

# Shortest Paths:

## Dijkstra's Algorithm

- single source shortest path
- assumes edge cost  $\geq 0$

# Shortest Path Problems

- directed or undirected graphs
- $G=(V,E)$  has weight / distance / length on each edge:

$$w: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

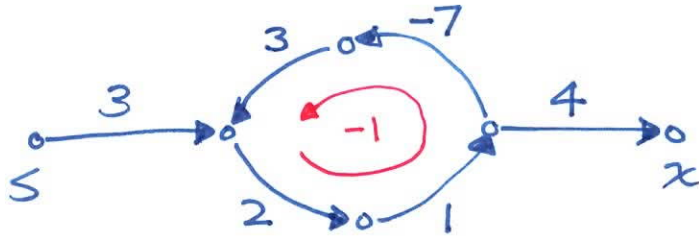
- Types of problems:

all pairs shortest path

single source shortest path

} no single pair

# Negative cost cycles



- Shortest path from  $s$  to  $x$  not well-defined
- No neg. cost cycles  $\Rightarrow$  vertices on shortest paths do not repeat

How to deal with negative cost cycles:

① Not allow negative weight edges.

Dijkstra's algorithm

② Not allow cycles.

Shortest path in a DAG.

directed  
acyclic  
graph

③ Use slower algorithm that can detect and find negative cost cycles.

Bellman-Ford

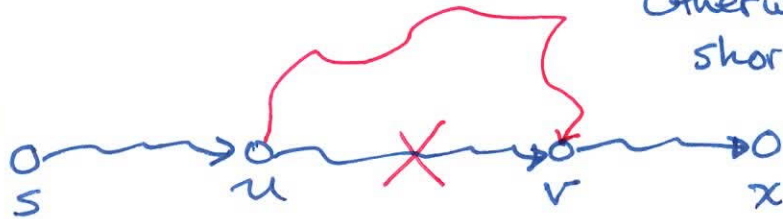
# Optimal Substructure

P:



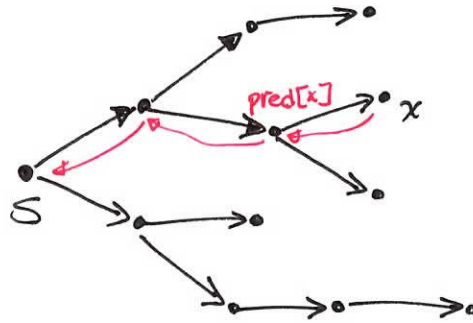
If  $p$  is a shortest path, then subpath of  $p$  from  $u$  to  $v$  is also a shortest path.

P':



Otherwise, we can splice in shorter path from  $u$  to  $v$  and obtain an even shorter path from  $s$  to  $x$ .  $\Rightarrow \Leftarrow$

# Shortest Path Tree



Path from  $s$  to  $x$   
in the shortest path  
tree must be shortest.

Works because sub-paths  
of shortest paths must  
also be shortest.

follow  $\text{pred}[x]$  to construct path  
from  $s$  to  $x$

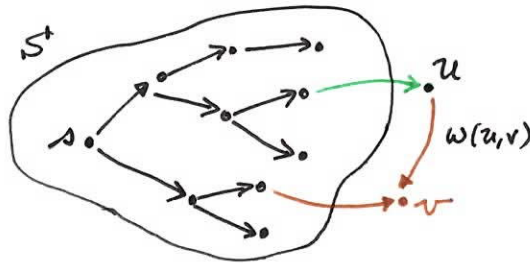
# Dijkstra's Algorithm

Idea: ① Grow shortest path tree  $S$

② Initially,  $S = \emptyset$

③ Add vertex  $u$ , such that  $\text{dist}[u]$  is smallest

④ Update neighbors of  $u$ .



