

Nisan's Pseudorandom Generator for RL

BPL \subseteq SC = DTISP($\text{poly}(n)$, $\log^2(n)$)

Soham Chatterjee

December 2, 2025

Pseudorandomness Course (CSS.413.1) Presentation, STCS

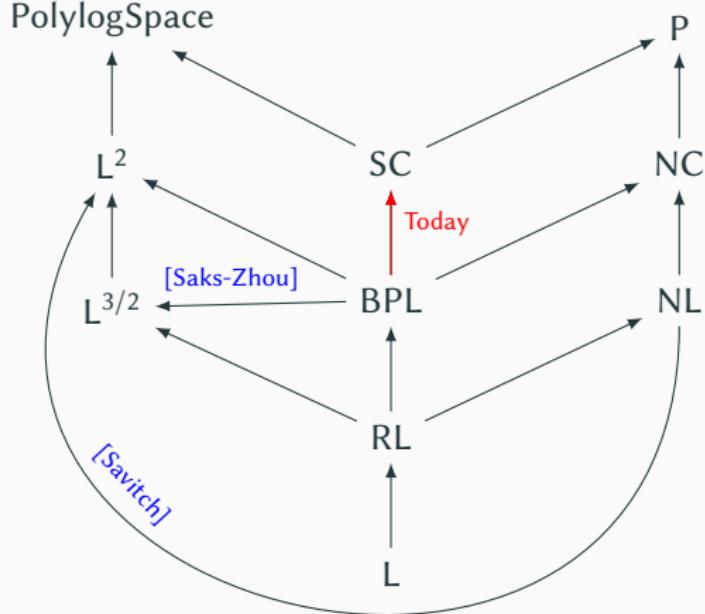
Introduction

- Dijkstra algorithm is a foundation algorithm solving Single Source Shortest Path problem (SSSP) both for directed and undirected graphs.
- Using Fibonacci Heaps we have the worst-case time complexity $O(m + n \log n)$.
- Recently Duan, Mao, Shu and Yin in 2023 solved SSSP for undirected graphs with expected time $O(m\sqrt{\log n \log \log n})$
- This year in STOC Duan, Mao, Mao, Shu, Yin solved SSSP for directed graphs in $O(m \log^{\frac{2}{3}} n)$ time.

Assumptions

- Input graph is always connected.
- All trees are rooted at s .
- For any vertex v , $T(v)$ denote the subtree of T rooted at v .
- The weights of the graph are positive real numbers.
- We allow the ∞ in the weights.

Complexity Classes



Comparison-Addition Model

Notice the Dijkstra algorithm does the following operations:

- Adds two values
- Compares two values.
- Stores Values.

So we will work on a model where all possible operations are addition, compare and storage.

For a given graph:

- $OPT_Q(G)$ is the number of comparison queries of an optimal algorithm for this graph.
- $OPT(G)$ be the number of total steps taken by an optimal correct algorithm for the graph.

Universal Optimality

- Let \mathcal{A} is the set of all correct algorithms.
- $\mathcal{G}_{n,m}$ is the set of all graphs with n vertices and m edges.
- \mathcal{W}_G is the set of all possible weights for a graph $G \in \mathcal{G}_{n,m}$.

A correct algorithm A^* is *existentially optimal* if

$$\forall n, m : \sup_{\substack{G \in \mathcal{G}_{n,m} \\ w \in \mathcal{W}_G}} A^*(G, w) \leq \alpha \inf_{A \in \mathcal{A}} \sup_{\substack{G \in \mathcal{G}_{n,m} \\ w \in \mathcal{W}_G}} A(G, w)$$

where $\alpha = \tilde{O}(1)$. This corresponds to being optimal wrt worst-case complexity.

But this is not good. It is just saying A^* may take as much time as it takes in a star-graph or more complicated one.

Universal Optimality

We want a notion of optimality which says your algorithm is optimal compared to any other algorithm if you **fix the graph**.

