

# Graph Algorithms

CS3104

Dr. Samit Biswas, Assistant Professor,  
Department of Computer Sc. and Technology,  
Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur

Email: [samit@cs.iests.ac.in](mailto:samit@cs.iests.ac.in)

## Shortest Path Problem

- How can we find the shortest route between two points on a road map?
- Model the problem as a graph problem:
  - Road map is a weighted graph:
    - vertices** = cities
    - edges** = road segments between cities
    - edge weights** = road distances
  - Goal: find a shortest path between two vertices (cities)

## Shortest Path Problem

- **Input:**
  - Directed graph  $G = (V, E)$
  - Weight function  $w : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
- **Weight of path**  $p = \langle v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k \rangle$ 
$$w(p) = \sum_{i=1}^k w(v_{i-1}, v_i)$$
- **Shortest-path weight** from  $u$  to  $v$ :
$$\delta(u, v) = \begin{cases} \min w(p) : u \xrightarrow{e} v & \text{if there exists a path from } u \text{ to } v \\ \infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- **Note:** there might be multiple shortest paths from  $u$  to  $v$

### ✓ Single-source shortest paths

- $G = (V, E)$   $\Rightarrow$  find a shortest path from a given source vertex  $s$  to each vertex  $v \in V$

### ✓ Single-destination shortest paths

- Find a shortest path to a given destination vertex  $t$  from each vertex  $v$

- Reversing the direction of each edge  $\Rightarrow$  single-source

### ✓ Single-pair shortest path

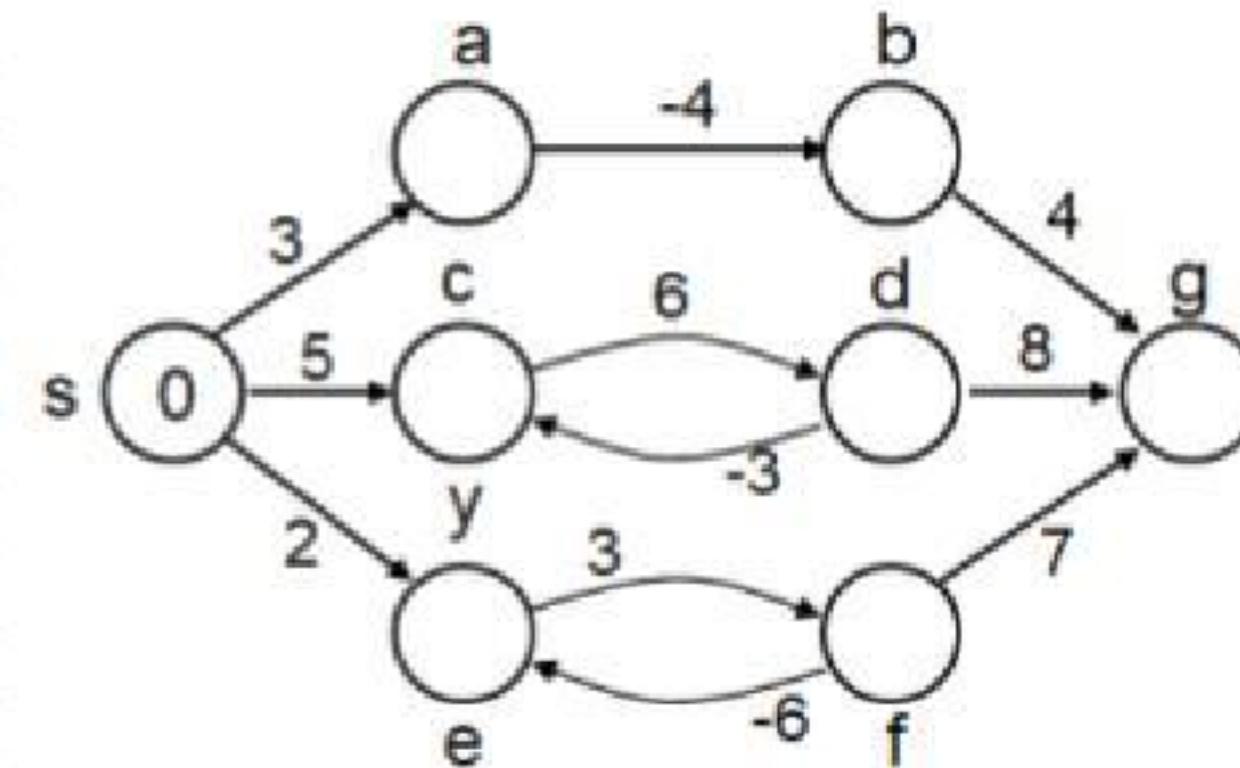
- Find a shortest path from  $u$  to  $v$  for given vertices  $u$  and  $v$

### ✓ All-pairs shortest-paths

- Find a shortest path from  $u$  to  $v$  for every pair of vertices  $u$  and  $v$

## Negative-Weight Edges

- Negative-weight edges may form negative-weight cycles
- If such cycles are reachable from the source, then  $\delta(s, v)$  is not properly defined!
  - Keep going around the cycle, and get  $w(s, v) = -\infty$  for all  $v$  on the cycle



