

# Shortest Path\*

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Algorithm Course: Shanghai Jiao Tong University

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\* Special thanks is given to *Prof. Kevin Wayne@Princeton*, *Prof. Charles E. Leiserson@MIT* for sharing their teaching materials, and also given to Mr. Mingding Liao from CS2013@SJTU for producing this lecture.

# Outline

## 1 Introduction to Shortest Path

- Definition
- Property
- Application

## 2 Single Source Shortest Paths

- Problem Statement
- Dijkstra's Algorithm
- Bellman-Ford Algorithm

## 3 All-Pair Shortest Paths

- Matrix Multiplication
- Floyd-Warshall Algorithm
- Johnson's Algorithm

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# Paths in Graphs

## Definition

Consider a digraph  $G = (V, E)$  with edge-weight function  $w : E \rightarrow R$ , where  $|V| = n$  and  $|E| = m$ . The **weight** of path  $P = v_1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow v_k$  is defined to be

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

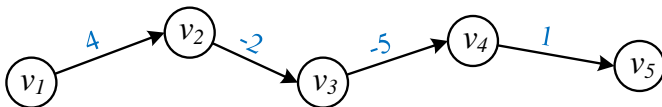
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**Example:**  $w(P) = -2$



# Shortest Path

## Definition

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

$$d(u, v) = \min\{w(P) \mid P \text{ is a path from } u \text{ to } v\}$$

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

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# Properties of Shortest Path

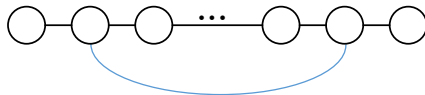
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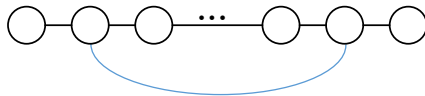
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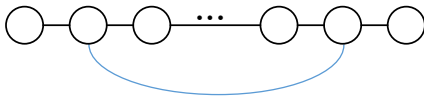


**Triangle Inequality.**  $\forall v_1, v_2, v_3 \in V, d(v_1, v_2) \leq d(v_1, v_3) + d(v_3, v_2)$ .

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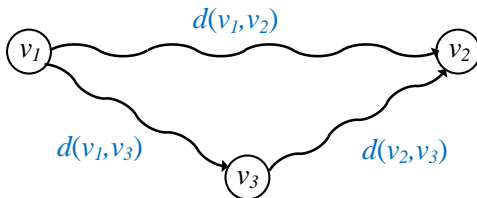
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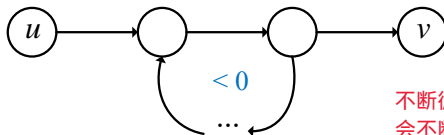
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If a graph  $G$  contains a negative-weight cycle, then some shortest paths may not exist.

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**Example:**



不断循环这个cycle, 总path weight  
会不断减小, 无法得出最终的  
minimum path weight

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# Shortest Path Applications

- PERT/CPM.
- Map routing.
- Seam carving.
- Robot navigation.
- Texture mapping.
- Typesetting in LaTeX.
- Urban traffic planning.
- Telemarketer operator scheduling.
- Routing of telecommunications messages.
- Network routing protocols (OSPF, BGP, RIP).
- Optimal truck routing through given traffic congestion pattern.

Ref.: Network Flows: Theory, Algorithms, and Applications, R.K. Ahuja, T.L. Magnanti, and J.B. Orlin, Prentice Hall, 1993

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# Single-Source Shortest Paths

## Definition (Single-Source Shortest Paths Problem)

From a given source vertex  $s \in V$ , find the shortest-path weights  $d(s, v)$  for all  $v \in V$ .

- If all edge weights  $w(u, v)$  are **nonnegative**, all shortest-path weights must exist.
- If all edge weights  $w(u, v)$  can be **negative**, the shortest-path weights may not exist because of negative circle.

