



Design and Analysis
of Algorithms I

Graph Primitives

Dijkstra's Algorithm: The Basics

Single-Source Shortest Paths

Input: directed graph $G=(V, E)$. ($m=|E|$, $n=|V|$)

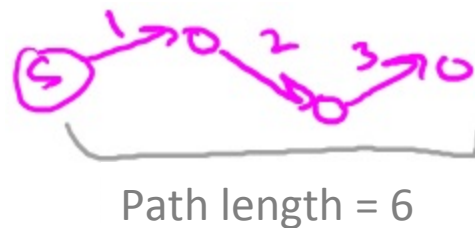
- each edge has non negative length l_e
- source vertex s

Output: for each $v \in V$, compute
 $L(v) :=$ length of a shortest s - v path in G

Assumption:

1. [for convenience] $\forall v \in V, \exists s \Rightarrow v$ path
2. [important] $l_e \geq 0 \quad \forall e \in E$

Length of path
= sum of edge lengths



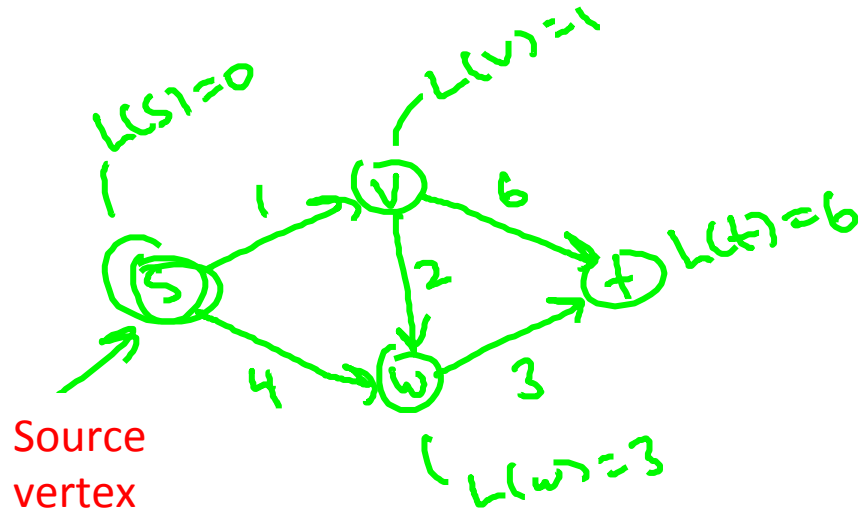
One of the following is the list of shortest-path distances for the nodes s, v, w, t , respectively. Which is it?

☐ 0,1,2,3

☐ 0,1,4,7

☐ 0,1,4,6

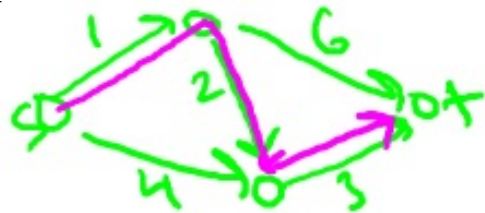
☒ 0,1,3,6



Why Another Shortest-Path Algorithm?

Question: doesn't BFS already compute shortest paths in linear time?

Answer: yes, IF $l_e = 1$ for every edge e .



Question: why not just replace each edge e by directed path of l_e unit length edges:



Answer: blows up graph too much

Solution: Dijkstra's shortest path algorithm.

Dijkstra's Algorithm

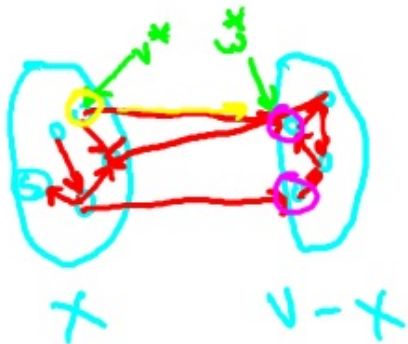
This array
only to help
explanation!

