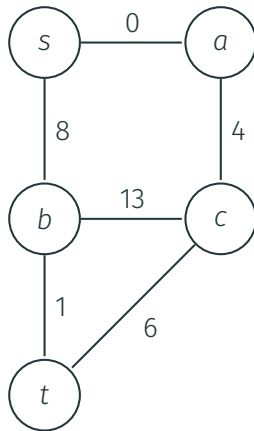


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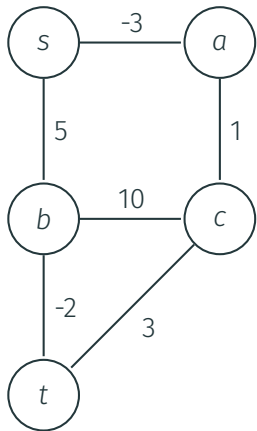
Shortest Path:  $s \rightarrow a \rightarrow c \rightarrow t$



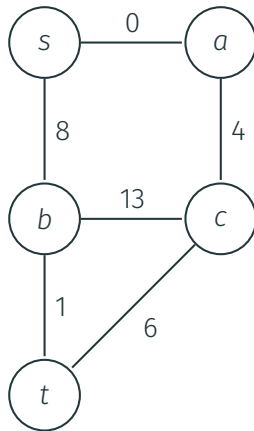
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Why can't we simply add a weight to each edge so that the shortest length is 0 (or positive).



Shortest Path:  $s \rightarrow a \rightarrow c \rightarrow t$



Shortest Path:  $s \rightarrow b \rightarrow t$

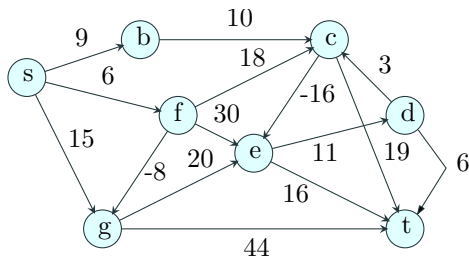
But wait! Things get worse: Negative cycles

---

# Negative Length Cycles

## Definition

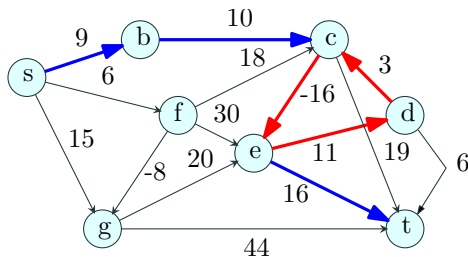
A cycle  $C$  is a negative length cycle if the sum of the edge lengths of  $C$  is negative.



# Negative Length Cycles

## Definition

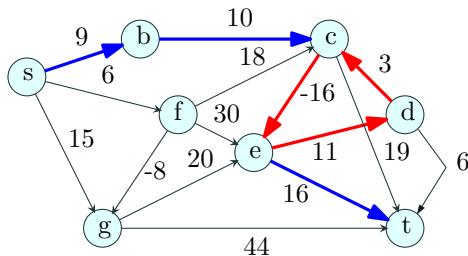
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# Negative Length Cycles

## Definition

A cycle  $C$  is a negative length cycle if the sum of the edge lengths of  $C$  is negative.



What is the shortest path distance between s and t?

Reminder: Paths have to be simple...

## Shortest Paths and Negative Cycles

Given  $G = (V, E)$  with edge lengths and  $s, t$ . Suppose

- $G$  has a negative length cycle  $C$ , and
- $s$  can reach  $C$  and  $C$  can reach  $t$ .

## Shortest Paths and Negative Cycles

Given  $G = (V, E)$  with edge lengths and  $s, t$ . Suppose

- $G$  has a negative length cycle  $C$ , and
- $s$  can reach  $C$  and  $C$  can reach  $t$ .

**Question:** What is the shortest distance from  $s$  to  $t$ ?

Possible answers: Define shortest distance to be:

- undefined, that is  $-\infty$ , OR
- the length of a shortest simple path from  $s$  to  $t$ .



## Really bad news about negative edges, and shortest path...

### Lemma

*If there is an efficient algorithm to find a shortest simple  $s \rightarrow t$  path in a graph with negative edge lengths, then there is an efficient algorithm to find the longest simple  $s \rightarrow t$  path in a graph with positive edge lengths.*

Finding the  $s \rightarrow t$  longest path is difficult. **NP-HARD!**

Restating problem of Shortest path  
with negative edges

---

## Alternatively: Finding Shortest Walks

Given a graph  $G = (V, E)$ :

- A **path** is a sequence of distinct vertices  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k$  such that  $(v_i, v_{i+1}) \in E$  for  $1 \leq i \leq k - 1$ .
- A **walk** is a sequence of vertices  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k$  such that  $(v_i, v_{i+1}) \in E$  for  $1 \leq i \leq k - 1$ . Vertices are allowed to repeat.

Define  $dist(u, v)$  to be the length of a shortest walk from  $u$  to  $v$ .

- If there is a walk from  $u$  to  $v$  that contains negative length cycle then  $dist(u, v) = -\infty$
- Else there is a path with at most  $n - 1$  edges whose length is equal to the length of a shortest walk and  $dist(u, v)$  is finite

Helpful to think about walks

# Shortest Paths with Negative Edge Lengths - Problems

## Algorithmic Problems

Input: A directed graph  $G = (V, E)$  with edge lengths (could be negative). For edge  $e = (u, v)$ ,  $\ell(e) = \ell(u, v)$  is its length.

