

# Efficient Algorithms

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# Lecture 10: Graph Algorithms (Part II)

## Single-Source Shortest Paths

# Shortest Path Problem

In a shortest path problem, we are given a **weighted, directed** graph  $G = (V, E, w)$  with a weight function  $w: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  that maps edges to **real-valued** weights.

The weight  $w(p)$  of a path  $p = \langle v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k \rangle$  is the sum of the weights of its constituent edges:

$$w(p) = \sum_{i=1}^k w(v_{i-1}, v_i)$$

# Shortest Path Problem

We define the **shortest path weight** from  $u$  to  $v$  by

$$\delta(u, v) = \begin{cases} \min\{w(p) : u \rightsquigarrow v\} \\ \infty \end{cases} \quad (*)$$

A **shortest path** from  $u$  to  $v$  is then defined as **any path**  $p$  with weight  $w(p) = \delta(u, v)$ .

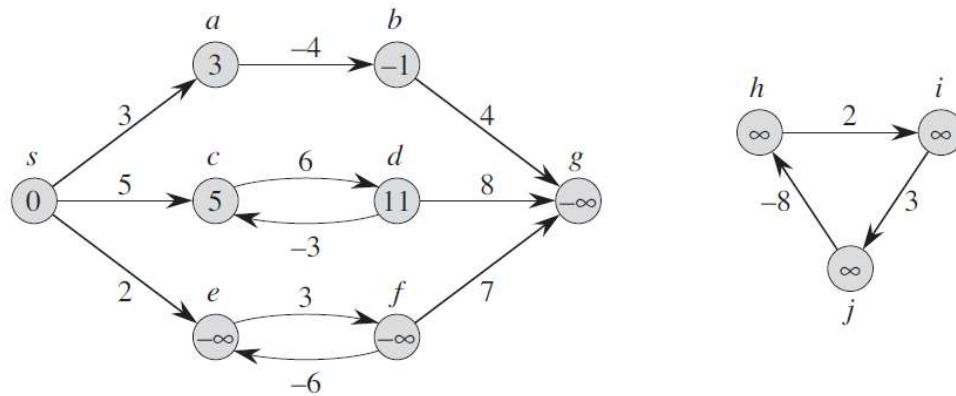
If there is no path from  $u$  to  $v$ ,  $\delta(u, v) = \infty$ .

Even though there is a path  $u$  to  $v$ , a shortest path may not exist in the presence of **a negative-weight cycle** reachable from  $u$ .

# Negative-Weight Cycle

Even though there is a path  $u$  to  $v$ , a shortest path may not exist in the presence of at least one **negative-weight cycle** reachable from  $u$ . Thus,  $\delta(u, v) = -\infty$ .

In the example below, a shortest path from  $s$  to  $f$  is **undefined** because we can always find a path with a smaller weight by traversing the negative-weight cycle  $\langle e, f, e \rangle$  as many times as we want before reaching  $f$ .



# Optimal Substructure

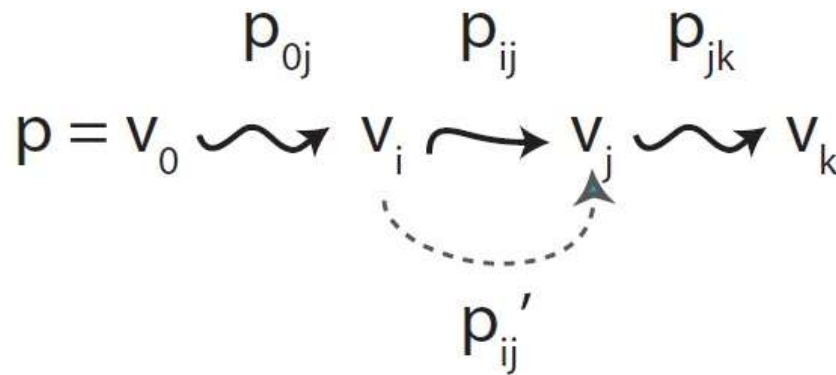
**Shortest-path algorithms** typically rely on the property that a shortest path between two vertices contains other shortest paths within it.

The following **lemma** states the **optimal substructure property** of shortest paths:

**Lemma:** Let  $p = \langle v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k \rangle$  be a shortest path from  $v_0$  to  $v_k$ . Then, for any  $i$  and  $j$  such that  $0 \leq i \leq j \leq k$ , let  $p_{ij} = \langle v_i, v_{i+1}, \dots, v_j \rangle$  is a subpath of  $p$  from  $v_i$  to  $v_j$ . Then  $p_{ij}$  is a shortest path from  $v_i$  to  $v_j$ .

