

Announcements:

- Homework 2 is due today at 7:00 PM
- Quiz 4 will be up today at 6
(until Friday at 10)
- Exam 1 on Friday.
- Attend in your official Section.
- Cannot enter/take the exam
from start. NO EXCEPTIONS
- Cannot leave until 2:00 PM

Pattern/Syllabus:



- first 7 lectures
- Pattern: → 4/5 "problems" (like the ones in the homework)
 - Objective/"small" questions
(like the ones in the quizzes)
- No notes / texts etc; . .

Greedy Algorithms

"Greed is Good... Greed works..."

— Gordon Gecko

"Start with some solution and refine it using a greedy rule".

→ Often very easy/fast/simple to state or implement.

→ Can be "wrong" very easily.

→ "Greed does not always work".

→ Analyzing them is trickier.

Today: Shortest paths.

Weighted Directed Graphs:

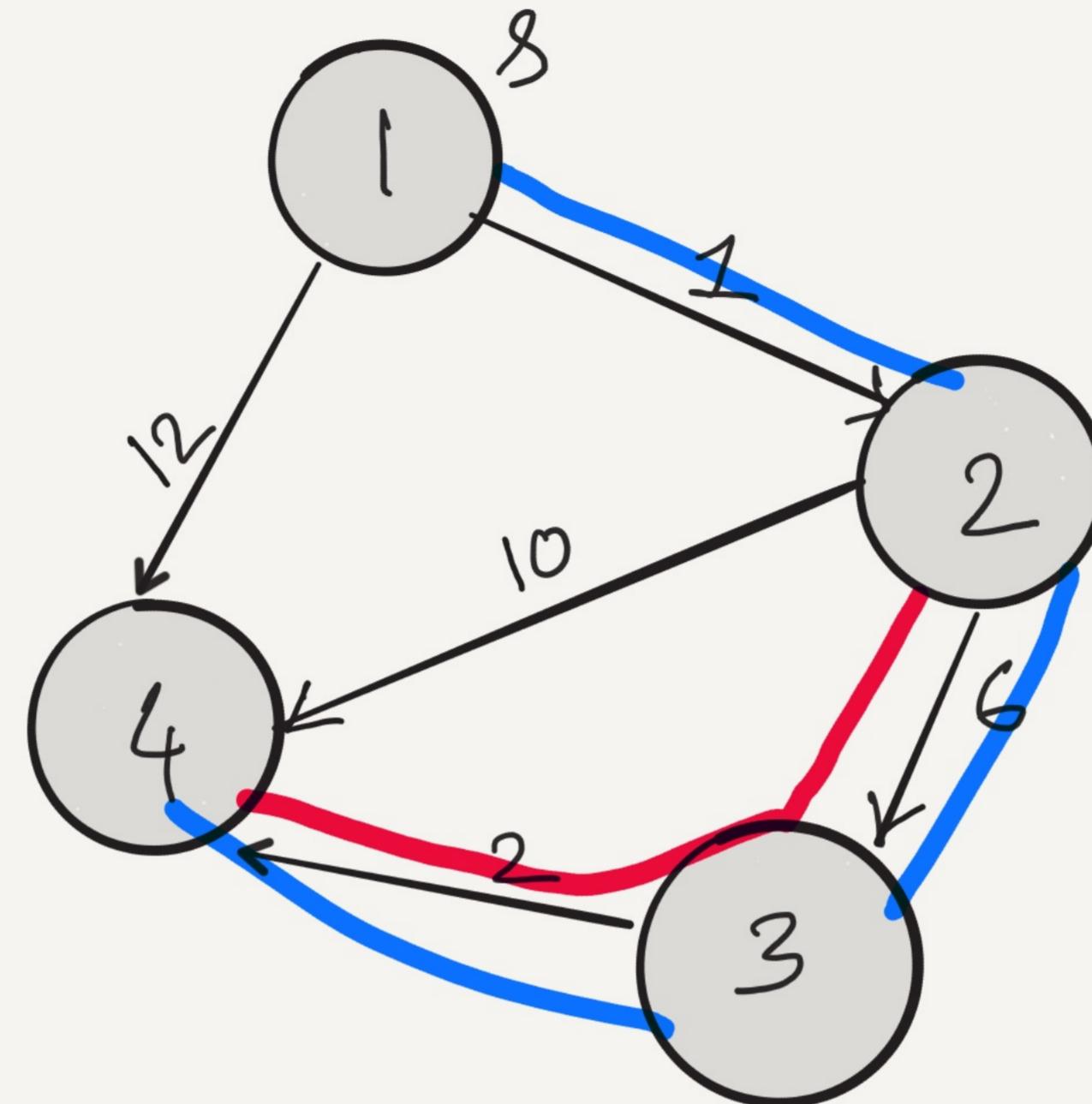
$$G = (V, E)$$

$$V = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$$

