CS 445

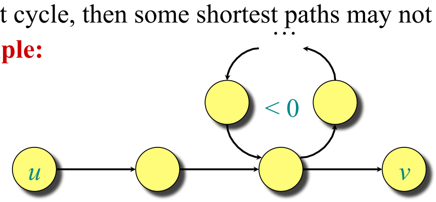
Shortest Paths in Graphs
Bellman-Ford Algorithm

Slides courtesy of Erik Demaine and Carola Wenk

Negative-weight cycles

Recall: If a graph $G = (V, E)$ contains a negative-weight cycle, then some shortest paths may not exist.

Example:



Bellman-Ford algorithm: Finds all shortest-path lengths from a ***source*** $s \in V$ to all $v \in V$ or determines that a negative-weight cycle exists.

Bellman-Ford and Undirected graphs

Bellman-Ford algorithm is designed for **directed** graphs.

If G is undirected, replace every edge (u,v) with two directed edges (u,v) and (v,u), both with weight $w(u,v)$

Bellman-Ford algorithm

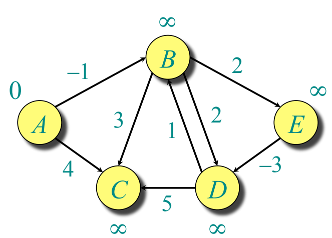
$d[s] \leftarrow 0$
for each $v \in V - \{s\}$
    do $d[v] \leftarrow \infty$ } initialization

for $i \leftarrow 1$ **to** $|V| - 1$ **do**
  for each edge $(u, v) \in E$ **do**
    if $d[v] > d[u] + w(u, v)$ **then**
      $d[v] \leftarrow d[u] + w(u, v)$
      $\pi[v] \leftarrow u$ } ***relaxation step***
for each edge $(u, v) \in E$
  do if $d[v] > d[u] + w(u, v)$
    then report that a negative-weight cycle exists

At the end, $d[v] = \delta(s, v)$. Time $= O(|V|\,|E|)$.

Example of Bellman-Ford

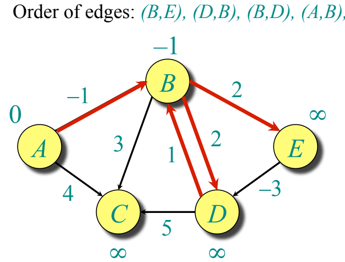
Order of edges: *(B,E), (D,B), (B,D), (A,B), (A,C), (D,C), (B,C), (E,D)*



A	B	C	D	E
0	∞	∞	∞	∞

Example of Bellman-Ford

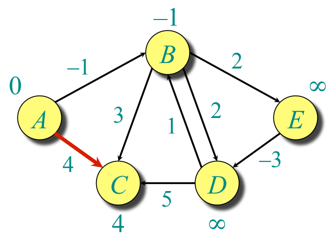
Order of edges: *(B,E), (D,B), (B,D), (A,B), (A,C), (D,C), (B,C), (E,D)*



A	B	C	D	E
0	∞	∞	∞	∞
0	–1	∞	∞	∞

Example of Bellman-Ford

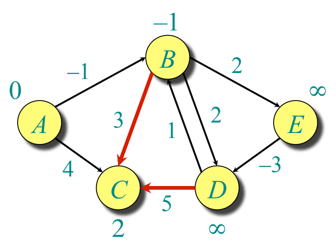
Order of edges: *(B,E), (D,B), (B,D), (A,B), (A,C), (D,C), (B,C), (E,D)*



A	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*
0	∞	∞	∞	∞
0	–1	∞	∞	∞
0	–1	4	∞	∞

Example of Bellman-Ford

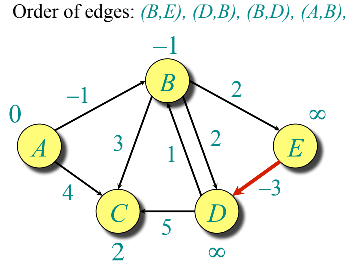
Order of edges: *(B,E), (D,B), (B,D), (A,B), (A,C), (D,C), (B,C), (E,D)*



A	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*
0	∞	∞	∞	∞
0	–1	∞	∞	∞
0	–1	4	∞	∞
0	–1	2	∞	∞

Example of Bellman-Ford

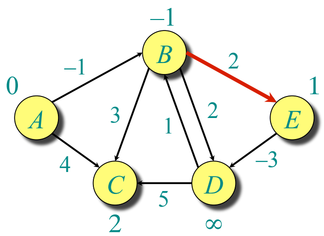
Order of edges: *(B,E), (D,B), (B,D), (A,B), (A,C), (D,C), (B,C), (E,D)*



A	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*
0	∞	∞	∞	∞
0	–1	∞	∞	∞
0	–1	4	∞	∞
0	–1	2	∞	∞