# Optimal Substructure

**Lemma:** Let  $p = \langle v_0, v_2, \dots, v_k \rangle$  be a shortest path from  $v_0$  to  $v_k$ . Then, for any  $i$  and  $j$  such that  $0 \leq i \leq j \leq k$ , let  $p_{ij} = \langle v_i, v_{i+1}, \dots, v_j \rangle$  is a subpath of  $p$  from  $v_i$  to  $v_j$ . Then  $p_{ij}$  is a shortest path from  $v_i$  to  $v_j$ .



## Optimal Substructure

**Lemma:** Let  $p = \langle v_0, v_2, \dots, v_k \rangle$  be a shortest path from  $v_0$  to  $v_k$ . Then, for any  $i$  and  $j$  such that  $0 \leq i \leq j \leq k$ , let  $p_{ij} = \langle v_i, v_{i+1}, \dots, v_j \rangle$  is a subpath of  $p$  from  $v_i$  to  $v_j$ . Then  $p_{ij}$  is a shortest path from  $v_i$  to  $v_j$ .

**Proof:** We will prove using a **cut-and-paste argument**.

Assume for the purpose of contradiction that there is some path  $p'_{ij}$  shorter than  $p_{ij}$ . That is,  $w(p'_{ij}) < w(p_{ij})$ .

We can replace  $p_{ij}$  with  $p'_{ij}$  and obtain a new path  $p'$  from  $v_0$  to  $v_k$ , where  $w(p') < w(p)$ . Hence, this contradicts with the optimality of  $p$ . ■



# Estimate Distance : The D-Value

In shortest path algorithms, we typically first initialize all the **estimate distances** of all the vertices to  $\infty$  except for the source vertex, whose estimate distance is set to 0.

That is,  $d[v] = \infty$  for all  $v \in V - \{s\}$  and  $d[s] = 0$ .

As the algorithm progresses, these d-values will gradually converge to the **actual shortest distances**  $\delta(s, v)$ .

Note:

- $d[v] = \infty$  and remains  $\infty$  iff there is no path from  $s$  to  $v$ .
- $d[v]$  fails to converge iff there is a **negative-weight cycle** on a path  $s$  from to  $v$ .

# Predecessor: The Pi-Value

To reconstruct a shortest path  $p$  from the source vertex  $s$  to every other vertex  $v$ , we associate each vertex with a property called the ***p-value*** denoted by  $\pi[v]$  to keep track of the ***predecessor*** of  $v$ .

When we find a better path from  $s$  to  $v$  via an edge  $(u, v)$ , we update the ***pi-value*** by setting  $\pi[v] = u$ .

Note:

- $\pi[s] = NIL$  initially.
- $\pi[v] = NIL$  and remains  $NIL$  if there is no path from  $s$  to  $v$ .

# General Procedure in SP Problems

Shortest-Path algorithms typically have the following two procedures *in common*:

- The initialization step where all the *d-values* and *pi-values* are initialized.
- The relaxation step where the *d-values* and *pi-values* are updated when a better path for each vertex is found.

# Initialization

---

```
1: procedure INITIALIZATION( $G, s$ )
2:   for each vertex  $v \in G.V$  do
3:      $d[v] = \infty$ 
4:      $\pi[v] = NIL$ 
5:    $d[s] = 0$ 
```

---

The time complexity of *Initialization*( $G, s$ ) is  $\Theta(V)$ .

# Relaxation

When a **better path** from  $s$  to  $v$  via edge  $(u, v)$  is found, we update the **d-value** and the **pi-value** of  $v$  as follows:

---

```
1: procedure RELAX( $u, v, w$ )
2:   if  $d[v] > d[u] + w(u, v)$  then
3:      $d[v] = d[u] + w(u, v)$ 
4:      $\pi[v] = u$ 
```

---

We say that the edge  $(u, v)$  is **relaxed**.

The time complexity of  $Relax(u, v, w)$  is

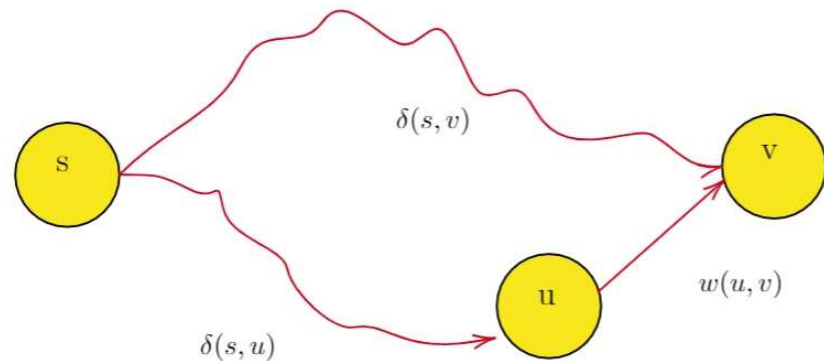
- $O(\log V)$  as the assignment in **line 3** is, in fact, a *Decrease – Key – Value* operation if a **min-priority queue** is used in **Dijkstra's algorithm**
- $\Theta(1)$  in **Bellman-Ford**

