

LECTURE 22

Shortest Paths I

- Properties of shortest paths
- Dijkstra's algorithm
- Correctness
- Analysis
- Breadth-first search



Paths in graphs

Consider a digraph $G = (V, E)$ with edge-weight function $w : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. The **weight** of path $p = v_1 \rightarrow v_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow v_k$ is defined to be

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

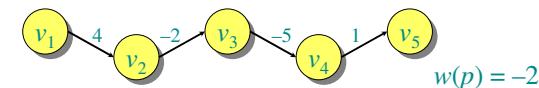


Paths in graphs

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Example:



Shortest paths

A **shortest path** from u to v is a path of minimum weight from u to v . The **shortest-path weight** from u to v is defined as

$$\delta(u, v) = \min\{w(p) : p \text{ is a path from } u \text{ to } v\}.$$

Note: $\delta(u, v) = \infty$ if no path from u to v exists.



Well-definedness of shortest paths

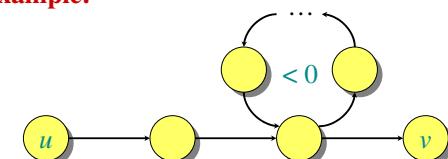
If a graph G contains a negative-weight cycle, then some shortest paths do not exist.



Well-definedness of shortest paths

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Example:



Optimal substructure

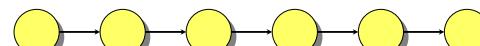
Theorem. A subpath of a shortest path is a shortest path.



Optimal substructure

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Proof. Cut and paste:



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Triangle inequality

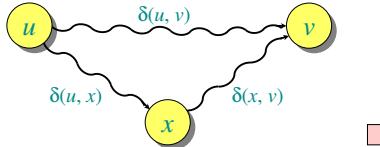
Theorem. For all $u, v, x \in V$, we have
 $\delta(u, v) \leq \delta(u, x) + \delta(x, v)$.



Triangle inequality

Theorem. For all $u, v, x \in V$, we have
 $\delta(u, v) \leq \delta(u, x) + \delta(x, v)$.

Proof.



□



Dijkstra's algorithm

```
d[s] ← 0
for each v ∈ V – {s}
    do d[v] ← ∞
S ← ∅
Q ← V      ▷ Q is a priority queue maintaining V – S,
keyed on d[v]
```



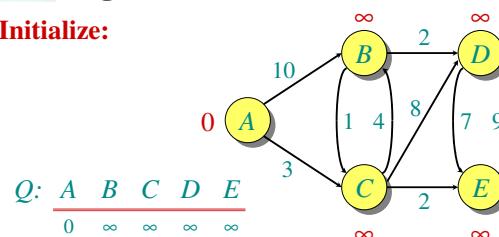
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while Q ≠ ∅
    do u ← EXTRACT-MIN(Q)
        S ← S ∪ {u}
        for each v ∈ Adj[u]
            do if d[v] > d[u] + w(u, v)
                then d[v] ← d[u] + w(u, v)
```



Example of Dijkstra's algorithm

Initialize:



$S: \{ \}$



Example of Dijkstra's algorithm



Single-source shortest paths (nonnegative edge weights)

Problem. Assume that $w(u, v) \geq 0$ for all $(u, v) \in E$. (Hence, all shortest-path weights must exist.) From a given source vertex $s \in V$, find the shortest-path weights $\delta(s, v)$ for all $v \in V$.

IDEA: Greedy.

1. Maintain a set S of vertices whose shortest-path distances from s are known.
2. At each step, add to S the vertex $v \in V - S$ whose distance estimate from s is minimum.
3. Update the distance estimates of vertices adjacent to v .



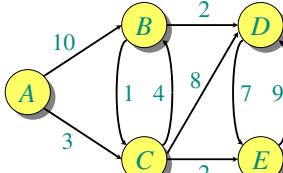
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        for each v ∈ Adj[u]
            do if d[v] > d[u] + w(u, v)
                then d[v] ← d[u] + w(u, v)      relaxation
                                                step
                                                ↗ Implicit DECREASE-KEY
```



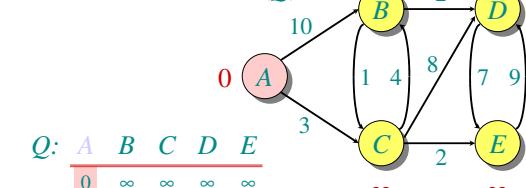
Example of Dijkstra's algorithm

Graph with nonnegative edge weights:



Example of Dijkstra's algorithm

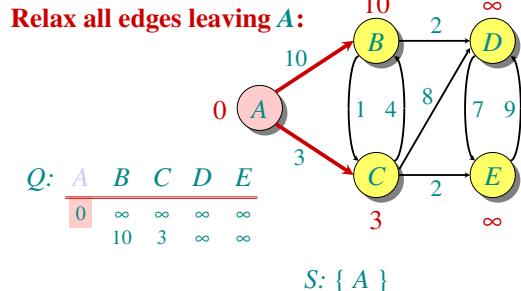
“A” ← EXTRACT-MIN(Q):



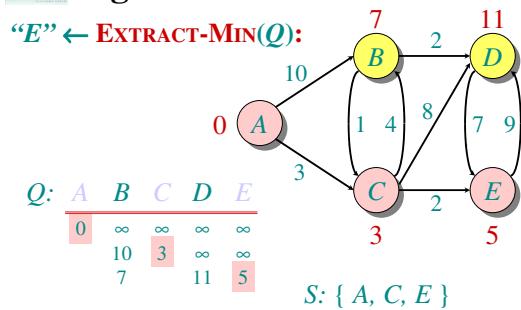
$S: \{ A \}$



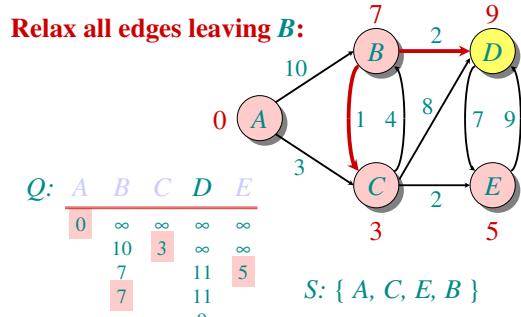
Example of Dijkstra's algorithm



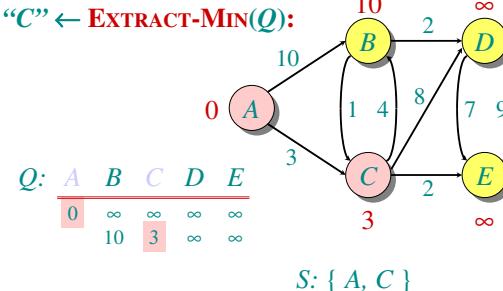
Example of Dijkstra's algorithm



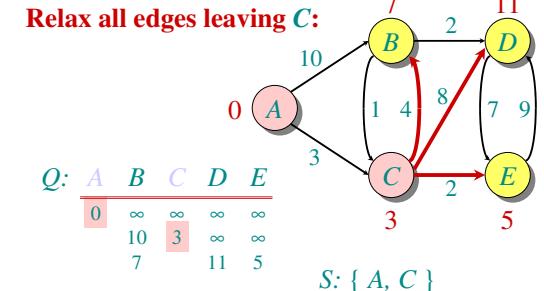
Example of Dijkstra's algorithm



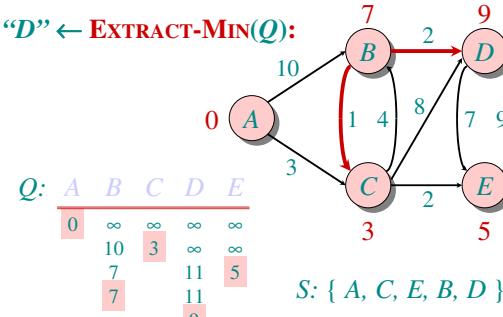
Example of Dijkstra's algorithm



Example of Dijkstra's algorithm



Example of Dijkstra's algorithm



Correctness — Part I

Lemma. Initializing $d[s] \leftarrow 0$ and $d[v] \leftarrow \infty$ for all $v \in V - \{s\}$ establishes $d[v] \geq \delta(s, v)$ for all $v \in V$, and this invariant is maintained over any sequence of relaxation steps.



Correctness — Part I

Lemma. Initializing $d[s] \leftarrow 0$ and $d[v] \leftarrow \infty$ for all $v \in V - \{s\}$ establishes $d[v] \geq \delta(s, v)$ for all $v \in V$, and this invariant is maintained over any sequence of relaxation steps.

Proof. Suppose not. Let v be the first vertex for which $d[v] < \delta(s, v)$, and let u be the vertex that caused $d[v]$ to change: $d[v] = d[u] + w(u, v)$. Then,

$d[v] < \delta(s, v)$	supposition
$\leq \delta(s, u) + \delta(u, v)$	triangle inequality
$\leq \delta(s, u) + w(u, v)$	sh. path \leq specific path
$\leq d[u] + w(u, v)$	v is first violation

Contradiction. \square



Correctness — Part II

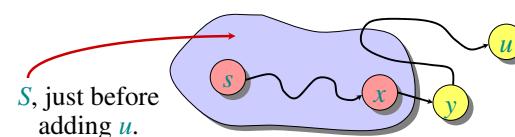
Lemma. Let u be v 's predecessor on a shortest path from s to v . Then, if $d[u] = \delta(s, u)$ and edge (u, v) is relaxed, we have $d[v] = \delta(s, v)$ after the relaxation.