Initialize:

- $X = [s]$ [vertices processed so far]
- $A[s] = 0$ [computed shortest path distances]
- $B[s] = \text{empty path}$ [computed shortest paths]

Main Loop

- while $X \neq V$:



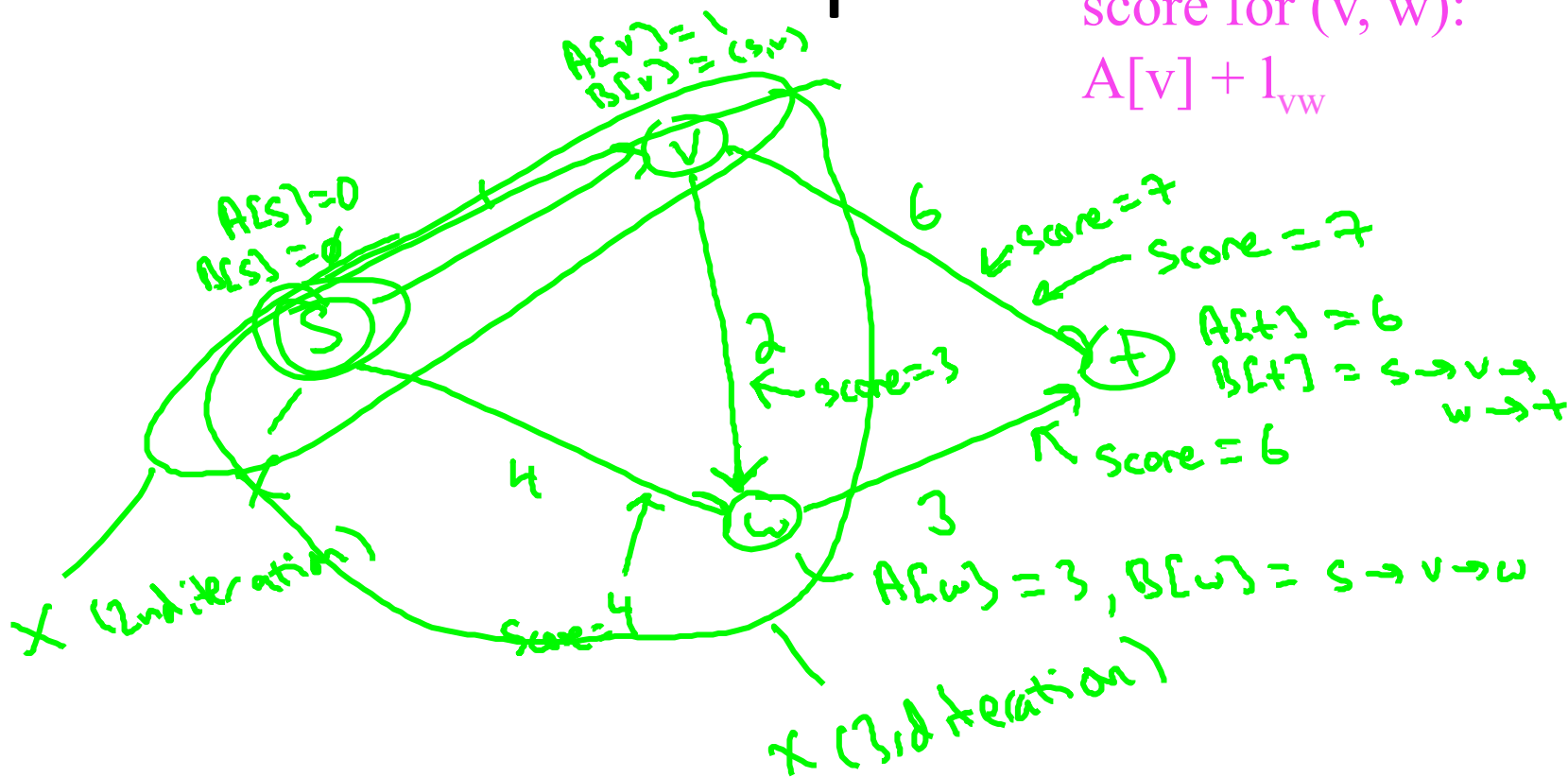
-need to grow
x by one node

Main Loop cont'd:

- among all edges $(v, w) \in E$ with $\underline{v \in X}, w \notin X$, pick the one that minimizes $\underline{A[v]} + l_{vw}$
[call it (v^*, w^*)] **Already computed in earlier iteration**
- add w^* to X
- set $A[w^*] := \underline{A[v^*]} + \underline{l_{v^*w^*}}$
- set $B[w^*] := B[v^*]u(v^*, w^*)$

Example

Dijkstra's greedy
score for (v, w) :
 $A[v] + l_{vw}$

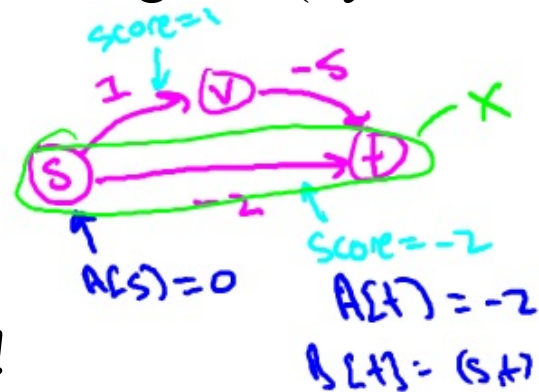


Non-Example

Question: why not reduce computing shortest paths with negative edge lengths to the same problem with non negative lengths? (by adding large constant to edge lengths)

Problem: doesn't preserve shortest paths !