## Negative-weight edges

$s \rightarrow a$ ; only one path

$$\delta(s, a) = w(s, a) = 3$$

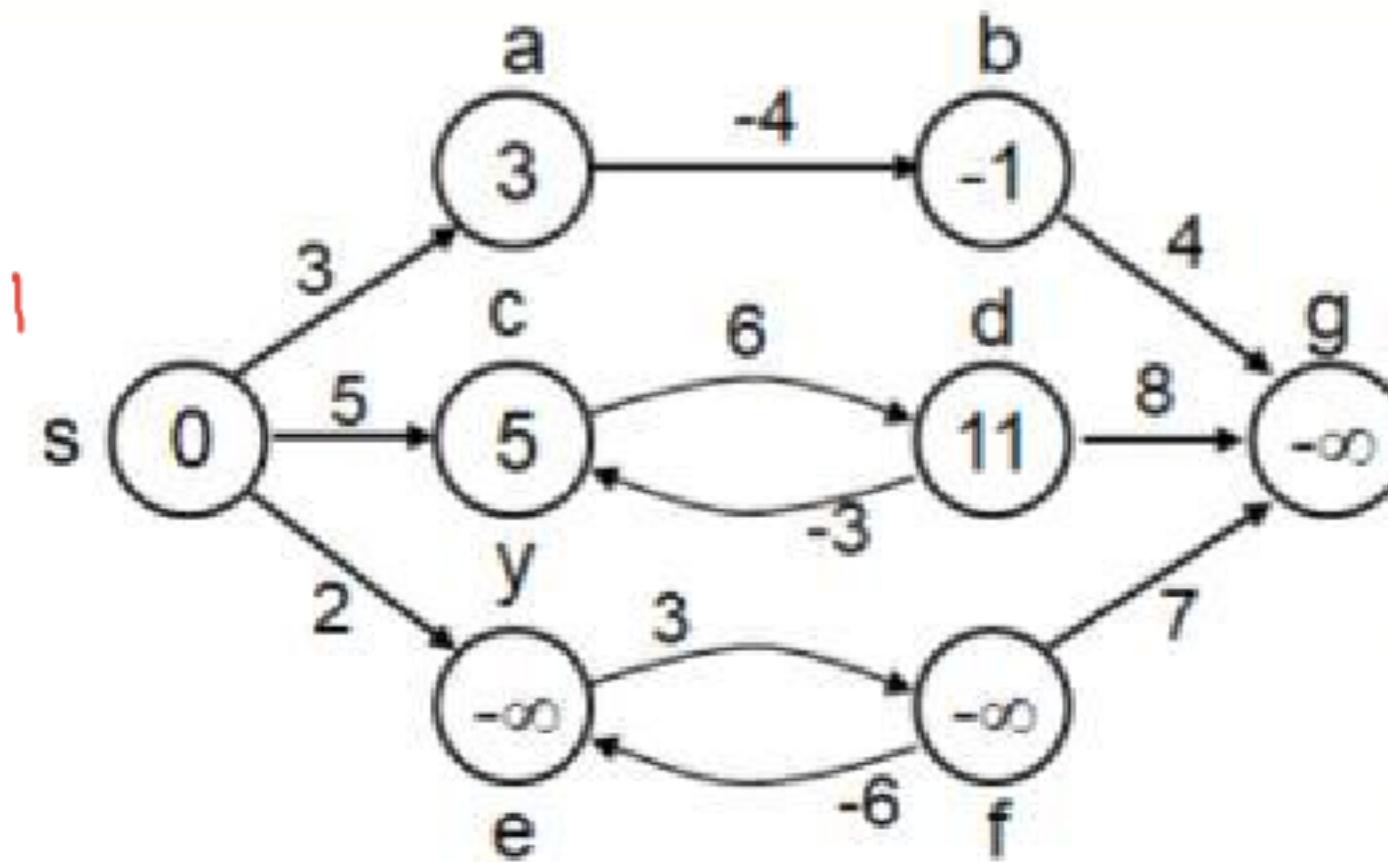
$s \rightarrow b$  only one path

$$\delta(s, b) = w(s, a) + w(a, b) = 3 + (-4) = -1$$

$s \rightarrow c$ : infinitely many paths

$$\{s, c\}, \{s, c, d, c\}, \{s, c, d, c, d, c\}, \dots$$

cycle weight =  $\frac{6 - 3}{\text{positive}} = 3$



## Negative-weight edges

$s \rightarrow e$ , infinitely many paths

$\{s, e\}, \{s, e, f, e\}, \{s, e, f, e, f, e\} \dots$

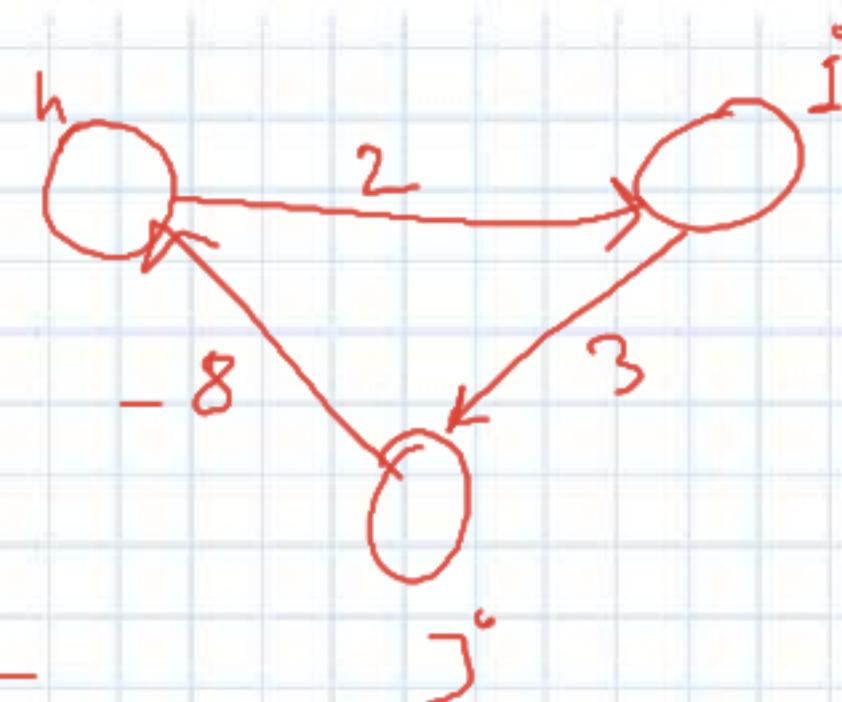
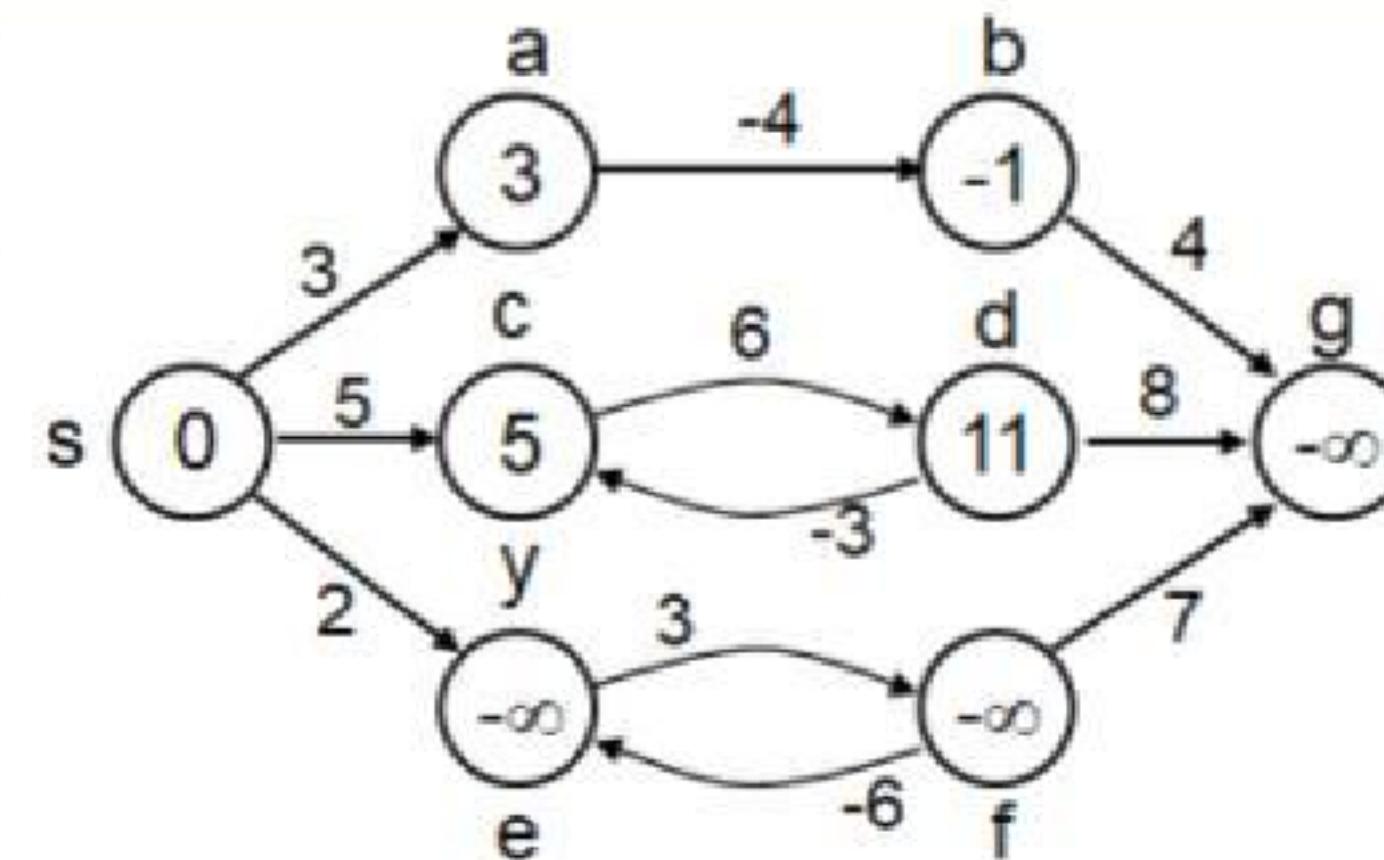
| Cycle  $\{e, f, e\}$ , weight =  $(3 - 6) = -3$   
negative