Correctness — Part III

Theorem. Dijkstra's algorithm terminates with $d[v] = \delta(s, v)$ for all $v \in V$.

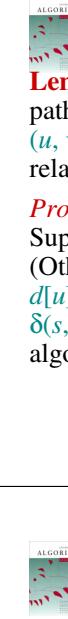
Proof. It suffices to show that $d[v] = \delta(s, v)$ for every $v \in V$ when v is added to S . Suppose u is the first vertex added to S for which $d[u] > \delta(s, u)$. Let y be the first vertex in $V - S$ along a shortest path from s to u , and let x be its predecessor:



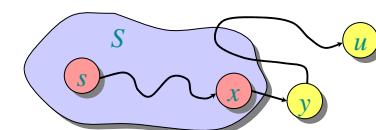
Correctness — Part II

Lemma. Let u be v 's predecessor on a shortest path from s to v . Then, if $d[u] = \delta(s, u)$ and edge (u, v) is relaxed, we have $d[v] = \delta(s, v)$ after the relaxation.

Proof. Observe that $\delta(s, v) = \delta(s, u) + w(u, v)$. Suppose that $d[v] > \delta(s, v)$ before the relaxation. (Otherwise, we're done.) Then, the test $d[v] > d[u] + w(u, v)$ succeeds, because $d[v] > \delta(s, v) = \delta(s, u) + w(u, v) = d[u] + w(u, v)$, and the algorithm sets $d[v] = d[u] + w(u, v) = \delta(s, v)$. \square



Correctness — Part III (continued)



Since u is the first vertex violating the claimed invariant, we have $d[x] = \delta(s, x)$. When x was added to S , the edge (x, y) was relaxed, which implies that $d[y] = \delta(s, y) \leq \delta(s, u) < d[u]$. But, $d[u] \leq d[y]$ by our choice of u . Contradiction. \square



Analysis of Dijkstra

```
while  $Q \neq \emptyset$ 
  do  $u \leftarrow \text{EXTRACT-MIN}(Q)$ 
   $S \leftarrow S \cup \{u\}$ 
  for each  $v \in \text{Adj}[u]$ 
    do if  $d[v] > d[u] + w(u, v)$ 
      then  $d[v] \leftarrow d[u] + w(u, v)$ 
```



times

```
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Analysis of Dijkstra

$|V|$ times

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      then  $d[v] \leftarrow d[u] + w(u, v)$ 
```



$degree(u)$ times



Unweighted graphs

Suppose that $w(u, v) = 1$ for all $(u, v) \in E$.

Can Dijkstra's algorithm be improved?

- Use a simple FIFO queue instead of a priority queue.

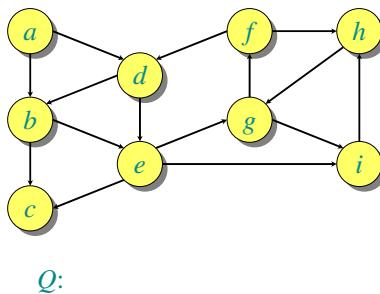
Breadth-first search

```
while  $Q \neq \emptyset$ 
  do  $u \leftarrow \text{DEQUEUE}(Q)$ 
    for each  $v \in \text{Adj}[u]$ 
      do if  $d[v] = \infty$ 
        then  $d[v] \leftarrow d[u] + 1$ 
        ENQUEUE( $Q, v$ )
```

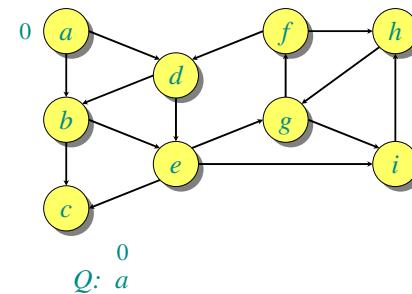
Analysis: Time = $O(V + E)$.