Also: Dijkstra's algorithm incorrect on this graph !
(computes shortest s-t distance to be -2 rather than -4)





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Dijkstra's Algorithm: Why It Works

Dijkstra's Algorithm

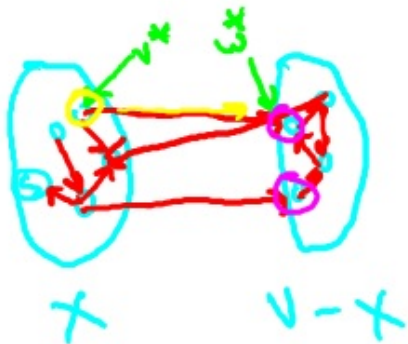
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Main Loop cont'd:

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- add w^* to X
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Correctness Claim

Theorem [Dijkstra] For every directed graph with nonnegative edge lengths, Dijkstra's algorithm correctly computes all shortest-path distances.

$$[i.e., A[v] = L(v) \ \forall v \in V]$$

what algorithm
computes

True shortest
distance from s to v

Proof: by induction on the number of iterations.

Base Case: $A[s] = L[s] = 0$ (correct)

Proof

Inductive Step:

Inductive Hypothesis: all previous iterations correct (i.e., $A[v] = L(v)$ and $B[v]$ is a true shortest s-v path in G , for all v already in X).

In current iteration:

We pick an edge (v^*, w^*) and we add w^* to X .

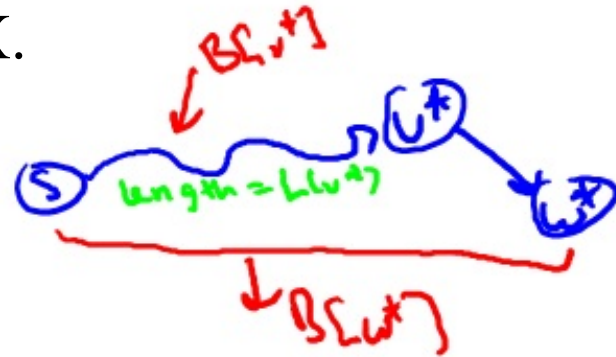
We set $B[w^*] = B[v^*] \cup (v^*, w^*)$

has length $L(v^*) + l_{v^*w^*}$

has length $L(v^*)$

$L(v^*)$ by I.H

Also: $A[w^*] = A[v^*] + l_{v^*w^*} = L(v^*) + l_{v^*w^*}$



Proof (con'd)

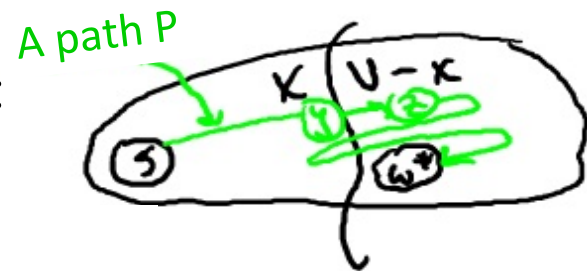
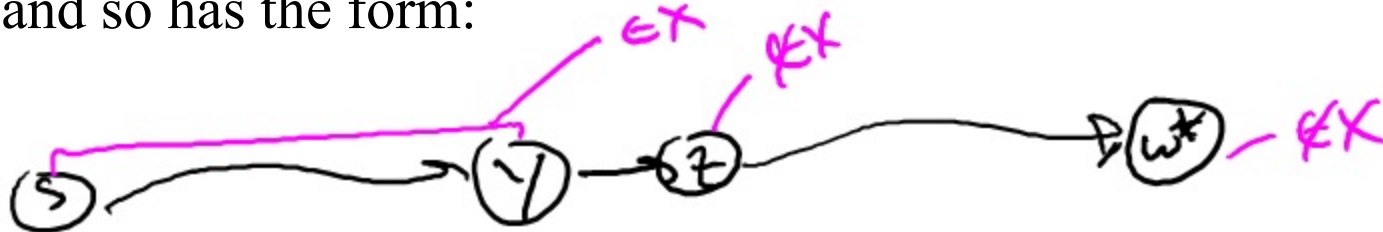
Upshot: in current iteration, we set:

1. $A[w^*] = L(v^*) + l_{v^*w^*}$
2. $B[w^*] = \text{an } s \rightarrow w^* \text{ path with length } (L(v^*) + l_{v^*w^*})$

To finish proof: need to show that *every* $s \rightarrow w^*$ path has length \geq
 $L(v^*) + l_{v^*w^*}$ (if so, our path is the shortest!)