|  $\delta(s, e) = -\infty$ ; no shortest path  
exists bet'  $s$  &  $e$ .

Similarly,  $\delta(s, f) = -\infty$

$$\delta(s, h) = \infty$$

$h, i, j$  is not reachable  
from  $s$ .

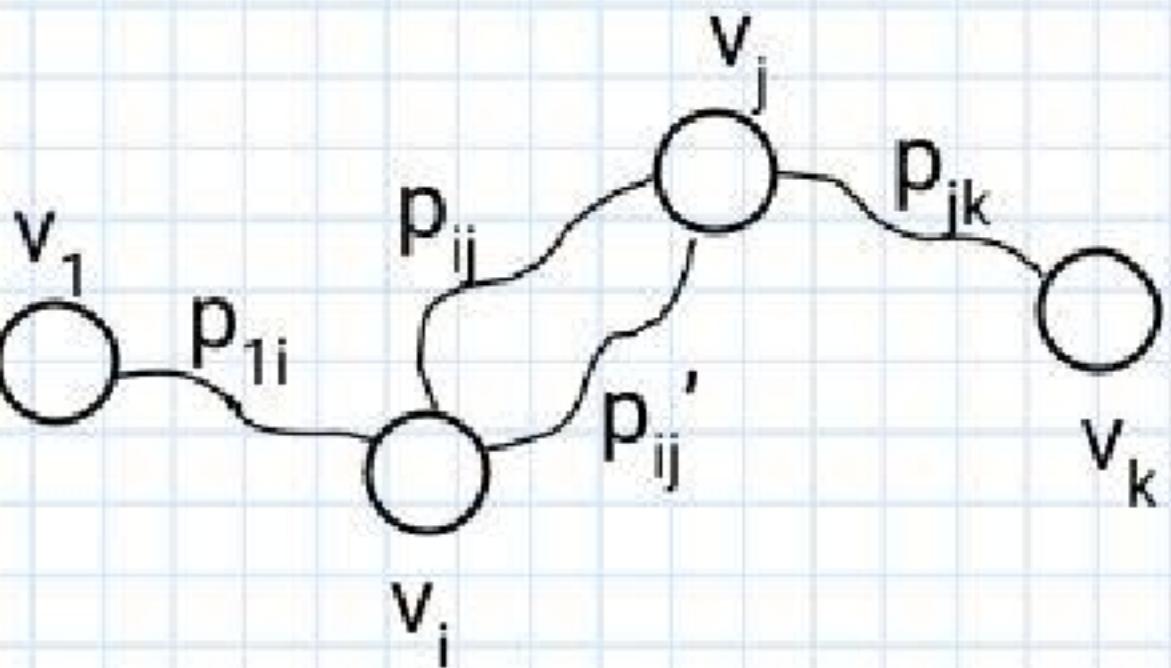


Can shortest paths contain cycles?

- Negative-weight cycles **No!**
  - Shortest path is not well defined
- Positive-weight cycles: **No!**
  - By removing the cycle, we can get a shorter path
- Zero-weight cycles
  - No reason to use them
  - Can remove them to obtain a path with same weight

# Optimal Substructure Theorem

- Given:
  - A weighted, directed graph  $G = (V, E)$
  - A weight function  $w: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,
  - A shortest path  $p = \langle v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k \rangle$  from  $v_1$  to  $v_k$
  - A subpath of  $p$ :  $p_{ij} = \langle v_i, v_{i+1}, \dots, v_j \rangle$ , with  $1 \leq i \leq j \leq k$
- Then:  $p_{ij}$  is a shortest path from  $v_i$  to  $v_j$



Proof:

$$p = v_1 \xrightarrow{p} v_i \xrightarrow{p} v_j \xrightarrow{p} v_k$$

$$w(p) = w(\underline{p_{1i}}) + w(\underline{p_{ij}}) + w(\underline{p_{jk}})$$

Assume  $\exists p'_{ij}$  from  $v_i$  to  $v_j$  with  $w(p'_{ij}) < w(p_{ij})$

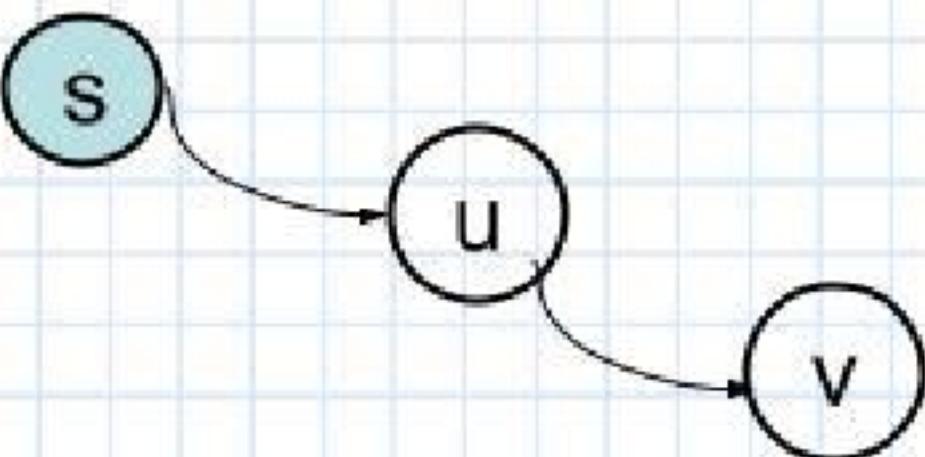
$\Rightarrow w(p') = w(p_{1i}) + w(p'_{ij}) + w(p_{jk}) < \underline{w(p)}$  contradiction!