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- If all edge weights  $w(u, v)$  can be **negative**, the shortest-path weights may not exist because of negative circle.
- **Nonnegative** weight  $\Rightarrow$  Dijkstra's Algorithm
- **Negative** weight  $\Rightarrow$  Bellman-Ford Algorithm

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# Dijkstra's Algorithm

## IDEA: Greedy

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

# Dijkstra's Algorithm

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## Algorithm 1: Dijkstra's Algorithm

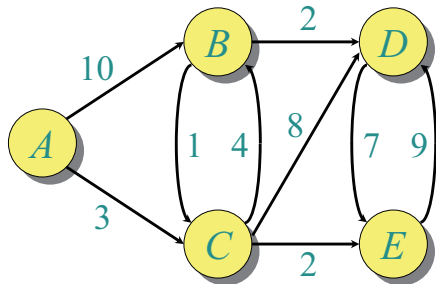
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```
1 foreach  $u \in V$  do
2    $\quad$  INSERT( $Q, u$ );
3 while  $Q \neq \emptyset$  do
4    $\quad u \leftarrow \text{EXTRACT-MIN}(Q)$ ;
5    $\quad S \leftarrow S \cup \{u\}$ ;
6   foreach  $v \in \text{Adj}[u]$  do
7     if  $d[v] > d[u] + w(u, v)$  then
8        $\quad d[v] \leftarrow d[u] + w(u, v)$ ; /* Relaxation Step */
9        $\quad$  DECREASE-KEY( $Q, v$ );
```

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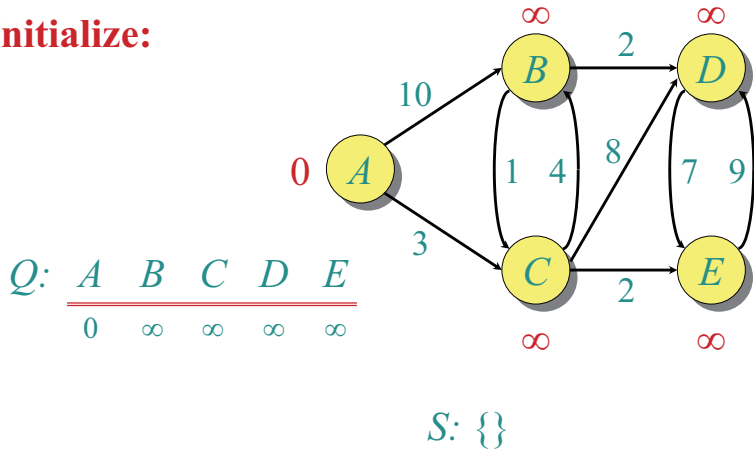
# Example of Dijkstra's Algorithm

**Graph with  
nonnegative  
edge weights:**



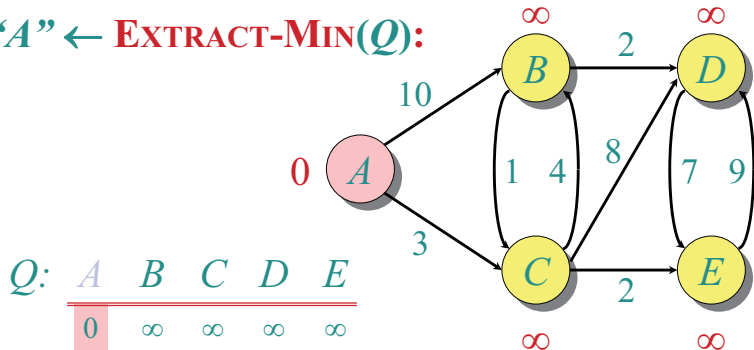
# Example of Dijkstra's Algorithm (cont.)

**Initialize:**



# Example of Dijkstra's Algorithm (cont.)

**"A" ← EXTRACT-MIN(Q):**

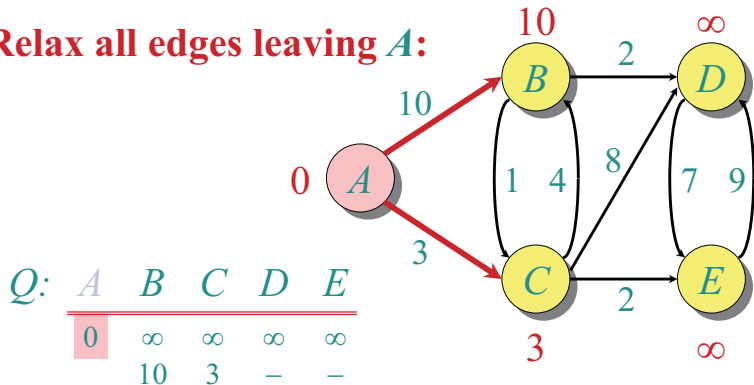