## Questions:

- Given nodes  $s, t$ , either find a negative length cycle  $C$  that  $s$  can reach or find a shortest path from  $s$  to  $t$ .
- Given node  $s$ , either find a negative length cycle  $C$  that  $s$  can reach or find shortest path distances from  $s$  to all reachable nodes.
- Check if  $G$  has a negative length cycle or not.

## Shortest Paths with Negative Edge Lengths - In Undirected Graphs

**Note:** With negative lengths, shortest path problems and negative cycle detection in undirected graphs cannot be reduced to directed graphs by bi-directing each undirected edge. Why?

Problem can be solved efficiently in undirected graphs but algorithms are different and significantly more involved than those for directed graphs. One need to compute  $T$ -joins in the relevant graph. Pretty painful stuff.

# Bellman Ford Algorithm

---

Shortest path via number of hops

---

## Shortest Paths and Recursion

- Compute the shortest path distance from  $s$  to  $t$  recursively?
- What are the smaller sub-problems?



# Shortest Paths and Recursion

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- What are the smaller sub-problems?

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- *$s = v_0 \rightarrow v_1 \rightarrow v_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow v_i$  is a shortest path from  $s$  to  $v_i$*

Sub-problem idea: paths of fewer hops/edges

## Hop-based Recursion: Bellman-Ford Algorithm

Single-source problem: fix source  $s$ .

Assume that all nodes can be reached by  $s$  in  $G$

Assume  $G$  has no negative-length cycle (for now).

$d(v, k)$ : shortest walk length from  $s$  to  $v$  using at most  $k$  edges.

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Note:  $\text{dist}(s, v) = d(v, n - 1)$ .

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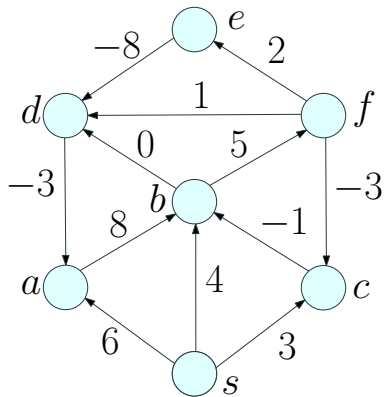
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Note:  $dist(s, v) = d(v, n - 1)$ . Recursion for  $d(v, k)$ :

$$d(v, k) = \min \begin{cases} \min_{u \in V} (d(u, k - 1) + \ell(u, v)). \\ d(v, k - 1) \end{cases}$$

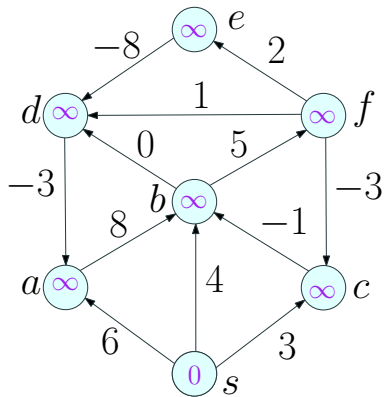
Base case:  $d(s, 0) = 0$  and  $d(v, 0) = \infty$  for all  $v \neq s$ .

## Example



round	s	a	b	c	d	e	f

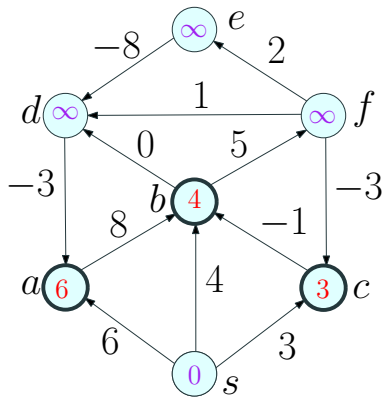
## Example



round	s	a	b	c	d	e	f
0	0	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$

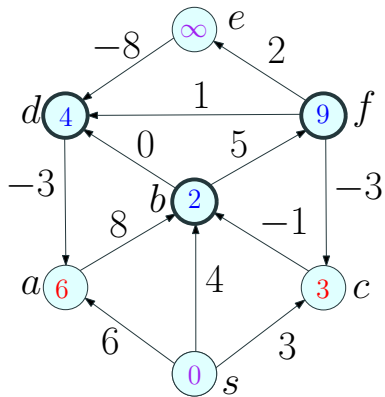


## Example



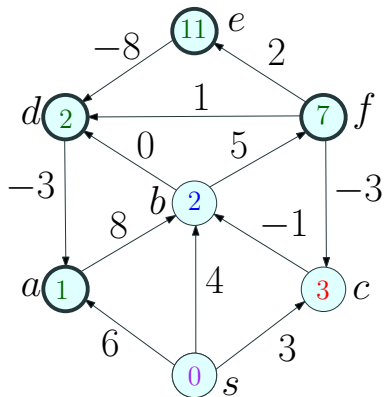
round	s	a	b	c	d	e	f
0	0	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
1	0	6	4	3	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$

## Example



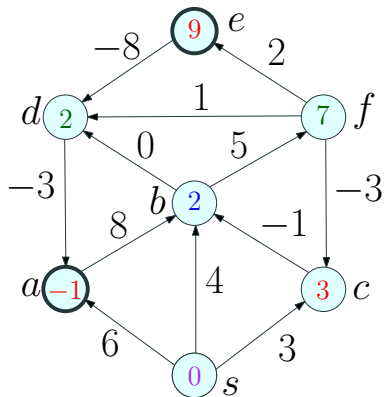
round	s	a	b	c	d	e	f
0	0	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
1	0	6	4	3	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
2	0	6	2	3	4	$\infty$	9