$$E = \left\{ \left(\begin{matrix} (v_i, v_j), \\ \downarrow \text{edges} \end{matrix} \right), \left(\begin{matrix} (v_i, v_s), \\ \downarrow \text{weights or lengths of edges.} \end{matrix} \right), i, \left((v_i, v_t), 3 \right), \dots \right\}$$

If (u, v) is an edge: $l_{(u,v)} =$ length of the edge.

Ex:



$$d(1,4) = 9$$

$$d(2,4) = 8$$

- Road networks with traffic information
- Flight network with time to travel.
- Routing networks with traffic information.

→ For us (for the time being), the lengths are positive.

Length of Paths: $P = (v_1, v_2, v_3, \dots, v_k)$

$l(P) =$ Sum of the lengths of
the edges on the path

Distance between vertices: Two vertices u, v from G

$d(u, v) =$ minimum length of a path
connecting u to v

$d(u, v) = \infty$ if no path from u to v

Shortest Paths Problem

INPUT: $G = (V, E)$ Weighted directed graph
with positive lengths

Vertex $s \in V$.

OUTPUT: Shortest paths from s to all other vertices.

(G is given in adjacency list representation.)

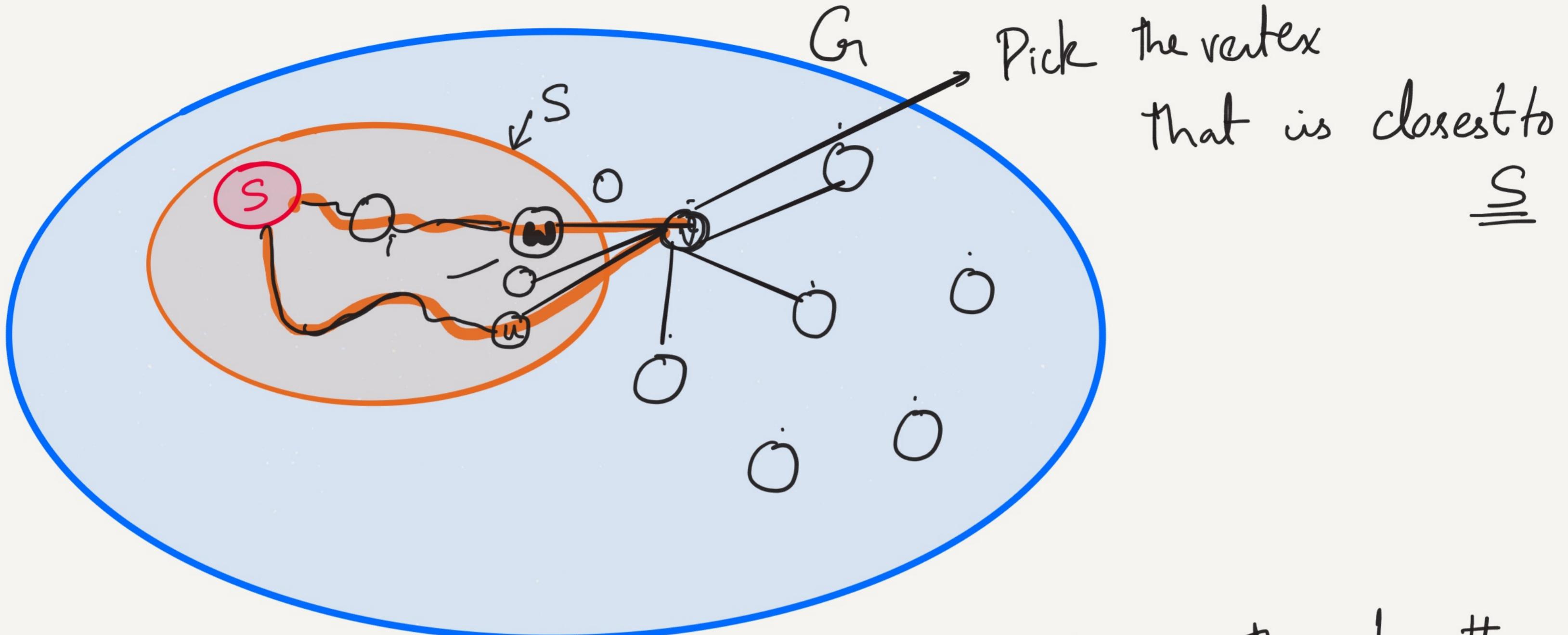
Greedy algorithm:

→ Gradually evolve the solution.

→ Suppose we have computed the shortest paths to a subset of vertices \underline{S} .

→ Greedily update S .

→ Grow S by adding one new vertex $v \notin S$ that we also have the shortest path to.



Every vertex in S , we already have the lengths
of the shortest paths.

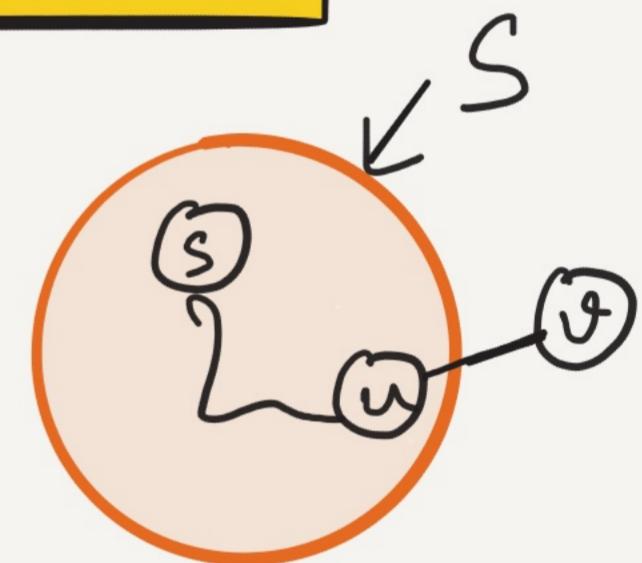
If vertex $v \notin S$, what is the length of the shortest path to v going from \underline{S} ?

Define

$$d'(v) = \min_{\substack{e=(u,v) \\ u \in S}} d(u) + l_{(u,v)}$$



Think of $d'(v)$ as measuring how close v is to the SET S .



→ Among all vertices $v \notin S$, pick the one with least $d'(v)$.

DIJKSTRA's ALGORITHM

Let $S = \text{Set of explored/discovered nodes.}$ (For each vertex $u \in S$, we also store $d(u)$). $d(s, u)$

① $S = \{s\}$ and $d(s) = 0$. $d(v) = \infty \quad \forall v \neq s.$
 $\text{parent}(v) = \emptyset \quad \forall v \in S$

② While $S \neq V$
 a For each vertex $v \notin S$
 set $d'(v) = \min \{ d(u) + l_{uv} : u \in S \text{ and } (u, v) \text{ is an edge} \}$

③ Find the vertex v with least $d'(v).$

(i) ADD v to $S.$

(ii) $d(v) = d'(v).$

Can we also find the shortest paths using the algorithm?

(and not just the lengths).

YES: Create a tree T and pointers sort of like what we did for BFS.

DIJKSTRA's ALGORITHM

Let $S = \text{Set of explored/discovered nodes.}$
 (For each vertex $u \in S$, we also store $d(u)$).

$$d(s, u)$$

① $S = \{s\}$ and $d(s) = 0$. $d(v) = \infty \neq s$.
 $\text{parent}(v) = \emptyset \neq v \in S$. Tree $T = \emptyset$

② While $S \neq V$

a For each vertex $v \notin S$
 set $d'(v) = \min \{ d(u) + l_{uv} : u \in S \text{ and } (u, v) \text{ is an edge} \}$

b Find the vertex v with least $d'(v)$.

(i) ADD v to S .

(ii) $d(v) = d'(v)$.

