

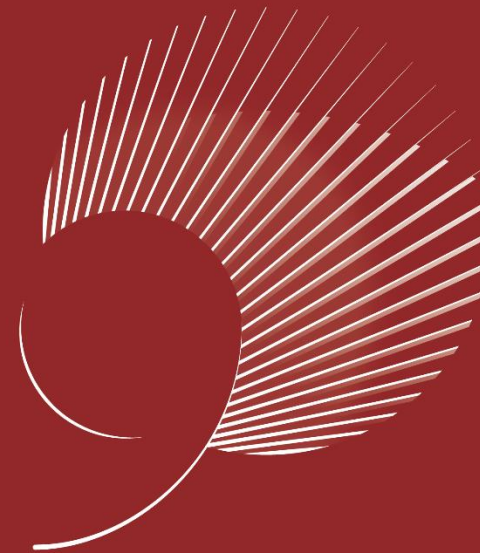
Chapter 24

Single-Source Shortest Paths

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Shortest paths

- How to find the shortest route between two points on a map.
 - Input:
 - Directed graph $G = (V, E)$
 - Weight function $w: E \rightarrow R$
 - *Weight of path* $p = \langle v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k \rangle$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^k w(v_{i-1}, v_i)$$

= sum of edge weights on path p .

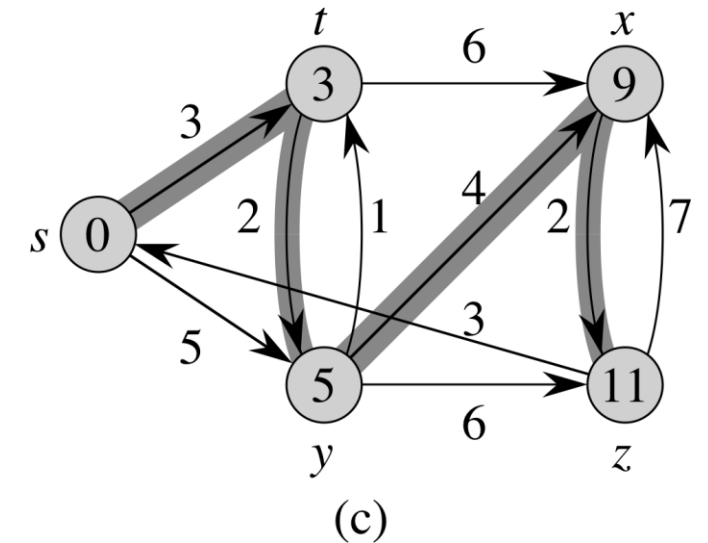
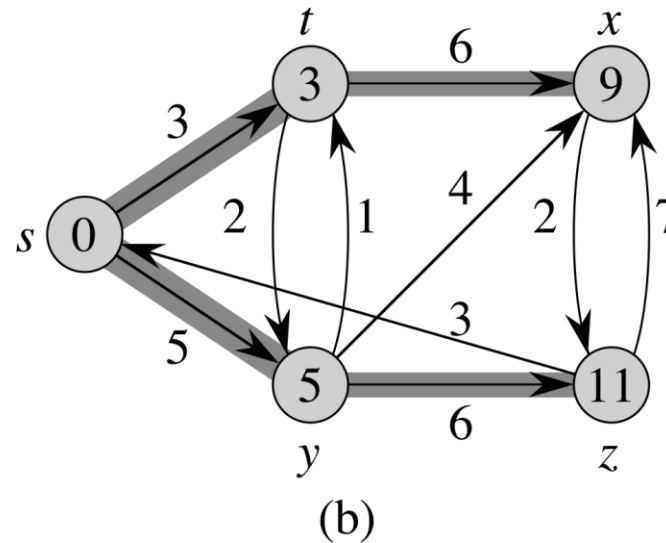
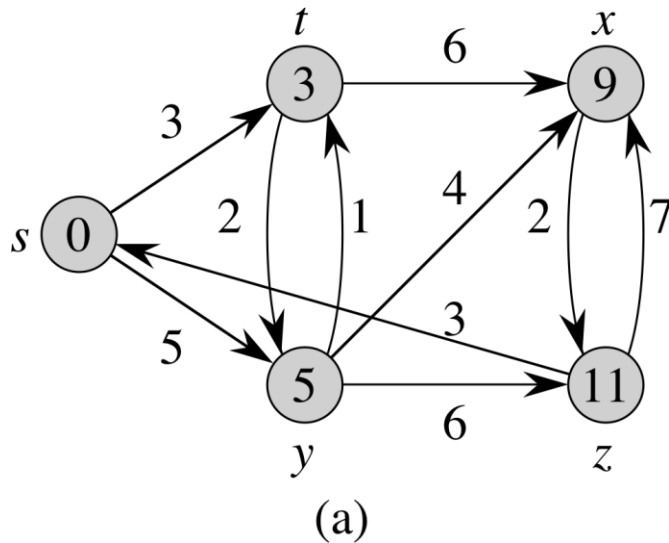
- **Shortest-path weight** u to v :

- $$\delta(u, v) = \begin{cases} \min\{w(p) : u \stackrel{p}{\rightsquigarrow} v\}, & \text{if there exists a path } u \rightsquigarrow v \\ \infty, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- Shortest path u to v is any path p such that $w(p) = \delta(u, v)$.

- **Example:** shortest paths from s

[d values appear inside vertices. Shaded edges show shortest paths.]



- This example shows that the shortest path might not be unique.
- It also shows that when we look at shortest paths from one vertex to all other vertices, the shortest paths are organized as tree.

- Can think of weights as representing any measure that
 - accumulates linearly along a path.
 - we want to minimize.
- Example: time, cost, penalties, loss.
 - Generalization of breadth-first search to weighted graphs.

Variants

- ***Single-source***
 - Find shortest paths from a given source vertex $s \in V$ to every vertex $v \in V$.
- ***Single-destination***
 - Find shortest paths to a given destination vertex.
- ***Single-pair***
 - Find shortest path from u to v . No way known that's better in worst case than solving single-source.
- ***All-pairs***
 - Find shortest path from u to v for all $u, v \in V$.
 - We'll see algorithms for all-pairs in the next chapter.

Negative-weight edges

- OK, as long as no negative-weight cycles are reachable from the source.
 - If we have a negative-weight cycle, we can just keep going around it, and get $w(s, v) = -\infty$ for all v on the cycle.
- But OK if the negative-weight cycle is not reachable from the source.
- Some algorithms work only if there are no negative-weight edges in the graph. We'll be clear when they're allowed and not allowed.

Optimal substructure

Lemma 24.1 (Subpaths of shortest paths are shortest paths)

Given a weighted, directed graph $G = (V, E)$ with weight function $w: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, let $p = \langle v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k \rangle$ be a shortest path from vertex v_0 to vertex v_k and, for any i and j such that $0 \leq i \leq j \leq k$, let $p_{ij} = \langle v_i, v_{i+1}, \dots, v_j \rangle$ be the subpath of p from vertex v_i to v_j . Then, p_{ij} is a shortest path from v_i to v_j .

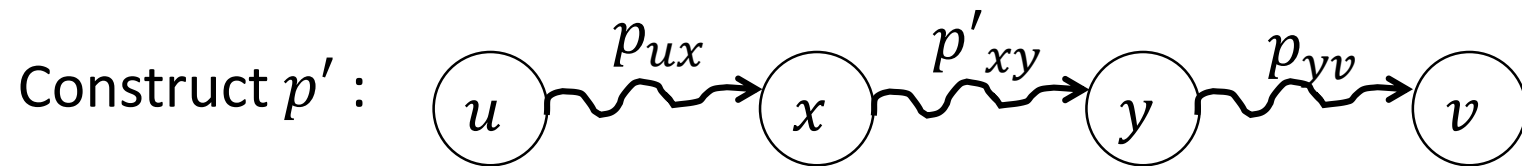
Proof: Cut - and - paste.



Suppose this path p is a shortest path from u to v .

Then $\delta(u, v) = w(p) = w(p_{ux}) + w(p_{xy}) + w(p_{yv})$.