A correct algorithm A^* is *universally optimal* if

$$\forall n, m, \forall G \in \mathcal{G}_{n,m} : \sup_{w \in \mathcal{W}_G} A^*(G, w) \leq \alpha \inf_{A \in \mathcal{A}} \sup_{w \in \mathcal{W}_G} A(G, w)$$

where $\alpha = \tilde{O}(1)$.

In this discussion we will focus solely on $\alpha = O(1)$.

Exploration Tree and DO

Consider a run of Dijkstra. Whenever a vertex is extracted add the unexplored neighbors of that vertex as children of that vertex. The tree built this way is called the exploration tree.

- Let T be the exploration tree. Let \prec be the final distance ordering of the vertices.
- Then for every edge $(u, v) \in T$, $u \prec v$.

Order of Vertices by a Tree

Definition (Order of T)

Let T be any tree in G . An order of T is a total order of $V(T)$ such that for every edge $(u, v) \in E(T)$ we have $u \prec v$ in the order.

The DO after Dijkstra is an order of exploration tree.

- L is an order of G if there exists a spanning tree T of G such that L is an order of T .
- $\text{Order}(G)$ is the number of all possible orders of G .

Lemma

For any graph G , L is an order of G iff there exists non-negative weights w such that

1. For every two nodes $u \neq v$, $d_w(s, u) \neq d_w(s, v)$.
2. $u \prec_L v$ if and only if $d_w(s, u) < d_w(s, v)$.

Dijkstra Induced Interval Set

For any vertex $v \in V(G)$

- l_v : When v was first discovered and added to the heap.
- r_v : When v was removed from heap.
- $[l_v, r_v]$: Interval set of v

A run of Dijkstra induces intervals for each vertex $v \in V$ with the operations **INSERT** and **EXTRACTMIN**.

An interval set \mathcal{I} is collection of intervals for each vertex. It is called Dijkstra Induced when all the intervals for each vertex in \mathcal{I} is induced by a run of Dijkstra on some (G, w) .

Working set of an Interval Set

Let \mathcal{I} any interval set.

- For any vertex $v \in V(G)$ at any time $t \in I(v)$ the working set $W_{v,t}$ is the set of vertices inserted after v and still present at time t . So

$$W_{v,t} = \{[l_u, r_u] \in \mathcal{I} : l_v \leq l_u \leq t \leq r_u\}$$

- Working set of v , $W_v = W_{v,t^*}$ such that $t^* = \arg \max_t |W_{v,t}|$.
- The cost of a vertex $v \in V(G)$ is $Cost(v) = \log |W_v|$. And so
$$Cost(\mathcal{I}) = \sum_{v \in V(G)} \log |W_v|$$
.

Fibonacci-Like Priority Queue with Working Set Property

FPQWSP is a type of Fibonacci Heap which satisfies the amortized time complexity for any sequence of operations as follows:

	FPQWSP	Fibonacci Heap
INSERT	$O(1)$	$O(1)$
DECREASEKEY	$O(1)$	$O(1)$
EXTRACTMIN	$O(1 + \log W_x)$	$O(\log n)$

Fact

There is a FPQWSP for Dijkstra. We will use this data structure in every argument from now on by default.

Time Complexity of Dijkstra

In Dijkstra Algorithm it runs n times **EXTRACTMIN** calls for each vertex and m times **DECREASEKEY** calls.

- Hence total time taken by all **DECREASEKEY** calls is $O(m)$.
- Total time taken by all **EXTRACTMIN** calls is

$$\sum_{v \in V(G)} O(1 + \log |W_v|) = O\left(n + \sum_{v \in V(G)} \log |W_v|\right) = O(n + Cost(\mathcal{I}))$$

- Total time taken by Dijkstra is $O(m + n + Cost(\mathcal{I}))$

Main Theorem

Theorem

Dijkstra implemented by FPQWSP in Comparison-Addition model has time complexity $O(OPT_Q(G) + m + n)$.

Goal: We'll show $OPT_Q(G) = \Omega(Cost(\mathcal{I}))$.

- $OPT_Q(G) \leq OPT(G)$
- $OPT(G) = \Omega(n)$
- $OPT(G) = \Omega(m)$

So $OPT_Q(G) + n + m = O(OPT(G))$.

