

Lecture 17: All-Pairs Shortest Paths

Michael Dinitz

October 28, 2025

601.433/633 Introduction to Algorithms

Announcements

- ▶ Mid-Semester feedback on Coursetore!
- ▶ No lecture notes

Introduction

Setup:

- ▶ Directed graph $\mathbf{G} = (\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{E})$
- ▶ Length $\ell(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$ on each edge $(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \in \mathbf{E}$
- ▶ Length of path \mathbf{P} is $\ell(\mathbf{P}) = \sum_{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \in \mathbf{P}} \ell(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$
- ▶ $\mathbf{d}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \min_{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{y} \text{ paths } \mathbf{P}} \ell(\mathbf{P})$

Last time: All distances from source node $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbf{V}$.

Today: Distances between all pairs of nodes!

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- ▶ No negative weights: \mathbf{n} runs of Dijkstra, time $\mathbf{O}(\mathbf{n}(\mathbf{m} + \mathbf{n} \log \mathbf{n}))$
- ▶ Negative weights: \mathbf{n} runs of Bellman-Ford, time $\mathbf{O}(\mathbf{nmn}) = \mathbf{O}(\mathbf{mn}^2)$

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Can we do better? Particularly for negative edge weights?

- ▶ Main goal today: Negative weights as fast as possible.

Floyd-Warshall Algorithm

Floyd-Warshall: A Different Dynamic Programming Approach

To simplify notation, let $V = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ and $\ell(i, j) = \infty$ if $(i, j) \notin E$

Bellman-Ford subproblems: length of shortest path with at most some number of edges

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New subproblems:

- ▶ Intuition: “shortest path from u to v either goes through node n , or it doesn't”
 - ▶ If it doesn't: shortest uses only first nodes in $\{1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$.
 - ▶ If it does: consists of a path P_1 from u to n and a path P_2 from n to v , neither of which uses n (internally).

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- ▶ Subproblems: shortest path from u to v that only uses nodes in $\{1, 2, \dots, k\}$ for all u, v, k .

Formalizing Subproblems

$u \rightarrow v$ path P : “intermediate nodes” are all nodes in P other than u, v .

d_{ij}^k : distance from i to j using only $i \rightarrow j$ paths with intermediate vertices in $\{1, 2, \dots, k\}$.

- ▶ Goal: compute d_{ij}^k for all $i, j, k \in [n]$.
- ▶ Return d_{ij}^n for all $i, j \in V$.

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- ▶ If k not an intermediate node of P : P has all intermediate nodes in $[k-1] \implies \min(d_{ij}^{k-1}, d_{ik}^{k-1} + d_{kj}^{k-1}) \leq d_{ij}^{k-1} \leq \ell(P) = d_{ij}^k$

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- ▶ If k is an intermediate node of P : divide P into P_1 (subpath from i to k) and P_2 (subpath from k to j)

$$\min(d_{ij}^{k-1}, d_{ik}^{k-1} + d_{kj}^{k-1}) \leq d_{ik}^{k-1} + d_{kj}^{k-1} \leq \ell(P_1) + \ell(P_2) = \ell(P) = d_{ij}^k$$