$S: \{A\}$



## Example of Dijkstra's Algorithm (cont.)

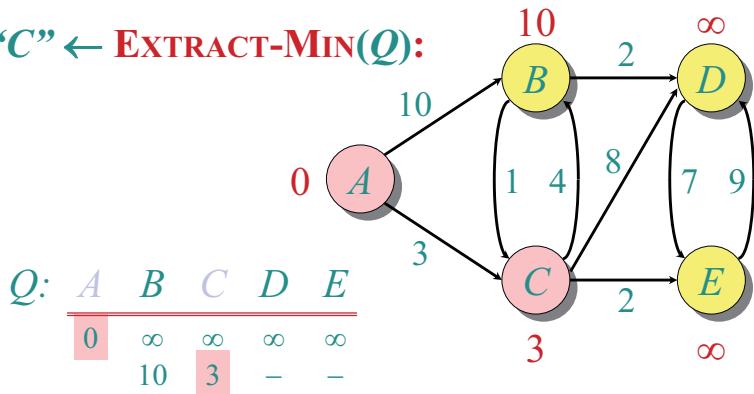
Relax all edges leaving  $A$ :



$S: \{A\}$

## Example of Dijkstra's Algorithm (cont.)

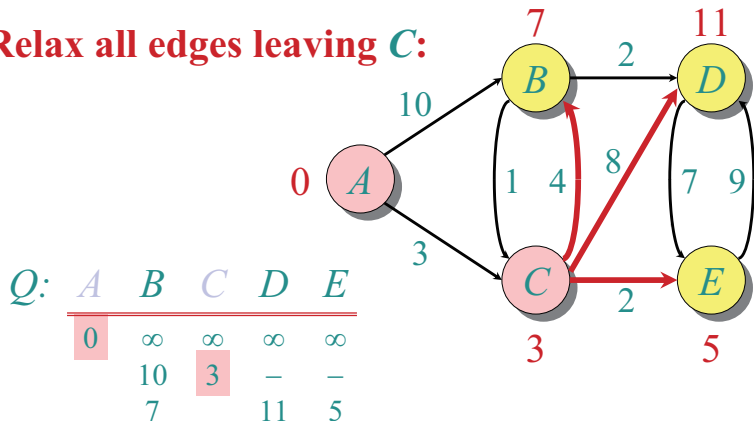
“C”  $\leftarrow$  **EXTRACT-MIN**(Q):



S: {A, C}

# Example of Dijkstra's Algorithm (cont.)

**Relax all edges leaving  $C$ :**



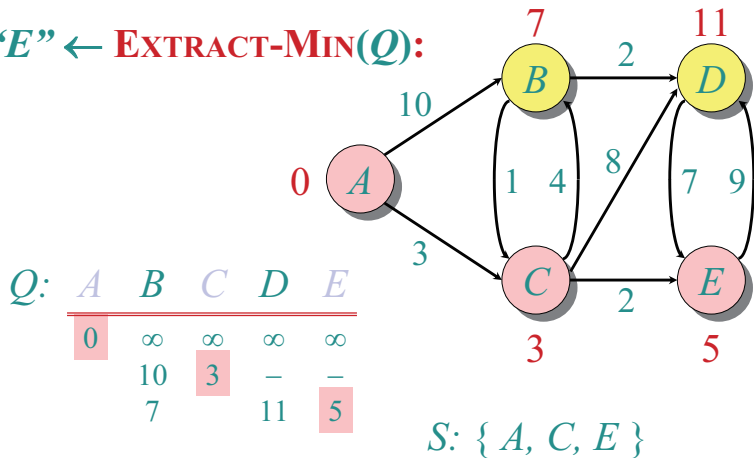
$Q$ :

$A$	$B$	$C$	$D$	$E$
0	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
	10	3	—	—
	7		11	5

$S: \{A, C\}$

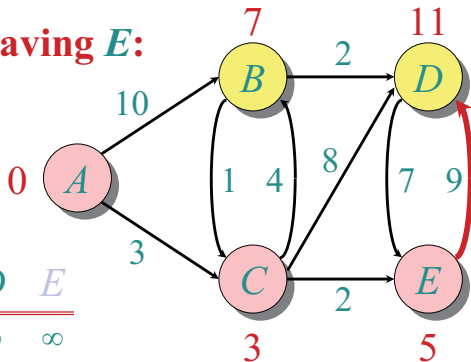
# Example of Dijkstra's Algorithm (cont.)

**"E" ← EXTRACT-MIN(Q):**



# Example of Dijkstra's Algorithm (cont.)

**Relax all edges leaving  $E$ :**



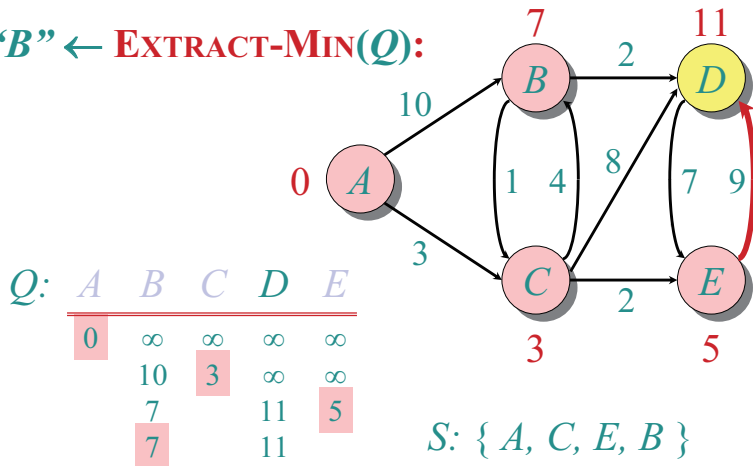
$Q$ :

$A$	$B$	$C$	$D$	$E$
0	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
	10	3	$\infty$	$\infty$
	7		11	5
	7		11	

$S: \{A, C, E\}$

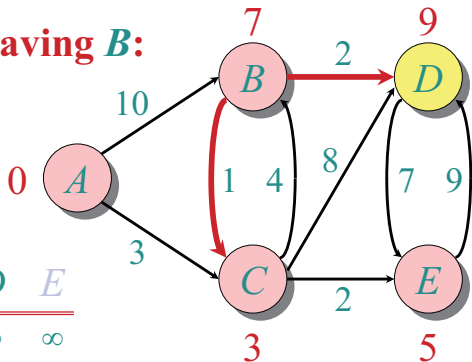
# Example of Dijkstra's Algorithm (cont.)

**"B" ← EXTRACT-MIN(Q):**



# Example of Dijkstra's Algorithm (cont.)

**Relax all edges leaving  $B$ :**



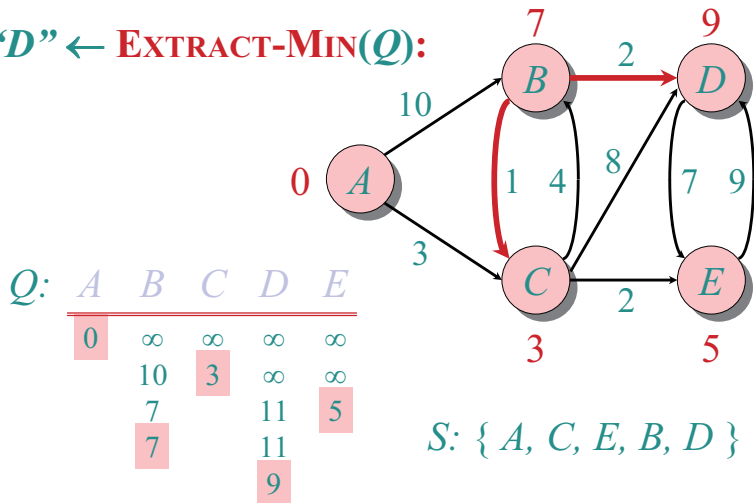
$Q$ :

$A$	$B$	$C$	$D$	$E$
0	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$
	10	3	$\infty$	$\infty$
	7		11	5
	7		11	
			9	

$S: \{A, C, E, B\}$

# Example of Dijkstra's Algorithm (cont.)

**"D" ← EXTRACT-MIN(Q):**





# Correctness of Dijkstra's Algorithm

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