## Triangle Inequality

- For all  $(u, v) \in E$ , we have:

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

- If  $u$  is on the shortest path to  $v$   
we have the equality sign



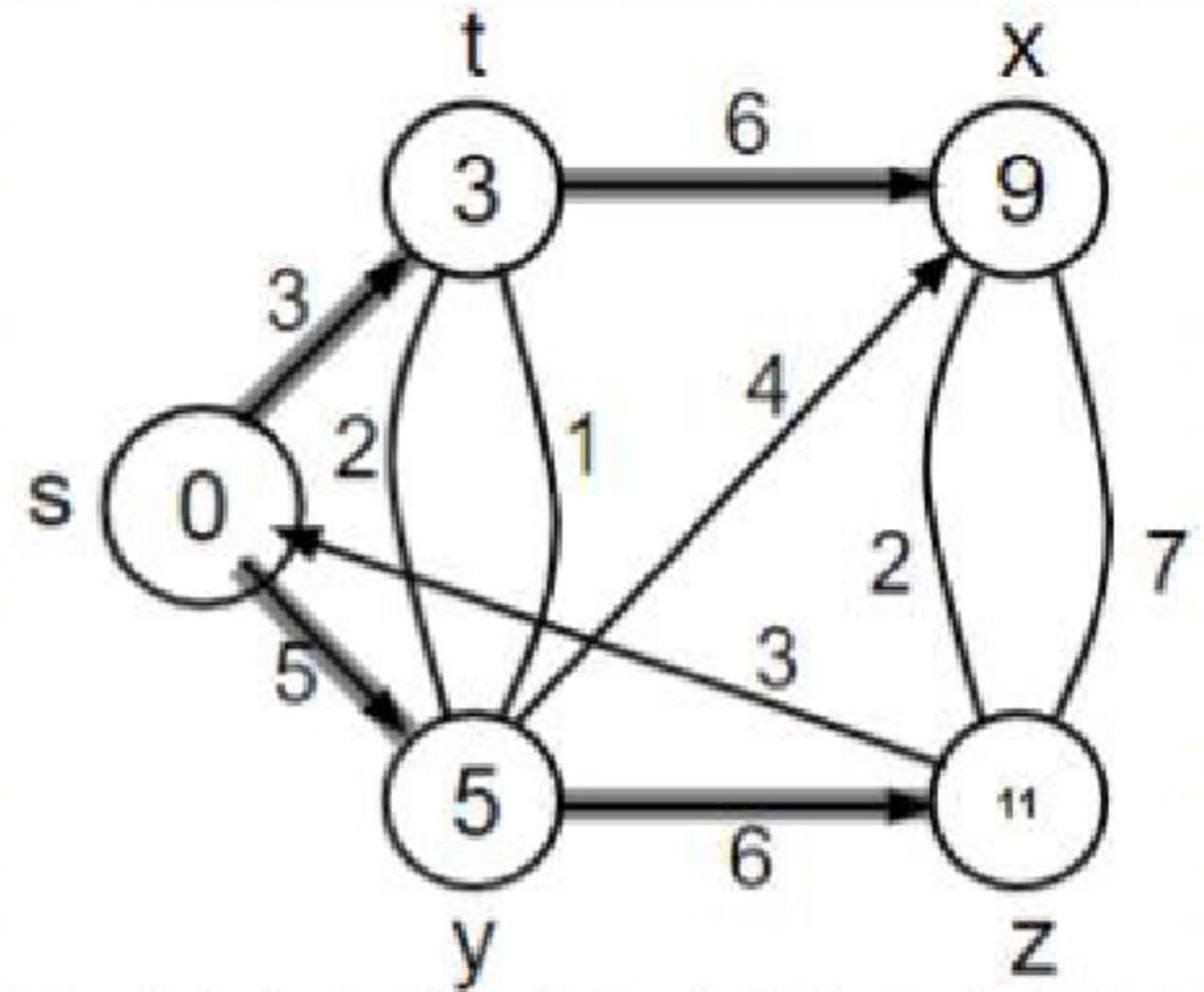
## Shortest Path Algorithms

- **Bellman-Ford algorithm**
  - Negative weights are allowed
  - Negative cycles reachable from the source are not allowed.
- **Dijkstra's algorithm**
  - Negative weights are not allowed
- **Operations common in both algorithms:**
  - Initialization
  - Relaxation

## Shortest Path Notation

For each vertex  $v \in V$ :

- $\delta(s, v)$ : **shortest-path weight**
- $d[v]$ : shortest-path weight **estimate**
  - Initially,  $d[v]=\infty$
  - $d[v] \leq \delta(s,v)$  as algorithm progresses
- $\pi[v] = \text{predecessor}$  of  $v$  on a shortest path from  $s$ 
  - If no predecessor,  $\pi[v] = \text{NIL}$
  - $\pi$  induces a tree—**shortest-path tree**



## Initialization

**Algorithm:** INITIALIZE-SINGLE-SOURCE( $V, s$ )

1. **for** each  $v \in V$
2.     **do**  $d[v] \leftarrow \infty$
3.          $\pi[v] \leftarrow \text{NIL}$
4.      $d[s] \leftarrow 0$