Now suppose there exists a shorter path $x \overset{P'_{xy}}{\rightsquigarrow} y$
Then $w(p'_{xy}) < w(p_{xy})$



$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then } w(p') &= w(p_{ux}) + w(p'_{xy}) + w(p_{yv}) \\ &< w(p_{ux}) + w(p_{xy}) + w(p_{yv}) \\ &= w(p) \end{aligned}$$

So p wasn't shortest path after all !

■ (lemma)

Cycles

- Shortest paths can't contain cycles :
 - Already ruled out negative-weight cycles.
 - Positive-weight \Rightarrow we can get a shorter path by omitting the cycle.
 - Zero-weight: no reason to use them \Rightarrow assume that our solutions won't use them.

Output of single-source shortest-path algorithm

- For each vertex $v \in V$:
 - $v.d = \delta(s, v)$.
 - Initially, $v.d = \infty$.
 - Reduces as algorithms progress. But always maintain $v.d \geq \delta(s, v)$.
 - Call $v.d$ a ***shortest-path estimate***.
 - $v.\pi =$ predecessor of v on a shortest path from s .
 - If no predecessor, $v.\pi = \text{NIL}$.
 - π induces a tree ----- ***shortest-path tree***.
 - We won't prove properties of π in lecture ----- see text.

Initialization

- All the shortest-paths algorithms start with INITIALIZE-SINGLE-SOURCE.

INITIALIZE-SINGLE-SOURCE(G, s)

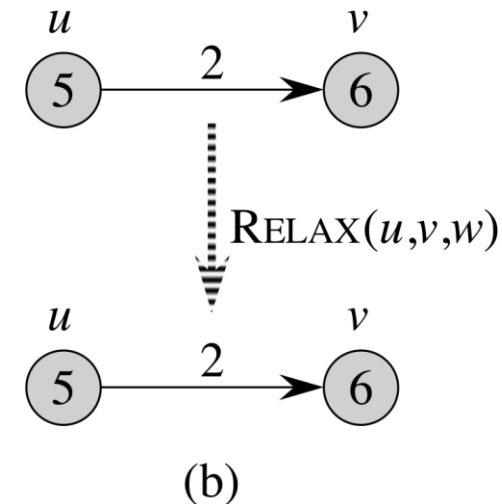
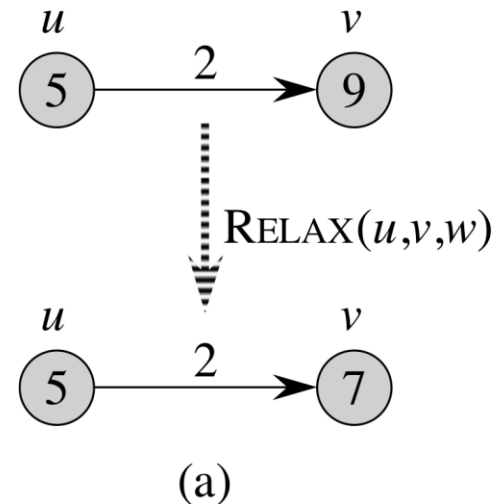
```
1 for each vertex  $v \in G.V$  do
2    $v.d = \infty$ 
3    $v.\pi = NIL$ 
4  $s.d = 0$ 
```

Relaxing an edge (u, v)

- Can we improve the shortest-path estimate for v by going through u and taking (u, v) ?

$\text{RELAX}(u, v, w)$

1 **if** $v.d > u.d + w(u, v)$ **then**
2 $v.d = u.d + w(u, v)$
3 $v.\pi = u$



- For all the single-source shortest-paths algorithms we'll look at,
 - start by calling INITIALIZE-SINGLE-SOURCE,
 - then relax edges.
- The algorithms differ in the order and how many times they relax each edge.

Shortest-paths properties

- Based on calling INITIALIZE-SINGLE-SOURCE once and then calling RELAX zero or more times.

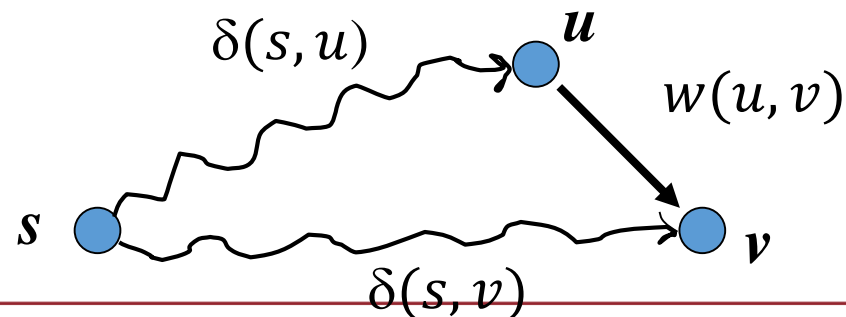
Lemma 24.10 (Triangle inequality)

For all $(u, v) \in E$, we have $\delta(s, v) \leq \delta(s, u) + w(u, v)$

Proof:

Weight of shortest path $s \rightsquigarrow v$ is \leq weight of any path $s \rightsquigarrow v$.

Path $s \rightsquigarrow u \rightarrow v$ is a path $s \rightsquigarrow v$, and if we use a shortest path $s \rightsquigarrow v$, its weight is $\delta(s, u) + w(u, v)$



Upper-bound property

Lemma 24.11 (Upper-bound property)

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a weighted, directed graph with weight function $w: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Let $s \in V$ be the source vertex, and let the graph be initialized by INITIALIZE-SINGLE-SOURCE(G, s). Then, $v.d \geq \delta(s, v)$ for all $v \in V$, and this invariant is maintained over any sequence of relaxation steps on the edges of G . Moreover, once $v.d$ achieves its lower bound $\delta(s, v)$, it never changes.

Proof:

Initially true since $v.d = \infty$ implies $v.d \geq \delta(s, v)$ for all $v \in V - \{s\}$, and since $s.d = 0 \geq \delta(s, s)$.

Suppose there exists a vertex such that $v.d < \delta(s, v)$.

Without loss of generality, v is first vertex for which this happens.

Let u be the vertex that causes $v.d$ to change.

Then $v.d = u.d + w(u, v)$.

So, $v.d < \delta(s, v)$

$\leq \delta(s, u) + w(u, v)$ (triangle inequality)

$\leq u.d + w(u, v)$ (v is first violation)

$\Rightarrow v.d < u.d + w(u, v)$. (Contradicts $v.d = u.d + w(u, v)$)

Once $v.d$ reaches $\delta(s, v)$, it never goes lower. It never goes up, since relaxations only lower shortest-path estimates.

No-path property

Corollary 24.12 (No-path property)

Suppose that in a weighted, directed graph $G = (V, E)$ with weight function $w: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, no path connects a source vertex $s \in V$ to a given vertex $v \in V$. Then, after the graph is initialized by `INITIALIZE-SINGLE-SOURCE(G, s)`, we have $v.d = \delta(s, v) = \infty$, and this equality is maintained as an invariant over any sequence of relaxation steps on the edges of G .

Proof:

By the upper-bound property, we always have $\infty = \delta(s, v) \leq v.d$, and thus $v.d = \infty = \delta(s, v)$.

Lemma 24.13

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a weighted, directed graph with weight function $w: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, and let $(u, v) \in E$. Then, immediately after relaxing edge (u, v) by executing $\text{RELAX}(u, v, w)$, we have $v.d \leq u.d + w(u, v)$.

Proof:

If just prior to relaxing edge (u, v) , we have $v.d > u.d + w(u, v)$, then $v.d = u.d + w(u, v)$ afterward.

If, instead, $v.d \leq u.d + w(u, v)$ just before the relaxation, then neither $u.d$ nor $v.d$ changes, and so $v.d \leq u.d + w(u, v)$ afterward.