## Example



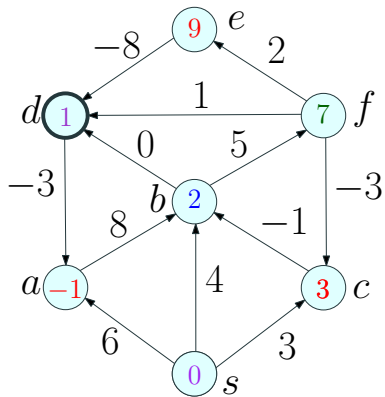
round	s	a	b	c	d	e	f
0	0	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
1	0	6	4	3	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
2	0	6	2	3	4	$\infty$	9
3	0	1	2	3	2	11	7

## Example



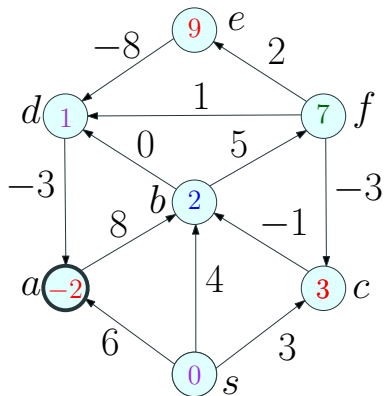
round	s	a	b	c	d	e	f
0	0	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
1	0	6	4	3	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
2	0	6	2	3	4	$\infty$	9
3	0	1	2	3	2	11	7
4	0	-1	2	3	2	9	7

## Example



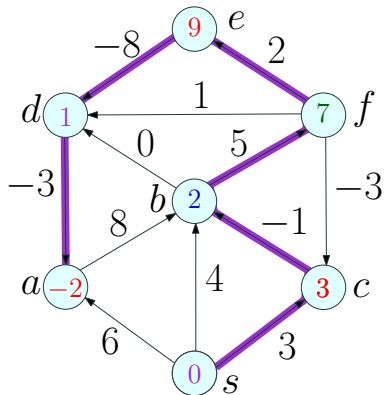
round	s	a	b	c	d	e	f
0	0	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
1	0	6	4	3	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
2	0	6	2	3	4	$\infty$	9
3	0	1	2	3	2	11	7
4	0	-1	2	3	2	9	7
5	0	-1	2	3	1	9	7

## Example



round	s	a	b	c	d	e	f
0	0	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
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2	0	6	2	3	4	$\infty$	9
3	0	1	2	3	2	11	7
4	0	-1	2	3	2	9	7
5	0	-1	2	3	1	9	7
6	0	-2	2	3	1	9	7

## Example



round	s	a	b	c	d	e	f
0	0	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
1	0	6	4	3	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
2	0	6	2	3	4	$\infty$	9
3	0	1	2	3	2	11	7
4	0	-1	2	3	2	9	7
5	0	-1	2	3	1	9	7
6	0	-2	2	3	1	9	7

# The Bellman-Ford Algorithm

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# Bellman-Ford Algorithm

```
Create in(G) list from adj(G)

for each  $u \in V$  do
     $d(u, 0) \leftarrow \infty$ 
 $d(s, 0) \leftarrow 0$ 

for  $k = 1$  to  $n - 1$  do
    for each  $v \in V$  do
         $d(v, k) \leftarrow d(v, k - 1)$ 
        for each edge  $(u, v) \in in(v)$  do
             $d(v, k) = \min\{d(v, k), d(u, k - 1) + \ell(u, v)\}$ 

for each  $v \in V$  do
     $\text{dist}(s, v) \leftarrow d(v, n - 1)$ 
```

# Bellman-Ford Algorithm

```
Create in(G) list from adj(G)

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for each  $v \in V$  do
     $\text{dist}(s, v) \leftarrow d(v, n - 1)$ 
```

Running time:

# Bellman-Ford Algorithm

```
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for each  $v \in V$  do
     $\text{dist}(s, v) \leftarrow d(v, n - 1)$ 
```

Running time:  $O(n(n + m))$

# Bellman-Ford Algorithm

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for each  $v \in V$  do
     $\text{dist}(s, v) \leftarrow d(v, n - 1)$ 
```

Running time:  $O(n(n + m))$  Space:

# Bellman-Ford Algorithm

```
Create in(G) list from adj(G)

for each  $u \in V$  do
     $d(u, 0) \leftarrow \infty$ 
 $d(s, 0) \leftarrow 0$ 

for  $k = 1$  to  $n - 1$  do
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        for each edge  $(u, v) \in in(v)$  do
             $d(v, k) = \min\{d(v, k), d(u, k - 1) + \ell(u, v)\}$ 

for each  $v \in V$  do
     $\text{dist}(s, v) \leftarrow d(v, n - 1)$ 
```

Running time:  $O(n(n + m))$  Space:  $O(m + n^2)$  (Space can be reduced to  $O(m + n)$ ).

## Bellman-Ford Algorithm: Cleaner version

```
for each  $u \in V$  do
     $d(u) \leftarrow \infty$ 
 $d(s) \leftarrow 0$ 

for  $k = 1$  to  $n - 1$  do
    for each  $v \in V$  do
        for each edge  $(u, v) \in in(v)$  do
             $d(v) = \min\{d(v), d(u) + \ell(u, v)\}$ 

for each  $v \in V$  do
     $\text{dist}(s, v) \leftarrow d(v)$ 
```

Running time:  $O(mn)$  Space:  $O(m + n)$

## Bellman-Ford Algorithm: Cleaner version