# Triangle Inequality

## **Lemma: Triangle Inequality**

Let  $G = (V, E, w)$  be a weighted, directed graph with weight function  $w: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and some source vertex  $s$ . Then, for all edges  $(u, v) \in E$ , we have

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



# Triangle Inequality

## Proof:

**Case I:** There is at least one path from  $s$  to  $v$ .

Suppose that  $p$  is a **shortest path** from  $s$  to  $v$ . Then,  $p$  has no more weight than any other path from  $s$  to  $v$ . [Definition of a shortest path]

Therefore,  $p$  also has no more weight than a path  $s \rightsquigarrow u \rightarrow v$  which consists of a shortest path from  $s$  to  $u$  followed by edge  $(u, v)$ . [ $s \rightsquigarrow u \rightarrow v$  is one of the paths]

Note that the inequality still holds even though there is a **negative-weight cycle** reachable from  $s$  on the path  $p$  to  $v$  or the path  $s \rightsquigarrow u \rightarrow v$ .

**Case II:** There is no path from  $s$  to  $v$ .

Then,  $\delta[v] = \infty$ .

Then, there is also no path from  $s$  to  $u$  so  $\delta[u] = \infty$ .

If there were, we could otherwise go from  $s$  to  $v$  via  $s \rightsquigarrow u \rightarrow v$ , which is a **contradiction** to the assumption that there is no path from  $s$  to  $v$ .

Then, the inequality still holds. ■

## Relaxation is safe

We want to show that the ***d-value*** of each vertex  $v \in V$  never reduces below the actual shortest path  $\delta(s, v)$ .

That is, we want to show the following inequality holds ***at all times***:

$$d[v] \geq \delta(s, v) \quad \forall v \in V$$



# Relaxation is safe

## Lemma: Upper-Bound Property

(**Claim I**) Let  $G = (V, E, w)$  be a weighted, directed graph with weight function  $w: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Let  $s \in V$  be the source vertex, and let  $G$  be initialized by  $Initialization(G, s)$ . Then,  $d[v] \geq \delta(s, v) \forall v \in V$ , and this invariant is maintained over any sequence of relaxation steps on the edges of  $G$ .

(**Claim II**) Moreover, once  $d[v]$  achieves its lower bound  $\delta(s, v)$ , it never changes.

# Relaxation is safe

## Proof:

**For Claim 1,** we will show by induction on the number of relaxations steps.

## Base case:

In *Initialization*( $G, s$ ),

$$d[v] = \infty \text{ for } v \in V - \{s\} \rightarrow d[v] = \infty \geq \delta(s, v).$$

and  $d[s] = 0 \rightarrow d[s] = 0 \geq \delta(s, s).$

**Note:**  $\delta(s, s) = -\infty$  when there is a **negative-weight cycle** reachable from  $s$ .  
Otherwise,  $\delta(s, s) = 0$ .

# Relaxation is safe

## **Proof: (Continued)**

**Inductive Step:** Consider the relaxation of an edge  $(u, v) \in E$ .

By I.H., we have  $d[v] \geq \delta(s, v) \forall v \in V$  **just prior to the relaxation**.

The only **d-value** that may change is  $d[v]$ .

If it does not change, the invariant still holds by **I.H.**.

If it changes, we have

$$\begin{aligned} d[v] &= d[u] + w(u, v) \\ &\geq \delta(s, u) + w(u, v) \\ &\geq \delta(s, v) \end{aligned}$$

**[Code Inspection]**

**[I.H. :  $d[u] \geq \delta(s, u)$ ]**

**[Triangle Inequality]**

Thus, the invariant is maintained. ■

## Relaxation is safe

### **Proof: (Continued)**

**For Claim II**, we will show that the ***d-value*** of any vertex  $v \in V$  never changes once  $d[v] = \delta(s, v)$ .

Since we have just shown that the invariant  $d[v] \geq \delta(s, v) \forall v \in V$  always holds, this means that when  $d[v] = \delta(s, v)$ , which is its lower bound, it cannot ***decrease*** any further.

And, relaxation never increases ***d-values***.

Hence, this concludes that once  $d[v] = \delta(s, v)$ , its value never changes. ■

# Dijkstra's Algorithm

***Dijkstra's algorithm*** solves the ***single-source-shortest-path problem*** on a weighted, directed graph  $G = (V, E, w)$  for the case where all edges weights are ***non-negative***.