Convergence property

Lemma 24.14 (Convergence property)

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a weighted, directed graph with weight function $w: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, and let $s \in V$ be a source vertex, and **let $s \rightsquigarrow u \rightarrow v$ be a shortest path** in G for some vertices $u, v \in V$. Suppose that G is initialized by INITIALIZE-SINGLE-SOURCE(G, s), and then a sequence of relaxation steps that includes the call RELAX(u, v, w) is executed on the edges of G . If **$u.d = \delta(s, u)$** at any time prior to the call, **then $v.d = \delta(s, v)$** at all times after the call.

Proof:

After relaxation:

$$\begin{aligned} v.d &\leq u.d + w(u, v) \text{ (Lemma 24.13)} \\ &= \delta(s, u) + w(u, v) \\ &= \delta(s, v) \text{ (lemma 24.1----- optimal substructure)} \end{aligned}$$

Since $v.d \geq \delta(s, v)$, must have $v.d = \delta(s, v)$. ■

Path relaxation property

Lemma 24.15 (Path-relaxation property)

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a weighted, directed graph with weight function $w: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, and let $s \in V$ be a source vertex. Consider any **shortest path** $p = \langle v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k \rangle$ from $s = v_0$ to v_k . If G is initialized by INITIALIZE-SINGLE-SOURCE(G, s) and then a sequence of relaxation steps occurs that includes, **in order, relaxing the edges** $(v_0, v_1), (v_1, v_2), \dots, (v_{k-1}, v_k)$, then $v_k.d = \delta(s, v_k)$ after these relaxations and at all time afterward. This property holds no matter what other edge relaxations occur, including relaxations that are intermixed with relaxations of the edges of p .

Proof:

Induction to show that $v_i.d = \delta(s, v_i)$ after (v_{i-1}, v_i) is relaxed.

Basis:

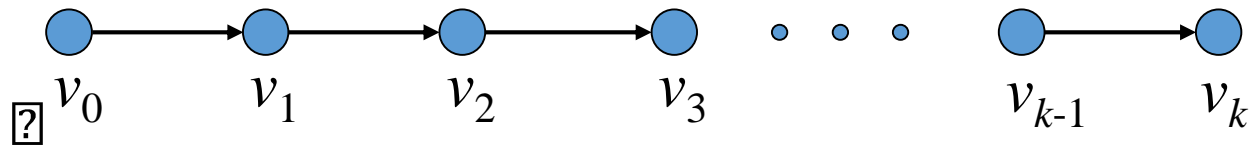
$i = 0$. Initially, $v_0.d = 0 = \delta(s, v_0) = \delta(s, s)$.

Inductive step:

Assume $v_{i-1}.d = \delta(s, v_{i-1})$.

Relax (v_{i-1}, v_i) .

By Convergence Property, $v_i.d = \delta(s, v_i)$ afterward and $v_i.d$ never changes.



- $v_1 \cdot d = \boxed{?} (s, v_0) + w(v_0, v_1) = \delta(s, v_1)$
- $v_2 \cdot d = \boxed{?} (s, v_1) + w(v_1, v_2) = \delta(s, v_2)$
- $v_3 \cdot d = (s, v_2) + w(v_2, v_3) = \delta(s, v_3)$
- \vdots
- $\boxed{?} \vdots$
- \vdots
- $v_k \cdot d = (s, v_{k-1}) + w(v_{k-1}, v_k) = \delta(s, v_k)$

The Bellman-Ford algorithm



The Bellman-Ford algorithm

- Allows negative-weight edges.
- Computes $v.d$ and $v.\pi$ for all $v \in V$.
- Returns TRUE if **no negative-weight cycles** reachable from s , FALSE otherwise.

BELLMAN-FORD(G, w, s)

```
1 INITIALIZE-SINGLE-SOURCE( $G, s$ )
2 for  $i = 1$  to  $|G.V| - 1$  do
3     for each edge  $(u, v) \in G.E$  do
4         RELAX( $u, v, w$ )
5 for each edge  $(u, v) \in G.E$  do
6     if  $v.d > u.d + w(u, v)$  then
7         return FALSE
8 return TRUE
```

Core: The first **for** loop relaxes all edges $|V| - 1$ times.

Time: $\Theta(VE)$.

- $i = 1$

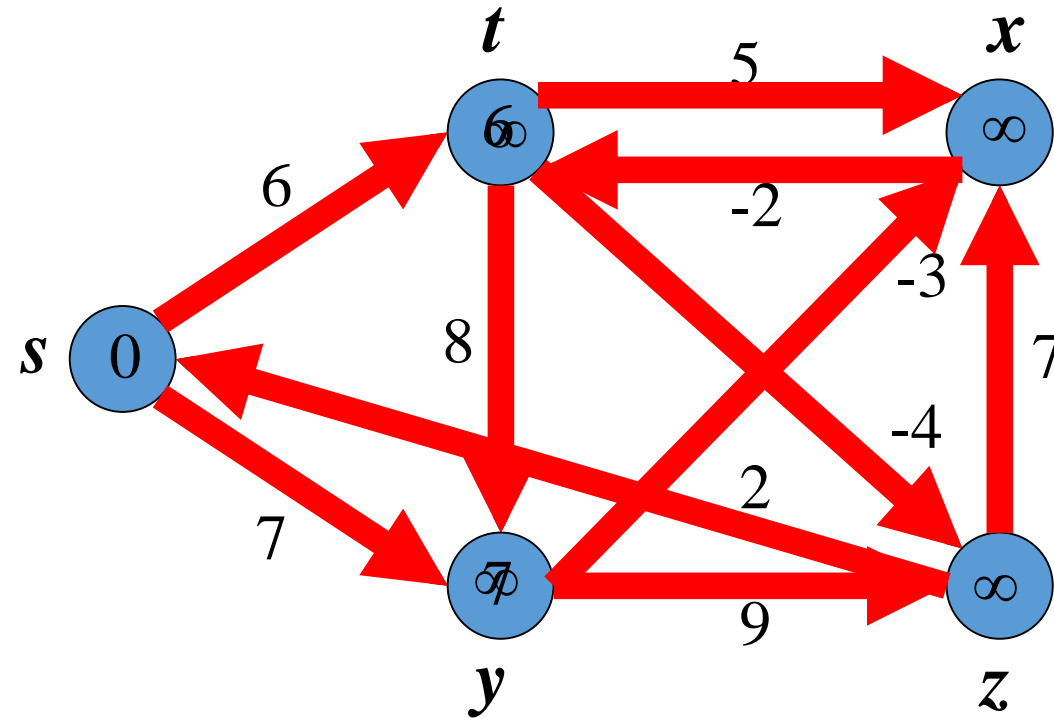


Figure 24.4 The execution of the Bellman-Ford algorithm. The source is vertex s . The d values are shown within the vertices, and shaded edges indicate predecessor values: if edge (u, v) is shaded, then $\pi[v] = u$. In this particular example, each pass relaxes the edges in the order (t, x) , (t, y) , (t, z) , (x, t) , (y, x) , (y, z) , (z, x) , (z, s) , (s, t) , (s, y) . (a) The situation just before the first pass over the edges. (b)–(e) The situation after each successive pass over the edges. The d and π values in part (e) are the final values. The Bellman-Ford algorithm returns TRUE in this example.

