

## Shortest path algorithms

Data Structures and Algorithms for Computational Linguistics III  
(ISCL-BA-07)

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## Weighted graphs

- A *weighted graph* is a graph, where each edge is associated with a weight
- Weights can be any numeric value, but some algorithms require
  - Non-negative weights
  - 'Euclidean' weights: weights that are proper distance metrics
- Weights often indicate distance or cost, but they can also represent positive relations (e.g., affinity between nodes)
- Weight of a path is the sum of weights of the edges on the path



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## Shortest path

- Finding shortest paths on a weighted (directed) graph is one of the most common problems in many fields
- Applications include
  - Navigation
  - Routing in computer networks
  - Optimal construction of electronic circuits, VLSI chips
  - Robotics, transportation, finance, ...

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## Shortest paths on unweighted graphs

BFS

- A BFS search tree gives the shortest path from the source node to all other nodes
- The BFS is not enough on weighted graphs
- Shortest-cost path may be longer in terms of nodes visited



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## Shortest paths on weighted graphs

variations of the problem

- Different versions of the problem:
  - Single source shortest path: find shortest path from a source node to all others
  - Single target (sometimes called sink) shortest path: find shortest path from all nodes to a target node
  - Source to target: from a particular source node to a particular target node
  - All pairs: shortest paths between all pairs of nodes
- Restrictions on weights:
  - Euclidean weights
  - Non-negative weights
  - Arbitrary weights

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## Dijkstra's algorithm

intro

- Dijkstra's algorithm is a 'weighted' version of the BFS
- The algorithm finds shortest path from a single source node to all connected nodes
- Weights has to be non-negative
- It is a greedy algorithm that grows a 'cloud' of nodes for which we know the shortest paths from the source node
- The new nodes are included in the cloud in order of their shortest paths from the source node

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## Dijkstra's algorithm

the algorithm

```
1: D[s] ← 0
2: for each node v ≠ s do
3:   D[v] ← ∞
4: Q ← nodes
5: while Q is not empty do
6:   Remove node u with min D[u] from Q
7:   for each edge (u, v) do
8:     if D[u] + w(u, v) < D[v] then
9:       D[v] ← D[u] + w(u, v)
10: D contains the shortest distances from s
```

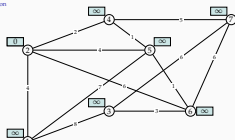
- We maintain a list D of minimum known distances to each node
- At each step
  - we take closest node out of Q
  - update the distances of all nodes
- Can be more efficient if Q is implemented using a (adaptable) priority queue

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## Dijkstra's algorithm

demonstration

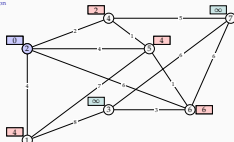


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## Dijkstra's algorithm

demonstration

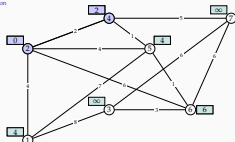


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## Dijkstra's algorithm

demonstration

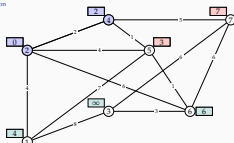


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## Dijkstra's algorithm

demonstration

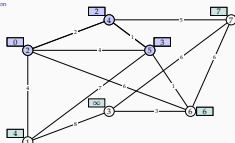


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## Dijkstra's algorithm

demonstration

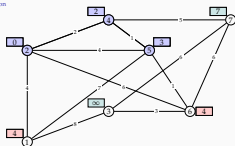


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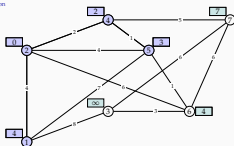
## Dijkstra's algorithm