```
for each  $u \in V$  do
     $d(u) \leftarrow \infty$ 
 $d(s) \leftarrow 0$ 

for  $k = 1$  to  $n - 1$  do
    for each  $v \in V$  do
        for each edge  $(u, v) \in \text{in}(v)$  do
             $d(v) = \min\{d(v), d(u) + \ell(u, v)\}$ 

for each  $v \in V$  do
     $\text{dist}(s, v) \leftarrow d(v)$ 
```

Running time:  $O(mn)$  Space:  $O(m + n)$  Do we need the  $\text{in}(V)$  list?

## Bellman-Ford Algorithm: Cleaner version

```
for each  $u \in V$  do  
     $d(u) \leftarrow \infty$   
 $d(s) \leftarrow 0$   
  
for  $k = 1$  to  $n - 1$  do  
    for each edge  $(u, v) \in G$  do  
         $d(v) = \min\{d(v), d(u) + \ell(u, v)\}$   
  
for each  $v \in V$  do  
     $\text{dist}(s, v) \leftarrow d(v)$ 
```

Running time:  $O(mn)$  Space:  $O(n)$

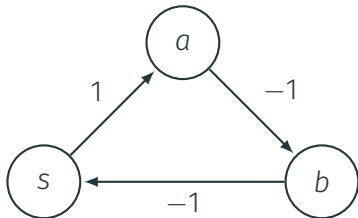


## Bellman-Ford: Detecting negative cycles

---

## Negative cycles

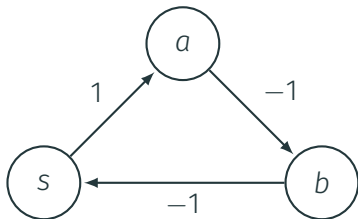
What happens if we run this on a graph with negative cycles?



round	s	a	b

## Negative cycles

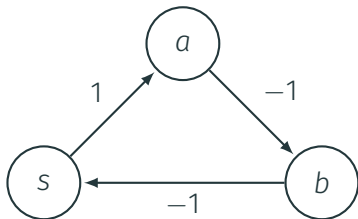
What happens if we run this on a graph with negative cycles?



round	s	a	b
0	0	$\infty$	$\infty$

## Negative cycles

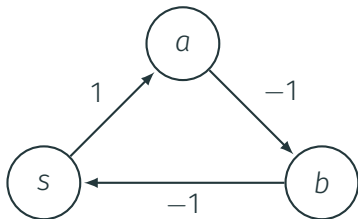
What happens if we run this on a graph with negative cycles?



round	s	a	b
0	0	$\infty$	$\infty$
1	0	1	$\infty$

## Negative cycles

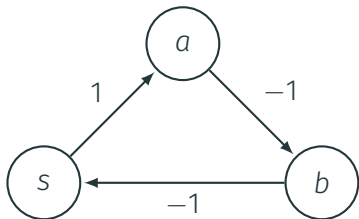
What happens if we run this on a graph with negative cycles?



round	s	a	b
0	0	$\infty$	$\infty$
1	0	1	$\infty$
2	0	1	0

## Negative cycles

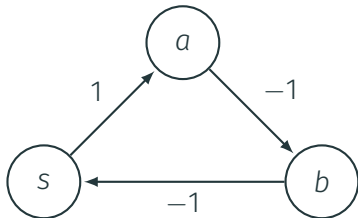
What happens if we run this on a graph with negative cycles?



round	s	a	b
0	0	$\infty$	$\infty$
1	0	1	$\infty$
2	0	1	0
3	-1	1	0

## Negative cycles

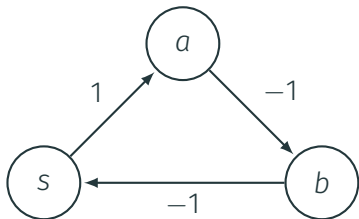
What happens if we run this on a graph with negative cycles?



round	s	a	b
0	0	$\infty$	$\infty$
1	0	1	$\infty$
2	0	1	0
3	-1	1	0
4	-1	0	0

## Negative cycles

What happens if we run this on a graph with negative cycles?



round	s	a	b
0	0	$\infty$	$\infty$
1	0	1	$\infty$
2	0	1	0
3	-1	1	0
4	-1	0	0
5	-1	0	-1



## Negative cycles can not hide

### Lemma restated

If  $G$  does not have a negative length cycle reachable from  $s \implies \forall v$ :

$$d(v, n) = d(v, n - 1).$$

Also,  $d(v, n - 1)$  is the length of the shortest path between  $s$  and  $v$ .

Put together are the following:

### Lemma

$G$  has a negative length cycle reachable from  $s \iff$  there is some node  $v$  such that  $d(v, n) < d(v, n - 1)$ .

## Bellman-Ford: Negative Cycle Detection - final version