- $i = 2$

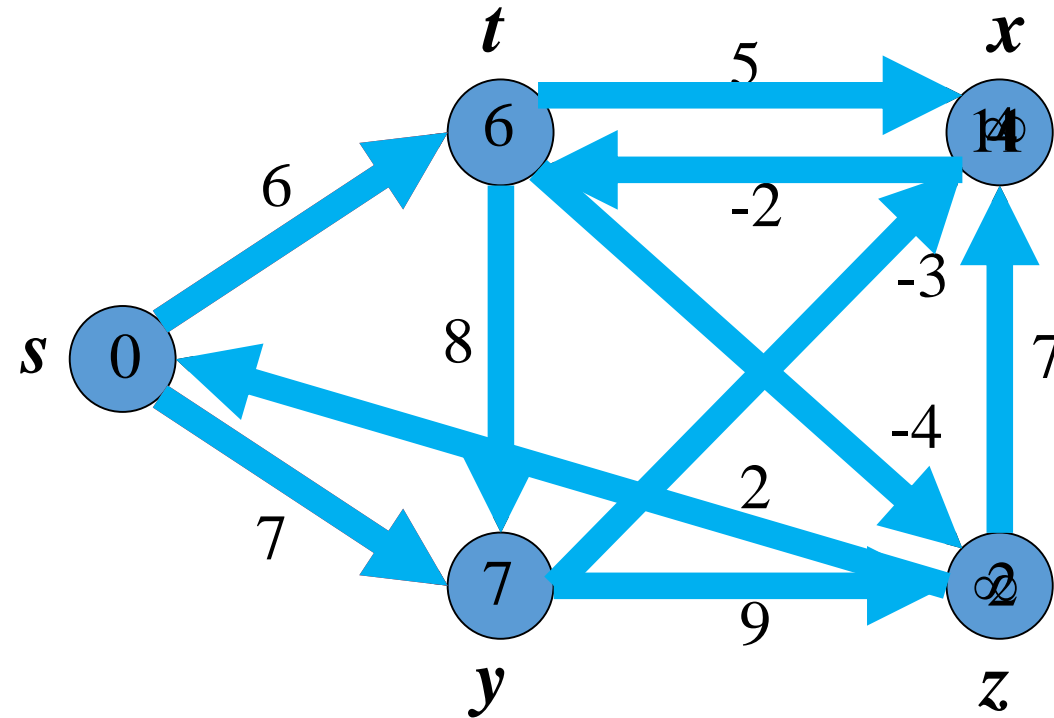


Figure 24.4 The execution of the Bellman-Ford algorithm. The source is vertex s . The d values are shown within the vertices, and shaded edges indicate predecessor values: if edge (u, v) is shaded, then $\pi[v] = u$. In this particular example, each pass relaxes the edges in the order (t, x) , (t, y) , (t, z) , (x, t) , (y, x) , (y, z) , (z, x) , (z, s) , (s, t) , (s, y) . (a) The situation just before the first pass over the edges. (b)–(e) The situation after each successive pass over the edges. The d and π values in part (e) are the final values. The Bellman-Ford algorithm returns TRUE in this example.

- $i = 3$

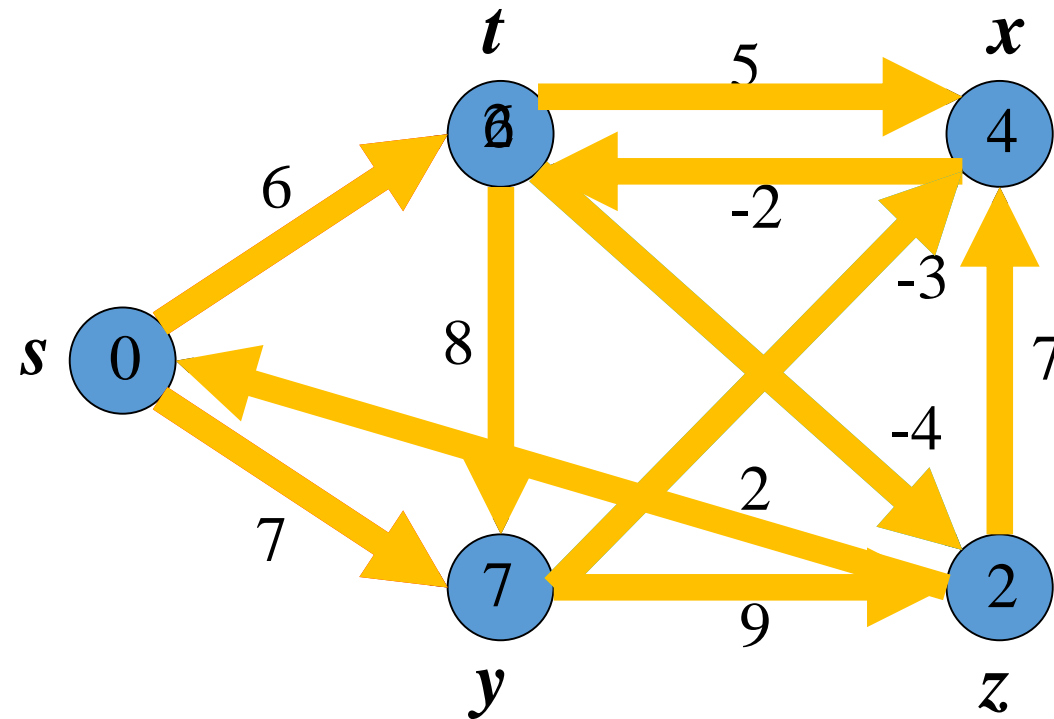


Figure 24.4 The execution of the Bellman-Ford algorithm. The source is vertex s . The d values are shown within the vertices, and shaded edges indicate predecessor values: if edge (u, v) is shaded, then $\pi[v] = u$. In this particular example, each pass relaxes the edges in the order (t, x) , (t, y) , (t, z) , (x, t) , (y, x) , (y, z) , (z, x) , (z, s) , (s, t) , (s, y) . (a) The situation just before the first pass over the edges. (b)–(e) The situation after each successive pass over the edges. The d and π values in part (e) are the final values. The Bellman-Ford algorithm returns TRUE in this example.

- $i = 4$

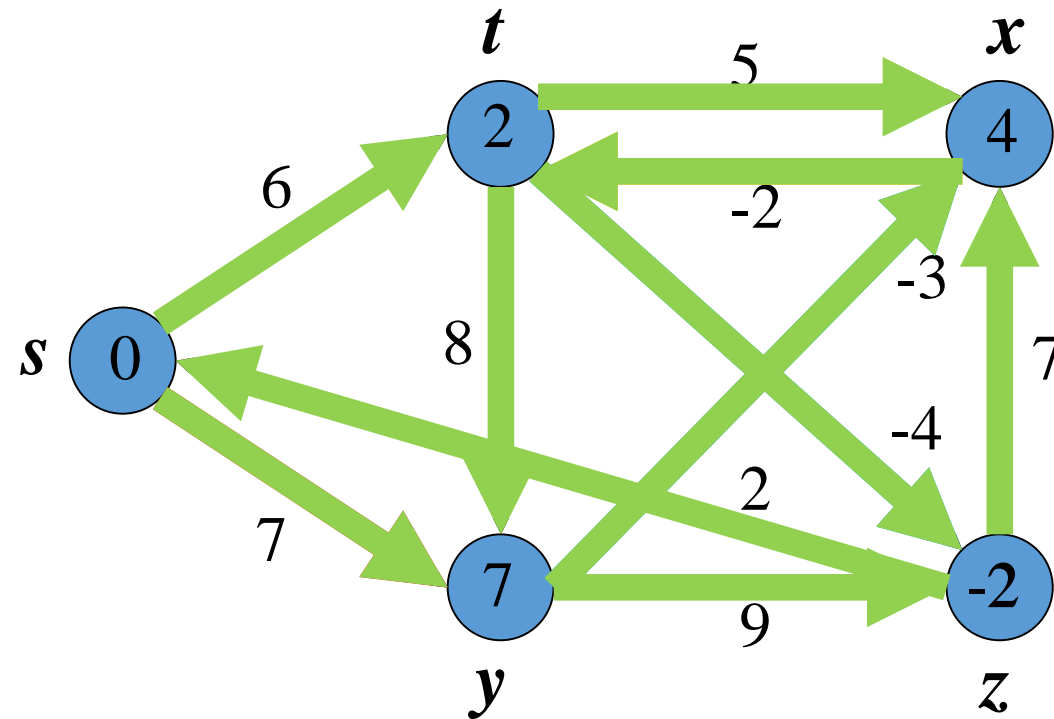
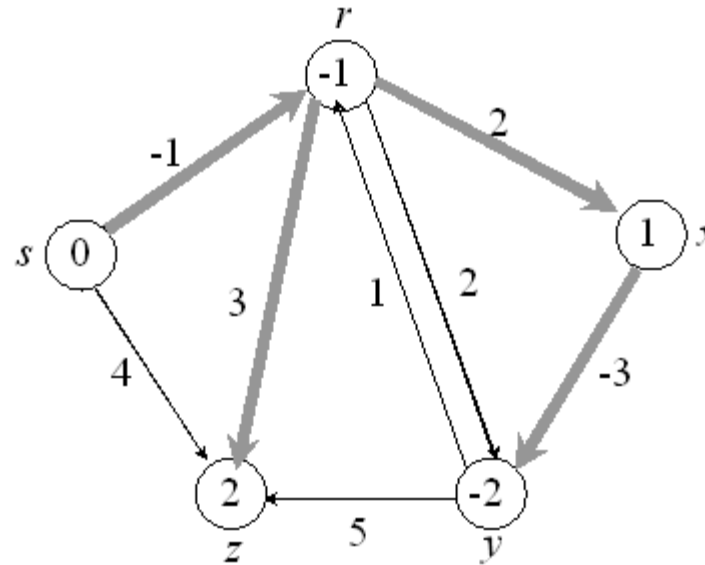