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

$$d[v] = d[u] + w(u, v).$$

Then,

$$\begin{aligned} d[v] &< d(s, v) && \text{supposition} \\ &\leq d(s, u) + d(u, v) && \text{triangle inequality} \\ &\leq d(s, u) + w(u, v) && \text{sh. path} \leq \text{specific path} \\ &\leq d[u] + w(u, v) && v \text{ is first violation} \end{aligned}$$

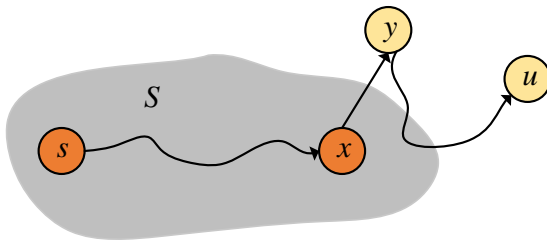
## Correctness of Dijkstra's Algorithm (Cont.)

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

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

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

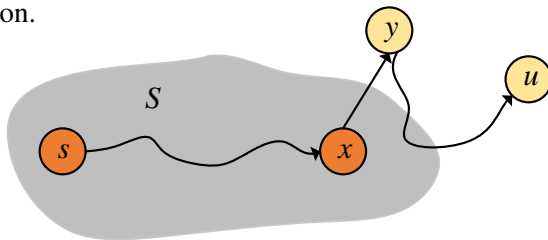


# Correctness of Dijkstra's Algorithm (Cont.)

**Proof. (cont.)** Since  $u$  is the first vertex violating the claimed invariant, we have  $d[x] = d(s, x)$ . Since subpaths of shortest paths are shortest paths, it follows that  $d[y]$  was set to  $d(s, x) + w(x, y) = d(s, y)$  when  $(x, y)$  was relaxed just after  $x$  was added to  $S$ .

Consequently, we have  $d[y] = d(s, y) \leq d(s, u) \leq d[u]$ . However,  $d[u] \leq d[y]$  by our choice of  $u$  in Dijkstra's Algorithm, so  $d[y] = d(s, y) = d(s, u) = d[u]$ .

Contradiction. □



# Analysis of Dijkstra's Algorithm

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## Algorithm 1: Dijkstra's Algorithm

---