Therefore, we assume that  $w(u, v) \geq 0$  for all  $(u, v) \in E$ .

# Dijkstra's Algorithm

**Dijkstra's algorithm** maintains a set  $S$  of vertices  $v$  whose **final d-values** have already been determined, that is,  $d[v] = \delta(s, v)$ .

The algorithm repeatedly selects a vertex  $u \in V - S$  with the minimum **d-value**, adds  $u$  to  $S$ , and then relaxes all edges leaving  $u$ .

We can use a **min-priority queue**  $Q$  to store vertices in  $V - S$ , keyed by their **d-values**.

# Dijkstra's Algorithm

The algorithm maintains the invariant that  $Q = V - S$  at the start of each iteration of the while loop of *lines 5-9*.

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```
1: procedure DJKSTRA( $G, w, s$ )
2:   INITIALIZE( $G, s$ )
3:    $S = \emptyset$ 
4:    $Q = G.V$ 
5:   while  $Q \neq \emptyset$  do
6:      $u = \text{EXTRACT-MIN}(Q)$ 
7:      $S = S \cup \{u\}$ 
8:     for each vertex  $v \in G.Adj[u]$  do
9:       RELAX( $u, v, w$ )
```

---

# Dijkstra's Algorithm : Analysis

**Claim:** Dijkstra's algorithm takes  $O((V + E) \log V)$  using a min-priority queue.

**Proof:**

*Initialization*( $G, s$ ) takes  $\Theta(V)$  time.

*Extract - Min*( $Q$ ) runs  $\Theta(V)$  times, each of which takes **at most**  $O(\log V)$  time.

- In total, *Extract - Min*( $Q$ ) takes **at most**  $O(V \log V)$  time.

*Relax*( $u, v, w$ ) runs exactly  $E$  times, each of which takes  $O(\log V)$  time.

- In total, *Relax*( $u, v, w$ ) takes  $O(E \log V)$  time.

Summing up, the total running time of Dijkstra's algorithm is **at most**

$$O(V + V \log V + E \log V) = O(V \log V + E \log V) = O((V + E) \log V).$$





# No-Path Property

## **Lemma: (No-Path Property)**

Suppose that in a weighted, directed graph  $G = (V, E, w)$  with weight function  $w: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , no path connects a source vertex  $s \in V$  to a given vertex  $v \in V$ . Then, after the graph is initialized by  $Initialization(G, s)$ , we have  $d[v] = \delta(s, v) = \infty$ , and this equality is maintained as an invariant over any sequence of relaxation steps on the edges of  $G$ .

**Proof:** By the upper-bound property, we always have  $\infty = \delta(s, v) \leq d[v]$ .

Thus,  $\delta(s, v) = d[v]$ . ■

# Edge-Relaxation Property

## **Lemma: (Edge-Relaxation Property)**

Let  $G = (V, E, w)$  be a weighted, directed graph with weight function  $w: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and let  $(u, v) \in E$ . Then, immediately after relaxing edge  $(u, v)$  by executing  $\text{Relax}(u, v, w)$ , we have  $d[v] \leq d[u] + w(u, v)$ .

## **Proof:**

If, just prior to relaxing edge  $(u, v)$ , we have  $d[v] > d[u] + w(u, v)$ , then  $d[v] = d[u] + w(u, v)$  afterwards.

If, instead,  $d[v] \leq d[u] + w(u, v)$  just prior to relaxation, then neither  $d[v]$  nor  $d[u]$  changes, and so  $d[v] \leq d[u] + w(u, v)$  afterwards. ■

# Convergence Property

## Lemma: (Convergence Property)

Let  $G = (V, E, w)$  be a weighted, directed graph with weight function  $w: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , let  $s \in V$  be a source vertex, and let  $s \rightsquigarrow u \rightarrow v$  be a shortest path in  $G$  for some vertices  $u, v \in V$ .

Suppose that  $G$  is initialized by  $Initialization(G, s)$  and then a sequence of relaxation steps that include the call  $Relax(u, v, w)$  is executed on the edges of  $G$ .

If  $d[u] = \delta(s, u)$  at any time prior to the call, then  $d[v] = \delta(s, v)$  at all times after the call.

# Convergence Property

**Proof:** By the **Upper-Bound Property**, if  $d[u] = \delta(s, u)$  at some point prior to the relaxation of  $(u, v)$ , then this equality holds thereafter.

In particular, after relaxing  $(u, v)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} d[v] &\leq d[u] + w(u, v) && [\text{Edge-Relaxation Property}] \\ &= \delta(s, u) + w(u, v) && [d[u] = \delta(s, u)] \\ & && [s \rightsquigarrow u \rightarrow v \text{ is a shortest path in } G] \\ &= \delta(s, v) && [\text{Optimal Substructure Property}] \end{aligned}$$

Invoking the **Upper-Bound Property**, which requires that  $d[v] \geq \delta(s, v)$ , we have  $d[v] = \delta(s, v)$  and this equality holds thereafter by the **Upper-Bound Property**. ■

# Dijkstra's Algorithm : Correctness

## **Theorem: (Correctness of Dijkstra's Algorithm)**

Dijkstra's algorithm, run on a weighted, directed graph  $G = (V, E, w)$  with non-negative weight function  $w$  and source vertex  $s$ , terminates with  $d[u] = \delta(s, u)$  for all vertices  $u \in V$ .

## **Proof:**

We will prove correctness by showing that the following **loop invariant** holds:

Prior to each iteration of the while loop,  $d[v] = \delta(s, v)$  for each vertex  $v \in S$ .

# Dijkstra's Algorithm : Correctness

## **Proof: (Continued)**

It suffices to show that for each vertex  $u \in V$ , we have  $d[u] = \delta(s, u)$  at the time when  $u$  is added to  $S$ . Once we show that  $d[u] = \delta(s, u)$ , we can invoke the **Upper-Bound Property** to show that the equality  $d[u] = \delta(s, u)$  holds **at all times thereafter**.

**Initialization:** Initially,  $S = \emptyset$ . Therefore, the invariant vacuously holds.

# Dijkstra's Algorithm : Correctness

**Proof: (Continued)**

**Maintenance:**

We will show that in each iteration  $d[u] = \delta(s, u)$  for the vertex added to  $S$ .

Assume for the purpose of contradiction that  $u$  is the **first** vertex for which  $d[u] \neq \delta(s, u)$  when added to  $S$ .  
---(1)

We must have that  $u \neq s$  because we can be certain that  $\delta(s, s) = d[s] = 0$  at the time it is added to  $S$ .

Because  $u \neq s$ , we know that  $S \neq \emptyset$  at the time when  $u$  is added to  $S$ .

Thus, there must be some path from  $s$  to  $u$ . Otherwise,  $d[u] = \delta(s, u) = \infty$  by the **No-Path Property**, which would violate the assumption (1) that  $d[u] \neq \delta(s, u)$ .

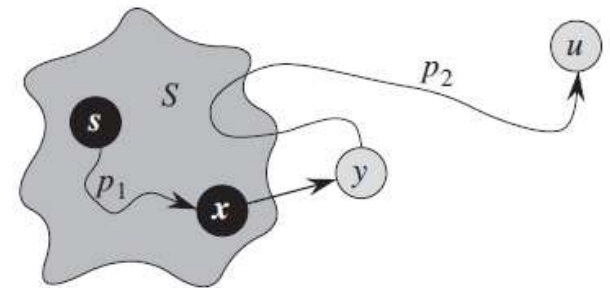
# Dijkstra's Algorithm : Correctness

## **Proof: (Continued)**

**Maintenance:** Because there is at least one path, there must be a shortest path  $p$  from  $s$  to  $u$ .

Prior to adding  $u$  to  $S$ , path  $p$  connects a vertex in  $S$ , namely  $s$ , to a vertex in  $V - S$ , namely,  $u$ .

Let us consider the first vertex  $y$  along  $p$  such that  $y \in V - S$  and  $x \in S$  be the immediate predecessor of  $y$  along  $p$ .





# Dijkstra's Algorithm : Correctness

## **Proof: (Continued)**

We can break down path  $p$  into  $s \rightsquigarrow x \rightarrow y \rightsquigarrow u$ , where  $p_1 = s \rightsquigarrow x$  and  $p_2 = y \rightsquigarrow u$ . (Either  $p_1$  or  $p_2$  may contain no edges.)

[**Claim I**] We **claim** that  $d[y] = \delta(s, y)$  when  $u$  is added to  $S$ .

To prove **Claim I**, notice that  $x \in S$ .

Recall that we chose  $u$  such that it is the **first** vertex for which  $d[u] \neq \delta(s, u)$  when it is added to  $S$ .

Thus, we had  $d[x] = \delta(s, x)$  when  $x$  was added to  $S$ .

Edge  $(x, y)$  was relaxed at the time, and the claim follows from the **Convergence Property**.

# Dijkstra's Algorithm : Correctness

## **Proof: (Continued)**

Because  $y$  appears before  $u$  on a shortest path from  $s$  to  $u$  and all edge weights are **non-negative** (notably those on path  $p_2$ ), we have

$$\delta(s, y) \leq \delta(s, u) \quad [\text{Monotonicity}]$$

and thus

$$\begin{aligned} d[y] &= \delta(s, y) && [\text{Claim 1}] \\ &\leq \delta(s, u) && [\text{Monotonicity}] \\ &\leq d[u] && [\text{Upper-Bound Property}] \end{aligned} \quad \text{---(1)}$$

# Dijkstra's Algorithm : Correctness

## **Proof: (Continued)**

But because both vertices  $u$  and  $y$  were in  $V - S$  when  $u$  was chosen in **line 6** ( $u = \text{Extract} - \text{Min}(Q)$ ), we have

**[Min-Priority Queue implies Greedy Choice]**

$$d[u] \leq d[y] \quad \text{---(2)}$$

By **(1)** & **(2)**, we have  $d[y] = \delta(s, y) = \delta(s, u) = d[u]$ .

Consequently,  $\delta(s, u) = d[u]$ , which contradicts our choice of  $u$ .

We can conclude that  $d[u] = \delta(s, u)$  when  $u$  was added to  $S$ , and this equality is maintained at all times thereafter.

# Dijkstra's Algorithm : Correctness

## **Proof: (Continued)**

**Termination:** At termination, we have  $Q = \emptyset$ , which means that  $V - S = \emptyset$ , implying that  $V = S$ .

Plugging  $V = S$  into the loop invariant, we have:

$$d[v] = \delta(s, v) \text{ for each vertex } v \in V$$

,which proves the correctness of Dijkstra's algorithm. ■

# Bellman-Ford

The **Bellman-Ford** algorithm solves the single-source shortest-path problem in the general case where edge weights may be **negative**.

Given a weighted, directed graph  $G = (V, E, w)$  with a source  $s$  and weight function  $w: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , Bellman-Ford **returns a Boolean value** indicating whether or not there is a **negative-weight cycle** reachable from  $s$ .

If there is such a cycle, the algorithm reports that **no solution exists**. Otherwise, it produces **shortest paths** and **their weights** for all the vertices  $v \in V$ .

# Bellman-Ford

The algorithm proceeds by relaxing edges, hence progressively decreasing the ***d-value*** of each vertex  $v \in V$  until it achieves the actual shortest-path values  $\delta(s, v)$ .

---