Figure 24.4 The execution of the Bellman-Ford algorithm. The source is vertex s . The d values are shown within the vertices, and shaded edges indicate predecessor values: if edge (u, v) is shaded, then $\pi[v] = u$. In this particular example, each pass relaxes the edges in the order (t, x) , (t, y) , (t, z) , (x, t) , (y, x) , (y, z) , (z, x) , (z, s) , (s, t) , (s, y) . (a) The situation just before the first pass over the edges. (b)–(e) The situation after each successive pass over the edges. The d and π values in part (e) are the final values. The Bellman-Ford algorithm returns TRUE in this example.

- **Example:**



- Values you get on each pass and how quickly it converges depends on order of relaxation.
- But guaranteed to converge after $|V| - 1$ passes, assuming no negative-weight cycles.

- **Proof:** Use path-relaxation property.

Let v be reachable from s and let $p = \langle v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k \rangle$ be a shortest path from s to v , where $v_0 = s$ and $v_k = v$.

Since p is acyclic, it has $\leq |V| - 1$ edges, so $k \leq |V| - 1$.

Each iteration of the **for** loop relaxes all edges:

- First iteration relaxes (v_0, v_1) .
- Second iteration relaxes (v_1, v_2) .
- k th iteration relaxes (v_{k-1}, v_k) .

By the path-relaxation property, $v.d = v_k.d = \delta(s, v_k) = \delta(s, v)$.

- How about the TRUE/FALSE return value?
 - Suppose there is no negative-weight cycle reachable from s .
At termination, for all $(u, v) \in E$,
$$v.d = \delta(s, v)$$
$$\leq \delta(s, u) + w(u, v) \text{ (triangle inequality)}$$
$$= u.d + w(u, v)$$
So BELLMAN-FORD returns TRUE.

- Now suppose there exists negative-weight cycle
 $c = \langle v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k \rangle$ where $v_0 = v_k$, reachable from s .
Then $\sum_{i=1}^k w(v_{i-1}, v_i) < 0$
Suppose (for contradiction) that BELLMAN-FORD returns TRUE.
Then $v_i.d \leq v_{i-1}.d + w(v_{i-1}, v_i)$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$
sum around c :

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{i=1}^k v_i.d &\leq \sum_{i=1}^k (v_{i-1}.d + w(v_{i-1}, v_i)) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^k v_{i-1}.d + \sum_{i=1}^k w(v_{i-1}, v_i)\end{aligned}$$

Each vertex appears once in each summation

$$\sum_{i=1}^k v_i \cdot d \text{ and } \sum_{i=1}^k v_{i-1} \cdot d.$$

$$\Rightarrow 0 \leq \sum_{i=1}^k w(v_{i-1}, v_i).$$

This contradicts \mathcal{C} being a negative-weight cycle!

Single-source shortest paths in a directed acyclic graph



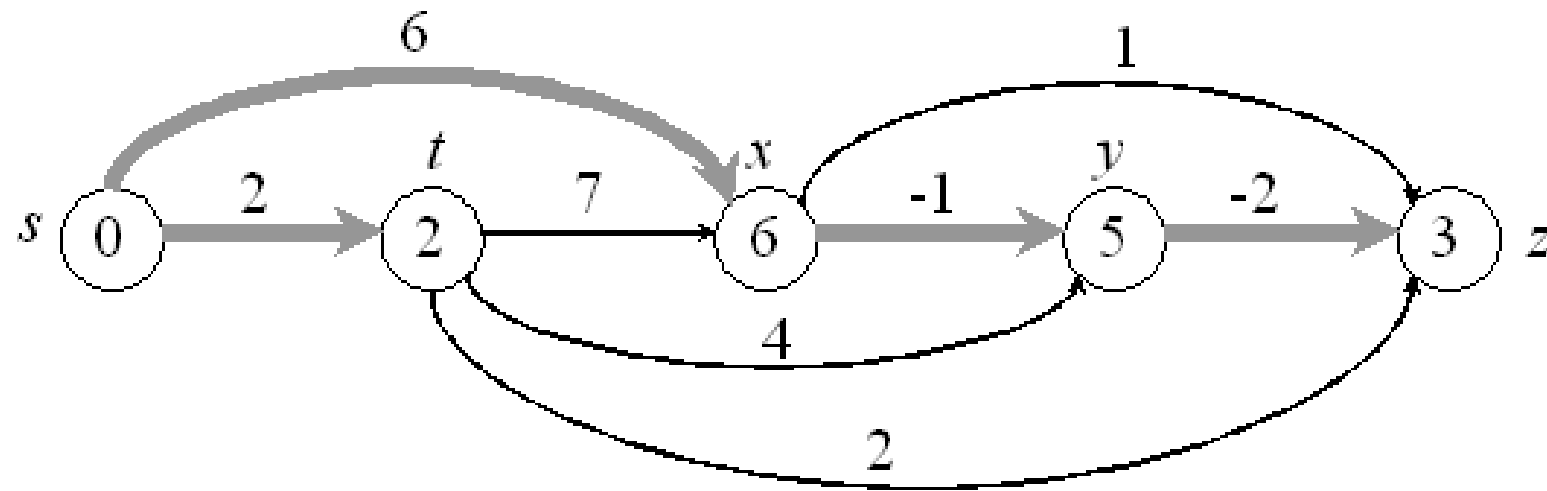
Single-source shortest paths in a directed acyclic graph

- Since a dag, we're guaranteed no negative-weight cycles.

DAG-SHORTEST-PATHS(G, w, s)

```
1 topologically sort the vertices of  $G$ 
2 INITIALIZE-SINGLE-SOURCE( $G, s$ )
3 for each vertex  $u$ , taken in topologically sorted order do
4     for each edge  $v \in G.Adj[u]$  do
5         RELAX( $u, v, w$ )
```

- **Example:**



- **Time:** $\Theta(V + E)$.