Helpful for
finding shortest paths

- (iii) Find the vertex u that gets the min in the definition of $d'(v)$.
- (iv) Set $\text{parent}(v) = u$.
- (v) Add edge $(\text{parent}(v), v)$ to the tree.

For any vertex u , we can reconstruct shortest path to u as follows:

Let

P_u = Path obtained by retracing parent links from u all the way to source s .

We will show that P_u 's are shortest paths.

Analyzing the algorithm:

Strategy: "Greedy stays ahead".

Lemma1: At any stage, for any vertex $u \in S$, $d(u)$ is the length of the shortest path from s to u .

For a vertex $u \in S$, let P_u denote the path from s to u obtained by retracing the parent links.

Lemma2: If $u \in S$, P_u is a shortest path from s to u .

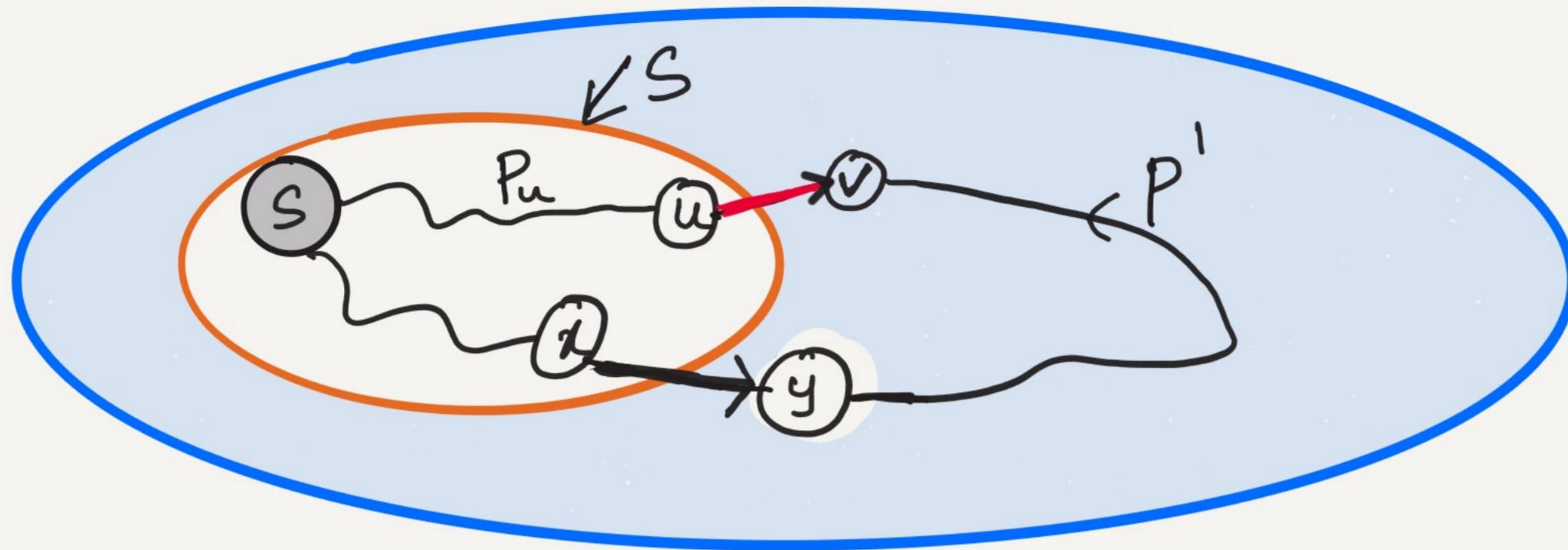
Proof is by induction on the size of the set S .

Base Case: $S = \{s\}$. $d(s) = 0$ (initialization) ✓

Induction step: Suppose $|S| = k$ and the statement is true.

We grew S by 1. Suppose we added a vertex v .

Goal: Show the statement holds for the new vertex v .



$$|S|=k.$$

(u, v) is the edge used to add v .