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

## Relaxation Step

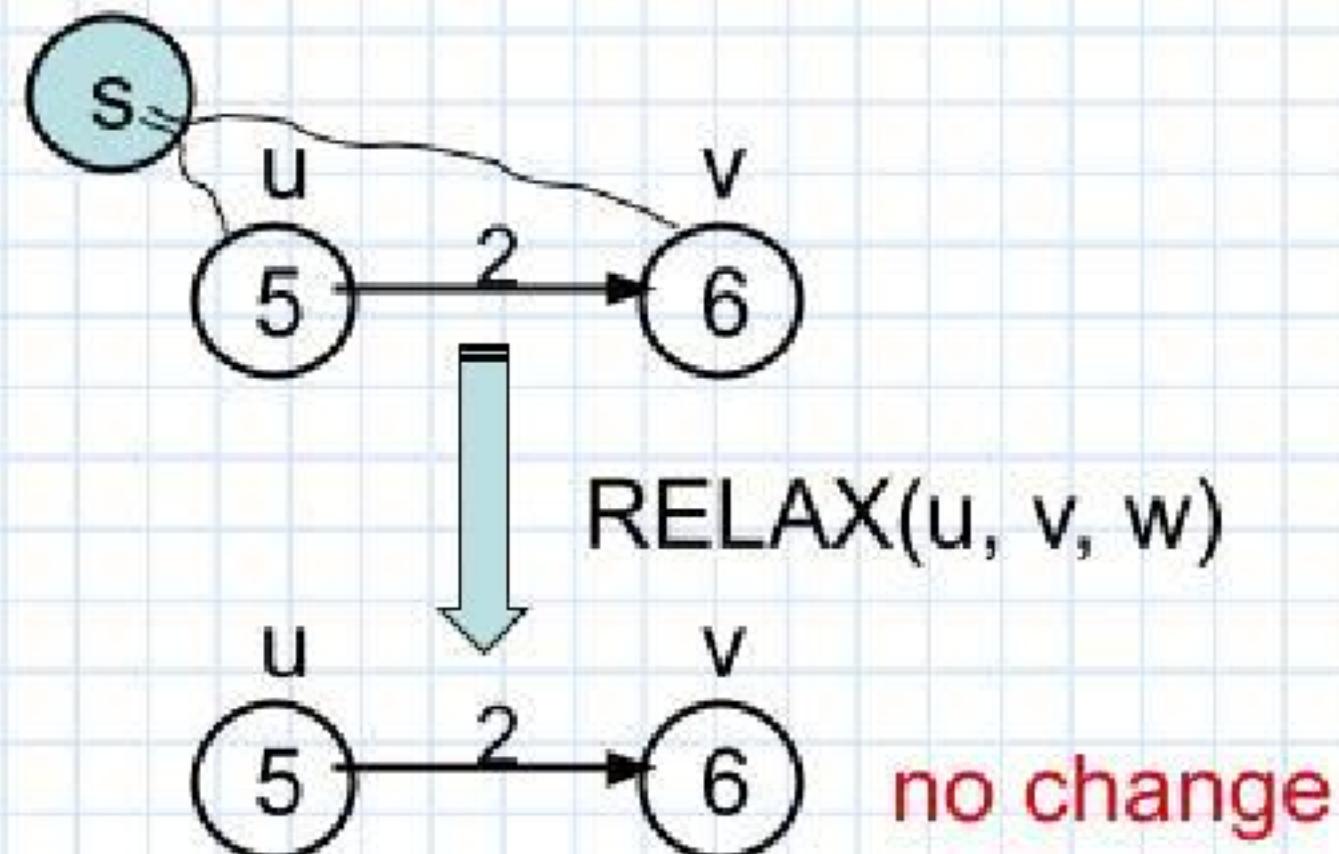
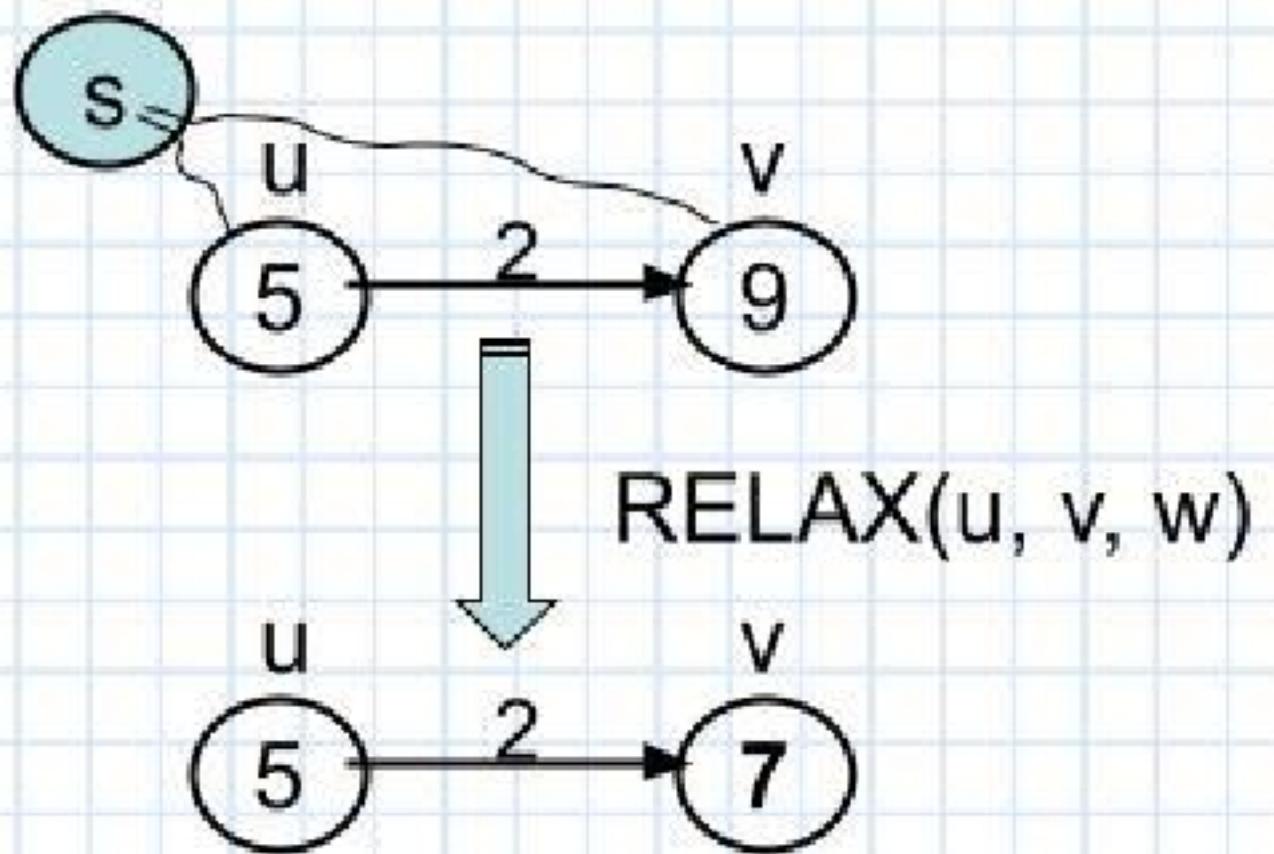
- **Relaxing** an edge  $(u, v)$  = testing whether we can improve the shortest path to  $v$  found so far by going through  $u$

If  $d[v] > d[u] + w(u, v)$

we can improve the shortest path to  $v$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{d[v]} = d[u] + w(u, v)$$