Example of Bellman-Ford

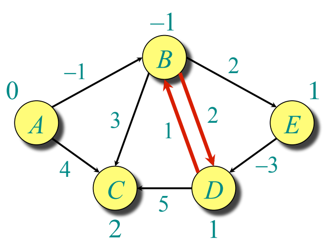
Order of edges: *(B,E), (D,B), (B,D), (A,B), (A,C), (D,C), (B,C), (E,D)*



A	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*
0	∞	∞	∞	∞
0	–1	∞	∞	∞
0	–1	4	∞	∞
0	–1	2	∞	∞
0	–1	2	∞	1

Example of Bellman-Ford

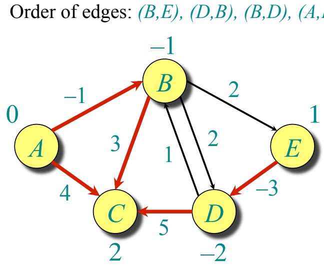
Order of edges: *(B,E), (D,B), (B,D), (A,B), (A,C), (D,C), (B,C), (E,D)*



A	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*
0	∞	∞	∞	∞
0	–1	∞	∞	∞
0	–1	4	∞	∞
0	–1	2	∞	∞
0	–1	2	∞	1
0	–1	2	1	1

Example of Bellman-Ford

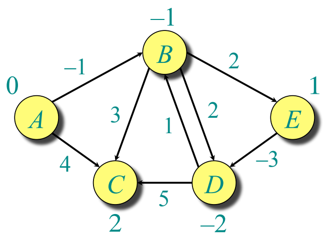
Order of edges: *(B,E), (D,B), (B,D), (A,B), (A,C), (D,C), (B,C), (E,D)*



A	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*
0	∞	∞	∞	∞
0	–1	∞	∞	∞
0	–1	4	∞	∞
0	–1	2	∞	∞
0	–1	2	∞	1
0	–1	2	1	1
0	–1	2	–2	1

Example of Bellman-Ford

Order of edges: *(B,E), (D,B), (B,D), (A,B), (A,C), (D,C), (B,C), (E,D)*



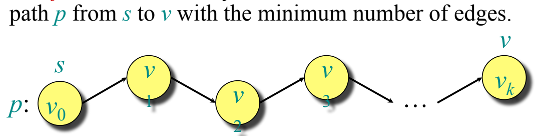
A	B	C	D	E
0	∞	∞	∞	∞
0	−1	∞	∞	∞
0	−1	4	∞	∞
0	−1	2	∞	∞
0	−1	2	∞	1
0	−1	2	1	1
0	−1	2	−2	1

Note: Values decrease monotonically.

Correctness

Theorem. If $G = (V, E)$ contains no negative-weight cycles, then after the Bellman-Ford algorithm executes, $d[v] = \delta(s, v)$ for all $v \in V$.

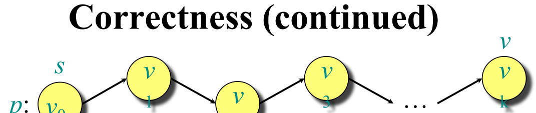
Proof. Let $v \in V$ be any vertex, and consider a shortest path p from s to v with the minimum number of edges.



Since p is a shortest path, we have

$$\delta(s, v_i) = \delta(s, v_{i-1}) + w(v_{i-1}, v_i) \quad \text{for every } i.$$

Correctness (continued)



Initially, $d[v_0] = 0 = \delta(s, v_0)$, and $d[s]$ is unchanged by subsequent relaxations (because of the lemma from last lecture that $d[v] \geq \delta(s, v)$ and $\delta(s, s) \geq 0$ (why ?)).

- After 1 pass through E, we have $d[v_1] = \delta(s, v_1)$.
- After 2 passes through E, we have $d[v_2] = \delta(s, v_2)$.

…

- After k passes through E, we have $d[v_k] = \delta(s, v_k)$.

Since G contains no negative-weight cycles, p is simple. Longest simple path has $\leq |V| - 1$ edges. □

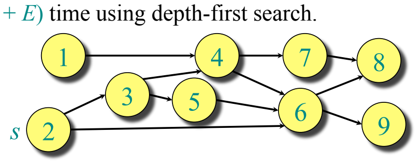
Detection of negative-weight cycles

Corollary. If a value $d[v]$ fails to converge after $|V| - 1$ passes, there exists a negative-weight cycle in G reachable from s. □

DAG shortest paths

If the graph is a ***directed acyclic graph*** (***DAG***), we first ***topologically sort*** the vertices.

- Determine $f : V \to \{1, 2, \ldots, |V|\}$ such that $(u, v) \in E \Rightarrow f(u) < f(v)$.
- $O(V + E)$ time using depth-first search.



Walk through the vertices $u \in V$ in this order, relaxing the edges in $Adj[u]$, thereby obtaining the shortest paths from s in a total of $O(V + E)$ time.