```
1: procedure BELLMAN-FORD( $G, w, s$ )
2:   INITIALIZE( $G, s$ )
3:   for  $i = 1 \rightarrow |G.V| - 1$  do
4:     for each edge  $(u, v) \in G.E$  do
5:       RELAX( $u, v, w$ )
6:   for each edge  $(u, v) \in G.E$  do
7:     if  $d[v] > d[u] + w(u, v)$  then
8:       return FALSE
9:   return TRUE
```

---

# Bellman-Ford

The algorithm proceeds as follows:

It first initializes the **d-value** and the **pi-value** of each vertex  $v \in V$  by calling *Initialization*( $G, s$ ).

The algorithm then makes exactly  $|V| - 1$  passes over the edges of  $G$ . Each pass consists of relaxing each edge of the graph once.

After making  $|V| - 1$  passes, the algorithm checks for a **negative-weight cycle** by making **one extra pass** over the edges of  $G$  and returns the appropriate Boolean value.

# Bellman-Ford: Analysis

**Claim:** Bellman-Ford takes  $\Theta(V E)$  time.

**Proof:**

*Initialization*( $G, s$ ) takes  $\Theta(V)$  time.

Each pass takes  $\Theta(E)$  time.

- In total, there are  $|V| - 1$  passes so it takes  $\Theta(V E)$  time.

The final extra pass takes  $\Theta(E)$  time.

Summing up all the contributions, the running time of Bellman-Ford is

$$\Theta(V) + \Theta(V E) + \Theta(E) = \Theta(V E). \blacksquare$$



# Path-Relaxation Property

## **Lemma: (Path-Relaxation Property)**

Let  $G = (V, E, w)$  be a weighted, directed graph with a source  $s$  and weight function  $w: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Consider any shortest path  $p = \langle v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k \rangle$  from  $s = v_0$  to  $v_k$ . If  $G$  is initialized with  $\text{Initialization}(G, s)$  and then a sequence of relaxation steps occurs that includes, in order, relaxing the edges  $(v_0, v_1), (v_1, v_2), \dots, (v_{k-1}, v_k)$ , then  $d[v_k] = \delta(s, v_k)$  after these relaxations and at all times afterward.

This property holds no matter what other edge relaxations occur, including relaxations that are intermixed with relaxations of the edges of  $p$ .

## Path-Relaxation Property

**Proof:** We will show by induction that after the  $i^{th}$  edge of  $p$  is relaxed, we have  $d[v_i] = \delta(s, v_i)$ .

**Base Case:**  $i = 0$

Before any edge of  $p$  is relaxed, we have  $d[v_0] = d[s] = 0 = \delta(s, s)$ .  
 $d[s]$  never changes by the **Upper-Bound Property**.

**Induction Hypothesis:** Assume that  $d[v_{i-1}] = \delta(s, v_{i-1})$ .

**Inductive Step:** We shall investigate what happens when  $(v_{i-1}, v_i)$  is relaxed.

By the **Convergence Property**, after relaxing this edge, we have  $d[v_i] = \delta(s, v_i)$  and this equality holds at all times thereafter. ■

# Bellman-Ford: Correctness

## **Lemma I:**

Let  $G = (V, E, w)$  be a weighted, directed graph with a source  $s$  and weight function  $w: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and assume that  $G$  contains **no negative-weight cycles** reachable from  $s$ . Then, after  $|V| - 1$  iterations, we have  $d[v] = \delta(s, v)$  for all vertices  $v$  that are reachable from  $s$ .

**Proof:** Consider any vertex  $v$  that is reachable from  $s$ , and let  $p = \langle v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k \rangle$ , where  $v_0 = s$  and  $v_k = v$ , be any shortest path from  $s$  to  $v$ . Because shortest paths are **simple**,  $p$  has **at most**  $|V| - 1$  edges, and so  $k \leq |V| - 1$ .

Each of the  $|V| - 1$  iterations relaxes in the  $i^{\text{th}}$  iteration, for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ , is  $(v_{i-1}, v_i)$ .