```
1 for  $u \in V$  do
2    $\text{INSERT}(Q, u);$                                 /*  $|V|$  times */
3 while  $Q \neq \emptyset$  do
4    $u \leftarrow \text{EXTRACT-MIN}(Q);$                     /*  $|V|$  times */
5    $S \leftarrow S \cup \{u\};$ 
6   foreach  $v \in \text{Adj}[u]$  do
7     if  $d[v] > d[u] + w(u, v)$  then
8        $d[v] \leftarrow d[u] + w(u, v);$ 
9        $\text{DECREASE-KEY}(Q, v);$  /*  $\text{degree}(u)$  times */
```

---

## Analysis of Dijkstra's Algorithm (Cont.)

Handshaking Lemma  $\Rightarrow O(E)$  implicit DECREASE-KEY.

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## Performance:

- Array implementation optimal for dense graphs ( $\Theta(n^2)$  edges).
- Binary heap much faster for sparse graphs ( $\Theta(n)$  edges).
- 4-way heap worth the trouble in performance-critical situations.
- Fibonacci heap best in theory, but probably not worth implementing.

Implementation	EXTRACT-MIN	INSERT/ DECREASE-KEY	$ V  \times \text{EXTRACT-MIN} +$ $( V  +  E ) \times \text{INS/DEC}$
Array	$O( V )$	$O(1)$	$O( V ^2)$
Binary heap	$O(\log  V )$	$O(\log  V )$	$O(( V  +  E ) \log  V )$
$d$ -ary heap	$O(\frac{d \log  V }{\log d})$	$O(\frac{\log  V }{\log d})$	$O\left(\frac{(d V  +  E ) \log  V }{\log d}\right)$
Fibonacci heap	$O(\log  V )^*$	$O(1)^*$	$O( V  \log  V  +  E )$

\* Amortized Analysis



# Unweighted Graph

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Time =  $O(n + m)$ .

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Correctness:

- The FIFO queue in breadth-first search mimics the priority queue in Dijkstra;
- **Invariant:**  $v$  comes after  $u$  in queue implies that  $d[v] = d[u]$  or  $d[v] = d[u] + 1$ .

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Note: negative weight is allowed.

# Shortest Paths

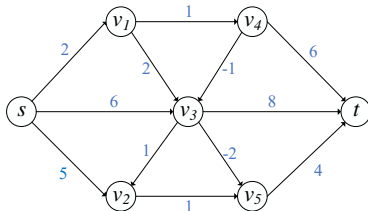
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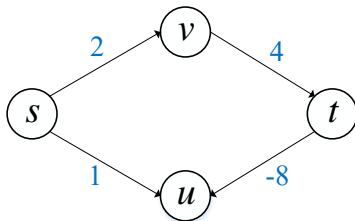
**Example:** Nodes represent agents in a financial setting and  $w(u, v)$  is cost of transaction in which we buy from agent  $u$  and sell to  $v$ .



# Shortest Path: Failed Attempt

**Dijkstra:**

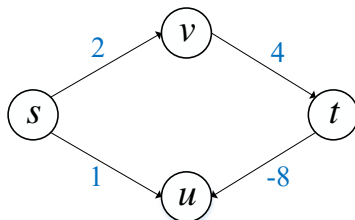
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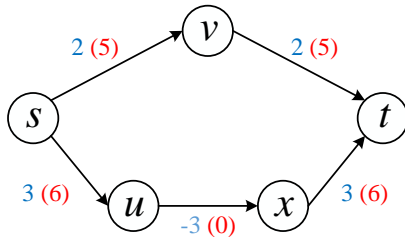
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错的

**Re-weighting:**

Adding a constant to every edge weight can fail.





# Dynamic Programming

## Definition

$OPT(i, u)$  is the length of shortest  $u$ - $t$  path  $P$  using at most  $i$  edges.

Case 1:  $P$  uses at most  $i - 1$  edges.

$$\triangleright OPT(i, u) = OPT(i - 1, u)$$

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Case 2:  $P$  uses exactly  $i$  edges

- $\triangleright$  if  $(u, v)$  is first edge, then  $OPT$  uses  $(u, v)$ , and then selects best  $v-t$  path using at most  $i - 1$  edges

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$$OPT(i, u) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i = 0 \\ \min\{OPT(i - 1, u), \min_{(u,v) \in E} \{OPT(i - 1, v) + w(u, v)\}\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# Shortest Paths: Implementation

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## Algorithm 2: Dynamic Programming

---