$$\Rightarrow \pi[v] \leftarrow u$$



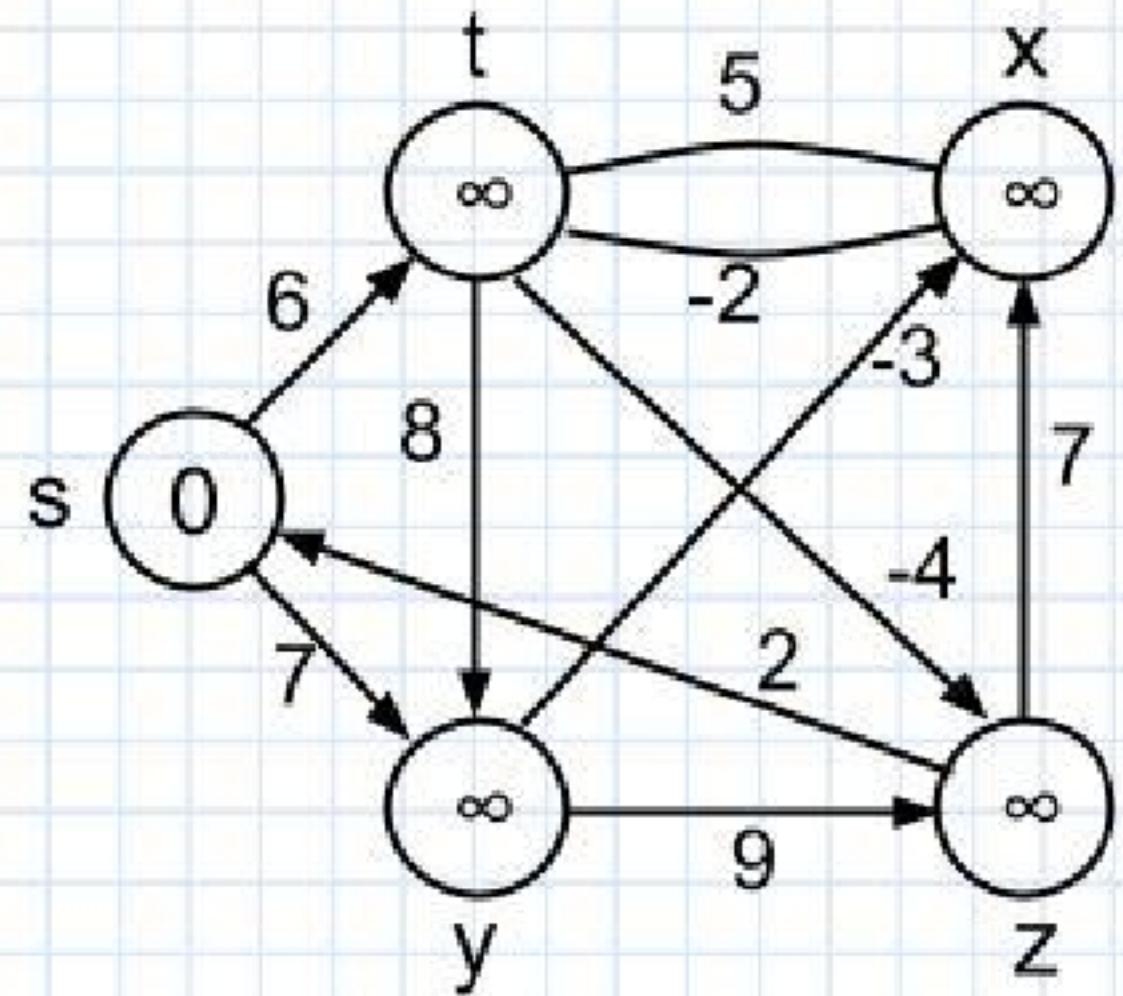
## Bellman-Ford Algorithm

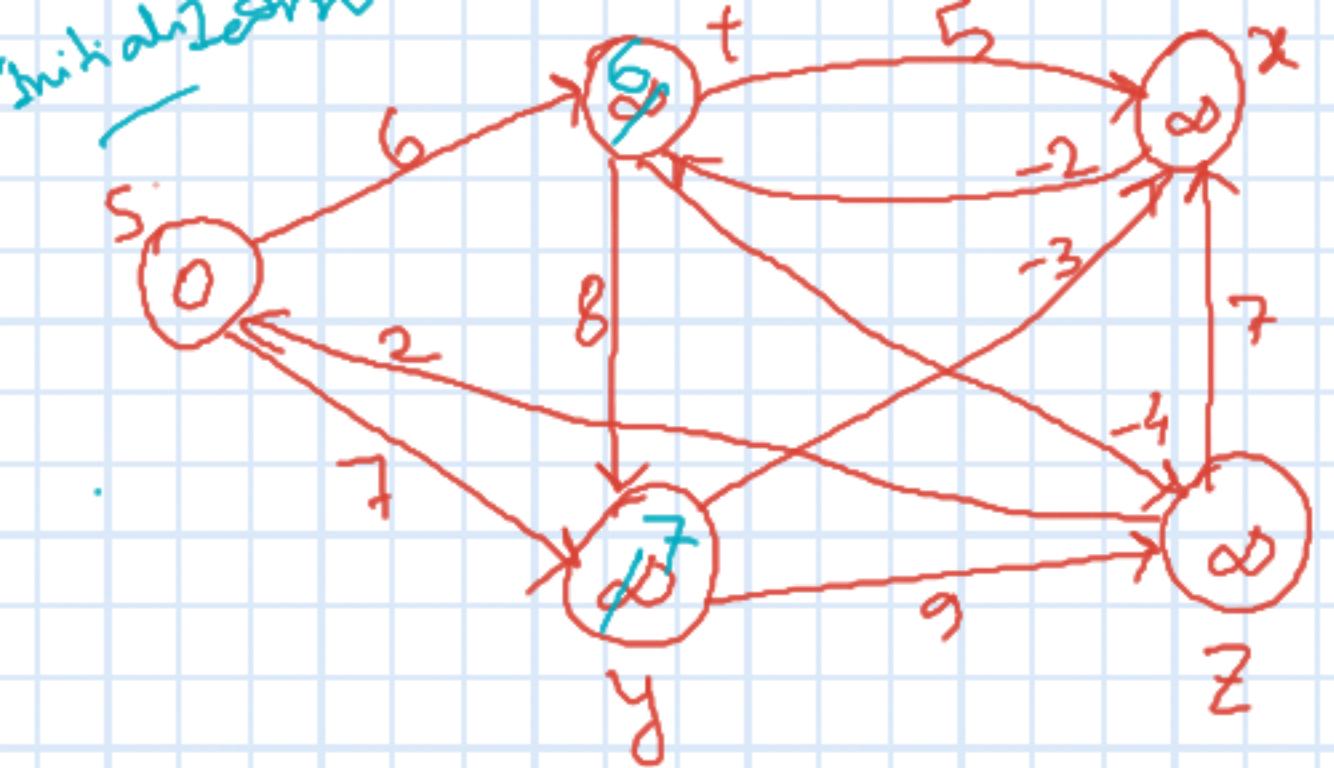
- Single-source shortest path problem
  - Computes  $\delta(s, v)$  and  $\pi[v]$  for all  $v \in V$
- Allows negative edge weights - can detect negative cycles.
  - Returns TRUE if no negative-weight cycles are reachable from the source  $s$
  - Returns FALSE otherwise  $\Rightarrow$  no solution exists

## Bellman-Ford Algorithm (Contd ..)

- **Idea:**
  - Each edge is relaxed  $|V - 1|$  times by making  $|V - 1|$  passes over the whole edge set.
  - To make sure that each edge is relaxed exactly  $|V - 1|$  times, it puts the edges in an unordered list and goes over the list  $|V - 1|$  times.