By the **Path-Relaxation Property**,  $d[v] = d[v_k] = \delta(s, v_k) = \delta(s, v)$ . ■

# Bellman-Ford: Correctness

**Lemma II:** Let  $G = (V, E, w)$  be a weighted, directed graph with a source  $s$  and weight function  $w: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Then, for each vertex  $v \in V$ , there is a path from  $s$  to  $v$  if and only if the algorithm terminates with  $d[v] < \infty$ .

**Proof:**

$\Rightarrow$ : If there is a path from  $s$  to  $v$ , then the algorithm terminates with  $d[v] < \infty$ .

**Base Case:** Initially,  $V_\pi = \{s\}$ . There is a trivial path of weight 0 from  $s$  to itself and we set  $d[s]^\pi = 0 < \infty$ .

Observe that  $d[s] < \infty$  at all times thereafter because relaxation **never increases** d-values.

**Induction Hypothesis:** Assume true for any  $k^{th}$  relaxation.

# Bellman-Ford: Correctness

## Proof: (Continued)

Inductive Step: Suppose we are relaxing an edge  $(u, v) \in E$ .

Case I:  $u \in V_\pi$ : there is a path from  $s$  to  $u$ . Then  $d[u] < \infty$  by **I.H.**.

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

$$\pi[v] = u \text{ and } d[v] = d[u] + w(u, v)$$

Thus, there is a path from  $s$  to  $v$  via  $u$  and  $d[v] < \infty$ .

If  $d[v] \leq d[u] + w(u, v)$ , then nothing changes so I.H. is reestablished by the I.H. from the previous relaxation step.

We have  $v \in V_\pi$ .

# Bellman-Ford: Correctness

**Proof: (Continued)**

**Inductive Step:** Suppose we are relaxing an edge  $(u, v) \in E$ .

**Case II:** There is no path from  $s$  to  $u$ .

Thus,  $d[u] = \infty = \delta(s, u)$  *by the **No-Path Property**.*

Since  $d[v] > d[u] + w(u, v)$  does not hold, nothing changes so I.H. is reestablished by the I.H. from the previous relaxation step.

# Bellman-Ford: Correctness

## **Proof: (Continued)**

$\Leftarrow$ : If the algorithm terminates with  $d[v] < \infty$ , there is a path from  $s$  to  $v$ .

**Base Case:** Initially,  $V_\pi = \{s\}$ .

We set  $d[s] = 0 < \infty$ .

There is a path of weight 0 from  $s$  to itself.

Observe that  $d[s] < \infty$  at all times thereafter because relaxation ***never increases*** d-values.

**Induction Hypothesis:** Assume true for any  $k^{th}$  relaxation.

## Bellman-Ford: Correctness

**Inductive Step:** Suppose we are relaxing an edge  $(u, v) \in E$ .

**Case I:**  $d[v] > d[u] + w(u, v)$

Thus,  $d[u]$  must be a finite value so  $d[u] < \infty$ .

Then, there is a path from  $s$  to  $u$  by ***I.H.***

Therefore,  $d[v] = d[u] + w(u, v)$  and  $\pi[v] = u$ .

This establishes a path from  $s$  to  $v$  via  $u$  and  $d[v]$  is now a finite value so  $d[v] < \infty$ .



# Bellman-Ford: Correctness

**Inductive Step:** Suppose we are relaxing an edge  $(u, v) \in E$ .

**Case II:**  $d[v] \leq d[u] + w(u, v)$

Thus, nothing changes so I.H. is reestablished by the I.H. from the previous relaxation step.

Therefore, we have proved the invariant:

there is a path from  $s$  to  $v$  if and only if  $d[v] < \infty$ .

**Termination:** If  $d[v] < \infty$  just after  $|V| - 1$  iterations, then,  $d[v] < \infty$  remains true thereafter because relaxation ***never increases d-values***. ■

# Bellman-Ford: Correctness

**Theorem:** Let Bellman-Ford be run on a weighted, directed graph  $G = (V, E, w)$  with source  $s$  and weight function  $w: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

(**Claim I**) If  $G$  contains **no negative-weight cycles** that are reachable from  $s$ , the algorithm returns **TRUE**, we have  $d[v] = \delta(s, v)$  for all vertices  $v \in V$ .