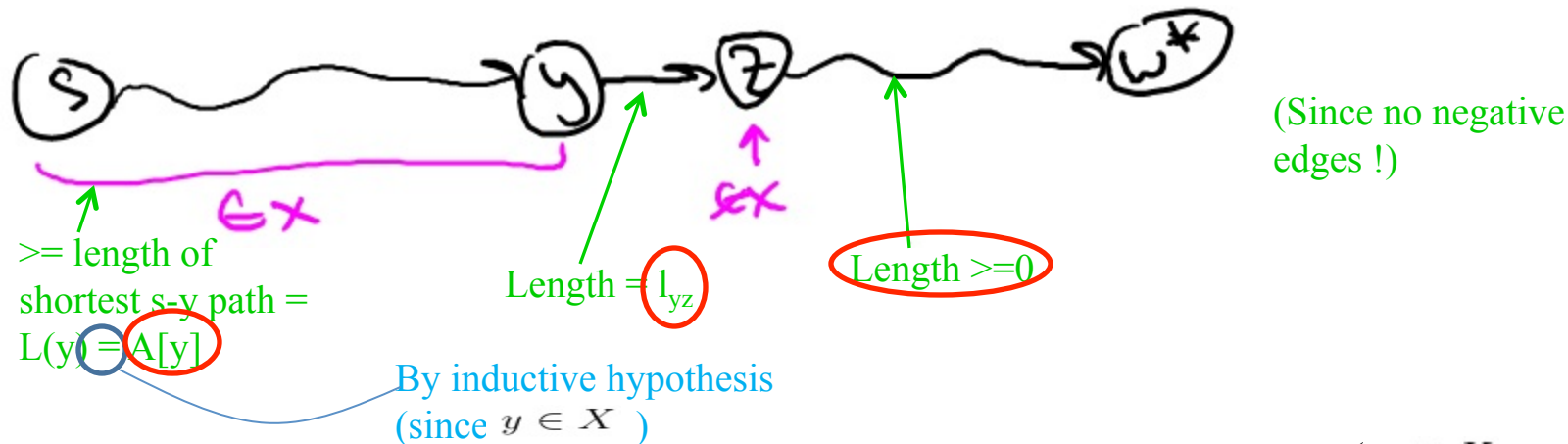
So: Let $P = \text{any } s \rightarrow w^*$ path. Must “cross the frontier”:

and so has the form:



Proof (con'd)

So: every $s \rightarrow w^*$ path P has to have the form



Total length of path P: at least $A[y] + C_{yz}$ length of our path !

\rightarrow by Dijkstra's greedy criterion, $A[v^*] + l_{v^*w^*} \leq A[y] + l_{yz} \leq \text{length of } P$

($y \in X$
 $z \notin X$)

Q.E.D.



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Dijkstra's Algorithm:
Fast Implementation

Single-Source Shortest Paths

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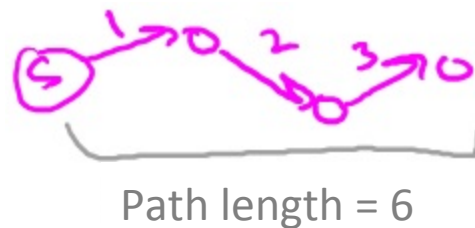
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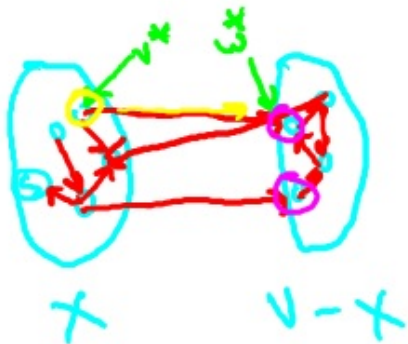
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- while $X \neq V$:



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- among all edges $(v, w) \in E$ with $v \in X, w \notin X$,
pick the one that minimizes

$A[v] + l_{vw}$ → Already computed in earlier iteration
[call it (v^*, w^*)]

- add w^* to X
- set $A[w^*] := A[v^*] + l_{v^*, w^*}$
- ~~set $B[w^*] := B[v^*]u(v^*, w^*)$~~

Which of the following running times seems to best describe a “naïve” implementation of Dijkstra’s algorithm?