```
for each  $u \in V$  do
     $d(u) \leftarrow \infty$ 
 $d(s) \leftarrow 0$ 

for  $k = 1$  to  $n - 1$  do
    for each  $v \in V$  do
        for each edge  $(u, v) \in in(v)$  do
             $d(v) = \min\{d(v), d(u) + \ell(u, v)\}$ 
(* One more iteration to check if distances change *)
for each  $v \in V$  do
    for each edge  $(u, v) \in in(v)$  do
        if  $(d(v) > d(u) + \ell(u, v))$ 
            Output ``Negative Cycle''

for each  $v \in V$  do
     $\text{dist}(s, v) \leftarrow d(v)$ 
```

## Variants on Bellman-Ford

---

## Finding the Paths and a Shortest Path Tree

How do we find a shortest path tree in addition to distances?

- For each  $v$  the  $d(v)$  can only get smaller as algorithm proceeds.
- If  $d(v)$  becomes smaller it is because we found a vertex  $u$  such that  $d(v) > d(u) + \ell(u, v)$  and we update  $d(v) = d(u) + \ell(u, v)$ . That is, we found a shorter path to  $v$  through  $u$ .
- For each  $v$  have a  $prev(v)$  pointer and update it to point to  $u$  if  $v$  finds a shorter path via  $u$ .
- At end of algorithm  $prev(v)$  pointers give a shortest path tree oriented towards the source  $s$ .

# Negative Cycle Detection

## Negative Cycle Detection

Given directed graph  $G$  with arbitrary edge lengths, does it have a negative length cycle?

# Negative Cycle Detection

## Negative Cycle Detection

Given directed graph  $G$  with arbitrary edge lengths, does it have a negative length cycle?

- Bellman-Ford checks whether there is a negative cycle  $C$  that is reachable from a specific vertex  $s$ . There may negative cycles not reachable from  $s$ .
- Run Bellman-Ford  $|V|$  times, once from each node  $u$ ?

## Negative Cycle Detection

- Add a new node  $s'$  and connect it to all nodes of  $G$  with zero length edges. Bellman-Ford from  $s'$  will find a negative length cycle if there is one.
- Negative cycle detection can be done with one Bellman-Ford invocation.

## Shortest Paths in DAGs

---



# Shortest Paths in a DAG

## Single-Source Shortest Path Problems

**Input** A directed **acyclic** graph  $G = (V, E)$  with arbitrary (including negative) edge lengths. For edge  $e = (u, v)$ ,  $\ell(e) = \ell(u, v)$  is its length.

- Given nodes  $s, t$  find shortest path from  $s$  to  $t$ .
- Given node  $s$  find shortest path from  $s$  to all other nodes.

# Shortest Paths in a DAG

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- Given nodes  $s, t$  find shortest path from  $s$  to  $t$ .
- Given node  $s$  find shortest path from  $s$  to all other nodes.

## Simplification of algorithms for DAGs

- No cycles and hence no negative length cycles! Hence can find shortest paths even for negative length edges
- Can order nodes using topological sort

## Algorithm for DAGs

- Want to find shortest paths from  $s$ . Ignore nodes not reachable from  $s$ .
- Let  $s = v_1, v_2, v_{i+1}, \dots, v_n$  be a topological sort of  $G$

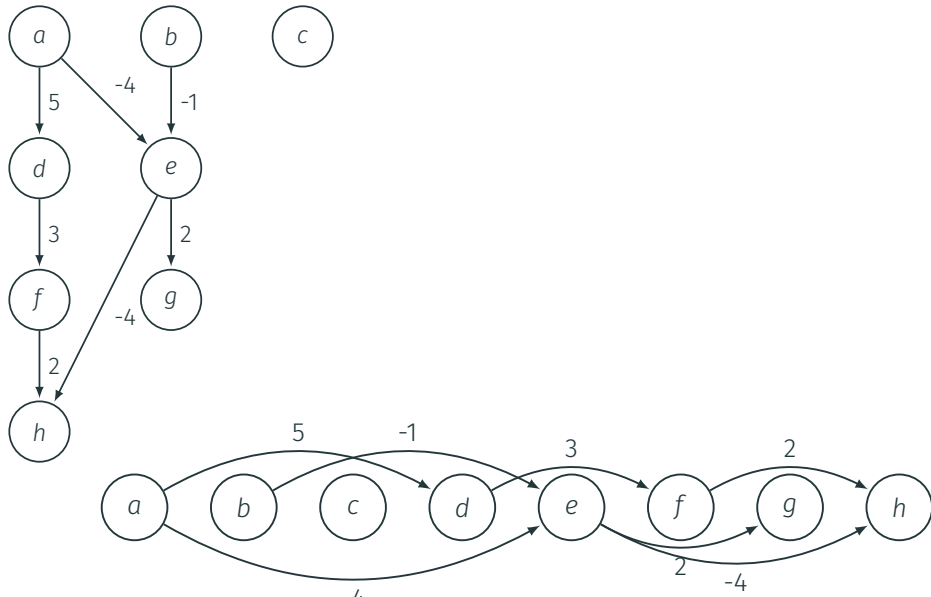
## Algorithm for DAGs

- Want to find shortest paths from  $s$ . Ignore nodes not reachable from  $s$ .
- Let  $s = v_1, v_2, v_{i+1}, \dots, v_n$  be a topological sort of  $G$

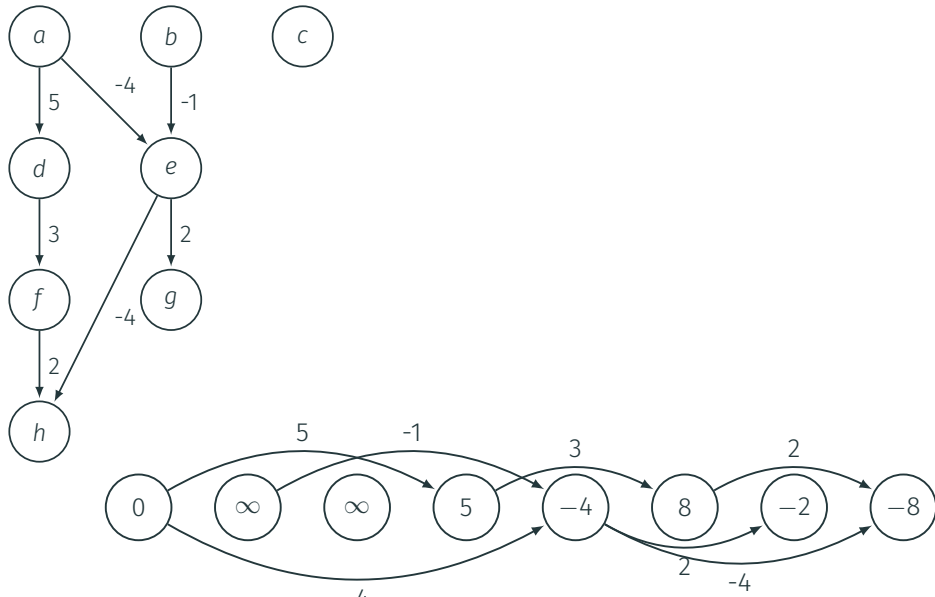
### Observation:

- shortest path from  $s$  to  $v_i$  cannot use any node from  $v_{i+1}, \dots, v_n$
- can find shortest paths in topological sort order.

## Shortest Paths for DAGs - Example



## Shortest Paths for DAGs - Example



## Algorithm for DAGs