Floyd-Warshall Algorithm

Usually bottom-up, since so simple:

```
 $M[i, j, 0] = \ell(i, j)$  for all  $i, j \in [n]$   
for( $k = 1$  to  $n$ )  
  for( $i = 1$  to  $n$ )  
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Correctness: obvious for $k = 0$. For $k \geq 1$:

$$\begin{aligned} M[i, j, k] &= \min(M[i, j, k - 1], M[i, k, k - 1] + M[k, j, k - 1]) && \text{(def of algorithm)} \\ &= \min(d_{ij}^{k-1}, d_{ik}^{k-1} + d_{kj}^{k-1}) && \text{(induction)} \\ &= d_{ij}^k && \text{(optimal substructure)} \end{aligned}$$

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$$= d_{ij}^k \quad (\text{optimal substructure})$$

Running Time: $O(n^3)$

[Submitted on 2 Apr 2019]

Incorrect implementations of the Floyd–Warshall algorithm give correct solutions after three repeats

Ikumi Hide, Soh Kumabe, Takanori Maehara

The Floyd–Warshall algorithm is a well-known algorithm for the all-pairs shortest path problem that is simply implemented by triply nested loops. In this study, we show that the incorrect implementations of the Floyd–Warshall algorithm that disorder the triply nested loops give correct solutions if these are repeated three times.

Subjects: **Data Structures and Algorithms (cs.DS)**

Cite as: [arXiv:1904.01210](https://arxiv.org/abs/1904.01210) [cs.DS]

(or [arXiv:1904.01210v1](https://arxiv.org/abs/1904.01210v1) [cs.DS] for this version)

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Submission history

From: Takanori Maehara [[view email](#)]

[v1] Tue, 2 Apr 2019 04:39:28 UTC (4 KB)

Johnson's Algorithm

Reweighting

Different Approach: Can we “fix” negative weights so Dijkstra from every node works?

- ▶ Time would be $O(n(m + n \log n)) = O(mn + n^2 \log n)$, better than Floyd-Warshall

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First attempt: Let $-\alpha$ be smallest length (most negative). Add α to every edge.

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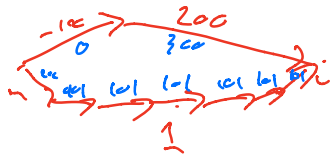
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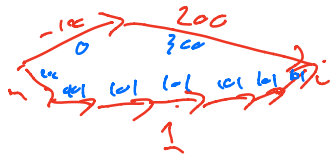
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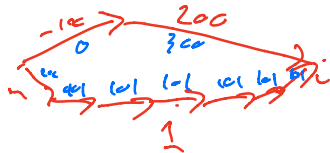
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Some other kind of reweighting? Need new lengths $\hat{\ell}$ such that:

- ▶ Path P a shortest path under lengths ℓ if and only if P a shortest path under lengths $\hat{\ell}$
- ▶ $\hat{\ell}(u, v) \geq 0$ for all $(u, v) \in E$

Vertex Reweighting

Neat observation: put weights at *vertices*!

- ▶ Let $\mathbf{h} : \mathbf{V} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be node weights.
- ▶ Let $\ell_{\mathbf{h}}(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) = \ell(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) + \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{u}) - \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{v})$

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$$\ell_h(P) = \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \ell_h(v_i, v_{i+1}) = \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} (\ell(v_i, v_{i+1}) + h(v_i) - h(v_{i+1}))$$

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$h(v_0) - h(v_k)$ added to every $v_0 \rightarrow v_k$ path, so shortest path from v_0 to v_k still shortest path!

Making lengths nonnegative

So vertex reweighting preserves shortest paths. Find weights to make lengths nonnegative?

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- ▶ Note $h(u) \leq 0$ for all $u \in V$

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- ▶ Triangle inequality: $h(v) = d(s, v) \leq d(s, u) + \ell(u, v) = h(u) + \ell(u, v)$

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$$\ell_h(u, v) = \ell(u, v) + h(u) - h(v) \geq \ell(u, v) + h(u) - (h(u) + \ell(u, v)) = 0$$

Johnson's Algorithm

- ▶ Add vertex s to graph, edge (s, u) for all $u \in V$ with $\ell(s, u) = 0$
- ▶ Run Bellman-Ford from s , set $h(u) = d(s, u)$
- ▶ Remove s , run Dijkstra from every node $u \in V$ to get $d_h(u, v)$ for all $u, v \in V$
- ▶ If want distances, set $d(u, v) = d_h(u, v) - h(u) + h(v)$ for all $u, v \in V$

Correctness: From previous discussion.

Johnson's Algorithm

- ▶ Add vertex s to graph, edge (s, u) for all $u \in V$ with $\ell(s, u) = 0$
- ▶ Run Bellman-Ford from s , set $h(u) = d(s, u)$
- ▶ Remove s , run Dijkstra from every node $u \in V$ to get $d_h(u, v)$ for all $u, v \in V$
- ▶ If want distances, set $d(u, v) = d_h(u, v) - h(u) + h(v)$ for all $u, v \in V$

Correctness: From previous discussion.

Running Time:

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Running Time: $O(n) + O(mn) + O(n(m + n \log n)) = O(mn + n^2 \log n)$