demonstration



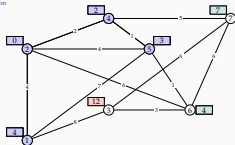
## Dijkstra's algorithm

demonstration



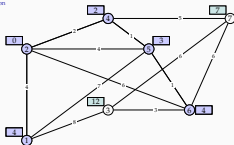
## Dijkstra's algorithm

demonstration



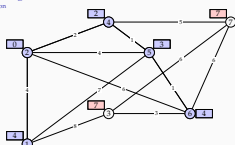
## Dijkstra's algorithm

demonstration



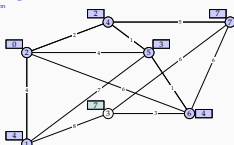
## Dijkstra's algorithm

demonstration



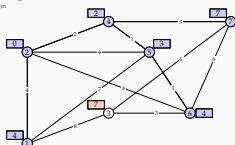
## Dijkstra's algorithm

demonstration



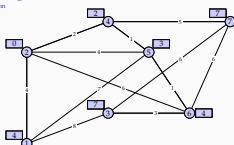
## Dijkstra's algorithm

demonstration

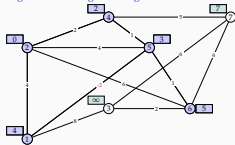


## Dijkstra's algorithm

demonstration



## Dijkstra's algorithm and negative weights



## Dijkstra's algorithm

complexity

- In general, complexity is  $O(\text{len}_{\text{min}} n + \text{len}_{\text{update}} \log n)$
- With list-based implementation of Q:  $O(m + n^2) = O(n^2)$
- With a priority queue:  $O((m + n) \log n)$

```

1: D[s] ← 0
2: for each node v ≠ s do
3:   D[v] ← ∞
4: Q ← nodes
5: while Q is not empty do
6:   Remove node u with min D[u] from Q
7:   for each edge (u, v) do
8:     if D[u] + w(u, v) < D[v] then
9:       D[v] ← D[u] + w(u, v)
10: D contains the shortest distances from s
    
```

## Shortest-path tree

- The way we introduced, the Dijkstra's algorithm does not give the shortest-path tree
- Similar to traversal algorithms, we can extract it from distances D
- Running time is  $O(n^2)$  (or  $O(n + m)$ )

```

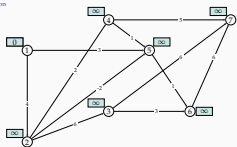
1: T ← ∅
2: for u ∈ D - {s} do
3:   for each edge (v, u) do
4:     if D[v] == D[u] + w(v, u) then
5:       T ← T ∪ {(v, u)}
    
```

## Shortest-paths on DAGs

- The shortest path can be found more efficiently, if the graph is a DAG
- The algorithm is similar to Dijkstra's, but simpler and faster
- Only difference is we follow a topological order
- The algorithm will also work with negative edge weights

