Single-Source Shortest Path

Chapter 24

Shortest Paths

- Finding the shortest path between two nodes comes up in many applications
  - Transportation problems
  - Motion planning
  - Communication problems
  - Six degrees of separation!

Shortest Paths

- In an unweighted graph, the cost of a path is just the number of edges on the shortest paths
- What algorithm have we already covered that can do this?

Shortest Paths

- In a weighted graph, the weight of a path between two vertices is the sum of the weights of the edges on a path
- Why will the algorithm on the previous slide not work here?

Shortest Paths Problems

- Input: a directed graph G = (V, E) and a weight function $w : E \rightarrow R$
- The weight of a path $p = v_0, v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_k$ is
- The weight of the shortest path from u to v is

Example

Variants

- Single Source Shortest Paths
- Single Destination Shortest Paths
- Single Pair Shortest Path
- All Pairs Shortest Paths

Subpaths

- Subpaths of shortest paths are shortest paths
- Lemma: If $p = v_0, v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_j, \ldots v_k$ is a shortest path from v_0 to v_k, then $p' = v_0, v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_j$ is a shortest path from v_0 to v_j

Negative Weight Edges

- Fine, as long as no negative-weight cycles are reachable from the source

Cycles

- Shortest paths can't contain cycles:
  - Already ruled out negative-weight cycles
  - Positive-weight → we can get a shorter weight by omitting the cycle
  - Zero-weight: no reason to use them → assume that our solutions will not use them

Output

- For each vertex v in V:
  - d[v] = δ (s,v)
  - π[v] = predecessor of v on a shortest path from s

Initialization

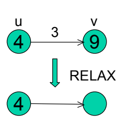
- All the shortest-paths algorithms start with INIT-SINGLE-SOURCE(V,s)

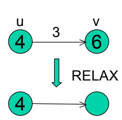
Relaxation

- The process of relaxing an edge (u,v) consists of testing whether we can improve the shortest path to v found so far by going through u and, if so, updating d[v] and π [v]

RELAX(u, v, w)

Example





Single-Source Shortest-Paths

- For all single-source shortest-paths algorithms we'll look at:
  - Start by calling INIT-SINGLE-SOURCE
  - Then relax edges
- The algorithms differ in the order and how many times they relax each edge

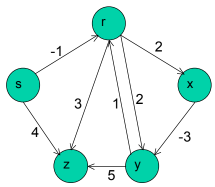
Bellman-Ford Algorithm

- Allows negative-weight edges
- Computes d[v] and π [v] for all v in V
- Returns true if no negative-weight cycles are reachable from s, false otherwise

BELLMAN-FORD(V, E, w, s)

- Time:

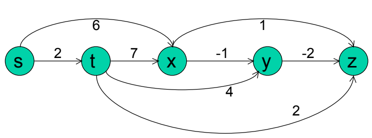
Example



Single-Source Shortest-Paths

- In a DAG!
- DAG-SHORTEST-PATHS(V,E,w,s)

Example

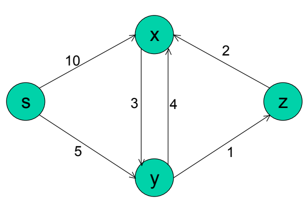


Dijkstra's Algorithm

- No negative-weight edges
- Essentially a weighted version of BFS
  - Instead of a FIFO Queue, use a priority queue
  - Keys are shortest-path weights (d[v])
- Have two sets of vertices
  - S = vertices whose final shortest-path weights are determined
  - Q = priority queue = V - S

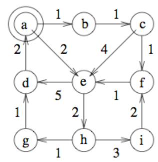
DIJKSTRA(V,W,w,s)

Example



Your Turn

- What is the single-source shortest-path tree starting at a?



Question

- We are running one of these three algorithms on the graph below, where the algorithm has already processed the bold-face edges.
  - Prim's for the minimum spanning tree
  - Kruskal's for the minimum spanning tree
  - Dijkstra's shortest paths from *s*

Continued

- Which edge would be added next in Prim's algorithm
- Which edge would be added next in Kruskal's algorithm
- Which vertex would be marked next in Dijkstra's algorithm?