Proof Flow

Fact

$$OPT_Q(G) = \Omega(\log(\text{Order}(G)))$$

- Partition the exploration tree into non-comparable sets (B_1, \dots, B_k) with $i < j$ then no node of B_j is ancestor of any node of B_i .
- For any such partition $\log(\text{Order}(G)) = \Omega\left(\sum_{i=1}^k |B_i| \log |B_i|\right)$
- There is a partition such that $2 \sum_{i=1}^k |B_i| \log |B_i| \geq \text{Cost}(\mathcal{I})$

Barrier Sequence

Definition (Barrier)

Let T be any tree. A *Barrier*, $B \subseteq V(T)$ is a set of nodes where for any two vertices $u, v \in B$, u is not ancestor of v in T .

- For two disjoint barriers, $B_1 \prec B_2$ if no node of B_2 is predecessor of a node in B_1 .
- (B_1, \dots, B_k) is a *barrier sequence* if $i < j \implies B_i \prec B_j$.

Lemma

A sequence (B_1, \dots, B_k) of pairwise disjoint vertex sets is barrier sequence if and only if for all $1 \leq i \leq j \leq k$, $v \in B_j$ is not ancestor of any $u \in B_i$ in T .

Barriers Give Lower Bounds

Lemma

Let T be any spanning tree and (B_1, \dots, B_k) be a barrier sequence of T .

$$\text{Then } \log(\text{Order}(G)) = \Omega\left(\sum_{i=1}^k |B_i| \log |B_i|\right)$$

- We have $\text{Order}(G) \geq \text{Order}(T)$. We'll show
 $\text{Order}(T) \geq |B_1|!|B_2|! \cdots |B_k|!$.
- Delete vertices of B_k to get T' . By induction for the barrier sequence (B_1, \dots, B_{k-1}) for T' , $\text{Order}(T') \geq |B_1|!|B_2|! \cdots |B_{k-1}|!$.

Barriers Give Lower Bounds

- We can order vertices of B_k in any order we want. There are $|B_k|!$ many orders.
- For each order of B_k and any order of $\text{Order}(T')$ we can just concatenate them to get an order of T .

So finally we got the result:

Result

If T is a spanning tree of G and (B_1, \dots, B_k) is a barrier sequence for T then

$$OPT_Q(G) = \Omega\left(\sum_{i=1}^k |B_i| \log |B_i|\right)$$

Barriers in the Heap

Consider running Dijkstra algorithm until some time. Let S is the set of nodes that are in the priority queue.

- Notice that S is the leaves of the partial exploration tree built so far which is a subgraph of final exploration tree.
- Therefore, S is an incomparable set of the final exploration tree.
- S forms a barrier.

Result

At any time of the algorithm the set of elements in the priority queue forms a barrier

Intersecting Coloring

A barrier sequence is basically coloring vertices in a certain way where vertices in a barrier have same color.

Definition (Intersecting Coloring)

An intersecting coloring of \mathcal{I} with k colors is a function $C : \mathcal{I} \rightarrow [k]$ that assigns a color to every interval and additionally for every color $i \in [k]$,

$$\bigcap_{I \in \mathcal{I}, C(I)=i} I \neq \emptyset.$$

Every intersecting coloring induces a barrier sequence in the exploration tree in following way: For any color c ,

- $B_c = \{v \in V(G) \mid C(I(v)) = c\}$
- $t_c = \min\{t \mid \forall v \in B_c, t \in I(v)\}$
- Order $\{B_c\}$ by increasing order of $\{t_c\}$. WLOG $t_1 < \dots < t_k$.
- (B_1, \dots, B_k) is a barrier sequence for exploration tree.