```
for  $i = 1$  to  $n$  do
     $d(s, v_i) = \infty$ 
 $d(s, s) = 0$ 

for  $i = 1$  to  $n - 1$  do
    for each edge  $(v_i, v_j)$  in  $\text{Adj}(v_i)$  do
         $d(s, v_j) = \min\{d(s, v_j), d(s, v_i) + \ell(v_i, v_j)\}$ 

return  $d(s, \cdot)$  values computed
```

**Correctness:** induction on  $i$  and observation in previous slide.

**Running time:**  $O(m + n)$  time algorithm! Works for negative edge lengths and hence can find longest paths in a DAG.

## All Pairs Shortest Paths

---



# Shortest Path Problems

## Shortest Path Problems

**Input** A (undirected or directed) graph  $G = (V, E)$  with edge lengths (or costs). For edge  $e = (u, v)$ ,  $\ell(e) = \ell(u, v)$  is its length.

- Given nodes  $s, t$  find shortest path from  $s$  to  $t$ .
- Given node  $s$  find shortest path from  $s$  to all other nodes.
- Find shortest paths for all pairs of nodes.

## Single-Source Shortest Path Problems

**Input** A (undirected or directed) graph  $G = (V, E)$  with edge lengths. For edge  $e = (u, v)$ ,  $\ell(e) = \ell(u, v)$  is its length.

- Given nodes  $s, t$  find shortest path from  $s$  to  $t$ .
- Given node  $s$  find shortest path from  $s$  to all other nodes.

# SSSP: Single-Source Shortest Paths

## Single-Source Shortest Path Problems

**Input** A (undirected or directed) graph  $G = (V, E)$  with edge lengths. For edge  $e = (u, v)$ ,  $\ell(e) = \ell(u, v)$  is its length.

- Given nodes  $s, t$  find shortest path from  $s$  to  $t$ .
- Given node  $s$  find shortest path from  $s$  to all other nodes.

**Dijkstra's algorithm** for non-negative edge lengths. Running time:  $O((m + n) \log n)$  with heaps and  $O(m + n \log n)$  with advanced priority queues.

**Bellman-Ford algorithm** for arbitrary edge lengths. Running time:  $O(nm)$ .

# All-Pairs Shortest Paths - Using known algorithms...

## All-Pairs Shortest Path Problem

**Input** A (undirected or directed) graph  $G = (V, E)$  with edge lengths. For edge  $e = (u, v)$ ,  $\ell(e) = \ell(u, v)$  is its length.

- Find shortest paths for all pairs of nodes.

## All-Pairs Shortest Path Problem

**Input** A (undirected or directed) graph  $G = (V, E)$  with edge lengths. For edge  $e = (u, v)$ ,  $\ell(e) = \ell(u, v)$  is its length.

- Find shortest paths for all pairs of nodes.

Apply single-source algorithms  $n$  times, once for each vertex.

- Non-negative lengths.  $O(nm \log n)$  with heaps and  $O(nm + n^2 \log n)$  using advanced priority queues.
- Arbitrary edge lengths:  $O(n^2m)$ .  
 $\Theta(n^4)$  if  $m = \Omega(n^2)$ .

# All-Pairs Shortest Paths - Using known algorithms...

## All-Pairs Shortest Path Problem

**Input** A (undirected or directed) graph  $G = (V, E)$  with edge lengths. For edge  $e = (u, v)$ ,  $\ell(e) = \ell(u, v)$  is its length.

- Find shortest paths for all pairs of nodes.

Apply single-source algorithms  $n$  times, once for each vertex.

- Non-negative lengths.  $O(nm \log n)$  with heaps and  $O(nm + n^2 \log n)$  using advanced priority queues.
- Arbitrary edge lengths:  $O(n^2m)$ .  
 $\Theta(n^4)$  if  $m = \Omega(n^2)$ .

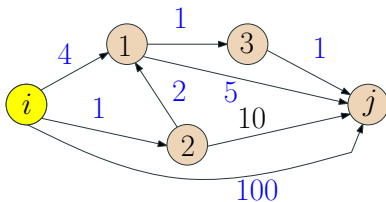
Can we do better?

## All Pairs Shortest Paths: A recursive solution

---

## All-Pairs: Recursion on index of intermediate nodes

- Number vertices arbitrarily as  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n$
- $\text{dist}(i, j, k)$ : length of shortest walk from  $v_i$  to  $v_j$  among all walks in which the largest index of an intermediate node is at most  $k$  (could be  $-\infty$  if there is a negative length cycle).