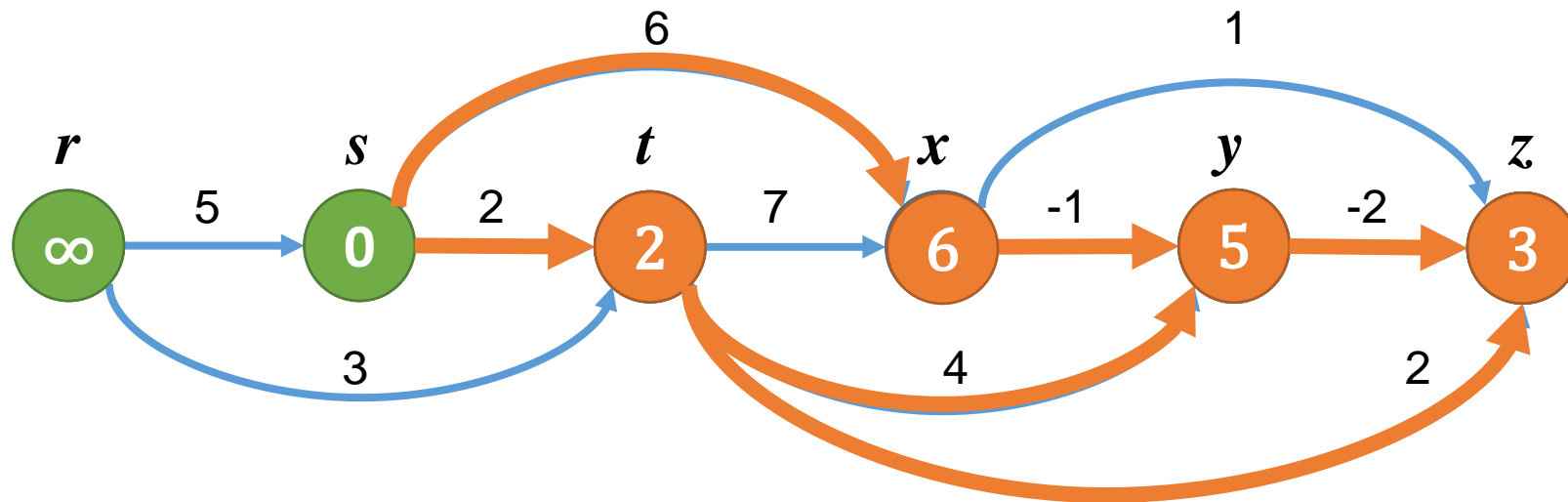


Figure 24.5 The execution of the algorithm for shortest paths in a directed acyclic graph. The vertices are topologically sorted from left to right. The source vertex is s . The d values are shown within the vertices, and shaded edges indicate the π values.

- **Correctness:** Because we process vertices in topologically sorted order, edges of any path must be relaxed in order of appearance in the path.
 - ⇒ Edges on any shortest path are relaxed in order.
 - ⇒ By path-relaxation property, correct.

Dijkstra's algorithm



Dijkstra's algorithm

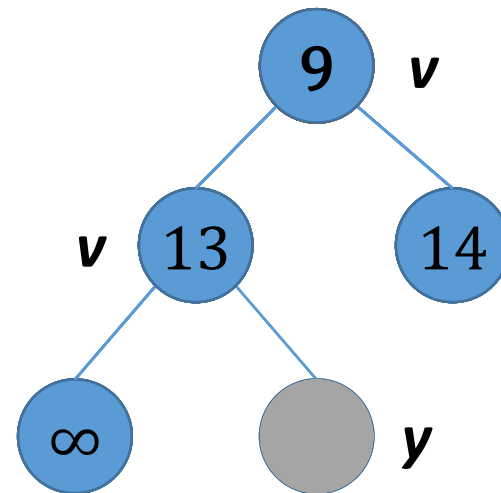
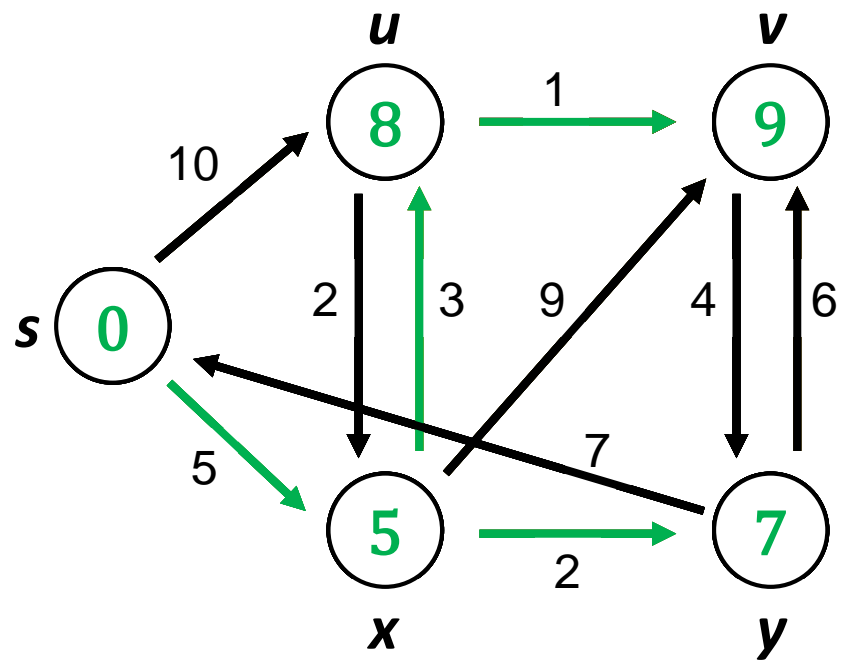
- No negative-weight *edges*.
- Essentially a weighted version of breadth-first search.
 - Instead of a **FIFO** queue, uses a priority queue.
 - Keys are shortest-path weights ($v.d$).
- Have two sets of vertices:
 - S = vertices whose final shortest-path weights are determined.
 - Q = priority queue = $V - S$.

DIJKSTRA(G, w, r)

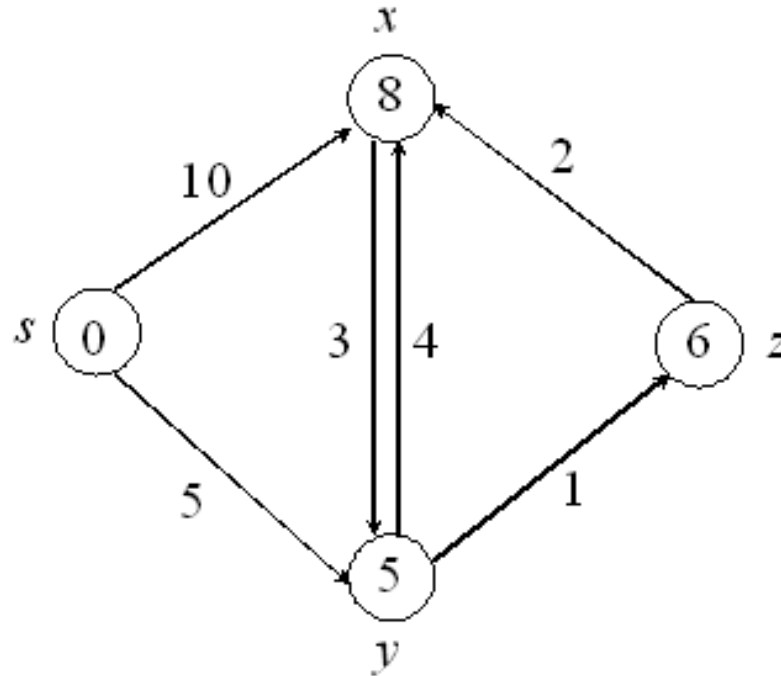
```
1 INITIALIZE-SINGLE-SOURCE( $G, s$ )
2  $S = \emptyset$ 
3  $Q = G.V$ 
4 while  $Q \neq \emptyset$  do
5      $u = \text{EXTRACT-MIN}(Q)$ 
6      $S = S \cup \{u\}$ 
7     for each vertex  $v \in G.Adj[u]$  do
8         RELAX( $u, v, w$ )
```

Like Prim's algorithm, but computing $v.d$, and using shortest-path weights as keys.

Dijkstra's algorithm can be viewed as greedy, since it always chooses the “lightest” (“closest”?) vertex in $V - S$ to add to S .



- **Example:**



Order of adding to S : s, y, z, x .

- **Correctness:**

- **Loop invariant** : At the start of each iteration of the **while** loop, $v.d = \delta(s, v)$ for all $v \in S$.
- **Initialization**: Initially, $S = \emptyset$, so trivially true.
- **Termination**:
At end, $Q = \emptyset \Rightarrow S = V \Rightarrow v.d = \delta(s, v)$ for all $v \in V$.

- **Maintenance:**

Need to show that $u.d = \delta(s, u)$ when u is added to S in each iteration.

Suppose there exists u such that $u.d \neq \delta(s, u)$. Without loss of generality, let u be the first vertex for which $u.d \neq \delta(s, u)$ when u is added to S .

