#### Shortest Paths

CSE 2320 – Algorithms and Data Structures Vassilis Athitsos University of Texas at Arlington

## Terminology

- A **network** is a **directed graph**. We will use both terms interchangeably.
- The **weight of a path** is the sum of weights of the edges that make up the path.
- The **shortest path** between two vertices s and t in a directed graph is a directed path from s to t with the property that no other such path has a lower weight.

#### Shortest Paths

- Finding shortest paths is not a single problem, but rather a family of problems.
- We will consider three of these problems, each of which is a generalization of the previous one:
	- Source-sink: find the shortest path from a source vertex v to a sink vertex w.
	- Single-source: find the shortest path from the source vertex v to all other vertices in the graph.
		- It turns out that these shortest paths form a tree, with v as the root.
	- All-pairs: find the shortest paths for all pairs of vertices in the graph.

#### Assumptions

- Allow directed graphs.
	- In all our algorithms, we will allow graphs to be directed.
	- Obviously, any algorithm that works on directed graphs will also work on undirected graphs. Why?
- Negative edge weights are not allowed. Why?

#### Assumptions

- Allow directed graphs.
	- In all our algorithms, we will allow graphs to be directed.
	- Obviously, any algorithm that works on directed graphs will also work on undirected graphs. Why?
		- Undirected graphs are a special case of directed graphs.
- Negative edge weights are not allowed. Why?
	- If we have negative weights, then "shortest paths" may not be defined.
	- If we can find a cyclic path with negative weight, then repeating that path infinitely will lead to "shorter" and "shorter" paths.
	- If all weights are nonnegative, a shortest path never needs to include a cycle.

#### Shortest-Paths Spanning Tree

- Given a network G and a designated vertex s, a **shortest-paths spanning tree** (SPST) for s is a tree that contains s and all vertices reachable from s, such that:
	- Vertex s is the root of this tree.
	- Each tree path is a shortest path in G.

## Computing SPSTs

- To compute an SPST, given a graph G and a vertex s, we will design an algorithm that maintains and updates the following two arrays:
	- Array wt: wt[v] is the weight of the shortest path we have found so far from s to v.
		- At the beginning,  $wt[v] =$  infinity, except for s, where  $wt[s] = 0$ .
	- Array st: st[v] is the parent vertex of v on the shortest path found so far from s to v.
		- At the beginning,  $st[v] = -1$ , except for s, where  $st[s] = s$ .
	- Array in: in[v] is 1 if v has been already added to the SPST, 0 otherwise.
		- At the beginning,  $in[v] = 0$ , except for s, where  $in[s] = 1$ .

## Dijkstra's Algorithm

- Computes an SPST for a graph G and a source s.
- Like Prim's algorithm, but:
	- First vertex to add is the source.
	- Works with directed graphs, whereas Prim's only works with undirected graphs.
	- Requires edge weights to be non-negative.
- Time:  $O(V^2)$ , similar analysis to that of Prim's algorithm.
- Time O(E lg V) using a priority-queue implementation.

## Dijkstra's Algorithm

Input: number of vertices V, VxV array weight, source vertex s.

- 1. For all v:
	- 2.  $wt[v] =$  infinity.
	- 3.  $st[v] = -1$ .
	- 4.  $in[v] = 0.$
- 5.  $wt[s] = 0, st[s] = 0.$
- 6. Repeat until all vertices have been added to the tree:
	- 7. Find the v with the smallest wt[v], among all v such that  $in[v] = 0$ .
	- 8. Add to the SPST vertex v and edge from st[v] to v.
	- 9.  $in[v] = 1$ .
	- 10. For each neighbor w of v, such that  $in[w] = 0$ :
		- 11. If  $wt[w] > wt[v] + weight[v, w]$ :
			- 12. wt[w] = wt[v] + weight[v, w],
			- 13. st[w] = v.

### Edge Relaxation

```
if (wt[w] > wt[v] + e.wt)\{wt[w] = wt[v] + e.wt;st[w] = v;}
```
- wt[w]: current estimate of shortest distance from source to w.
- st[w]: parent vertex of w on shortest found path from source to w.

- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 7.
- First, we initialize arrays wt, st, in (steps 2, 3, 4).





- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 7.
- Step 5.





- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 7.
- Steps 7, 8, 9:  $v = 7$





- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 7.
- Steps 7, 8, 9: v = 7
- Step 10: For  $w = \{0, 4\}$ 
	- Step 11: Compare inf with 15
	- $-$  Steps 12, 13: wt[0] = wt[7] + 15, st[0] = 7.





- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 7.
- Steps 7, 8, 9: v = 7
- Step 10: For  $w = \{0, 4\}$ 
	- Step 11: Compare inf with 10
	- $-$  Steps 12, 13: wt[4] = wt[7] + 10, st[4] = 7.





- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 7.
- Steps 7, 8, 9:  $v = 4$





- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 7.
- Steps 7, 8, 9:  $v = 4$
- Step 10: For  $w = \{3, 5, 6\}$ 
	- Step 11: Compare inf with 10+25=35
	- $-$  Steps 12, 13: wt[3] = wt[4] + 25, st[3] = 4.





- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 7.
- Steps 7, 8, 9:  $v = 4$
- Step 10: For  $w = \{3, 5, 6\}$ 
	- Step 11: Compare inf with 10+20=30
	- $-$  Steps 12, 13: wt[5] = wt[4] + 20, st[5] = 4.





- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 7.
- Steps 7, 8, 9:  $v = 4$
- Step 10: For  $w = \{3, 5, 6\}$ 
	- Step 11: Compare inf with 10+30=40
	- $-$  Steps 12, 13: wt[6] = wt[4] + 30, st[6] = 4.





- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 7.
- Steps 7, 8, 9:  $v = 0$





- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 7.
- Steps 7, 8, 9:  $v = 0$
- Step 10: For  $w = \{1, 2, 5, 6\}$ 
	- Step 11: Compare inf with 15+20=35
	- $-$  Steps 12, 13: wt[1] = wt[0] + 20, st[1] = 0.





- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 7.
- Steps 7, 8, 9:  $v = 0$
- Step 10: For  $w = \{1, 2, 5, 6\}$ 
	- Step 11: Compare inf with 15+30=45
	- $-$  Steps 12, 13: wt[2] = wt[0] + 30, st[2] = 0.





- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 7.
- Steps 7, 8, 9:  $v = 0$
- Step 10: For  $w = \{1, 2, 5, 6\}$ 
	- Step 11: Compare 30 with 15+10=25
	- $-$  Steps 12, 13: wt[5] = wt[0] + 10, st[5] = 0.





- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 7.
- Steps 7, 8, 9:  $v = 0$
- Step 10: For  $w = \{1, 2, 5, 6\}$ 
	- Step 11: Compare 40 with 15+20=35
	- $-$  Steps 12, 13: wt[6] = wt[0] + 20, st[6] = 0.



![](_page_23_Figure_7.jpeg)

- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 7.
- Steps 7, 8, 9:  $v = 5$

![](_page_24_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Picture_158.jpeg)

- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 7.
- Steps 7, 8, 9: v = 5
- **Step 10: For**  $w = \{3\}$ 
	- Step 11: Compare 35 with 25+15=40 NO UPDATE

![](_page_25_Picture_173.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Figure_6.jpeg)

- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 7.
- Steps 7, 8, 9:  $v = 1$
- Step 10: For  $w =$  empty list

![](_page_26_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Picture_167.jpeg)

- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 7.
- Steps 7, 8, 9:  $v = 3$
- Step 10: For  $w =$  empty list

![](_page_27_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Picture_167.jpeg)

- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 7.
- Steps 7, 8, 9:  $v = 6$
- Step 10: For  $w =$  empty list

![](_page_28_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Picture_167.jpeg)

- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 7.
- Steps 7, 8, 9:  $v = 6$
- Step 10: For  $w =$  empty list

![](_page_29_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_167.jpeg)

- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 4.
- First, we initialize arrays wt, st, in (steps 2, 3, 4).

![](_page_30_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Picture_160.jpeg)

- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 4.
- Step 5.

![](_page_31_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_31_Picture_156.jpeg)

- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 4.
- Steps 7, 8, 9:  $v = 4$

![](_page_32_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Picture_158.jpeg)

- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 4.
- Steps 7, 8, 9:  $v = 4$
- Step 10: For  $w = \{3, 5, 6, 7\}$ 
	- Step 11: Compare inf with 25
	- $-$  Steps 12, 13: wt[3] = wt[4] + 25, st[3] = 4.

