

# Data Structures

## Dijkstra Algorithm

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## Finding the Shortest Path

it is useful to know the shortest path in an a graph is useful as it allows us to move as efficiently as possible in a graph. A graph will normally be wieghted if you are asked to find the shortest path, the objective is to find the path from  $a$  to  $b$  with the smallest sum of weights.

One can also be taked to find the shortest path between any 2 verticies in a graph.

## Dijkstra's Algorithm

This algorithm determines the shortest path in  $G$  from vertex  $s$  to **all other** verticies in the graph.

Input	$G, s$
Output	$dist$

where  $dist$  is an array containing the optimal distances from  $s$  to every other vertex in  $G$ .

## Data Structure

Dijkstra uses 3 different data structures to carry out its operation.

1. A  $dist$  array (min-heap) that tracks the **current best known cost** to get from  $s$  to every other vertex in the graph. For each vertex  $i$  in  $dist$ :
  - (a) set the distance from  $s$  to be equal to 0
  - (b) set the distance from all other verticies to  $\infty$
2. An array called  $done$  that holds boolean values denoting if a vertex has been fully proessed. For each vertex  $i$ , set  $done[i]$  to false.
3. An array called  $parent$  that holds the parent for each vertex.

## Algorithm

The Dijkstra Algorithm is as follows:

```

while !done {
    u = the closest unprocessed vertex to s

    for v in notDoneVertex{
        if edgeExists.(u,v){
            if dist[v] > dist[u] + weight(u,v){
                dist[v] = dist[u] + weight(u,v)

                parent[v] = u
            }
        }
    }
}

```