Observations:

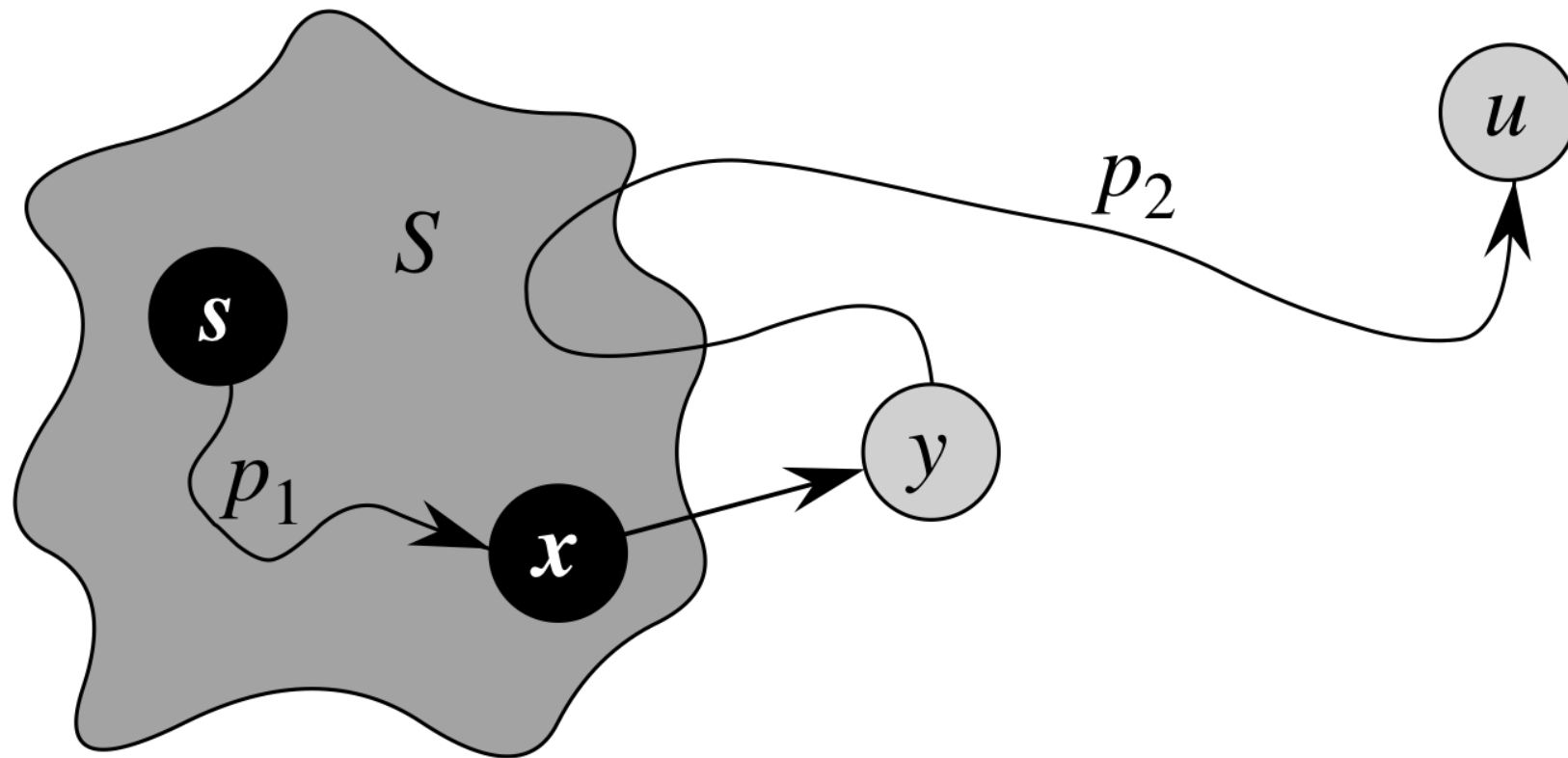
- $u \neq s$, since $s.d = \delta(s, s) = 0$.
- Therefore, $s \in S$, so $S \neq \emptyset$.
- There must be some path $s \rightsquigarrow u$,
since otherwise $u.d = \delta(s, u) = \infty$ by no-path property.

So, there's a path $s \rightsquigarrow u$.

This means there's a shortest path $s \overset{p}{\rightsquigarrow} u$.

Just before u is added to S , path p connects a vertex in S (i.e., s) to a vertex in $V - S$ (i.e., u).

Let y be first vertex along p that's in $V - S$, and let $x \in S$ be y 's predecessor.



Decompose p into $s \overset{p_1}{\rightsquigarrow} x \rightarrow y \overset{p_2}{\rightsquigarrow} u$.

(Could have $x = s$ or $y = u$, so that p_1 or p_2 may have no edges.)

- ***Claim***

$y.d = \delta(s, y)$ when u is added to S .

Proof

$x \in S$ and u is the first vertex such that $u.d \neq \delta(s, u)$ when u is added to $S \Rightarrow x.d = \delta(s, x)$ when x is added to S .

Relaxed (x, y) at that time, so by the convergence property, $y.d = \delta(s, y)$.

■ (claim)

Now can get a contradiction to $u.d \neq \delta(s, u)$:

y is on shortest path $s \rightsquigarrow u$, and all edge weights are nonnegative

$$\Rightarrow \delta(s, y) \leq \delta(s, u)$$

$$\Rightarrow y.d = \delta(s, y)$$

$$\leq \delta(s, u)$$

$$\leq u.d \quad (\text{upper-bound property}).$$

Also, both y and u were in Q when we chose u ,
so $u.d \leq y.d \Rightarrow u.d = y.d$.

Therefore, $y.d = \delta(s, y) \leq \delta(s, u) \leq u.d$ becomes $y.d = \delta(s, y) = \delta(s, u) = u.d$.

Contradicts assumption that $u.d \neq \delta(s, u)$.

Hence, Dijkstra's algorithm is correct. ■

- **Analysis:** Like Prim's algorithm, depends on implementation of priority queue.
 - If binary heap,
 - Each EXTRACT-MIN takes $O(\lg V)$.
 - DECREASE-KEY takes $O(\lg V)$
 - Therefore, time is $O((V + E) \lg V) \Rightarrow O(E \lg V)$.
 - If Fibonacci heap,
 - Each EXTRACT-MIN takes $O(\lg V)$.
 - DECREASE-KEY takes $O(1)$
 - Therefore, time is $O(V \lg V + E)$.

Difference constraints



Difference constraints

- Given a set of inequalities of the form $x_j - x_i \leq b_k$.
 - x 's are variables, $1 \leq i, j \leq n$,
 - b 's are constants, $1 \leq k \leq m$.

Want to find a set of values for the x 's that satisfy all m inequalities, or determine that no such values exist.

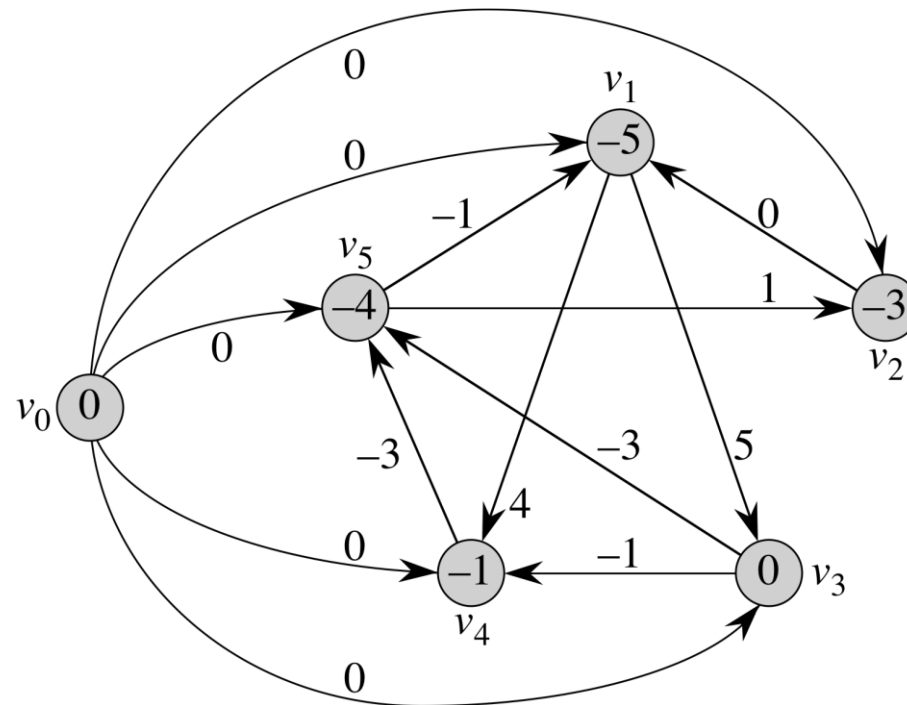
Call such a set of values a ***feasible solution***.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \\ x_5 \end{pmatrix} \preceq \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ 5 \\ 4 \\ -1 \\ -3 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 - x_2 &\leq 0 \\ x_1 - x_5 &\leq -1 \\ x_2 - x_5 &\leq 1 \\ x_3 - x_1 &\leq 5 \\ x_4 - x_1 &\leq 4 \\ x_4 - x_3 &\leq -1 \\ x_5 - x_3 &\leq -3 \\ x_5 - x_4 &\leq -3 \end{aligned}$$