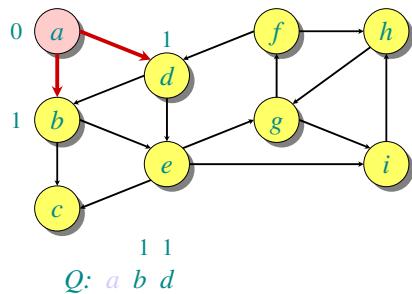
Example of breadth-first search



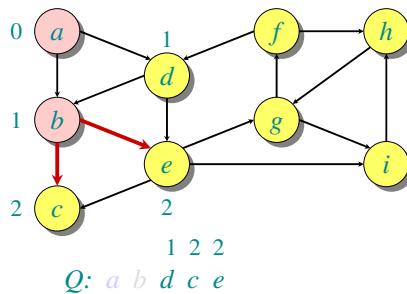
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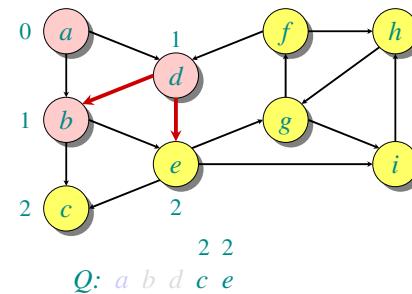
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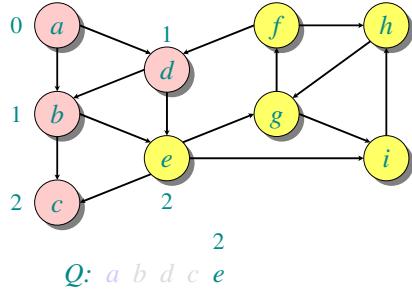
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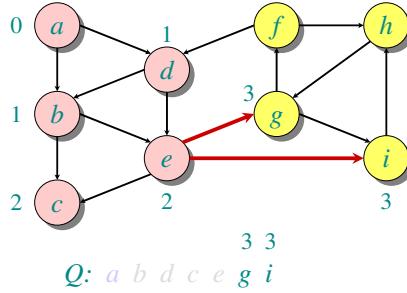
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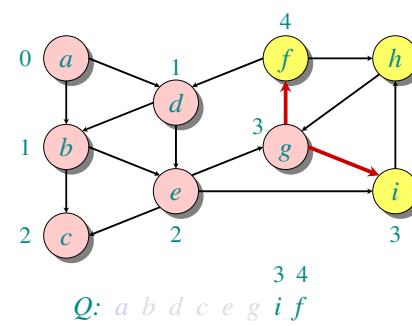
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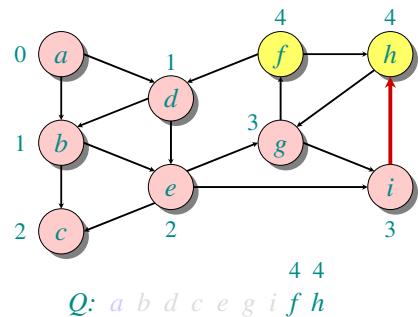


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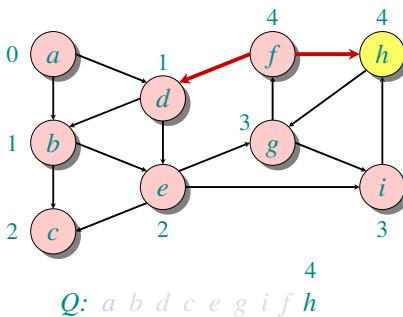




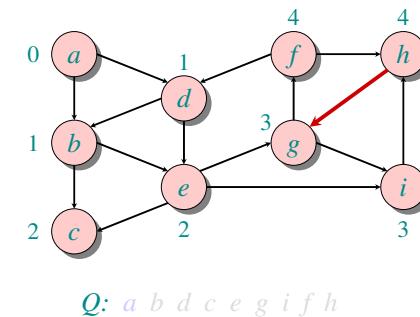
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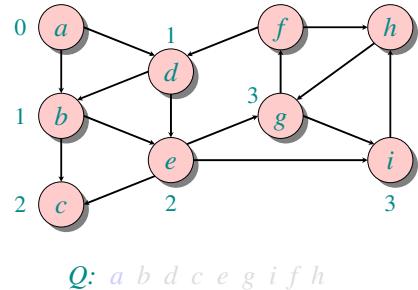
Example of breadth-first search



Example of breadth-first search



Example of breadth-first search



Correctness of BFS

```
while  $Q \neq \emptyset$ 
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    for each  $v \in \text{Adj}[u]$ 
      do if  $d[v] = \infty$ 
        then  $d[v] \leftarrow d[u] + 1$ 
        ENQUEUE( $Q, v$ )
```

Key idea:

The FIFO Q in breadth-first search mimics the priority queue Q in Dijkstra.

- **Invariant:** v comes after u in Q implies that $d[v] = d[u]$ or $d[v] = d[u] + 1$.