```
1 foreach node  $u \in V$  do  
2    $M[0, u] \leftarrow \infty$ ;  
3  $M[0, t] \leftarrow 0$ ;  
4 for  $i = 1$  to  $n$  do  
5   foreach edge  $(u, v) \in E$  do  
6      $M[i, u] \leftarrow \min\{M[i-1, u], M[i-1, v] + w(u, v)\}$ ;
```

---

**Algorithm Analysis:**  $O(mn)$  time,  $O(n^2)$  space

# Shortest Paths: Practical Improvements

## Practical improvements.

- Maintain only one array  $M[v]$  as shortest  $v$ - $t$  path found so far;
- No need to check edges of the form  $(v, w)$  unless  $M[w]$  changed.

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**Theorem.** Throughout the algorithm,  $M[v]$  is length of some  $v$ - $t$  path, and after  $i$  rounds of updates, the value  $M[v]$  is no larger than the length of shortest  $v$ - $t$  path using  $\leq i$  edges.

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## Overall impact.

- Memory:  $O(m + n)$ ;
- Running time:  $O(mn)$  worst case, but substantially faster in practice.

# Bellman-Ford: Efficient Implementation

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## Algorithm 3: Bellman-Ford Algorithm

---

```
1 foreach node  $u \in V$  do
2    $M[0, u] \leftarrow \infty$ ;
3    $successor[u] \leftarrow \emptyset$ ;
4  $M[0, t] \leftarrow 0$ ;
5 for  $i = 1$  to  $n$  do
6   foreach node  $v \in V$  do
7     if  $M[v]$  has been updated in previous iteration then
8       foreach edge  $(u, v) \in E$  do
9          $M[i, u] \leftarrow \min\{M[i-1, u], M[i-1, v] + w(u, v)\}$ ;
10         $successor[u] \leftarrow v$ ;
```

---



# Detecting Negative Cycles

**Lemma.** If  $OPT(n, u) = OPT(n - 1, u)$  for all  $u$ , then no negative cycles.

**Proof.** Bellman-Ford Algorithm. □

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**Lemma.** If  $OPT(n, u) < OPT(n - 1, u)$  for some node  $u$ , then (any) shortest path from  $u$  to  $t$  contains a cycle  $W$ . Moreover  $W$  has negative cost.

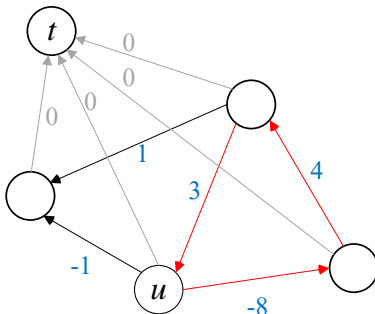
**Proof.**

- $OPT(n, u) < OPT(n - 1, u) \Rightarrow P$  has exactly  $n$  edges;
- By pigeonhole principle,  $P$  must contain a directed cycle  $W$ ;
- Deleting  $W$  yields a  $u$ - $t$  path with  $< n$  edges  $\Rightarrow W$  has negative cost. □

# Detecting Negative Cycles

**Theorem.** Can detect negative cost cycle in  $O(mn)$  time.

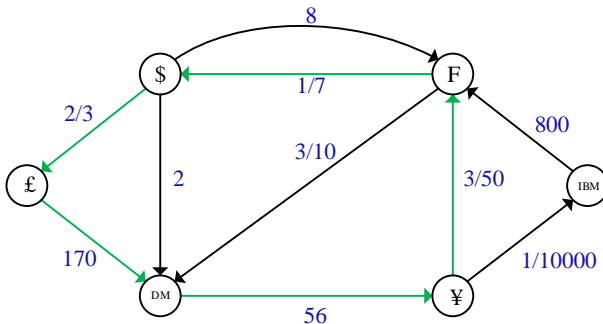
- Add new node  $t$  and connect all nodes to  $t$  with 0-cost edge.
- Check if  $OPT(n, u) = OPT(n - 1, u)$  for all nodes  $u$ . if no, then extract cycle from shortest path from  $u$  to  $t$ .



# Detecting Negative Cycles: Application

**Currency conversion.** Given  $n$  currencies and exchange rates between pairs of currencies, is there an arbitrage opportunity?

**Remark.** Fastest algorithm very valuable!



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  - **Matrix Multiplication**
  - Floyd-Warshall Algorithm
  - Johnson's Algorithm

# Definition

## Definition (All-Pair Shortest Paths Problem)

Given Digraph  $G = (V, E)$ , where  $|V| = n$ , with edge-weight function  $w : E \rightarrow R$ , find  $n \times n$  matrix of shortest path lengths  $d(i, j)$  for all  $i, j \in V$ .