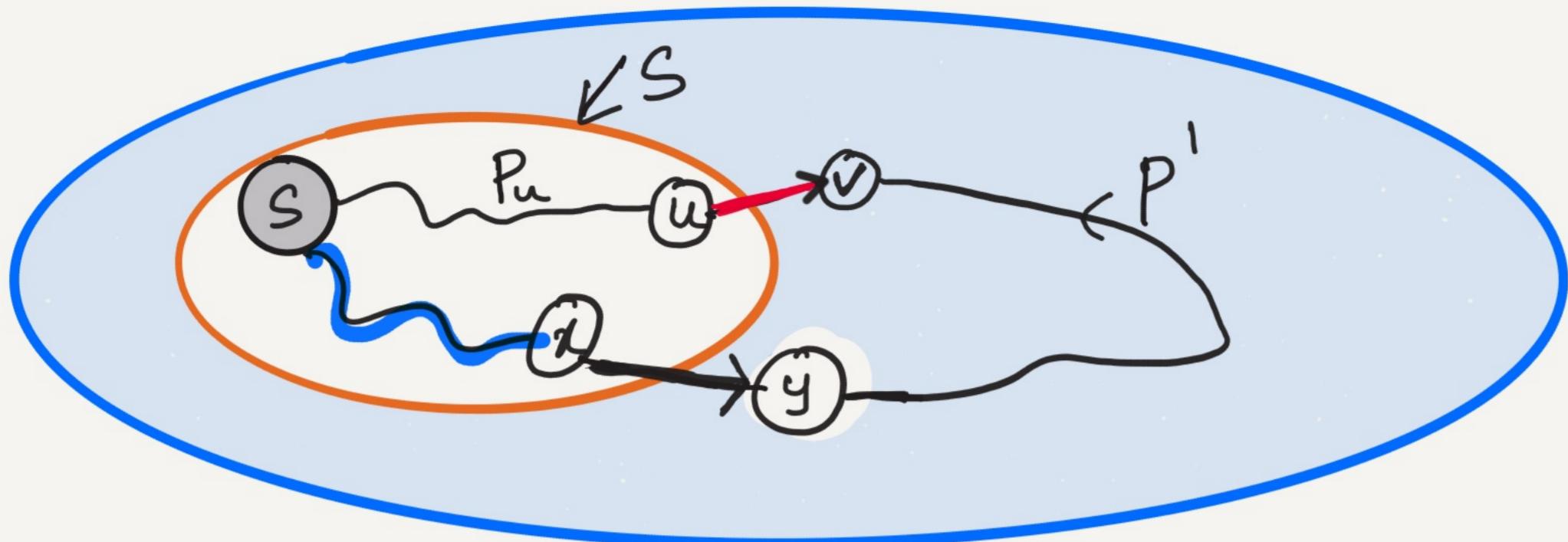
Suppose the claim does not hold for v .

Suppose there is some other shorter path P^1 .

$$P_{ij} = P_u + (u, v)$$

$$l(P') < l(P_v)$$

$$|S|=k$$



(u,v) is the edge used to add v.

$$l(P') \geq l(P_x) + l_{(x,y)} \geq d(x) + l_{(x,y)}$$

By the induction hypothesis

$$l(P_x) \geq d(x)$$

$$l(P_{uv}) = l(P_u) + l_{(u,v)} = d(u) + l_{(u,v)}$$

$$l(P') < l(P_x) \Rightarrow d(x) + l_{(x,y)} < d(u) + l_{(u,v)}$$

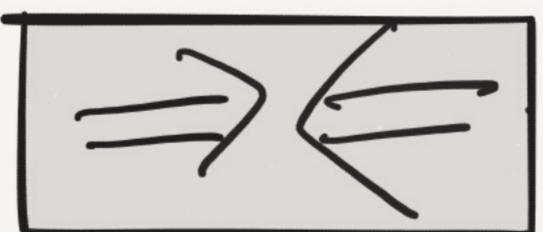
$$d(x) + l_{(x,y)} < d(u) + l_{(u,v)} - \textcircled{\ast}$$

is a contradiction !!

Why? The vertex v achieves the least value of $d'(v)$ among all vertices not in S .

But $\textcircled{\ast}$ says that y is closer to S :

$$d'(y) \leq d(x) + l_{(x,y)} < d'(v).$$



$\Rightarrow P_v$ is a shortest path to v .

\Rightarrow By induction the claim is true!!
(End of proof of Lemma 2.)

Theorem: Algorithm computes shortest paths from source s to all vertices

Proof: We terminate when $S = V$.
Apply Lemma 2 now.

