



Design and Analysis  
of Algorithms I

# Graph Primitives

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Dijkstra's Algorithm:  
Fast Implementation

# Single-Source Shortest Paths

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

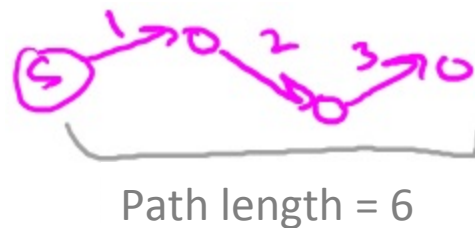
- each edge has non negative length  $l_e$
- source vertex  $s$

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



# Dijkstra's Algorithm

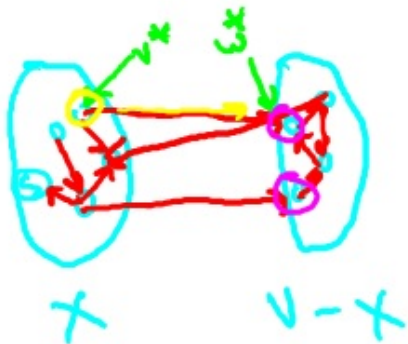
This array  
only to help  
explanation!

## 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  $v \in X, w \notin X$ , pick the one that minimizes

$$A[v] + l_{vw}$$

[call it  $(v^*, w^*)$ ]

→ Already  
computed in  
earlier iteration

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

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 scan edges to see if they are eligible

- [  $\theta(1)$  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

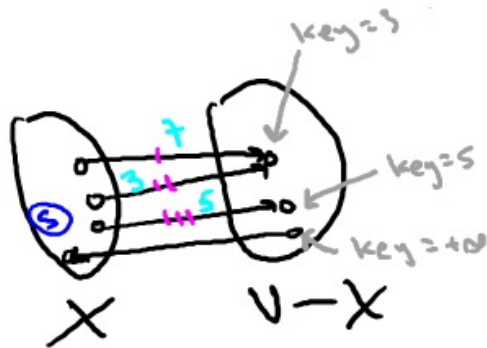
Invariant # 1: elements in heap = vertices of  $V-X$ .

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  $\forall v \notin X$

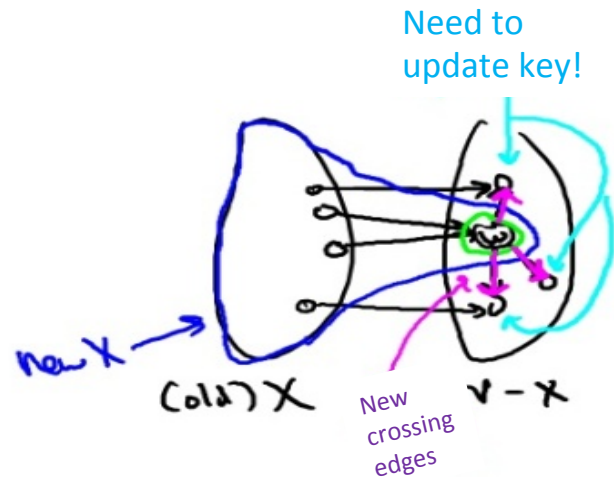
$\text{Key}[v]$  = smallest Dijkstra greedy score of edge  $(u,v)$  with  $u$  in  $X$  ]

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