$$\text{dist}(i, j, 0) =$$

$$\text{dist}(i, j, 1) =$$

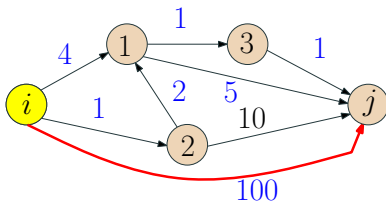
$$\text{dist}(i, j, 2) =$$

$$\text{dist}(i, j, 3) =$$



## All-Pairs: Recursion on index of intermediate nodes

- Number vertices arbitrarily as  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n$
- $\text{dist}(i, j, k)$ : length of shortest walk from  $v_i$  to  $v_j$  among all walks in which the largest index of an intermediate node is at most  $k$  (could be  $-\infty$  if there is a negative length cycle).



$$\text{dist}(i, j, 0) = 100$$

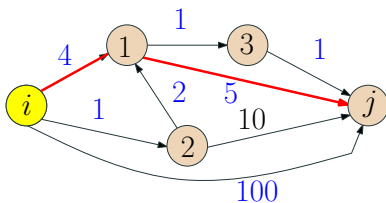
$$\text{dist}(i, j, 1) =$$

$$\text{dist}(i, j, 2) =$$

$$\text{dist}(i, j, 3) =$$

## All-Pairs: Recursion on index of intermediate nodes

- Number vertices arbitrarily as  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n$
- $\text{dist}(i, j, k)$ : length of shortest walk from  $v_i$  to  $v_j$  among all walks in which the largest index of an intermediate node is at most  $k$  (could be  $-\infty$  if there is a negative length cycle).



$$\text{dist}(i, j, 0) = 100$$

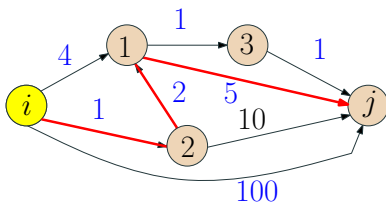
$$\text{dist}(i, j, 1) = 9$$

$$\text{dist}(i, j, 2) =$$

$$\text{dist}(i, j, 3) =$$

## All-Pairs: Recursion on index of intermediate nodes

- Number vertices arbitrarily as  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n$
- $\text{dist}(i, j, k)$ : length of shortest walk from  $v_i$  to  $v_j$  among all walks in which the largest index of an intermediate node is at most  $k$  (could be  $-\infty$  if there is a negative length cycle).



$$\text{dist}(i, j, 0) = 100$$

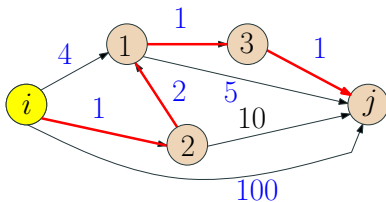
$$\text{dist}(i, j, 1) = 9$$

$$\text{dist}(i, j, 2) = 8$$

$$\text{dist}(i, j, 3) =$$

## All-Pairs: Recursion on index of intermediate nodes

- Number vertices arbitrarily as  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n$
- $\text{dist}(i, j, k)$ : length of shortest walk from  $v_i$  to  $v_j$  among all walks in which the largest index of an intermediate node is at most  $k$  (could be  $-\infty$  if there is a negative length cycle).



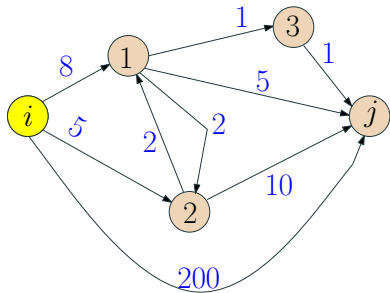
$$\text{dist}(i, j, 0) = 100$$

$$\text{dist}(i, j, 1) = 9$$

$$\text{dist}(i, j, 2) = 8$$

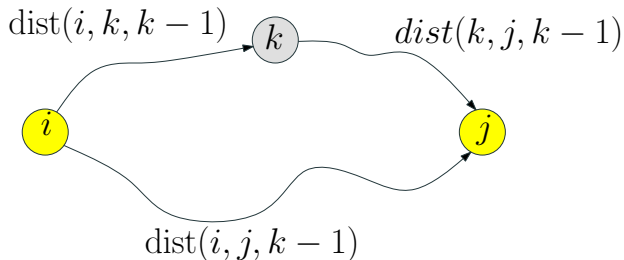
$$\text{dist}(i, j, 3) = 5$$

For the following graph,  $\text{dist}(i, j, 2)$  is...



1. 9
2. 10
3. 11
4. 12
5. 15

## All-Pairs: Recursion on index of intermediate nodes



$$\text{dist}(i, j, k) = \min \begin{cases} \text{dist}(i, j, k-1) \\ \text{dist}(i, k, k-1) + \text{dist}(k, j, k-1) \end{cases}$$

Base case:  $\text{dist}(i, j, 0) = \ell(i, j)$  if  $(i, j) \in E$ , otherwise  $\infty$

**Correctness:** If  $i \rightarrow j$  shortest walk goes through  $k$  then  $k$  occurs only once on the

## All-Pairs: Recursion on index of intermediate nodes

If  $i$  can reach  $k$  and  $k$  can reach  $j$  and  $\text{dist}(k, k, k - 1) < 0$  then  $G$  has a negative length cycle containing  $k$  and  $\text{dist}(i, j, k) = -\infty$ .

Recursion below is valid only if  $\text{dist}(k, k, k - 1) \geq 0$ . We can detect this during the algorithm or wait till the end.

$$\text{dist}(i, j, k) = \min \begin{cases} \text{dist}(i, j, k - 1) \\ \text{dist}(i, k, k - 1) + \text{dist}(k, j, k - 1) \end{cases}$$

## Floyd-Warshall algorithm

---



# Floyd-Warshall Algorithm - for All-Pairs Shortest Paths

$$d(i, j, k) = \min \begin{cases} d(i, j, k-1) \\ d(i, k, k-1) + d(k, j, k-1) \end{cases}$$