(**Claim II**) If  $G$  does contain a **negative-weight cycle** reachable from  $s$  then the algorithm returns **FALSE**.

# Bellman-Ford: Correctness

## **Proof: (Claim I)**

Suppose  $G$  contains no negative-weight cycles that are reachable from  $s$ .

(**Claim III**) We first prove the claim that  $d[v] = \delta(s, v)$  for all vertices  $v \in V$ .

By **Lemma I**, we prove **Claim III** for those vertices  $v$  reachable from  $s$ .

By the **No-Path Property**, we prove **Claim III** for those vertices  $v$  not reachable from  $s$ .

# Bellman-Ford: Correctness

## **Proof: (Claim I)**

At termination, for all edges  $(u, v) \in E$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} d[v] &= \delta(s, v) & [\text{Claim III: } d[v] = \delta(s, v)] \\ &\leq \delta(s, u) + w(u, v) & [\text{Triangle Inequality}] \\ &= d[u] + w(u, v) & [\text{Claim III: } d[u] = \delta(s, u)] \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we have  $d[v] \leq d[u] + w(u, v)$  so it does not pass the **if condition** in the extra pass. Therefore, the algorithm returns **TRUE**. ■

## Bellman-Ford: Correctness

### **Proof: (Claim II)**

Suppose that  $G$  contains a **negative-weight cycle** reachable from  $s$  and let this cycle be  $c = \langle v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k \rangle$ , where  $v_0 = v_k$ .

Then, we have the sum of all the edge weights in this cycle

$$\sum_{i=1}^k w(v_{i-1}, v_i) < 0. \quad \text{---(1)}$$

Assume for the purpose of contradiction that the algorithm return **TRUE**.

Thus, we must have

$$d[v_i] \leq d[v_{i-1}] + w(v_{i-1}, v_i) \text{ for } i = 1, 2, \dots, k. \quad \text{---(2)}$$

## Bellman-Ford: Correctness

### Proof: (Claim II)

$$d[v_i] \leq d[v_{i-1}] + w(v_{i-1}, v_i) \text{ for } i = 1, 2, \dots, k. \quad \text{---(2)}$$

Summing **Eq.(2)** around the cycle  $c$ , we have

$$\sum_{i=1}^k d[v_i] \leq \sum_{i=1}^k d[v_{i-1}] + \sum_{i=1}^k w(v_{i-1}, v_i) \quad \text{---(3)}$$

Observe since  $v_0 = v_k$ , each vertex appear in  $c$  exactly once in each of the summations  $\sum_{i=1}^k d[v_i]$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^k d[v_{i-1}]$ .

Thus,  $\sum_{i=1}^k d[v_i] = \sum_{i=1}^k d[v_{i-1}]$ .

We can rewrite **Eq.(3)** as

$$\sum_{i=1}^k d[v_i] \leq \sum_{i=1}^k d[v_i] + \sum_{i=1}^k w(v_{i-1}, v_i) \quad \text{---(4)}$$

# Bellman-Ford: Correctness

## ***Proof: (Claim II)***

By ***Lemma II***,  $d[v_i] < \infty$ , i.e., ***d-value is finite***,

The terms  $\sum_{i=1}^k d[v_i]$  on both sides legitimately cancel out and we have

$$0 \leq \sum_{i=1}^k w(v_{i-1}, v_i)$$

,which contradicts our assumption in ***Eq.(1)***.

Hence, the algorithm must return ***FALSE*** in the ***presence of a negative-weight cycle*** that is reachable from  $s$ . ■

Thus, we can conclude that Bellman-Ford returns ***TRUE*** if  $G$  contains ***no negative-weight cycles*** reachable from  $s$ .

Otherwise, it returns ***FALSE***. ■

# Summary

In this lecture, we have covered the topic of single-source shortest path problems:

- Dijkstra's Single-Source Shortest Path
- Bellman-Ford

In the next lecture, we will cover more on ***shortest path problems***.