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Given Digraph  $G = (V, E)$ , where  $|V| = n$ , with edge-weight function  $w : E \rightarrow R$ , find  $n \times n$  matrix of shortest path lengths  $d(i, j)$  for all  $i, j \in V$ .

### IDEA #1:

- Run Bellman-Ford once from each vertex.
- Time =  $O(n^2m)$ .
- Dense graph  $\Rightarrow O(n^4)$  time.

*Good first try!*

# Dynamic Programming

Consider the  $n \times n$  adjacency matrix  $A = (a_{ij})$  of the digraph, and define  $d_{ij}^{(m)}$  as the weight of a shortest path from  $i$  to  $j$  that uses at most  $m$  edges.



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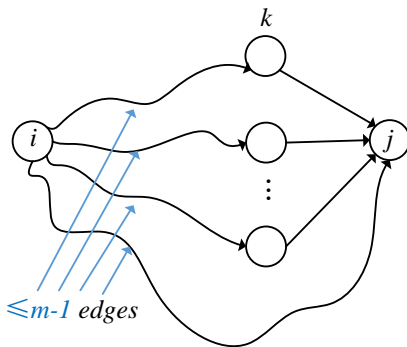
**Claim:** We have

$$d_{ij}^{(0)} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i = j \\ \infty & \text{if } i \neq j \end{cases}$$

and for  $m = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$

$$d_{ij}^{(m)} = \min_k \{d_{ik}^{(m-1)} + a_{kj}\}$$

# Proof of Claim



**Note:** No negative-weight cycles implies

$$d(i,j) = d_{ij}^{(n-1)} = d_{ij}^{(n)} = d_{ij}^{(n+1)} = \dots$$

# Matrix Multiplication

Compute  $C = A \times B$ , where  $C$ ,  $A$ , and  $B$  are  $n \times n$  matrices:

$$c_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^n a_{ik} \times b_{kj}$$

Time =  $\Theta(n^3)$  using the standard algorithm.

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Thus,  $D^{(m)} = D^{(m-1)}$  “ $\times$ ”  $A$ . adjacency matrix

Identity matrix =  $I = D^{(0)} = (d_{ij}^{(0)}) =$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & \infty & \infty & \infty \\ \infty & 0 & \infty & \infty \\ \infty & \infty & 0 & \infty \\ \infty & \infty & \infty & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

## Matrix Multiplication (cont.)

The  $(\min, +)$  multiplication is **associative**, and with the real numbers, it forms an algebraic structure called a **closed semiring**.

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yielding  $D^{(n-1)} = (d(i, j))$ .

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Time =  $\Theta(n^4)$ . No better than  $n \times$  Bellman-Ford.



# Improved Matrix Multiplication Algorithm

**Repeated squaring:**  $A^{2k} = A^k \times A^k$ .

Compute  $A^2, A^4, A^8, \dots, A^{2^{\lceil \log_2(n-1) \rceil}}$  ( $O(\log n)$  squarings).

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To detect negative-weight cycles, check the diagonal for negative values in  $O(n)$  additional time.

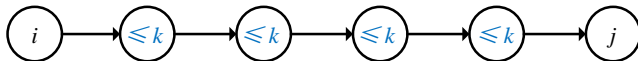
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# Floyd-Warshall algorithm

*Also dynamic programming, but faster!*

Define  $c_{ij}^{(k)}$  as the weight of a shortest path from  $i$  to  $j$  with intermediate vertices belonging to the set  $\{1, 2, \dots, k\}$ .



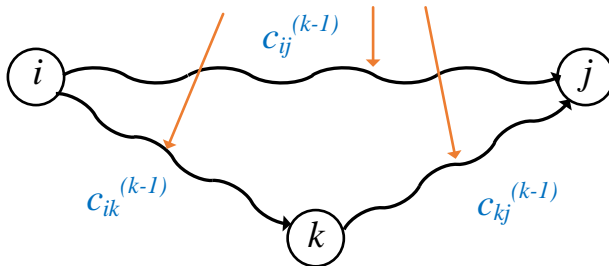
Thus,  $d(i, j) = c_{ij}^{(n)}$ . Also,  $c_{ij}^{(0)} = a_{ij}$ .

adjacency matrix A里的成员

# Floyd-Warshall Recurrence

$$c_{ij}^{(k)} = \min_k \{c_{ij}^{(k-1)}, c_{ik}^{(k-1)} + c_{kj}^{(k-1)}\}$$

Intermediate nodes in  $\{1, 2, \dots, k-1\}$



# Pseudocode for Floyd-Warshall

---

**Algorithm 4:** Floyd-Warshall Algorithm

---