```
for i = 1 to n do
  for j = 1 to n do
    d(i, j, 0) = ℓ(i, j)
    (* ℓ(i, j) = ∞ if (i, j) ∉ E, 0 if i = j *)

  for k = 1 to n do
    for i = 1 to n do
      for j = 1 to n do
        d(i, j, k) = min { d(i, j, k-1),
                          d(i, k, k-1) + d(k, j, k-1) }

  for i = 1 to n do
    if (dist(i, i, n) < 0) then
      Output ∃ negative cycle in G
```

# Floyd-Warshall Algorithm - for All-Pairs Shortest Paths

$$d(i, j, k) = \min \begin{cases} d(i, j, k-1) \\ d(i, k, k-1) + d(k, j, k-1) \end{cases}$$

```
for i = 1 to n do
  for j = 1 to n do
    d(i, j, 0) = ℓ(i, j)
    (* ℓ(i, j) = ∞ if (i, j) ∉ E, 0 if i = j *)

  for k = 1 to n do
    for i = 1 to n do
      for j = 1 to n do
        d(i, j, k) = min { d(i, j, k-1),
                          d(i, k, k-1) + d(k, j, k-1) }

  for i = 1 to n do
    if (dist(i, i, n) < 0) then
      Output ∃ negative cycle in G
```

Running Time:

# Floyd-Warshall Algorithm - for All-Pairs Shortest Paths

$$d(i, j, k) = \min \begin{cases} d(i, j, k-1) \\ d(i, k, k-1) + d(k, j, k-1) \end{cases}$$

```
for i = 1 to n do
  for j = 1 to n do
    d(i, j, 0) = ℓ(i, j)
    (* ℓ(i, j) = ∞ if (i, j) ∉ E, 0 if i = j *)

  for k = 1 to n do
    for i = 1 to n do
      for j = 1 to n do
        d(i, j, k) = min { d(i, j, k-1),
                          d(i, k, k-1) + d(k, j, k-1) }

  for i = 1 to n do
    if (dist(i, i, n) < 0) then
      Output ∃ negative cycle in G
```

Running Time:  $\Theta(n^3)$ . Space:  $\Theta(n^3)$ .

## Floyd-Warshall Algorithm: Finding the Paths

**Question:** Can we find the paths in addition to the distances?

## Floyd-Warshall Algorithm: Finding the Paths

**Question:** Can we find the paths in addition to the distances?

- Create a  $n \times n$  array Next that stores the next vertex on shortest path for each pair of vertices
- With array Next, for any pair of given vertices  $i, j$  can compute a shortest path in  $O(n)$  time.

## Floyd-Warshall Algorithm - Finding the Paths

```
for  $i = 1$  to  $n$  do
    for  $j = 1$  to  $n$  do
         $d(i, j, 0) = \ell(i, j)$ 
        (*  $\ell(i, j) = \infty$  if  $(i, j)$  not edge, 0 if  $i = j$  *)
         $Next(i, j) = -1$ 
    for  $k = 1$  to  $n$  do
        for  $i = 1$  to  $n$  do
            for  $j = 1$  to  $n$  do
                if ( $d(i, j, k - 1) > d(i, k, k - 1) + d(k, j, k - 1)$ ) then
                     $d(i, j, k) = d(i, k, k - 1) + d(k, j, k - 1)$ 
                     $Next(i, j) = k$ 
        for  $i = 1$  to  $n$  do
            if ( $d(i, i, n) < 0$ ) then
                Output that there is a negative length cycle in  $G$ 
```

**Exercise:** Given  $Next$  array and any two vertices  $i, j$  describe an  $O(n)$  algorithm to find a  $i$ - $j$  shortest path.

## Summary of shortest path algorithms

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## Summary of results on shortest paths

Single source		
No negative edges	Dijkstra	$O(n \log n + m)$
Edge lengths can be negative	Bellman Ford	$O(nm)$

### All Pairs Shortest Paths

No negative edges	$n$ * Dijkstra	$O(n^2 \log n + nm)$
No negative cycles	$n$ * Bellman Ford	$O(n^2 m) = O(n^4)$
No negative cycles	Johnson's <sup>1</sup>	$O(nm + n^2 \log n)$
No negative cycles	Floyd-Warshall	$O(n^3)$
Unweighted	Matrix multiplication <sup>2</sup>	$O(n^{2.38}), O(n^{2.58})$



## Summary of results on shortest paths

(1): The algorithm for the case that there are no negative cycles, and doing all shortest paths, works by computing a potential function using **Bellman-Ford** and then doing **Dijkstra**. It is mentioned for the sake of completeness, but it is outside the scope of the class.

(2): <https://resources.mpi-inf.mpg.de/departments/d1/teaching/ss12/AdvancedGraphAlgorithms/Slides14.pdf>

Fin

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