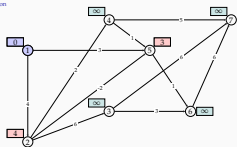
## Shortest-paths on DAGs

demonstration



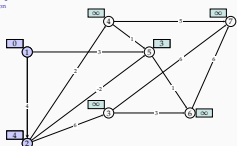
## Shortest-paths on DAGs

demonstration



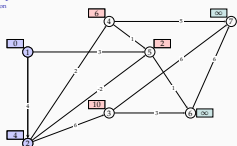
## Shortest-paths on DAGs

demonstration



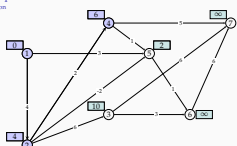
## Shortest-paths on DAGs

demonstration



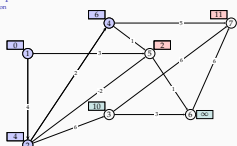
## Shortest-paths on DAGs

demonstration



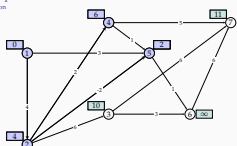
## Shortest-paths on DAGs

demonstration



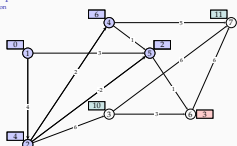
## Shortest-paths on DAGs

demonstration



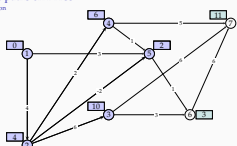
## Shortest-paths on DAGs

demonstration



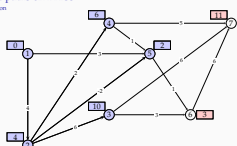
## Shortest-paths on DAGs

demonstration



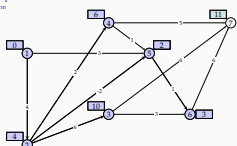
## Shortest-paths on DAGs

demonstration



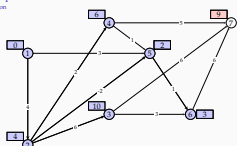
## Shortest-paths on DAGs

demonstration



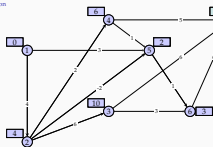
## Shortest-paths on DAGs

demonstration



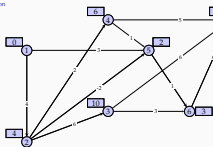
## Shortest-paths on DAGs

demonstration



## Shortest-paths on DAGs

demonstration



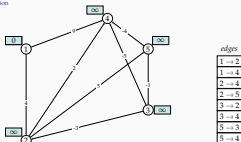
## Shortest-paths on directed graphs

with negative weights – without negative cycles

- Single-source shortest path problem can also be solved efficiently for any directed graph
  - including cycles (no DAG requirement)
  - including negative weights
  - excluding negative cycles
- The algorithm is known as Bellman-Ford algorithm
  - Similar to earlier algorithms, initialize  $D[s] = 0, D[v] = \infty$
  - Make  $n$  passes over the edges
    - Update distances for each edge (relax edges)
    - Stop if there were no changes at the end of a pass

## Bellman-Ford algorithm

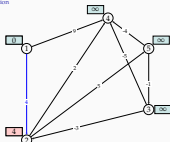
demonstration



edges	
1 → 2	
1 → 4	
2 → 4	
2 → 5	
3 → 2	
3 → 4	
5 → 3	
5 → 4	

## Bellman-Ford algorithm

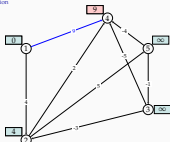
demonstration



edges	
1 → 2	
1 → 4	
2 → 4	
2 → 5	
3 → 2	
3 → 4	
5 → 3	
5 → 4	

## Bellman-Ford algorithm

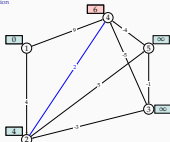
demonstration



edges	
1 → 2	
1 → 4	
2 → 4	
2 → 5	
3 → 2	
3 → 4	
5 → 3	
5 → 4	

## Bellman-Ford algorithm

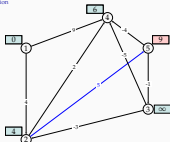
demonstration



edges	
1 → 2	
1 → 4	
2 → 4	
2 → 5	
3 → 2	
3 → 4	
5 → 3	
5 → 4	

## Bellman-Ford algorithm

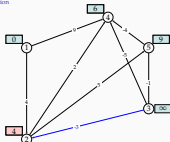
demonstration



edges	
1 → 2	
1 → 4	
2 → 4	
2 → 5	
3 → 2	
3 → 4	
5 → 3	
5 → 4	

## Bellman-Ford algorithm

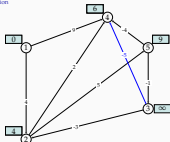
demonstration



edges	
1 → 2	
1 → 4	
2 → 4	
2 → 5	
3 → 2	
3 → 4	
5 → 3	
5 → 4	

## Bellman-Ford algorithm

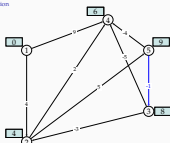
demonstration



edges	
1 → 2	
1 → 4	
2 → 4	
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3 → 2	
3 → 4	
5 → 3	
5 → 4	