- Example:**



Solution: $x = (-5, -3, 0, -1, -4)$

Also: $x = (0, 2, 5, 4, 1) = [\text{above solution}] + 5$

- ***Lemma 24.8***

If x is a feasible solution, then so is $x + d$ for any constant d .

Proof

x is a feasible solution

$\Rightarrow x_j - x_i \leq b_k$ for all i, j, k .

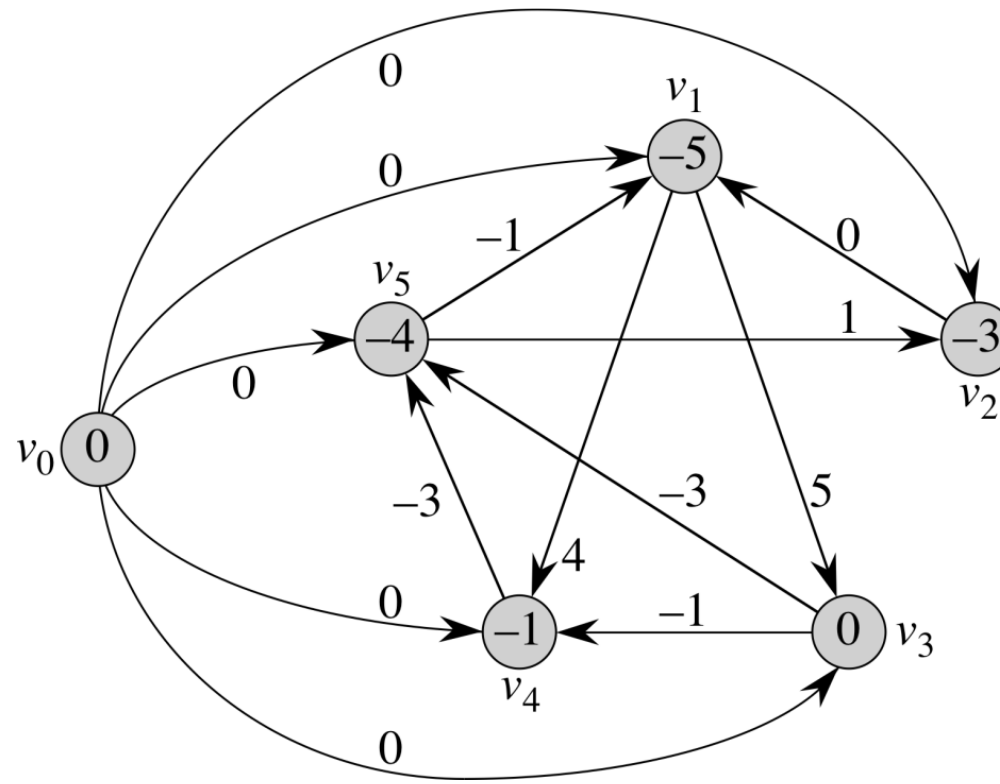
$\Rightarrow (x_j + d) - (x_i + d) \leq b_k$.

■ (lemma)

- **Constraint graph**

$G = (V, E)$, weighted, directed.

- $V = \langle v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k \rangle$: one vertex per variable $+v_0$
- $E = \{(v_i, v_j) : x_j - x_i \leq b_k \text{ is a constraint}\} \cup \{(v_0, v_1), (v_0, v_2), \dots, (v_0, v_n)\}$
- $w(v_0, v_i) = 0$ for all j
- $w(v_i, v_j) = b_k$ if $x_j - x_i \leq b_k$



- **Theorem**

Given a system of difference constraints, let $G = (V, E)$ be the corresponding Constraint graph.

1. If G has no negative-weight cycles, then
 $x = (\delta(v_0, v_1), \delta(v_0, v_2), \dots, \delta(v_0, v_n))$ is a feasible solution.
2. If G has a negative-weight cycle, then there is no feasible solution.

- **Proof**

1. Show no negative-weight cycles \Rightarrow feasible solution.

Need to show that $x_j - x_i \leq b_k$ for all constraints. Use

$$x_j = \delta(v_0, v_j)$$

$$x_i = \delta(v_0, v_i)$$

$$b_k = w(v_i, v_j)$$

By the triangle inequality,

$$\delta(v_0, v_j) \leq \delta(v_0, v_i) + w(v_i, v_j)$$

$$x_j \leq x_i + b_k$$

$$x_j - x_i \leq b_k$$

Therefore, feasible.

2. Show negative-weight cycles \Rightarrow no feasible solution.

Without loss of generality, let a negative-weight cycle be

$C = \langle v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k \rangle$ where $v_1 = v_k$ (v_0 can't be on C , since v_0 has no entering edges.)
 C corresponds to the constraints

$$x_2 - x_1 \leq w(v_1, v_2)$$

$$x_3 - x_2 \leq w(v_2, v_3)$$

...

$$x_{k-1} - x_{k-2} \leq w(v_{k-2}, v_{k-1})$$

$$x_k - x_{k-1} \leq w(v_{k-1}, v_k)$$

(The last two inequalities above are incorrect in the first three printings of the book. They were corrected in the fourth printing.)

If x is a solution satisfying these inequalities, it must satisfy their sum.

So add them up.

Each x_i is added once and subtracted once. ($v_1 = v_k \Rightarrow x_1 = x_k$)

We get $0 \leq w(C)$.

But $w(C) < 0$, since C is a negative-weight cycle.

Contradiction \Rightarrow no such feasible solution x exists.

■ (theorem)

- How to find a feasible solution

1. Form constraint graph.

- $n + 1$ vertices.
- $m + n$ edges.
- $\Theta(m + n)$ time.

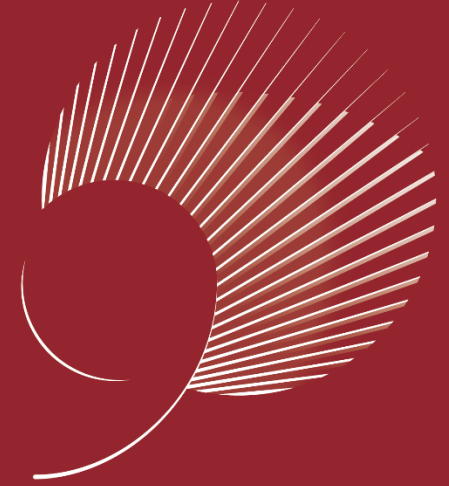
2. Run BELLMAN-FORD from v_0 .

- $O(VE) = O((n + 1)(m + n)) = O(n^2 + nm)$ time.

3. If BELLMAN-FORD returns FALSE \Rightarrow no feasible solution.

If BELLMAN-FORD returns TRUE

\Rightarrow set $x_i = \delta(v_0, v_i)$ for all i .



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