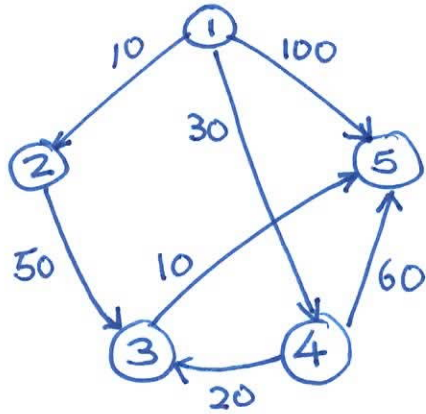
distance of  
current known  
shortest path  
from  $s$  to  $u$

Text book  
calls this  
RELAX

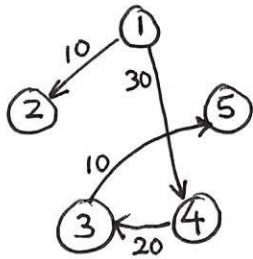
$\text{dist}[u] + w(u,v) < \text{dist}[v]$  ?

if so, make  $u$  predecessor  
of  $v$ .

# Dijkstra's Algorithm Example:



Shortest path tree



dist[]:		add ①	add ②	add ④	add ③	add ⑤
1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	$\infty$	10	10	10	10	10
3	$\infty$	$\infty$	60	50	50	50
4	$\infty$	30	30	30	30	30
5	$\infty$	100	100	90	60	60

pred[]:						
1	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
2	nil	1	1	1	1	1
3	nil	nil	2	4	4	4
4	nil	1	1	1	1	1
5	nil	1	1	4	3	3



# DIJKSTRA

~~PRIM~~( $G, w, r$ )

$Q = \emptyset$

**for** each  $u \in G.V$

$u.key = \infty$

$u.\pi = \text{NIL}$

INSERT( $Q, u$ )

DECREASE-KEY( $Q, r, 0$ ) //  $r.key = 0$

**while**  $Q \neq \emptyset$

$u = \text{EXTRACT-MIN}(Q)$

**for** each  $v \in G.Adj[u]$

**if**  $v \in Q$  and  ~~$w(u, v) < v.key$~~

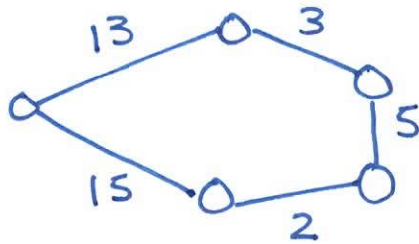
$v.\pi = u$

DECREASE-KEY( $Q, v, w(u, v)$ )

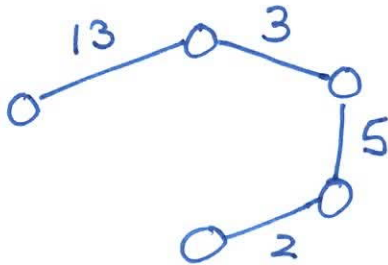
$u.key + w(u, v) < v.key$

$u.key + w(u, v)$

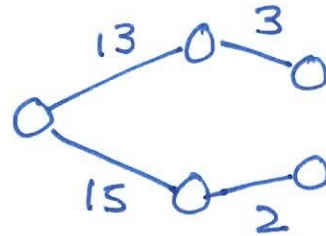
# Minimum Spanning Tree vs. Shortest Path Tree



MST:



SPT:



# Running time of Dijkstra's algorithm

↪ same as Prim's

$V-1$  EXTRACT\_MIN

$\leq E$  DECREASE\_KEY

$$\text{Arrays: } (V-1) \cdot O(V) + E \cdot O(1) = O(V^2)$$

$$\text{Heaps: } (V-1) \cdot O(\log V) + E \cdot O(\log V) = O(E \log V)$$

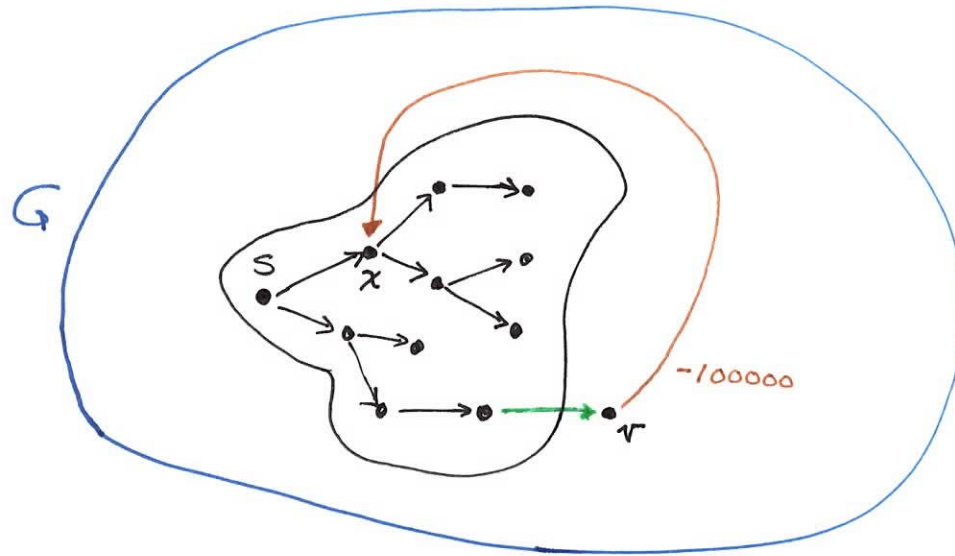
Fibonacci Heaps:

EXTRACT\_MIN  $\log V$

DECREASE\_KEY  $\Theta(1)$  amortized time

$$(V-1) \cdot O(\log V) + E \cdot \Theta(1) = O(V \log V + E)$$

Dijkstra's algorithm might fail  
when edge cost  $< 0$



After  $v$  is added  
to the shortest  
path tree,  
 $\text{dist}[x]$  needs  
updating.

Prove that Dijkstra's algorithm is correct.

$\text{dist}[u]$  = value computed by algorithm

$\delta(s, u)$  = length of shortest path from  $s$  to  $u$   
=  $\delta(u)$   $\leftarrow$  shorter notation when  $s$  is understood

Claim: When  $u$  is added to the shortest path tree  $S$ ,  
 $\text{dist}[u] = \delta(u)$ .

Proof by contradiction.

Suppose not. Let  $s$  = source vertex.

Let  $u$  be the first vertex added to  $S$  s.t.  $\text{dist}[u] \neq \delta(u)$ .

We know:  $S \neq \emptyset$

$u \neq \text{source}$

there exists a path from  $s$  to  $u$ .

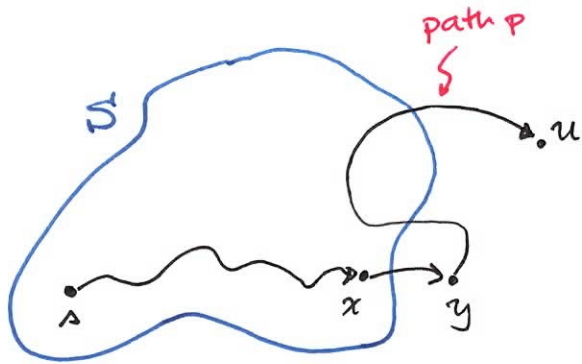
Let  $p$  be the shortest path from  $s$  to  $u$ .

There exists vertex in  $V - S$  on path  $p$  since  $u \notin S$ .

Let  $y$  be the first such vertex.

Let  $x$  be  $y$ 's predecessor on path  $p$ .

$u$  not yet added.



possibly  $a=x$   
and/or  $u=y$

$u$  first  $\Rightarrow \text{dist}[x] = \delta(x)$

$p$  shortest path  $\Rightarrow \text{dist}[y] = \delta(y)$ .  
When we added  $x$  to  $S$ , we would  
have updated  $\text{dist}[y]$  to  $\delta(y)$ .

$u$  added instead of  $y \Rightarrow \text{dist}[u] \leq \text{dist}[y]$

$y$  on path before  $u$  & no neg. cost edges  
 $\Rightarrow \delta(y) \leq \delta(u)$

$\delta(u) \leq \text{dist}[u]$  since  $\text{dist}[u]$  is  
length of some path.

squashed

$\delta(y) \leq \delta(u) \leq \text{dist}[u] \leq \text{dist}[y] = \delta(y)$   
 $\Rightarrow \delta(u) = \text{dist}[u]$  a contradiction.