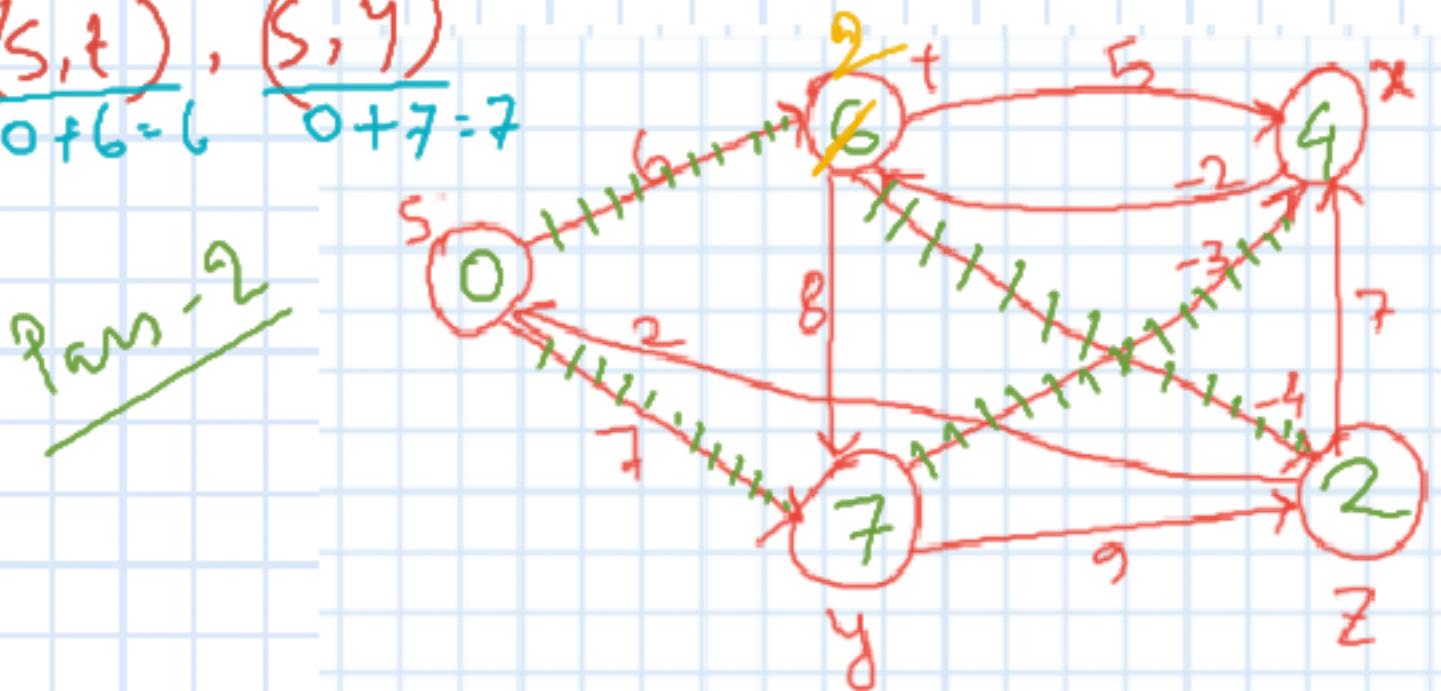
| (t, x), (t, y), (t, z), (x, t), (y, x),  
| (y, z), (z, x), (z, s), (s, t), (s, y)



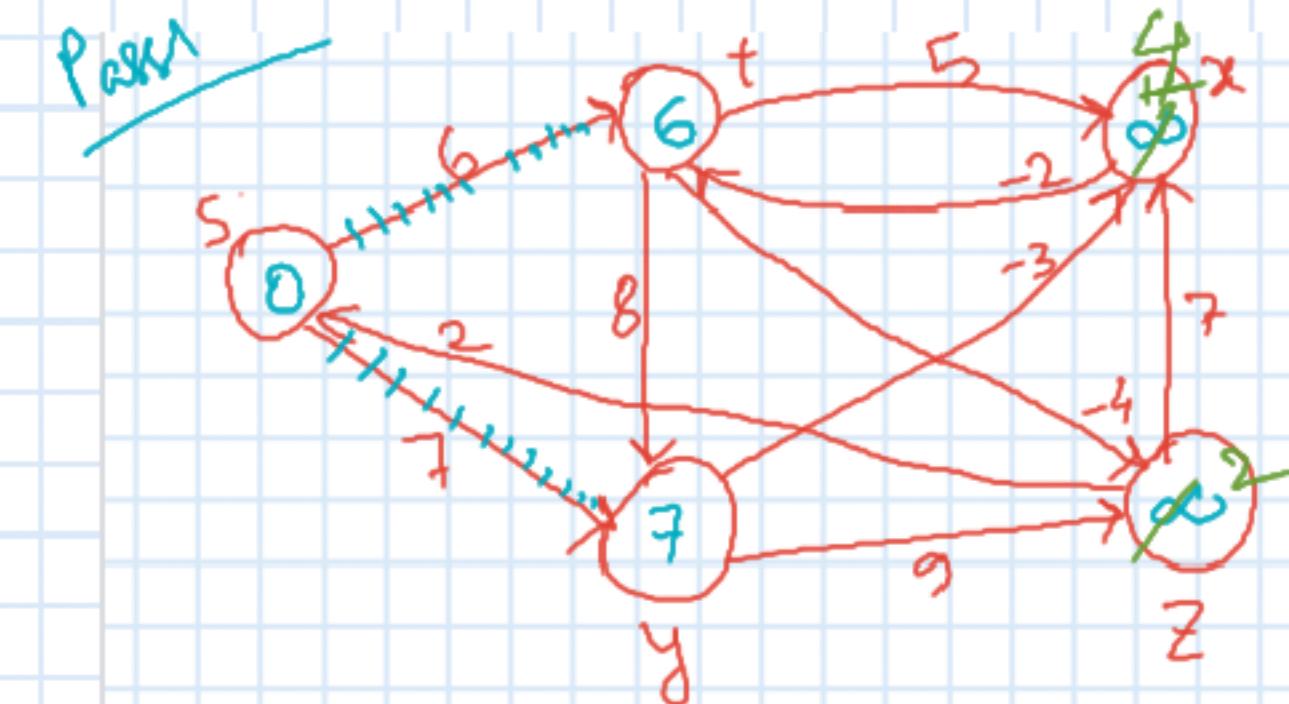


$$\underline{(t,x)} \quad \underline{(t,y)} \quad \underline{(t,z)} \quad \underline{(u,t)} \quad \underline{(y,u)} \quad \underline{(y,t)}$$