Intersecting Coloring Gives Lower Bounds

Let \mathcal{C} be an intersecting coloring of \mathcal{I} with k colors. Let (B_1, \dots, B_k) is the barrier sequence induced by \mathcal{C} . Then let the energy of \mathcal{C} is defined to be

$$E(\mathcal{C}) = 2 \sum_{i=1}^k |B_i| \log |B_i|$$

Result

If \mathcal{I} is the interval set induced by Dijkstra and \mathcal{C} be any arbitrary intersecting coloring of \mathcal{I} then

$$OPT_Q(G) = \Omega(E(\mathcal{C}))$$

Good Intersecting Coloring gives Optimality

Goal: Find an intersecting coloring of \mathcal{I} , C such that $E(C) \geq \text{Cost}(\mathcal{I})$

- Then time complexity of all EXTRACTMIN operations is $O(n + \text{Cost}(\mathcal{I})) = O(n + E(C))$.
- We have $\text{OPT}_Q(G) = \Omega(E(C))$.
- So overall Cost of EXTRACTMIN in Dijkstra is upper bounded by $O(n + \text{OPT}_Q(G))$.
- Dijkstra achieves universal optimality for time complexity.

We will find such a good intersecting coloring recursively.

Finding Good Intersecting Coloring

- We will construct C by induction on $|\mathcal{I}|$.
- Find the interval $x \in \mathcal{I}$ with the largest W_x . Use induction on $\mathcal{I}' = \mathcal{I} \setminus W_x$
- Let C' is the coloring for \mathcal{I}' such that $E(C') \geq Cost(\mathcal{I}')$. Add a new color for all the elements in W_x to get new coloring C .
- $E(C) = E(C') + 2|W_x| \log |W_x|$ by definition.

Fact

For working set W_x with the largest size

$$Cost(\mathcal{I}) \leq Cost(\mathcal{I} \setminus W_x) + 2|W_x| \log |W_x|$$

- $Cost(\mathcal{I}) \leq Cost(\mathcal{I}') + 2|W_x| \log |W_x|$. Hence, $E(C) \geq Cost(\mathcal{I})$.

Thank You

$$OPT_Q(G) = \Omega(\log(\text{Order}(G)))$$

Lemma

For any directed or undirected graph G , any algorithm for the DO problem needs $\Omega(\log(\text{Order}(G)))$ comparison queries in expectation.

- Let A is any correct algorithm and $L \in \text{Order}(G)$.
- Given L we have a weight assignment w_L such that L is unique order obtained from w_L upon running Dijkstra. For each L fix w_L . Let \mathcal{W} be the collection of all such w_L .
- Let $C_L \in \{-1, 0, 1\}^*$ be the sequence of answers of comparisons made by A on (G, w_L) . Then $C : \mathcal{W} \rightarrow \{-1, 0, 1\}^*$, $C(w_L) = C_L$ is a ternary prefix free code.
- By Shannon's source coding lemma for symbol codes any such code has expected length $\Omega(\log(|\mathcal{W}|)) = \Omega(\log(\text{Order}(G)))$

Deleting Intervals from \mathcal{I}

Lemma

Let \mathcal{I} an interval set and $x \in \mathcal{I}$. $k = \max_t |\{I \in \mathcal{I} \mid t \in I\}|$. Then

$$\text{Cost}(\mathcal{I}) \leq \text{Cost}(\mathcal{I} \setminus \{x\}) + \log |W_x| + \log k$$

- Let $I_1, \dots, I_l \in \mathcal{I}$ are the only intervals which had nonempty intersection with x . So $l \leq k - 1$.
- Let t_i is starting point of I_i . WLOG assume $t_l > \dots > t_1$.
- Let W_i, W'_i are working sets of I_i before and after removing x .

Deleting Intervals from \mathcal{I}

- Let t is starting point of x . Then $W_{i,t}$ contains x, l_1, \dots, l_i . So $|W_i| \geq i + 1$.
- $|W_i| \in \{|W'_i|, |W'_i| + 1\}$ for all $i \in [l]$.

$$\begin{aligned} & Cost(\mathcal{I}) - Cost(\mathcal{I} \setminus \{x\}) - \log |W_x| \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^l \log |W_i| - \log |W'_i| \\ &\leq \sum_{i=1}^l \log(i+1) - \log i = \log(l+1) \leq \log k \end{aligned}$$

Fact

For any working set $|W_x| = k$ we have

$$Cost(\mathcal{I}) \leq Cost(\mathcal{I} \setminus W_x) + 2|W_x| \log |W_x|$$