![](_page_33_Picture_182.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Picture_7.jpeg)

- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 4.
- Steps 7, 8, 9:  $v = 4$
- Step 10: For  $w = \{3, 5, 6, 7\}$ 
	- $-$  Steps 12, 13: update wt[w], st[w]

![](_page_34_Figure_5.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Picture_174.jpeg)

- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 4.
- Steps 7, 8, 9:  $v = 7$

![](_page_35_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_35_Picture_158.jpeg)

- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 4.
- Steps 7, 8, 9: v = 7
- Step 10: For  $w = \{0\}$ 
	- $-$  Step 11: Compare inf with  $10+15 = 25$ .
	- $-$  Steps 12, 13: wt[0] = wt[7] + 15, st[0] = 7.

![](_page_36_Picture_184.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Figure_7.jpeg)

- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 4.
- Steps 7, 8, 9:  $v = 5$

![](_page_37_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Picture_158.jpeg)

- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 4.
- Steps 7, 8, 9: v = 5
- Step 10: For  $w = \{0, 3\}$ 
	- $-$  Step 11: Compare 25 with 20+10 = 25. NO UPDATE

![](_page_38_Picture_175.jpeg)

![](_page_38_Picture_6.jpeg)

- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 4.
- Steps 7, 8, 9: v = 5
- Step 10: For  $w = \{0, 3\}$ 
	- $-$  Step 11: Compare 25 with 20+15 = 35. NO UPDATE

![](_page_39_Picture_175.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Figure_6.jpeg)

- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 4.
- Steps 7, 8, 9:  $v = 0$

![](_page_40_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Picture_158.jpeg)

- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 4.
- Steps 7, 8, 9:  $v = 0$
- Step 10: For  $w = \{1, 2, 6\}$ 
	- $-$  Step 11: Compare inf with  $25+20 = 45$ .
	- $-$  Steps 12, 13: wt[1] = wt[0] + 20, st[1] = 0.

![](_page_41_Picture_186.jpeg)

![](_page_41_Figure_7.jpeg)

- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 4.
- Steps 7, 8, 9:  $v = 0$
- Step 10: For  $w = \{1, 2, 6\}$ 
	- $-$  Step 11: Compare inf with  $25+30 = 55$ .
	- $-$  Steps 12, 13: wt[2] = wt[0] + 30, st[2] = 0.

![](_page_42_Picture_186.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Figure_7.jpeg)

- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 4.
- Steps 7, 8, 9:  $v = 0$
- Step 10: For  $w = \{1, 2, 6\}$ 
	- $-$  Step 11: Compare 30 with  $25+20 = 45$ . NO UPDATE

![](_page_43_Picture_179.jpeg)

![](_page_43_Figure_6.jpeg)

- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 4.
- Steps 7, 8, 9:  $v = 3$

![](_page_44_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_44_Picture_158.jpeg)

- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 4.
- Steps 7, 8, 9: v = 3
- Step 10: empty list

![](_page_45_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_45_Picture_163.jpeg)

- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 4.
- Steps 7, 8, 9:  $v = 6$
- Step 10: empty list

![](_page_46_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_46_Picture_165.jpeg)

- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 4.
- Steps 7, 8, 9:  $v = 1$
- Step 10: empty list

![](_page_47_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_47_Picture_165.jpeg)

- Suppose we want to compute the SPST for vertex 4.
- Steps 7, 8, 9:  $v = 2$
- Step 10: empty list

![](_page_48_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_48_Picture_165.jpeg)

### All-Pairs Shortest Paths

- Before we describe an algorithm for computing the shortest paths among all pairs of vertices, we should agree on what this algorithm should return.
- We need to compute two V x V arrays:
	- dist[v][w] is the distance of the shortest path from v to w.
	- path[v][w] is the vertex following v, on the shortest path from v to w.
- Given these two arrays (after our algorithm has completed), how can we recover the shortest path between some v and w?

### All-Pairs Shortest Paths

- We need to compute two V x V arrays:
	- $-$  dist[v][w] is the distance of the shortest path from v to w.
	- $-$  path[v][w] is the vertex following v, on the shortest path from v to w.
- Given these two arrays (after our algorithm has completed), how can we recover the shortest path between some v and w?
- path = empty list
- $c = v$
- while(true)
	- $-$  insert to end(path, c)
	- $-$  if (c == w) break
	- $c = path[c][w]$

## Computing Shortest Paths

- Overview: we can simply call Dijkstra's algorithm on each vertex.
- Time: V times the time of running Dijkstra's algorithm once.
	- $-$  O(E lg V) for one vertex.
	- O(VE lg V) for all vertices.
	- $-$  O(V<sup>3</sup> lg V) for dense graphs.
- There is a better algorithm for dense graphs, Floyd's algorithm, with  $O(V^3)$  complexity, but we will not cover it.