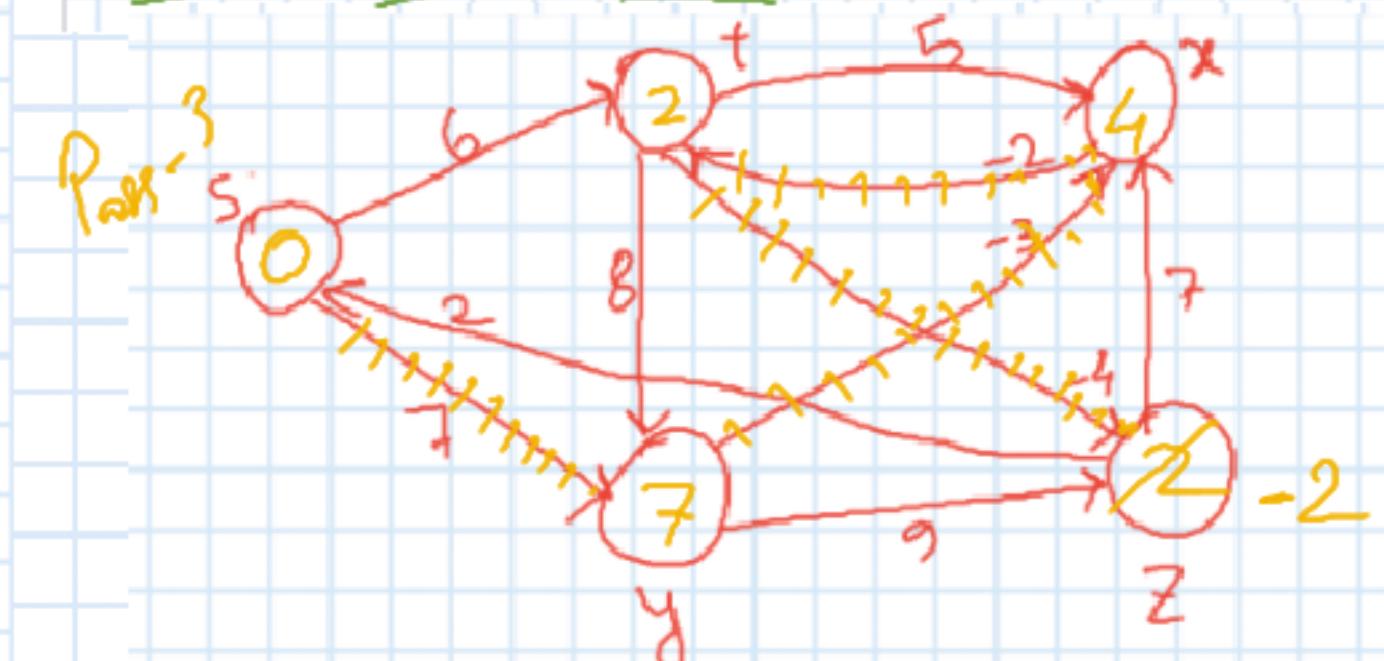
$$\underline{(z, x)}, \underline{(z, s)}, \underline{(s, t)}, \underline{(s, y)}$$



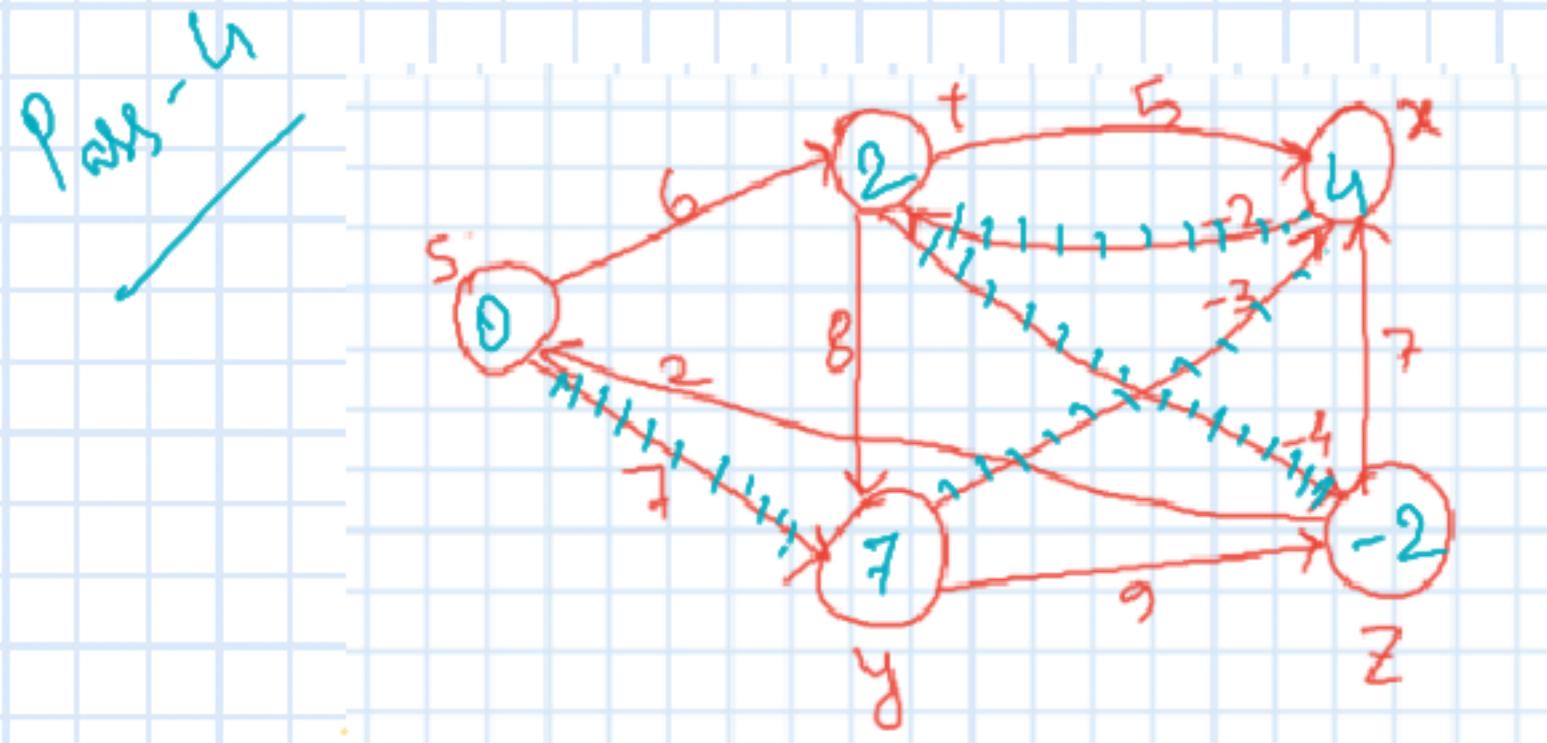
(t,x) (t,y) (t,z) (m,t) (y,x) (y,z)  
(z,m), (z,s), (s,t), (s,y)



$$\begin{array}{cccccc} \underline{(t,x)} & \underline{(t,y)} & \boxed{\begin{array}{c} (t,z) \\ G-Q=2 \end{array}} & \underline{(u,t)} & \underline{(y,u)} & \underline{(y,z)} \\ \underline{(z,u)} & \underline{(z,s)} & \underline{(s,t)} & \underline{(s,y)} & & \end{array}$$



$$\begin{array}{cccccc} \underline{(t,x)} & \underline{(t,y)} & \boxed{\underline{(t,z)}} & \underline{(m,t)} & \underline{(y,u)} & \underline{(y,7)} \\ \\ \underline{(z,u)}, \underline{(z,s)}, \underline{(s,t)}, \underline{(s,y)} \end{array}$$



$$(t,x) \quad (t,y) \quad (t,z) \quad (u,t) \quad (y,u) \quad (y,t)$$

$(Z, u), (Z, S), (S, t), (S, \gamma)$

## BELLMAN-FORD ( $V, E, w, s$ )

1. INITIALIZE-SINGLE-SOURCE( $V, s$ )  $\rightarrow O(\sim)$
2. **for**  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $|V| - 1$   $\rightarrow O(\sim)$   $\{ O(\sim E) \}$
3.   **do for** each edge  $(u, v) \in E \rightarrow O(E)$
4.     **do** RELAX( $u, v, w$ )
5.   **for** each edge  $(u, v) \in E \rightarrow O(E)$
6.     **do if**  $d[v] > d[u] + w(u, v)$
7.       **then return** FALSE
8. **return** TRUE

Total Running time =  
 $O(V + VE + E)$