☐ $\theta(m+n)$

☐ $\theta(m \log n)$

☐ $\theta(n^2)$

☒ $\theta(mn)$

- $(n-1)$ iterations of while loop
- $\theta(m)$ work per iteration
[$\theta(1)$ work per edge]

CAN WE DO BETTER?

Heap Operations

Recall: raison d'être of heap = perform Insert, Extract-Min in $O(\log n)$ time.

[rest of video assumes familiarity with heaps]

Height $\sim \log_2 n$

- conceptually, a perfectly balanced binary tree
- Heap property: at every node, key \leq children's keys
- extract-min by swapping up last leaf, bubbling down
- insert via bubbling up



Also: will need ability to delete from middle of heap. (bubble up or down as needed)

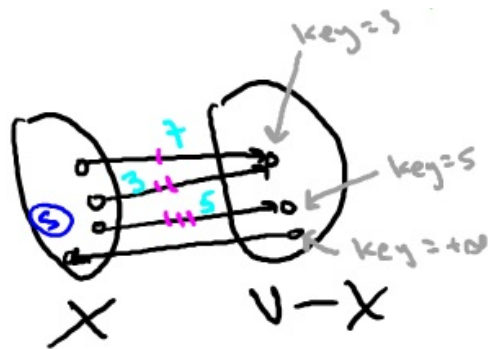
Two Invariants

Invariant # 1: elements in heap = vertices of $V-X$.

Invariant #2: for $v \notin X$

$\text{Key}[v]$ = smallest Dijkstra greedy score of an edge (u, v) in E with u in X

(of $+\infty$ if no such edges exist)



Dijkstra's greedy score of (v, w) : $A[v] + l_{vw}$

Point: by invariants, Extract-Min yields correct vertex w^* to add to X next.

(and we set $A[w^*]$ to $\text{key}[w^*]$)

Maintaining the Invariants

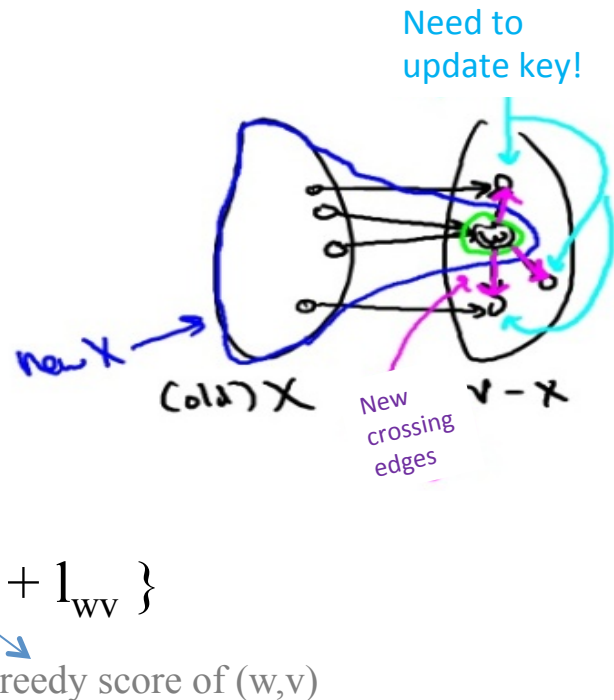
To maintain Invariant #2: [i.e., that $\forall v \notin X$
Key[v] = smallest Dijkstra greedy
score of edge (u,v) with u in X]

When w extracted from heap (i.e., added to X)

- for each edge (w,v) in E:
 - if v in V-X (i.e., in heap)

Key update {

- delete v from heap
- recompute $\text{key}[v] = \min \{ \text{key}[v], A[w] + l_{wv} \}$
- re-Insert v into heap



Running Time Analysis

You check: dominated by heap operations. ($O(\log(n))$ each)

- $(n-1)$ Extract mins
- each edge (v,w) triggers at most one Delete/Insert combo (if v added to X first)

So: # of heap operations in $O(n+m) \Rightarrow O(m)$

So: running time = $O(m \log(n))$ (like sorting)

Since graph is
weakly connected