```
1 for  $k \leftarrow 1$  to  $n$  do
2   for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $n$  do
3     for  $j \leftarrow 1$  to  $n$  do
4       if  $c_{ij} > c_{ik} + c_{kj}$  then
5          $c_{ij} \leftarrow c_{ik} + c_{kj};$ 
```

---

## Analysis:

- Okay to omit superscripts, since extra relaxations can't hurt.
- Runs in  $\Theta(n^3)$  time.
- Simple to code and efficient in practice.

# Transitive Closure of a Directed Graph

Compute  $t_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if there exists a path from } i \text{ to } j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$



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# Graph Reweighting

**Theorem.** Given a label  $h(v)$  for each  $v \in V$ , reweight each edge  $(u, v) \in E$  by  $\hat{w}(u, v) = w(u, v) + h(u) - h(v)$ . Then, all paths between the same two vertices are reweighted by the same amount.

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**Proof.** Let  $P = v_1 \rightarrow v_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow v_k$  be a path in the graph. We have:

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{w}(P) &= \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \hat{w}(v_i, v_{i+1}) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} (w(v_i, v_{i+1}) + h(v_i) - h(v_{i+1})) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} w(v_i, v_{i+1}) + h(v_1) - h(v_k) \\ &= w(P) + h(v_1) - h(v_k)\end{aligned}$$

# Johnson's Algorithm

- ① Find a vertex labeling  $h$  such that  $\hat{w}(u, v) \geq 0$  for all  $(u, v) \in E$  by using Bellman-Ford to solve the difference constraints

$$h(v) - h(u) \leq w(u, v)$$

or determine that a negative-weight cycle exists.

▷ Time =  $O(mn)$

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- ③ Reweight each shortest-path length  $\hat{w}(P)$  to produce the shortest-path lengths  $w(P)$  of the original graph.
  - ▷ Time =  $O(n^2)$

Total time =  $O(mn + n^2 \log n)$ .