## Bellman-Ford algorithm

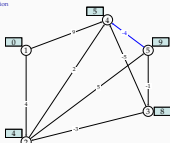
demonstration



edges	
1 → 2	
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3 → 2	
3 → 4	
5 → 3	
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## Bellman-Ford algorithm

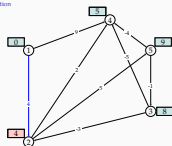
demonstration



edges	
1 → 2	
1 → 4	
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3 → 2	
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## Bellman-Ford algorithm

demonstration

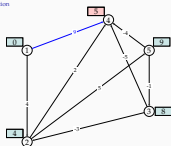


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## Bellman-Ford algorithm

demonstration

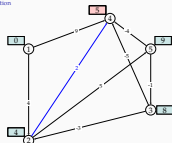


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## Bellman-Ford algorithm

demonstration

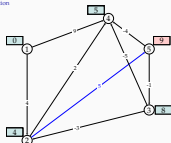


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## Bellman-Ford algorithm

demonstration

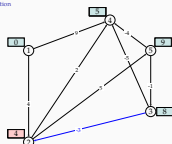


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## Bellman-Ford algorithm

demonstration

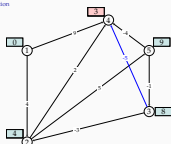


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## Bellman-Ford algorithm

demonstration

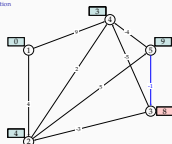


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## Bellman-Ford algorithm

demonstration

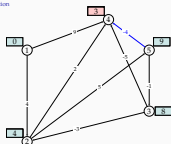


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## Bellman-Ford algorithm

demonstration

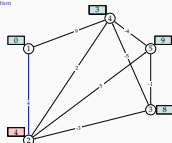


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## Bellman-Ford algorithm

demonstration

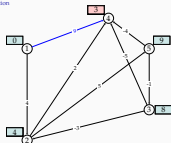


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## Bellman-Ford algorithm

demonstration

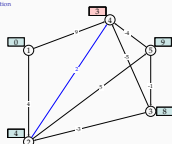


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## Bellman-Ford algorithm

demonstration

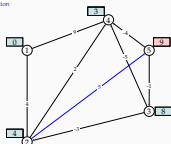


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## Bellman-Ford algorithm

demonstration

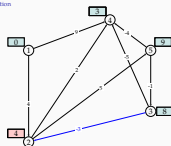


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## Bellman-Ford algorithm

demonstration

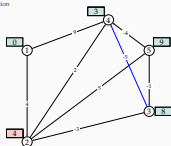


edges

1 → 2
1 → 4
2 → 4
2 → 5
3 → 2
3 → 4
5 → 3
5 → 4

## Bellman-Ford algorithm

demonstration

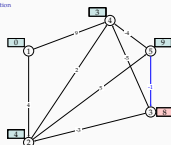


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## Bellman-Ford algorithm

demonstration

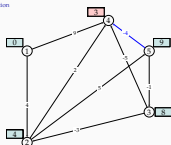


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## Bellman-Ford algorithm

demonstration



edges

1 → 2
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2 → 4
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5 → 3
5 → 4

## Summary

- Shortest path algorithms are one of the most applied graph algorithms
- We revised three algorithms
  - Dijkstra's: non-negative weights, general algorithm
  - For DAGs: unrestricted weights, following topological order
  - Bellman-Ford: no negative cycles, digraphs

Reading: [goodrich2013](#)

Next:

- Minimum spanning trees
- Reading: [goodrich2013](#)

## Acknowledgments, credits, references