# All-Pairs Shortest Paths Using Dijkstra

The complete all-pairs algorithm is more complicated than simply calling Dijkstra's algorithm V times.

![](_page_52_Figure_2.jpeg)

- Here is why:
- Suppose we call Dijkstra's algorithm on vertex 1.
- The algorithm computes arrays wt and st:
	- wt[v]: weight of shortest path from source to v.
	- st[v]: parent vertex of v on shortest path from source to v.
- How do arrays wt and st correspond to arrays dist and path?
	- $-$  dist[v][w] is the distance of the shortest path from v to w.
	- $-$  path[v][w] is the vertex following v, on the shortest path from v to w.
- **No useful correspondence!!!** Superinter the set of the s

- Suppose that G is the graph you see on the right.
- Suppose that H is the reverse graph, obtained by switching the direction of every single edge in G.

![](_page_53_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_53_Picture_4.jpeg)

Graph G

- Suppose that G is the graph you see on the right.
- Suppose that H is the reverse graph, obtained by switching the direction of every single edge in G.

![](_page_54_Figure_3.jpeg)

- Then, for any vertices v and w, the shortest path from w to v in H is simply the reverse of the shortest path from v to w in G.
- For example:
	- Shortest path from 1 to 7 in G:
	- Shortest path from 7 to 1 in H:

- Suppose that G is the graph you see on the right.
- Suppose that H is the reverse graph, obtained by switching the direction of every single edge in G.

![](_page_55_Figure_3.jpeg)

- Then, for any vertices v and w, the shortest path from w to v in H is simply the reverse of the shortest path from v to w in G.
- For example:
	- Shortest path from 1 to 7 in G: 1, 0, 7, 4
	- $-$  Shortest path from 7 to 1 in H: 4, 7, 0, 1.
	- These two paths are just reversed forms of each other, and they have the same weights.

- Suppose that we call Dijkstra's algorithm with source  $=$  vertex 1, on graph H (the **reverse graph** of what you see on the right).
- Consider the arrays wt and st we get as a result of that.

![](_page_56_Figure_3.jpeg)

- These arrays are related to arrays dist and path on the **original graph G** (what you actually see on the right) as follows:
	- $-$  dist[v][1] = wt[v].
	- $-$  path[v][1] = st[v].
- Why?

- Suppose that we call Dijkstra's algorithm with source  $=$  vertex 1, on graph H (the **reverse graph** of what you see on the right).
- Consider the arrays wt and st we get as a result of that.

![](_page_57_Figure_3.jpeg)

- wt[v] is the weight of the shortest path from 1 to v in H.
	- $-$  Therefore, wt[v] is the weight of the shortest path from v to 1 in G.
	- $-$  Therefore, dist[v][1] = wt[v].
- st[v] is the parent of v on the shortest path from 1 to v in H.
	- $-$  Therefore, st[v] is the vertex following v on the shortest path from v to 1 in G.
	- Therefore,  $path[v][1] = st[v]$ .

- Suppose that we call Dijkstra's algorithm with source  $=$  vertex 1, on graph H (the **reverse graph** of what you see on the right).
- Consider the arrays wt and st we get as a result of that.

![](_page_58_Figure_3.jpeg)

- wt[v] is the weight of the shortest path from 1 to v in H.
	- $-$  Therefore, wt[v] is the weight of the shortest path from v to 1 in G.
	- $-$  Therefore, dist[v][1] = wt[v].
- st[v] is the parent of v on the shortest path from 1 to v in H.
	- $-$  Therefore, st[v] is the vertex following v on the shortest path from v to 1 in G.
	- Therefore,  $path[v][1] = st[v]$ .

# Using Dijkstra's Algorithm for All-Pairs Shortest Paths

Input: graph G.

- 1. Construct reverse graph H.
- 2. For each s in {0, ..., V-1}:
	- 3. Call Dijkstra's algorithm on graph H, with source = s.
	- 4. For each v in {0, ..., V-1}:
		- 5. dist[v][s] = wt[v].
		- 6. path[v][s] =  $st[v]$ .